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ABSTRACT
This research paper publishes a painted limestone statue of an official called Imby. It was discovered by Selim Hassan in association with Cairo University during the excavation at the Giza Necropolis. It is currently displayed at the Museum of the Faculty of Archaeology- Cairo University - no.597- 68. Imby is sitting on a cubic seat, wearing a short black wig, a long necklace, and a loincloth, his mustache is a thin black line. His left forearm rests upon his left thigh with an opened hand, palm downwards, while his right forearm rests on his right thigh with the hand closed. On both sides of Imby's legs, his name and titles are inscribed in two vertical lines of hieroglyphs on the front of the stool. Imby was an official in the Sixth Dynasty during the reign of Pepi II.

KEYWORDS
Old Kingdom - Sixth Dynasty - Giza Necropolis - Statue – Imby - The Overseer of ka-servants of the king's mother - The inspector of the royal palace - The inspector of the attendants of the royal palace.

الملخص
يتناول موضوع البحث بنشر تمثال لوظيف يدعى امبى ، عُثر عليه في جبانة الجيزة أثناء حفائر سليم حسن بالتعاون مع جامعة القاهرة، والتمثال محفوظ حالياً بمتحف كلية الآثار - جامعة القاهرة تحت رقم 597- 68. يُصور امبى جالساً على مقعد قصير مرتفعًا نقبة قصيرة وباروكه شعر قصيرة ويظهر بشارب أسود رفيع، يضع ذراعه الأيسر على ساقه بيد مبسوطة، في حين يضع ذراعه الأيمن بيد مقبض على الساق، وسجل على المقعد على جانبين الساقين نصين رأسين بهما اسم امبى والقبا، وكان امبى موظفاً من عصر الدولة القديمة في فترة حكم الملك بيبى الثاني.

الكلمات الدالة
INTRODUCTION:
One of the most important excavations in Giza was carried out by Selim Hassan in association with Cairo University. Season 1929-1930’s excavations included the whole of the great tomb of the Sem-priest Rawer and seventeen Old Kingdom mastabas lying to the east-west, and south of the tomb. Eleven of these mastabas were built for officials. One of these tombs is the partly rock-cut and partly stone-built tomb of Imby and his wife Nefert².

Imby was an official of the 6th Dynasty during the reign of Pepi II. Imby's tomb contained a fine sarcophagus. Moreover, his tomb contained an array of vessels and offering tables, and stands’ models. The most valuable objects found in this tomb were a false door of the deceased and his wife, and this seated statue from the serdab.³

DESCRIPTION: (pls.1-7, fig.1-2)
The limestone painted statue of Imby is 68 cm high and 26 cm wide across the shoulders. It is currently preserved in the Museum of the Faculty of Archaeology- Cairo University, no.597-68. Imby is sitting on a cubic seat, wearing a short black wig, a collar, and a loincloth. His skin is red, his eyebrows and eyelashes are black, and his mustache is a thin black line. His left forearm rests upon his left thigh with an open hand, palm downwards, while his right forearm rests on his right thigh with the hand closed. The legs and feet are slightly separated from one another. An error is noticeable in the left toe’s carving. This error is seen in their lengths and orientation. Furthermore, the nails of two fingers were not depicted on the right foot. On the front of the stool on both sides of Imby’s legs, his name and titles are incised.

³Hassan, *Excavations in Giza*, I, 91-5, figs. 154, 159- 60; *PM*, III , 284-5.
The text on the right side:

*Fig.1. Facsimile of the text on the right side of Imby’s statue*

\[ \text{imy-r} \text{3 hm-k} \text{3 mwt-nswt } \text{rht-nsw } \text{shd pr-}^5 \text{3 Imby} \]

“The Overseer of ka-servants of the king’s mother, the Royal acquaintance, the Inspector of the royal palace Imby”

The text on the left side:

*Fig.2 Facsimile of the text on the left side of Imby’s statue*

\[ \text{shd hnt-}^8 \text{ pr-}^5 \text{3 nb im3hw } \text{hr nb.f Imby} \]

“The Inspector of the attendants of the royal palace, the Possessor of honour before His Lord, Imby”
ANALYSIS:

- The symbolic meaning of the tomb and the statue in ancient Egyptian religion.

