




## A Fragment of the Third Stela of Taimhotep

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RECENTLY the website of the Louvre Museum has published a photo of the limestone piece inv. number E 27219<sup>1</sup>, acquired from the Centre of Vladimir Gollenisheff in 1982, the fragment has been unknown earlier<sup>2</sup>. Dimensions: height 18 cm, width 21 cm, depth 4 cm, material: limestone.

The inscription contains few dates from Taimhotep's life (73-42 BC), wife of the Memphite high priest Pasherenptah III, well-known through her literary arranged biographical composition of stela BM 147<sup>3</sup>.

The piece is a right upper part of the monument with the remains of the scene: the offering table and several signs. The hieroglyphic text is carved, likewise a line separating the inscription, the rest of the stela is empty, though the demotic text written in black ink and faded nowadays is suspected. The only signs that could be identified resemble  *nb* "every", presumably, in line 3 or 4 of the bleached inscription. On the right edge of the hieroglyphic text a decorative element  is preserved at the beginning of the inscription, a similar symbol occurs after the final words in Pasherenptah's biography, see stela BM 866<sup>4</sup> (at the left bottom): .

At first sight, most certainly it is the second similarly designed stela of Taimhotep (BM 377<sup>5</sup>) that lacks the fragment under study (hieroglyphic signs are written in short columns, demotic text below), but the depth of the London stela is 11 cm. Thus, we can propose this piece to be a part of the third stela containing Taimhotep's biography, and date the monument to 42 BC or a little later.

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<sup>1</sup> See URL: <https://collections.louvre.fr/ark:/53355/cl010029516> [date of access: 16.07.2023]. For the copy of the inscription, see fig. 1.

<sup>2</sup> According to the information on the museum's website, the fragment has been listed in "Les récentes acquisitions des musées nationaux. Musée du Louvre. Département des Antiquités égyptiennes", *Revue du Louvre. La revue des musées de France*, 1982-4, 1982, p. 296 (*non vidi*).

<sup>3</sup> See М.В. ПАНОВ, *Источники по истории жреческих семей Мемфиса и Летополя в поздний период*, часть 2: каталог и справочник имен, Новосибирск, 2015 [*Documents on the History of the Priestly Families from Memphis and Letopolis in the Late Period*, part 2: *Catalogue and list of names*, Novosibirsk, 2015], pl. 68–72.

<sup>4</sup> See М.В. ПАНОВ, *Источники*, pl. 79-82.

<sup>5</sup> See М.В. ПАНОВ, *Источники*, pl. 73-78.

## Inscription, transliteration, and translation

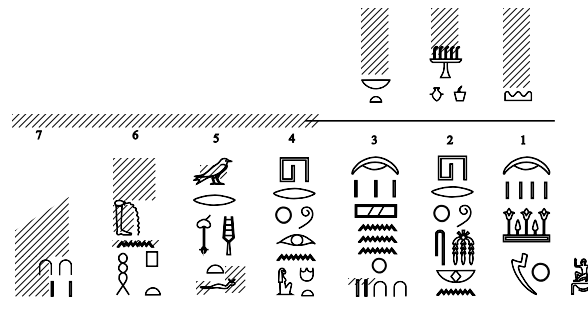


Fig. 1. Copy of the inscription on stela Louvre E 27219.

(1) *zbd 4 zht sw 9* (a) (2) *hrw ms*

*hb* (b) *n* (3) *zbd 3 šmw sw 22* (c)

(4) *hrw jrꜥ(s) n hmt* (5) *(n) wr hrp* (d) *hmw*

*jt(?)-[ntr]* (e)-(6) [*hm-ntr*] *w'b* (f) *n* (g) *pth* (7) [*m rnpt-sp*] 2[3]


(1) The fourth month of the inundation season, day 9 (2) – the day of (her) birth.

A celebration in (3) the third month of the harvest season, day 22 –



(4) the day when (she) became a wife (5) of the chief of the craftsmen,






[god's] father (?), (6) [prophet and *wab*-priest of] Ptah, (7) [in regnal year] 2[3].

(a) Cf. dates on stelae BM 147, 5 and BM 377, 7.


(b) The sign  after *hrw ms* could not be a determinative, it should start a new sentence.

(c) Stela BM 147, 6 contains the date *rnpt-sp 23 zbd 3 šmw sw tpj* “regnal year 23, the third month of the harvest season, the first day” – the day when her father Khahep gave Taimhotep as a wife; in our case she became a wife of Pasherentpah on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day. Presumably, different events took place in those days: the 1<sup>st</sup> day could tell about her father's approval, the 22<sup>nd</sup> – the festive ceremonies, i.e. wedding feast. On stela BM 377, 7 it is reported similarly “she became a wife...” (*hprꜥs (n) hm.t...*) but the date is omitted.

(d) The sign  was frequently used in this title instead of , see M.B. ПАНОВ, *Источники по истории жреческих семей Мемфиса и Летополя в поздний период*, часть 1: исследование и перевод, 2-е изд., Новосибирск, 2017 [*Documents on the History of the Priestly Families from Memphis and Letopolis in the Late Period*, part 1: *Research and Translation*, 2nd ed., Novosibirsk, 2017], tabl. 5.

(e) The only sign  equals the title *jt-[ntr]*, the standard shortened form is . The writing of the group  without a preceding  is not correct, cf.  (stela Louvre IM 4213, 9).

(f) Pasherentpah is named “*wab*-priest of the gods of Inbuhedj” on stelae BM 147, 6 and BM 886, 2, therefore a title “*wab*-priest of Ptah” could imply this person, cf. the titles of Imhotep: “*wab*-priest of Ptah” and “*wab*-priest of the gods of Inbuhedj” (stela BM 387, 5-6).

(g) The signs are usually written in one “square”, an empty or erased place before “Ptah” suitable for .