

An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian
OFFERING FORMULAE

Sem Essessi

Foreward by <someone>

January 21, 2025

For my father Ptah, who is South of His wall...

... and for Mut, the mother of all of my mothers.

May Seshat and Thoth be satisfied.

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | 7 |
| Preface | 9 |
| Notation | 11 |
| Manuel de Codage variant (MdC+) | 12 |
| Extended Gardiner sign list | 41 |
| Outline | 43 |
| Htp-di-nsw | 43 |
| Htp | 43 |
| di | 44 |
| nswt | 44 |
| prt-xrw | 44 |
| Offerings | 45 |
| t | 45 |
| Hnqt | 45 |
| kAw | 45 |
| Apdw | 45 |
| Ss | 45 |
| mnxt | 45 |
| God(s) | 45 |
| Offerings | 47 |
| Gods | 49 |
| Examples | 51 |
| Index | 52 |
| Index | 53 |

Foreword

Someone else needs to write this explaining...

- their relationship with the authors
- how it is useful to people
- how they contributed to the work
- signing their name at the end

Preface

Learning the standard form of the offering formula, then learning to translate its many variations has been a wonderful exercise to help me learn the language of Ancient Egypt.

Ancestor worship is a near universal religious practice and one of the oldest we know of. The offering formula was important for the particular flavour practised in Ancient Egypt and many hieroglyphic inscriptions are of this kind.

I hope that this book will be useful to those interested in learning hieroglyphs by providing a practical use case and effective reference. I also hope that it will be useful for those seeking to practice the same kind of religion as the ancients.

Notation

The transliteration notation used in this book is a variant of the *Manuel de Codage* (MdC), referring to an extended version of *Gardiner's sign list*.

MdC is an Egyptological standard for computer encoding of hieroglyphic text based on the phonetic values. It was first published in 1988 and continues to be revised.

It uses a subset of the Latin alphabet, with capitalisation and Gardiner sign codes used for greater accuracy. It also includes markup characters to encode positioning and arrangement of hieroglyphs, although these will not be used in this book.

In this book a variation is used which prefers phonetic values to sign codes and adds some additional encodings. For convenience this variant is referred to as MdC+.

The Gardiner sign list categorises hieroglyphs into types, and assigns each one a unique code. Although a given hieroglyph may fit into multiple categories, they occur only once, and usually in the first applicable category. It was first published in 1927, although the discovery of new glyphs and variants has required its extension since then.

For example, the hieroglyph G10 portrays a falcon, representing the god Sokar, standing on a barque on top of a sled.

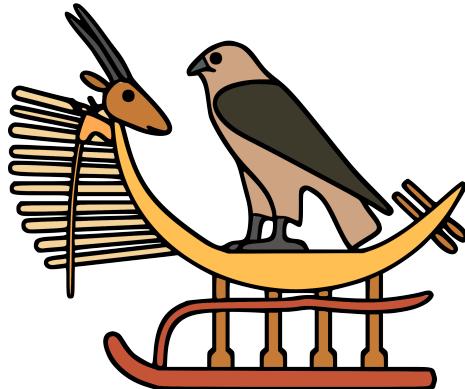


Figure 1: Hieroglyph G10

It could reasonably fit into the categories G (Birds), P (Ships and parts of ships), R (Temple furniture or sacred emblems) or U (Agriculture, crafts, and professions). It appears only once in the G category.

Transliterations used in this book will place in bold the parts to be vocalised. Any implied or otherwise absent hieroglyphs will be in curved brackets, and determinatives in square brackets.

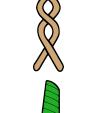
Manuel de Codage variant (MdC+)

These tables define the encoding used throughout this book for transliteration, and to render hieroglyphs in a way that can be vocalised.

Uniliteral signs

Uniliteral signs represent individual sounds. They give us something like an alphabet, but are not used alone. In many cases they are used as phonetic compliments to assist in reading multiliteral signs.

