

Two False Doors of *ḥ3i* and *ḥ^ck3w* from Giza

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Abstract

The Two false doors which have been considered as the subject of this article are stored in the Egyptian Museum at Cairo, Room 37, under numbers JE 44633 and JE 44634, respectively. The first belongs to *ḥ3i* and the second to *ḥ^ck3w*.

The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo contains many false doors that have been discovered in the Memphite Necropolis. Some of them are exposed at the Cairo Museum, and others are conserved in storerooms. The false door of *ḥ3i* and *ḥ^ck3w* are listed on PM III, 306.

This research aims to study, discuss, and analyze these two false doors that are conserved in the storerooms. It has been discovered at Giza during the scientific expedition of Harvard University, headed by G. Reisner (Harvard-Boston Expedition) in 1912.

To date these false doors, the study will focus on analyzing the iconography as well as deciphering and translating the hieroglyphic texts of the false door.

Keywords: False Door, *ḥ3i*, *ḥ^ck3w*, Giza, Egyptian Museum at Cairo.

Introduction:

The Giza plateau is one of the most integrated sites of Egypt because it contains the Pyramids of the three prominent fourth Dynasty Kings and used by officials to the end of the Old Kingdom. Moreover, it divided into six fields: the Western, the Eastern, GIS Cemetery, The Quarry of Khufu and Khafre, The Menkaure Quarry, and The Workmen's Cemetery (Kanawati, 2001:7)

The false door of *ḥ3i* was displaced on top of G 2391¹ in the Western Field while the false door of the *ḥ^ck3w* was found in G 2382² in the Quarry of Khufu and Khafre.

This research aims to suggest a certain date to these two false doors by translating and analyzing the inscriptions.

¹ They found fragments in this tomb which date back to the reign of Khufu: (Smith, 1949: 20 (2)); its photo only is available on this site: <http://www.gizapyramids.org/view/people/asitem/SiteAncients@839/6/alphaSort-asc;jsessionid=6D840DAACF1FE38CE627E2F5330DB97F?t:state:flow=455837fb-0c1f-4196-8359-6e36eafa8fa> 5/6/2020.

² its photo only is available on this site: <http://giza.fas.harvard.edu/ancientpeople/1975/full/>

1. The false door of *h3i* (Pl. 1, Faci. 1)

1.1 The Description:

This false door is made out of limestone. It measures 53 cm in max. Height, 40 cm in width, 5 cm in thickness.

This style of the false door follows those which have no architrave, but it has a cavetto cornice and a frame of torus molding, a crossbar above the central niche moreover, two so narrow apertures, rectangular panel, drum, upper lintel, two outer jambs, and two inner jambs.

On the panel, the deceased is represented sitting on a low-back chair with bull's legs and a cushion revises at the top faced right towards a table of bread (Cherpion, 1989: 29; Swinton, 2014: 92). He extends his left arm to the offering table. The other arm rests slightly on his thigh. He is wearing a straight hair wig without details (Green, 2001: 74), and a kilt on the lower part of the body.

The offering table is high and narrow, consisting of a stand at the bottom and a flat tabletop, which is carried with long loaves, that are fused together (Cherpion, 1989: 49, 51).

Two human figures are represented only on the outer jambs, which appear at the lower part of inscriptions. They are both represented standing and facing inwards. The deceased on the left side is depicted wearing a straight-hair wig and a pointed kilt tied at the waist, holding a baton in his right hand and an unidentified object in his other hand. On the right side, he is shown wearing a shoulder-length wig and holding a staff on the right hand. Unfortunately, the left hand is unclear to see what he had held but it may be a cylindrical object. The deceased is dressed in a tight knee-length kilt (Staehelin, 1966: Taf. XXI, fig. 10).

1.2 Texts and Translation:

The upper lintel is inscribed with a short hieroglyphic inscription of *h'p dj(.w) nsw* formula³ and the name of the deceased. It can be read (from right to left) as follows:



*h'p di nsw n wsir nb ddd prt-hrw (m) t
hnkt n im3hw h3i.*

An offering which the king gives to Osiris, who is the lord of Djedu (Busiris)An invocation-offering was consisting of bread and beer for the revered *h3i*.

On the panel, above the offering table and the lower lintel above the drum, there is a very short hieroglyphic inscription naming the title of the deceased.



im3hw h3i The Reveredh3i.

The outer right door jamb is inscribed with *h'p dj (.w) nsw* formula, the title, and the name of the deceased, which reads as follows:

³ For this reading see: (Satzinger, 1977: 177–188; Franke, 2003: 39 – 41); The *h'p-di-nswt* formula was introduced in private tombs at the beginning of the 4th dynasty: (Barta, 1968: 3).



