

# Egyptian Chronology

(all dates BCE)

3100-2600 Early Dynastic Period

2600-2150 Old Kingdom

Pyramid Era: 2550-2400

2150-2040 1<sup>st</sup> Intermediate Period

2040-1650 Middle Kingdom

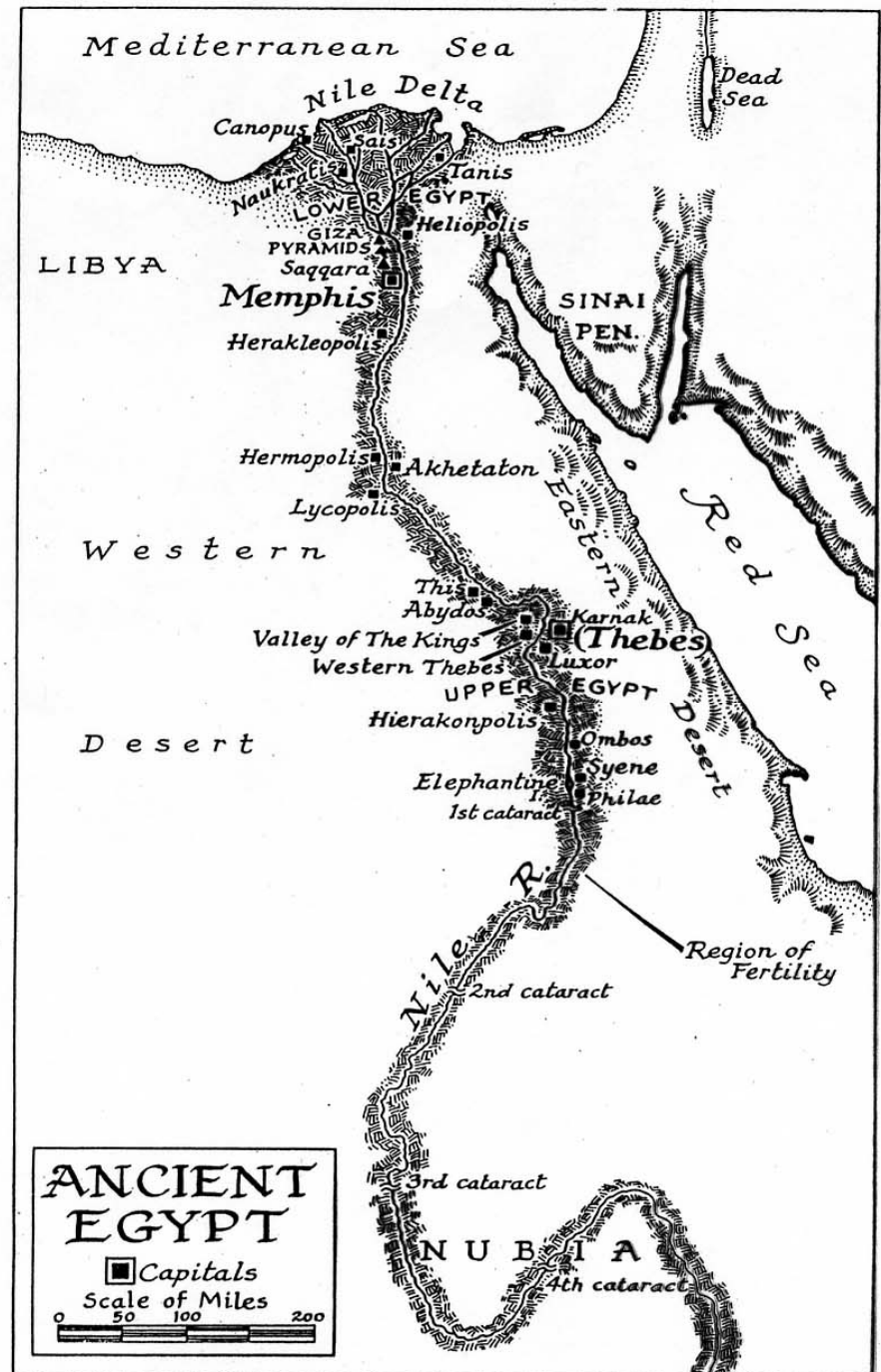
1650-1567 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period:  
The Hyksos

1567-1069 New Kingdom

Hatshepsut: 1479-1458

Akhenaten: 1352-1338

Ramses II: 1279-1212



# The Palermo Stone



# Graffiti found outside of Egypt



*First Dynasty, c.3100-2890 BC:*

These eight kings presided over the first united Egyptian state and the emergence of the hieroglyphic script. From this beginning to the end of the indigenous dynasties, kingship, script, art and religion interlocked in the historic fusion that we call Pharaonic civilisation. The tombs of the First Dynasty kings lie in a confined section of the cemeteries at Abydos.

NARMER



Named on the necropolis seal of Den as first ruler of the First Dynasty. His position seems confirmed by the famous votive palette on which he is shown wearing both the crowns of dual Egypt.

AHA

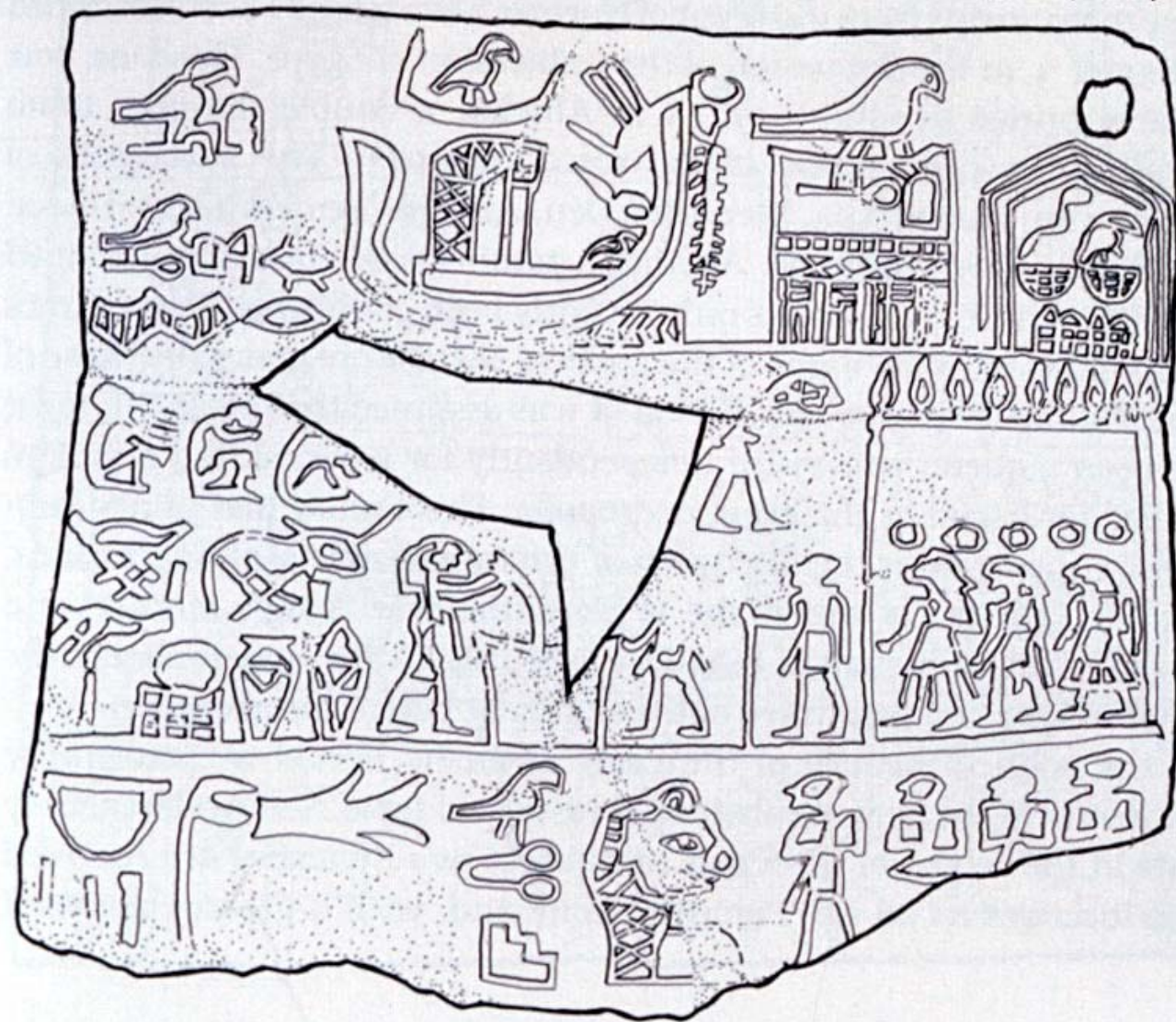


First king under whom a governor built a tomb at Saqqara, the cemetery of Memphis. Aha may then have been the founder of Memphis, the city which came to be the capital of Egypt in the Old Kingdom (Third to Eighth Dynasties).