They are presented separately to give the reader a clear impression of the set of sounds used in the ancient Egyptian language.

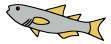
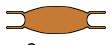
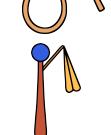
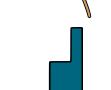
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | A | ; | G1 |
|  | a | ‘ | D36 |
|  | b | b | D58 |
|  | d | d | D46 |
|  | D | ɖ | I10 |
|  | f | f | I9 |
|  | g | g | W11 |
|  | Ğ | ğ | V33 |
|  | h | h | O4 |
|  | H | ħ | V28 |
|  | i | ɿ | M17 |
|  | k | k | V31 |

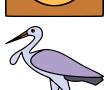
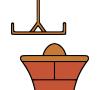
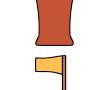
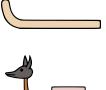
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | I | I | E23 |
| | m | m | G17 |
| | M | m | Aa15 |
| | n | n | N35 |
| | N | n | S3 |
| | p | p | Q3 |
| | q | q | N29 |
| | r | r | D21 |
| | s | s | S29 |
| | S | š | N37 |
| | t | † | X1 |
| | T | ‡ | V13 |
| | w | w | G43 |
| | W | w | V1 |
| | x | ḥ | Aa1 |
| | X | ḥ | F32 |
| | y | y | M17a |
| | Y | y | Z4 |
| | z | z | O34 |

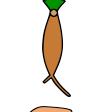
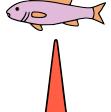
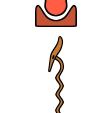
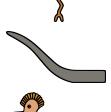
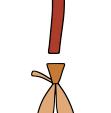
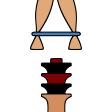
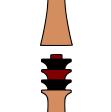
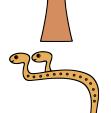
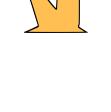
Multiliteral and other signs

These signs are used for compounds of multiple sounds or as determinatives, numbers or grammatical hints. For example, the Z2 and Z3 hieroglyphs occurring early in the table are plural markers. The Z1 hieroglyph is used to denote the end of a word or to fill space between words for a more beautiful composition.

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | --- | --- | Z3 |
| | I | I | Z1 |
| | III | III | Z2 |
| | 10 | 10 | V20 |
| | 100 | 100 | V1 |
| | 1000 | 1000 | M12 |
| | aA | ꜥ | O29 |
| | AA | ꜣ | G2 |
| | ab | ꜥb | D59 |
| | Ab | ꜣb | U23 |
| | abA | ꜥbꜣ | S42 |
| | Abd | ꜥbd | N11 |
| | Aby | ꜣby | E24 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | ad | ‿d | K3 |
|  | aD | ‿d̩ | V26 |
|  | aH | ‿h | T24 |
|  | aHa | ‿h̩ | P6 |
|  | aHA | ‿h̩ɔ | D34 |
|  | Ai | ‿i | T12 |
|  | Ams | ‿ms | S44 |
|  | anx | ‿n̩h | S34 |
|  | Anx | ‿n̩h | S34 |
|  | aq | ‿q | G35 |
|  | Ar | ‿r | T12 |
|  | arq | ‿rq | V12 |
|  | As | ‿s | Q1 |

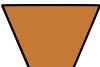
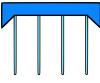
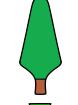
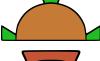
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | aSA | ‘š; | I1 |
|  | Af | ʒtʃ | S8 |
|  | Aw | ʒw | F40 |
|  | awt | ʒwt | S39 |
|  | Ax | ʒh | G25 |
|  | Axt | ʒht | N27 |
|  | bA | b; | G29 |
|  | baHi | bəhì | G32 |
|  | bAs | bəs | W2 |
|  | bd | bd | R9 |
|  | bdt | bdt | M34 |
|  | bH | bh | F18 |
|  | biA | bì; | U16 |

