THE
NEWSLETTER

Volume VII – No. 3
May 1977

CONTENTS

LIST OF PLATES

*   *   *   *

THE TITLES OF QUEENSHIP:
PART I, THE EVIDENCE FROM THE OLD KINGDOM.

The queen in ancient Egypt, by the prerogative of her status as king's wife, bore her own group or set of titles, much as the king possessed his five-fold titulary. In the Old Kingdon, however, not every queen held the same titles, and the use of certain titles changed from the Fourth to the Sixth Dynasties. The purpose of this short study will be to present a summary of the titles of queenship known from the Old Kingdom, and to attempt to trace their development and utilization.

All titles applied to queens in the Old Kingdom can be placed in three categories: titles of relationship, titles of religious function and titles of royal position. Unlike some of the titles in the first two categories, no title in the last group was ever applied to a private woman. In the chart (Pl. 2) are listed all the queens from the Old Kingdom whose titles are known. They are listed chronologically by dynasty. All the known titles are then listed across the chart, with an x for each title an individual queen possessed. Variations and unique titles are listed at the end, along with the number of monuments used to supply each queen's titles. It must be kept in mind, of course, that the more monuments known for a queen, and especially if her tomb is preserved, the better the chance of her complete titulary being known.

Several interesting features stand out in the chart. Titles of religious function appear only in the middle of the Fourth Dynasty. Also Queen Ḫ'-mrr-nbty I and her daughter Queen Ḫ'-mrr-nbty II hold exactly the same titles of priestess. This phenomenon of mother and daughter holding the same titles occurs again with Queen Ḥtp-ḥr.s II and her daughter Queen Mr.s-'nḫ III. These women have in common four titles of royal position which are otherwise infrequently known in the Fourth Dynasty.

The title ḫrp sšmt im3t is only known in four instances in the Fourth Dynasty, and three of these are on monuments which do not belong to the queen, but rather the queen's children. The title rp't is only known for the wives of Pepy II. The title ḏdt ḫt nbt ir n.s is known for the first two queens of the Fourth Dynasty, and only appears again for Queen Ḫnt.k3w.s at the very end of the Fourth Dynasty. This title is an old one, first known for Queen N-m3't-ḫp at the end of the Second Dynasty. Note that the titles ḏdt ḫt nbt ir n.s and m33t Ḥr Stḫ are exclusive of each other, and that a woman with the title ḏdt ḫt nbt ir n.s is always a mwt-nsw. Also a mwt-nsw is almost always a s3t-nṯr and not a s3t-nsw. Therefore ḏdt ḫt nbt ir n.s, mwt-nsw, and s3t-nṯr seem to be a set of titles which occur together. It may be that here are the titles of a queen as king's mother, rather than as king's wife.

The chart shows a very high correlation between four titles: ḫmt-nsw, m33t Ḥr Stḫ, wrt ḥts and wrt ḥst. These would seem to be, then, the four major titles of the queen. The use of the other titles of royal position vary throughout the Old Kingdom. Sm3wt mry nbty is consistently used in the Fifth Dynasty, as smrt Ḥr is in the Sixth Dynasty, while they occur only sporadically

before. Perhaps these differences are to be explained by personal preference, or else they could indicate rank in queenship. With more evidence it might be possible to determine major or minor wives by their titles. It might also be possible that these titles are functional and explain some duty or aspect of queenship.

- Lisa Kuchman

Appendix I:
Translation of the Titles

1.	ḥmt-nsw	"king's wife", often followed by mrt.f, "whom he loves".
2.	s3t-nsw	"king's daughter"
3.	s3t-nṯr	"god's daugher"
4.	mwt-nsw	"king's mother"
5.	m33t Ḥr Stẖ	"the one who sees Horus and Seth"
6.	wrt ḥts	"great of affection?", WB III, 202. Fischer, JEA, 60, 1974, p. 97, n.11 suggests wrt "great in respect to" and ḥts "may represent a quality ('perfection'?)". Grdseloff, ASAE, 42, 1943, p. 118 translates "l'educatrice", based on the use of the ḥts scepter as a determinative of ts mdḥ. Gauthier, ASAE, 24, 1924, p. 199, "la très aimee".
7.	wrt ḥst	"great of praise", WB III, 158.
8.	ẖt Ḥr	"follower of Horus", WB III, 344, perhaps ẖt short for imy-ẖt "befindlich hinter", p. 347.
9.	sm3wt mry nbty	"companion, consort of the one whom the two ladies love". For a complete discussion see Fischer, JEA, 60, 1974, p. 94-99.
10.	tist Ḥr	"companion of Horus"? WB V, 242, 11. Gauthier, ASAE, 24, 1924, p. 207, "aurait-il donc fait allusion au privilège qu'avait la reine d'etre assise, de trôner aux côtés du pharaon?"
11.	ḏdt ẖt nbt ir n.s	"everything she says is done". Edgerton, JAOS, 60, 1940, p. 483, "for whom whatsoever she asks is done".

