Some Significant Features in the Decoration of the Chapel of Iti-ibi-iqer at Asyut

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Abstract
The present study represents a publication of the most significant scenes and inscriptions decorating the newly discovered rock-cut tomb-chapel of the late First Intermediate Period nomarch Iti-ibi-iqer at Asyut. These scenes include offering the mnjt-necklace and sistrum of Hathor, military activities, hunting in the desert with a fabulous creature, fowling in association with goddess Sekhet, commemorating Khety II and his wife Iti-ibi and forming sacred symbols of wood, the significance of which is discussed. The associated inscriptions provide us with two hitherto unknown nomarchs, Iti-ibi-iqer and his son Mesehti-iqer, who successively governed Asyut after Khety II and were contemporaneous to Mentuhotep II Nebhepetre.

1 Introduction
The tomb of Iti-ibi-iqer (N13.1) was discovered during the 2005 season by the members of the joint Egyptian-German mission of the “Asyut Project” while surveying the necropolis for mapping purpose. Except for its two burial shafts, the tomb’s forecourt and the chapel’s surface were cleaned and the epigraphic work was done during the following season in 2006. As far as the evidence shows, the tomb-chapel was completely decorated, but it was badly affected by the leak of rain through some roof cracks near the chapel’s north-eastern corner and through its entrance, the consequence of which was the loss of much of the decorated plaster. Further damage of the wall decoration was the result of later reuses attested as early as the end of the Seventeenth Dynasty, including 148 graffiti written in Hieratic script or drawn on the surfaces of the chapel’s walls and pillars. Some time later, the chapel was used as a mosque, the prayer niche “Mehrab” of which is drawn in a thick dark red paint on the chapel’s southern wall in association with Arabic graffiti, covering thereby much of the original wall decoration.

Nevertheless, the remaining part of the original decoration is enough to identify the tomb owner and his family, to detect much of the represented motifs, and to recognize the associated historical

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1 For the new numbering system adopted for Asyut cemetery, see: J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven, in: SAK 34, 2006, 24142.


context. Despite its fragmentary state of preservation, the decoration of Iti-ibi-iqer’s chapel documents some rarely attested themes of religious and semi-religious implications, and has some inscriptions and representations of historical significance, which constitute the main concern here.

2 Architectural features (Fig. 1; Pl. 1-2)

The tomb of Iti-ibi-iqer is situated slightly to the south of and much higher than the tomb of the First Intermediate Period nomarch Iti-ibi (Tomb III; N12.1). It was cut into the seventh of the eleven limestone layers forming the mountain encompassing Asyut necropolis. The tomb’s architecture is almost completely preserved. Facing east with its axis perpendicular to the entrance wall, the tomb is provided with a small forecourt, into which fourteen poor burials in two rows were cut. Each burial consists of a shallow shaft leading to a small burial place to the west. The grave goods found in some of these shafts suggest that the owners of these tombs were probably retainers of Iti-ibi-iqer.

Through a short causeway (5.50m. max. length x 1.09m. wide), the forecourt leads to a recessed façade and entrance, both of which show no ornaments or decoration. The entrance, which is defined by a shallow recess, was closed by a door. The doorway, which with the socket for the lower door-pivot are bigger than expected in such a small tomb. The technique of setting the wooden door-frame by putting the upper pivot in first and shifting the lower one through a groove is clearly detectable here.

The chapel is trapezoid in design, and is provided with a large niche cut in its western wall. The chapel measures 8.79m. av. E-W x 7.57m. N-S on the east wall x 9.29m. N-S on the west wall x 2.97m. max. height. It is divided into two sections by a N-S row of two pillars (A, B), each 0.78m. square x 2.50m. high, at the front line of which the walls and the ceiling protrude. A nice detail here is the three stepped bands towards the ceiling, which are decorated with alternating dark brown, blue and yellow horizontally painted bands. The niche measures 3.41m. N-E x 1.97m. E-W x 2.36m. high, its back wall has a painted false door showing traces of its framing torus moulding, cavetto cornice, broad panel and upper lintel. Two burial apartments are recognizable, although not cleaned yet; the first is reached by a vertical shaft cut in the centre of the chapel’s inner section with a mouth measuring 2.90m. N-S x 1.21m. E-W, while the second is reached by a sloping passage running from the chapel’s south-eastern corner.

4 For these subsidiary burials, see the previous note.
5 D. Arnold, Lexikon der ägyptischen Baukunst, 1994, fig. on p. 268.
6 This second burial apartment seems intrusive and does not belong to the original design of the tomb. This is suggested by the chapel’s design which follows the general layout of the early tombs at Asyut dated up to the early Twelfth Dynasty, according to which the main tomb-chapel consists of a single room supported by one or two rows of pillars with burial apartments reached by vertical shafts, e.g., Kahl/El-Khadragy/Verhoeven, in: SAK 34, 2006, 243–44, fig. 2 [Iti-ibi (Tomb III; N12.1)]; El-Khadragy, in: BACE 17, 2006, 83, fig. 2 [Khety II (Tomb IV; N12.2)]. The sloping passage, whether simple or a complicated system of sloping passages, leading to burial apartments are attested for the later group of tombs dated from the reign of Senwosret I onwards, each chapel of which consists of passages and transverse halls leading to one or more shrines, e.g., Commission des monuments d’Égypte, Description de l’Égypte ou recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Égypte pendant l’expédition de l’armée française, IV. Antiquités: Plates, 1817, pl. 44; Antiquités: Texts, 1818, 139–40; F. Griffith, in: The Babylonian and Oriental Record 3, 1889, 167 [Djefaihapi I (Tomb I; P10.1)]; Description, Ant. IV, pl. 47 [3, 6]; Texts, 148–49; Griffith, in: The Babylonian and Oriental Record 3, 1889, 126–27, 246 [unknown owner (Tomb O12.1)]; cf. D. Magee, Asyut to the End of the Middle Kingdom: A Historical and Cultural Study (microfilmed Ph. D. Thesis, Oxford), 1988, I, 10–13.
3 Representations and inscriptions (Figs. 2–10; Pis. 2–3)

The walls are coated with a thin layer of gypsum-plaster, on which all the inscriptions and representations are painted. These walls are bordered at top by a zigzag-frieze⁷, while framed by a banded frieze with rectangular blocks of brown, blue and yellow paint separated from each other either by an uncoloured block or a tripartite unit divided by two vertical black lines. Blue, yellow and dark brown are used for the polychrome hieroglyphic inscriptions. Dark brown paint is used for male flesh and yellow paint for female flesh. Noteworthy are the blue painted flesh of the fabulous creature in the hunting scene, the similarly coloured figure associated with goddess Sekhet in the fowling scene, and the inconveniently blue painted tree in the felling-tree scene. Of the other conventionally painted scenes, blue, yellow, dark brown, black and orange–red are preserved.

