

Meresanch I–III. The name M. is borne by several lady members of the royal family of Dyn. 4 as well as by others in the Old Kingdom. On the analogy of the masculine name *Mr-sw-^cnh*, “the Living One loves him(?),” Ranke reads the name as *Mr-sj-^cnh*, “the Living One loves her” (PN II, 361) although there is a Middle Kingdom counterpart in *Mr.f-^cnh*, PN I, 158, 4, for *Mr.s-^cnh* M. I is the name of the presumed mother of King Snofru¹, known from Černý’s reading of Cairo Fragment 1 of the *Palermo Stone and mentioned in a graffito with *Snofru at *Medum.

M. II was a princess, possibly the daughter of Cheops and Meretyotes, buried in Giza Mastaba G 7410 B, the sarcophagus from which in Boston² provides her titles, incompletely recorded in Urk. I, 156; it is suggested that she was married to Baefhor (Horbaef) if his sarcophagus actually derives from G 7420³.

M. III is the best known of the three ladies in view of her well known rock chapel prepared for her by her mother, Queen *Hetepheres II, beneath Giza mastaba G 7530⁴. She was the daughter of Prince *Kawab (the eldest son of Cheops) and Hetepheres II, who altered her own sarcophagus for her daughter’s use, was perhaps herself married to Chephren, had as sons Nebemakhet, Niuserre, and Dua(en)re, and had as well a steward named Khemetnu (G 5210). She is represented in rock statues in her tomb with her mother as well as in a pair statue from the tomb in Boston, standing on her mother’s left (MFA 30.1456). The earliest attested canopic jars come from her burial⁵.

¹ Atzler, Snofru-Königsfamilie, in: Realkatalog der Ägyptologie, O 2575060, with references. – ² MFA 27.441, cf. Anna-Maria Donadoni Roveri, I sarcofagi egizi, Rom 1969, 116, pls. 20–21 (B 18). Titles: *hmt-nswt, wrt hts, zt nswt nt ht.f, ht Hr, mst Hr-Stb*. – ³ PM III², 194. – ⁴ Dows Dunham and William K. Simpson, The Mastaba of Queen Mersyankh III, Giza Mastabas Vol. I; Urk. I, 156f. – ⁵ Edward Brovarski, Canopic Jars, CAA Boston 1, 1980, 195–196.