

9. Stela of the Town Ruler Indi of Thisis

From Naga ed-Deir (UE 8)
Metropolitan Museum 25.2.3

Dunham, Naga-ed-Dêr, no. 78, pp. 92-94 and pl. xxviii.2; Hayes, Scepter, I, pp. 139 & 141 and fig. 83. Schenkel, MHT, no. 260, p. 183; Lichtheim, AEL I, 84f.

A rectangular limestone stela, 67.3 x 47.5 cm., in painted sunk relief of good quality. The slender standing figures of Indi and his wife fill the lower left side. The inscription is in four lines above and three columns on the lower right. Of unknown provenience, the stela has been assigned to Naga ed-Deir on stylistic grounds.

(1) An offering-that-the-king-gives (and) Anubis, he upon his mountain, *imy-wt*, the lord of the necropolis : a voice-offering (2) for the Count, Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, Lector-priest, the honored Indi (3) who says :

I am a citizen excellent in warfare, a comrade of 'fighters'¹. (4) I am one loved by his father, praised by his mother, beloved of his siblings, (5) pleasant to his relations.

One raised from the back of his father's house², by the might of Onuris³, (6) Ruler of Thisis with the wish for repute⁴, with the wish to act for the best. One who speaks with his mouth, acts with his arm. (7) No man will be found who would speak against the honored Indi.

Above the heads of Indi and his wife

1000 of bread, 1000 of beer, 1000 of beef, 1000 of fowl, 1000 of alabasters, 1000 of clothing, 1000 of everything good for the honored Indi. His beloved wife, the Sole Royal Ornament, Priestess of Hathor, honored before the gods of Thisis, Mutmut.

Notes

1) The word *h3dw*, with bird and seated-man determinatives, is unknown. Schenkel proposed to read *dḥ3w*, from *dḥi*, "humble", and rendered, "ein Kamerad seiner Untergebenen(?)". But one expects a word with a meaning similar to "warfare", and two of the Wb. entries under *h3d* suggest the notions of being "excited" or "aggressive". Note also that the bird does not look like the small-bird determinative (G37) which occurs in the same line in the word *nḏs*. — 2) On this phrase see now Franke, *Verwandtschaft*, 266f., where it is made plausible that the "back of the house" here means the family quarters where the children grew up. — 3) That the town god is given the credit for Indi's rise to eminence is characteristic of the political climate of the First Intermediate Period. As Fischer put it in connection with a similar sentence, "such phrases, along with other evidence, indicate that

the local god replaced the king as the ultimate source of support and authority during the Heracleopolitan period" ("Three Stelae from Naga ed-Deir", Dunham Fs., 61). I should like to add that it also tells something about "Personal Piety", about which more will be said later. — 4. *Qd*, "character", here spelled *qdw*, in the sense of "good repute", as also in the autobiography of Pepiankh the Middle (see p. 20, n. 3).

10. Stela of the Treasurer Iti of Imyotru

From Gebelein (UE 4)
Cairo 20001

Lange-Schäfer, Grabsteine, I, 1-2 & IV, pl. i; Vandier in *Mélanges Maspero* I, 137-145. Fischer, *WZKM* 57 (1961) 69-72; Schenkel, *MHT*, no. 39, pp. 57f.; Lichtheim, *AEL* I, 88f.

A limestone tablet, 47 x 75 cm. On the left are the seated figures of Iti and his wife. The inscription consists of one line across the top and ten columns on the right.

Almost certainly a contemporary of Ankhtifi, the town treasurer Iti presents himself as the real power in his hometown of Imyotru (near Gebelein), at the southern edge of the Theban nome. His report of having supplied grain to Imyotru, to near-by Hermonthis, and to Hefat in the third nome, agrees with Ankhtifi's account of having attacked the Thebans at the behest of Hermonthis in indicating that the towns in the southern border district of the Theban nome strained away from Theban dominion. Very typical for the time is his emphasis on having staved off famine in the home region, and on his having acquired property, notably land and herds.

(1) An offering-that-the king-gives (and) Anubis, he upon his mountain, *imy-wt*, the lord of the necropolis : a voice-offering for the honored Royal Seal-bearer, Sole Companion, (2) Seal-bearer of the God¹, Iti, who says :

I am a worthy citizen who acts with his arm; I am a great pillar (3) in the Theban nome, a man of standing in the Southland.

I nourished (4) Imyotru in hard years, when four hundred men despaired of it, and I did not (5) seize a man's daughter, nor did I seize his field².

I gathered ten herds of goats (6) with herdsmen for each herd. I acquired two herds of cattle, one herd of asses. I acquired all kinds of small cattle. I made a 50 (cubit) boat, another (7) of 30 (cubits).

I gave Upper Egyptian barley to Iuni and Hefat after Imyotru had been supplied, while the Theban nome (8) [fared north] and south. Never did I let Imyotru fare north and south to another nome !³ Whether I served (9) a great