3.1 Offering the mnjt-necklace and sistrum of Hathor (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Although the westernmost section of the chapel’s northern wall is badly damaged, enough remained to identify the theme of decoration and the associated inscriptions. At the top are three horizontal lines of hieroglyphs, the first two of which refer to the construction of the tomb, while the third one is devoted to the labels identifying the tomb owner and his wife who are depicted below. The first two lines read from right to left:

(1) jrt n=f m mnw=f s m n d m njt=f hlikely jmjr hm(w)-ntr jI(ej)-jmz= f jm/ntr$j= f$ zm h(w)-ntr j (2) n Wp-wiwt nb Zisw jmjmjhr nb R-qrr11 sdm sdm w m [jzt]12 [jmj]-r hm(w)-ntr m jzt= f nb hlikely jmjr hm(w)-ntr (2) n Wp-wiwt nb Zisw jmjmjhr nb R-qrr11 sdm sdm w m [jzt]12 [jmj]-r hm(w)-ntr m

„(1) That what he did as his monument, namely a tomb for his father, the count, the overseer of priests, Iti-ibi. It is his eldest son, his beloved, his heir, the possessor of all his possessions, the count, the overseer of priests (2) of Wepwawet, lord of Asyut, and Anubis, lord of Ra-qereret, the judge of that which one alone judges in the [palace], the true [overseer] of priests of Wepwawet, Mesehti-iqer“.


⁹ Writing the name of the tomb owner here without the epithet jqr attested for him elsewhere in the chapel’s inscriptions supports H. Fischer’s suggestion that this epithet might sometimes be added to and sometimes omitted from the name of an individual (in: Kush 9, 1961, 59). However, for the possibility of adding jqr to personal names as a posthumous distinction during the Heracleopolitan Period and the Eleventh Dynasty, see: Fischer, Dendera, 130–31, n. 576; E. Bryowski, in: P. Posener-Krieger (ed.), BIFAO 97, Mélanges Gamal Eddin Mokhtar I, 1985, 134.

For this epithet, see: D. Doxey, Egyptian Non-Royal Epithets in the Middle Kingdom: A Social and Historical Analysis, PÅ 12, 1998, 254 [2.3].

Ra-qereret is a name used for Asyut necropolis, for which see: Montet, Géographie II, 136, 139; F. Gomaa, Die Besiedlung Ägyptens während des Mittleren Reiches I: Oberägypten und das Fayyum, TAVO Beih. 6/66 [1], 1986, 270–72; Magee, Asyut I, 176–79.

For the reconstruction, see: W. Ward, Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle Kingdom, 1982, 174 [1504]. This title is not attested before the First Intermediate Period (K. Daoud, Corpus of Inscriptions of the Herakleopolitan Period from the Memphite Necropolis: Translation, commentary and analyses, 2005, 56). It was probably associated with some judicial hearing (H. Fischer, in: GM 128, 1992, 69–71; Daoud, Inscriptions of the Herakleopolitan Period, 56).
Below is a large standing figure of the tomb owner, facing right. He holds a staff in his left hand, and wears a long, projecting kilt. He is identified: 

\[ \text{jrj p't h'q't-c [htmj]-bujj [jmyj-r hm(w)-ntr n Wp-wiwt nb Ziw.tj Jt(=)-jb(=)-jqr} \]

"The hereditary prince, the count, the [sealer] of the king of Lower Egypt, the [overseer of priests of Wepwawet], lord of Asyut, Iti-ibi-iqer". Facing him is his wife attired in a long, tight dress, bracelets and anklets. She holds out a mn/f-necklace towards her husband with the right hand, while the relatively long and narrow handle of the now lost object held in her left hand suggests that it belonged to a sistrum; a ceremony closely connected with the cult of Hathor. The label identifying the lady reads:

\[ \text{hmfcfmr^fhzjjt^nb hm(t)-ntr Hwt-hr Snb'tj} \]

"His beloved wife, whom he favours every day, the priestess of Hathor, Senebt-iqeret, born of Kauef'. Behind Iti-ibi-iqer are three registers of accompanying attendants. The upper register shows a man wearing a short kilt and holding a scribal palette over his left shoulder and some oblong bag or case in his right hand. On the second register is a man wearing a short, projecting kilt. He holds a quiver over his left shoulder, and leads two dogs on leashes. The third register depicts a man with a quiver over his right shoulder; he leads a dog in front of him and is followed by a second one.

3.2 Military scenes (Figs. 3–4; Pl. 4)

3.2.1 A badly damaged scene showing the tomb owner and his wife inspecting cattle and watching some military activity is the theme decorating most of the upper part of the middle section of the northern wall. Above these representations are three horizontal lines of hieroglyphs, reading right to left:

\[
(1) \text{htp dj nswt Wsjr [nb] Ddw [htmj-jmnjyjw nb] b6dw prr-hrw n k'i n h'q't-c jmyj-r hm(w)-ntr n Wp-wiwt nb Ziw.tj jmyj-r hm(w)-ntr Njwp Nb R-qrrt jmyj-w m5c Jt(=)-jb(=)-jqr (2) [m5 k'tj w20 jn jn p't h'q't-c [htmj-bujj] smr w'tj jmyj-r hm(w)-ntr n Wp-wiwt nb Ziw.tj jmyj-r m5c n Ndj f hnr} \]

13 For some Old Kingdom evidence of the mn/f-necklace, see: Staehelin, Tracht, 125–27. For some examples, see: M. Saleh, Three Old Kingdom Tombs at Thebes, AV 14, 1977, pl. 17; W. Simpson, The Mastabas of Qar and Idu, Giza Mastabas II, 1976, fig. 38.
14 For some Old Kingdom examples, see: Junker, Giza X, fig. 46; Saleh, Tombs at Thebes, pl. 17.
15 The mn/f-necklace and sistrum of Hathor, according to Blackman (Meir I, 25), when applied to the nostrils, could convey sacramental-wise life, prosperity, and health to the goddess’s devotees. Further details of Hathor ceremony are known from some Twelfth Dynasty tomb-chapels (e.g., Davies/Gardiner, Antefoker, pl. 23; Blackman, Meir I, pl. 2; II, pl. 15). A much damaged example depicting goddess Hathor in similar context is attested from an Eleventh Dynasty tomb at Asyut known as “The Northern Soldiers-Tomb” (Tomb M11.1), for which see: El-Khadragy, in: SAK 35, 2006, 152–53, fig. 7.
17 Ranke, PN I, 314 [22].
18 Compare the related feminine name \( K\text{w} = f \): Ranke, PN I, 341 [13].
20 Reconstructing the fragmentary beginning of the label as \( \text{hrhr} \), for which see: Blackman, Meir I, pl. 9.
21 *This title is only attested once more without the distinctive adjective \( hntt \) for the jmyj-r m5c n Ndj f jstj, who served under the late Old Kingdom/Heracleopolitan Period obscure king \( H\text{w}j \) buried at Dara (R. Weill, Dara: Campagnes de 1946–48, 1958, 91, n. 34, pl. 43; D. Jones, An Index of Ancient Egyptian Titles, Epithets and Phrases of the Old Kingdom I, 2000, 143 [553]). For the possible date of king \( H\text{w}j \), see: E. Martin-Pardey, Untersuchungen zur ägyptischen Provinzialverwaltung bis zum Ende des Alten Reiches, HÄB 1, 1976, 225–26; F. Goma, Ägypten
qdš jmjr jsqwt Jnpw nb tš dr 3 nb R-qrr jmjr ...wt śndwt (?) šps(wt) nb Wp-wšwt nb Ziwj jmjmjb n nswt hntj tl[wj]=š2 mh-jb=s hntj jdbwj=s mrj j nb(s) jmšlwjj mšm Jt(s)=j=jb(s)=j=qjr

