

Funerary
Stele:
Tomb of
Neferyu,
Dynasty 8



Seventh Dynasty

Probably not a group of kings at all, but a device of the ancient historians for marking the collapse of central authority at the end of the Old Kingdom.

Eighth Dynasty, c.2181-2130 BC

Kings ruling, or claiming to rule, Egypt from Memphis, in succession to Pepy II. A royal exemption decree of king Wadjkara and a small pyramid of king Qakara Iby demonstrate how these kings copied Old Kingdom custom but on a sorely reduced scale. No full titulary and only one Horus name (Demedjibtawy, Horus name of Wadjkara on his decree) can be cited for this period of central weakness.

Ninth and Tenth Dynasties, c.2130-2040 BC

Rulers from Heracleopolis who succeeded the Memphite kings of the Old Kingdom. Their tombs have never been found, and little is known of them. Even a division into two dynasties remains doubtful. Possibly a first group, as the Ninth Dynasty, ruled all Egypt, before a second, the Tenth Dynasty, was confined to the north while Theban princes controlled Upper Egypt. Only one full titulary is known, that of Meryibra Khety, indicating the survival and development of kingship traditions; it includes the earliest known use of the phrase 'son of Ra' as a title set before the cartouche holding the birth name. A literary text of the early Middle Kingdom purports to contain the advice left by a Heracleopolitan king to his successor, Merykara. It comments both on ideal kingship and on specific historical events such as the strengthening of the Eastern Delta border zone and the sacking of the Abydos necropolis during the war with Thebes.

MERYIBRA(T) KHETY



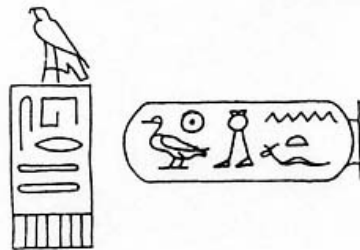
MERYKARA



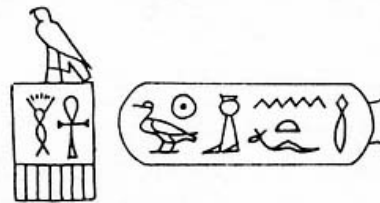
Eleventh Dynasty, c.2130-1991 BC

(a) Kings ruling only Upper Egypt, from Thebes where they were buried in rock-cut tombs fronted by columned courtyards.

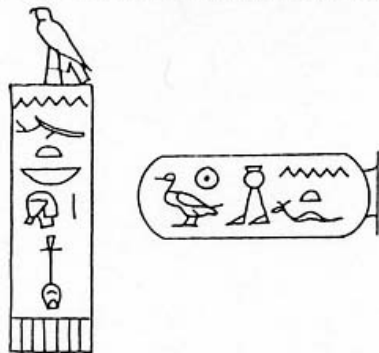
SEHERTAWY INTEF



WAHANKH INTEF



NAKHTNEBTEPNEFER INTEF



Tombs of Middle Kingdom Nomarchs



Tombs of Middle Kingdom Nomarchs



E3-01b

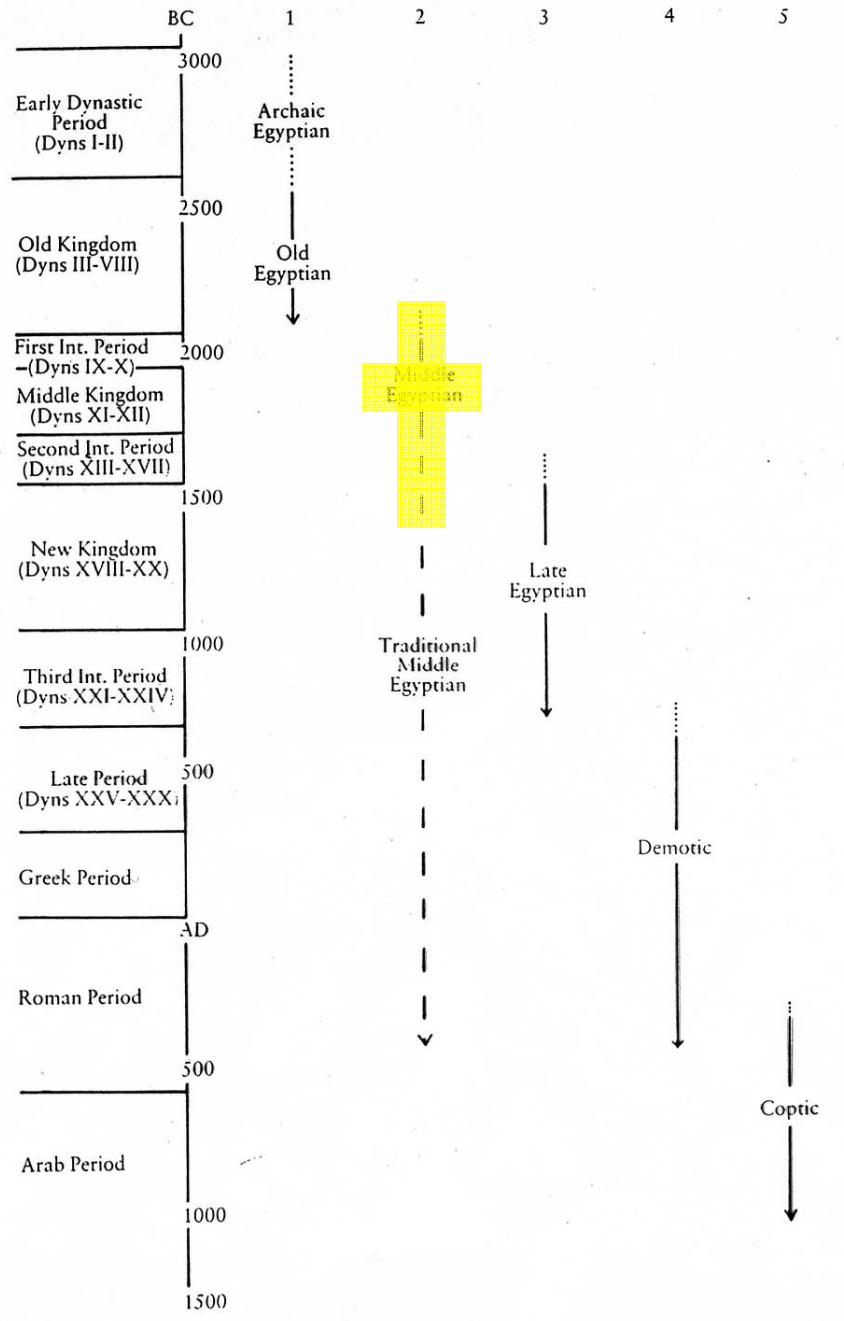
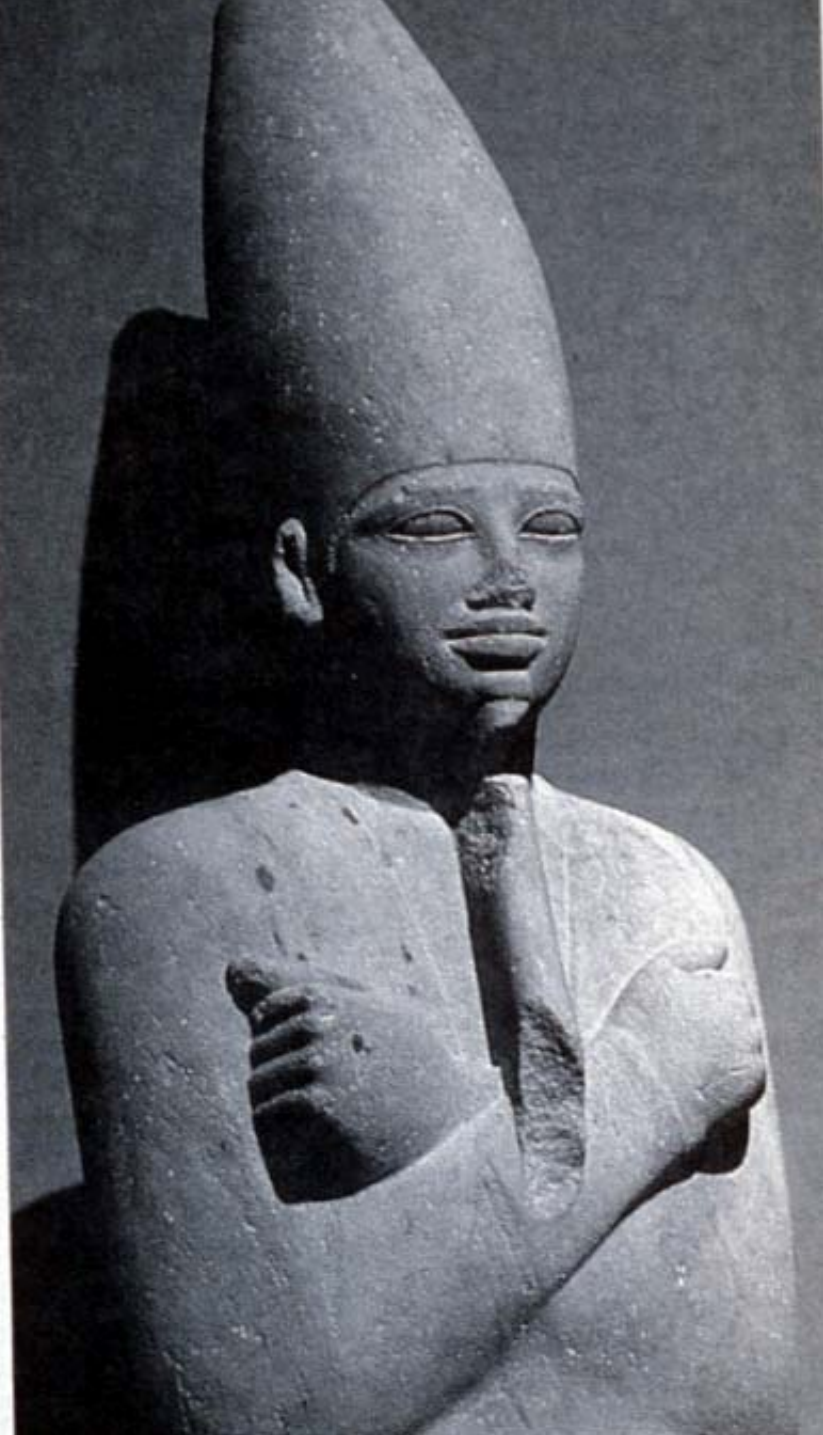


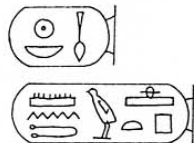
Table 1: Stages in the development of the Egyptian language.

