The Stela of Kay\textsuperscript{1}
(Zagreb Archaeological Museum\textsuperscript{2})

\textsuperscript{1} http://www.amz.hr/media/1072/egi1.jpg.
\textsuperscript{2} http://www.amz.hr/naslovnica/odjeli/zbirke/egipatski-odjel.aspx.
This Middle Kingdom limestone stela (probably originating from km wr, the Bitter Lakes region of the Delta) is well-preserved, the text has fine details but a bit crudely made; the scribe almost ran out of space as can be seen with the gradual crowding of the signs toward the end. Note the symmetric composition in columns 1-4 and 7-10 with the usual dedication formula in the middle. The owner Kay had no official title.

\[ im\dot{3}hy \ hr \ pt\dot{h}-zkr \ k\dot{3}y \]

Worthy of attention/honored\(^3\) by Ptah-Sokar, Kay,

\[ ir^4 \ n \ hwy\dot{t} \ nb(t) \ im\dot{3}h^6 \]

begotten of Khuit, possessor of honor.

\[ htp-di-\text{ns}w^7 \ wsir \ nb \ d\dot{d}w \ ntr \ ^r3 \ nb \ 3bdw \]

A royal offering of Osiris, lord of Busiris, great god of Abydos.

\[ [\text{di.f}] \ prt\text{-}hrw \ t \ h\dot{h}nt \ k\dot{3}w \ 3pdw \ ssr \ n \ im\dot{3}h(y)t \ hr \ pt\dot{h}-zkr \ hnt(i)-\text{hty}^8 \ hwt \]

[He gives] an invocation offering of bread beer oxen fowl linen for the worthy of attention /honored by Ptah-Sokar, Khenti-kheti, Khut

\[ irt \ n \ z3t^9 \ hnm-htp \ m\dot{3}t\text{-}hrw \]

begotten of the daughter of Ta-Khnemhotep, the justified.

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\(^3\) See Allen, Middle Egyptian Grammar, Essay 21.

\(^4\) Perfective passive participle followed by genitival adjective (not the relative form \(ir.n\)) as the feminine form appears below; see Gardiner (§361), and also the discussion at the end of Allen (24.9).

\(^5\) Following Gardiner (§361), \(hwy\dot{t}\) is Kay’s mother’s name; with the seated woman determinative, it is also the name of a local goddess from \(km\text{-}wr\) of the Delta, see footnote 7.

\(^6\) Allen (24.10.4).

\(^7\) Typical invocation formula; see Allen again in (24.10).

\(^8\) \(hnti\text{-}hty\), a crocodile (later hawk) headed deity, and his female consort \(hwy\dot{t}\) are from \(km\text{-}wr\) (Greek Athribis, the present day Tell Atrib), a principal Delta town (near the Suez Canal) in the 10\text{th} nome of Lower Egypt dating back to the Old Kingdom; see Wb. III, 310 and III, 246. It is possible that \(hwt\) is a short spelling of \(hwy\dot{t}\) again. In any case, the names point to the possible origin of the stela as being \(km\text{-}wr\).

\(^9\) The sign after \(n\) is not clearly readable.