"(1) An offering which the king gives, and Osiris, [lord] of Busiris, and [Khentiamentiu, lord of] Abydos, that funerary offerings be presented to the ka of the count, the overseer of priests of Wepwawet, lord of Asyut, the overseer of priests of Anubis, lord of Ra-qa-reret, the truly honoured one, Iti-ibi-iqer. (2) [Viewing] the oxen by the hereditary prince, the count, the sealer of the king of Lower Egypt, the sole companion, the overseer of priests of Wepwawet, lord of Asyut, the overseer of the troops of the entire 13th Nome of Upper Egypt, the overseer of the jsqwt-cattle of Anubis, lord of the sacred land (3) and lord of Ra-qa-reret, the overseer of ... of the valuable acacia-trees of Wepwawet (?), lord of Asyut, the confidant of the king before his [Two] Land[s], his confident, the preeminent of his Two Banks, beloved of the king in his every place, the truly honoured one, Iti-ibi-iqer."

To the left is a large figure of Iti-ibi-iqer, facing right. He leans on his staff with his left hand resting against the knob of the staff, while his right arm loosely curved round the staff with the hand holding a sceptre diagonally. With no preserved details of the hair, Iti-ibi-iqer wears a fillet and streamer, a beard, a broad collar, bracelets, a leopard's skin and a short, projecting kilt. Before Iti-ibi-iqer is a small standing figure of his wife, facing right. She wears a long wig, a broad collar and a long, tight dress, and holds a long-stemmed lotus flower close to her nose in her left hand and a "nh-emblem in the other hand. The label identifying the woman is written vertically before her, reading right to left: hmt=f mrt*fhzjjt*f r* nb... - "his beloved wife, whom he favours every day, ...". Of the four registers occupying the space in front of the couple, the upper two are devoted to the presentation of animals. Each with four men and two animals, the uppermost register has the leading man labelled: (1) jmjr jhwjt Wp-wšwt-n[h]24 (2) hmtj-bjtjsmrw cttjmrj jmjr-r rwjjt25 Wp-wšwt-nht - "(1) The overseer of fields, Wepwawet-na[kh], (2) the sealer of the king of Lower Egypt, the sole companion, the overseer of the gateway, Wepwawet-nakht", while the last man in the same


This title is only attested once more at Asyut from the tomb of the early Twelfth Dynasty nomarch 'nw (A. Roccati, in: Oriens Antiquus 11, 1972, 43).

Although the title jmjr śndwt(-) „overseer of the acacia-trees“ is well attested since the late Old Kingdom onwards (cf., Jones, Index I, 257 [929]; Ward, Index, 50 [393]), this probably related variant is not documented elsewhere.

For the early Twelfth Dynasty variant mh-jb n nswt hntj ḫwjt attested for Djefaihapi II at Asyut, see: Griffith, Siüt II [4]; cf., Doxey, Non-Royal Epithets in the Middle Kingdom, 314.


For this motif, see: H. Fischer, in: ZÄS 100, 1973, 23–24, nn. 31, 33; Brovarski, Naga-ed-Dér, 236–37 with refs.

Fischer suggests that rwjjt probably refers to some place of judgment at the door of the local nomarch's residence (Dendera, 165–66).
register is labelled: \( \ldots w^n[\text{wm}]d\text{w} [jn] mj-r hjw Sdh \)\(^{30}\) — "... short-horned ox [by] the overseer of cattle, Sedekh".

Soldiers engaged in some military activity are the theme decorating the following two registers. Of the fragmentary preserved warriors who face right, ten are shown on the upper register, and seven are recognizable on the lower one. Most of them are archers, while the fourth man of the upper register holds probably a battle-axe. Some soldiers wear shoulder-length wigs, while it is not clear whether the others have close-cropped hairs or wear short wigs. Some of these soldiers wear protective wrislets\(^{31}\) (upper register, nos. 3, 9; lower register, nos. 1, 3). The relatively well preserved leading archer of the second register has a feather on his head and wears the distinctive Nubian dress consisting of a short kilt provided with a sash and a central pendant piece\(^{32}\). One of the archers is shown shooting an arrow (upper register, no. 8), other warriors are depicted in a variety of attacking attitudes (lower register, nos. 4, 5), while the rest are represented marching. Showing no enemy, the represented action could be a military training. Otherwise, the scene records an abbreviated battle\(^{33}\), in which the attacked enemy was not represented for reasons dictated by the limited wall surface devoted to this theme, the close parallel of which is attested from a battle scene decorating the early Eleventh Dynasty Theban tomb of Intef, in which a naval engagement is represented without showing the enemy\(^{34}\).

3.2.2 Further military activity is shown on the southern part of the chapel’s eastern wall, wherein four registers of marching soldiers are represented. The badly damaged scene shows soldiers proceeding towards the right. The upper three registers are headed by a large figure of the troop-commander, who wears a fillet and streamer, a beard, a broad collar and a short kilt. Of his hair and the objects held in both hands, no details are recognizable. The better preserved soldiers have close-cropped hair and wear short kilts, of whom one is provided with a sash tied at the back\(^{35}\) (register 4, no. 5). Of their weaponry\(^{36}\), large, pointed-top shields covered by cow-hides\(^{37}\) (register 4, nos. 2, 4), bows and sheaves of arrows, spears (register 4, nos. 2, 4) and probably long handled battle-axes (register 4, nos. 3, 6) are attested.

3.3 Hunting scene (Fig. 5)
Hunting wild animals in the desert is the theme of decoration, to which six registers at the westernmost section of the southern wall are devoted\(^{38}\). No attempt has been made to render the usual

\(^{30}\) Ranke, PN I, 323 [15].


\(^{32}\) For the characteristics of the Nubian dress during the First Intermediate Period, see: Fischer, in: Kush 9, 1961, 56, 62–75.


\(^{34}\) Jaroś-Deckert, Das Grab des Jnj-jtj.f, pl. 14.

\(^{35}\) Although the characteristic central pendant piece is lacking here, the presence of a sash around the man’s waist might suggest a Nubian archer here (cf. Fischer, in: Kush 9, 1961, 56).

\(^{36}\) For the different kinds of Ancient Egyptian weapons, see: R. Partridge, Fighting Pharaohs: Weapons and Warfare in Ancient Egypt, 2002, 21–74.