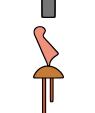
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|-------|------------------------|---------------|
|  | bit | b <small>ɪ</small> t | L2 |
|  | bnr | b <small>nr</small> | M30 |
|  | bz | b <small>z</small> | K5 |
|  | DA | d <small>ʒ</small> | U28 |
|  | Dam | d <small>ʒm</small> | S41 |
|  | db | d <small>b</small> | F16 |
|  | Db | d <small>ʒb</small> | G22 |
|  | Dba | d <small>ʒbə</small> | D50 |
|  | DbA | d <small>ʒbɔ̄</small> | T25 |
|  | dd | d <small>d</small> | R11 |
|  | Dd | d <small>ʒd</small> | R11 |
|  | DD | d <small>ʒd</small> | I11 |
|  | DHwty | d <small>ʒhwty</small> | C3 |

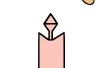
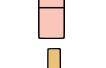
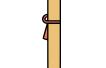
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | di | dī | X8 |
| | dmD | d <u>m</u> d | S23 |
| | Dr | d <u>ṛ</u> | M36 |
| | DrD | d <u>r</u> d | F21 |
| | dSr | dšr | G27 |
| | Dsr | d <u>š</u> r | D45 |
| | dSrt | dšrt | S3 |
| | Dw | d <u>w</u> | N26 |
| | dwA | d <u>w</u> ȝ | N14 |
| | dwAt | d <u>w</u> t | N15 |
| | fnD | fnd | D19 |
| | gb | gb | G38 |
| | gH | gh | D56 |

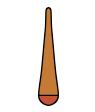
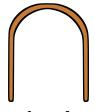
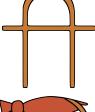
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|------------------|---------------|
| | gHs | ghs | D56 |
| | gm | gm | G28 |
| | grg | grp | U17 |
| | HA | ḥ ³ | F4 |
| | HAt | ḥ ³ t | F4 |
| | hb | hb | U13 |
| | Hb | ḥb | W3 |
| | HD | ḥd | T3 |
| | HDD | ḥdd | T6 |
| | HDt | ḥdt | S1 |
| | Hfn | ḥfn | I8 |
| | HH | ḥḥ | C11 |
| | Hm | ḥm | N42 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Hmt | ḥmt | U24 |
| | Hmwt | ḥmw̄t | U24 |
| | Hn | ḥn | M2 |
| | Hnmmt | ḥnmmt | N8 |
| | Hnqt | ḥnqt | W22 |
| | HqA | ḥqɔ̄ | S38 |
| | HqAt | ḥqɔ̄t | U11 |
| | Hr | ḥr | D2 |
| | hrw | hrw | N5 |
| | Htp | ḥtp | R4 |
| | Hw | ḥw | F18 |
| | Hwt | ḥwt | O6 |
| | Hz | ḥz | W14 |

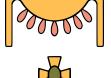
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | iab | ì·b | W10 |
|  | iAb | ì;b | R15 |
|  | iAdt | ì;dt | N4 |
|  | iaH | ì·h | N11 |
|  | iAm | ì;m | M1 |
|  | iAt | ì;t | N30 |
|  | ib | ìb | F34 |
|  | ibA | ìb; | Y6 |
|  | id | ìd | N41 |
|  | idn | ìdn | F21 |
|  | idr | ìdr | V37 |
|  | idt | ìdt | N4 |
|  | iH | ìh | T24 |

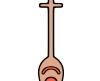
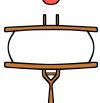
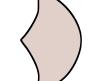
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | im | ìm | Aa13 |
|  | lm | ìm | Z11 |
|  | imAx | ìm;h | F39 |
|  | imi | ìmì | Z11 |
|  | imnt | ìmnt | R14 |
|  | in | ìn | K1 |
|  | inb | ìnb | O36 |
|  | ini | ìnì | W25 |
|  | inpw | ìnpw | C6 |
|  | ipt | ìpt | O45 |
|  | ir | ìr | D4 |
|  | iri | ìrì | D4 |
|  | iry | ìry | A47 |

