

# THE HYPOCEPHALUS OF SHESHONQ

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The following translation and comments are by Robert K. Ritner, currently Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and were published in *The Joseph Smith Egyptian Papyri: A Complete Edition* (Salt Lake City: Smith-Pettit Foundation, 2011).



## BY THE NUMBERS

Figure 1: In the central field, a seated figure of Re-Atum (originally with four ram heads and complex crown and scepters) is worshipped by two apes crowned by lunar disks (Smith's Figs. 1, 22 and 23). . . . Smith simply copied the heads and shoulders (with jackal extensions) of the double-headed god in the upper register (his Fig. 2). (Ritner, *Joseph Smith Egyptian Papyri*, page 221)

Figure 2: The name of that great god [...].  
(page 219, quotation marks omitted in citations)

Figure 3: This lost section (Smith's Fig. 3) often contains two registers of barques, with Isis and Nephthys in a boat flanking the *ba*-spirit of Osiris in the upper field, and a solar barque with Re and the scarab Khepri below. (page 219)

Figure 4: Smith's "Fig. 4" is a standard image of the mummiform god Sokar in his barque and here bears no inscription. (page 221)

Figure 5 (viewing upside down): Hathor as the heavenly cow strides in the center, followed by a goddess whose head is a disk with the Wedjat-Eye and who extends a water lily. (page 224)

Figure 6: Before the Hathor cow stand the mummiform four sons of Horus and a trigram for the sun god in his three manifestations: ... Lily, Lion, Ram. (page 224)

Figure 7: Behind (and facing away from) Hathor and the goddess appears the enthroned and ithyphallic Min-Amon, in half human and half bird form, raising his arm with a flabellum. The ithyphallic serpent diety Nehebkau stands before Min-Amon, offering the Wedjat-Eye. . . .  
(page 224)

Figures 11, 10, 9, and 8: O noble god from the beginning of time, great god, lord of heaven, earth, underworld, waters [and mountains,] cause the *ba*-spirit of the Osiris Sheshonq to live.  
(page 222)

Figures 15, 14, 13, and 12: The beginning of each line is lost and has been restored wrongly . . . by the insertion of hieratic text from the Breathing Permit of Hor and the Book of the Dead of Ta-sherit-Min, copied upside down and backwards to the direction of the hypocephalus text.  
(page 223)

Figures 17 and 16: Back, injury, back! There is none who attacks you. This *ba*-spirit and his lord will not be attacked in the underworld forever. (page 225)

Figure 18 (rim): I am the punisher in the Mansion of the Benben in Heliopolis, greatly exalted, greatly [effective], the copulating bull who has no equal, this great god in the Mansion of the Benben in Heliopolis, [... Come to the Osiris Sheshonq, the justified, son of ...]. He is that great god in the House of the Noble. (page 218)