

THE WOODEN DOORS OF A ROYAL TOMB  
O. LEIDEN F 2000/1.1 + O. KV 10045

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Some twenty years ago I published the hieratic text on a limestone ostrakon (fig. 1) which afterwards entered the collection of the Museum of Antiquities in Leiden with the inventory number F 2000/1.1.<sup>1</sup> Since the piece was missing a fragment to its right, full understanding of its contents remained problematic. By chance I recently became aware that this fragment was found in 2009 by the SCA Valley of Kings Mission working in the side valley leading to the tomb of Thutmose III.<sup>2</sup> The published photograph is too small for examination, but the accompanying facsimile is just good enough to ascertain that the piece originally joined the Leiden ostrakon.

The joined ostrakon (figs. 2-3) measures ca. 12 × 18.5 cm and is inscribed on one side with seven lines in black ink. The writing is slightly damaged at the end of lines 1, 2, 5 and 6, and the beginnings of lines 5-7 are missing.

*Translation:*

- (1) The first door: its height 6 cubits, width 2 cubits 6 digits, 2 cubits 6 digits.
- (2) The secondary door: its height 6 cubits, width 2 cubits 6 digits, 2 cubits 6 digits; the covering: upper side 3+1/6 digits, under side 3+1/6 digits;
- (3) its upper bolt 6 digits, its lower bolt 6 digits. The second door: its height 6 cubits, width 4 cubits 3 palms.
- (4) The [third] door: its height 6 cubits, width 4 cubits. The fourth door: its height 6 cubits 2 palms, width 4 cubits. The fifth door:
- (5) (its height) 5 cubits 6 palms, width 4 cubits. The sixth door of the Hall: height 5 cubits 6 palms, width 4 cubits 2 palms. The seventh door of the *wp.t-r3*:
- (6) (height 5?) cubits 5 palms, width 4 cubits 3(?) palms. The door of the Front Hall: height 5 cubits 6 palms 2 digits, width 4 cubits 3 palms 2 digits. The [door of] the Hidden(?) Place: height 5 cubits, width 4 cubits.
- (7) (The d)oor of Khenty-Imentet: height 4 cubits, width 2 cubits.

<sup>1</sup> R.J. Demarée, "Royal Riddles", in: R.J. Demarée and A.Egberts, *Village Voices* (Leiden, 1992), 9-18.

<sup>2</sup> Zahi Hawass, 'Excavation West of the Valley of the Kings near the Tomb of Thutmose III', in: Z. Hawass, T.A. Bács and G. Schreiber, *Proceedings of the Colloquium on Theban Archaeology at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, November 5, 2009* (Cairo, 2011), 57-71, for the fragment KV 10045, found in workman's hut K 4, esp. 65 and 70.



Fig. 1. O. Leiden F 2000/1.1.

*Notes to the translation and commentary:*

- (1) The description in ll. 1-2 indicates that the first door was actually a double door with each element consisting of two leaves.  
Listing the measurements of the doors, in the first four lines for ‘height’ the scribe uses the word *q3(y)*. In most texts from the Ramesside Period describing architectural elements this word means ‘length’. In those texts listing measurements of corridors and rooms wherever *q3(y)* is used for ‘height’, ‘length’ is denoted by *3w.t*.
- (2) *p3 sb3 sn.nw* here must refer to the companion second element of the first door since the actual second door in the tomb is mentioned in line 3 below as *p3 sb3 r-mh2*.  
*t3 hbs* is clearly the same feminine word as (*t3*) *hbsy.(t)* in P. Rochester MAG 51.346.1, A24 and B2, ‘covering’ denoting ‘metal plating’.<sup>3</sup> In P. Salt 124, recto I, 7 the term probably denotes the metal plating of a chariot.
- (3) For bolts (*qr* or *q3r.t*, *Wb* V, 12, 2-7) on the first door of a royal tomb, see the plan of the tomb of Ramesses IV in the Museo Egizio Turin, and O. Cairo JE 51935/SR 12388 (see fig. 4 below).<sup>4</sup>
- (4) In writing “the third door”, the scribe omitted *r-mh 3* by mistake.
- (5) The orthography of the word *wsht*, ‘hall’, is noteworthy.  
Beginning with his description of the sixth door and following the scribe uses the more common word for ‘height’: *hy*.  
In “the seventh door”, the scribe probably made a *Hörfehler* in writing *n mh* (‘cubit’) instead of *r-mh* (‘to complete’), the construction of the ordinal number.  
The *wp.t-r3* certainly refers to the “Corridor of the Opening of the Mouth” (*st3-ntr n t3 wp.t-r3*).<sup>5</sup> The same spelling as here for a term of an architectural element in a royal tomb occurs in line 2 of an ostrakon found in the Valley of Kings by the Amarna Royal Tombs Project.<sup>6</sup> A similar spelling of the term *wp-r3*, “Opening of the Mouth rite”, is found in O. Ashmolean Museum HO 1043, rt. 2 (unpub.), and a hieroglyphic orthography is found on a stela of the chiseller Qen.<sup>7</sup>
- (6) Although the shape of the hieratic sign is somewhat peculiar *hnty*, ‘front hall’, is most likely meant as the first architectural element in this line. In the description of the next element, the scribe by mistake omitted the word ‘door’.  
*S.t-immn*, ‘Hidden Place’, seems an appropriate term for the burial chamber, although not known from other texts describing architectural elements of royal tombs.
- (7) *Hnty-Imnt.t* is known as the name of a small side-room in royal tombs.<sup>8</sup> The name was certainly derived from the main decoration in such a room, a figure of Osiris-Khenty-Imentet