\(^{37}\) For the Egyptian shields, see: A. Nibbi, in: ZAS 130, 2003, 170–81

\(^{38}\) For the First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom hunting scenes, see: Vandier, Manuel IV, 802–15.
desert environment with its undulating terrain and sparse shrubs\(^{39}\). The upper register depicts a Dorcas Gazelle\(^{40}\), a spotted leopard\(^{41}\) and a baboon\(^{42}\) proceeding towards the left. The second register depicts one of the earliest known examples of some fabulous creature in private hunting scenes\(^{43}\). With his flesh painted blue, the now headless fabulous creature is shown in frontal representation in a human form provided with a lion’s tail\(^{44}\). He carries a gazelle on his back and holds another one in his left hand. A comparison with the synonymous Bes-like demon \(\dot{\kappa}l\), who is represented on some magical wands as one of the helpers of the sun god in the fight against his enemies\(^{45}\) and produced in a three-dimensional version as early as the Twelfth Dynasty\(^{46}\), suggests that our fabulous creature had probably a lion’s mane, ruff and facial features. On this same second register and to the right of the fabulous creature are two gazelles looking backward in a gesture of fear, both are fleeing afar rightwards with a third young gazelle depicted between them. The much defaced third register depicts a hunter with an ostrich-feather stuck in his filleted hair. He is accompanied by his hound, and is shown drawing the string of the bow with his right hand shooting an arrow at some unpreserved animal. On the fourth register, a lion attacks some unidentifiable animal. The fifth register is dominated by a Nubian hunter shown at the left, facing right. Having an ostrich-feather on his less well-preserved wig, the hunter wears a fillet and streamer, two crossed straps on his chest with both ends secured by a high waistband\(^{47}\) and a short kilt provided with a sash and a central pendant piece\(^{48}\). He holds a throwing stick in his right hand, ready to fling it in

\(^{39}\) For some post Old Kingdom examples, see: Jaros-Deckert, Das Grab des \(\text{Jnj-jtj.f}\), pl. 21; Davies/Gardiner, Antefoker, pl. 6; Blackman, Meir I, pls. 6–8; Newberry, Beni Hasan I, pl. 30; II, pl. 13.

\(^{40}\) For identifying the animal, see: P. Houlihan, The Animal World of the Pharaohs, 1996, 61–67.

\(^{41}\) Ibid., 91–93, pl. 16.

\(^{42}\) Ibid., 96–108.


\(^{44}\) For a study concerned with the frontal representations in Egyptian art, including the closest Middle Kingdom parallel of our fabulous creature, the demon \(\ddot{k}l\), see: Y. Volokhine, La frontalite dans l'iconographie de l'Égypte ancienne, in: Cahiers de la Societé d'Égyptologie 6, 2000, 70, 74–75, fig. 76.


\(^{46}\) J. Bourriau, Pharaohs and Mortals: Egyptian Art in the Middle Kingdom, Fitzwilliam Museum publications, 1988, 111–13 [98, 99], 116–17[106a].

\(^{47}\) For using such crossed straps with the securing high waistband by both Egyptian and Nubian soldiers, see: Fischer, in: Kush 9, 1961, 66.

\(^{48}\) For depicting Nubian bowmen in post Sixth Dynasty hunting scenes, see: Vandier, Moalla, pl. 26; Fischer, in: Kush 9, 1961, 63.
the animal’s direction, while a bow and a quiver are held in his left hand. To the right are two hounds attacking some unidentified animal. The sixth register shows a hound chasing after a Nubian Ibex\textsuperscript{49} running rightwards, behind whom a gazelle is represented looking backwards towards the unpreserved left part of the register.

### 3.4 Fowling scene dominated by goddess Sekhet (Figs. 6–7)

The uppermost two thirds of the central section of the southern wall are devoted to a fowling scene with the caught birds being presented to Iti-ibi-iqer by goddess Sekhet. With all hieroglyphs facing left, the label identifying the tomb owner is written in two lines (1–2): a horizontal one at top and a vertical line behind the sitting figure of the owner, while the caption describing the represented action is written horizontally above the heads of both the goddess and the owner (3). Three short horizontal lines behind the head of the goddess refer to the deceased’s unrepresented son, Mesehti (4–6). The inscriptions read:

\begin{align*}
\text{(1)} & \quad n\, j\xi\, p^\prime t\, h\textit{3ij}^c\, h\textit{mtf}^c\, h\textit{bti}^c\ s[m\ w\, \xi t\ j\ m\ j\ r\ h\ m\ (w)-nt] n\ Wp-w\w t\ nb\ Z[3w]\ j\ m\ j\ r\ m\ \textit{ms}\ n\ \textit{[Nd\, h\, m\ t\ j\ q\ d=]} s\ Jt\ (\xi j)-j\ b\ (\xi j)-jqr\ (2)\ m\ j\ r\ Sht\ nb\ [t\ h\ t]\ ...j=s\ r\ nb\ [Jt\ (\xi j)-j\ b\ (\xi j)-jqr\ (3)\ jn\ r\ Sht\ 50\ nb\ t\ h\ b\ j\ m\ (w)-nt\ [Jt\ (\xi j)-j\ b\ (\xi j)-jqr\ (4)\ z^c=\[s\ ms\ w] ...=f\ nb\ n\ j\ isi\ nb\ t\ (5)\ m\ j\ d\ sh\ r(?)\ 51\ [w\ h\ m\ w\ 52\ bw-nfr\ ...\ m\ j\ j\ r\ (6)\ bw-jqr\ h\ rj-t\ p\ h\ textit{3ij}(w)-c\ 53\ j\ m\ j\ r\ [h\ m\ (w)-nt]\ Mz\ h\ t\ j.
\end{align*}

(1) ... for the hereditary prince, the count, the sealer of the king of Lower Egypt, [the sole companion, the overseer of priests] of Wepwawet, lord of [Asyut], the overseer of the troops of the [entire 13\textsuperscript{th} Nome of Upper Egypt], Iti-ibi-iqer. (2) Beloved of Sekhet, the mistress of fish and bird-catch ... every day, [Iti-ibi-iqer]. (3) Sekhet, the mistress of fish and bird-catch, brings to him the netted birds ... the overseer of priests, Iti-ibi-iqer. (4) [His eldest] son ... the possessor of all his possessions, (5) the one who follows the plan, the [herald] of the place of beauty ... the herdsman (6) of excellence, the chief of the count(s), the overseer of [priests], Mesehti\textsuperscript{50}.

On the right side of the scene sits Iti-ibi-iqer on a chair with a low, cushioned back and four lion legs resting on truncated cone supports. Facing left, he wears a short wig, a fillet and streamer, a broad collar, a sash across his chest and a short, tight kilt, and holds some unidentified thing with his left hand, while the action of his lost right hand is not clear. Goddess Sekhet with her body oriented towards the left looks backwards towards the sitting tomb owner presenting him live birds with both hands. Having the dark brown-coloured distinctive ideogram for \textit{sh\ h} on her head, Sekhet wears a broad collar and a long, tight yellow garment with dark brown shoulder straps.

\textsuperscript{49} For the animal, see: Houlihan, Animal World, 58–59.

\textsuperscript{50} The association of goddess Sekhet, as a patroness of the fish and bird-catch, with the fishing and fowling scenes is attested in the related captions as early as the Eighth/Ninth Dynasty onwards (e.g., Vandier, Mo‘alla, 262 [inscription 16: 15], pl. 40; Blackman, Meir III, pl. 8; VI, pl. 13; Newberry, El Bersheh I, pls. 20, 22). Pictorially, a localized form of the goddess impersonating the fields of El-Qusiya is attested in the Twelfth Dynasty tomb of Wh-\textit{hjt} at Meir, wherein she is shown with other divinities impersonating the natural resources of the Nile-valley while presenting offerings to the tomb owner (Blackman, Meir VI, pl. 15).

\textsuperscript{51} For this doubtful epithet, see: Doxey, Non-Royal Epithets in the Middle Kingdom, 318.

