



Proceeding of the 1st International Conference of the Faculty of Archaeology, Luxor
University.

"Antiquities, Cultural, and Civilizational Heritage in the Arab World"

14 to 16 February 2023, Luxor, Egypt.

PRINT-ISSN: 3009-6081 / ONLINE-ISSN: 3009-7371

Website: <https://licfa23.conferences.ekb.eg/>

Police Chief inscription (SRY)

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Abstract

The rock inscriptions are located on the eastern bank of Aswan on the road between Aswan and Philae. These inscriptions are found in several groups, most of which date back to the Middle Kingdom period and a few to the New Kingdom and Late period. These inscriptions can be divided into two types: royal inscriptions and inscriptions for elite employees.

These inscriptions are some way related to protection work for trade with the south, where employees recorded their names and titles while supervising the protection of trade.

Among these inscriptions, there is an inscription of the police chief (Sry) in the Arab Contractors area. The study will deal with this inscription in some detail to show its importance in understanding the importance of these inscriptions. This inscription is a typical example of an inscription in the Middle Kingdom, where the inscription mentions the members of the owner's family and their titles.

The city of Aswan is famous for another feature it is an area of ancient archaeological quarries, especially for granite stones, which are spread on the eastern bank of the city of Aswan. These quarries have been used since the beginning of the dynasties until now. In ancient times, some heads of missions recorded some of the news of these missions on stones close to ancient quarries or near roads for transporting stone blocks.

Keywords

Rock inscription- Aswan-Middle kingdom- First cataract- Police Chief (Sry)

نقش قائد الشرطة (سرى)

هبة سعد حربى

مفتشة آثار - باحثة ماجستير، أسوان، مصر

الملخص

تقع النقوش الصخرية على الضفة الشرقية لمدينة أسوان على الطريق الواصل بين أسوان وفيلة . توجد هذه النقوش في عدة مجموعات يعود معظمها إلى عصر الدولة الوسطى وقليل منها إلى عصر الدولة الحديثة والفترة المتأخرة .ويمكن تقسيم هذه النقوش إلى نوعين: نقوش ملكية ونقوش لصفوة الموظفين . وترتبط هذه النقوش بشكل ما بأعمال الحماية للتجارة مع الجنوب، حيث قام الموظفون بتسجيل أسمائهم وألقابهم أثناء الإشراف على حماية التجارة .ومن بين هذه النقوش نقش قائد الشرطة (سرى) بمنطقة المقاولون العرب .وسوف تتناول الدراسة هذا النقش بشيء من التفصيل لبيان أهميته في فهم أهمية هذه النقوش .ويعد هذا النقش نموذجا لنقوش عصر الدولة الوسطى، حيث يذكر النقش أفراد عائلة المالك وألقابهم ومناصبهم .

تشتهر مدينة أسوان بميزة آخري وهي أنها منطقة محاجر أثرية قديمة خاصة لاحجار الجرانيت الذي ينتشر في الضفة الشرقية لمدينة أسوان وقدأستخدمت هذه المحاجر منذ بداية الاسرات وحتى الآن، وفي العصور القديمة سجل بعض رؤساء البعثات بعض أخبار هذه البعثات علي الاحجار القريبة من المحاجر القديمة أو بالقرب من طرق نقل الكتل الحجرية .

الكلمات الدالة

النقوش الصخرية - أسوان - الدولة الوسطى- الشلال الاول - قائد الشرطة (سرى)

Introduction

The first cataract area in Aswan ⁽¹⁾. It contains a group of rock inscriptions dating back to different eras. These inscriptions are carved on granite rocks. They are found on the eastern and western banks of the Nile. divided into: texts only, texts with figures and figures only (textless) ⁽²⁾. These inscriptions have been known to archaeologists for a long time. Where it was mentioned by :-

Richerd lepsiuss: His copies drew very good because made by the specialist painters on hieroglyphic.

Petri&Griffith: surveyed the Aswan area and copied the inscriptions without scenes, wrote a description of the scenes beside the inscription and mentioned the site of the inscriptions.

De Morgan: recorded the inscriptions, drew scenes beside the inscriptions and mentioned the sites of these inscriptions .

Labib Habashi: recorded the inscriptions and he selected specific inscriptions, copied inscriptions and scenes, transliteration, translation, titles and names linked elsewhere, and explained the difference between formulas.

Delia, R.D: recorded the inscriptions and made maps showing the sites of inscriptions in the first cataract area.