<sup>3</sup> Cf. O. Goelet in *JEA* 82 (1996), 117-118, note (z).

<sup>4</sup> For the Turin tomb plan cf. G. Andreu-Lanoë, *L’art du contour. Le dessin dans l’Égypte ancienne* (Paris, 2013), 206-207, and for the Cairo ostrakon cf. N. Reeves in *CdÉ* LXI (1986), 43.

<sup>5</sup> Based on only two examples of the word written *wp.t* (O. Cairo 25269, 2 and P. Turin 1923, 6) J. Černý, *The Valley of the Kings* (Cairo, 1973), 31-32, translated “passage of the zenith”. A corrected interpretation of this term as *wp-r3* was already proposed by S. Demichelis in her publication of P. Turin CGT 55002 in *ZĀS* 131 (2004), 114 (although in her transcription on Pl. XV still rendered as *wp.t-r3*).

<sup>6</sup> Newsletter of the Valley of Kings Foundation, No. 1 (2002), Fig. 17, at [www.nicholasreeves.com](http://www.nicholasreeves.com).

<sup>7</sup> Copenhagen, National Museum Inv. no. AAd 11 (*irt wp-r3*), cf. K. Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions* III 685, 6. For this stela see L. Manniche, *Egyptian Art in Denmark* (Copenhagen, 2004), 200, fig. 90.

<sup>8</sup> O. Turin CGT 57037, rt. 3, 4 (K. Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions* V 621, 10) and P. Turin CGT 55002, rt. Section L, cf. S. Demichelis, *ZĀS* 131 (2004), 119.

