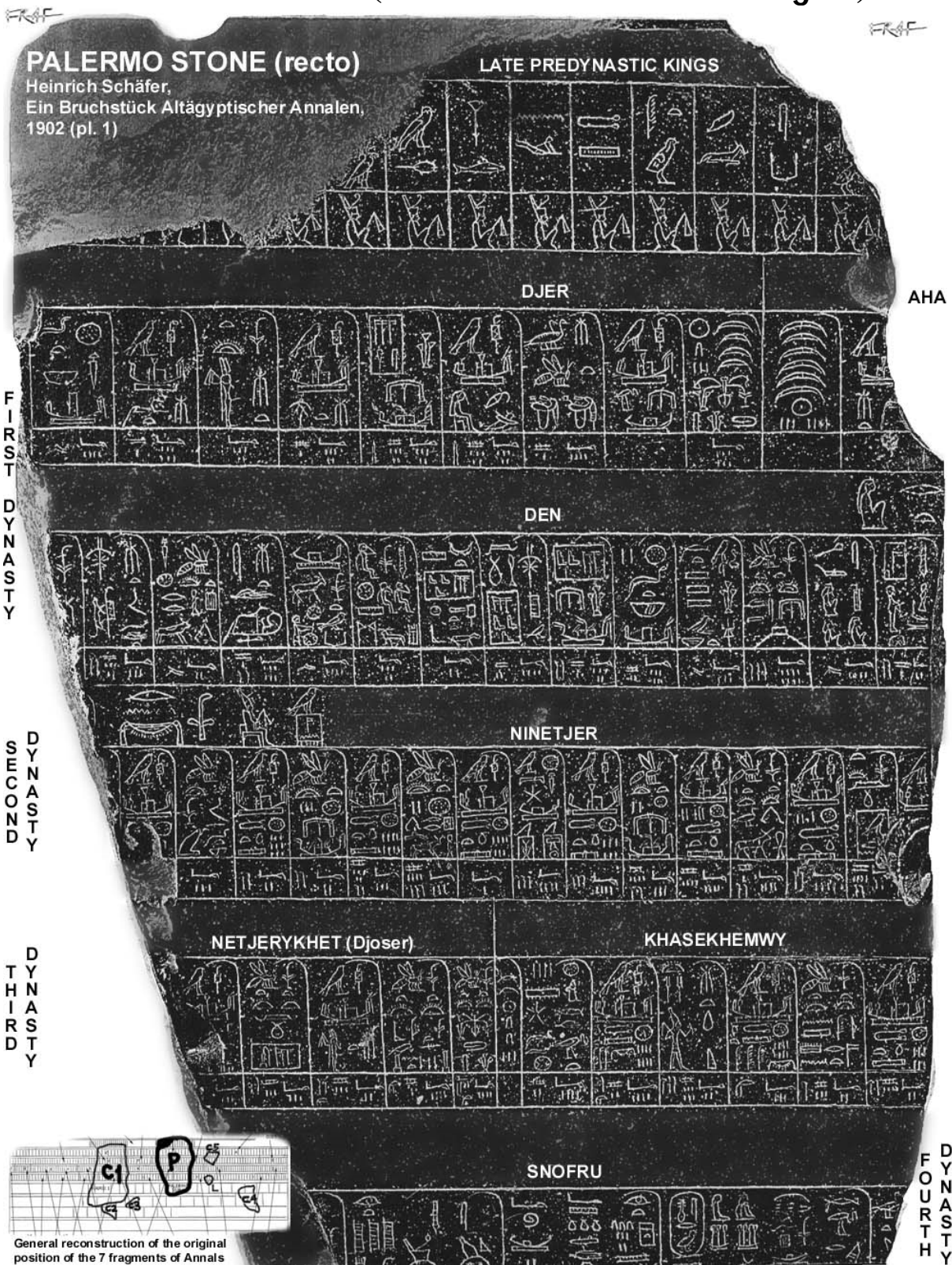


The Palermo Stone (Palermo Museo Archeologico)



PALERMO STONE (recto)

