Abstract: The Theban Tomb no. 58 is located in the Sheikh Abd El Qurna cemetery on Luxor’s west bank of the Nile. The tomb was originally built for a high official during the reign of King Amenhotep III. Later, it was usurped by both Amenhotep and Amenemonet during the Ramesside period. On September 7, 2021, members of the Helwan University team discovered hieroglyphic graffiti written in black ink just above the inner hall’s entrance from inside. The latter mentioned the name of the draughtsman Hatneferu, who was most probably the artist responsible for the tomb decoration during the Ramesside era.

Keywords: Theban tomb 58- draughtsman Hatneferu- Ramesside period- Sheikh Abd El Qurna.
Theban Tomb No. 58\(^1\) is located in the Sheikh Abd El Qurna cemetery on Luxor’s west bank of the Nile. It is a rock-cut T-shaped tomb hewn on the hill’s eastern slope between TT 119 and TT 122. (Fig.1)

Nothing is known about the exact date of the tomb’s discovery, but as indicated by PM, our knowledge about the tomb goes back for over a century, since it was mentioned in Lepsius Denkmäler 1840-45\(^2\) and Wilkinson’s manuscript (1821-59).\(^3\) It is worth noting that there is graffiti on the west wall of the transverse hall that gives the date 1831. The latter was discovered by the Helwan University expedition team in September 2021. Thus, it is quite clear that the tomb has been known and open to visitors since 1821, or even before.

The tomb was originally built for a high official during the reign of King Amenhotep III, but was later usurped by both Amenhotep and Amenemonet during the Ramesside period.

On September 7, 2021, the team discovered hieroglyphic graffiti written in black ink on the inner hall lintel from inside.\(^4\) (Fig.2). The text is oriented from right to left:

\[
\text{-----}\, \text{irj}\, n(\text{ praised})\, s\, kd(\text{life})\, HnAt-nfrw(\text{by the draughtman})\, m3(r)\, [hrw].
\]

“-----made by the draughtman\(^5\) Hatneferu justified”.

**Comments:**

a. The graffiti begins with faint traces of what is most probably the sign \(\text{irj}\), the latter could possibly be part of a word that has been erased. Alternatively, it might be that the scribe originally intended to write “\(n\, k\, n\, s\, s\, k\, d\)” but changed his mind, unintentionally leaving the “\(n\)” sign. This aspect remains uncertain.

What is certain is that the sentence begins with “\(\text{irj}\)” followed by the sign \(\text{ir}\).

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\(^2\) Richard Lepsius, *Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien*, Text, III (Leipzig: Hinrichs’sche Buchhandlung, 1897), 258 no. 43.

\(^3\) PM I, 119 = Wilkinson, *MSS*, V. 75.

\(^4\) Members of the Helwan University expedition team are: Laila Azzam, and Ahmed Younes.

used to represent "n. As a result, the sentence can be translated as “made by the draughtsman Hatneferu justified.” This translation seems more plausible, since the draughtmen’s signatures were frequently preceded by ir n followed by the title and the artist’s name. Another possible interpretation of the sentence is that the sign could be an abbreviated form of the demonstrative pronoun “nw” meaning “this”. In this case, the translation would be “the one who made this, the draughtsmen’s Hatneferu justified,” where “nw” probably refers to the scenes and decorations made by Hatneferu.

b. $s\ k d$: The title $s\ k d$ means “outline draughtsman”, or “painter/draughtmen”, literally “Scribe of contour”, or “scribe of forms/shapes/drawings”. The title was first attested in the tomb of Queen Mersyankh III at Giza from the fourth Dynasty. Kanawati mentioned in his book about artists that “the work of artist/painter was presumably regarded as somewhat related to the scribal profession, and in the biography of the artist Seni, it was stated that it was he who decorated the two tombs of Tjeti-iqer and Kheni at Akhmim, using the verb $s\ $ “to write” with the meaning “to decorate”. The use of the same verb for the production of both scenes and inscriptions is not surprising since hieroglyphs never departed from the pictorial stage”.

