

H4a

Reading Mereri

HPAH4016/5066/6066

Hieroglyphs 1

Dr Katharina Zinn

Associate Professor in Egyptian
Archaeology and Heritage,
UWTSD

National Museum Scotland (Edinburgh)

A.1898.382.1





NMS A.1898.382.1

- ❑ Stela of limestone carved in relief, from the tomb of Mereri, the Count, Overseer of Priests and Guardian of the Temple Cattle, who stands on the left holding a staff and baton, with a prayer to Osiris for funerary offerings: Ancient Egyptian, Upper Egypt, Dendera, 1st Intermediate Period, Dynasty 9-early Dynasty 11, c. 2160-2040 BC
- ❑ Collection: **World Culture**
- ❑ Object name: **Stela**
- ❑ Production information: Unknown, Egypt, Northern Africa: Date: 1st Intermediate Period
- ❑ Materials: Limestone; carved in relief
- ❑ Collection place(s): Dendera, Upper Egypt, Egypt, Northern Africa
- ❑ Associations: Mereri, Regional Governor, Overseer of Priests; Depicted: Osiris
Excavator: Egypt Exploration Fund; Finder: Petrie, William Matthew Flinders, Professor Sir, 1853 - 1942

Name



Intro: Offering Formula



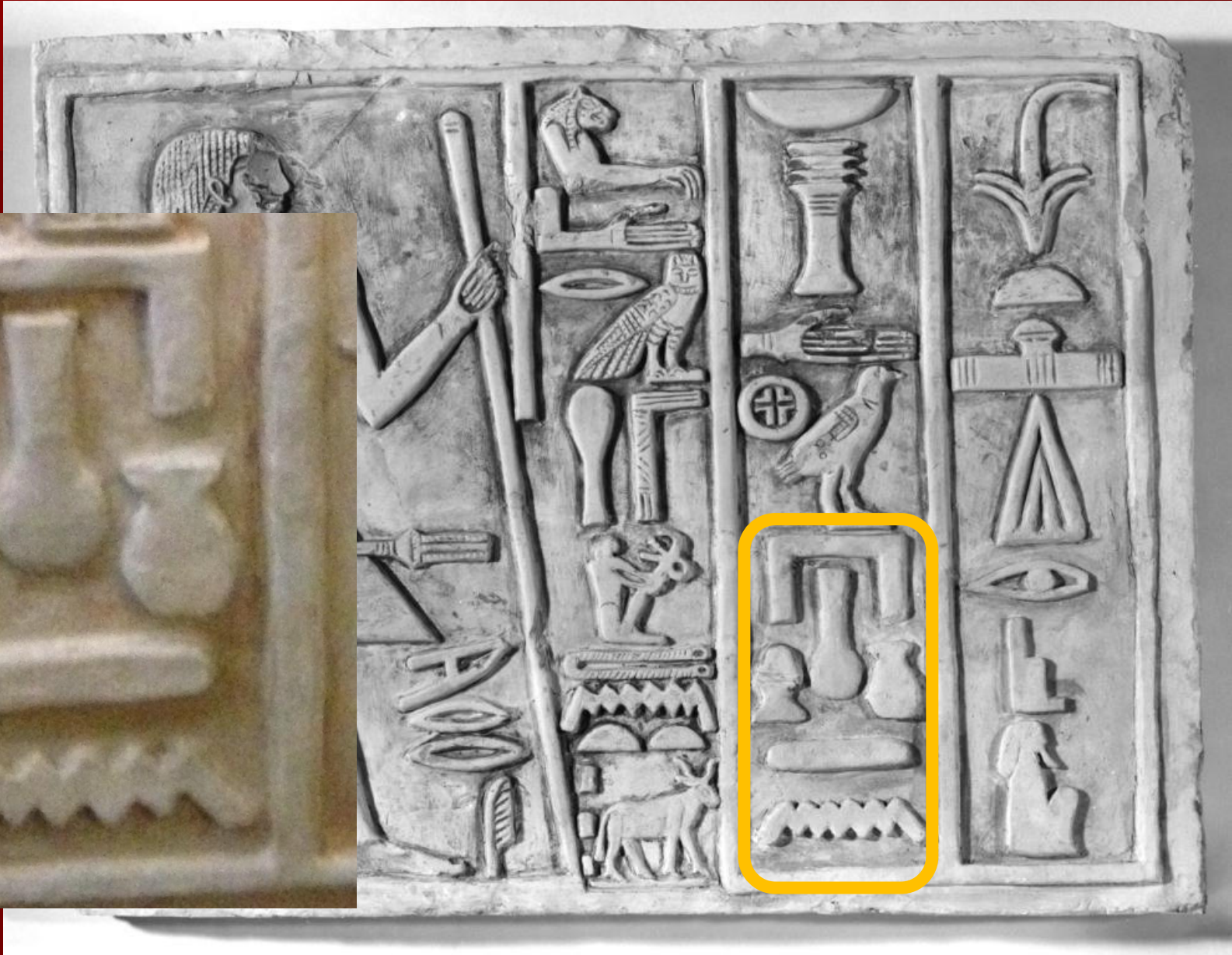
The image displays a clay tablet with a grid of symbols. A yellow box highlights a specific symbol in the bottom right cell, which is a stylized eye or face. An inset on the left shows a close-up of a similar symbol.