Heinrich Schäfer,
Ein Bruchstück Altägyptischer Annalen,
1902 (pl. 1)

LATE PREDYNASTIC KINGS

DJER

AHA

DEN

NINETJER

NETJERYKHET (Djoser)

KHASEKHEMWEY

SNOFRU

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General reconstruction of the original position of the 7 fragments of Annals

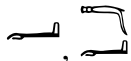
(Source: <http://xoomer.virgilio.it/francescoraf/hesyra/palermo.jpg> and <http://www.catchpenny.org/thoth/Palermo/index.htm>)


The Palermo stone exists in fragments (1 in Palermo, Sicily, 4 in Cairo and 1 in London). It has short, year by year accounts of major events, mostly ceremonies, festivals and rituals. A palm branch  arches over each register representing a year. The translation of each register therefore should start with *the year of...* which will be omitted. The bottom of each register records the Nile heights.

The Nile heights are in ancient Egyptian units of lengths:

 *db3* *finger* 0.74 inch




 *šzp* *palm* 4 fingers



 *mḥ* *cubit* 7 palms



The strokes stand for multiples of the signs. For example,  *mḥ* 2 *db3* 2, means 2 cubits and 2 fingers. This converts to $2 \times 7 \times 4 + 2$ fingers = 58 fingers = 42.92 inches.

We will analyze the large part of the main fragment (in Palermo).


2nd Row: Part of the reign of a king, most possibly Djer (1st Dynasty).

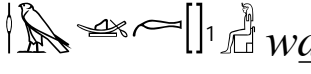
Register 1:    *wd(yt) ḥrw ms(w)t inpw,*
Processional Tour (lit. journey) of Horus, Birth of Anubis
(“birth” here and below probably refers to erecting a
dedicatory statue or making a standard which after a ritual
believed to become alive).

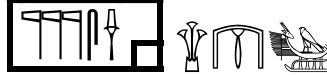
Register 2:   *3bd 6 hrw 7, 6 months and 7 days (time*
period in the year left because of the death of the king).


Register 3:  3bd 4 hrw 13 zm3 t3wi phr h3 inb, month 4 and day 13 (time of the new king's ascension to the throne), Uniting Upper and Lower Egypt (represented by their heraldic plants around the sign  zm3 unite), the festival “Going around the Wall”. (Both “coronation” ceremonies legitimize the new ruler's assumption to the throne).

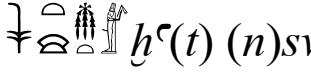
Register 4:  wd(yt) hrw h3b dšr, Processional Tour of Horus, Desher-Festival.


Register 5:  ms(w)t z3wi biti, birth of two royal children of Lower Egypt..


Register 6:  wd(yt) hrw k3p [...] Processional Tour of Horus, royal nursery [...].

Register 7:  hwt-ntr šm-ntrw h3 h3b-zkr, [designing] the temple” Might of the Gods,” attendance of the Festival of Seker.

Register 8:  wd(yt) hrw ms(w)t sš3t, Processional Tour of Horus, Birth of Seshat.

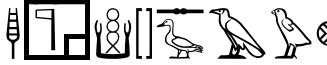
Register 9:  h^c(t) (n)swt ms(w)t mnw, Appearance of the King of Upper Egypt (a ceremony or a festival), Birth of Min.


Register 10:  wd(yt) hrw, ms(w)t inpw, Processional Tour of Horus, Birth of Anubis.


Register 11:  zp tp dt-h3b, first time of the Djet-Festival.


¹ Signs that are not available in JSesh are left omitted. Obscure signs are left un-translated.


3rd Row: Part of the reign of a king, most possibly Den (1st Dynasty).


Register 1:  ² ḥꜥ ḥwt-ntr ḥk3 z3w,
attendance (lit. standing) at the temple of Heka in Sais.


Register 2:  skꜣ iwntiw, smiting the Bedouin³.


Register 3:  ḥꜥwwi⁴ nswt-biti ḥ3b-sd, Dual Appearance (in glory) of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Heb-sed.


Register 4:  imnt mḥtt š(m3)w i3bt rhyt nbt,
[numbering] all the people of west, north, south and east.