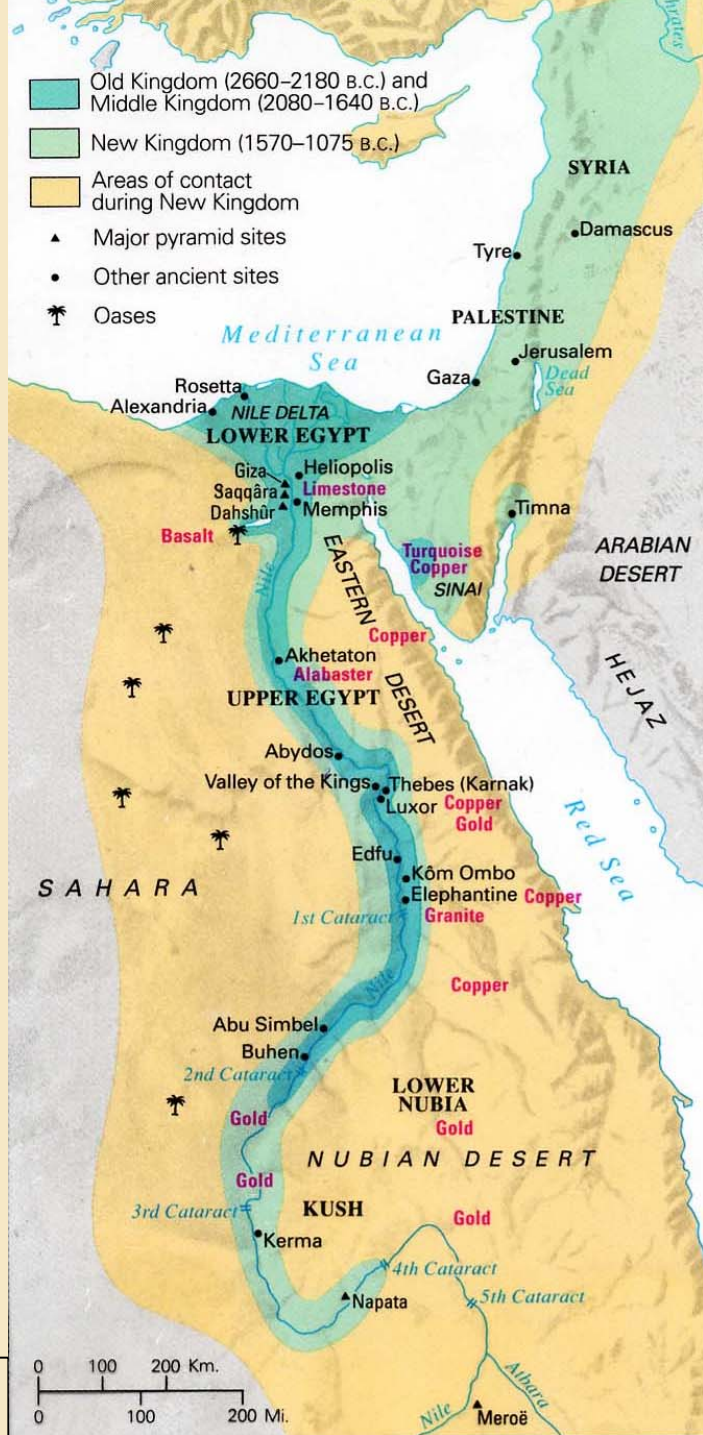
DJER



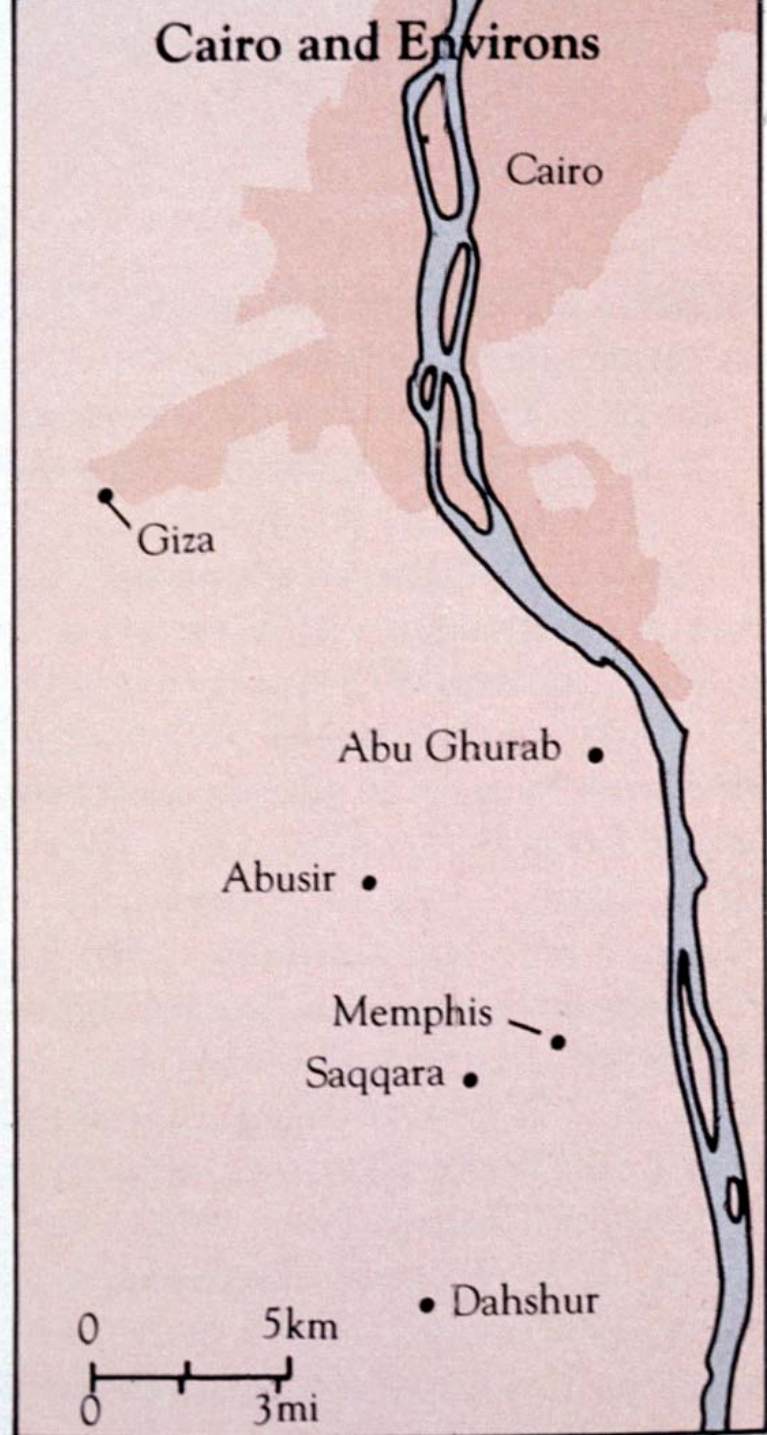
The earliest surviving royal jewellery comes from an arm found in the tomb of Djer. In the Middle Kingdom and afterwards the Egyptians thought that this tomb housed the body of Osiris, god of the dead. The king left an inscription near Wadi Halfa, evidence for a military campaign deep into Nubia.



42 Inscription on an ivory label for an oil-jar, with a record of events in the reign of King Aha. The top register contains the hieroglyph *mn* at the right-hand side; this has been linked with Menes, named in later Egyptian sources as the founder of the First Dynasty. From the tomb of Queen Neithhotep at Naqada. About 3100 BC.