This painted limestone statue shows Nebhepetre Mentuhotep, first king of the Eleventh Dynasty, who restored calm and order as Egypt moved from the First Intermediate Period into the Middle Kingdom. The king is shown wearing the crown of Upper Egypt and his hands are crossed on his chest in the manner of Osiris. A number of these statues were found lining a processional route that led to his mortuary temple and pyramid on the west bank of Luxor, at Deir el Bahri. The faces of the statues are impersonal and heavy-featured, perhaps indicating the drop in artistic standards which had taken place during the First Intermediate Period.



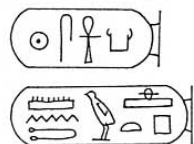
(b) Kings ruling all Egypt, with full titulary, unlike those of the first group who held only Horus name and birth name.

NEBHEPETRA (T) MENTUHOTEP



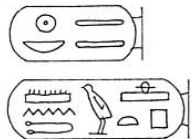
After a period of fighting against Heracleopolis this king achieved the reunification of Egypt, either by final military victory or through some unrecorded political settlement. His terraced cult temple over his tomb at Deir el-Bahri, Thebes, inspired the terrace temple of Hatshepsut six hundred years later.

SANKHKARA (T) MENTUHOTEP



Like his predecessor, this king ruled all Egypt but built apparently only in Upper Egypt. His additions to local temples include some of the most intricate Egyptian reliefs.

NEBTAWYRA (T) MENTUHOTEP



Known only from minor objects and the records of a quarrying expedition which he sent to the Eastern Desert under his vizier Amenemhat. These speak of a miracle of rain, and of another in which a gazelle offered itself for sacrifice. On circumstantial grounds the vizier is often identified today with the following king, Amenemhat I.

Mentuhotep

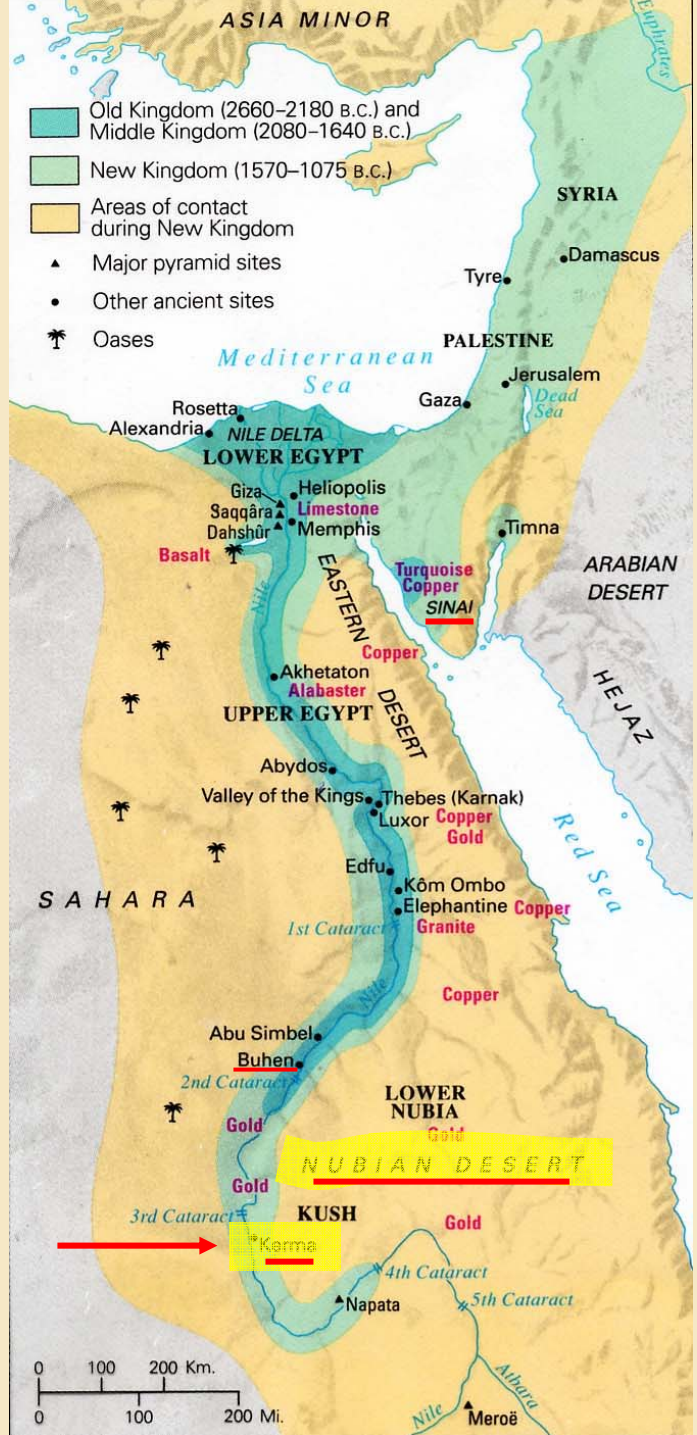
“He who breathes
into the heart of
the two lands”



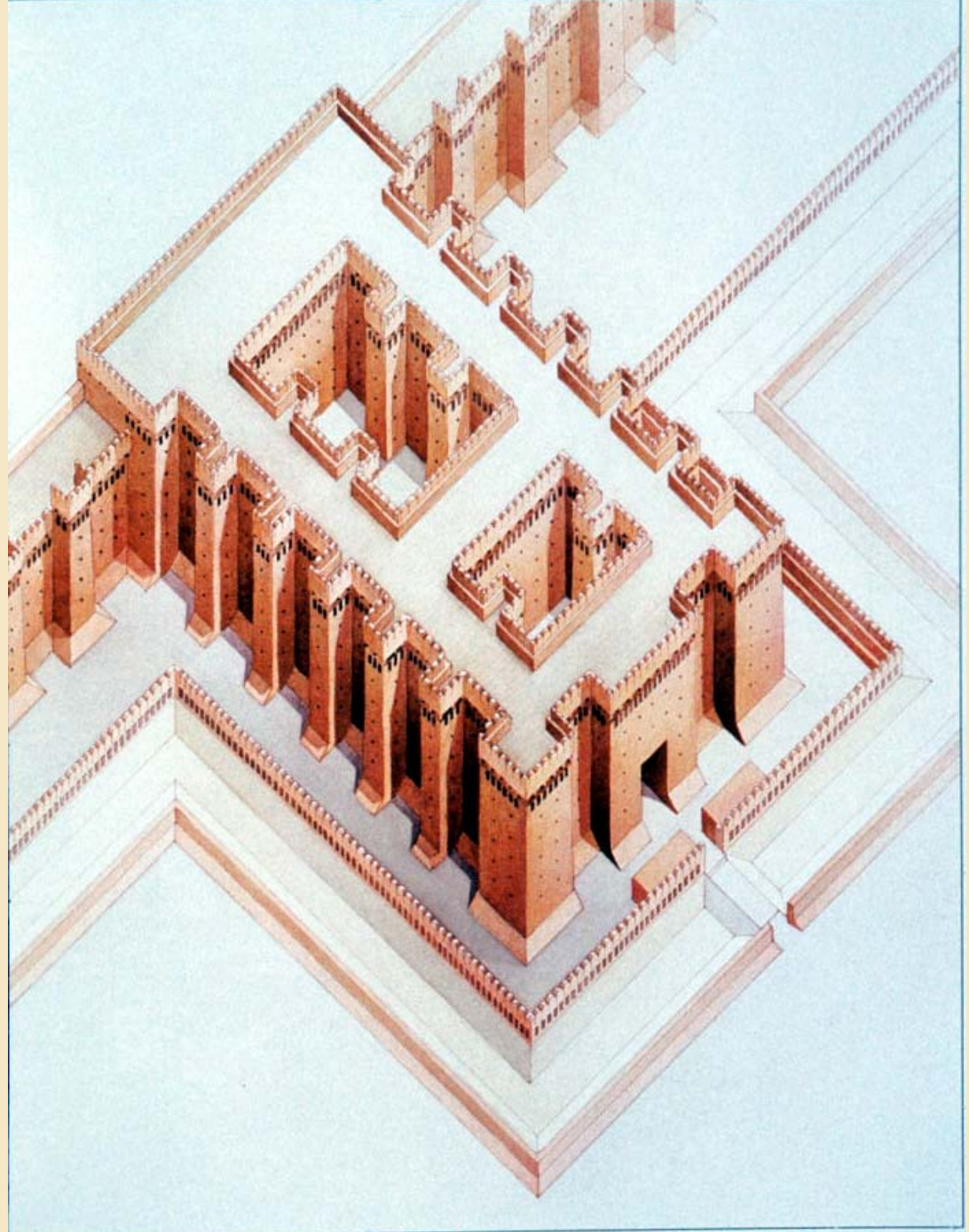
Mentuhotep

“He who unifies
the two lands”