*h̄tp di nsw h3 h̄ (n) kt h3 t n im3hw hr ntr ʕ3
hrp sh̄ h3i.*

An offering which the king gives, consisting of thousand of beer and thousand of bread to the Reveredbefore the great God, the director of dining-hall, *h3i*.

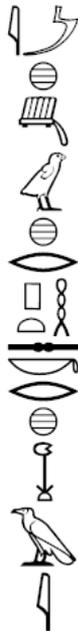
The right inner jamb bears the titles and the name of the owner.



*{h̄tp di} nsw {inpw} tpy dw.f imy wt prt-hrw
(m) t hnkt hrp sh̄ h3i*

An offering which the king (gives to Anubis), who is upon his mountain, who is in the embalming tent. An invocation-offering is consisting of bread and beer to the director of dining-hall, *h3i*.

The inner left jamb, like the right one, is inscribed with the same inscription except for the main title of the owner.



im3hw hr Pth skr h3i

The Revered before Ptah Sokar, *h3i*.

The outer left door jamb is similar to the right one, and is inscribed with *h̄tp dj (.w) nsw* formula, one of the titles of the owner, and his name.



im3hw hr Pth skr hrp sh̄ h3i

The Revered before Ptah Sokar, the director of dining-hall, *h3i*.

1.3 The name, the titles and the epithets of *ḥꜣi*

The name of *ḥꜣi* (Murray, 1908: PL. XI; Ranke, 1935: 262) was not popular in Ancient Egypt, especially in the Old Kingdom. It has been found at Dara⁴ on an offering table (Kamal, 1912: 130) and in the tomb of Mera (Daressy, 1900 : 533, 535, 540). The name of the deceased was accompanied with titles and epithets as follows:

- 1- *imꜣḥw* The revered.
- 2- *imꜣḥw ḥr ntr* 𓄏 (The revered before the great god) (Jones, 2000: 40, 49).
- 3- *ḥrp sh* (The director director of dining-hall) (Murray, 1908: PL. XLIV; Jones, 2000: 736 (2682)).
- 4- *imꜣḥw ḥr Pth skr* (The revered before Ptah Sokar) (Strudwick, 1978: 50).

1.4 Dating

The design and style of this false door is similar to the typical false doors of the sixth dynasty. Each of the narrow door jambs contains a single column of inscription, which can suggest a date as early as the reign of Pepy II (Hallström, 2017: 31).

Moreover, the combination of figures on the outer jambs and texts on the inner jambs appears in some examples of the late of the Old Kingdom such as the false door of *hnmt* (D 68) at Saqqara which dates back to the late of the Old Kingdom (Mariette, 1889: 367), and the false door of Tjetju/Nikainesut at Giza (G 2001) which dated by Brovarski to the reign of Pepy II (Brovarski, 2006: 91).

The titles of the deceased were popular in the Old Kingdom (Hassan, 1936: 32; Id, 1944: 133; Strudwick, 1978: 85 (46); Kahl, 1994: 635, No. 1601) the title *ḥrp sh* was held by

⁴ It is located at the western dessert in the face of Manfalout (Kamal, 1912: 128).

men from the end of the first dynasty (Emery, 1958: 31). Moreover, the full writing of *imꜣḥw* is typical of the Old Kingdom (De Rachewiltz, 1960: 4, 10- 12, 14, 20, 22; Mousa and Altenmüller, 1971: PLs. 30, 32, 35, 36; Saleh, 1977: 25). Furthermore, the name of the owner has appeared only twice during the Old Kingdom⁵.

The writing of the *ḥtp di nsw* formula was widespread throughout the Old Kingdom (Barta, 1968: 12, 21; Hallström, 2017: 11). The remains of the formula showed the classical arrangement writing of *prt-ḥrw* with the elongated bread  during the Old Kingdom (Fischer, 1968: 84 (14); Daoud, 2005: 33; Abd el-Sattar et al., 2016: 328). The position of *ḥtp*-sign after *nsw*-sign is typical of *ḥtp di nsw* formula which was used during the Old Kingdom⁶ (Lapp, 1986: 1).

As a result, it is concluded that this false door most likely dates back to the Sixth Dynasty not later to the reign of Pepy II⁷.

2. The false door of *ḥꜣkꜣw* (PL. 2, Faci. 2)

2.1 Description

This false door is made of limestone. It is 72 cm in max. Height, 48 cm width and 9 cm in thickness. It was discovered on the 12th of April 1912.

Unfortunately, the upper part which might have had a cavetto cornice was destroyed, and this was a norm for the false doors in the Sixth Dynasty (Strudwick, 1978: 16; Brovarski, 2006:71). The drum and the central niche are undecorated (Harpur, 1987: 48). On the panel, there are remains of representation

⁵ Murray mentioned the name of *ḥꜣi* was the brother of mry, who lived in the Six Dynasty: (Murray, 1908: PL. XI).