12.   ḫrp sŝmt im3t

"controller of the affairs of the im3t"?. Discussed by Fischer, Orientalia, 29, 1960, suggests "gynaecum" for im3t. His reading accepted by Reiser, Der koenigliche Harim im alten Aegypten und seine Verwaltung, p. 20-21. Wilson, JNES, 3, 1944, p. 212, "controller of the business of the gracious place." Reisner/Smith, Giza Necropolis II, p. 33, "she who is in charge of the affairs of the im3t (? Harem). Grdseloff, ASAE, 42, 1943, p. 115, "directrice de l'instruction du gynécée". Dunham and Simpson, Mastaba of Mersyankh, read ḫrp sŝmtyw ŝndt "controller of the butchers of the acacia house", following Edel, Das Akazienhaus und seine Rolle in der Begraebnisriten, p. 28.

13.   rp't

"hereditary noblewoman", not found written with the feminine ending rp't.t, Gardiner, AEO, vol. I, p. 16.

14.   smrt Ḥr

"companion of Horus"

15-18.   ḥm-nṯr

"prophet". The gods in this case are Thoth, Hathor, Bapefy and Tjasep.

Appendix 2:
Monuments Supplying Queens' Titles

Ḥtp-ḥr.s I: five pieces from her tomb furniture, see Reisner (and Smith), A History of the Giza Necropolis, vol. II.

Mryt-it.s: Mariette stela from Giza, fragment from chapel of K3-w'b (G 7120), fragment in G 7110, see Smith, JNES, 11, 1952, pp. 113-128.

Ḥnt.sn: chapel of Ḫwfw-ḫ'.f (G 7140), see Smith, HESPOK, pl. 44b.

Ḥtp-ḥr.s II: tomb of Mr.s-'nḫ III (G 7530), see Dunham and Simpson, The Mastaba of Queen Mersyankh III.

Mr.s-'nḫ II: sarcophagus, see Roveri, I Sarcofagi Egizi dalle Origini alla Fine dell' Antico Regno, pl. XXX and XXXI, + p. 116.

Ḫ'-mrr-nbty I: drum over entrance to Galarza tomb, see Urkunden I, 155.

Mr.s-'nḫ III: tomb (G 7530) and tomb of Nb-m-3ḫt, see Dunham and Simpson, The Mastaba of Queen Mersyankh III, and Hasen, Excavations at Giza, vol. 4, fig. 81.

Pr-snt: tomb (LG 88), see L.D. II, 152 (e).

Ḥknw-ḫdt: tomb of Sḫm-k3-r', see Hassan, Excavations at Giza, vol. 4, fig. 62.

Ḫ'-mrr-nbty II: Galarza tomb, see Edel, MIO, 2, 1954, p. 183-7 and p. 333-336, and tomb of Ḥw-n-r', see BMFA, 22, 1934, p. 11, fig. 10.

Bw-nfr: tomb, see Hassan, Excavations at Giza, vol. 3.

Rḫt-r':   tomb, see Hassan, Excavations at Giza, vol. 6, part 3.

Ḥnt-k3w.s: tomb, see Hassan, Excavations at Giza, vol. 4.

Nfrt-ḫ3-nbty: fragment of relief, see Borchardt, Grabdenkmal des Koenigs Sa3he-r', II, pl. 48.

Rpyt-nbw: inscription on statue base, see Borchardt, Das Grabdenkmal des Koenigs Ne-user-re, fig. 88, p. 109.