A vertical arrangement of five carved symbols. From top to bottom: a semi-circle; a staff or scepter with five horizontal bars; a seated figure, possibly a deity or royal figure; a wheel with a cross inside; and a bird, possibly a phoenix or a similar mythical creature.



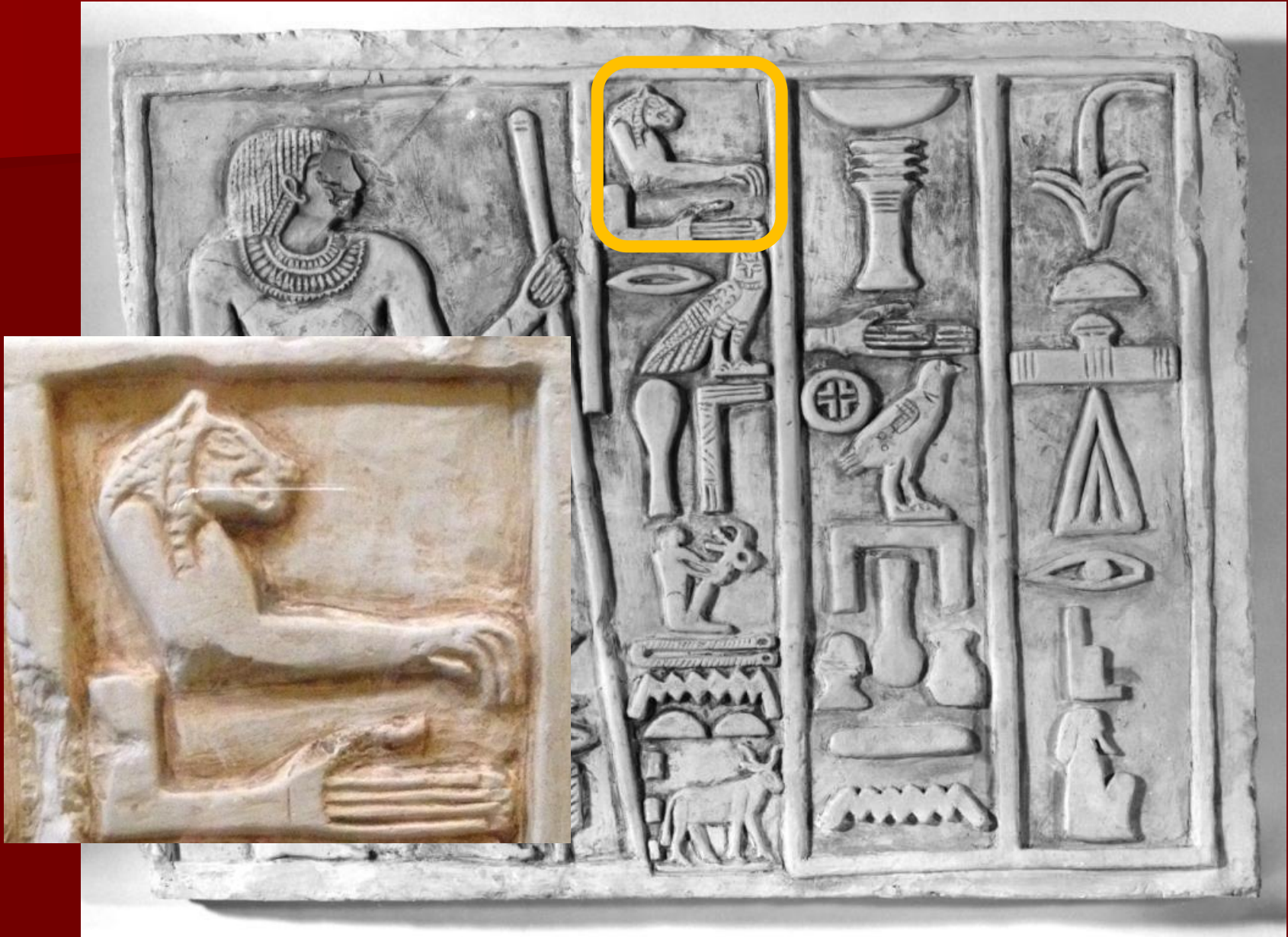
Offering Formula: (kind of) offering



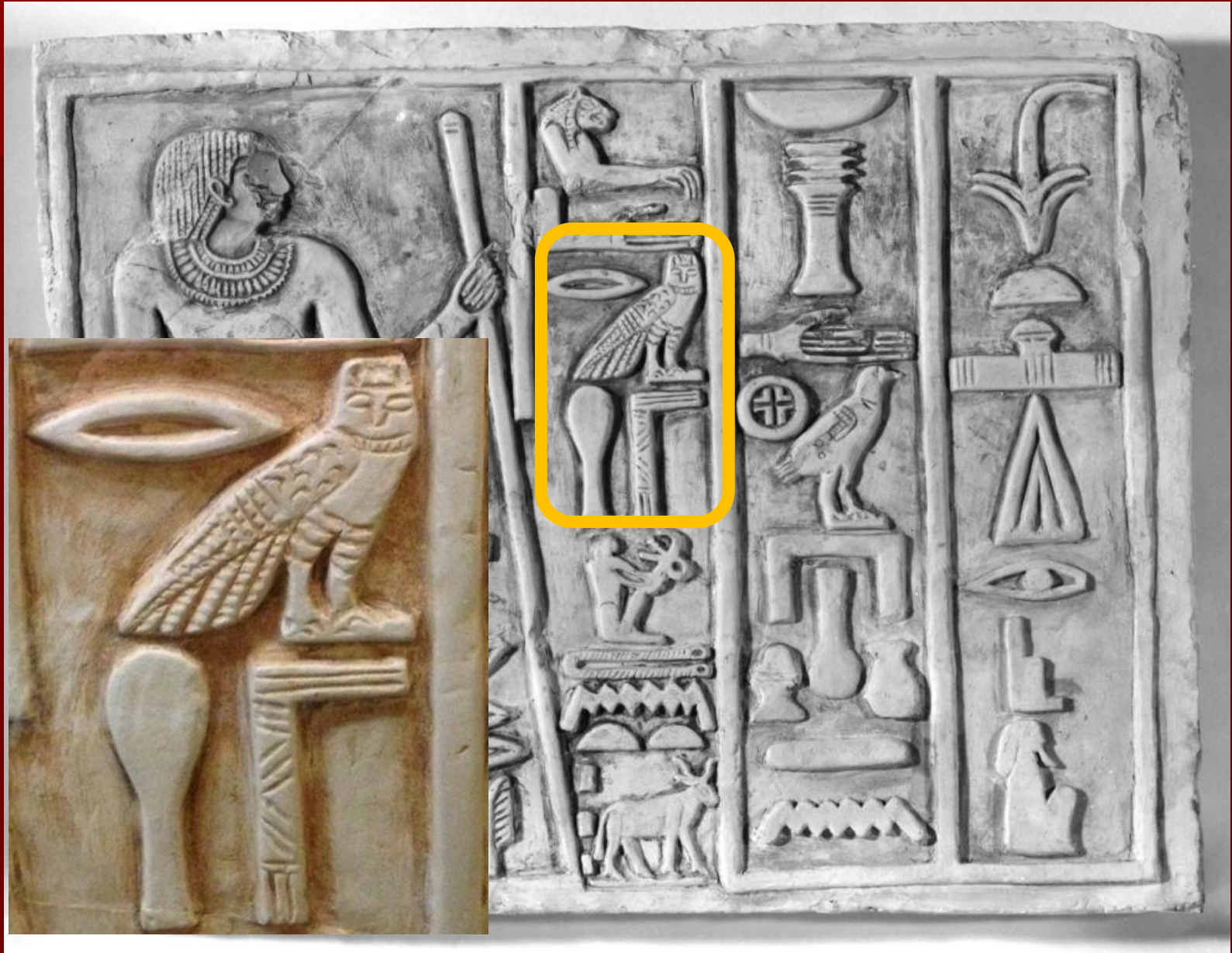
Formula: recipient



Offering Formula: recipient (titles)