Tombs had two important functions: Protecting the body of the deceased and the funerary cult’s location. As it symbolises the Duat, the tomb was a liminal space, from one world to another. It helped the dead to proceed towards rebirth. The Egyptians included in their tombs statues that acted as physical repositories for the spirit and material representation of the individual. Each statue became a real being able to accept offerings and prayers through the opening of the mouth’s ritual. The Egyptians assumed that the dead would continue to live within the tomb, and his ka passed through the statue of the dead in the serdab to benefit from the offerings in the tomb chapel.

-The name, titles, and epithets of Imby:

Imby’s name is written in its complete form several times in his tomb; for instance, on a lintel, a panel, and an inner lintel of the false door from his mastaba. On the other hand, on his statue, his name appears as ḫȝȝ.


4 Brovarski, E., False Doors and History. The First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom, the Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology Proceedings of the Conference held in Prague, May 31-June 4, (2004), 19.


7 Hassan, S., Excavations in Giza, I, 92.fig.155, 94.fig. 158.
The name of Imby was common during the Old Kingdom, commonly found in Giza, Saqqara, and Qubbet el-Hawa. It was sometimes a nickname.

Imby has many titles and epithets:

1- \textit{imy-r3 hmw-k3 mwt-nswt}
2- \textit{rht-nswt(t)}
3- \textit{shd pr-\textsuperscript{s3}}
4- \textit{shd hnt-s pr-\textsuperscript{s3}}
5- \textit{nb im3hw \textit{hr nb.f}}

1-\textit{imy-r3 hmw-k3 mwt-nswt}” the Overseer of \textit{ka}-Servants of the King’s Mother”

With the rise of pyramid complexes and their associated towns, the role of \textit{ka}-servants, mainly related to the tomb, increased in importance. They were heavily engaged in daily jobs in the tomb, carrying and transporting tomb equipment, bringing food offerings and the material needed for rituals. They also worked in the tomb endowment, towns, and states. The \textit{ka}-servants acts on behalf of the deceased and his family in the necropolis and manages and maintains the eternal house of the dead.

The title “The Overseer \textit{ka}-servants of the king’s mother”, it was common in the Old Kingdom, especially in the Giza necropolis. For instances, are also known:

-\textit{Iteti} in Giza (LG 68) the Overseer of the \textit{ka}-servants of the King’s mother, dating to the 5\textsuperscript{th} or 6\textsuperscript{th} Dynasty.

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2 Hölscher, Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Chephren, 112-14; PM,III 292.
3 PM,III 626; PM III\textsuperscript{2}, 610.
4 De Borah,V., Community and Identity in Ancient Egypt, the Old Kingdom Cemetry at Qubbet el-Hawa, Cambridge, (2015), 270.
6 All the Old Kingdom examples of \textit{mwt nswt bjtj} are queens that appear to have been mothers of kings who ascended the throne after some disruption to the normal pattern of patrilineal descent, Callender,V.G., “A Contribution to Discussion on the Title of \textit{sl lnpr}”, in: SAK 18, (1991), 96-97; For more information about the royal mother in the Old Kingdom, see : Baud, M ., “ Les formes du titre de ‘ mère royale ‘ à l’Ancien Empire”, in: BIFAO 96, (1996) :Id .;Famille royale et pouvoir sous l’Ancien Empire Égyptien, tome I, Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale Bibliothèque D’Étude 256,1, (1999),193.
7 Hassan, Excavations in Giza, I, 91–95. Figs.55-58, Pl. LVI (2, I; 3), LVII : PM III\textsuperscript{2} 1, 284-285.
11 PM,III 1,185-6
- Akhtihotp, the Overseer of the ka-servants of the king’s mother, also dating to the 5th or 6th Dynasty.²