The joint Egyptian /German mission

recorded the inscriptions in a "Description sheet" designed by mission to collect all information about the inscriptions, the mission not only mentioned the inscriptions site, but also gave the coordinates by "GPS", and also limited the direction of the inscriptions.

⁽¹⁾ The first cataract area extends from Aswan in the north to the Low Dam in the south.

⁽²⁾Linda Borrmann Dücker, Men at work (Text less rock inscriptions in the Aswan area.

The rock inscriptions in Aswan area

These inscriptions were divide into groups such as (Gebel Taqouq inscriptions - TV inscriptions - The Arab Contractors inscriptions - Royal stelae inscriptions - Tabyat al-Sheikh inscriptions).

Map

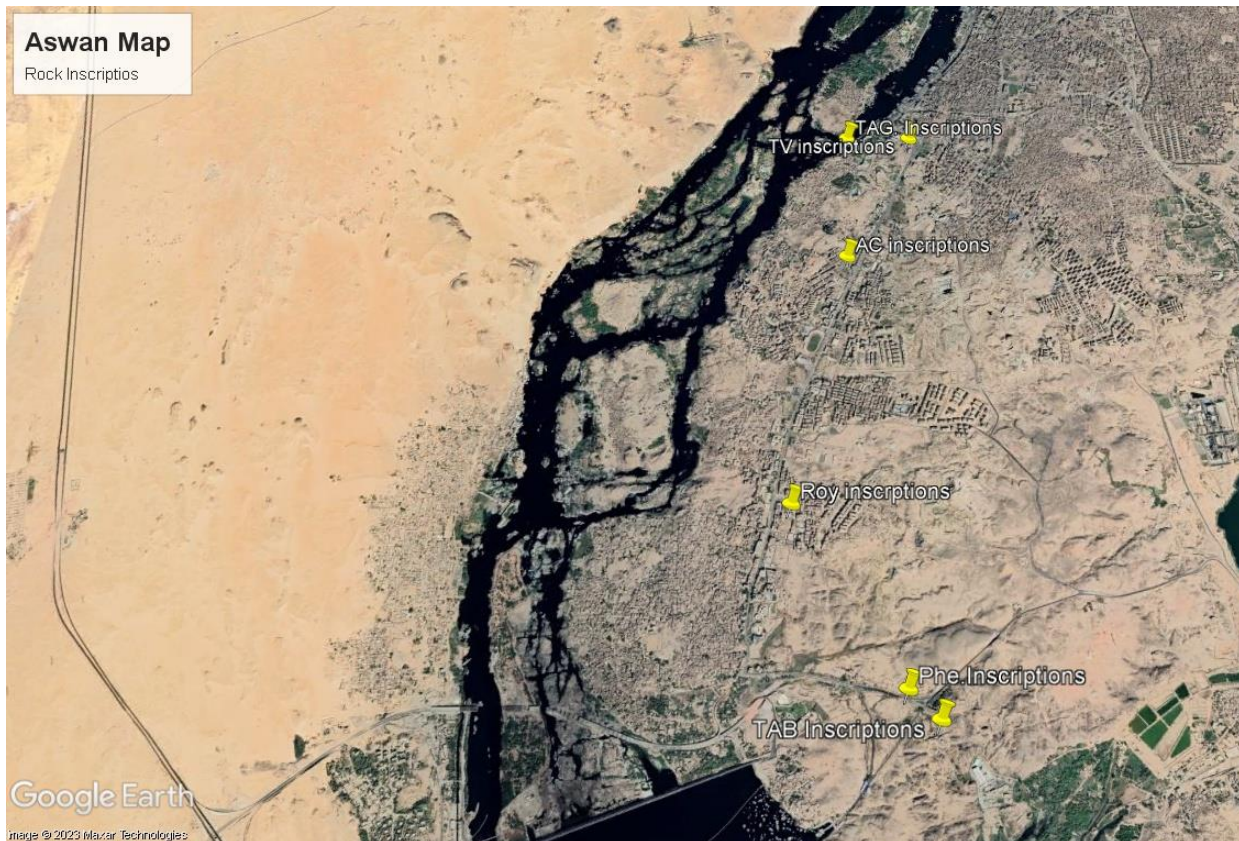


Fig 1: Google earth map showing the locations of the rock inscriptions groups, which are the work sites of the joint Egyptian-German mission.

Police Chief inscription (SRY)

Arab contractors inscriptions site

Location: On the road leading from Aswan to Philae, inside the Arab Contractors company.

Rock type: Granite stone.

The direction of the inscriptions: towards the east, north and south.