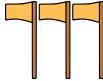
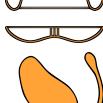
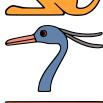
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | isw | ìsw | F44 |
|  | it | ìt | U10 |
|  | iTi | ìtì | V15 |
|  | iw | ìw | N18 |
|  | iwa | ìẘ | F44 |
|  | iwn | ìwn | O28 |
|  | iz | ìz | M40 |
|  | kA | kɔ | D28 |
|  | kAp | kɔp | R5 |
|  | kAr | kɔr | O18 |
|  | kfA | kfɔ | F22 |
|  | km | km | I6 |
| | kp | kp | R5 |

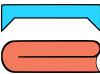
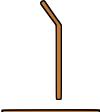
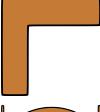
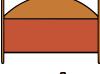
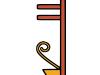
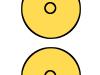
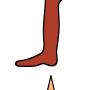
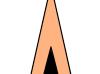
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|---------------------------|---------------|
|  | mA | m; ³ | U2 |
|  | MA | m; ³ | U1 |
|  | mAat | m; ³ t | C10 |
|  | mAi | m; ³ i | E22 |
|  | mAw | m; ³ w | G46 |
|  | md | md | S43 |
|  | mD | m <u>d</u> | V20 |
|  | mDAt | m <u>d</u> ³ t | Y1 |
|  | mDH | m <u>d</u> h | S10 |
|  | mDt | m <u>d</u> t | V19 |
|  | mH | m <u>h</u> | V22 |
|  | mi | mì | N36 |
|  | Mi | mì | W19 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| | mm | mm | G18 |
| | mn | mn | Y5 |
| | mnD | mn <u>d</u> | D27 |
| | mnhd | mnhd | Y3 |
| | mnit | mn <small>it</small> | S18 |
| | mniw | mn <small>iw</small> | A33 |
| | mnw | mn <small>w</small> | C8 |
| | mnx | mn <u>h</u> | U22 |
| | mnxt | mn <u>ht</u> | S27 |
| | mr | mr | U7 |
| | Mr | mr | U6 |
| | mri | mr <u>i</u> | N36 |
| | ms | ms | F31 |

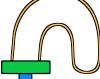
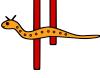
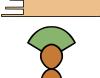
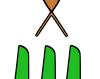
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | mSa | mš ^c | A12 |
|  | msDr | ms <u>d</u> r | F21 |
|  | msi | msì | B3 |
|  | msn | msn | V32 |
|  | mt | mt | D52 |
|  | mw | mw | N35a |
|  | | | |
|  | mwt | mwt | G14 |
|  | mxAt | mḥ ^t | U38 |
|  | mzH | mzḥ | I3 |
|  | nb | nb | V30 |
|  | nbty | nbty | G16 |
|  | nbw | nbw | S12 |
|  | nD | nd | Aa27 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | nDm | n <u>dm</u> | M29 |
|  | nDs | n <u>ds</u> | G37 |
|  | nfr | nfr | F35 |
|  | nfw | nfw | P5 |
|  | nH | n <u>h</u> | G21 |
|  | ni | n <u>i</u> | D35 |
|  | niwt | n <u>iwt</u> | O49 |
|  | nm | n <u>m</u> | T34 |
|  | nmt | n <u>mt</u> | T29 |
|  | nn | n <u>n</u> | M22a |
|  | nr | n <u>r</u> | H4 |
|  | ns | n <u>s</u> | F20 |
|  | nSmt | n <u>šmt</u> | K6 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|----------|--------------------------|---------------|
|  | nTr | n <u>tr</u> | R8 |
|  | nTrw | n <u>trw</u> | R8a |
|  | nw | nw | W24 |
|  | nxn | n <u>hn</u> | O47 |
|  | nxxw | n <u>hhw</u> | S45 |
|  | nzt | nzt | W11 |
|  | pA | p: | G47 |
|  | pAq | p:q | H3 |
|  | pd pD | p <u>d</u> p <u>D</u> | T9 T10 |
|  | pH | p <u>h</u> | F22 |
|  | pq | pq | H2 |
|  | pr | pr | O1 |