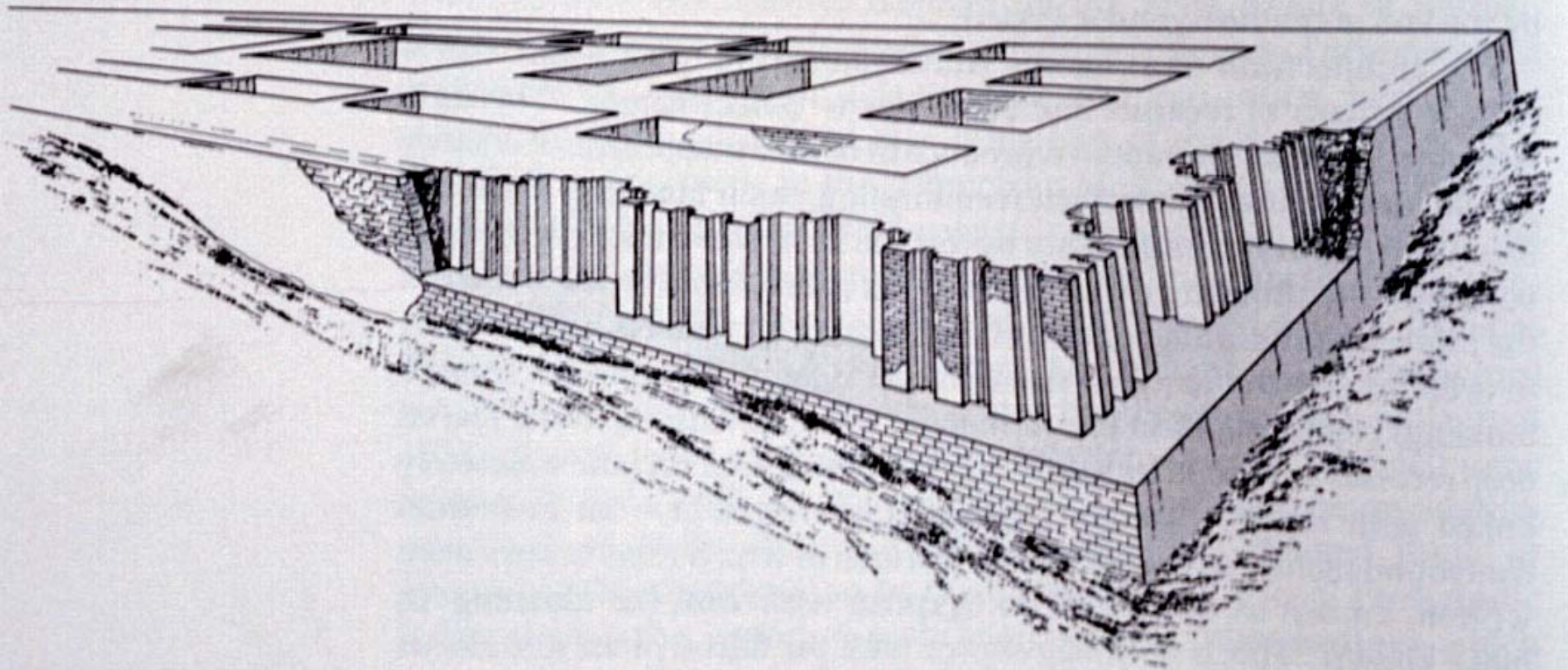


# Cairo and Environs



# Drawing of a Mastaba Tomb

EARLY EGYPT



# Mastaba Tomb of King Ka'a (Abydos)



E2-05a

# Chronology: Dynasty 1 (Part 2)

DJET



DEN



Den was buried in a chamber lined with costly granite from Aswan, which marks the reign as a time of prosperity and royal initiative. He was the first king to hold the title *nswt bity* ('He of the Sedge and Bee') or 'dual king'.

