

The Stela of Kay¹
(Zagreb Archaeological Museum²)



¹ <http://www.amz.hr/media/1072/egi1.jpg>.

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.

im3hy hr pth-zkr k3y

Worthy of attention/honored³ by Ptah-Sokar, Kay,

ir⁴ n hwy⁵ nb(t) im3h⁶

begotten of Khuit, possessor of honor.

htp-di-nswt⁷ wsir nb ddw ntr 3 nb 3bdw

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

[di.f] prt-hrw t hnk^t k3w 3pdw šsr n im3h(y)t hr pth-zkr hnt(i)-hty⁸ 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 z3t⁹ hnm-htp m3^ct-hrw

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

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* is Kay's mother's name; with the seated woman determinative, it is also the name of a local goddess from *km-wr* of the Delta, see footnote 7.

⁶ Allen (24.10.4).

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

⁸ *hnti-hty*, a crocodile (later hawk) headed deity, and his female consort *hwy* are from *km-wr* (Greek Athribis, the present day Tell Atrib), a principal Delta town (near the Suez Canal) in the 10th 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* again. In any case, the names point to the possible origin of the stela as being *km-wr*.

⁹ The sign after *n* is not clearly readable.