Nbt: false-door, see Fischer, JEA, 60, 1974, p. 95, fig. 1.

Ipwt: tomb, see Firth and Gunn, Teti Pyramid Cemeteries, pl. 55 and p. 13, fig. 7.

Mry-r'-'nḫ-n.s: inscription fragment, see Aegyptische Inschriften aus den Koeniglichen Museen zu Berlin, vol. I, p. 72, and Urkunden, I, p. 117.

Nt: tomb, see Jéquier, Les Pyramides des reines Neit et Apouit.

Ipwt: tomb, see Jéquier, Les Pyramides des reines Neit et Apouit.

Wḏb-tn: tomb, see Jéquier, La Pyramide D'Oudjebten.

Ppy-'nḫ-n.s: sarcophagus and stela, see Jéquier, Les Pyramides des reines Neit et Apouit, fig 30 + 31.

Nbw-nbty   tomb inscriptions, see Gauthier, Le Livre des Rois, vol. I, p. 193 (from Mariette, Mastabas, p. 255).

Ḥwit   tomb inscriptions, see Gauthier, Le Livre des Rois, vol. I, p. 194-5 (from Mariette, Mastabas, p. 207).

*   *   *   *

PLATE II

Dynasty	Queen	Husband	Titles of Relationship				Titles of Royal Position										Titles of Religious Function				Variations/Others	# of unrelated monuments used
			ḥmt-nsw	s3t-nsw	s3t-ntr	mwt-nsw	m33t Ḥr Stḥ	wrt ḥts	wrt ḥst	ḫt Ḥr	sm3wt mry nbty	t1st Ḥr	ddt ḫt nbt ir n.s	ḥrp ssmt im3t	rp't	smrt Ḥr	ḥm-ntr Dhwty	ḥm-ntr Ḥw.r	ḥm-ntr B3-pf	ḥm-ntr T3-sp(.f)		
4	Ḥtp-ḥr.s I	Snfrw			X	X				X				X	X							1
4	Mryt-its	Ḥwfw	X		?			X			X	X		X	X							2
4	Ḥnt.sn	Ḥwfw					X															1
4	Ḥtp-ḥr.s II	Dd.f-r'	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			2
4	Mr.s-'nḥ II?	Ḥ'.f-r'?	X	X			X	X		X												1
4	Ḥ'-mrr-nbty I	Ḥ'.f-r'	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								X	X				1
4	Mr.s-'nḥ III	Ḥ'.f-r'	X				X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X		wrt ḥts nbty wrt ḥst Dhwty	2
4	Pr.snt	Ḥ'.f-r'	X	X				X														1
4	Ḥkmw.ḥdt?	Ḥ'.f-r'					X														ḥm-ntr of ?	1
4	Ḥ'-mrr-nbty II	Mn-k3w-r'	X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X			X		X		s3t-nsw wrt	2
4	Bw-nfr	?	X	?			X	X	X									?		X	wrt ḥts nbty ḥm-ntr in the cult of Sps-k3.f	2
4	Rḥt-r'	?	X	X			X	X	X													2
4/5	Ḥnt-k3w.s	?			X	X							X								ddt ḫt nb nfrt irt n.s nsw-bit	1
5	Nfrt-h3-nbty	S3ḥw-r'	X				X		X		?	X										1
5	Rpyt-nbw	N-wsr-r'	X									X										1
5	Nbt	Wnis	X				X	X	X		X	X				X						1
6	Ipwt	Tty	X	X		X	X	X	X							X					mwt-nsw-bit s3t-nsw-bit	1
6	Mry-r'-'nḥ-n.s I/II	Ppy I	X		X	X	X	X	X			X				X					wr ḥt mwt-nsw-bit	2
6	Nt	Ppy II	X	X			X	X	X	X	X				X	X					s3t-nsw-wrt	1
6	Ipwt	Ppy II	X	X			X								X						s3t-nsw-wrt	1
6	Wdb-tn	Ppy II	X					X		X					X						hsst ntrw nb	1
6	Ppy-'nḥ-n.s	Ppy II	X		X	X	X														mwt-nsw-bit	2
6?	Nbw-nbty	?	X				X	X	X		X	X				X						1
6?	Ḥwit	?	X	X			X	X	X												wr ḥt	1