Men on the Red Sea under Senusret I

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In March 1976, Professor Abdel Moneim Sayed made a discovery of major importance concerning the question about the navigation on the Red Sea at Mersa Gawasis (The harbor of the spy-boats). He found archaeological evidence for a passageway of maritime expeditions during the Twelfth Dynasty there. The remains of three of these monuments date to the reign of Senusret I. The first mentions two well-known personalities of this period, the vizier Antefiqer and the substitute Ameny.[1] This monument of limestone has been discovered about 450 m west to the harbor of the Twelfth Dynasty. It consists of a base made of an anchor on which a rectangular stela[2] had been erected, flanked by two irregular blocks. At the time of its discovery, the top of the stela, which the discoverer assumed as originally curved, had been entirely destroyed by erosion. Its internal face though was still covered by a beautiful hieroglyphic text in incised relief, written from right to left, which started to degrade the moment it had been unearthed. According to the photos, it seems that what had been initially interpreted as the first line of the main text was in fact the end of the inscription accompanying a large figure of which one can only guess some faint traces. (Fig. 1)
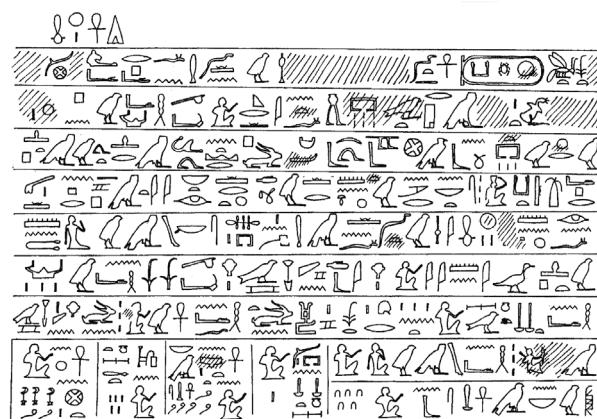
(1) [...] *d(w) ꜥnḫ mj rꜥ* [...][3]

[...] granted life like *Re* [...]

Thus, the main text probably does not start until line 2.

(2) [...] *n(y)-sw.t bjty ḫpr-k3-rꜥ ꜥnḫ(w) ḏ.t* [...]

[...] the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Kheperkare living eternally [...]

(Fig. 1) Inscription of Ameny (Antefiqer)
(Farout, *BIFAO* 94, Fig. 1, p. 43, cf; Sayed, *RdE* 29, pl. 16b).

(3) *wḏ.n ḥm=f n (j)r(y)-pꜥ.t h3ty-ꜥ* [...] *(j)m(y)-r(3) njw.t* [...] *t3ty* [...] *(j)m(y)-r(3) ḥw.t wr.t 6 jn(w)-jt=f-jḳr*

mḏḥ ḥꜥw (j)pn n(y).w[4] (4) wḫr.wt n(y.wt) gbtyw

sb.t bj3 pwn.t

r pḥ m ḥtp

r jw.t m ḥtp (5)

ꜥpr k3.wt=sn nb.wt

    n mrw.t mnḫ rwd

    r ḫ.t nb.t jry.t m t3 pn ḏr b3ḥ

(6) *jr.n=f mnḫ sp 2 mj wḏ(w).t n=f[5] m ḥm n(y) stp-s3*

His Majesty commanded the noble governor [...] overseer of the town [...] vizier [...] overseer of the six great castles, Antefiqer, to build this fleet of the dockyards of Coptos and to go to the mining region