Register 5:  zp 2 dt-ḥ3b, 2nd time of the Djet-Festival.

Register 6:  ḥwt-ntr swt-ntrw ḥ3 ḥ3b-zkr,
[designing] the temple “Thrones of the Gods”, attendance of the Festival of Seker.


Register 7:  pd sšnw ḥm-sš3t 3 wr ḥwt-ntr swt-ntrw, Stretching the Cord (in foundation ceremony) by the Seshat-priest for the great door of the temple “Thrones of the Gods.”


Register 8.  wpt š(i) ḥwt-ntr swt-ntrw stt db, opening the lake of the temple “Thrones of the Gods”, harpooning a hippopotamus (possibly a ritual).


Register 9:  ḥꜥ nni-(n)sw(t) ḥm inb ḥriš.f, attending the stone shrine of Herishef (Plutarch’s Arsaphes, creator ram-god) of Heracleopolis Magna.


² Some signs are not available in JSesh. In these cases we use the customary writing.


³ This may be the same event as depicted on King Den’s hippopotamus ivory sandal label.

⁴ Instead of the dual of the noun  ḥꜥw appearance another possible rendering is ḥꜥt nswt ḥꜥt biti, Appearances of the King of Upper Egypt and the King of Lower Egypt. This festival may be the combination of the two single ones.

Register 10:  $n^c(t) s^c h-(n)swt hwt wr-k3$, *tour to Sahnesut, smiting of Werka. (The name of the town wr-k3 is a nfr-hr construction, “great of spirit”.)*


Register 11:  $ms(w)t sd$, *Birth of Sed (jackal-god, early form of Wepwawet). (As noted above, “birth” points to making the standard.)*

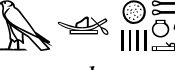
Register 12:  $h^c(t) biti zp tp phrr hpw$, *Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, the first running of the Apis Bull.*


Register 13:  $ms(w)t sš3t m3fdt$, *Birth of Seshat and Mafdet (protective feline-deity).*


4th Row: Recording the events during the reign of


 King Nynetjer (2nd Dynasty):

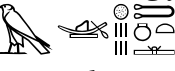
Register 1:  $h^c(t) (n)swt pd sšnw hwt hrw-rn$, *Appearance of the King of Upper Egypt, Stretching the Cord for the temple Horus-Ren.*

Register 2:  $wd(yt) hrw zp 4 tnwt$, *Processional Tour of Horus, 4th time of the census (lit. enumeration).*


Register 3:  $h^c wwi nswt-biti [3]pd ^c nh hpw$, *Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, running of the (living) Apis Bull.*

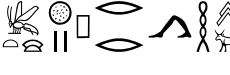
Register 4:  $wd(yt) hrw zp 5 tnwt$, *Processional Tour of Horus, 5th time of the census.*


Register 5:  $h^c(t) biti zp 2 h3b-zkr$, *Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, 2rd time of the Festival of Seker.*


Register 6:  $wd(yt) hrw zp 6 tnwt$, *Processional Tour of Horus, 6th time of the census.*


Register 7:  zp tp hr-pt-dw3 ʿd šm-rʿ
ʿd mh̄w, first time of the festival “Horus of Heaven”
hacking up the towns Shemra and Mehu.


Register 8:  wd(yt) hrw zp 7 tnwt, Processional
Tour of Horus, 7th time of the census.


Register 9:  hʿ(t) bitī zp 2 phrr hpw,
Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, 2nd running of the
Apis Bull.

Register 10:  wd(yt) hrw zp 8 tnwt, Processional
Tour of Horus, 8th time of the census.


Register 11:  hʿ(t) bitī zp 3 h3b-zkr, Appearance
of the King of Lower Egypt, 3rd time of the Festival of Seker.


Register 12:  wd(yt) hrw zp 9 tnwt, Processional
Tour of Horus, 9th time of the census.


Register 13:  hʿ(t) bitī m3ʿw (n)sw(t) dt-h3b nhbt,
Appearance of the King of Lower Egypt, the King offering
to the goddess Nekhbet, Djet-Festival.