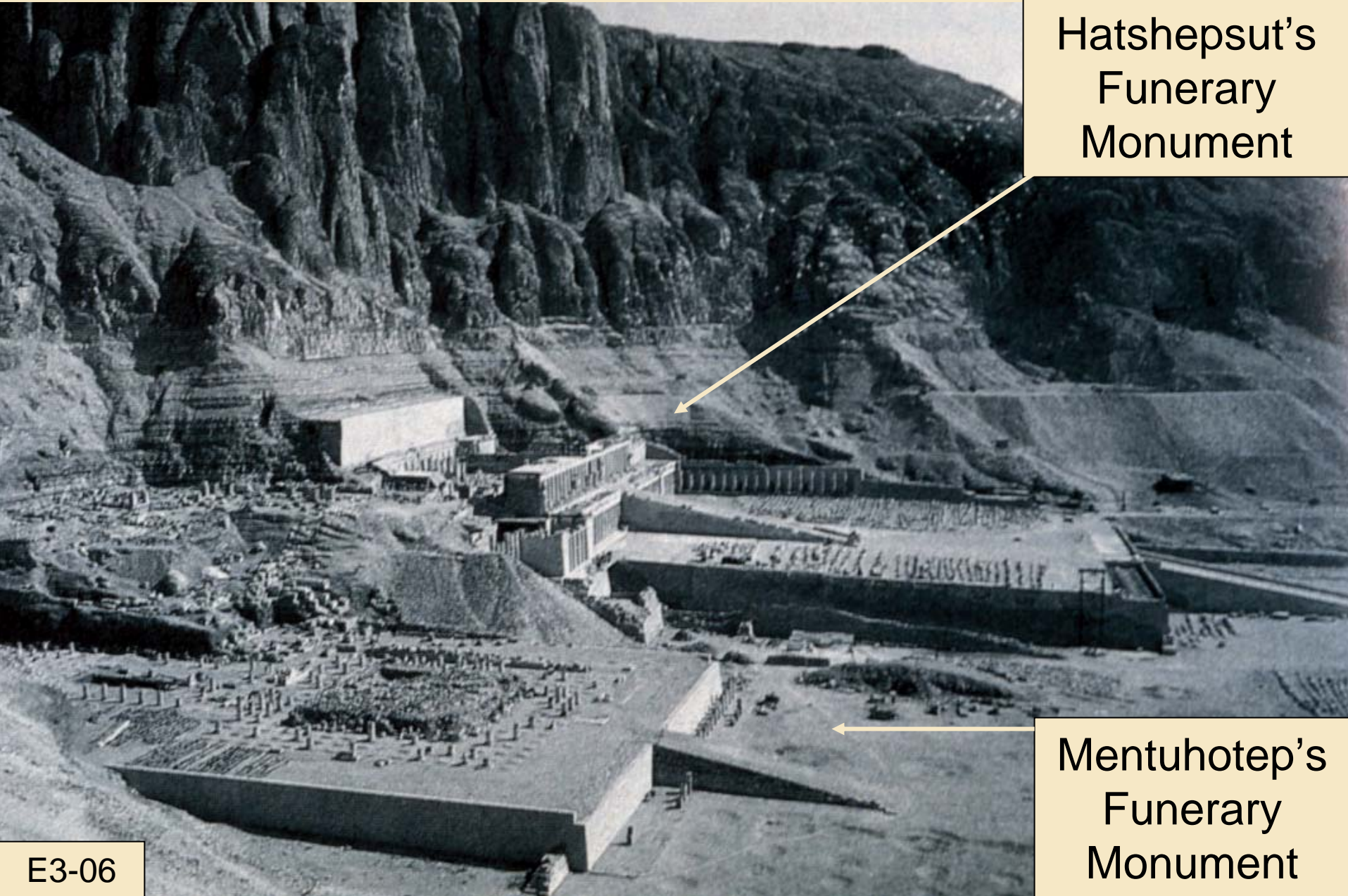




Buhen Gate: Second Cataract



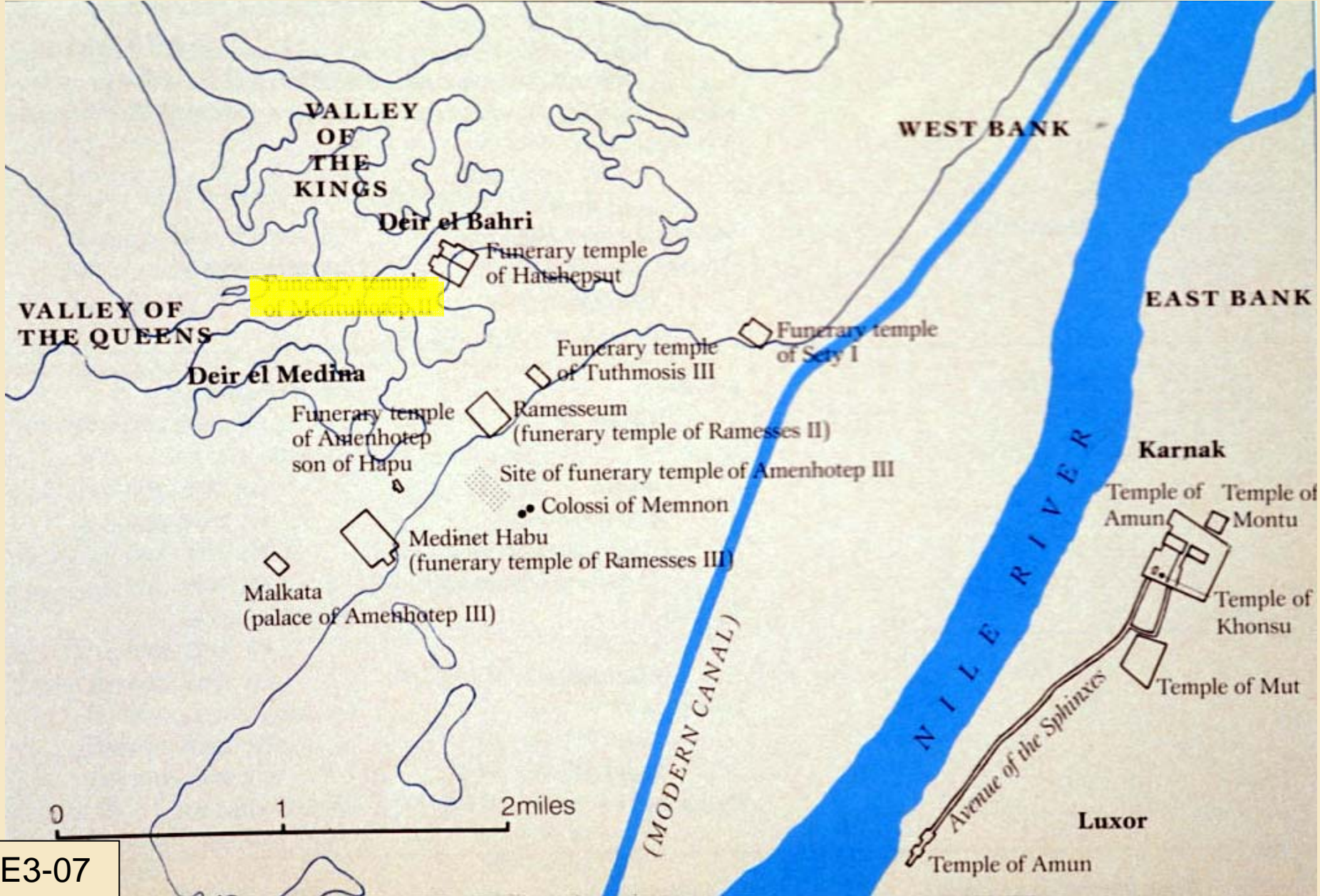
Deir el-Bahri

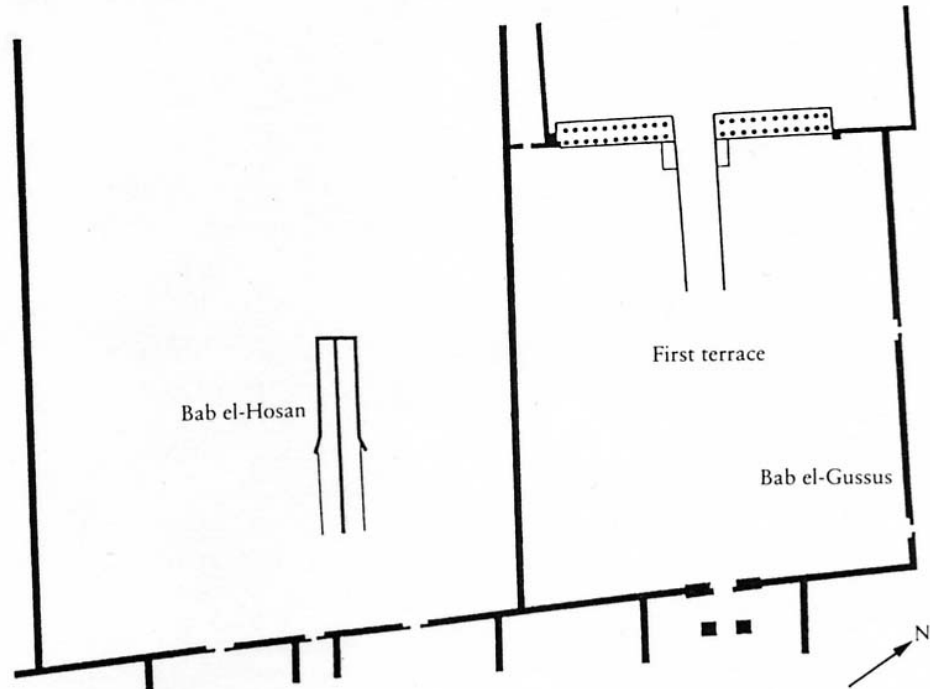
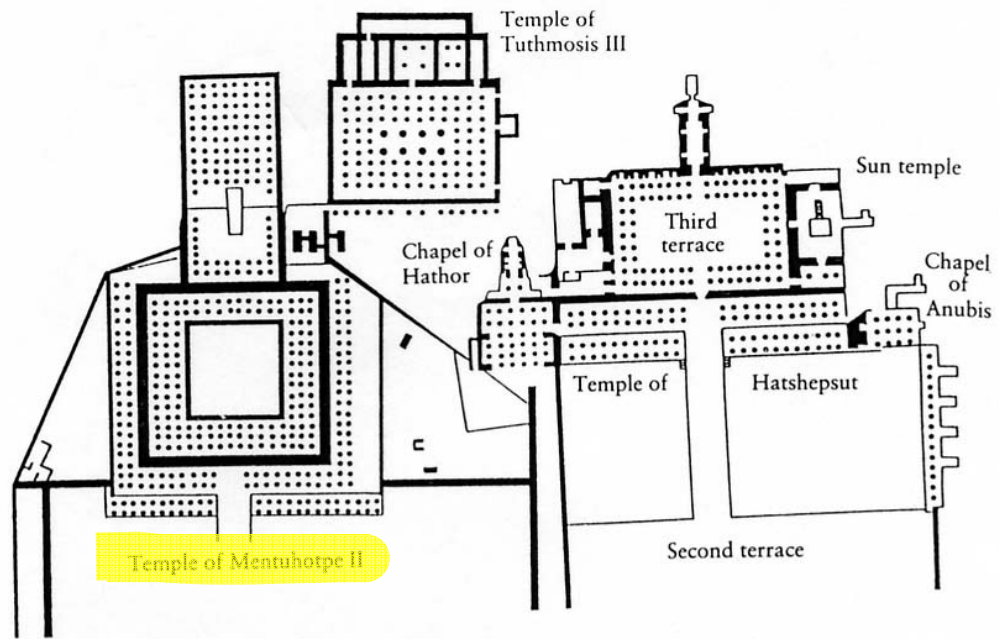


