

*Tomb P13.1 of a certain Djefai-Hapi*¹⁸

In 2010, the reliefs and inscriptions of the partly destroyed rock tomb P13.1 could be collated after they had been copied in 2005¹⁹ and examined in 2007. Until now it has only been possible to draw a sketch of the ground plan (Fig. 2), because the surface is full of debris, and a cleaning is not yet envisaged. Nevertheless the architecture and the remaining decoration will be presented here.

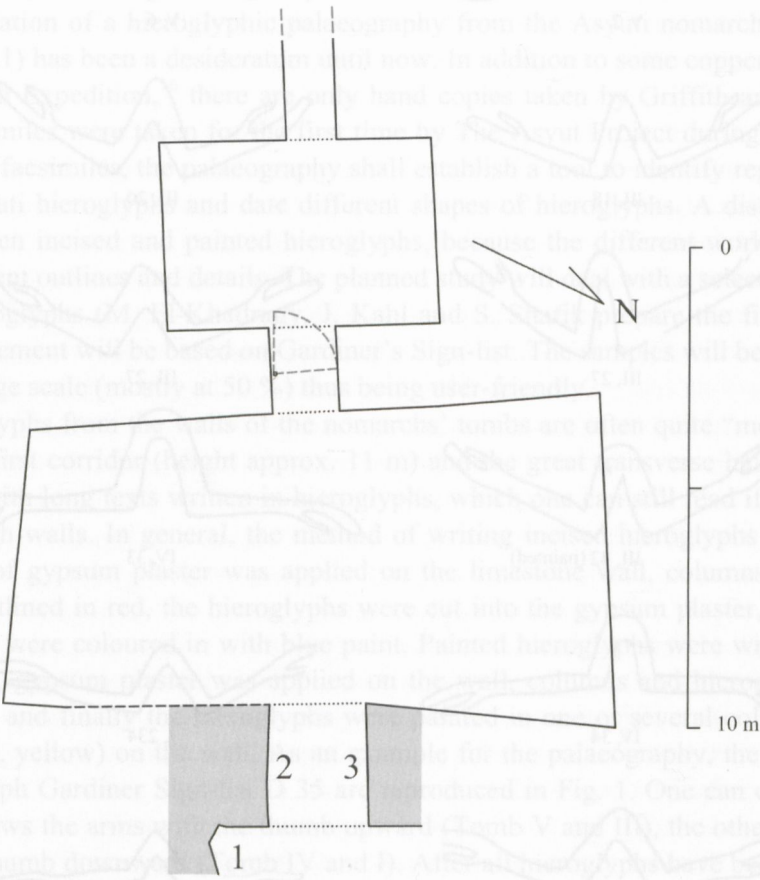


Fig. 2: Sketch of the ground plan of Tomb P13.1

(© The Asyut Project; U. Fauerbach)

a) Architecture

The structure of the tomb, whose axis today is still more than 15 m long, starts with a doorway on the east side leading into a large rectangular hall with a flat ceiling (Taf. 7b). The walls are cut very thoroughly, parts of reddish coloured plaster are only to be found on

¹⁸ I would like to thank Jochem Kahl for discussing some problems of the inscriptions and the palaeography. Ilona Regulski and Svenja A. Gülden had a helpful look at epigraphic details.

¹⁹ Already mentioned by M. Becker, Djefai-Hapi – ein Name mit langer Tradition, in: GM 210, 2006, 8; J. Kahl/M. El-Khadragy/U. Verhoeven, in: SAK 34, 2006, 242 (not with note 4 as M. Zitman, The Necropolis of Assiut. A Case Study of Local Egyptian Funerary Culture from the Old Kingdom to the End of the Middle Kingdom, OLA 180, Leuven 2010, 41 (“Tomb XVI”) has written).