In some cases, all the family members served as overseers of the ka-servants of the king’s mother. In the family of ḫrt-htp they were all “Overseer of the ka-servants of the king’s mother”. His wife ẖwi-kwró-hhtlr, was also an (imj-r3 ḫrw-mkw-nw mwt nswt),³ being a female Overseer of the ka-servants of the king’s mother, whereas his mother Psût was (imj (t)-r3 ḫrw-mkw-k3 [mwt nswt]), a female Overseer of the ka-servants of the king’s mother.⁴

2- ṛḫ nswt

ṛḫ nswt was a common title from the Old Kingdom.⁵ Its most common meaning is known to the king.⁶ It refers to people who worked close to the king, were related to the king’s affairs, wealth and worship.

3- “šḫḏ pr -r3” “The inspector of the palace”:

This title first appears in the late Old Kingdom, perhaps from the reign of Djedkare Izezi or Unais.⁸ It was common in Giza,⁹ Saqqara,¹⁰ and Dahshur Necropolises.¹¹

4-šḫḏ ḫnt-š pr- r3

Before the 5th Dynasty,¹² no ḫntjw-š is attested¹³ but during the 6th Dynasty, it become widespread and remained in use until the 18th Dynasty.¹ This title ḫnt-š pr- r3 is believed to be:

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1 Reisner, Giza Necropolis, I, 243; LD, I, 89; PM III, 210.
2 Hassan, Excavations in Giza, I, 73-86.
4 Hassan, S., Excavations in Giza, I, 73-86. Figs. 132 133, 136, 139, 142; Romanova, O., Two Wab-priests and the Identity of an Unknown King’s Mother of the Old Kingdom. In: Vestnik Drevney Istorii, n°. 2 (265), (2008), 88-97.
7 Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom, 327-328, n° 1206.
13 Matthew, J.A., The Title ḫnti-š in the Old Kingdom, p.91; for the discussions about dating the title see: Kanawati, N., Governmental Reforms in Old Kingdom Egypt, Warminster: Aris and Phillips Ltd, (1980), 11 ff; Baer, K., Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom. The Structure of the Egyptian Administration in the Fifth and
- Related to royalty and is potentially associated with the royal bodyguards.\(^2\)
- Perhaps the main preoccupation of the lower levels of “tenant-landholders”.\(^3\)
- Other proposed translations are “landowner” and “tenant farmer”.\(^4\)
- “Deputy to the pyramid / palace working life”.\(^5\)
- It could be translated as the inhabitants of the royal palace and of the pharaoh’s pyramid complex palace.\(^6\)
- Translated as the palace attendants, whether in life as $hnt$-s $pr$-3 or death as $hnt$-s $pr$-3 of a pyramid complex palace.\(^7\)

The title $hnt$-s was qualified through the reference to a building rather than a person, either to the palace ($pr$-3) or to the temple palace of a king.\(^8\)

Types of the $hntyw$-

A - The $hntyw$-s $pr$-3 of the Palace:

$hntyw$-s $pr$-3.\(^9\) The attendants of the palace were the persons who served the king in the private parts of the palace.\(^10\) They were responsible for taking care of the king, overseeing

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\(^{1}\) Wb III, 310; Baer, Rank and Title in the Old Kingdom, 272–73.
\(^{9}\) The term $pr$-3 is synonymous to the king’s actual living quarters, and $pr$-3 staffs were also involved in the king’s everyday life and his immediate family. See: Goelot, O., Two Aspects of the Royal Palace in the Egyptian Old Kingdom. Unpublished Ph.D. (Columbia University, 1982), 64-65, 534 ff; Id., “The Nature of the Term $Pr$-3 during the Old Kingdom”, in: Bulletin of the Egyptianological Seminar 10 (1989/90), 77-90.
\(^{10}\) PM III\(^2\), 145, 174, 238; Matthew, The Title $hntj$-s in the Old Kingdom, 89ff.
his toilet, clothing, and meals, tending to his comfort, entertaining him. They were his chefs, food tasters, private musicians, and others. They were also supervisors of different departments and managers of the king’s personal properties. All the ranks of ḥnty-š pr-∢ are a clear indication that they had functionality in the daily life of the king and administrative roles in the bureaucracy of the king’s finances. They were the closest servants to the king both in physical space and in confidence. They may have had more importance than their counterpart at the pyramid complex.