Hatshepsut's
Funerary
Monument

Mentuhotep's
Funerary
Monument

Deir el-Bahri

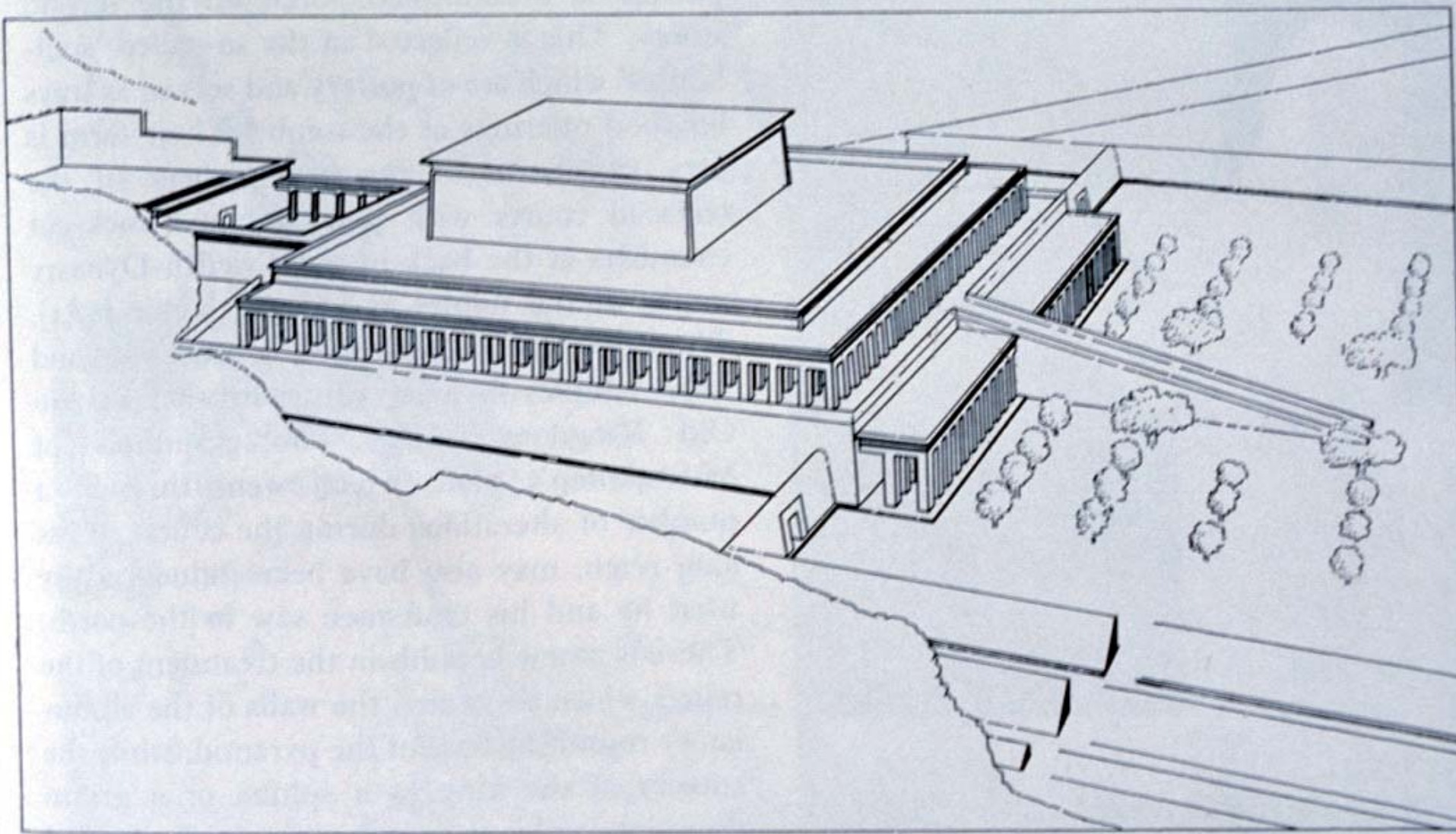


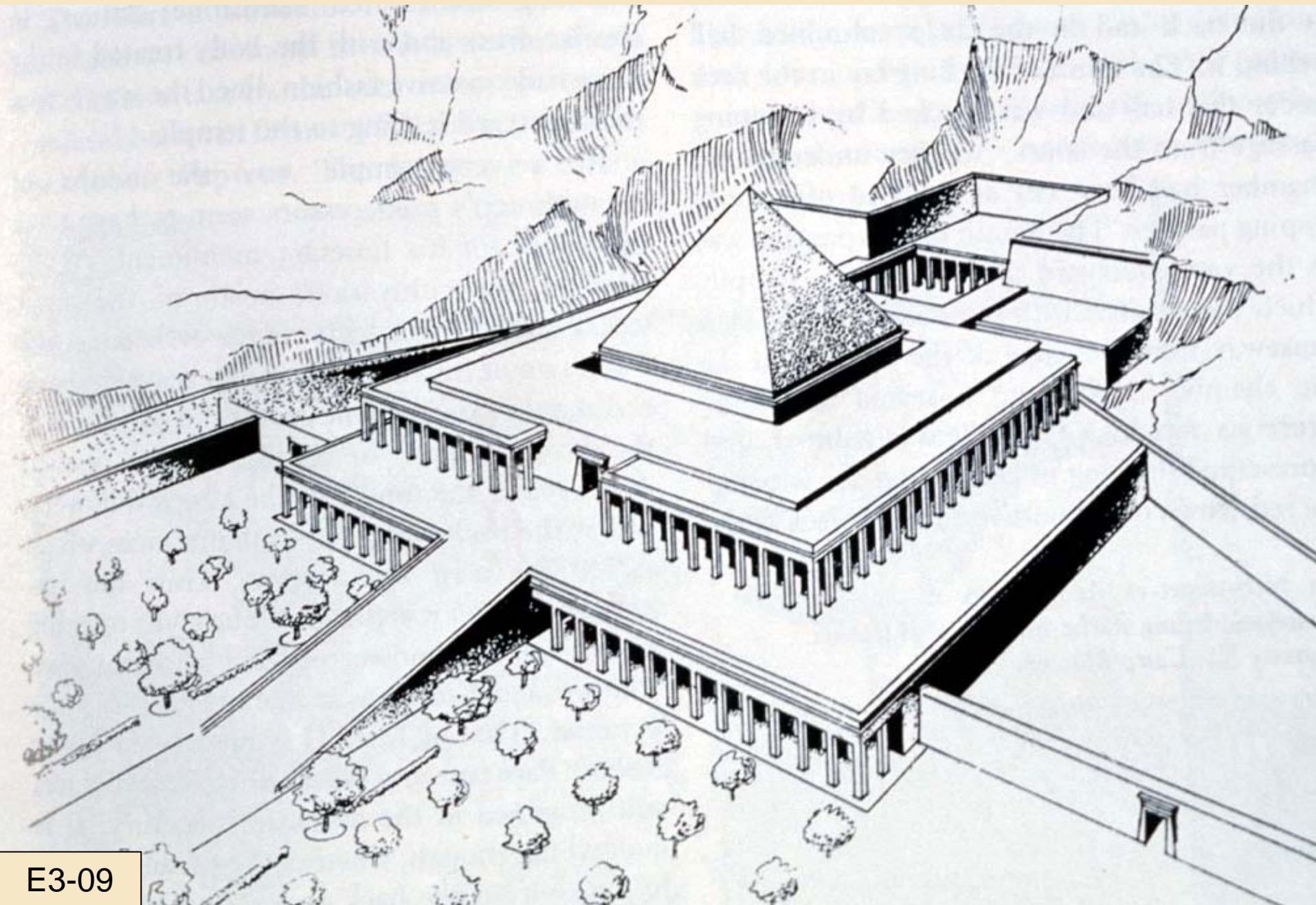


E3-07a

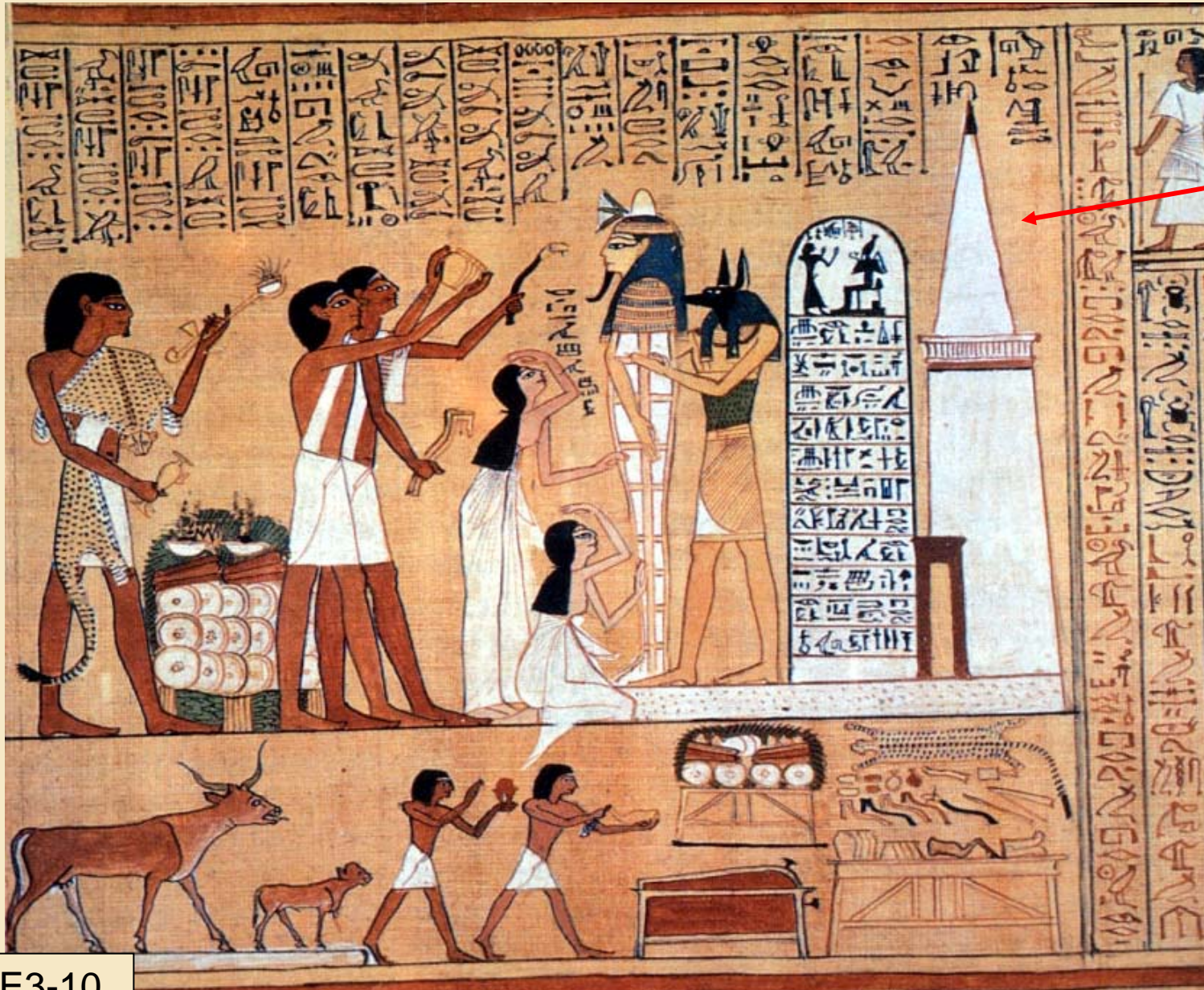
Deir el-Bahri: funerary complexes of Mentuhotpe II and Hatshepsut.