the west wall directly under the ceiling while a bit of white colour is preserved in the north-east corner. A corridor, in which a door hinge is preserved on the south side of the architrave, leads to a second, smaller hall, again with a flat ceiling. In this room fragments of probably Coptic plaster are to be found on the north, west and south walls. The entrance to a seemingly sloping passage is cut into the west wall, but it was not possible to determine its exact shape.

b) Decoration and inscriptions

Only the fa ades of the first doorway preserved some decoration and hieroglyphic columns in sunken relief (Fig. 2, nos. 1-3). Inside the passage the tomb-owner is depicted twice pacing out. In the area of the feet (in no. 3) red colour for the skin is partly preserved, while many of the hieroglyphic signs (in nos. 1-2) contain remains of blue colour which is typical for this time and region.

No. 1: Only on the south half the front side of the doorway is still upright showing a fragmentary text in two columns (Fig. 3 and Taf. 8):

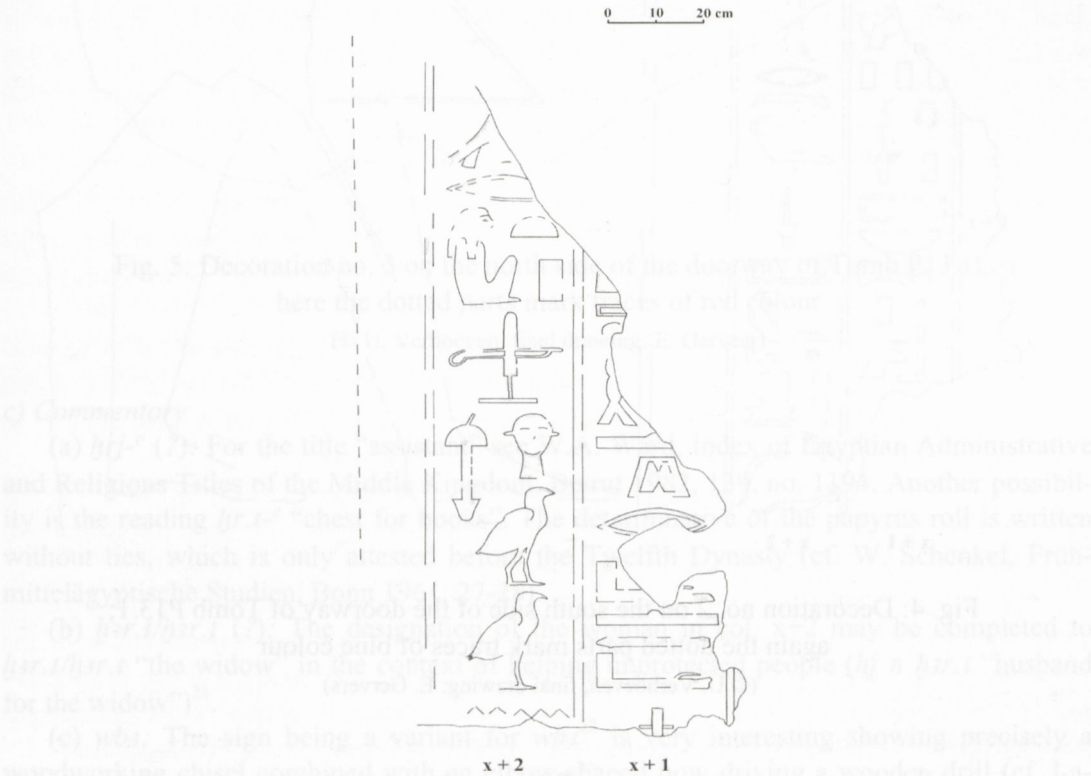


Fig. 3: Decoration no. 1 on the east front of the doorway of Tomb P13.1; the dotted parts mark traces of blue colour, the discontinuous line marks the corner

(  U. Verhoeven, final drawing: E. Gervers)

- No. 1, col. x+1 [...] *h* (det. papyrus-roll) *hrj-^c* (det. papyrus-roll)^(a) *ʕ3 nḥ[r ...]*
 No. 1, col. x+1 “[...]... (?) , great assistant (?)^(a) , good [...]”
 No. 1, col. x+2 [...] *h3r.t* (det. seated woman)^(b) *wb3^(c)* *hr ḥmw.w n [wnw.t=f ...]*
 No. 1, col. x+2 “[...] the widow (?)^(b) , the clear-sighted one^(c) , expert in [his craft/ duty...]”

