

Stela of Meri-Maat and Dedui¹

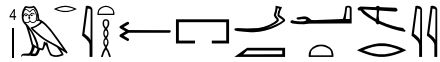
(Brooklyn Museum)

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^ct, nb t3 dsr, m swt.f nb nfrt
prt-hrw t hnkt n htmt(i)-bit(i), smr-w^ct(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,² sole friend/courtier (of the king),



(i)m(i)-r ith³ mry-m³t⁴

overseer of the prison Meri-Maat,



nb im3h⁵ irr⁶ hzzt⁷ nb.fr^c nb

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



h̄mt.f mrt.f h̄krt swt w3tt⁸ ddwi⁹

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

¹ For a picture of the stela, see http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/3442/Stela_of_Maaty_and_Dedwi.

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

³ Written with a double horizontal stroke.

⁴ Name attested; see Ranke, PN I, 160, 19.

⁵ Corrupted writing.

⁶ Imperfective active participle.

⁷ Imperfective relative form; see Wb. III, 155.

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

⁹ See Ranke, PN, I, 33, 1.