149 and 150. Deir el Bahari, temple of Mentuhotep. Dynasty XI. Earlier and later reconstructions





New Kingdom Wall Painting



Pyramid

151. Neb-hepet-ra Mentuhotep.
Seated sandstone statue from Deir el Bahari.
Dynasty XI. *Cairo Museum*



E3-11

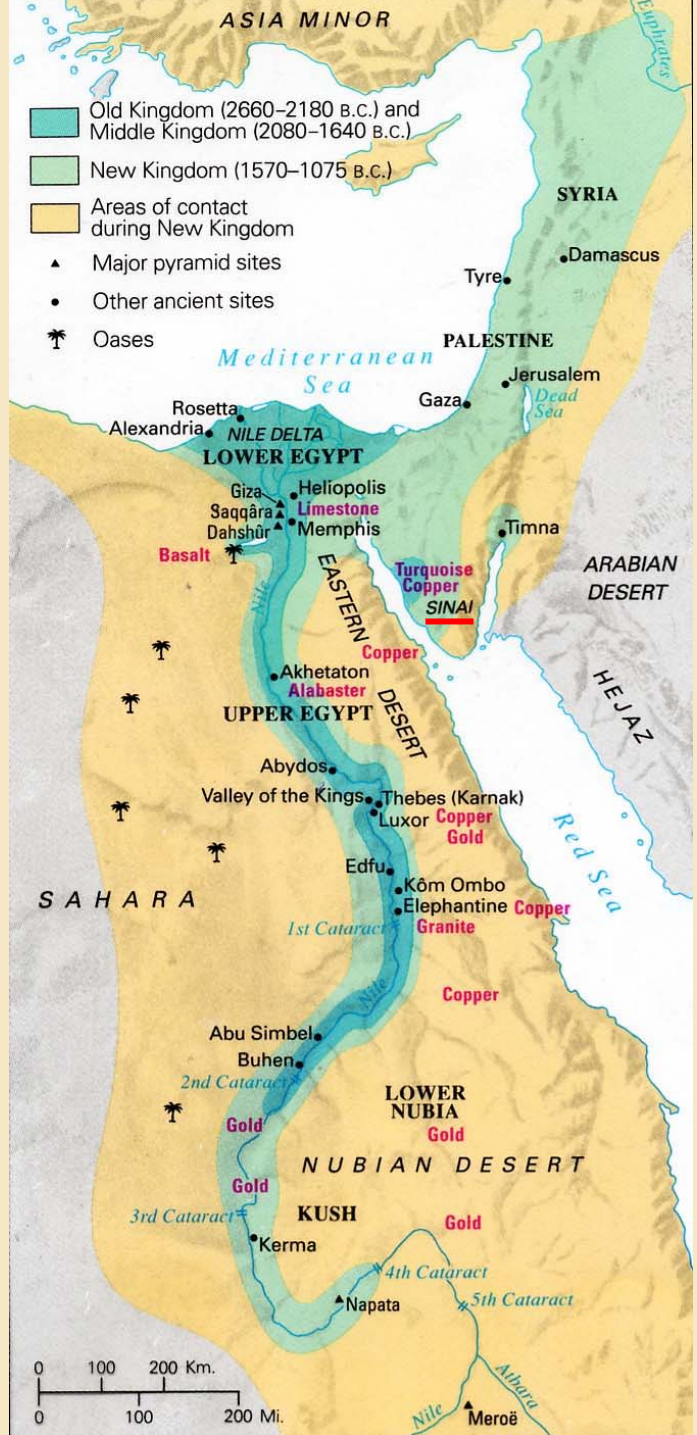


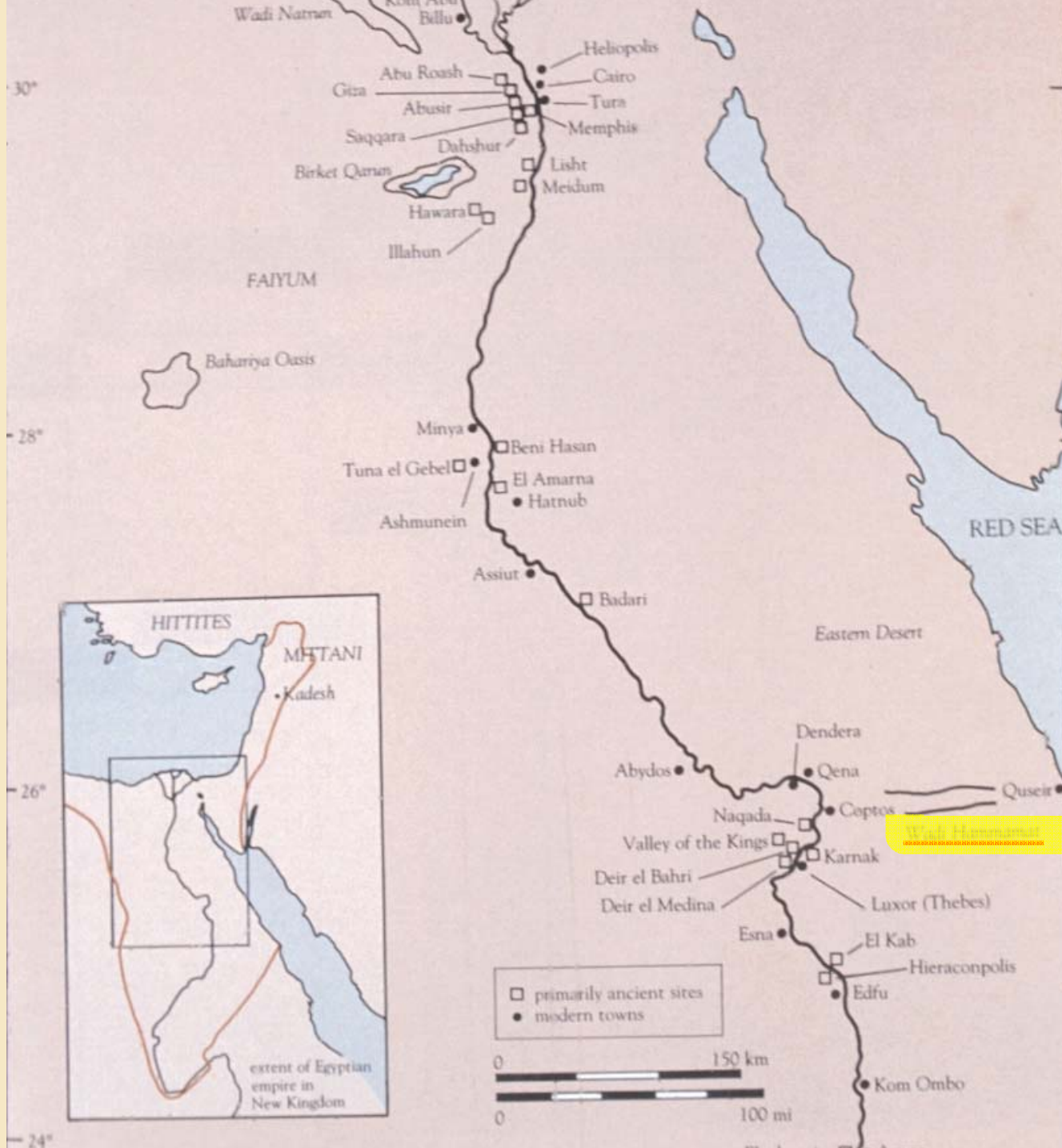
[18]

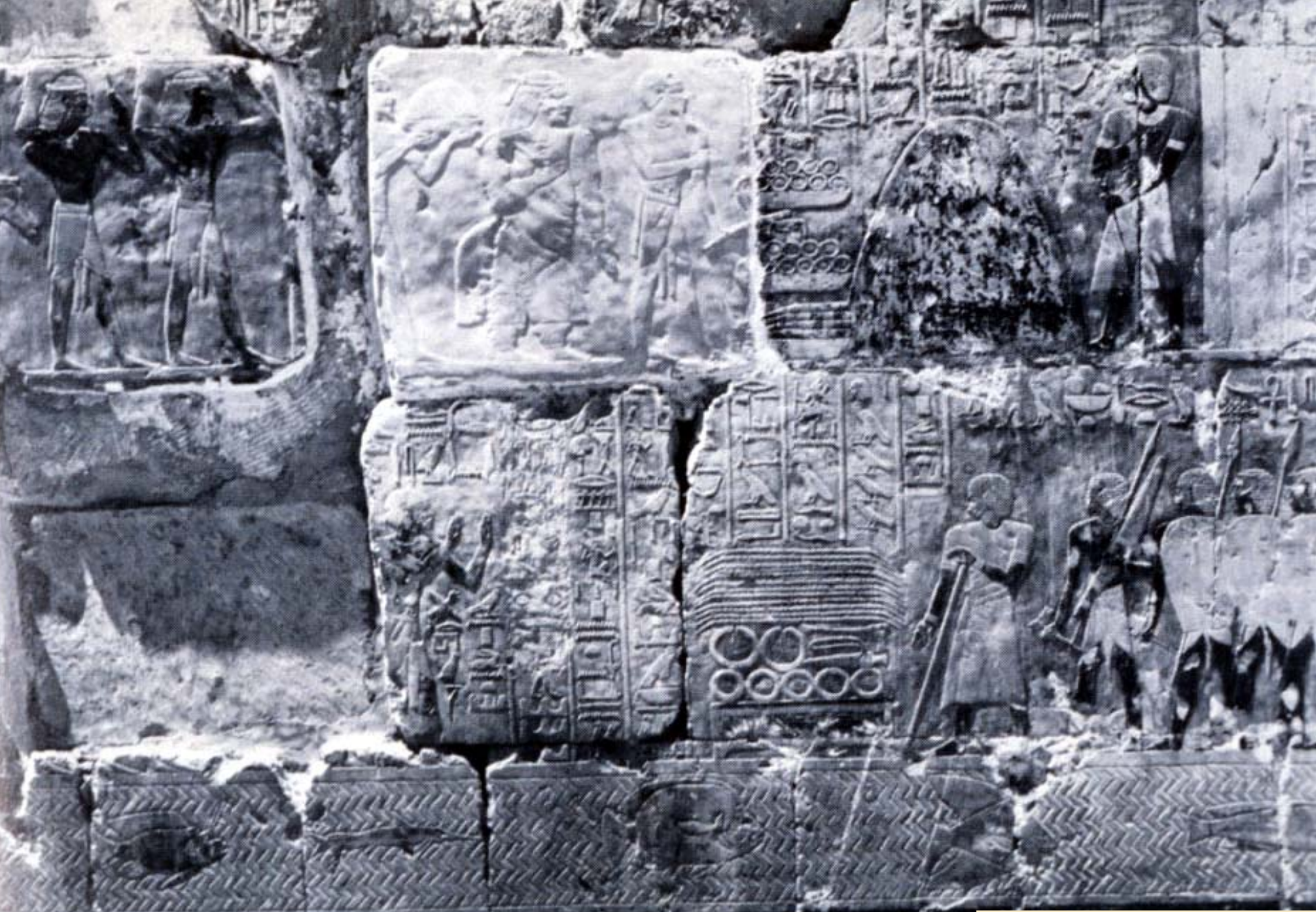
King Mentuhotep II
DYNASTY 11, CA. 2061–2010 B.C.
PAINTED SANDSTONE, HT. 138 CM