⁶ However, this arrangement is typical of ninth dynasty at Naga-ed-Der (Brovarski, 1989: 209), but the most evidences were dated this false door the Sixth Dynasty.

⁷ PM was dated this false door to the Fifth Dynasty, (Porter and Moss, 1974: 306).

of the deceased sitting on a chair with bulls' legs. He was putting an arm on his chest, and the other extends to the offering table (now destroyed).

2.2 Texts and Translation:

The inscription on this false door is made in sunken reliefs. On the lower lintel, the name of the owner is written while on the upper one the text is read from right to left as the following:



htp prt-hrw (m) t hnkt n smr wcty hck3w

Offerings An invocation-offering is consisting of bread and beer to the sole companion, *hck3w*.

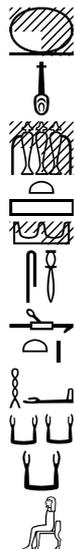
On the lintel above the drum, the name and the title of the deceased are inscribed as follows:



ss kdt ntr hck3w

Scribe of the god's printing⁸, *hck3w*.

The text on the right outer jamb is read as:



..... nfr hnty-s smr wcty hck3w

(The overseer of) the tenants-Landholder (of the pyramid)⁹ or (palace attendant) (Capart, 1947: PL. 97), the sole companion, *hck3w*.

The inner right door jamb is inscribed with the *jm3hw.w* epithet, the title, and the name of the false door's owner.



jm3hw hr wsir hck3w ppy

The Reveredwith Osiris, *hck3w ppy*¹⁰.

The outer left door jamb is inscribed with his son's name and title.



I s3.f smsw mry.f hry hb smsw inh.i ir.n.f s(w)

Oh his eldest son, his beloved, senior lector priest, *inh.i*, he made it (?).

⁸ It could be translated also God's Draughtman (Dickson, 2016: 285).

⁹ This title could be *imy-r mn nfr* (*ppy* or *mry r*), and it was translated as the overseer of the tenant-Landholder of the pyramid: (Johns, 2000: 99 – 100 (408), 189 (711)).

¹⁰ The full name was *hck3w ppy*, and *hck3w* was an abbreviation of this: (Jones, 2000: 20 (91)).

The inscription on the left inner jamb mentioned the epithet and the name of the owner.



jm3ḥw ḥr jm3ḥww ḥ^ck3w
Revered with the revered *ḥ^ck3w*.

2.3 The name, the titles ,and the epithets of *ḥ^ck3w*

The name *ḥ^ck3w* was not popular during the Old Kingdom. The owner of this false door held many titles as follows:

1- *nfr ḥnt š* (The overseer of) the tenants-Landholder (of the king) or (palace attendant) (Firth and Gunn, 1926: 214(7); Capart, 1947: PL. 102; Strudwick, 1978: 113(90)).

2- *smr w^cty* the sole companion (Murray , 1908:Pls. XXXIX, XL; Piacentini, 1997: 1403).

3- *jm3ḥw ḥr wsir* The revered with Osiris(Daressy , 1900: 570; Chaban, 1902: 252; Murray, 1905: 29- 30; Murray , 1908: Pls. LXVIII, LXXI; Jones, 2000: 20-22).

4- *šs kdt ntr* Scribe of the god's printing¹¹ (James and Apted, 1953: 9; Jones, 2000: 877 (3210)).

¹¹ it was read by Fischer as "Scribe of the god' s book": (Fischer, 1996: 2), while some scholar were read it as *šs md3t-ntr* " Document-scribe of the god": (Junker, 1934: 190 (18); Baer, 1960: 130 (473); Jones, 2000: 215 (800)).

5- *jm3ḥw ḥr jm3ḥww* Revered with the revered (Davies, 1901: PL. 19; Jones, 2000: 12-13 (52)).

In addition, his son *inh.i*¹² was entitled by *hry ḥb smsw* senior lector priest (Junker, 1953: 89; Piacentini, 1997: 1389; Jones, 728 (2863)).

2.4 Dating

Many of high officials during the Sixth Dynasty held the title *hry ḥb smsw*, as *nfr šsm R^c* (Capart, 1947: PL. 15), qAr (Simpson, 1976: 18), and *šš*i**¹³. Furthermore, Fischer suggested that this title does not seem to occur earlier than the Sixth Dynasty (Fischer, 1963: 38). *jm3ḥw ḥr jm3ḥww* Revered with the revered, dates back to the reign of Pepi II (Davies, 1901: PL. 19; Piacentini, 1997: 462).

The full name of the owner was *ḥ^ck3w Pepi*. Unfortunately, the other cartouche on the false door has been demolished, so it is not known who is Pepi the first or the second.

