THE STELA OF DJEHUTYNEFER, CALLED SESHU

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According to the records of the Museo delle Antichità Egizie di Torino, this remarkably well-preserved stela, Inv. Cat. No. 1639, was once a part of Bernardino Drovetti's collection. It is round topped, made of fine limestone, and measures 56.5 cm in height, 37.5 cm in breadth, and 7.5 cm in thickness. Its original provenance is unknown. The same records date the stela to Dynasty 18, and specifically to the reign of Thutmose III. The grounds on which this precise date is based are not given.

Bibliography

P.C. Orcurti, Catalogo Illustrato dei Monumenti Egizii del R. Museo di Torino (Turin, 1855), 43-44, no. 68.
C. Vidua, Catalogue de la collection d'antiq. de monuments le chev. Drovetti, a 1822 (Florence and Rome, 1880), 233, no. 156.

Description

The Scene

The upper portion of the stela, which has a pale brown background, is occupied by a funerary scene and texts. On the right, facing left, is a seated Osiris, whose face, neck, hands, and collar are colored green. His eyes and ears are engraved, while his eyelids, pupils, and eyebrows are painted black. He wears his white robe and atef crown and holds his was scepter, heqa crook and neheh flail. His low-backed throne with its white cushion is painted red and rests on a green mat with red lashings. Part of the throne and the lashings appear to have been repainted. Behind him stands a tall green and white fan.

In front of Osiris, facing right, stands Djehutynefer, brown colored, raising his hands before his face in a gesture of adoration. He wears a short black wig and a green wesekh collar. His long white robe covers a short white kilt. Behind him stands his elegantly slim wife Byma, with her long, tightly fitted white dress that reaches down to her feet and covers her left shoulder. Her face, arms, and feet are painted brown. Like her husband, she wears a green wesekh collar, but her black wig is long and covers her right shoulder. With her left hand she holds a sistrum. Behind Byma stands Mahu, their son, with his long white robe over a short white kilt. Like his parents, he is painted brown. His left hand holds five lotus flowers and five birds tied together, while his right holds five geese, also tied together.

Dr. Eleni Vassilika, Director of the Museo Egizio, kindly gave me a picture of the stela and the permission to publish it; to her I wish to express my gratitude.
Before and above Osiris:

(1) Wsir nb pt ḫk3 dt ḫw ḫw nḏm (2) n mḥyt n ḫk3 n ss (i) Sŕw
(1) Osiris, Lord of Heaven, Ruler of Eternity, may he give the sweet breeze (2) of the North to the ka of the scribe (3) Seshu.

Before and above Djehutynefer and Family:

(1) rdt iḥw n Wsir sn tḥ (2) n nb ḫt di(li) n k iḥw n ḫr k (3) nfr swiš.i nfrw.k in (4) ss ḫsb ḫw ḥp dw (5) [n ḫmn ḫwty nfr ḫt ḫt n] (6) ḫ Sŕw nṣf nḥt pr By (7) –m ṣ.f (8) ṣṃḥ ṣmf ḫ Sŕw

(1) Giving praise to Osiris, smelling (kissing) the ground (2) before the Lord of Eternity. May I give you praise to your beautiful face (3), may I applaud (a) your beauty; by (4) the Scribe of Counting the Cattle and Fowl (5) [of Amun, Djehutynefer, called] (6) Seshu, his sister, Lady of the House, Byma, and his son who (7) makes his name live, the scribe, (8) Mahu.

Note:
(a) The sign $\bigotimes$ is replaced in Maspero by the sign $\times$.

B. Main Text
The main text occupies 13 lines, the uppermost four of which are not colored, whereas the lower nine are colored blue.