Mentuhotep









E3-14

Punt Relief

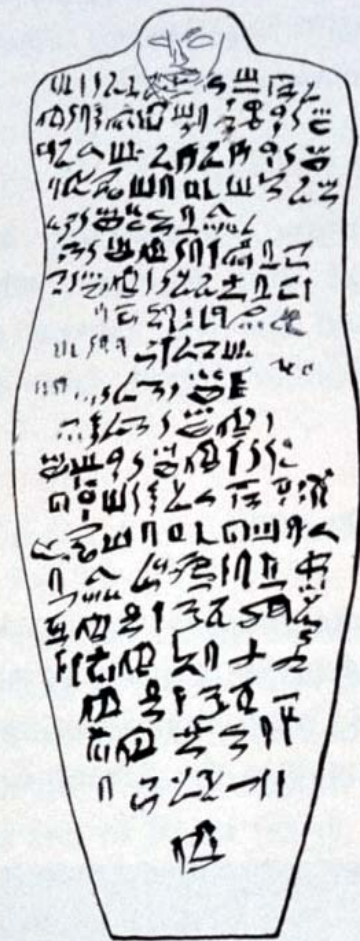


E3-15

Punt Relief

234-6. Deir el Bahari, Punt colonnade,
fat queen, village, and reception of Egyptians at Punt.
Dynasty XVIII



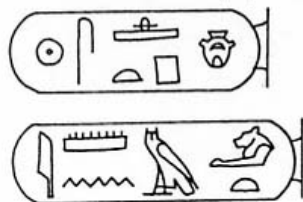


Line-drawing of an 'execration figure' consisting of a schematic statuette of a bound captive inscribed with a hieratic cursing ritual, one of five similar figures that are thought to have been found at Helwan. The text lists various Nubians and Libyans as well as two Egyptian rebels. 12th Dynasty, c. 1920 BC, travertine, H. 15 cm. (CAIRO, JE63955, DRAWN BY RICHARD PARKINSON)

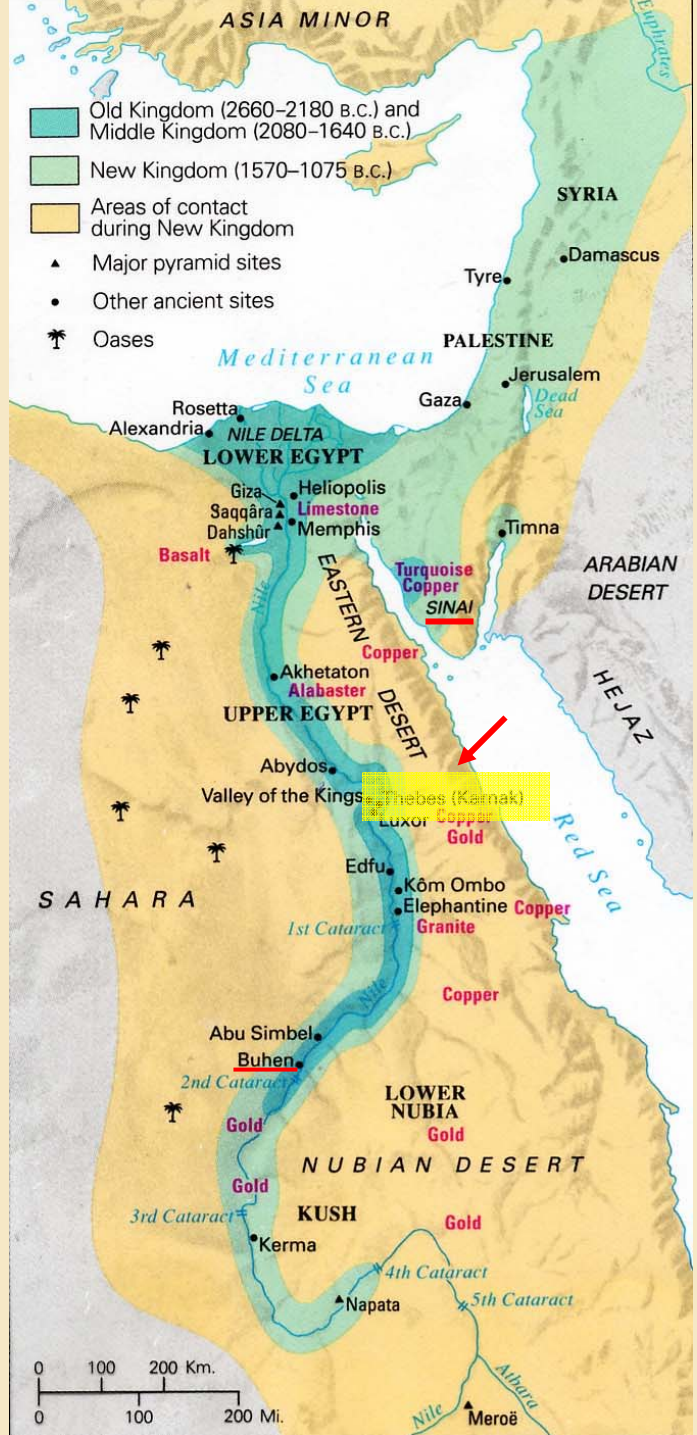
Twelfth Dynasty, c.1991-1786 BC

Eight rulers who governed Egypt from a new Residence, Itj-tawy ('Seizer-of-the-Two-Lands'), to the south of Memphis. On the ground secured by the Eleventh Dynasty this family achieved a new peak of prosperity which produced the finest jewellery and the first recorded literary flowering of Egypt. Egypt now dominated her neighbours, Nubia to the south by direct conquest and the removal of settled life, and Palestine to the north-east by diplomacy and intermittent military strikes. In this the height of the Middle Kingdom the fivefold titulary reached its classic form.

SEHETEPİBRA (T) AMENEMHAT I



Founded the new Residence, Itj-tawy. A literary masterpiece called 'The Instruction of Amenemhat I' purports to contain the words spoken by the king after his death to his son and successor, Senusret I, in a dream. Here Amenemhat I describes in vivid terms an attempt on his life, at a time when he had not yet designated his son as heir. The episode, if historically accurate, would account for the decision of the king to set his son beside him on the throne as coregent in year 20. The system of coregency ensured smooth succession for the two hundred years of rule by the Twelfth Dynasty. Amenemhat was buried in his pyramid at Lisht.



Sed Festival Temple of Sesotris I



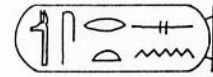
Great Court at Karnak



Sacred Lake at Karnak

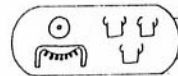


KHEPERKARA (T) SENUSRET I



According to another literary jewel, 'The Tale of Sinuhe', this king heard of the news of his father's death while he was on a military campaign in the Western Desert, and had to rush to Itj-tawy. The hero of the tale, Sinuhe misunderstood the king's haste and fled to Palestine where he survived great adventures before returning to Egypt under royal pardon. A further literary manuscript, a leather roll now in Berlin, may record directly a text of the king on the walls of the sun-temple in Heliopolis, relating the decision of the king to build a new monument there. Seneferu completed his father's campaign to subdue Lower Nubia, with the help of fortresses set at strategic points along the river. The king was buried at Lisht.

NUBKARA (T) AMENEMHAT II



This ruler sent an expedition to the Red Sea to procure incense from the exotic land of Punt. His pyramid complex is at Dahshur, where jewellery of his daughters, princesses Khnumet and Ita the Elder, was discovered in 1895. A block from a temple wall erected by Amenemhat II (perhaps at Heliopolis, although the block was found at Memphis) records the bounty of military and trading expeditions to Western Asia and Punt.

Sesostris I: stone colossus



[21]

Colossal statue of King Sesostris I, detail
DYNASTY 12, CA. 1971–1926 B.C.
GRANITE; HT. 310 CM