Map



Fig 2: Google earth map showing the Arab contractors inscription site.



Fig 3: Photos of the Arab Contractors inscriptions site.

Police Chief Inscription (SRY)

This inscription which is one of the inscriptions of the Arab Contractors group dates back to the middle kingdom period, and this inscription talks about the chief of police (Sry) and his family.

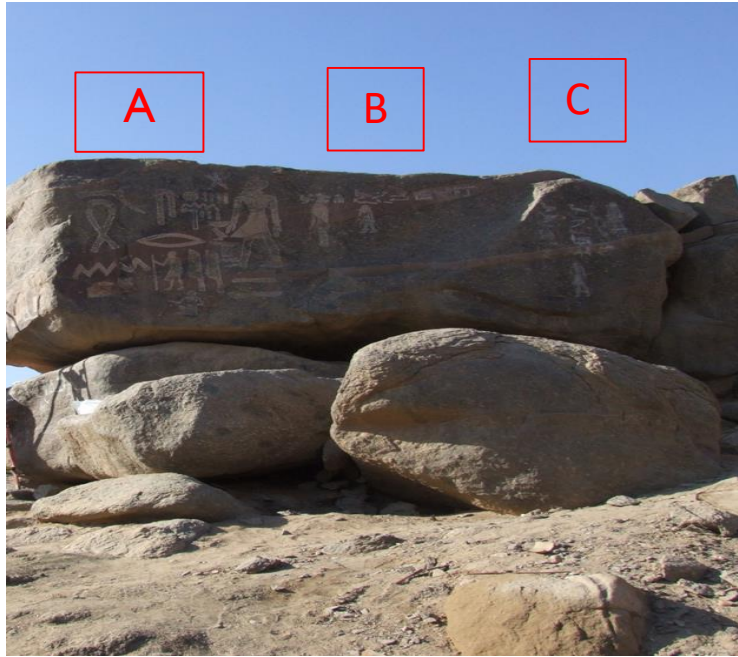
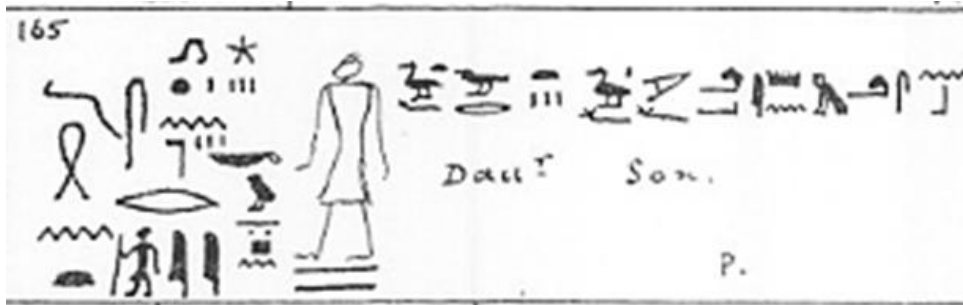


Fig 4: Police Chief Inscription (SRY)

Police Chief inscription (SRY)

Previous studies on this inscription:-

-Petrie, W. M. F. (1888). A season in Egypt, 1887 (Vol. 35): Field & Tuer. VII, Plate 165



-Morgan, J. (1894). Catalogue des monuments et inscriptions de l'Egypte antique: Iere Serie. Haute Egypt. I. De la frontiere de Nubie a Kom Ombos : Holzhausen. P.26, No.183



The study

- This site is place work of the joint Egyptian-German mission (Egyptian side) in the seasons (2010-2015).⁽³⁾
- The inscription taken no (ASW/ AC/05). This number is from the Egyptian side of the joint German - Egyptian mission.
- In this study, this rock will be divided into three parts :-

Part (A):



Fig 5: part (A) from inscription

⁽³⁾ The Egyptian side from joint Egyptian- German mission contain of :-

- Adel Kekany – field Director -Heba Saad Harby –Member-Mohamed Nagm - Member-Adel Tohami
- Member-Mahmoud Makhater- Member

Police Chief inscription (SRY)

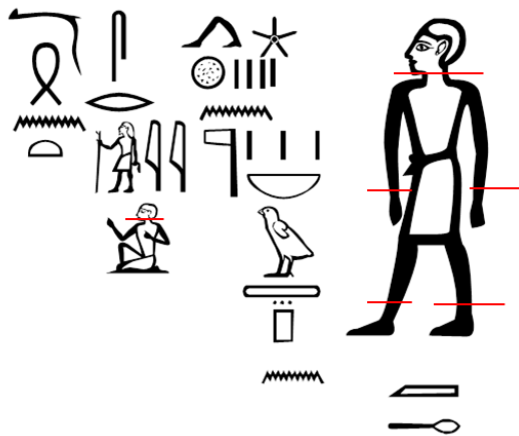


Fig 6: Inscription Drawing by (Heba Saad Harby)

Transliteration: -

- *imy-r Šnt šry*

-*iw.(t) dw3 sp 4 n ntr.w nb.w t3 pn*

-*m3š-ḥrw*

Translate:-

-Chief of police (Sry) justified, coming and praying four times to all the gods in this region.