Offering Formula: recipient (titles)



mr [jmj-rʒ] – the overseer

- Is a so-called *prepositional nisbe*
- Prepositions are words used to relate one thing to another – e.g. in the house
 - More on prepositions later
- One preposition is *m*

 *m* (also ); with personal pronouns or adverbially  *jm* (also )

“in”; adverbially “therein,” “there,” or “in it,” “of them,” etc.

This is the most common of all Egyptian prepositions. Basically, *m* means “in,” but English often requires other translations, depending on how *m* is used:

- “in” or “into” space: *m pr* “in the house”; *ᶜq m pr* “enter into the house”
- “in,” “by,” “for” or “during” time: *m grḥ* “in the night, by night”; *m rnpwt 3* “for three years, during three years”
- “in” a state: *m ḥtp* “in peace”
- “in” or “of” a material or contents: *m jnr* “in stone, of stone,” *ᶜḥᶜw m rnpwt* “a period of years,” *wᶜ jm.sn* “one of them”
- “from” or “of” a place or state (i.e., starting from “in”): *prj m njwt* “emerge from the town,” *šw m ᶜbᶜ* “free from boasting, free of boasting”
- “as” something or someone (i.e., “in” the capacity of): *ḥᶜj m nswt* (Urk. IV, 2027, 2) “appear as king”
- “with,” “through,” or “by” something (i.e., “in” the use of): *wrḥ m mrḥt* “anoint with oil”; *jnj m zš3* (ShS. 129) “get through prayer, by prayer”; *njs m rn* “call by name.”

mr [jmj-r3] – the overseer

- Is a so-called *prepositional nisbe*
- Nisbe: grammatical form/procedure to make adjectives out of prepositions

𐎠𐎵𐎶𐎶" (also 𐎠𐎶, 𐎠𐎵, 𐎶, 𐎶𐎶, etc.)

𐎠𐎵𐎶𐎶" (also 𐎠𐎶, 𐎠𐎵, 𐎶, 𐎶𐎶, etc.) *jmj* "inherent in," from *m* "in"

mr [jmj-r3] – the overseer

- Is a so-called *prepositional nisbe*
- Nisbe: grammatical form/procedure to make adjectives out of prepositions
 - can modify nouns; be used as nouns
 - stand before/after following word (noun, noun phrase, or pronoun), govern it just like preposition in their own right: ʿ.t ḥr.t “an upper room,” ḥr.t nb.t “every upper one”

𐤀𐤃𐤁 (also 𐤀𐤃𐤁𐤀, 𐤀𐤃𐤁, 𐤀𐤃𐤁) ḥrj “upper, lying on” from ḥr “on”

mr [jmj-r3] – the overseer

- Is a so-called *prepositional nisbe*
- Nisbe: grammatical form/procedure to make adjectives out of prepositions
 - impossible to translate directly into good English
 - use “who is, who are, which is, which are” followed by preposition:
 - *ntr.w jmj.w pt* “the gods who are in the sky” or “the gods in the sky” (literally, “the gods, the inherent ones of the sky”)
 - *jmj.w=s* “those who are in it” or “those in it” (literally: “its inherent ones”)
- Prepositional nisbes often nouns in their own right

mr [jmj-r3] – the overseer

- Is a so-called *prepositional nisbe*
- Reversed nisbe with specific meaning:
𐎠𐎠𐎡 (also 𐎠𐎡, 𐎠𐎠, 𐎠, 𐎡𐎡, etc.) *jmj* “inherent in,” from *m* “in”
- *jmj-r* “overseer” 𐎡𐎠 or 𐎡𐎠
- seems to mean “the one in whom (*jmj*) the mouth (*r*) is” = the person who gives commands
- precedes another noun/noun phrase: *jmj-r^c pr* “steward” (“overseer of the house”), *jmj-r^c mš^c*
- “general” (“overseer of the army”)

mr [jmj-rʒ] – the overseer

- jmj-r “overseer”  or 
- seems to mean “the one in whom (*jmj*) the mouth (*r*, *rʒ*) is” = the person who gives commands
- prepositional nisbe – also “the one who is in the mouth” → sometimes spelled for this reason, it is often spelled  (e.g.,  *jmj-r pr*) - sign of a tongue (i.e., “that which is in the mouth”)