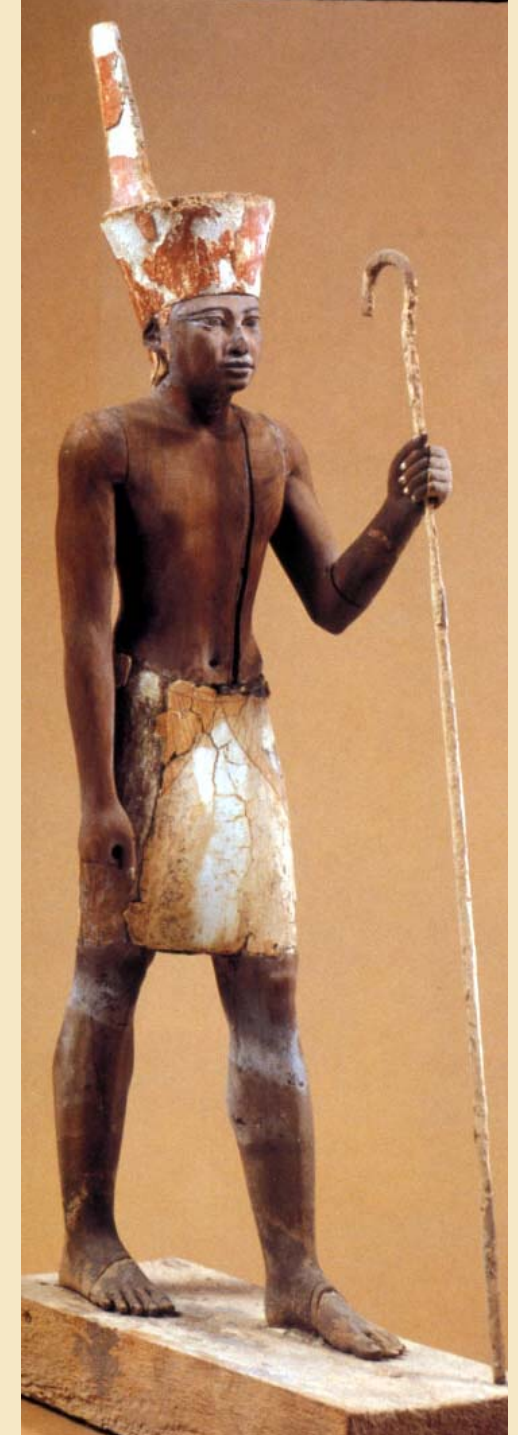
Sesostris I: in White Crown



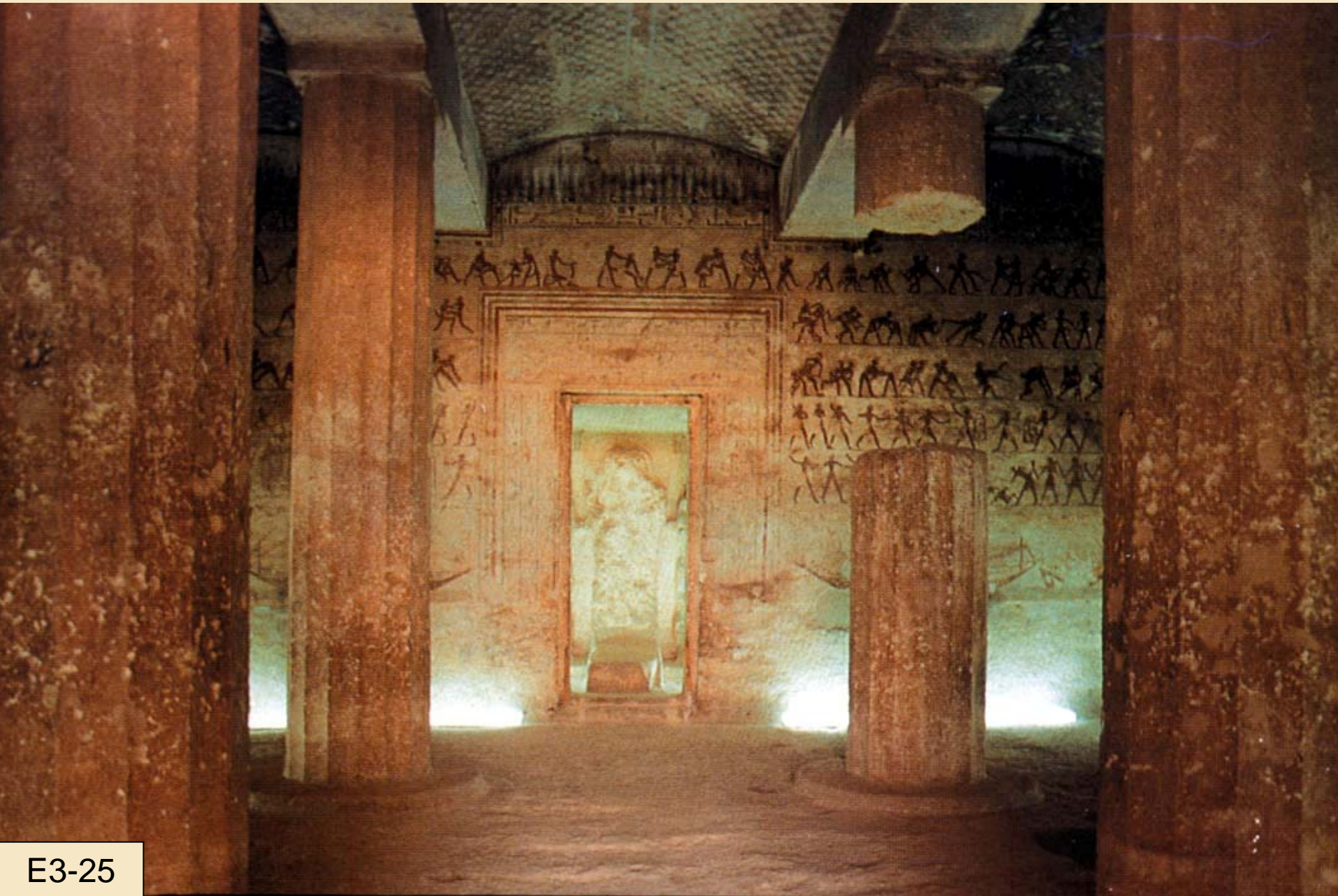
⚡ A wooden statue of Sesostris I. It is one of a pair depicting the king wearing the red crown of Lower and (here) the white crown of Upper Egypt.

JUERGEN LIEPE, BERLIN

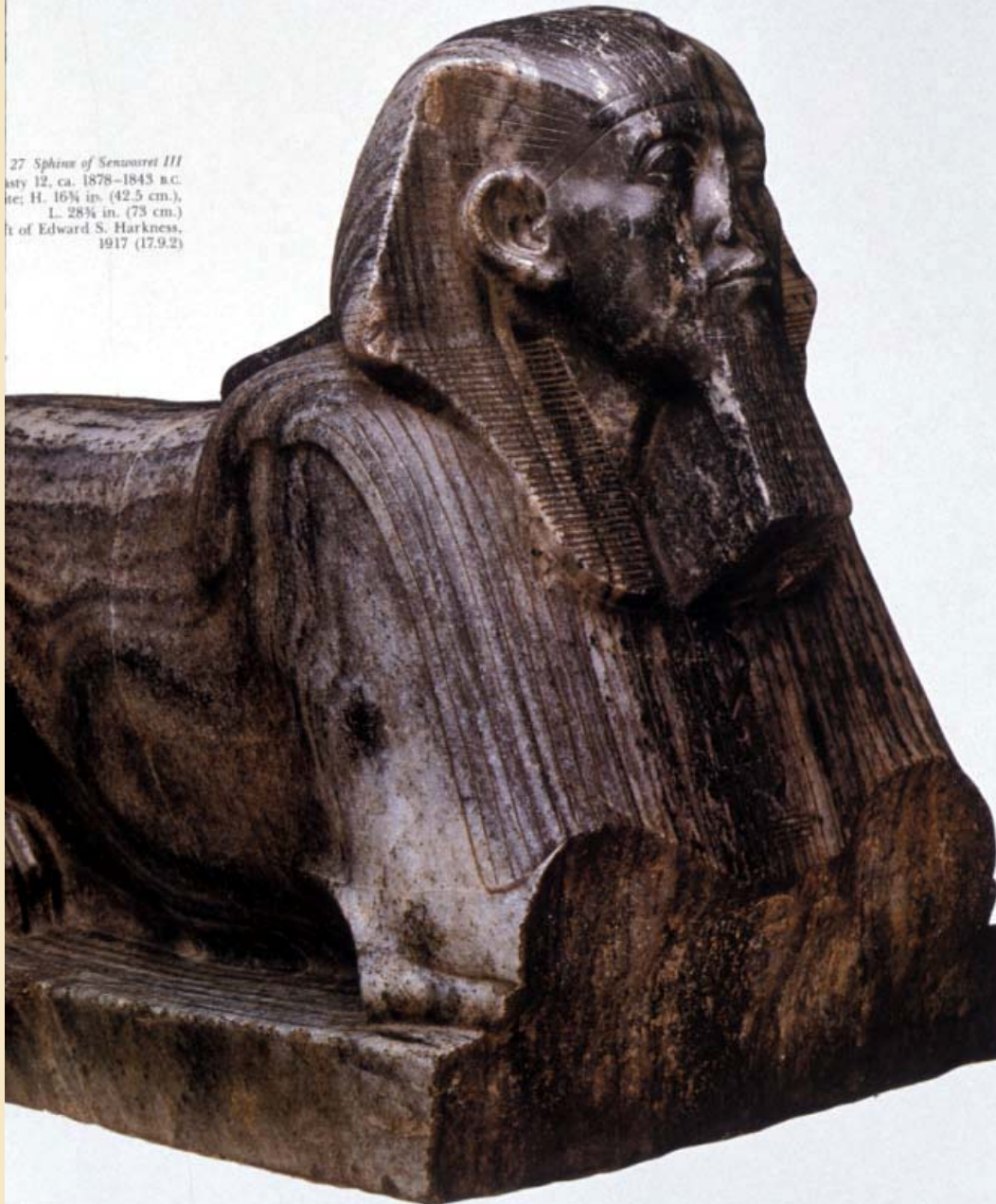
Sesostris I: Wood Statue, in Red Crown



Tomb of Ammenemes (II?)



27 Sphinx of Senusert III
12th dynasty, ca. 1878–1843 B.C.
Height: 16 3/4 in. (42.5 cm.),
Length: 28 3/4 in. (73 cm.)
Gift of Edward S. Harkness,
1917 (17.9.2)

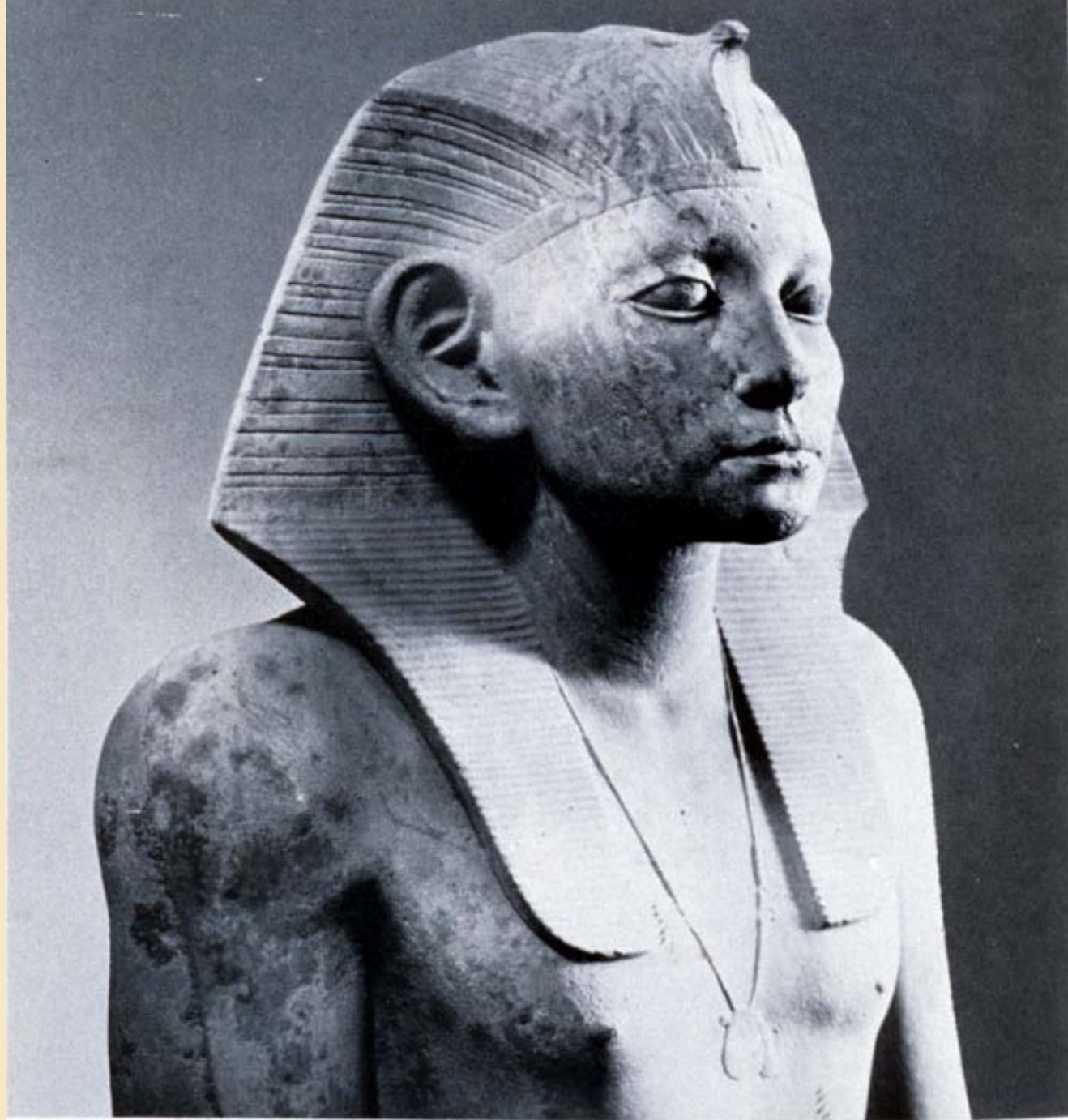


⊕ A black granite statue of Sesostri III. The large ears are typical of royal statuary of the reign, as is the care-worn facial expression, perhaps reflecting the concept of the king as the all-hearing monarch, who is conscious of the great responsibilities of his office.

