



Hello everyone,

Enclosed you will find Museum Tours' first Hieroglyphic work sheet. This is intended as a form of continuing education for those who have taken the course "Understanding Hieroglyphic Inscriptions". Each month I plan to take a text about 6 lines long and go through the translation step by step. The first document will be the Annals of Thutmose III in Karnak Temple. I will then send out 4 (or more) pages each month.

The first page contains the transcription of the text used. This month it is the first 6 lines of the annals as recorded by Kurt Sethe in his Urkundun IV. The text existing on the wall at the time of his transcription is printed in black. His thoughts on filling the gaps in the text are in blue. While his text is reasonable it should be noted that not everyone agrees with it, so that several different translations can be found. It should be noted that Sethe did his transliteration almost 100 years ago and the inscription is in much worse condition today, with much more of the text missing.

The second page(s) contains my translation process in black, with the transliteration in blue. I should let you know that I usually don't transliterate everything, especially in titulary, so there could easily be mistakes. But please don't let that bog you down. Remember we are not necessarily after 100% accuracy, but rather overall meaning. Normally you will not do the transliteration without also translating at least some of the words as you find them. And I don't do the translation in order, but rather start with the easier signs that I know (the uni-literals, common bi- and tri-literals, and some common word signs) as shown on Page **2a**. Then I look up the the more unusual signs, that are be easiest to find in the sign list and dictionary as shown on page **2b**. Finally I fill in the rest of the text which includes harder words and words I couldn't find in Gardiner's vocabulary (for these I use Faulkner's dictionary). At this stage I begin to refine definitions where there are several choices. I also go back and include the transliteration of words I included previously but didn't transliterate at the time. This step is shown on page **2c**.

The third page has the literal translation in black and differs from **2c** only in that I have refined some definitions and the word order has been changed to the English norm. Because one word can have several meanings, one could come up with slightly different translations, even with the transcription as given.

The fourth page has taken the translation and put it into proper English. I stray from the direct translation as little as possible in doing this, but have to make some decisions concerning overall meaning that others might, or might not, agree with.

I recommend that you use the first page as your work sheet (or even make copies of it to use) and only use the other sheets to check your work, or as a last resort.

If you find any errors please don't hesitate to let me know. I am far from perfect and always strive to improve.

If you wish to keep receiving these worksheets each month simply return the enclosed form to me and I will keep you on the mailing list. There is no cost.

By the way, I hope you will be happy to hear that we have decided to add an intermediate course to our schedule next year. It will be from January 12 through 26. Tentatively, Ted Brock, an Egyptologist and friend who lives in Egypt. I will be teaching it. I will be teaching the beginning course at the same time, and the two groups will be traveling together, but the work will be different. So if you are interested let me know and I will send you trip materials when they are ready.

Happy translating,

Bill Petty