ADJIB

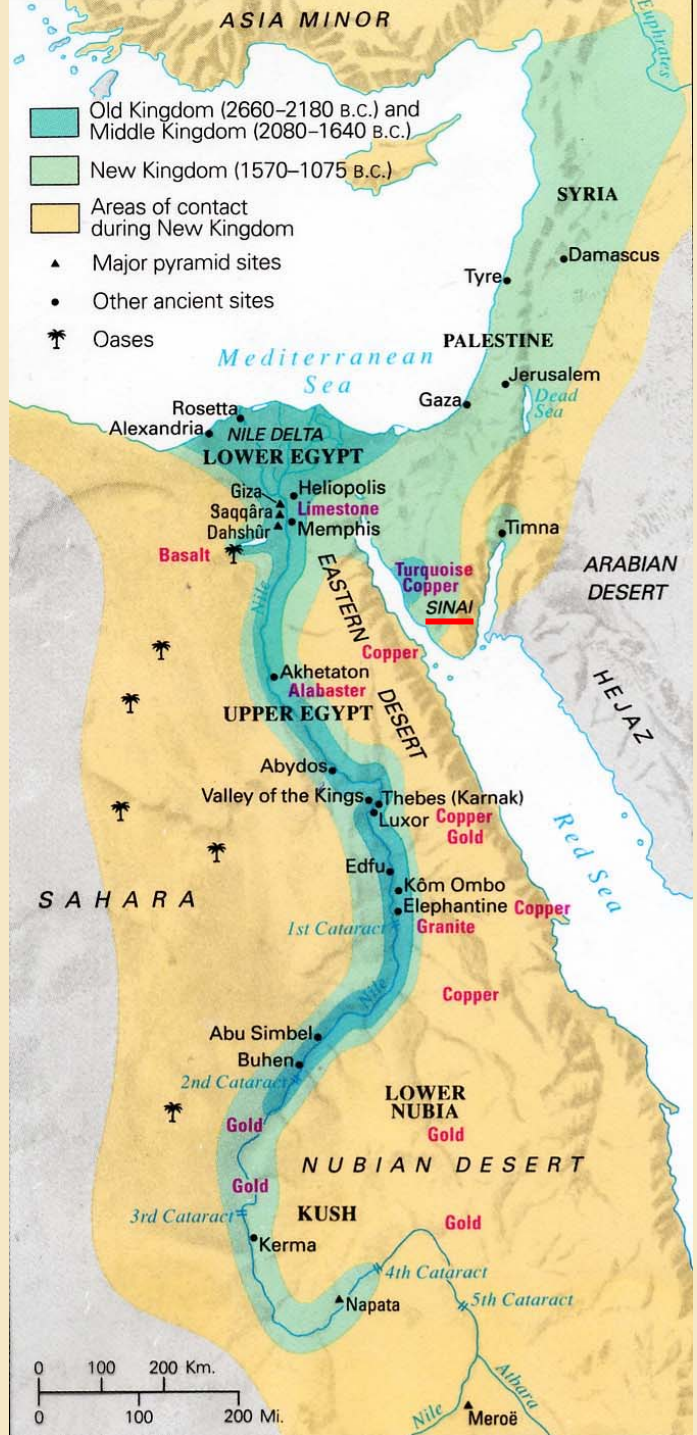


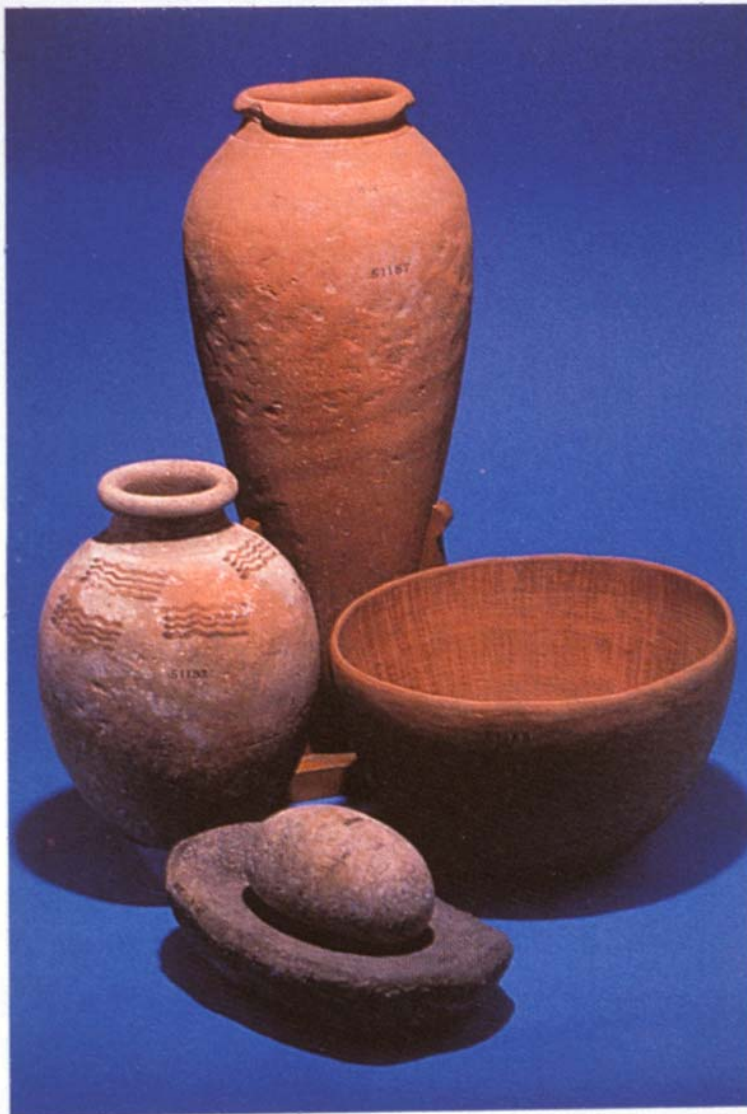
SEMERKHET



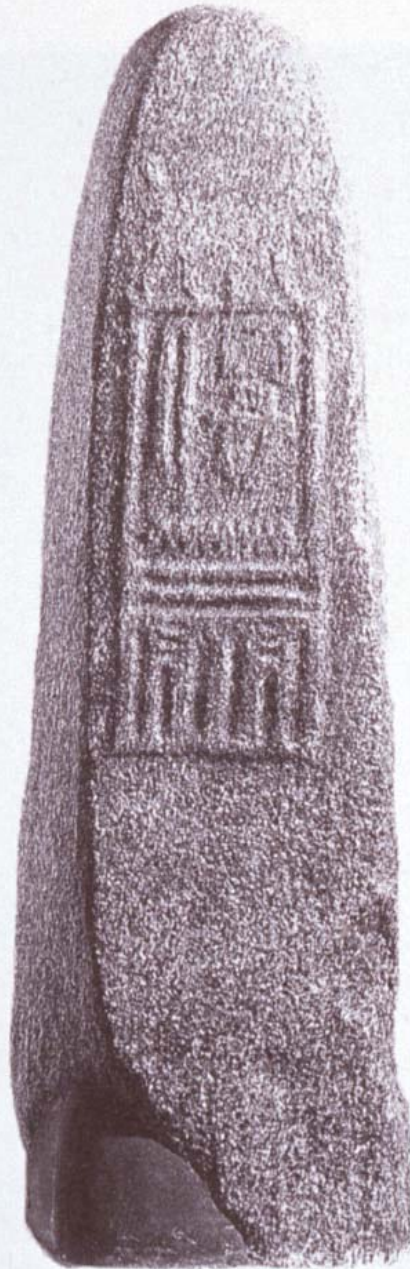
QAA







*Selection of objects from an A-Group grave, including two Egyptian imports (the tall jar and painted pot), c.3500–3000 BC, H. of tall jar 45 cm. (EA51193, 51187, 51188, 51191, 51192)*



LEFT *Granite stele of  
Peribsen from tomb P  
at Abydos. 2nd Dynasty,  
c.2700 BC, H. 1.13 m.  
(EA35597)*

# Statue of Khasekhemuwy

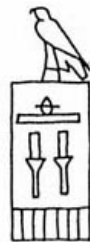


*Second Dynasty, c.2890-2686 BC*

The first three kings of the dynasty were probably buried in tombs at Saqqara, surviving only as underground corridors beneath the royal tombs of the Third Dynasty.

The last two kings of the dynasty were buried at Abydos. Peribsen took a panel name with Seth instead of Horus; the Horus name Sekhemib is either the second name of Peribsen, or a separate king not buried at Abydos. The last king took both a Horus name, Khasekhem, and a panel name with both Horus and Seth, Khasekhemwy. He deposited votive objects at the Horus temple in Hieraconpolis, including the earliest surviving royal sculpture in stone. The great mudbrick panelled enclosures at Abydos and Hieraconpolis may represent royal cult centres of this ruler.

HETEPSEKHEM(WY)



NEBRA



NINETJER



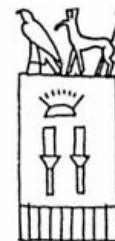
PERIBSEN



SEKHEMIB



KHASEKHEM(WY)



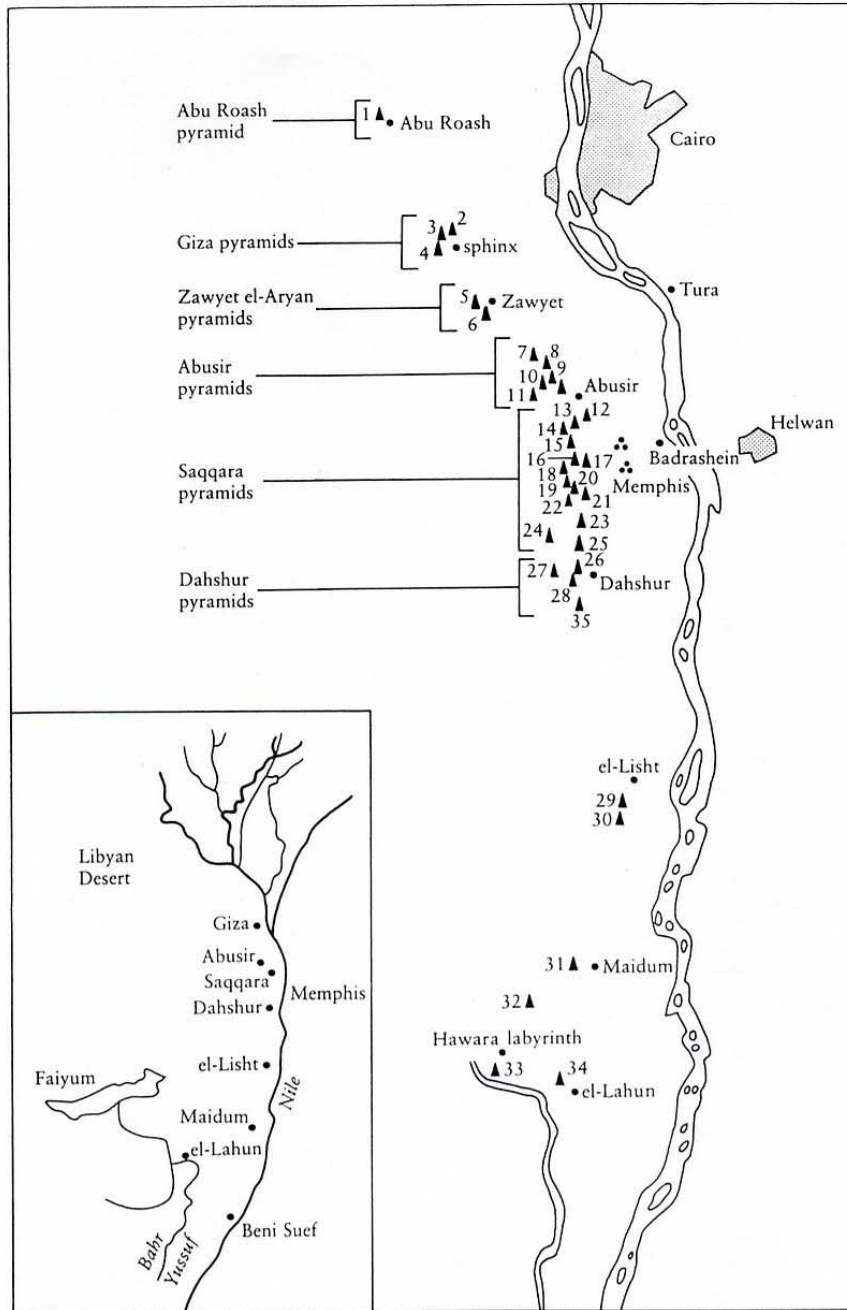


FIGURE 5 Map of Egypt, showing locations of pyramid towns (numbers refer to Table 2).

# Abydos Grave Goods



E2-08

# Abydos Grave Goods



E2-08

*Third Dynasty, c.2686-2613 BC*

An uncertain number of kings, buried at Saqqara. Here king Netjerikhet built the Step Pyramid to house his body and achieve immortality, and around it stood life-size stone copies of royal cult buildings. New Kingdom visitors left graffiti in which the king of the pyramid has the cartouche Djoser, now thought to be the birth name of Netjerikhet. The king's First Minister, Imhotep, was credited with the design, the model for all later pyramids, and he became a god of science of the Late Period. The tomb of king Sekhemkhet also took the form of a Step Pyramid, but was never completed. Kings of the Third Dynasty sent expeditions to Sinai to procure turquoise, malachite and copper.