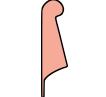
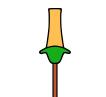
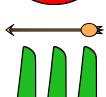
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | pt pXr | pt ph̪r | N1 F46 |
|  | pzD | pzd | N9 |
|  | qAb | q:b | F46 |
|  | qiz | qìz | A38 |
|  | qmA | qm: | T14 |
|  | qnbt | qnbt | O38 |
|  | qrsw | qrsw | Q6 |
|  | qs | qs | T19 |
|  | ra | r̥ | N5 |
|  | rA | r̩ | N5 |
|  | rd | rd | D56 |
|  | rdi | rd̄i | X8 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | rmi | rmī | D9 |
| | rnp | rnp | M4 |
| | rs | rs | T13 |
| | rsw | rsw | M24 |
| | rtH | rth | U31 |
| | rw | rw | E23 |
| | rwd | rwd | T12 |
| | rwD | rwd | T12 |
| | rxyt | rhyt | G23 |
| | sA | s; | Aa17 |
| | SA | s; | M8 |
| | sAH | sḥ | D61 |
| | sAq | s; q | I5 |

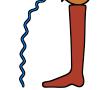
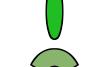
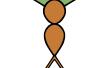
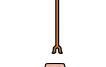
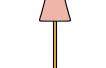
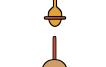
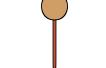
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | sbA | sbɔ̄ | N14 |
|  | sbk | sbk | I4 |
|  | sbq | sbq | D56 |
|  | sd | sd | F33 |
|  | Sd | šd | F30 |
|  | sDAw | sdɔ̄w | S19 |
|  | sDm | sd̪m | F21 |
|  | sf | sf | S30 |
|  | siA | siɔ̄ | S32 |
|  | sk | sk | V29 |
|  | sm | sm | M21 |
|  | Sm | šm | N40 |
|  | Sma | šm̄ | M26 |

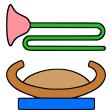
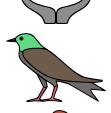
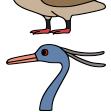
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|-------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | Sms | šms | T18 |
|  | sn | sn | T22 |
|  | Sn | šn | V7 |
|  | Sna | šn ^c | U13 |
|  | snD | sn <u>d</u> | G54 |
|  | Sndyt | šndyt | S26 |
|  | snT | sn <u>t</u> | V5 |
|  | snTr | sn <u>tr</u> | R7 |
|  | Snwt | šnw <u>t</u> | O51 |
|  | Sny | šny | D3 |
|  | spAt | sp <u>t</u> | N24 |
|  | spr | spr | F42 |
|  | Sps | šps | A50 |