Comment:-

- imy-r Šnt Ward p.50 no .350

- Sry (Ranke p.317.no6)

Another Inscription for (Sry)

On Sehel Island, there is another inscription of police chief (Sry)

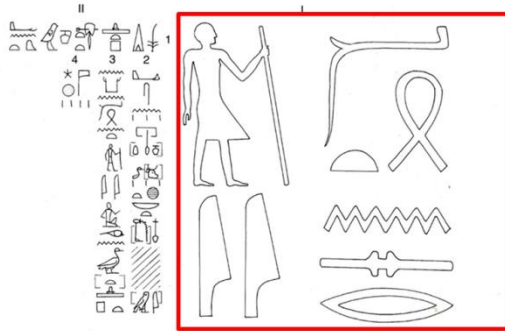


Fig 7: Inscription Published in the book of A.Gasse, Rondot .Cairo 2007. P.102-103.

Part (B):



Fig 8: part (B) from inscription

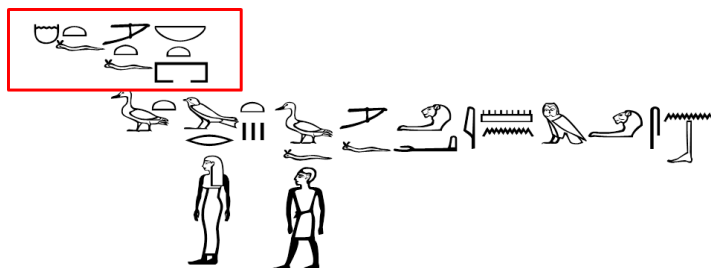


Fig 9: Inscription Drawing by (Heba Saad Harby)

Police Chief inscription (SRY)

Transliteration: -

- ḥmt.f mrt.f nb.t- pr
- s3.t- wrt
- sz.f mry.f ḥ3ty-c ḥmn- m- ḥ3t- snb

Translate:-

- His wife, his beloved, the lady of the house Sat- weret.
- His son his beloved, the prince (ḥmn- m- ḥ3t- snb).

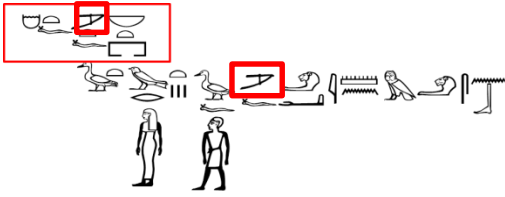
Comments:-

- S3t Wrt (Ranke,P.N,P.288,No1)
- (ḥmn- m- ḥ3t- Snb.w) (Ranke,P.N,P.28,No13).

Study result:



- This part of inscription not published in petrie and De Morgan.



- All the inscription signs wrote from left to right except sign mr
Wrote from right to left. I think this is a mistake from the writer.

А

Part (C):

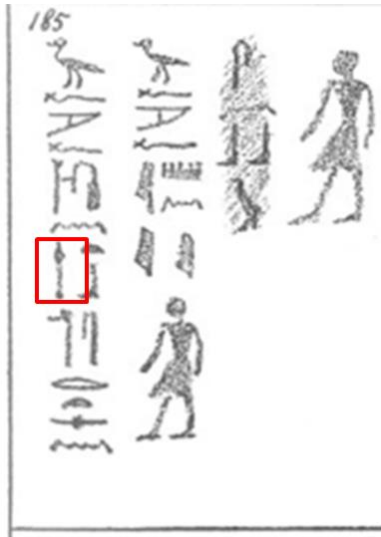


Fig 10: part (C) from inscription

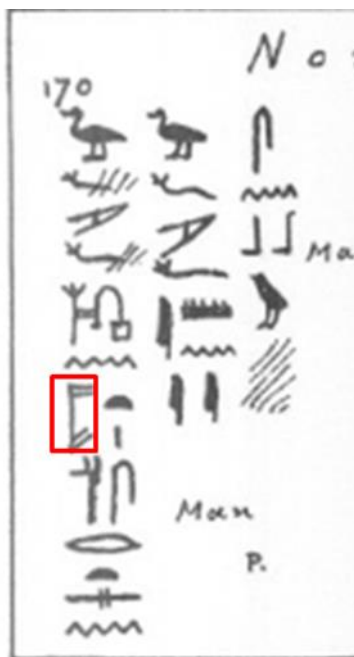
Police Chief inscription (SRY)

