Stela of Meri-Maat and Dedui[1]

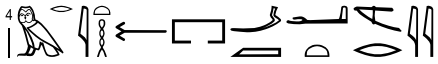
(Brooklyn Museum)

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

ḥtp-di-(*n*)*swt inpw tp*(*i*) *ḏw.f, imi wꜥt, nb tȝ ḏsr, m swt.f nb nfrt*

prt-ḫrw t ḥnḳt n ḫtmt(*i*)*-bit*(*i*)*, smr-wꜥt*(*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 Lower Egypt,[2] sole friend/courtier (of the king),



(*i*)*m*(*i*)*-r iṯḥ*[3] *mry-mȝꜥt*[4]

overseer of the prison Meri-Maat,

nb imȝḫ[5] *irr*[6] *ḥzzt*[7] *nb.f rꜥ nb*

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

ḥmt.f mrt.f ḫkrt swt wȝtt[8] *ddwi*[9]

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

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[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.