\textsuperscript{52} For the reconstruction, see: ibid., 289.

\textsuperscript{53} For the synonymous epithet \textit{b\ h\ h\ t\ j\ w\ c} attested for Khety II at Asyut and \textit{Nhrj} I, the nomarch of the Hare Nome, see: Griffith, Siut IV [57]; Anthes, Hatnub, no. 16, respectively.
adorned with brown and blue dots, the lower part of the garment has a yellow and blue feather-like decoration. The preserved small part of her streamer suggests that her unpreserved wig was filleted too. At the left, three adjacent clap-nets are set next to a pool, above which the birds are flying. To the right of these nets is a small kneeling figure of a man, who is probably pulling the rope or giving the signal to close the net, which is full of Egyptian geese. A few words of the associated label are still legible: jmj-r ... shr rk ... c-k st=(j) n mh.t(j) m... = „The overseer of ... the trap (with) your hand, I will pull (the rope?) because it is full of ...“. At the left side of the nets is another fragmentary small figure of a kneeling man. He is probably untying the nets in order to collect the birds. Noteworthy is his blue painted flesh, a phenomenon which is attested for the fabulous creature of the hunting scene on this same wall, and again for Wepwawet in the Eleventh Dynasty “Northern Soldiers-Tomb” at Asyut. With all the other male figures in both chapels having the usual brown painted fleshes, a divine being is probably represented here. Dominating the fowling scene with her designation nbt hib — „mistress of fish and bird-catch“, Sekhet is probably assisted here by her son Hib, who is associated with her in a rather similar context dealing with the presentation of bird-catch to the deceased king. If this identification is accepted, then we have here a pictorial version of Pyr. § 555 (PT 341). Proceeding towards the left is a third small figure of a man depicted above the nets, he carries two bunches of waterfowl suspended on ropes from both ends of a pole born across his shoulders.

3.5 Commemorating Khety II and his wife Iti-ibi (Figs. 8–9)

3.5.1 The upper left side of the southern wall is reserved to a face-to-face representation of the tomb owner accompanied by some woman, on the one hand, and Iti-ibi-iqer’s predecessor, Khety, on the other hand. The labels identifying both individuals are symmetrically written in two lines; a horizontal line above the associated figure, and a vertical one in front of him, separating thereby each figure from the other by a double hieroglyphic inscription, a well known practice adopted for separating the dead from living as early as the Old Kingdom. To the left stands Khety, facing right. Fragmentally preserved, Khety wears a short, projecting kilt, and holds a long staff in his left hand and a htp-sceptre in his right. With only three isolated hieroglyphic signs preserved of the upper line, of which a part of Wepwawet’s determinative is still recognizable, the second line reads: ...

55 Ibid., 151. As for the colour conventions followed here, see above.
56 Compare: Pyr. § 555 (PT 341), which reads: ...

57 For the different methods adopted in the Old Kingdom representations aiming at separating the dead from living, see: N. Kanawati, in: SAK 9, 1981, 213–225. For a Twelfth Dynasty example in which a vertical column of hieroglyphic inscription is used to separate z3-rmpwt II from his deceased mother, see: H. Müller, Die Felsengräber der Fürsten von Elephantine aus der Zeit des Mittleren Reiches, ÄF 9, 1940, pl. 34; cf., Kanawati, in: SAK 9, 1981, 219, n. 37.
58 This reconstruction depends only on the preserved determinative Θ, attested frequently here for Zhwf referred to in such a title.
Facing him in equal size is Iti-ibi-iqer attired in a broad collar, a bracelet around his remaining right wrist, a long, projecting kilt provided with a belt and having a downward curved hem at the front and a sandal in his preserved left foot. He holds a long staff in his left hand and a hprp-sceptre in his right. The associated caption reads:

(1) [jrj] p't hštj-c hmtj-btjt smr w'tj jmjr hm(w)-ntjr n Wp-wiwt nb [Z3w'[f] ... (2) [jmjr] hm(w)-ntjr n Wp-wiwt [nb Z3w'[f] ... Jnwp nb [R-qrr]t jm[th][jjw] ... j w/h t mj:jطم(j)-[jqr]m3-4rw

"(1) [The hereditary prince], the count, the sealer of the king of Lower Egypt, the sole companion, the overseer of priests of Wepwawet, lord of [Asyut], ... (2) [the overseer] of priests of Wepwawet, [lord of Asyut], ... Anubis, lord of [Ra-qrere], the honoured one ... the one enduring on earth, Iti-ibi-[iqr], true of voice\textsuperscript{a}.

Behind Iti-ibi-iqer is a badly obliterated figure of a standing woman. She wears a long, tight garment and anklets, and holds what seems to be a long-stemmed lotus flower, of which only the lower part of the stem is preserved.

Being hštj-c, the most characteristic for nomarchs during the First Intermediate Period and the Eleventh Dynasty\textsuperscript{59}, and being a high priest of the local god Wepwawet suggest that this Khety was a nomarch, and that he is to be identified with one of the two well known First Intermediate Period nomarchs of Asyut, Khety I (Tomb V; M11.1) or Khety II (Tomb IV; N12.2). Judging by the prominence given to the military scenes in Iti-ibi-iqer’s chapel, his military title jmjr mšc n Ndtf hntt mj-qs=s – „the overseer of the troops of the entire 13\textsuperscript{th} Nome of Upper Egypt“, which is not recorded for any other nomarch at Asyut during Herakleopolitan Period, and his probable premature death suggested by preparing the tomb for him by his son Mesehti-iqer, Iti-ibi-iqer seems to have lived during the troublous period of the civil war. Of the two men called Khety, while Khety I enjoyed a peaceful governorship\textsuperscript{60}, Khety II refers in his biography to a military campaign against the Theban forces\textsuperscript{61}, in which he allied with the Herakleopolitan king Merikare. Accordingly, the identification of Khety II with his namesake represented here seems plausible. Although no reference to a filial kinship is preserved in this scene commemorating Khety, it seems quite possible that Iti-ibi-iqer was the latter’s son.

3.5.2 To the right and left of the false door decorating the back wall of the niche are two table scenes, each is devoted to a woman. With its associated label identifying the represented woman completely lost now, the right table scene is of little use here. The left scene shows a woman seated on a chair with a low, cushioned back and bull legs\textsuperscript{62} resting on truncated cone supports, with the bull’s tail clearly shown hanging down from the back of the chair. Having no recognizable details, the woman, who faces right, extends her hardly preserved right hand towards an offering table, the

\textsuperscript{59} Helck, Verwaltung, 206–9.

\textsuperscript{60} Griffith, Siut V [1ff.]; Schenkel, Memphis, Herakleopolis, Theben, 71–74 [§57]. For Khety I’s efforts in developing the irrigation methods at Asyut, see: W. Schenkel, Die Bewässerungskultur im alten Ägypten, 1978, 29ff.