No. 2: On the left or south side of the doorway the legs of the deceased walking out of the tomb are preserved. He is wearing a kilt and holding a sceptre and a long stave. In front of him two columns are to be read (Fig. 4 and Taf. 9a):

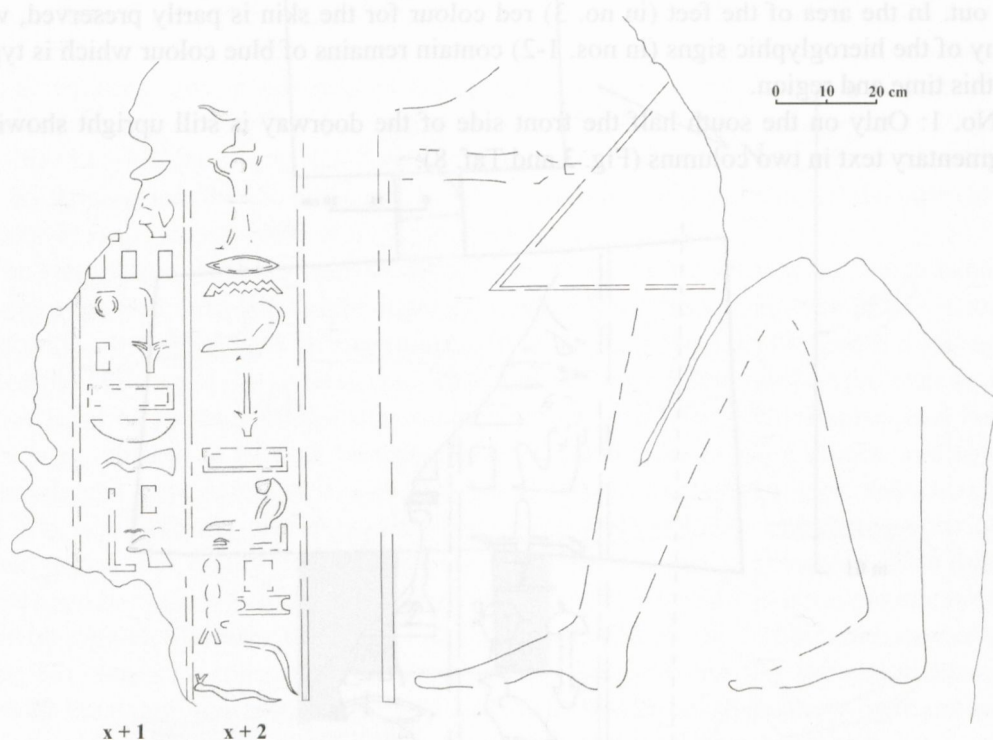


Fig. 4: Decoration no. 2 on the south side of the doorway of Tomb P13.1;
 again the dotted parts mark traces of blue colour

(© U. Verhoeven, final drawing: E. Gervers)

- No. 2, col. x+1: [...] *n*^(b) [*hrj*].*w-dp n.w Šm^c.w* (?)^(d) *nb ḥps^(e)* (*w*)*d3* (?) *šff.t^(f)* [...]
 No. 2, col. x+1: “[...] lord of the [ch]iefs of the South^(d) (?) , lord of strength^(e) , with entire (?) authority^(f) [...]”
 No. 2, col. x+2: [...] *k3 rn^(g)* *h3tj Šm^c.w* (?)^(h) *h3tj-⁽ⁱ⁾* *Df3=j-Ḥ^cpj*
 No. 2, col. x+2: “[...] uplifted of name (?)^(g) , foremost of the South^(h) (?) , mayor⁽ⁱ⁾ Djefai-Hapi.”