The title shd ḥntj-š pr-∢ refers to a chain of commands and hierarchy among the palace attendants. The major supervisory ranks of ḥntj-š pr-∢ in the descending order of series are:

- ḥmj-r ḥntjw-š pr-∢  “The overseer of palace attendants”.
- ḥmj-š ḥntjw-š pr-∢  “The assistant overseer of palace attendants”.
- shd ḥntjw-š pr-∢  “The inspector of palace attendants”.
- ḥmj-ḥt ḥntjw-š pr-∢  “The assistant inspector of palace attendants”.

Some individuals held some or all of these titles, indicating that they were promoted. The title shd ḥntj-š pr-∢ spread during the 5th and 6th Dynasties in Giza, Dahshur, Saqqara, and Abu Sir.

2. Matthew, The Title ḥntj-š in the Old Kingdom, 64 ff.
4. Matthew, The Title ḥntj-š in the Old Kingdom, 89.
6. Matthew, The Title ḥntj-š in the Old Kingdom, 11.
10. For example “Kaseuza” from Dyn. V-VI, Giza West: G 5340 held the titles, shd ḥntj-š pr-∢, ḥmj-r ḥntjw-š pr-∢, ḥmj-š ḥntjw-š pr-∢, ḥmj-ḥt ḥntjw-š pr-∢, see: Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 111.
11. Examples of officials held all or some of these titles include ḥmj-r ḥntjw-š pr-∢, ḥmj-š ḥntjw-š pr-∢, ḥmj-ḥt ḥntjw-š pr-∢, shd ḥntjw-š pr-∢ see: PM IIII I, 629; Kanawati, Teti vol II 25-29, 43-46; PM IIII I: 126; PM IIII I: 518.
The title $\text{hntyw-š n pr-5}$ appeared regularly throughout the Giza’s Western Cemetery mastaba field. Several officials bear the title or one of its supervisory variants. It is note worthy that none are known from the Eastern Cemetery in any period.

B-The $\text{hntyw-š pr-5}$ of the pyramid city

The $\text{hntyw-š}$ of the pyramid’s duty is the transaction of the cult for the deceased king in the royal mortuary temples. The pyramid $\text{hntyw-š pr-5}$ were responsible for clothing, adorning, and purifying the cult statues. They did for the dead king the services performed for the living king in the palace by those with the same title. The $\text{hntyw-š}$ of a pyramid only represented a very low social category without any title and monumental tomb, which lived in the cities built around the pyramid valley temples.

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1. PM III I 108; PM III I 69; Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 105,113, 115,123 ; PM III I 1:76; PM III I 1:293; PM III I 1:164; PM III I 69; Hassan, Giza, II, 87-95; Junker, Giza, VII, 14-17.
2. PM III I 3, 892; Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom 103, 115.
3. PM III I 630; PM III I 568; PM III I 629; PM III I 518; Kanawati, The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom, 97; Kanawati, Teti vol II, 7-11,25,29,43-46.
8. The title “$\text{hntyw-š}$ of the pyramid” is documented from at least the early 5th Dynasty although this title could be traced back to the very beginning of the 4th Dynasty when the first monumental pyramids were erected, Baud, La date d’apparition des $\text{hntyw-š}$”,13-28.
11. The $\text{hntyw-š}$ were not documented either in the temples of the gods or in private funerary cult before the Middle Kingdom, Roth, A.M., “ The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title $\text{hnty-š }$”, in: SAK Beiheft 4 (1991), 184.
Imby held two titles related to the king and the royal palace, which confirms that some titles of the Old Kingdom officials provided some data for the study of the royal court in the Old Kingdom.

5-nb jmỉh w ḫr nb.f “The possessor of honour before His Lord”.