\textsuperscript{62} Although chairs with bull legs were replaced by those with lion legs before the end of the Fifth Dynasty (N. Cherpion, Mastabas et Hypogées d’Ancien Empire: Le problème de la datation, 1989, 34), some Middle Kingdom examples of chairs with bull legs are attested (e.g., Newberry, El Bersheh I, pls. 12, 16–17, 19, 32, 34; Blackman, Meir VI, pls.15,17).
stand of which is no longer preserved. The offering table is laden with fourteen stylized half-loaves, over which a foreleg of an ox and a plucked goose are shown. Two stands with variously shaped jars of drinks are depicted above the table. Faint traces of an offering bearer holding a goose are the only preserved decoration below the table scene. The caption identifying the commemorated lady reads: \textit{jmnhntj trjytt Hwt-hr Jt(=j)-jb(=j) mtr-hrw} — „the honoured one, beloved of Hathor, Iti-ibi, true of voice“.

In fact, Iti-ibi-iqer’s wife is called once on the northern wall as \textit{Snbtj-jqrt mstk Ksw-f} — „Senebti-iqeret, born of Kauef“, and in each of the two well preserved labels identifying Iti-ibi-iqer’s wife on the same wall she is introduced by the designation \textit{hmt=f} — „his wife“. Although a second wife of Iti-ibi-iqer should not be excluded\footnote{For the question of polygamy in Egypt in the Middle Kingdom, see: W. Simpson, in: JEA 60, 1974, 100–105.}, the absence of the introductory designation \textit{hmt=f} — „his wife“ before the woman’s name here argues against the possibility of having a second wife in this table scene. On the other hand, the commemoration of Iti-ibi-iqer’s possible father Khety II attested here is tempting to suggest a similar commemoration of Iti-ibi-iqer’s mother herein. In favour of this identification is the similarly named relative accompanying Khety II in the decoration of his chapel’s northern wall. Therein, she is designated as: \textit{hkrt nswt wtt hmr-ntr Hwt-hr jmnw=f nt r^c nb jmnhntj Jt(=j)-jb(=j)} — „The sole ornamented one of the king, the priestess of Hathor, her well-disposed one of every day, the honoured one, Iti-ibi“\footnote{El-Khadragy, in: SAK 37, 2008, fig. 3, forthcoming; Griffith, Siut IV [38–40].}. Thereupon, the identification of Iti-ibi of our table scene and her namesake represented in Khety II’s chapel is suggested here, and being a mother of Iti-ibi-iqer is a possibility which should not be excluded.

3.6 Forming sacred symbols of wood and fighting bulls (Fig. 10; Pl. 5–6)

On the western wall, to the south of the entrance giving access to the inner niche, is a large figure of the tomb owner watching fighting bulls\footnote{For a study of the bull fight scenes, see: J. Galan in: JEA 80, 1994, 81–96.} and inspecting cattle, while the lower register is reserved for an unusual scene depicting carpenters forming some sacred symbols of wood. Facing left, the tomb owner is shown leaning on his staff and accompanied by two of his dogs. The caption above the first dog is almost lost, with a preserved \ldots ~ r^c nb — „\ldots every day“ at its end, while the caption of the second dog reads: \textit{Dst} \textit{pw mrt nb=f} — „It is Djeset, whom its master loves“.

Of the remaining details of his attire, a fillet and streamer, a broad collar, a bracelet around his right rest and a short, projecting kilt provided with a belt are still recognizable. The label identifying the tomb owner is written horizontally above his head, while the caption describing the represented action is written vertically before his figure as follows: (1) \textit{jrj pr’s [htrj]– htmj-btjt smr w^t jmj-r hmr(n)-ntr n Wp-wt Jt(=j)-jb(=j)-qr} (2) \textit{mst ch^j ksw [ksw] sbt htr [nb(t)] nfr[t] sbt n kj n hjj– jmj-r hmr(n)-ntr Jnpw nb R-qrrt jmj[rjw]} \ldots — „(1) The hereditary prince, [the count], the sealer of the king of Lower Egypt, the sole companion, the [overseer] of priests of Wepwawet, I[ti-ibi-iqer]. (2) Viewing a fight of bulls, [bulls] of the field and [every] good produce of the field for the Ka of the count, the overseer of priests of Anubis, lord of Ra-quereret, the honoured one, …“.
Of the three badly damaged registers depicting the activities watched by the tomb owner, the upper one shows traces of a pair of fighting bulls, one tossing up the other, with the caption [ḫj] "sw kî nhf\(^67\) – „bring him down, strong bull“. Next are few outlines of a calf facing a cow, which was probably shown milked by a now lost figure\(^68\). Two bulls in front of a squatting figure with the associated caption ... sw ḫp-wbiwt-nht – „... him, Wepwawet-nakht“ occupy the right side of the second register, while few traces of more cattle are preserved on the left side. At the right side of the third register is a bull lifted most probably by the horns of its now lost rival\(^69\). The left side of this register and the following one(s) are now completely lost.

The remaining right side of the lower register of this wall depicts the unusual motif of forming the ḫtj-symbol ḫ and dd-column dd\(^70\). A kneeling carpenter is shown with an adze in his right hand forming a wooden dd-column, which is diagonally set on a sloping block-support. An upright ḫtj-symbol is shown placed on the ground to the right of the carpenter, while another dd-pillar and ḫtj-symbol are horizontally set above him. Next stands a man on a high platform smoothing probably some unidentifiable oblong object with both hands\(^71\). Before him, on the same platform, is a kneeling man, whose action is not preserved.

4 Dating
4.1 Architectural evidence: Although single-roomed chapels supported by one or two rows of pillars with burial apartments reached by vertical shafts are attested at Asyut up to the early Twelfth Dynasty\(^72\), the zigzag-frieze bordering the tops of the decorated walls is not attested for the Middle Kingdom provincial tomb-chapels, and was replaced in many examples by the ḫkr-frieze in association with the banded frieze\(^74\).


\(^68\) Compare: Vandier, Mo‘alla, pl. 27; Naville, Deir el-Bahari I, pl.20 [II]; Griffith/Newberry, El Bersheh II, pl. 14.

\(^69\) For similar scenes, see: Davies, Deir el-GebrSwi I, pl. 11; Newberry, El Bersheh I, pl. 18.

\(^70\) Although none of the craft scenes dating to the Old and Middle Kingdoms show such a motif (cf. R. Drenkhahn, Die Handwerker und ihre Tätigkeiten im alten Ägypten, AA 31, 1976, 97–127, and passim), the dd-column is used as ornate grills which surmounted the shrines of the queens of Mentuhotep II: Nebhepetre at Deir el-Bahri (Naville, Deir el-Bahari II, pls. 14, 15; Hayes, Scepter L, 160–61, fig. 97), and it decorates again the lunette at the top of an Eleventh Dynasty stela belonging to ḫśj-jqr (H. Müller, in: MDAIK 4, 1933, 187, fig. 11; cf., Brovarski, Naga-ed-Dèr, 1043–44), Later, in the Twelfth Dynasty tomb of ḫḥ-ḥpt at Meir, a drf-column is presented to the tomb owner by some attendant (Blackman, Meir VI, pl. 13). For associating the ḫtj-symbol with the dd-column at an early date, and for associating them with Isis and Osiris as early as the First Dynasty, see: A. David, Religious Ritual at Abydos (c. 1300 B.C.), 1973, 247.