Offering Formula: recipient (titles)



Offering Formula: recipient (name)



See Manley p. 28-32 (especially 29)

ḥtp dj nswt Ws-jr

An offering given by the king (to) Osiris

Geschrieben: *nswt dj ḥtp* - honorable inversion – king comes first

nb Ddw pr-ḥrw n

Lord of Djedu (Busiris), a voice offering for

ḥ3ty-^c mr [jmj-r3] ḥm-ntr s3w tntt

[the] governor, overseer of the priests, guardian of the temple cattle

mr = *jmj-r3*; Geschrieben: *ntr-ḥm* - honorable inversion – god comes first

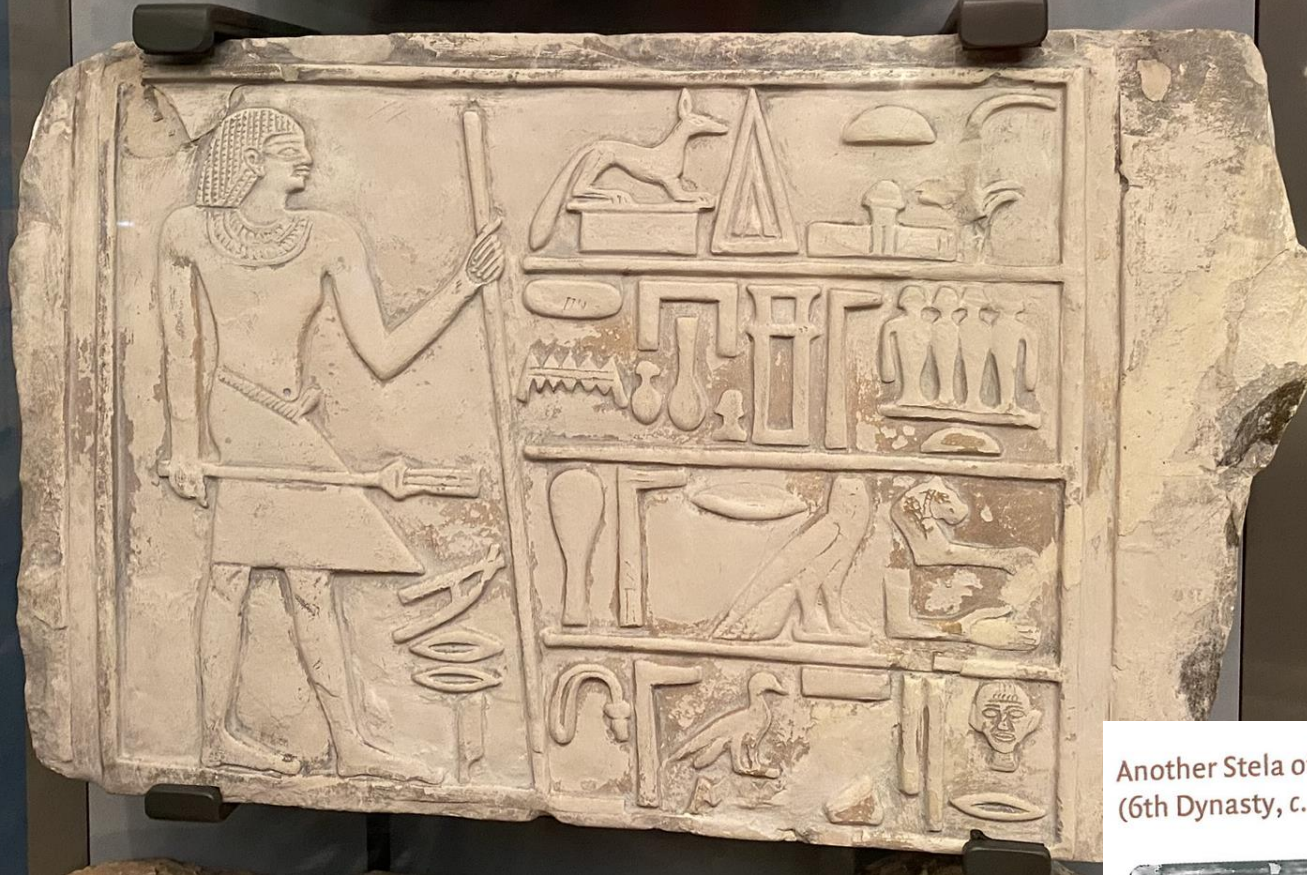
Mrry



Another Stela of Mereri from his Tomb at Denderreh
(6th Dynasty, c. 2200 BC)