5 John Wilson, “The Artist of the Egyptian Old Kingdom” *JNES* 4 (1947): 236.;
10 The biography of the artist Seni was discovered in the tomb of Tjeti-iqer, the governor of the 9th Nome of Upper Egypt dated to the late Sixth Dynasty see: Naguib Kanawati, *The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish: The Cemetery of Akhmim*, Vol. I (Sydney: Macquarie Ancient History Association, 1980), 19, Fig.8.
c.  H3t-nfrw: The personal name H3t-nfrw was first attested in the New Kingdom,\(^1\) however, the name occurred in the singular form H3t nfr as a masculine designation during the Old Kingdom\(^2\). Starting from the Middle Kingdom it was also used to designate women\(^3\) and continued to be used during the eighteenth dynasty solely for women.\(^4\) In the Ramesside era, the name was used to designate both men and women.\(^5\) It seems that the name was not widely used, used, as we were able to collect only 19 instances\(^6\) where it was borne by men during the aforesaid era.

Table.1 below lists personals with the name H3t-nfrw during the New Kingdom and the name writing variations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>![Image]</td>
<td>Sethos I</td>
<td>3 n diyw</td>
<td>BM.10333= Pap. Butler 534</td>
<td>KRI. VII, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>![Image]</td>
<td>Ramses II</td>
<td>Tdnw n m$</td>
<td>BM stele 166</td>
<td>HTBM. IX, pl.22 KRI. III, 388.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>![Image]</td>
<td>Probably 19(^{th}) / 20(^{th}) Dyn.</td>
<td>s$ kdw</td>
<td>TT.58</td>
<td>Unpublished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4 For example, the mother of Senenmut was called H3t nfr: Dorman, Peter. *The Tombs of Senenmut* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Arts, 1991), Fig 3, 11, 14 etc.; Bartos Fruzsina, “The Official Titles Wb$ nswt Royal Wb$ and Wdpw nswt Royal Wdpw and the Function of their Holders in the New Kingdom” in *Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Studies* 4, ed. Zoltán Csabai (Budapest: L’Harmattan Publishing, 2020), 141, 143, 401. It is worth noting that the name Nfr h3t as a masculine designation occurred rarely during the 18\(^{th}\) Dynasty, I was only able to locate two cases: Stele of Nfr h3t Cairo Museum 24022 & BM 148: Wolfgang Helck *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie*, IV heft 19, (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1957),1612f; TT 181: Wolfgang Helck *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie*, IV heft 21, (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1958), 1854.


6 The graffiti no. 110 mentioned: iry h3t nfr. Kitchen translates it by “the pilot Nefer”: Kenneth Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions*, VII, (United Kingdom: Blackwell Oxford, 1989), 276. The text could also be translated as “the keeper Hatnefer”. I think that both translations are acceptable.

7 The sign $\text{\(\sigma\)}$ is a scribal error and it should be $\text{\(\sigma\)}$. 

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>19th /20th Dyn.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>O.UC. 39655</td>
<td>Černy &amp; Gardiner, Hieratic Ostraca, pl. 18A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>19th /20th</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Stela(^1)</td>
<td>PM, III(_{2}) part 2, 860.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Ramses III/IV</td>
<td>Probably fish delivery</td>
<td>O. Ashm.295</td>
<td>Černy NB, 81,14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>1st year of Ramses IV reign</td>
<td>Fish delivery</td>
<td>O. DM.40</td>
<td>Černy, Catalogue des Ostraca hiératiques Deir el Médineh I, DFIFAO III, 1935, pl.22;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>1st year of Ramses IV reign</td>
<td>Fish delivery</td>
<td>O. DM.43</td>
<td>Černy, Ostraca Deir el Médineh, I, pl.28.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>1st year of Ramses IV reign</td>
<td>Fish delivery</td>
<td>O. DM.47</td>
<td>Černy, Ostraca Deir el Médineh, I, pl.39.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Probably 1st year of Ramses IV reign</td>
<td>Fish delivery</td>
<td>O. DM.42</td>
<td>Černy, Ostraca Deir el Medineh I, pl. 27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>5th-7th year of Ramses IV reign</td>
<td>Fish delivery</td>
<td>O. Gard. 253 Rt 8, Vs, 5.</td>
<td>KRI. VII, 336.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>7th year Ramses IV reign</td>
<td>whē</td>
<td>O. DM. 630</td>
<td>KRI. VI, 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><img src="image10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Ramses IX 6th-7th years</td>
<td>whē</td>
<td>Pap.Turin 1930/+2050+2013</td>
<td>KRI. VI, 600 f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><img src="image11.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Ramses IX 6th-7th years</td>
<td>whē</td>
<td>P. Turin 2013, Vs.2,2</td>
<td>Černy, NB, 16, 37(^2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) The Stela location is unknown now, it was discovered in the palace area of King Merenptah at Mit Rahina bearing the Excavation number 3634. according to Málek it could be preserved at the Cairo Egyptian Museum. See: *PM. III. part.2*, 860.