\(^71\) Using the adze in forming the dd-column here suggests that the material is wood; for, in craft scenes, the adze occurs exclusively in connection with the manufacture of products made of wood (M. Eaton-Krauss, The Representations of Statuary in Private Tombs of the Old Kingdom, AA 39, 1984, 48–49 [§54]).

\(^72\) The slightly curved hands with the downward palms placed over the surface of this unidentifiable object may suggest that the figure was holding some stone rubber usually used for smoothing the surfaces of wooden products and other stone objects (Eaton-Krauss, Statuary in Private Tombs, 51 [§58]).

\(^73\) See n. 6 above.

\(^74\) See for example: Blackman, Meir II, pl. 10; VI, pls. 13, 15–17, 19; Davies/Gardiner, Antefoker, pls. 4, 15, 31–33; Newberry, Beni Hasan I, pls. 11–20, 29–30, 32, 34–37; II, pls. 4–5, 7, 11–17; Griffith/Newberry, El Bersheh II, pl. 11. For a First Intermediate Period example associating the ḫkr-frieze with the banded frieze at Asyut, see: El-Khadragy, in: SAK 37, 2008, figs. 1–5, forthcoming.
4.2 Epigraphic evidence: Expressing filiations by the perfective passive participle form of *ms* as recorded on the northern wall here is first attested in the reign of Intef I or II, and was replaced by the relative *sdm. n=f* form of *ms* by the end of the Eleventh Dynasty. The consonantal shift from w>jf attested here for the epithet jmihjjt - „the honoured one“ in the table scene to the south of the false door proves that the tomb was not inscribed before the first change of Nebhepetre’s Horus-name from S^nh-jb-tiwj into Ntrj-hdt, i.e., between his 14th and 39th years. The book-roll determinative used for *jmj-r* in the epithet mn rdwj m ñms ntrf mrjj - „firm footed in following his beloved god“ recorded on the still unpublished south face of the chapel’s southern pillar (A) shows no ties, a feature which characterizes the inscriptions dated up to the end of the Eleventh Dynasty.

The writing of *jmj-r* with a vertical stroke under the r-sign attested everywhere in the chapel’s inscriptions is known for the inscriptions dated from the reign of Intef I: Seher-tawy up to the reign of Senwosert I. Using the phrase *n kî n* - „to the ka of“ in the invocation-offering formula on the northern wall is rarely attested for Old Kingdom inscriptions, attested at Asyut for the inscriptions dated to the First Intermediate Period and Eleventh Dynasty, and commonly found in those dated to the Twelfth Dynasty. Introducing personal names with *jqr* - „iqer, true of voice“, as frequently attested here, is known since the early Eleventh Dynasty.

4.3 Iconographic evidence: Commemorating Khety, the predecessor of the tomb owner and his probable father who is identified here with the First Intermediate Period Siutian nomarch Khety II is the most conclusive evidence for dating the tomb. Not only does this mean that Khety II was followed by Iti-ibi-iqer in his office as a Siutian nomarch, but it excludes any possibility of dating the tomb after the reunification of Egypt by Nebhepetre. For it would be highly unexpected for any

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76 Schenkel, Frühmittelägyptische Studien, 75 [§27].
77 Ibid., 51 [§16b], 144 [§58b]; L. Gestermann, Kontinuität und Wandel in Politik und Verwaltung des frühen Mittleren Reiches in Ägypten, GOF IV/18, 1987, 42.
79 Schenkel, Frühmittelägyptische Studien, 35–36 [§7].
80 G. Lapp, Die Opferformel des alten Reiches, SDAIK 21, 1986, 208 [§355].
81 Spanel, in: Der Manuelian (Hg.), Studies in Honor of William Kelly Simpson II, 1996, 767, n. 9, 769, n. 15.
82 C. Bennett, in: JEA 27, 1941, 79, 81.
83 Schenkel, Frühmittelägyptische Studien, 76 [§28a].
84 Griffith, Siu 3 [7, 16]; IV, [48]; V [17]. However, such a palaeographic feature is attested for *ms* and some other related words as early as the late Old Kingdom both at Asyut and other sites (e.g., L. Habachi, Tavole d’offerta, are e bacili da libagione n. 22001–22067, 1977, 29, pl. on p. 133; Griffith/ Newberry, El Bersheh II, pl. 13 [15]; Brovarski, Naga-ed-Dér, 268–70, fig. 20).
85 Spanel, in: Or 58, 1989, 310–11 with refs.
Siutian nomarch who was contemporaneous to Nebhepetre after having control of the whole of Egypt to commemorate the king’s rival, Khety II, who had allied with the Herakleopolitan king Merikare and involved in the war against the Thebans under the command of Nebhepetre. Further iconographic features characteristic of the time are attested here. Of them is the long-stemmed lotus flower held in the left hand of Iti-ibi-iqer’s wife close to her nose on the northern wall, which is regarded by Brovarski as typical Dynasty Eleven fashion. Also, the nḫ-emblem shown in the right hand of this same figure is not attested for non-royal individuals before the late First Intermediate Period and the late Dynasty Eleven.

Suggested date: A date after the 14th year of Nebhepetre and before his 39th year is the most likely for decorating the tomb by Iti-ibi-iqer’s son and successor, Mesehti-iqer.

5 General commentary
Due to its nearly completely preserved state, the decoration of Tomb N13.1 constitutes one of the most valuable sources from the end of the First Intermediate Period in respect of the Egyptian history and history of art. This discovery proves the importance of archaeological work in a necropolis which suffered much by quarrying activities and some inappropriately performed excavations. The fully decorated chapel provides us with many represented themes based closely on the Old Kingdom Memphite conventional style and showing scarcely any trace of the First Intermediate Period crude style attested elsewhere in Upper Egypt since the late Old Kingdom. Nonetheless, some of the represented motifs reflect the spirit of the troublous time of the civil war exemplified in military scenes and other motifs with religious implications aiming at bestowing the tomb owner support, protection and abundant provisions.

Of its valuable historical implications, the securely dated tomb provides us with two hitherto unknown nomarchs, Iti-ibi-iqer and his son Mesehti-iqer, who successively governed Asyut before the reunification of Egypt by Nebhepetre. Moreover, the chapel’s decoration provides evidence for the connection between these two nomarchs and Khety II, who has been considered for a long time the last of the First Intermediate Period family of nomarchs who ruled Asyut up to the reunification of Egypt by Nebhepetre. This evidence might help in reestablishing the history of Asyut during the final stages of the war between the northern kingdom of Herakleopolis and the Theban rulers. Taking Franke’s reasonably suggested sequence of the earlier stages of this war as a point of departure, Iti-ibi (Tomb III; N12.1) was involved in the rebellion of Thinis dated to the 14th year of Nebhepetre. He is believed to be still alive when Nebhepetre recaptured the town, and that he