National
Museum
Scotland –
Kelvingrove
Museum
Glasgow
1898.209.a



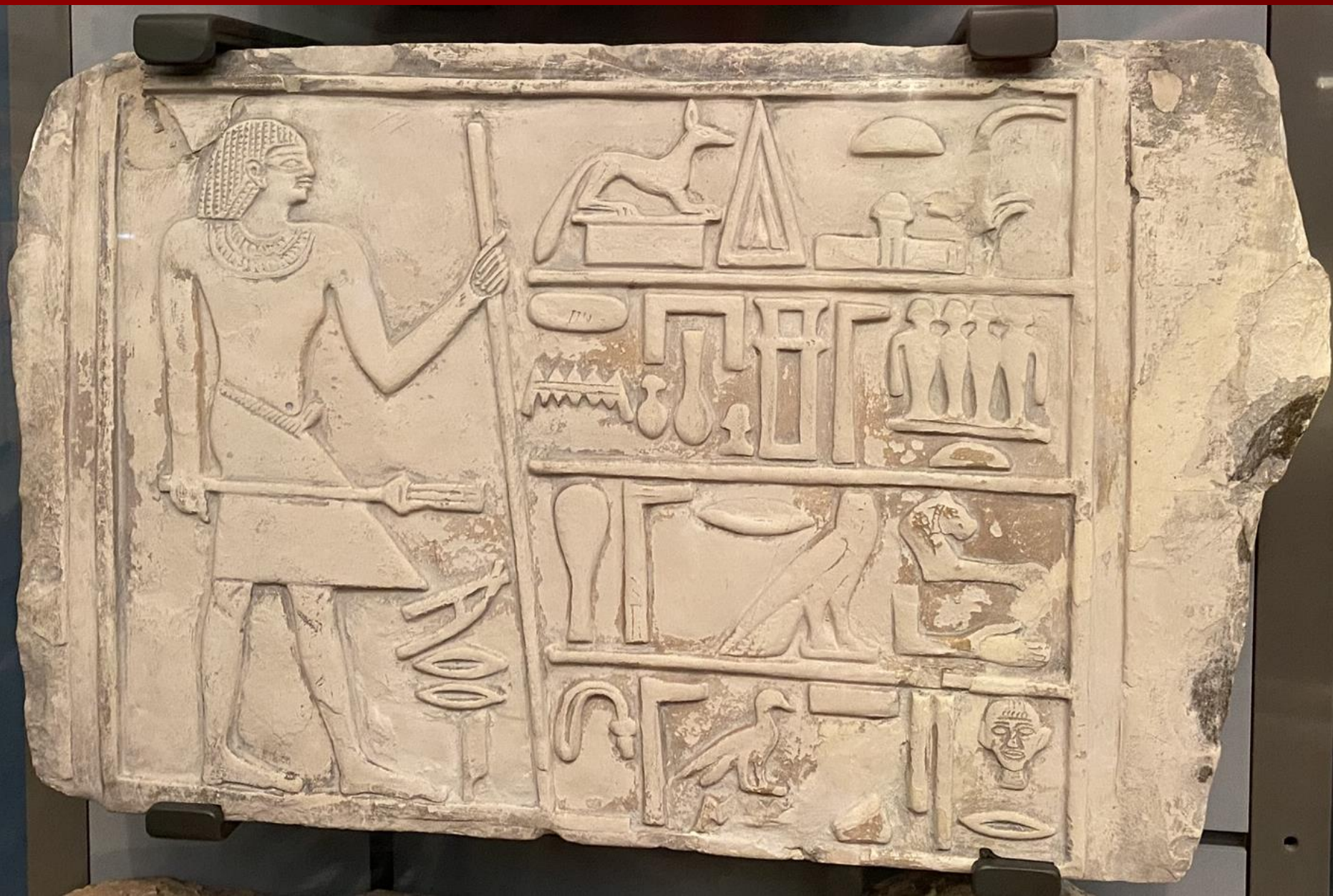
Another Stela of Mereri from his Tomb at Denderah
(6th Dynasty, c. 2200 BC)



Hieroglyphs on Mereri's tomb say he was a governor, overseer of priests and keeper of secrets for the seal-bearer of the king. This ensures he receives magical offerings of bread and beer.

