

# A Detailed *msktt*-bark

Andréas Stauder

École Pratique des Hautes Études-PSL, Paris






## Function

Logogram / Classifier

## Value

[*msktt*-bark]

The hieroglyph from the pyramid of Unas (W) shows an elaborate representation of a *msktt*-bark ("evening bark") with two falcon standards inside, a vertical element between these, and the *šmsw*-execution device, including the knife, behind. The same passage in the pyramid of Pepi II (N) shows an altogether different form resembling the *hnw*-bark: ; the form in Neith (Nt) could be derived from that in N (with the horned/caprid head/trophy moved from the prow to inside the bark): . The form as in W is found elsewhere in the Pyramid Texts both with the *msktt*-bark and with the *m'ndt*-bark ("morning bark"), along with a number of other, less elaborate forms (Speelers 1934: 35–36). Double falcon standards can be seen in the *m'ṯt*-bark (the bark of the Sun; Speelers 1934: 35). A bark with a *šmsw*-execution device at its back is known from two Dynasty 3 ink inscription from Elephantine (ID 3365–3366) and recurrently on the (Dynasty 5?) Palermo stone, in all cases in the phrase *šmsw-ḥr* "Following of Horus". The barks in Dynasty 1–2 instances of the same phrase do not have a *šmsw*-device inside, contrary to what the shape of the hieroglyph p4 in the lists of Kahl and Regulski would suggest. In a *msktt*-bark, the *šmsw*-device (but not the double falcon standard) is seen again notably on Hatshepsut's Karnak Obelisk (Base, North, 20, = Urk. IV 366.7), a millennium later: .

## References:

- Allen, J. 2013. *A New Concordance of the Pyramid Texts*, II, 185.  
Piankoff, A. 1968. *The Pyramid of Unas*, Bollingen series, 40; Egyptian Religious Texts and Representations 5: pl. 42. Princeton, Princeton University Press.  
Speelers, L. 1934. "Egyptische Oudheidkunde en Bepalingsteekens in den Pyramidentexten," *Gentsche bijdragen tot de Kunstgeschiedenis* 1: 7–44.



**Document:** Pyramid of king Unas

**Date:** Old Kingdom, end of Dynasty 5, reign of Unas (mid-24th century BCE)

**Provenance:** Saqqara

**Current location:** *In situ*

**Object type:** Wall in burial chamber

**Material:** Stone

**Hieroglyphic source**



MdC: s\*m\_k\_t\*\_t\_-P71

Transliteration: *mskt*



Translation: mesketet-bark (night-bark)



Location: Burial Chamber, South Wall, Column 15 (B/S/15)



Remark: For this actual form, see Lapp, VG<sup>+</sup> P201.