Previous studies on part (c) :-

1- Petrie, W. M. F. (1888). A season in Egypt, 1887 (Vol. 35): Field & Tuer.
VIII, Plate 170



2-Morgan, J. (1894). Catalogue des monuments et inscriptions de l'Egypte
antique: Iere Serie. Haute Egypte . I. De la frontiere de Nubie a Kom Ombos :
Holzhausen.
P.26, No.185



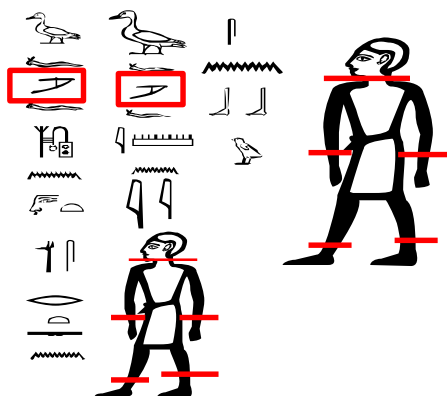


Fig 11: Inscription Drawing by (Heba Saad Harby)

Transliteration: -

-s3.f mr.f sš n ḥnr.t sn- wsrt

-s3.f mr.f ḥmny snbb.w

Translate :-

His son beloved of him scribe of the prison **sn.wsrt**

-His son beloved of him **ḥmny sn.bb.w**

Comment:-

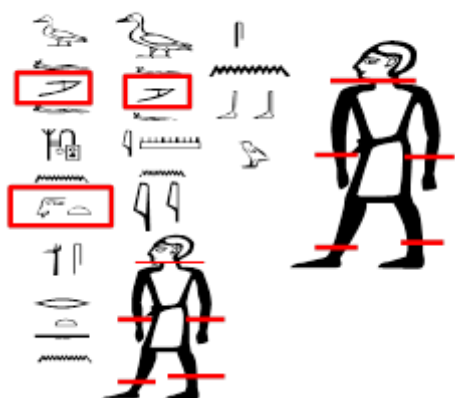
- sš n ḥnr.t (Ward,w,index of Egyptian titles.P.163,No1410)

-(sn- wsr.t) (Ranke.p. 86,No. 23).


-ḥmny snbb.w

ḥmny (Ranke .p. 31,No. 13).

snbb.w (Ranke .p. 315,No. 5).



Study result

- Sign(hnr.t) is written by Petrie and De Morgan in the wrong way but the right sign is  Which I do it with Jesh program

- The mr.  sign wrote also from right to left.

The cut off signs in the figures

All figures in the three parts contain lines such as cuts on the neck, arms and feet. because the People in the ancient times believed that ancient images could be dangerous, so they cut off their hands, feet and necks to be sure this figures could not do anything bad to them.

Inscription Description: -

-**Rock surface:** Matt, flat and compact, there is natural line in the rock horizontally

- **Rock color:** Brown

-**Technique:** The signs carved by punctual chisel

-**Orientation:** facing north toward ancient wall.


-Measurments of inscription


Height : 1.44 m

Weight: 2.99m

Depth:2mm

GPS: 9 M

Small hieroglyphs sign: 16 cm ()

Large hieroglyphs sign :45 cm ()

Small figure: 33 cm

Large figure: 100cm

Conclusion

- From This study we knew who passed from this way in the Middle kingdom period, the name of the police chief is (Sry) , his titles and family (wife and sons) , also their position .
- Police chief (Sry) has another inscription in Sehel Island, and the study still continue to know new information.

Acknowledgements

I thank Prof.Dr. Khaled Abd El Naeem - Dean of the Faculty of Archeology, Luxor University, Prof.Dr. Stephan J.Seidlmayer Director of the German side of the (joint Egyptian-German Mission) ,MR. Adel Kelany- field Director of the Egyptian side of the (joint Egyptian-German Mission), Dr. Linda Borrmann field Director of the German side of the (joint Egyptian-German Mission)and Mrs.Elisabeth Wiegner a member of the German side of the (joint Egyptian-German Mission) for their help and support.

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