Register 14:  wd(yt) hrw zp 10 tnwt, Processional
Tour of Horus, 10th time of the census.

5th Row: Recording the events in the reign of King
Khasekhemwy and King Djoser (3rd Dynasty).


Register 1:  wd(yt) hrw zp 6 tnwt, Processional
Tour of Horus, 6th time of the census.


Register 2:  hʿwwi nswt-bitī kd inr ntrt mn,
Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,
stone building of “Enduring Goddess.”


Register 3:  wd(yt) ḥrw zp 7 tnwt nby,
Processional Tour of Horus, census of the gold(smiths).


Register 4:  ms(w)t ḥ^c-shmwī, *birth of Khasekhemwy.*

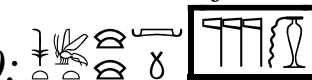
Register 5:  wd ḥrw zp 8 tnwt nby,
Processional Tour of Horus, census of the gold.

Register 6:  zp 4 in(t) mḥ b3kt inb dw3-df(3),
4 times bringing to completion the work of the wall of Duadjefa.

Register 7:  3bd 2 hrw 13 ḥ^cwwi nswt-bitī
 zm3 t3wi phr ḥ3 inb, *2nd month and 13th day, Dual
 Appearance of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Uniting
 the Two Lands, the festival “Going around the Wall.”*

Register 8:  ḥ^cwwi nswt-bitī (n)swt
 ib(w) snwt, *Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and
 Lower Egypt, [introduction]of the King to the refuge (of
 purification) “Shrine.”*

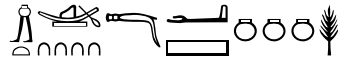
Register 9:  wd(yt) ḥrw ms(w)t mnw, *Processional
 Tour of Horus, Birth of Min.*

Register 10:  ḥ^cwwi nswt-bitī pd sšnw ḥwt-
 ntr kbḥ-ntrw, *Dual Appearance of the King of Upper and
 Lower Egypt, Stretching the Cord for the temple
 “Refreshment of the Gods.”*


6th Row: Recording the events in the reign of King Sneferu
 (4th Dynasty).

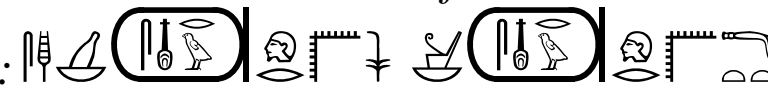
Register 1: 



 mḥ b3k(t) mr(w) dw3-t3wi mḥ 100 dpt

16 (n)swt dpt 60 ʿd t3-nḥs int ʿnḥ-skr 7000 iw3-ʿwt 200,000
 ḳd inb šm3w t3-mḥw snfrw ḥwwt int dpt 40 mḥ ʿš,
 completion of work of a 100-cubit meru-wood dua-tauī boat,
 60 royal boats of type-16⁵, hacking up the land of the
 Nubians bringing 7000 captured prisoners, 200000 cattle,
 building a wall Upper and Lower Egypt “Enclosures of
 Sneferu,” **bringing 40 boats filled with cedar-wood**

Register 2: 
 irt ḥwt 35 šzp mr(w) 122 mḥ b3k(t) ʿš dw3-
 t3wi mḥ 100 dpt mr(w) mḥ 100 dpt 2 7 tnwt
 building of 35 enclosures, receiving 122 bulls, completion
 of work of a 100-cubit cedar-wood dua-tauī boat, 2 100-
 cubit meru-wood boats, 7th time of the census.

Register 3: 
 sʿḥ ʿḥdt snfrw tp r sbḥt (r)sw nt snfrw tp r sbḥt mḥtt irt ʿ3w
 ʿḥ-(n)swt ʿš zp 8 tnwt, erecting the “White Crown of
 Sneferu on the Top of the Southern Gateway” and the “Red
 Crown of Sneferu on the Top of the Northern Gateway,”
 making cedar-wood doors of the King’s palace, 8th time of
 the census.

⁵ Type-16 may refer to the number of oars or some dimension.