Furthermore, the style of this false door was a norm for the false doors in the Sixth Dynasty (Strudwick, 1978: 16).

As a result of these examinations, this false door dates back to the Sixth Dynasty specially the reign of Pepi II not later.

Finally, it could be observed that the false door of *ḥ3i* and *ḥ^ck3w* were dated back to the same reign, and they might have served the same king.

¹² This name was held by many people in the Old Kingdom: (Seth ,1903: 93; Ranke, 1935: 38).

¹³ Kanawati pointed out this name was appeared in early-middle reign of Teti : (Kanawati and Abder-Raziq, 1998: 14).

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Plates



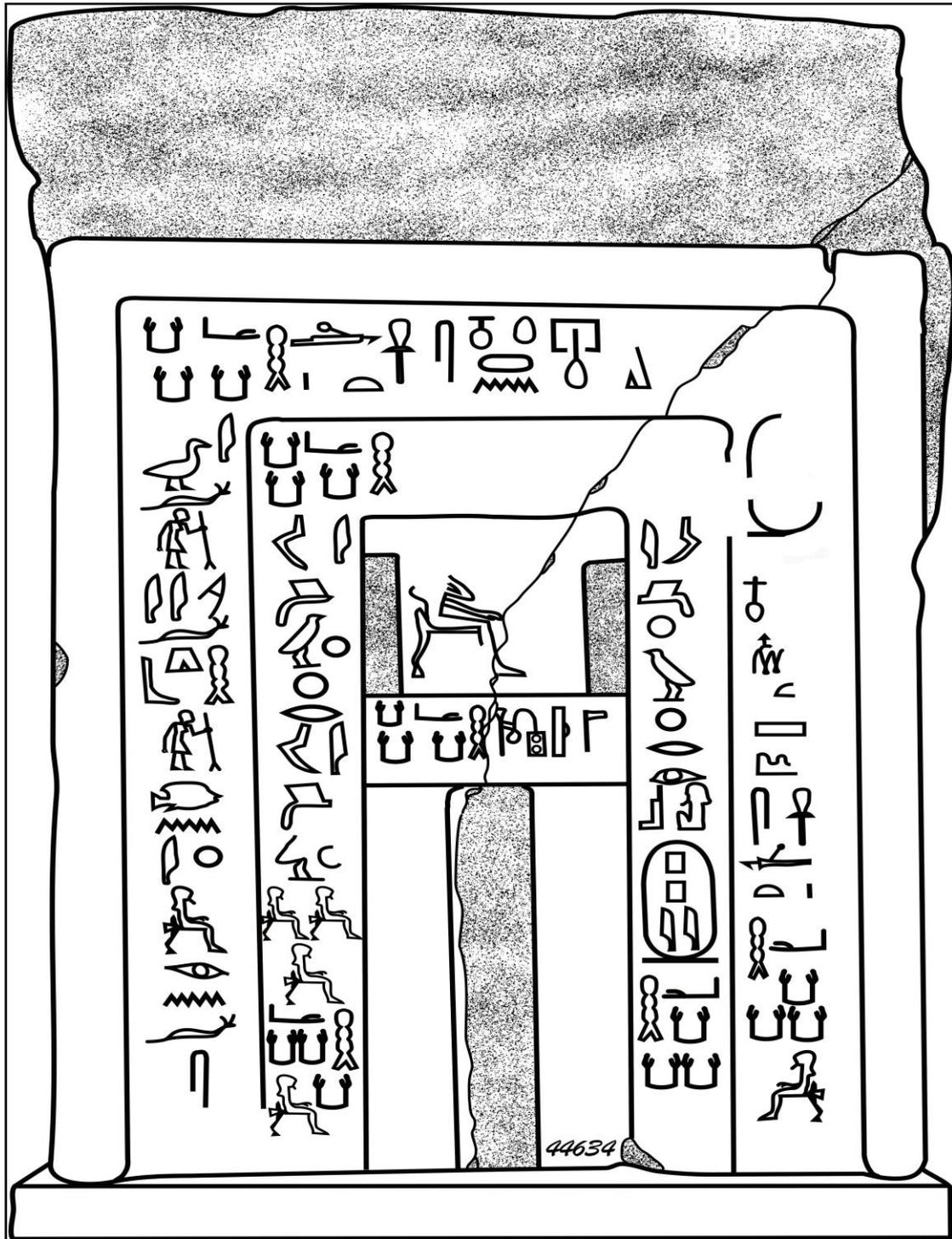
Plate (1) the false door of *h3i* (after the courtesy of the Egyptian Museum).



Facsimile (1) the false door of *h3i* © Mina Samy.



Plate (2) the false door of *hck3w*(after the courtesy of the Egyptian Museum).



Facsimile (2) the false door of *h3w* © Mina Samy.