Table 1.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the above table:

- It is obvious that the name $H\text{ht } nfrw$ was not a commonly used designation. During the Ramesside era, we were able to collect only 19 instances from the aforesaid era. All of them were fishermen or were connected to fish delivery, except for nos 1-2 who bear military titles, no.3 who was the Chief of Vineyard Keepers, and no.4 was an artist.
- The name was written with six variants. During the 19\textsuperscript{th} dynasty, it was written with four different orthographies as it is clear from nos.1,2,3,4. No.1 form of writing continued to be used in the 20\textsuperscript{th} dynasty, along with three other new forms, nos. 7, 9, 12, and 13, that appeared during the preceding Dynasty.
- Nos. 8-13 date from the first to seventh years of Ramesses IV\textapos;s reign and allude to several individuals bearing the personal name $H\text{ht } nfrw$, all of them were concerned with fish deliveries, except for no. 13 who was a fisherman. According to Hornung, Ramesses IV reigned for approximately seven years; so, the $H\text{ht } nfrw$ described in nos. 8-13 refers most probably to one fisherman named $H\text{ht } nfrw$ who lived during Ramesses IV reign.
- In nos. 14-17, we encounter three fishermen bearing the same name $H\text{ht } nfrw$ that were mentioned during 6\textsuperscript{th} to 9\textsuperscript{th} years of Ramesses IX reign, thus, we are most likely dealing with the same individual here.
- The average life expectancy for men in ancient Egypt exceeded 40 years.\footnote{Rosalind Janssen & Jac Janssen, Growing Up and Getting Old in Ancient Egypt, (London: Golden House Publications, 2007), 151, 168, 169, 170, 197.} Therefore, when we consider the time between the reign of Ramesses IV and the 8\textsuperscript{th} year of Ramesses IX, which is roughly 34 years, it’s likely that we are either dealing with the same individual or two fishermen, possibly a father and a son who shared the same name.

We are faced with the intriguing question of who this $s\text{š} kdw H\text{ht } nfrw$ is, and what work he did in TT 58. My first thought was to search for him in either Keller\textsc{\textapos;s} or Bogoslovsky\textsc{\textapos;}s $s\text{š} kdw$ lists;\footnote{See page 1 footnote no. 5.} regrettably, he was not mentioned in either of those lists.
As a result, I attempted to locate someone bearing the personal name $H₇t-₇frw$ with the title $sš kdw$ in the Deir El Medina community. Unfortunately, my efforts were in vain, as I was unable to find anyone with that name or title. Instead, I came across several individuals named $H₇t-₇frw$ who have different titles.¹ According to Fábián, “artists from the Theban region were employed by the aristocracy to do some work in their own tombs, though artists of other origins cannot be excluded”.² Thus, it’s likely that $H₇t-₇frw$ was a draughtsman from a region other than the Theban Nome. In light of this, it appears that we have identified a new $sš kdw$ who should be added to the Ancient Egyptian draughtmen lists.

**Conclusion:**

The name $H₇t₇frw$ was known during the Ramesside era; therefore, one may presume that the draughtman $H₇t₇frw$ was the one responsible for the decoration of the tomb during the Ramesside era, as well as for cutting in the rock the side chamber of the inner hall. For Draughtmen $sš kdw$ in ancient Egypt seemed to be in charge of both the Architect’s and painter’s work in private tombs.

It is important to note that $H₇t₇frw$ probably was not from the Theban region, as he was not included in the draughtmen list mentioned before therefore, he added the graffiti under discussion to confirm that he was the one responsible for the decoration of the tomb during the Ramesside era.

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¹ See Table 1.

Bibliography


Figure 1: location of the tomb TT58.

Figure 2: Graffiti location in the inner hall
Figure 3a: the Graffiti

Figure 3b: The Graffiti facsimile