NETJERIKHET



SEKHEMKHET



SANAKHT



# Djoser (Zoser)



The royal family of Dynasty 3 (c. 2686-2613 B.C.) came from Memphis, and from Dynasty 3 to the end of the Old Kingdom, all kings were buried in the north. The most elaborate and

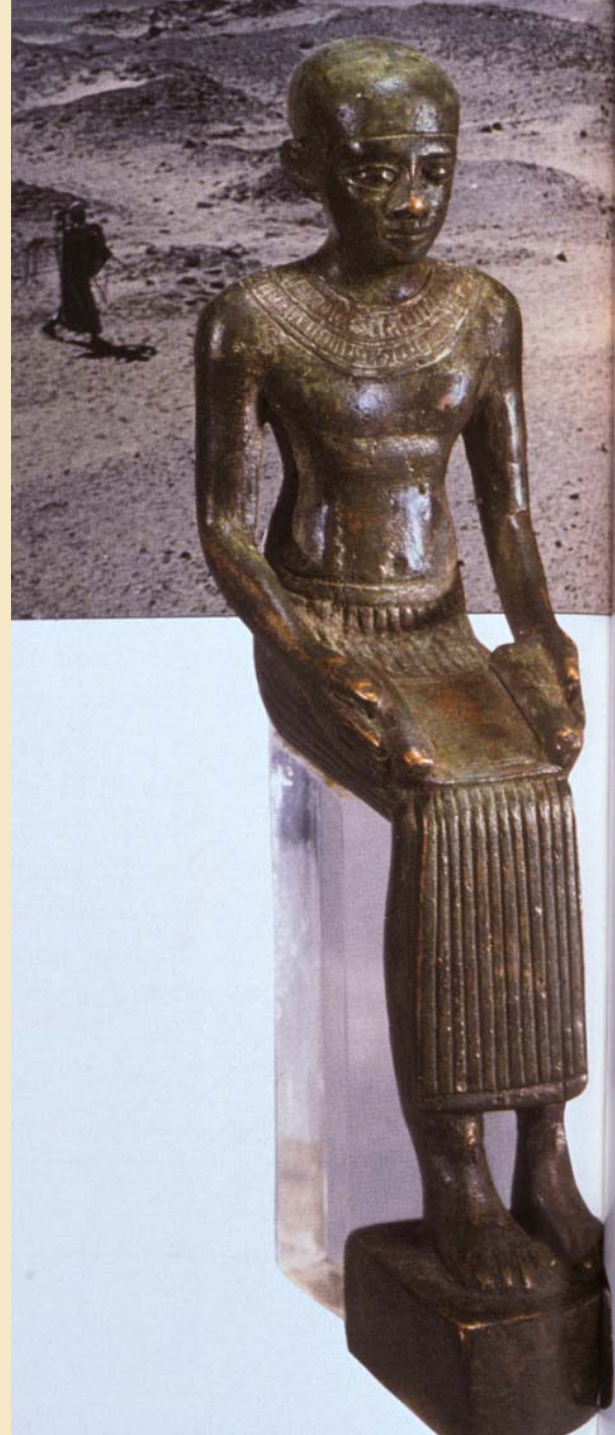
# The Famine Stele





E2-12

# Bronze Statuette of Imhotep



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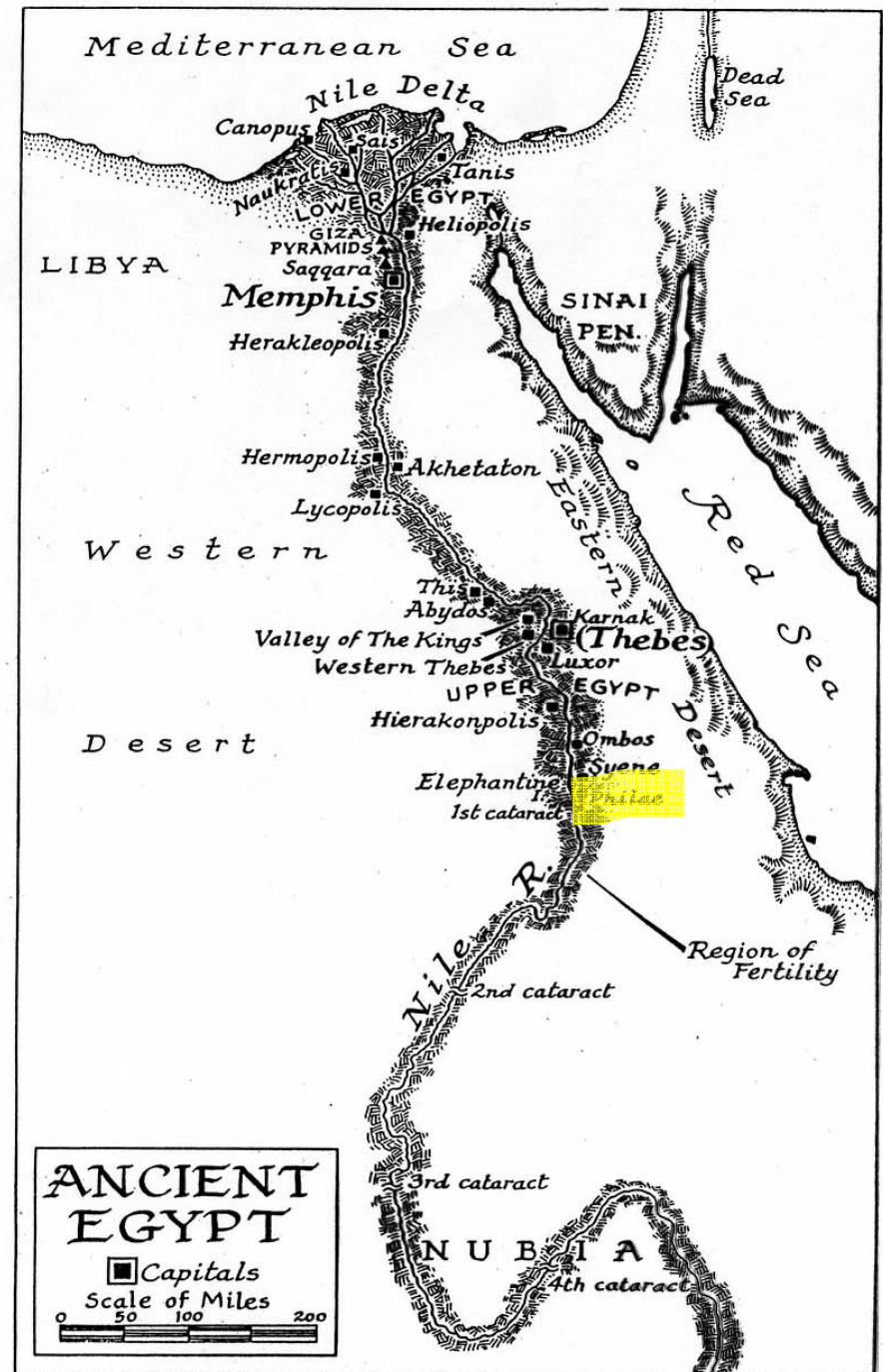
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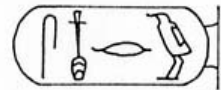
Ramses II: 1279-1212



*Fourth Dynasty, c.2613–2494 BC*

The rulers of the Old Kingdom (Fourth to Eighth Dynasties) cannot yet be grouped on secure historical grounds. The sole papyrus kinglist, from the reign of Ramses II, gives no break at all between the First and Eighth Dynasties, and the groupings by Manetho into 'dynasties' may rest in these cases on a misinterpretation of older records. Therefore the groupings Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Dynasties are used in this list simply for convenience. Future research and excavation may provide more secure grounds for dividing the Old Kingdom into separate phases.