No. 3: On the north side of the doorway just the feet of the tomb owner and the end of his stave are to be seen today (Fig. 5 and Taf. 9b). In front of him some rectangular hieroglyphic signs are preserved which possibly belong to plural strokes or something similar, which would be parallel to the end of a column in front of the tomb owner in Tomb M10.1.²⁰

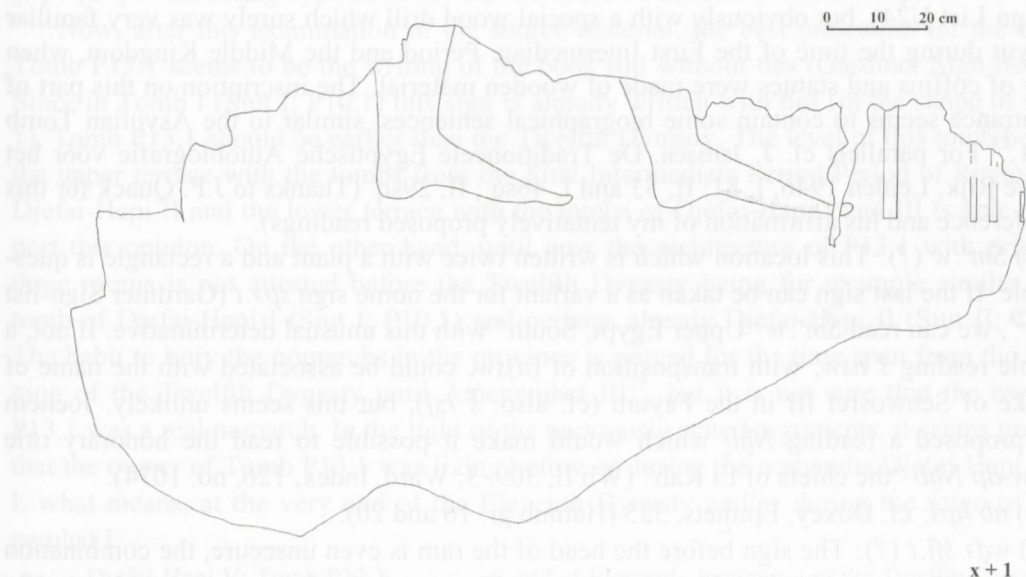


Fig. 5: Decoration no. 3 on the north side of the doorway of Tomb P13.1;
here the dotted parts mark traces of red colour

(© U. Verhoeven, final drawing: E. Gervers)

c) Commentary

(a) *hrj-ε* (?): For the title “assistant” see W.A. Ward, *Index of Egyptian Administrative and Religious Titles of the Middle Kingdom*, Beirut 1982, 139, no. 1194. Another possibility is the reading *hr.t-ε* “chest for books”. The determinative of the papyrus roll is written without ties, which is only attested before the Twelfth Dynasty (cf. W. Schenkel, *Frühmittelägyptische Studien*, Bonn 1961, 27-28).

(b) *h3r.t/h3r.t* (?): The designation of the woman in col. x+2 may be completed to *h3r.t/h3r.t* “the widow” in the context of helping unprotected people (*hj n h3r.t* “husband for the widow”)²¹.

(c) *wb3*: The sign being a variant for *wb3*²² is very interesting showing precisely a woodworking chisel combined with an elbow-shaped bow driving a wooden drill (cf. Lacau, *Sarcophages I*, CG, pl. 40-41; D. Stocks, *Experiments in Egyptian Archaeology*, Lon-

²⁰ U. Verhoeven, “Der lebt nach dem Tod”. Orthographisches und Biographisches in den Inschriftenfragmenten der Grabanlage M10.1 in Assiut, in: H.-W. Fischer-Elfert/R.B. Parkinson (eds.), *Middle Kingdom Studies in Memory of Detlef Franke*, Philippika, Marburg (in print).

