

Textes réunis et édités par
FAYZA HAIKAL

Mélanges offerts à
Ola el-Aguizy



INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

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A Religious Scene from the Tomb of the Royal Scribe *Hwy-nfr* at Saqqara¹

INTRODUCTION

The tomb situated to the south of the Causeway of the pyramid complex of king Unas, is one among the New Kingdom tombs of the high officials of the Ramesside period at Saqqara known for their temple-like plan.²

Hwy-nfr lived during the reign of Ramses II, as the name of this later was found on a loose block found in the shaft of the tomb. He held the office of Royal scribe and overseer of the *htm*. The name of his mother was found on a block thrown on the ground of one of the levels of the shaft. She was the *šm'y.t nt Imn-R' nsw-ntrw tny* (*tly*), "the Chantress of Amon-Re, King of the gods (called) *tnry* (*tly*)". Her name is also found on another block which was used to obstruct one of the shafts hewn later on in the ground of the south west corner of the tomb. We can read: *Hwy nfr ms n nb.t pr tly*, "*Hwy-nfr* born of the mistress of the house *tly*".

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCENE (FIG. 1)

The wall on the south-west corner of the tomb, while still *in situ*, is partly dislodged from the adjoining wall on which the lower half of the right vertical column of texts still exists. The scene on the adjoining wall has been completely removed. The scene under study is surrounded by two columns of inscriptions on each side and four lines of text below. In the middle, only the lower half of a scene is preserved. It probably represents *Hwy-nfr* standing on the left wearing a long pleated kilt in the well known style of the Ramesside period.³ He is facing a male figure of a god advancing towards the deceased holding in his right hand the *was*-scepter and in his left hand the '*nb*-sign. Traces of green color on the legs are still preserved. The figure behind the

1. According to the latest study on this tomb to be published by Prof. Dr. Ola el-Aguizy, this tomb should better be named the "*Nb-nfr-Hwy-nfr* tomb", *Nb-nfr* being the father and main owner of the tomb.

2. The tomb was partly discovered by Prof. Sayed Tawfiq, who was the first to excavate the site from 1984 to 1986. The work on the tomb was resumed in 2005 by the Cairo University-Faculty of Archaeology mission headed by Prof. Dr. Ola el-Aguizy.

3. GABALLA 1977, pl. 46; GOHARY 1991, pl. 57.