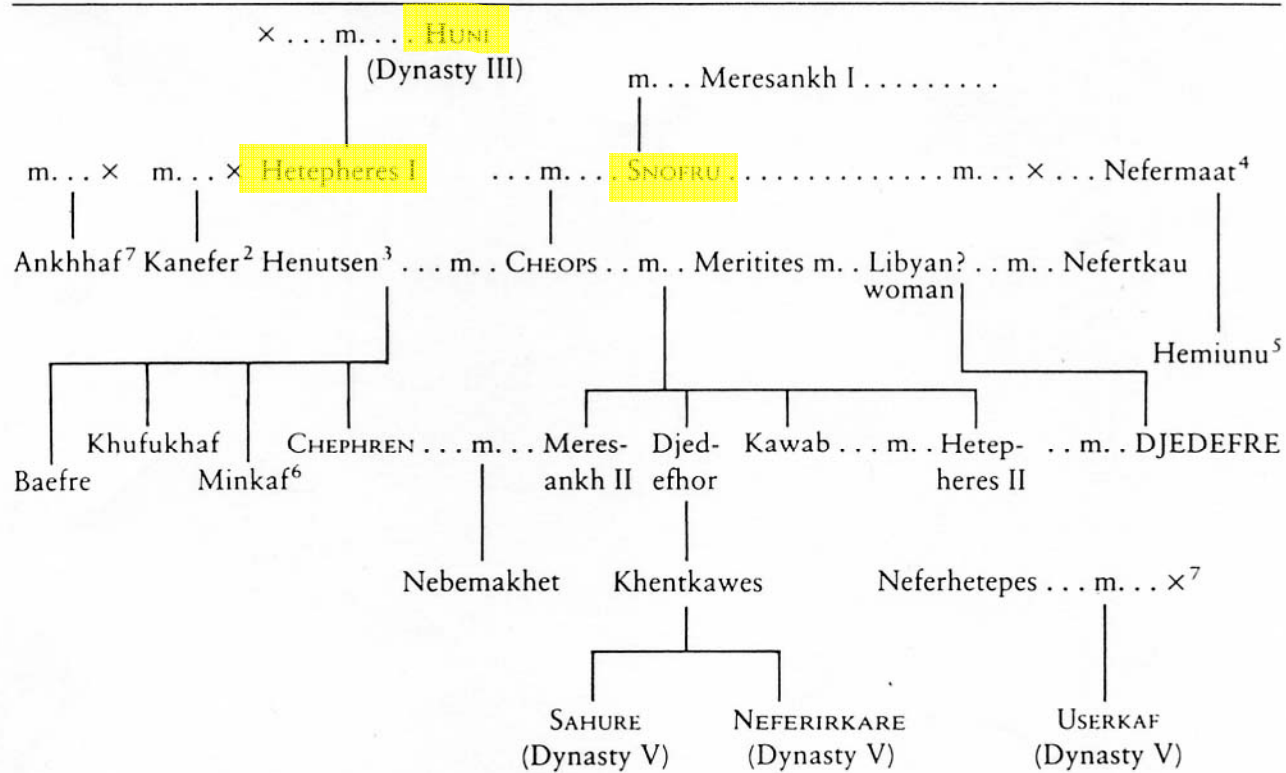
SNEFERU



The reign of Sneferu witnessed the appearance of the true pyramid, the final development of classic proportions in Egyptian art, and the cartouche, a signal that Pharaonic civilisation had now taken shape. The energy of the reign can be seen in the volume of stone expended on the royal tombs, which surpasses the quantity needed for the Great Pyramid of Khufu. The royal cult centres of Sneferu include the pyramid at Meidum and two more at Dahshur. The king was probably buried at the north Dahshur pyramid. Middle Kingdom tales portray Sneferu as a good, even merry, king.

## The Classical Age

Family tree of the Fourth and Fifth Dynasties (generations 1–6).



<sup>1</sup> Chephren's first vizier.

<sup>2</sup> Snofru's second vizier, then Cheops' first vizier.

<sup>3</sup> Cheops' third wife.

<sup>4</sup> Snofru's first vizier.

<sup>5</sup> Cheops' second vizier.

<sup>6</sup> Chephren's second vizier.

<sup>7</sup> Priest of Heliopolis in Papyrus Westcar.

Senakhtenra Tao I = Tetisheri



Seqenenra Tao II = Ahhotpe I



Ahhotpe II = Kamose

Ahmose = Ahmose-Nofretari

Ahmoseankh

Sitamun (1) = Amenhotpe I = (2) Meritamun

Ahmose = Tuthmosis I = Mutnofret

Hatshepsut = Tuthmosis II = I

Tuthmos

King

God's Wife of Amun

# Cheops Statuette



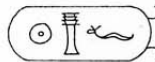
E2-14

#### KHUFU



Builder of the Great Pyramid at Giza, the purest geometric form in human architecture and only surviving Wonder of the World after the classical list. Although it cost less effort than the three pyramids of Sneferu, the sheer size of this one monument earned Khufu a reputation for tyrannical cruelty in later generations. Nothing from the burial of the king survives, but the queen mother, Hetepheres, was robbed soon after her death and her remaining tomb goods reburied, to be rediscovered in 1925 (now in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo).

#### DJEDEFRA



Eldest son of Khufu and first king to call himself 'son of Ra', though not yet as a fixed title. His pyramid at Abu Roash north of Giza remained unfinished at his death.

#### KHAFRA



Second son of Khufu and builder of the Second Pyramid at Giza. Though slightly less tall and geometrically less perfect than the Great Pyramid, the Second Pyramid stands on slightly higher ground and retains its top course of fine limestone, lending it a dominant position over the site. The Pyramid Temple and Valley Temple survive, and magnificent statues of the king, of a stone from Nubia known as Toshka diorite, were found in the Valley Temple. The Valley Temple was built south of its proper place on the axis of the Khafra pyramid complex because an outcrop of rock stood in its way. The outcrop was sculpted into a massive lion with the head of Khafra, earliest and largest Egyptian sphinx, called in Arabic 'Father of Dread'.

# The God Ra as Ra-Horakhte





E2-17

## Obelisk (Karnak)

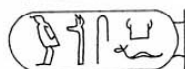
# Drawing of Obelisk (Karnak)



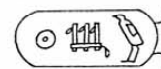
*Fifth Dynasty, c.2494-2345 BC*

The kings who reigned between Shepseskaf and Teti do not form any clear separate group. In a Middle Kingdom tale Userkaf, Sahura and Neferirkara were triplets opening a new royal line, and Teti of the Sixth Dynasty may also have started a new royal family, but the kings between may not all have belonged together. The first kings of this 'dynasty' built at Abusir and set up royal sun-temples as well as pyramids. The sun-temple centred on an open court with a squat colossal obelisk, which represented the sacred benben stone at the solar temple in Heliopolis. Fragments of the exquisite decoration from the royal sun-temples and pyramid complexes are preserved in several museums today, but a number were destroyed in the last war. The last two kings of the 'dynasty' stand out. Isesi ended the practice of building royal sun-temples, and Unas began the custom of inscribing the chambers within the pyramid with funerary texts, and most ancient religious literature surviving from Egypt. Neferirkara is the first king for whom a second cartouche name is known, Kakai, presumably his birth name. Henceforth both names in cartouches are given wherever known.

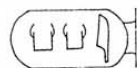
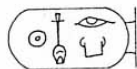
USERKAF



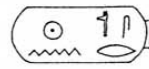
SAHURA



NEFERIRKARA (T) KAKAI



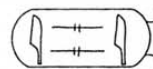
NEUSERRA (T) INI



MENKAUHOR (T) KAIU



DJEDKARA (T) ISESI



UNAS



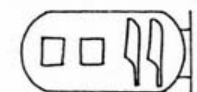
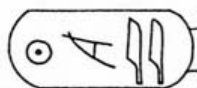
*Sixth Dynasty, c.2345-2181 BC*

Possibly singled out by Manetho as members of one family. Pepy I set up life-size copper statues of himself and his infant son at Hieraconpolis. The kinglists credit Pepy II with a reign of 94 years, but this may be a mistake for 64 years, since 60 and 90 can be confused in the cursive hieratic script. His long reign witnessed the evaporation of royal authority at home, and a build-up in foreign settlements on the borders of Egypt, in Nubia to the south and into Sinai to the east.

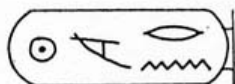
TETI



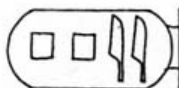
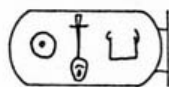
MERYRA (T) PEPY I