²¹ Cf. for example D.M. Doxey, *Egyptian Non-Royal Epithets of the Middle Kingdom*, PÄ 12, Leiden 1998, 200: Time of “Am. I - Sen. I., Am. II”.

²² Compare the reading *wb3* for a sign of a man using this kind of drill in Beni Hasan: L.D. Morenz, *Sinn und Spiel der Zeichen – Visuelle Poesie im Alten Ägypten*, *Pictura et Poesis* 21, Cologne 2008, 141sqq.

don 2003, 29 and 50). We know this kind of tool already from a scene of woodworkers in a tomb of the Old Kingdom, where the accompanying text makes clear, that drilling with this kind of tool is called *htj* (Epron/Wild, Tombeau de Ti, pl. 174: drilling the cover of a box, called *htj ʿfd.t*). In the New Kingdom we find several depictions of this type of drill, but without textual explanation (examples shown by Stocks, Experiments, 33, 50, 208sq.). Reading *wb3*, it is remarkable that the word is not written with the usual stone drill (Gardiner Sign List U24), but obviously with a special wood drill which surely was very familiar in Asyut during the time of the First Intermediate Period and the Middle Kingdom, when plenty of coffins and statues were made of wooden material. The inscription on this part of the entrance seems to contain some biographical sentences, similar to the Asyutian Tomb M10.1.²³ For parallels cf. J. Janssen, *De Traditioneele Egyptische Autobiografie vóór het Nieuwe Rijk*, Leiden 1946, I, 81; II, 53 and I, 46sq.; II, 29sq. (Thanks to J.F. Quack for this last reference and his affirmation of my tentatively proposed readings).

(d) *Šmʿ.w (?)*: This location which is written twice with a plant and a rectangle is questionable. If the last sign can be taken as a variant for the nome sign *sp3.t* (Gardiner Sign-list N 24)²⁴, we can read *Šmʿ.w* “Upper Egypt, South” with this unusual determinative. If not, a possible reading *š nsw*, with transposition of (n)sw, could be associated with the name of the lake of Senwosret III in the Fayum (cf. also: *š rsj*), but this seems unlikely. Jochem Kahl proposed a reading *Nhb* which would make it possible to read the honorary title [*hrj*].*w-dp Nhb* “the chiefs of El Kab” (Wb II, 309. 3; Ward, Index, 126, no. 1074).

(e) *nb hps*: cf. Doxey, Epithets, 325 (Hatnub gr. 16 and 20).

(f) *wḏ3 šff.t (?)*: The sign before the head of the ram is even unsecure, the combination of *wḏ3* and *šff.t* cannot be found in other sources. The sign ʿ3 for the common epithet ʿ3 *šff.t* “with great authority” seems more probable, but the shape doesn’t seem to correspond with this reading.

(g) *k3 rn (?)*: With this separation and reading of the signs, an epithet seems to be written which we only know from later sources and for gods. For *k3 rn* cf. Wb V, 2.13; C. Leitz (ed.), *Lexikon der ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen VII*, OLA 116, 166b-c: in Saite, Greek and Roman times an epithet of Osiris, Horus, Haroëris.

(h) *h3tj Šmʿ.w*: cf. Ward, Index, 104, no. 863; Doxey, Epithets, 343, no. 11.2: several examples in Hatnub and El Bersheh; N. Favry, *Le nomarque sous le règne de Sésostri I*, Paris 2004, 111, no. 50: title of nomarchs in the Eleventh and Twelfth Dynasty.