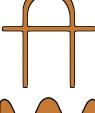
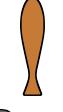
| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Spsi | špsi | A51 |
| | spt | spt | D24 |
| | spty | spty | D25 |
| | sr | sr | A21 |
| | srqt | srqt | L7 |
| | sS | sš | V6 |
| | SsA | šsɔ: | F5 |
| | sSm | sšm | T31 |
| | sSr | sšr | V33 |
| | st | st | Q1 |
| | sT | s <u>t</u> | S22 |
| | sTA | s <u>t</u> ɔ: | V2 |
| | sTAw | s <u>t</u> ɔ:w | V3 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | sti | st̄i | F29 |
|  | stp | stp | U21 |
|  | stX | st̄h | C7 |
|  | Styw | štyw | I2 |
|  | sw | sw | M23 |
|  | Sw | šw | H6 |
|  | Swt | šwt | S35 |
|  | Swty | šwty | S9 |
|  | sxm | sh̄m | S42 |
|  | sxmy | sh̄mty | S6 |
|  | sXr | sh̄r | T11 |
|  | sxt | sh̄t | M20 |
|  | Szp | šzp | O42 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | tA | t̪ | N16 |
| | TA | t̪ | G47 |
| | TAw | t̪w | P5 |
| | Tb | t̪b | S33 |
| | tHn | t̪n | S15 |
| | THn | t̪n | S15 |
| | ti | t̪i | U33 |
| | tm | t̪m | U15 |
| | TmA | t̪m̄ | V19 |
| | tp | t̪p | D1 |
| | tr | t̪r | M6 |
| | txn | t̪n | O25 |
| | tyw | t̪w | G4 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|---------------------------|---------------|
|  | Tz | <u>t</u> z | S24 |
|  | wa | w ^c | T21 |
|  | wA | w ³ | V4 |
|  | wab | w ^b | D60 |
|  | wAD | w ³ d | M13 |
|  | wAH | w ³ h | V29 |
|  | wAs | w ³ s | S40 |
|  | wbA | wb ³ | U26 |
|  | wD | w <u>d</u> | V24 |
|  | WD | w <u>d</u> | M13 |
|  | wDA | w <u>d</u> ³ | U28 |
|  | wDAT | w <u>d</u> ³ t | D10 |
|  | wDb | w <u>d</u> b | N20 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | wdn | wdn | M11 |
|  | wHa | wħ̄ | P4 |
|  | wHm | wħm | F25 |
|  | wn | wn | E34 |
|  | wp | wp | F13 |
|  | wr | wr | G36 |
|  | wrrt | wrrt | T17 |
|  | wSA | wš; | G42 |
|  | wSm | wšm | H2 |
|  | wsr | wsr | F12 |
|  | wsx | wsh | S11 |
|  | wsxt | wshṭ | O15 |
|  | ww | ww | G44 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|  | wx | w <u>h</u> | R16 |
|  | wz | wz | Q2 |
|  | xa | <u>h</u> ^c | N28 |
|  | xA | <u>h</u> ^b | M12 |
|  | XA | <u>h</u> ^b | K4 |
|  | XAr | <u>h</u> ^b r | V19 |
|  | xAst | <u>h</u> ^b st | N25 |
|  | xAt | <u>h</u> ^b t | R1 |
|  | xAw ^t | <u>h</u> ^b wt | R1 |
|  | xD ^t | <u>h</u> d ^t | S1 |
|  | xm | <u>h</u> m | U36 |
|  | xn | <u>h</u> n | G41 |
|  | Xn | <u>h</u> n | F26 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | Xnm | ḥnm | W9 |
|  | Xnmw | ḥnmw | C4 |
|  | xnt | ḥnt | W17 |
|  | xpr | ḥpr | L1 |
|  | xprš | ḥprš | S7 |
|  | xps | ḥps | F23 |
|  | xr | ḥr | A15 |
|  | Xr | ḥr | T28 |
|  | Xrd | ḥrd | A17 |
|  | xrp | ḥrp | S42 |
|  | xrw | ḥrw | P8 |
|  | xsf | ḥsf | U34 |
|  | xt | ḥt | M3 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | xtm | ḥtm | S20 |
| | xw | ḥw | S37 |
| | zA | zʒ | G39 |
| | zAb | zʒb | E17 |
| | zb | zb | O35 |
| | zH | zħ | O22 |
| | zin | zὶn | T11 |
| | zmA | zmɔ | F36 |
| | zmn | zmn | U32 |
| | zp | zp | O50 |
| | zS | zš | Y3 |
| | zSn | zšn | M9 |
| | zSSt | zššt | Y8 |

| Hieroglyph | MdC+ | Transliteration | Gardiner code |
|------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| | zw | zw | N5 |
| | zwn | zwn | T11 |
| | zx | zh | Y3 |
| | zxnt | zh_nt | O30 |
| | zzmt | zzmt | E6 |

Extended Gardiner sign list

Outline

The shape of the offering formula is always the same. It opens with the same standard phrase, invokes a god to pass along the offering, lists the offerings then names the recipient.