Door jamb and stela from the tomb of Mereri
Late 6th dynasty, 2200–2100 BCE
Limestone

Given by the Egypt Exploration Fund, 1898
1898.209.a





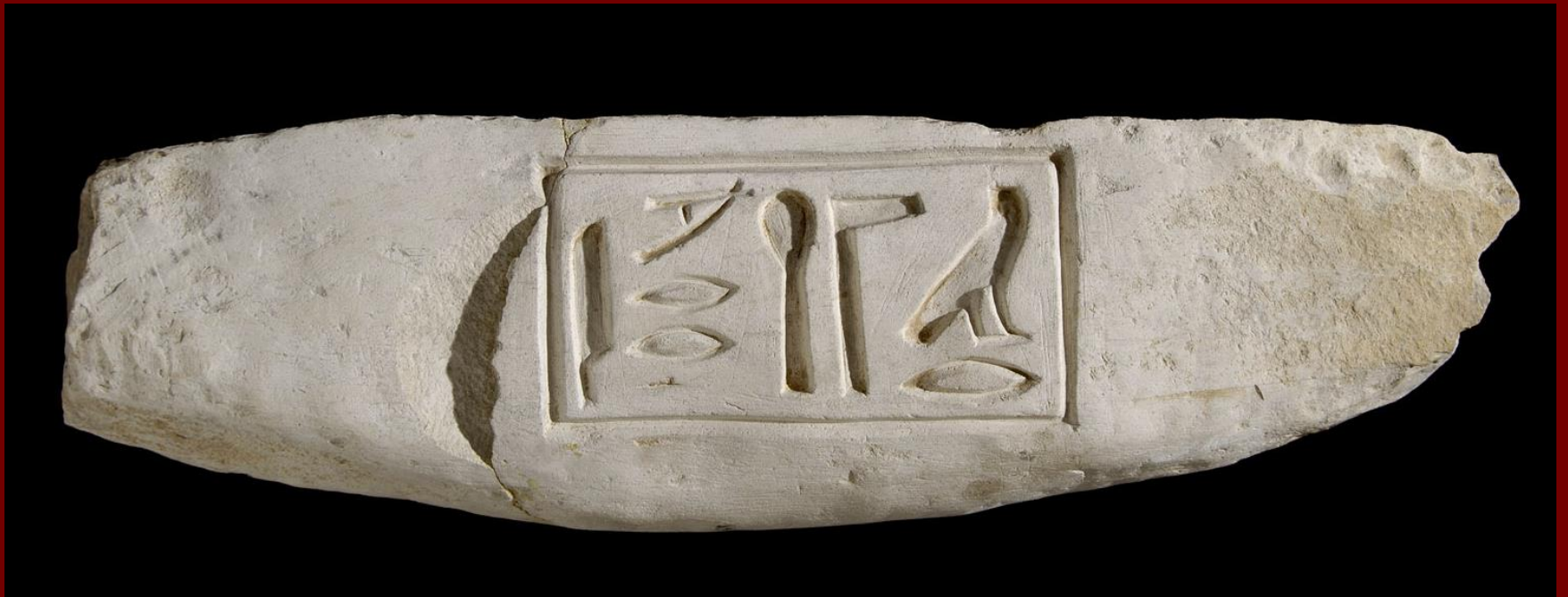
- An offering given by the king (to) Anubis
- Who is in front of his divine booth / god's booth, a voice offering for
- [the] governor, overseer of the priests,
- the] keeper of the secrets (nisbe: who is on top of the secrets), the god's seal bearer (nisbe: the one belonging to the seal),
- Mereri

- *ḥtp dj nswt Jnpw*
- *ḥnt sh ntr pr.t-ḥrw n*
- *ḥ3ty-^c mr ḥm-ntr*
- *ḥry-sšt3 n ḥtmty-ntr*
- *Mrry*

- See Manley p. 34-40

National Museum Scotland – Kelvingrove
Museum Glasgow 1898.209.c

Fragment of a limestone door jamb



mr [jmj-r3] ḥm-ntr Mrrj