Epithets and titles are used before the name to emphasise the holder’s personal relationship with the king or a god. The epithet nb jmỉh ḫr is usually considered a simple honorary title that shows the connection between its holder and the honoured one. This epithet was commonly recorded at the beginning of almost all the funerary offering formulas of the Old Kingdom before the real sequence of titles. This title was not limited to the dead only, as it was also carried by the living ones.

This title exists in the form nb jmỉh.w ḫr nb.f, “the possessor of honour before His Lord” or without “ nb” jmỉh.w ḫr nb. f, “the revered one before His Lord”, who was in the Old

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1 The actual palace of the king, his place of residence is designated by the term pr-:? . The titles of some officials, who were entrusted with the personal service of the king were connected with the pr-:? , Ogden, G., The Nature of the Term pr-:? during the Old Kingdom, Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar, (1990), 10, 77, 90; Lange-Athiodor, E., Palaces of the Ancient Mind: The Textual Record versus Archaeological Evidence, (2018), 39-62; Brunner, H., “Der Bekannte des Königs”, in: SAK 1, (1974), 55-60.

2 Uni Bastions, G., King and Officials in the Old Kingdom, Conference organized within the SNSF-project (2019), 6.


8 Nuzzolo, The Vth Dynasty Sun Temples Personnel, 300.


Kingdom, usually the king or the ‘great god’. Sometimes, nb jmîhw hr nswt “the possessor of honour before the king” or nb jmîhw hr ntr c3, “the possessor of honor before the great god”, and nb jmîhw.w associated with a god’s name are mentioned clearly. Accordingly, nb.f may indicate a god or a king. The one mentioned in Imby’s title probably referred to the king as he held titles functions related to the king and his palace. This is supported by the officials who held both titles jmîhw.w hr ntr c3 and jmîhw.w hr nb.f. It may imply that ntr c3 indicated the god, while nb.f meant the king.  

**DATING:**  

The statue is dated to the late 6th Dynasty as Imby was an official during the reign of Pepi II. Technically, the sculpting of the statue and the style of the wig and the kilt resemble those that appeared in the late 5th Dynasty and became common during the 6th Dynasty. The titles which he held related to the function hntyw-š pr-c3, and the hm-k3 servants, who share similar tasks related to serving the king’s ka were common in the late 6th Dynasty.  

**SUMMARY:**  

This research paper addresses the publication of the statue of Imby from Giza. It was discovered by Selim Hassan in association with Cairo University during the excavation in Giza Necropolis. It is currently displayed at the Museum of the Faculty of Archaeology-Cairo University. Imby is portrayed sitting on a cubic seat, wearing a short black wig, and a long necklace. His left forearm rests upon his left thigh with an opened hand, while his right forearm rests on his right thigh with the hand closed. The legs and feet are slightly separated from one another, noting that there is an error in the method the left toe is carved. On the front of the seat on both sides of Imby’s legs, there are his name and titles. He held the following titles:  

1. imy-r3 hm-k3 mwt-nswt “The Overseer of ka-servants of the king’s mother”  
2. rht-nsw(t) “Royal acquaintance”.  
3. shd pr-c3 “The inspector of the palace”.

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7Roth, “ The Distribution of the Old Kingdom Title hntyj Š ”, 177-186; Matthew,The Title hntyj-š in the Old Kingdom, 43; Kanawati, *The Egyptian Administration in the Old Kingdom*, 85; PM III²1,134.
4-  šḥḏ hm-Ass pr-ꜜf “The inspector of palace attendants”.
5-  nb ḫm:w ḫr nb.f “The possessor of honour before His Lord”.

The way of sculpting the statue, and the titles which he held illustrated that Imby was an official in the 6th Dynasty during the reign of Pepi II. The statue is certainly dated to the late 6th Sixth in the reign of Pepi II.
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PLATES

Pl.1 The statue of Imby

Pl.2 The upper part of the statue
Pl. 3 The lower part of the statue

Pl. 4 The back of the statue

Pl. 5 The side of the statue
Pl. 6 The inscriptions beside the right leg

Pl. 7 The inscriptions beside the left leg