Htp-di-nsw

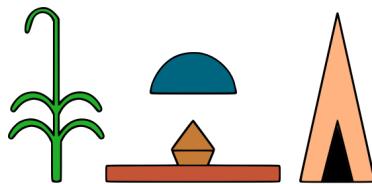


Figure 2: Htp-di-nsw as commonly rendered in hieroglyphs

Many renditions of the offering formula begin with this compound expression. The exact interpretation is debated, but this is often rendered as "a royal offering" or "an offering given by the king".

This expression is sometimes used to describe an offering formula.

By convention the t from nswt is dropped, although it often appears in writing and inscriptions.

The order of the words when written is a case of *honorific transposition*, with the nswt part written first. This is to show the importance of the king, and also applies to names of gods and the word nTr which loosely translates to "god".

Htp

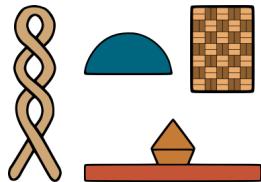


Figure 3: A more complete spelling of Htp - H t p [Htp]

The word Htp has no precise translation into English, and is variously rendered as "contentment", "peace" or "offering". This is sufficient to grasp its true meaning, since offerings are intended to bring comfort and bliss.

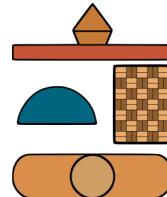


Figure 4: Another spelling of Htp - **Htp t p** [X4]

di

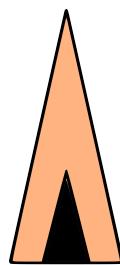


Figure 5: the (r)di hieroglyph

This word is a verb, (r)di - to give, which in older writings is sometimes rendered as rdi rather than di. It also appears later in the formula, but with a suffix pronoun, either .f, .s or .sn depending on the god(s) invoked.

nswt

The term nswt means the king or ruler. It was treated with great reverence as the embodiment of the institution of statehood, which was unique in its earliest form.

prt-xrw

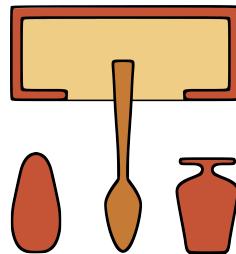


Figure 6: the prt-xrw hieroglyph

The expression prt-xrw is usually translated as "voice offering", although it more directly means "emerging from voice".

The hieroglyph contains the bread and beer signs, but this is by convention, and doesn't necessarily mean that the voice offering includes bread and beer.

Offering(s)

There is something of a standard list of offerings, which is usually terminated with the expression xt nbt nfrt wabt Anxt nTr im - all the beautiful and pure things on which a god lives.

Bread - t

Bread.

Beer - Hnqt

Beer.

Oxen - kAw

Oxen.

Fowl - Apdw

Fowl.

Alabaster - Ss

Alabaster.

Linen - mnxt

Linen.

God(s)

Anubis, he sits on his mountain

Osiris, lord of Abydos

Hathor, lady of the west

n kA n

The offering formula is directed at the ka of the recipient.

Putting it all together

Offerings

Gods

Examples

Index

- barque, 11
di, 44
falcon, 11
Gardiner's sign list, 11
hieroglyph, 11
honorific transposition, 43
Htp, 43, 44
Htp-di-nsw, 43
Manuel de Codage, 11
MdC+, 11
- Mut**, 4
nswt, 43
prt-xrw, 44
Ptah, 4
rdi, 44
Seshat, 4
Sokar, 11
Thoth, 4
voice offering, 44