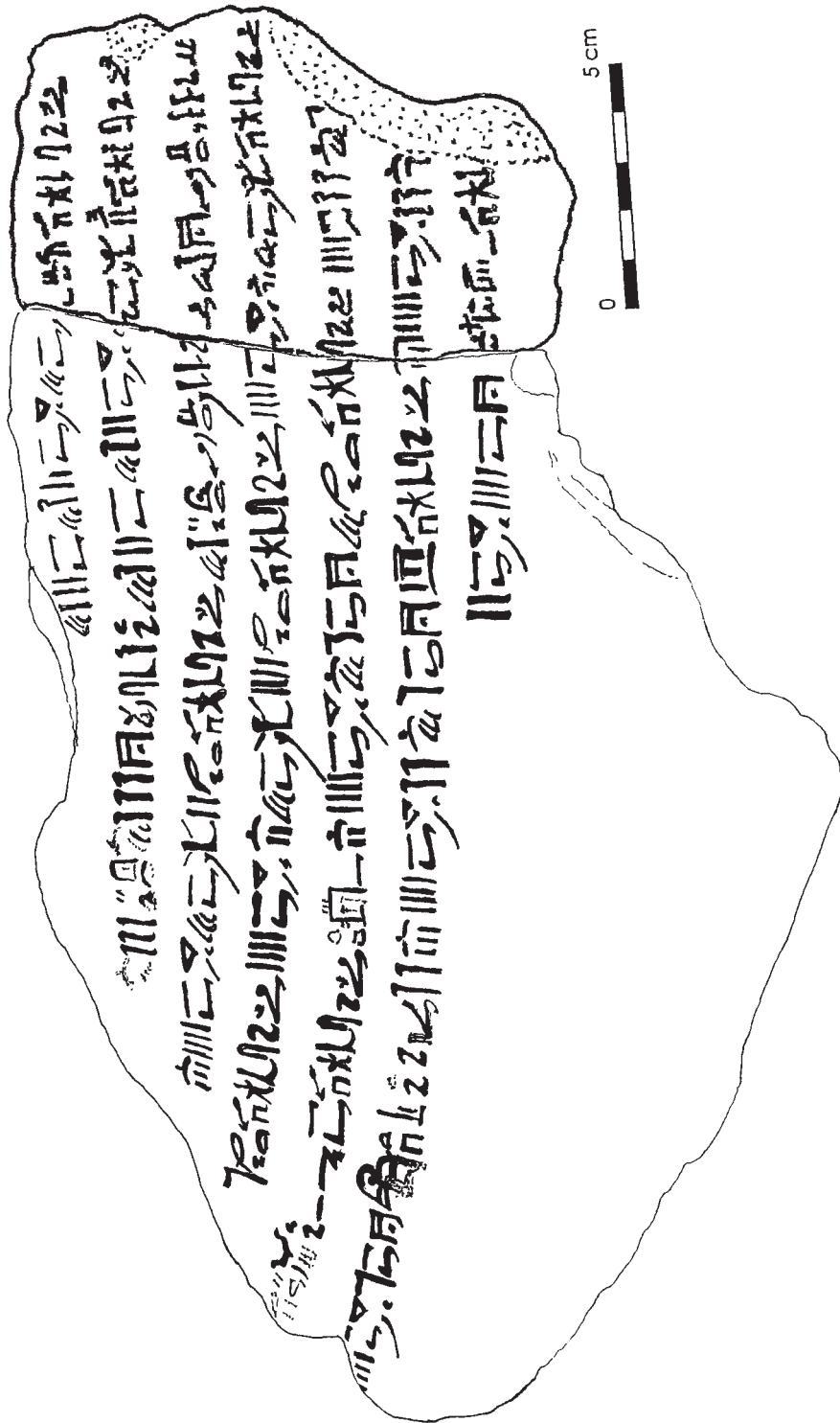


Fig. 2. Facsimile of O. Leiden F 2000/1.1 + O. KV 10045 (KV 10045 fragment after the preliminary publication by Hawass *et.al.*).