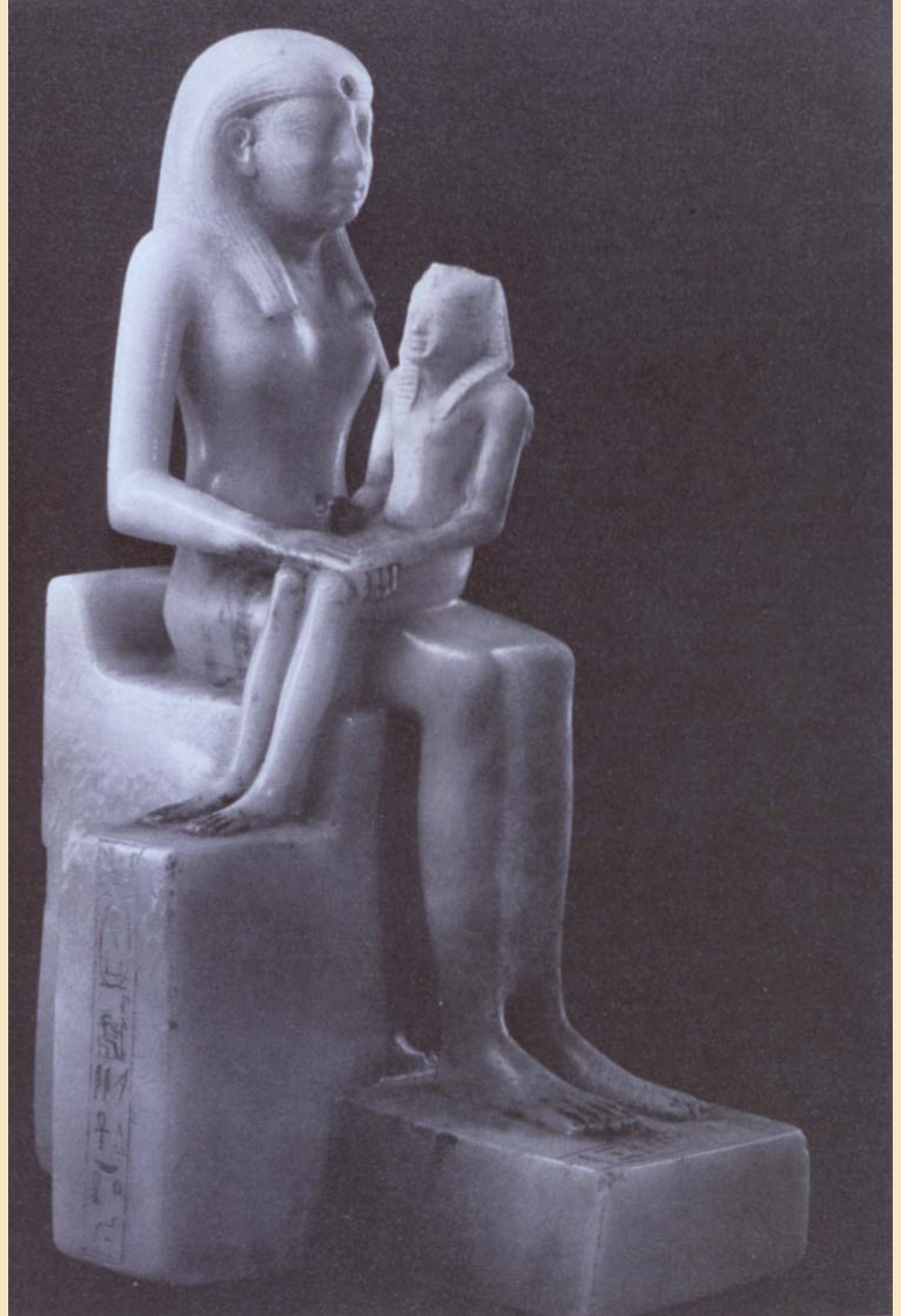
MERENRA (T) NEMTYEMSAF



NEFERKARA (T) PEPY II



Alabaster  
statue of  
Pepy II:  
as a child on  
his mother's  
lap

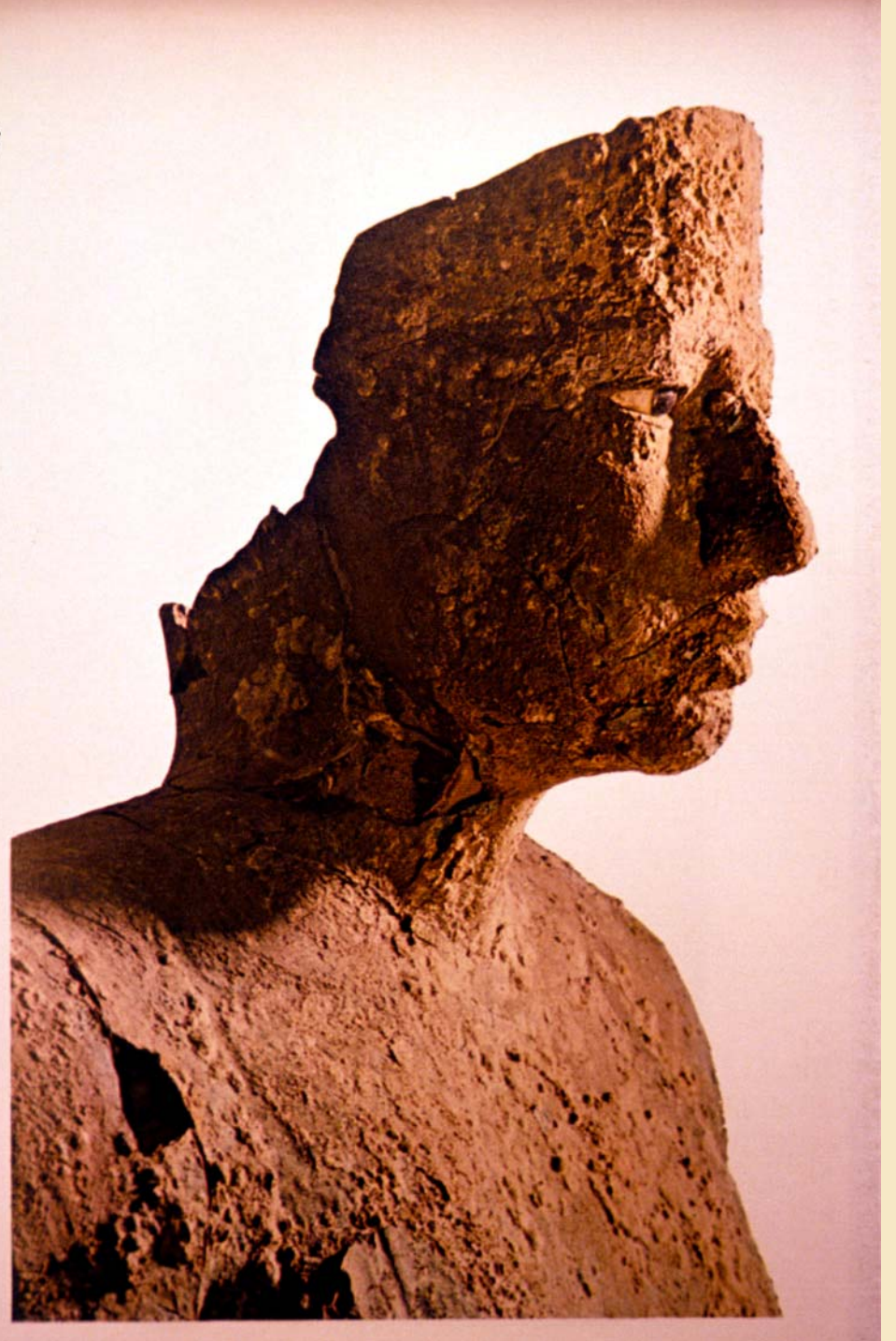


Alabaster  
Figurine of  
Pepy II as a  
child



*Alabaster figure of Pepy II as a child. Cairo Museum*

Pepy II as  
an adult:  
copper  
hammered  
over wood

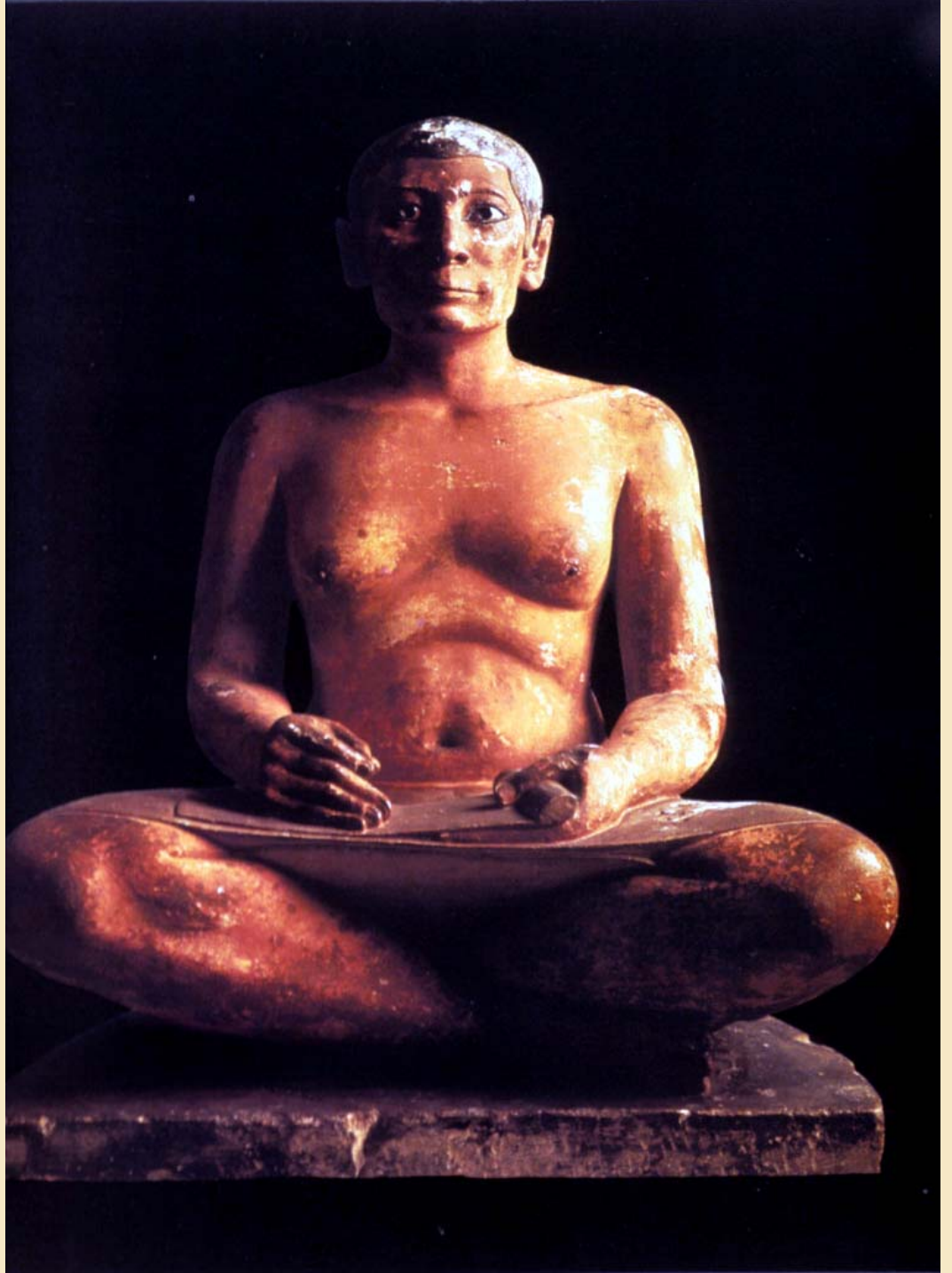


# Vizier



*Plate 1. Egypt, BUST OF PRINCE ANKH-HAF  
ca. 2600 B.C., painted limestone, lifesize  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

