

# Stela of Meri-Maat and Dedui<sup>1</sup>

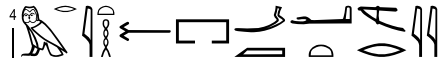
## (Brooklyn Museum)

This is a painted limestone stela (measured 52.1 cm wide, 72.3 cm high and 5.3 cm thick) from the First Intermediate Period.



*h̄tp-di-(n)swt inpw tp(i) dw.f, imi w<sup>c</sup>t, nb t3 dsr, m swt.f nb nfrt  
prt-hrw t hnkt n htmt(i)-bit(i), smr-w<sup>c</sup>t(i)*

A royal offering of Anubis who is upon his mountain and in the place of embalming, lord of the Sacred Land, in all his beautiful places, (giving) an invocation offering of bread and beer to the seal-bearer of the King of Lower Egypt,<sup>2</sup> sole friend/courtier (of the king),



*(i)m(i)-r ith<sup>3</sup> mry-m<sup>3</sup>t<sup>4</sup>*

overseer of the prison Meri-Maat,



*nb im3h<sup>5</sup> irr<sup>6</sup> hzzt<sup>7</sup> nb.fr<sup>c</sup> nb*

possessor of honor who does what his lord praises every day.



*h̄mt.f mrt.f h̄krt swt w3tt<sup>8</sup> ddwi<sup>9</sup>*

His wife, his beloved, the king's unique ornament, Dedui.

<sup>1</sup> For a picture of the stela, see [http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/3442/Stela\\_of\\_Maaty\\_and\\_Dedwi](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/3442/Stela_of_Maaty_and_Dedwi).

<sup>2</sup> Royal seal bearers have been attested as early as during the reign of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty king Den; see T. A. H. Wilkinson, *Early Dynastic Egypt*, Routledge (2001), pp. 111-2.

<sup>3</sup> Written with a double horizontal stroke.

<sup>4</sup> Name attested; see Ranke, PN I, 160, 19.

<sup>5</sup> Corrupted writing.

<sup>6</sup> Imperfective active participle.

<sup>7</sup> Imperfective relative form; see Wb. III, 155.

<sup>8</sup> Woman's title; see Wb. I, 278, and Faulkner's Dictionary p. 205.

<sup>9</sup> See Ranke, PN, I, 33, 1.