(i) *h3tj-ʿ*: D. Franke, in: St. Quirke, ed., *Middle Kingdom Studies*, New Malden, Surrey 1991, 52 translates this title with “mayor”, and points out, that the real nomarchs of the beginning of the Twelfth Dynasty were always wearing the combination of the titles *h3tj-ʿ jmj-r3 hmw.w-ntr hrj-dp ʿ3* of nome XY. Favry, *Le nomarque*, 90 argues in the same direction, but indicates that sometimes the title *h3tj-ʿ* can be translated directly by “nomarch”.

d) Dating

As Becker has shown, until now we can identify five different important persons with the name Djefai-Hapi (which has the meaning “The Nile is my nourishment”) from the Middle

²³ U. Verhoeven, in: *Middle Kingdom Studies in Memory of Detlef Franke*, Philippika, Marburg (in print).

²⁴ In Tomb I (Siut I; P10.1) the sign is written with a closed rectangle and lines inside, cf. Griffith, *Siut and Dêr Rifeh*, Pl. 6, col. 268; confirmed by J. Kahl for his palaeography of the Asyutian Tombs. Cf. also J.P. Allen, *The Heqanakht Papyri*, PMMA 27, New York 2002, 159, n. 59.

Kingdom having tombs in Asyut.²⁵ Kahl has given a relative and absolute chronology for the three of them who were definitely nomarchs (Djefai-Hapi II, I, III), while the owner of P13.1, Djefai-Hapi V, did not seem to be dateable more precisely than sometime in the course of the Middle Kingdom.²⁶ Independently and somewhat idiosyncratically Zitman has numbered Tomb P13.1, which he has never seen, as “Tomb XVI” and the owner as “*Df3=i-Hpy* [24]”²⁷ assuming hypothetically that he could be the son of Djefai-Hapi I.²⁸

Now, after this examination of the source material, the best indication for the date of Tomb P13.1 seems to be the writing of the book roll without ties (Gardiner Sign-list Y 2). Since in Tomb I (Siut I; P10.1) this sign is already written with ties (in the shape of sign Y 1), Tomb P13.1 should be earlier than the Twelfth Dynasty. The level of this tomb between the upper terrace with the tombs from the First Intermediate Period/Period of Regions and Djefai-Hapi II and the lower terrace with the tombs of Djefai-Hapi I and III is able to support this opinion. On the other hand, until now the architecture of P13.1 with originally three rooms is not attested before the Twelfth Dynasty being for example similar to the tomb of Djefai-Hapi I (Siut I; P10.1) and perhaps already Djefai-Hapi II (Siut II; O13.1). The habit to bury the nomarchs in the province is proved for the time span from the beginning of the Twelfth Dynasty until Amenemhat III²⁹, but it is not sure that the owner of P13.1 was a real nomarch. In the light of the previously stated arguments, it seems probable that the owner of Tomb P13.1 was living before or during the nomarchs Djefai-Hapi II and I, what means, at the very end of the Eleventh Dynasty and/or during the reign of Amenemhat I:

Djefai-Hapi V: Tomb P13.1	end of Eleventh, beginning of the Twelfth Dynasty
Djefai-Hapi II: Tomb II (O13.1)	beginning of the Twelfth Dynasty
Djefai-Hapi I: Tomb I (P10.1)	Senwosret I
Djefai-Hapi III: Tomb VII	Amenemhat II
Djefai-Hapi (IV): Tomb VI	?
	U.V.

²⁵ M. Becker, in: GM 210, 2006, 7-11; she further cites examples from the New Kingdom and in Demotic sources.

²⁶ J. Kahl, Ancient Asyut, 16-17. Kahl, *ibid.*, 51 mentions another man with this name, but with the title “Chief of secrets of what only one hears in the house of Osiris”.

²⁷ M. Zitman, The Necropolis of Assiut I, 28 with note 191, 41; II, map 2 and 5, p. 5, 206.

²⁸ *Op.cit.*, 33.

²⁹ D. Franke, The career of Khnumhotep III of Beni Hasan and the so-called “decline of the nomarchs”, in: St. Quirke (ed.), Middle Kingdom Studies, New Malden, Surrey 1991, 53sq.