# Egyptian Scribe



E2-76

# Stele of Prince Netjer-aperaf

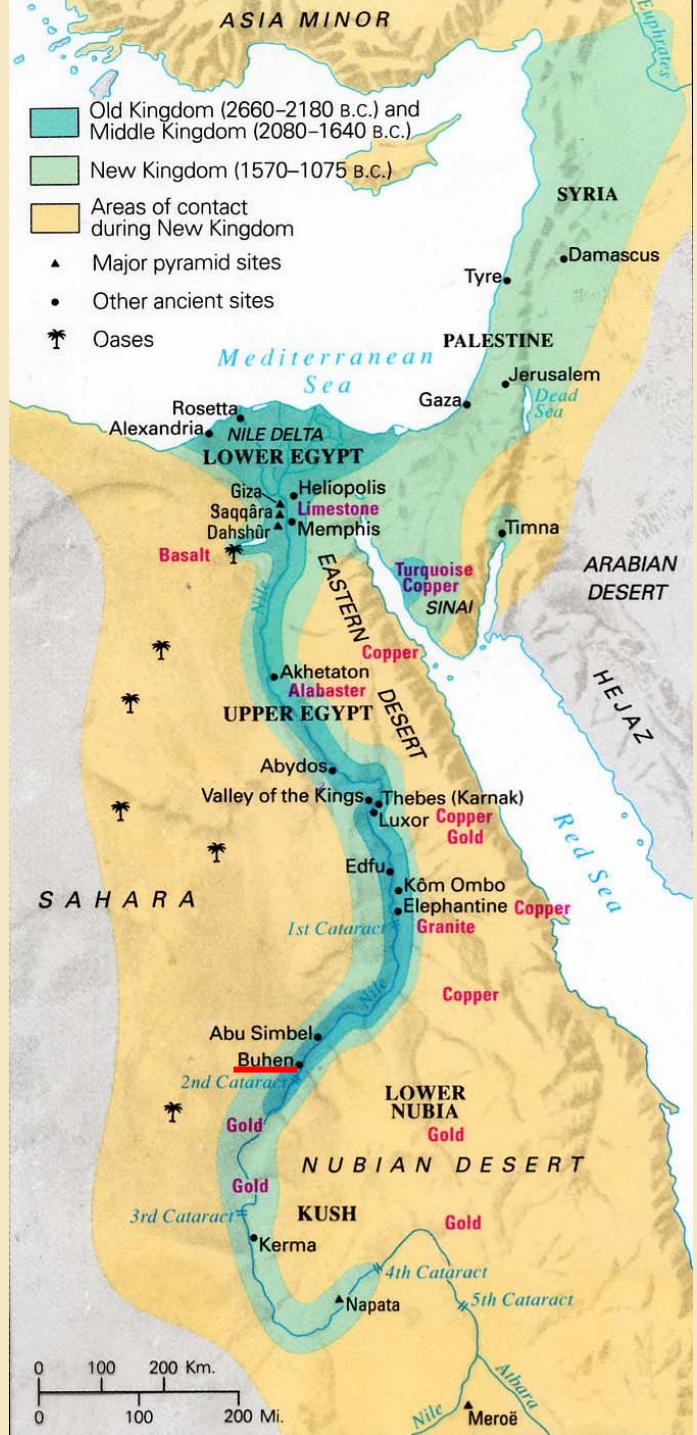


# Statuette of Dwarf



# Statue of a non-royal pair



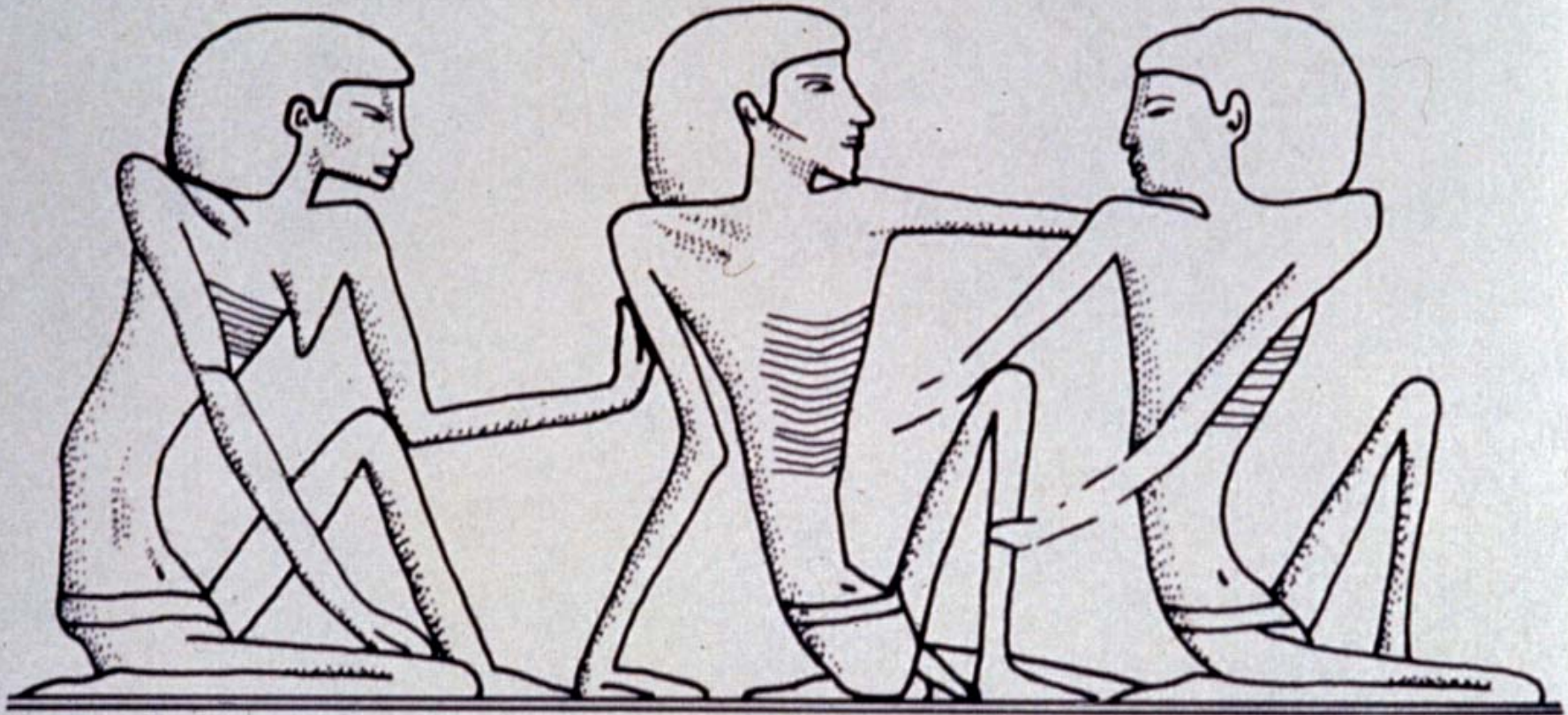




*C-Group bowl of polished incised ware from Faras,  
c.2340–1550 BC, H. 8.1 cm. (EA51230)*



*Handmade 'Kerma ware' beaker from Tumulus K  
at Kerma. Classic Kerma phase, c.1750–1550 BC,  
H. 11.6 cm. (EA55424)*



*Evidence for malnutrition: detail of a wall relief at Saqqara in Egypt depicting famine victims, c. 2350 BC.*