

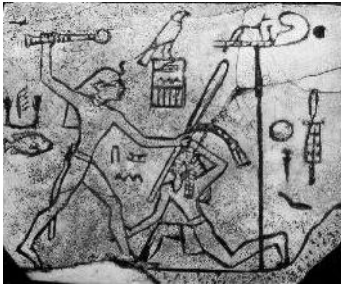
Early Dynastic Egypt

Toby Wilkinson, page 155

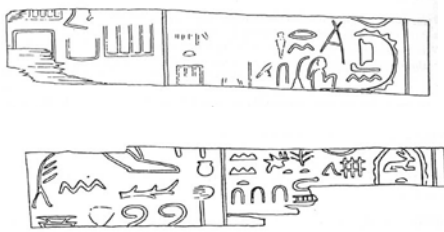
Further evidence that Den carried out campaigns against Western Asia is provided by four fragmentary year labels from Abydos (*Petrie 1900: pl. XV.16-18, 1902: pl. XI.8*). They fall into two pairs of similar or identical inscriptions. Each mentions a fortified oval enclosure, preceded by the sign *w*p, 'open', probably with the meaning 'breach' (cf. *Weill 1961:21*). On one type of label, the enclosure is labelled as *w*n(t), a word which can be translated as 'stronghold' from its occurrence in the Old Kingdom Inscription of Weni (*Sethe 1903:103, line 12; Lichtheim 1975:20; cf. Weill 1961:18*). Like the *w*nwt destroyed by Weni, the stronghold(s) breached by Den probably lay in northern Sinai or southern Palestine. The other two enclosures, on the second type of label, are named as ^ε3^εn or, more simply, ^ε3n. It is tempting to interpret this as the Semitic word ^εEn/^εAin: 'well' (*Weill 1961:2*), referring to a settlement founded at the site of a spring (for example, En Besor). In each case the enclosure is shown breached on one side, and the hoe depicted next to it probably symbolises destruction.

Campaigns against southern Palestine. Iconographic evidence for Egyptian aggression (real or ideological) against lands to the north-east.

Year label of king Den from Abydos, bearing the legend 'First time of smiting the east'



Year labels of Den referring to the destruction of enemy fortresses, presumably in southern Palestine.

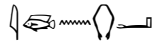


On the most complete label, the reference to the destruction of a fortress is at the right hand side of the second register (after *Petrie 190: pl XV.16-18*).



A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian, Faulkner
Egyptian Grammar, Gardiner

First label of Den



ink (Faulkner p. 24)

Unite the Two Lands; collect, gather together; embrace; intrans. come together, of persons.



O50 - circular threshing-floor covered with grain (Gardiner, p. 498)

var. sp 'time', 'occasion' and related words.



T8 - dagger of archaic type (Gardiner, p. 511)

Phon. in var. *tpy* 'chief', 'first', 'being upon', value probably derived from an obsolete word *tp* 'dagger' found only once.



Aa7 - doubtful (Gardiner, p. 540)

Det. or phon. det. *skr* 'smite'.



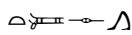
R15 - spear decked out as standard (Gardiner, p. 502)

As emblem of the East, ideo. in *i3bt* 'east' and related words.



tm (Faulkner, p 298)

neg. vb.; perish; cease;



tms (Faulkner, p 299)

turn the face, r 'to' s'one.

Second label of Den



W18 - water-pots in a rack (Gardiner, p.529)

Hence phon. *hnt*, 'in front of' and derivatives.



P2 - ship under sail (Gardiner, p. 499)

Det. in *hnti* 'sail upstream'



ini.s nrw - it brings terror

ini (Faulkner, p. 22) nrw (Faulkner, p. 134)



A10 - man holding oar (Gardiner, p. 443)

Det. in *skdw*, sail



P11, mooring post (Gardiner, p. 499)

Det. in *mmit*, mooring post, and the related words.



A40 - seated god (Gardiner, p. 446)

Det. god, exx. *Pth* 'Ptah'; *Mntw* '(the god) Mont'. Ideo. or det. 'I', 'me'.



O31 - door (Gardiner, p. 496)

Ideo. or det. in *'3* 'door'. Det. open, exx. *wn* 'open'; *sn* 'open';



F13 - horns of ox (Gardiner, p. 462)

Hence phon. *wp*, var. *Pry*. *wpi* 'divide', 'open'.



mrw (Faulkner, 112) desert

imntt - westerner, F21