

The Stela of Sa-Montu-weser

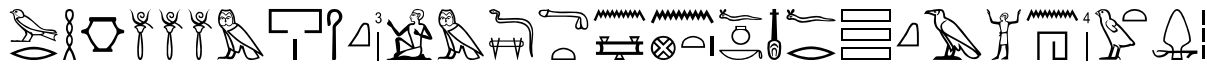
(National Archaeological Museum, Florence)

This is an interesting stela in that it lacks all the traditional formulae, in particular, the usual *hṯp-di-nswt* formula is missing. In addition, the owner of the stela is shown seated only with (presumably) his dog under the chair.



sh3.sn¹ z3-mntw-wsr² dd, ink hrp zh, (i)m(i)-r st m pr mntw

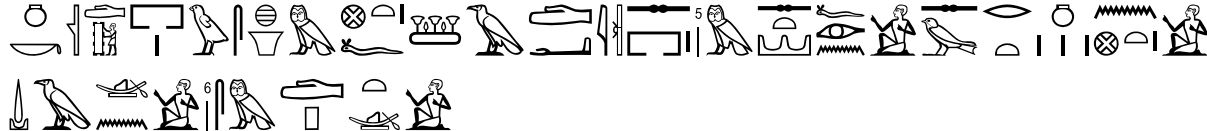
Let them/May they remember Sa-Montu-weser, (he) says: "I was the head of the dining tent³ and the overseer of the storehouse⁴ in the house of Montu.



wrh⁵ i3wt m pr hk3, mdd mtn⁶ nwt.f, ink nfrt šiw k3 nhwt




I was one who anointed⁷ the officials in the house of the ruler, one (who was) loyal to his town.

I was one who had beautiful gardens and tall (sycamore) trees.⁸



ink kd pr wsh m nwt.f, š3d iz zm(y)t.f, ir.n.i swrt nw⁹ nwt.f, d3.n.i (i)m(iw).s¹⁰ (m) dpt.i

I was one who built a spacious house in his city, (one) who dug out his rock (lit. desert) tomb. I made drink-supply of my city, I ferried the inhabitants (lit. those who were in) in my boat.

¹ The spelling of *sh3* "remember, recall" is influenced by  *h3* "office, bureau." (For a similar example,  *m3i* "lion" is influenced by  *m33* "see.") The verb form of *sh3* here is prospective /subjunctive *sdm.f* expressing exhortation. This is more polite than the imperative *sh3t* (the *t* ending is because *sh3* is a caus. 2-lit. verb); see Allen (19.5).

² Lit. "son of the powerful Montu;" see Ranke PN, 282, 8.

³ See Wb. III, 464, "Leiter des Speisezelt des Königs."

⁴ See P. Kahun 28, 23.

⁵ Active participle.

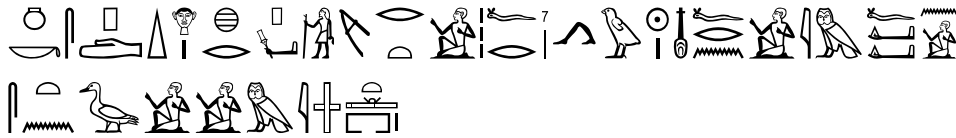
⁶ As *mdd-w3t*; see Les. 68, 19; 81, 8.

⁷ I. e. investing authority.

⁸ *nfr šiw* and *k3 nhwt* are both *nfr-hr* constructions indicating possession.

⁹ In the indirect genitive, liquid is treated as plural.

¹⁰ Note the contracted writing (suppressing an *m*) and the graphic transposition.



ink spd hr hrp mrt.f¹¹r iwt hrw nfr n.i im.f,¹² rdi.n.i¹³ st n z3.i m imit-pr

I was effective (lit. on) managing my subordinates until the day came when (lit. in which) it was well with me.¹⁴ I have given this (lit. it) to my son as a testament.

¹¹ Collective noun, lit. “servants.”

¹² *n.i* is a dative here not attached to *nfr* to form a perfect relative form; see the discussion in Gardiner §389.3. This passage refers to the day of death.

¹³ Since there is no germination in *sdm.n.f* verb forms (including perfect relative forms), writing *rdi* in a geminated form is probably a scribal error here. Otherwise, one should assume that the reading is *dd (i)n.i st n z3.i m imit-pr* with *dd* being a passive participle. This would lead to the translation: “It is to my son as a testament, given by me.”

¹⁴ Virtual relative clause with adjectival predicate.