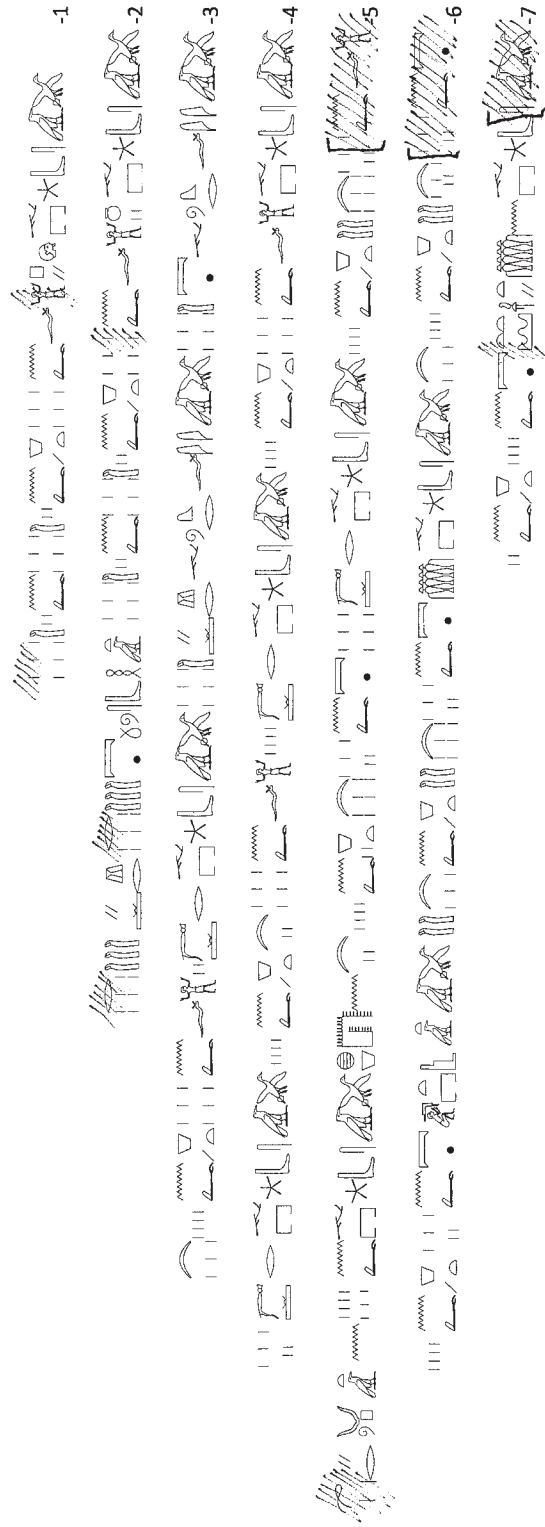


Fig. 3. Transcription of O. Leiden F 2000/1.1 + O. KV 10045.

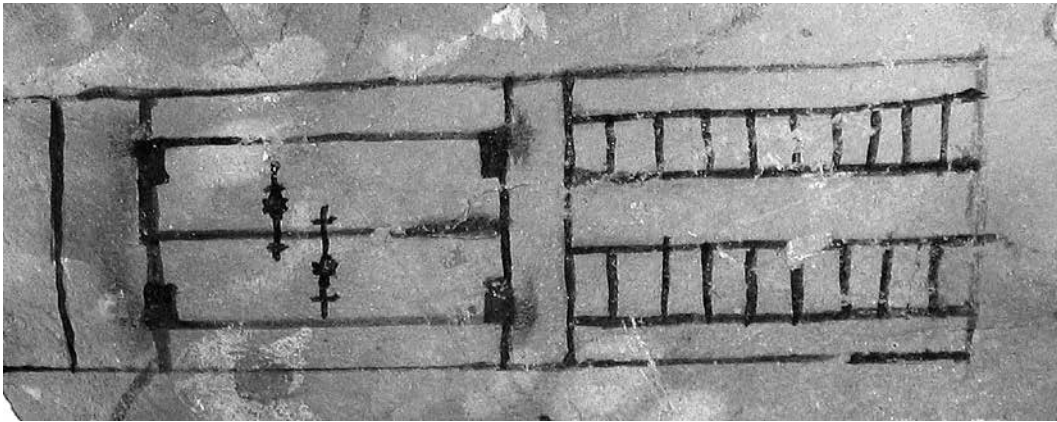


Fig. 4. Drawing on O. Cairo JE 51935/SR 12388 showing the entrance stairs and the first door, with bolts, of a royal tomb.

either painted (in the tombs of Horemheb – KV 57, Ramesses I – KV 16, and Sethi I – KV 17) or executed in relief (in the tombs of Ramesses II – KV 7, the Sons of Ramesses II – KV 5, Merenptah – KV 8, and Ramesses III - KV 11).<sup>9</sup>

The text is not dated to a specific reign, but the general palaeography points to a date at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> dynasty or the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> dynasty. This list with precise measurements of doors in a royal tomb was most probably drawn up for the information of the carpenters who had to make these wooden doors.<sup>10</sup> Doors with a height of 6 cubits (ca. 3,20 m) and a width of 4 cubits (ca. 2,10 m) are found only in the tombs of Merenptah (in its initial stage before the jambs of the gates/doorways were broken away), Amenmesse, Sethi II, Siptah and Ramesses III.<sup>11</sup> Of these only the tomb of Merenptah in its initial phase and to a lesser extent the tomb of Ramesses III would fit the description of the architectural elements listed in our present text.

<sup>9</sup> For the figure at the end of corridor 7 in KV 5, see Kent R. Weeks, *KV 5, A Preliminary Report* (Cairo, 2000), 36-37; for a similar figure in KV 8, Room Ja, see Chr. Barbotin and S. Guichard, 'Fouilles du Louvre dans la Tombe de Merenptah – KV 8', *Memnonia XVIII* (2007), 105-117, Pl. XXIIB, and *Memnonia XX* (2009), 175-182, Pls. XLVIII-XLIX.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. the events described in O. Cairo CG 25254, 3 (K. Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions VI* 343, 13-15) and in O. Berlin P 10663, rt. (K. Kitchen, *Ramesside Inscriptions V* 558,16-559,4).

<sup>11</sup> Cf. the table in E. Hornung, *ZÄS* 105 (1978), 61, and the detailed information in Kent R. Weeks, *Atlas of the Valley of Kings* (Cairo, 2005).