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86 Brovarski, Naga-ed-Dér, 237, 1039 with refs.
88 The reunification of Egypt by Nebhepetre is suggested to be after his 14th year and before his 39th year (J. Quack, Studien zur Lehre für Merikare, GOF IV/23, 1992, 98–113).
89 For the early Twentieth Century excavations at Asyut, see: Magee, Asyut I, 7–8; D. Ryan, The Archaeological Excavations of D.G. Hogarth at Asyut, Egypt, 1988, 25–28, and passim. Noteworthy is the use of explosives by David Hogarth in removing the large stone blocks of the collapsed tomb bearing his number XXVII (ibid., 54).
90 For this crude style attested in Upper Egypt since the late Old Kingdom, see: Smith, Sculpture, 217ff. For some examples, see: Vandier, Mo'allà, pls. 25ff; Kanawati, El-Hagara II, pls. 20ff; D. Dunham, Naga-ed-Dér Stelae of the First Intermediate Period, 1937, pls. 2ff; Fischer, Coptite Nome, pls. 16ff; Fischer, in: Kush 9, 1961, figs. 3–6, pls. 10–13.
93 For the rebellion of Thinis, see: Clère/Vandier, Textes de la première période intermédiaire et de la XIème dynastie, 19 [§23]; Schenkel, Memphis – Herakleopolis – Theben, 226–28 [§374]. For the two successful battles
was the victim of attacking Asyut afterwards by the Theban troops. Expelling the Theban troops from Asyut, Khety II who was contemporaneous of both Merikare and Nebhepetre enjoyed a relatively short tenure of governorship as suggested by his unfinished tomb. This suggests that Iti-ibi-iqer started his career as governor around the second decade of Nebhepetre. On the other hand, the preparation of this tomb by Iti-ibi-iqer’s son Mesehti-iqer, as stated here, suggests a rather short tenure of governorship for the father.

A study of the Siutian repertoire of military scenes elsewhere led to the conclusion that Mesehti-iqer could be identified with Mesehti, the owner of CG 257, CG 258, CG 28118 (JE 30966) and CG 28119 (JE 30966), or that the former was followed by his namesake Mesehti, a possible member of this same family, who ruled Asyut before the reunification of Egypt. In favour of the first suggestion is the proposed pictorial rendering of § 555 (spell 341) of the Pyramid Text here, which may be taken as a forerunner of appropriating a royal prerogative, which culminated afterwards in inscribing coffins with the Coffin Texts. Being responsible for the tomb’s decoration, Mesehti-iqer took probably a further step towards inscribing his coffins with Coffin Texts, the presence of which on his coffins led both Schenkel and Willems to suggest a relatively later date for Mesehti.

Believing that military scenes reflect actual historical events, it seems possible that Iti-ibi-iqer resumed the fight against the Theban troops. He was probably the first Siutian nomarch who levied Nubian archers in his army. Nubian archers are also attested for the Theban troops at the same time. Judging by Mesehti-iqer’s statement that he prepared the tomb for his father, Iti-ibi-iqer seems to be another victim of this civil war.

of Iti-ibi against the Southern Nomes, one of which is suggested to be correspondent to the afore-mentioned rebellion of Thinis, see: Griffith, Siut III [16–37]; Schenkel, Memphis – Herakleopolis – Theben, 79–81 [§60]; cf. Franke, in: SAK 14, 1987, 52.

98 An even earlier usurpation of spells from the Pyramid Texts is attested in the late Old Kingdom burial chamber of Mny at Dendera, this literal borrowing, according to Fischer, may belong to the first use of Coffin Texts during the First Intermediate Period (Dendera, 88).
99 Schenkel dates Mesehti to the very end of the Eleventh Dynasty or the beginning of the Twelfth Dynasty (Frühmittelägyptische Studien, 117–118 [§44 a]).
100 Willems suggests a date for Mesehti not earlier than the middle of the Twelfth Dynasty (Chests of Life, 103–104).

101 However, according to Schenkel, the earliest datable example inscribed with Coffin Texts is that of šijjt, a minor wife of Nebhepetre, who was buried shortly before the reunification of Egypt, thereby both šijjt and Mesehti were contemporaneous (Frühmittelägyptische Studien, 121; cf., Fischer, Dendera, 88). Moreover, isolated instances of Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period coffins inscribed with Coffin Texts are cited by Willems (Chests of Life, 244–49). A further early use of Pyramid and Coffin Texts is attested from a Ninth Dynasty coffin from Naga-ed-Dér (Brovarski, Naga-ed-Dér, 661–63).
103 According to Bietak Nubian mercenaries were not attested at Asyut before the end of the Eleventh Dynasty (Mélanges Gamal Eddin Mokhtar I, 1985, 87–97).
104 Nubian archers are represented in the two battle scenes of the early Eleventh Dynasty Theban tomb of Intef, whose tomb was decorated during the early part of Nebhepetre’s reign (Jaros-Deckert, Das Grab des Jnj-jjtj, f, pls. 14, 17), and are attested again in the battle scene represented on the now displaced fragments of the mortuary temple of Nebhepetre at Deir el-Bahri (Schulman, in: JSSEA 12, no. 1, 1982, 170–76).
In decorating the tomb, Mesehti-iqer beseeched the support of every possible divine power. Overcoming the enemies was essential for Mesehti-iqer who previously lost his father, grandfather and great grand father in this war. Under this concept comes the representation of the fabulous creature, the Bes-like demon $\text{ḥj}$, in the hunting scene understood as one of the helpers of the sun god in his fight against his enemies$^{105}$, that he may provide support in this earthly war. Seeking stability and life, Mesehti-iqer included here the valid combination of the $\text{gl}-$pillar and $\text{tjt}$-symbol$^{106}$. Securing provisions of every good produce of the field led Mesehti-iqer to produce a pictorial version of § 555 (spell 341) of the Pyramid Text that Goddess Sekhet and her son $\text{ḥ3b}$ may guarantee renewed provisions. Aiming at reviving the deceased$^{107}$ and bestowing Hathor’s blessings, favour and good fortune on him$^{108}$, the deceased’s wife is represented offering him the $\text{mnjt}$-necklace and sistrum of Hathor. The inclusion of the proposed symbolic scene of bull fight was also chosen for the chapel’s decoration that it may maintain the deceased’s leadership in the Netherworld$^{109}$.

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$^{105}$ Altenmüller, Die Apotropaia und die Götter Mittelägyptens I, 152ff.
$^{108}$ Davies/Gardiner, Amenemhêt, 94–96.
$^{109}$ Relating the bull fight scene to symbolism concerning the afterlife, J. Galán suggests that the deceased in his struggle to maintain his leadership in the Netherworld is symbolically identified with a bull who has to defeat another one who challenges him, and that the purpose of this challenge is to prove that the deceased is entitled to be the lord of the herd and fields, i.e. of the Netherworld (in: JEA 80, 1994, 81–96).
Fig. 2: Iti-ibi-iqer, chapel, north wall, western side, offering the *mnjt* and sistrum of Hathor
Fig. 4: Iti-ibi-iqer, chapel, east wall, southern side, marching soldiers
Fig. 5: Iti-ibi-iqer, chapel, south wall, western side, hunting scene
Fig. 6: Hi-her-ker, chapel, south wall, right of the middle section. Sekhet offering birds
Fig. 7: Iti-ibi-qaer, chapel, south wall, left of the middle section, fowling scene.
Fig. 8: Iti-ibi-iqer, chapel, south wall, eastern side, commemorating Khety II
Fig. 9: Iti-ibi-iqer, niche, west wall, left of the false door, table scene of Iti-ibi
Pl. 1 (a): Iti-ibi-iqer, forecourt and façade

Pl. 1 (b): Iti-ibi-iqer, chapel, inner part