BRITISH MUSEUM



E3-28



181. Amenemhat III. Head of seated figure from Hawara. Dynasty XII. *Cairo Museum*

Ammenemes III



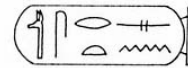
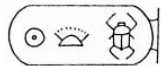
[28]

King Amenemhat III as a sphinx

DYNASTY 12, CA. 1844–1797 B.C.

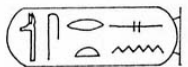
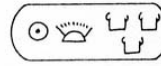
GRANITE; HT. 150 CM, LENGTH 236 CM

KHAKHEPERRA (T) SENUSRET II



Built a pyramid at Lahun, where jewellery of his daughter, princess Sithathoriunet, was discovered in 1914. An original uraeus from a crown of the king was discovered in his pyramid. Close to his pyramid, Senusret II founded a new town, until recently the only Middle Kingdom town to have survived and been excavated.

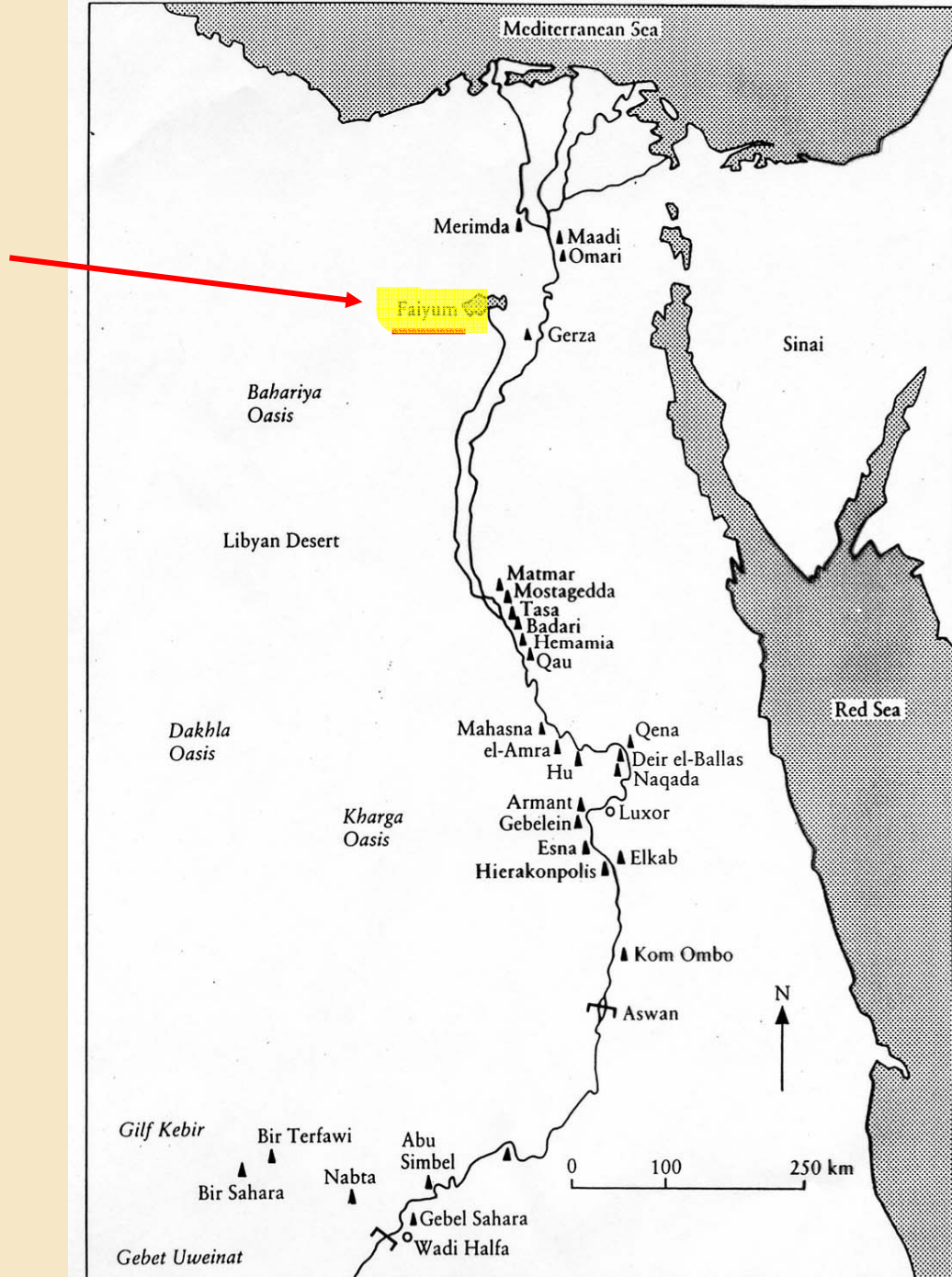
KHAKAURA (T) SENUSRET III



New Kingdom stela for the Senusret III and a queen M (named Mereret in Middle sources). Height 29 cm. EA

Built a pyramid at Dahshur, where jewellery of his sister, princess Sithathor, and of his queen, Mereret, was discovered in 1895. The king extended the southern border in Nubia and the series of imposing fortresses there. His reign also saw sweeping changes in the hierarchies of government and in the material culture of Egypt, inaugurating the 'late Middle Kingdom'. This king and his successor have left a unique type of royal portrait in which the king is shown worn by the burden of rule.

Fayyum



The Fayyum today



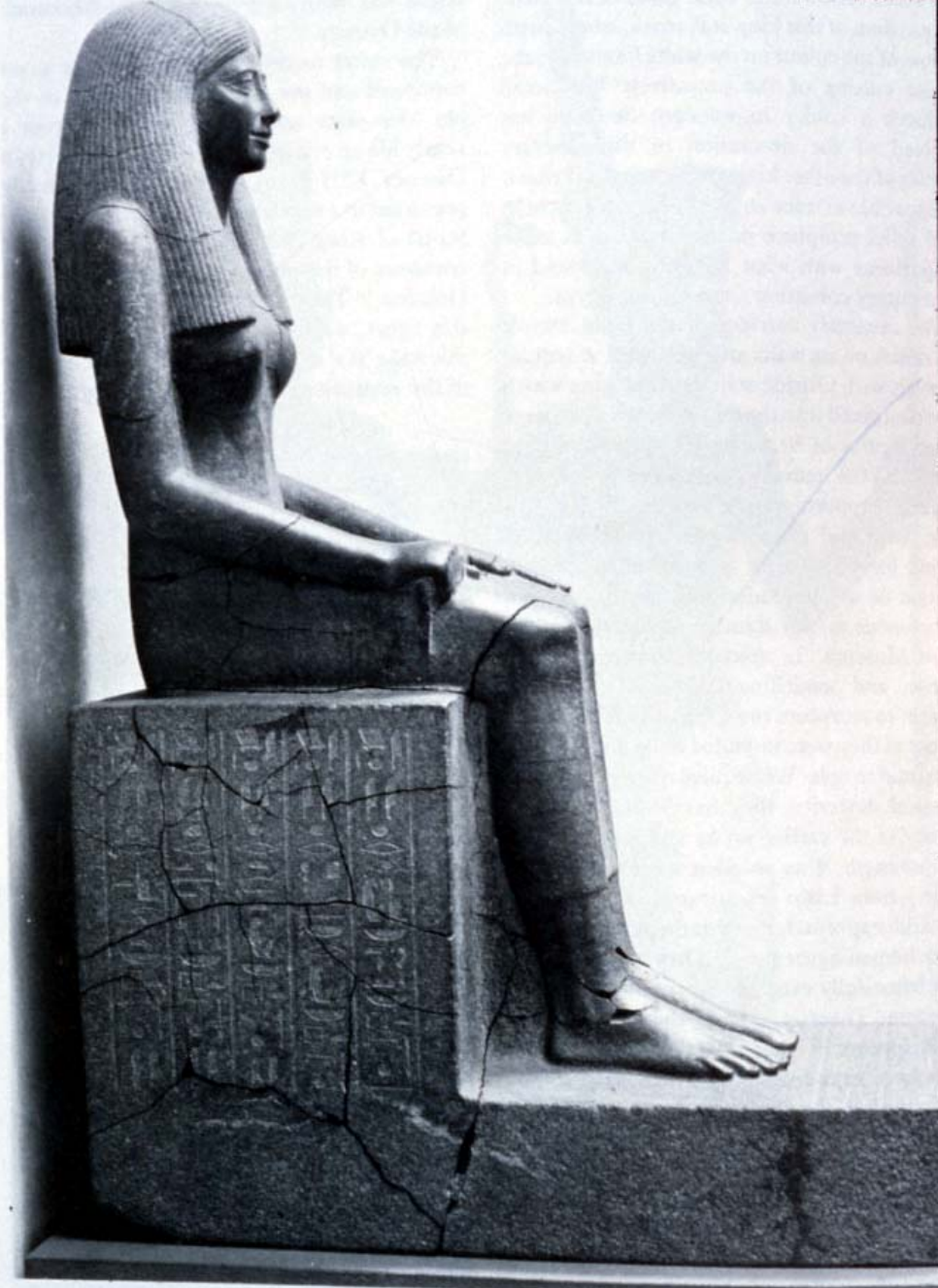
Osiris:
wooden
door from
Deir
el-Medina





Statue of Sennuwy

E3-34



171 and 172. Sennuwy. Seated granite statue from Kerma, with detail of head (*opposite*).
Dynasty XII. Boston, Museum of Fine Arts

Bust of
Twelfth
Dynasty
Princess



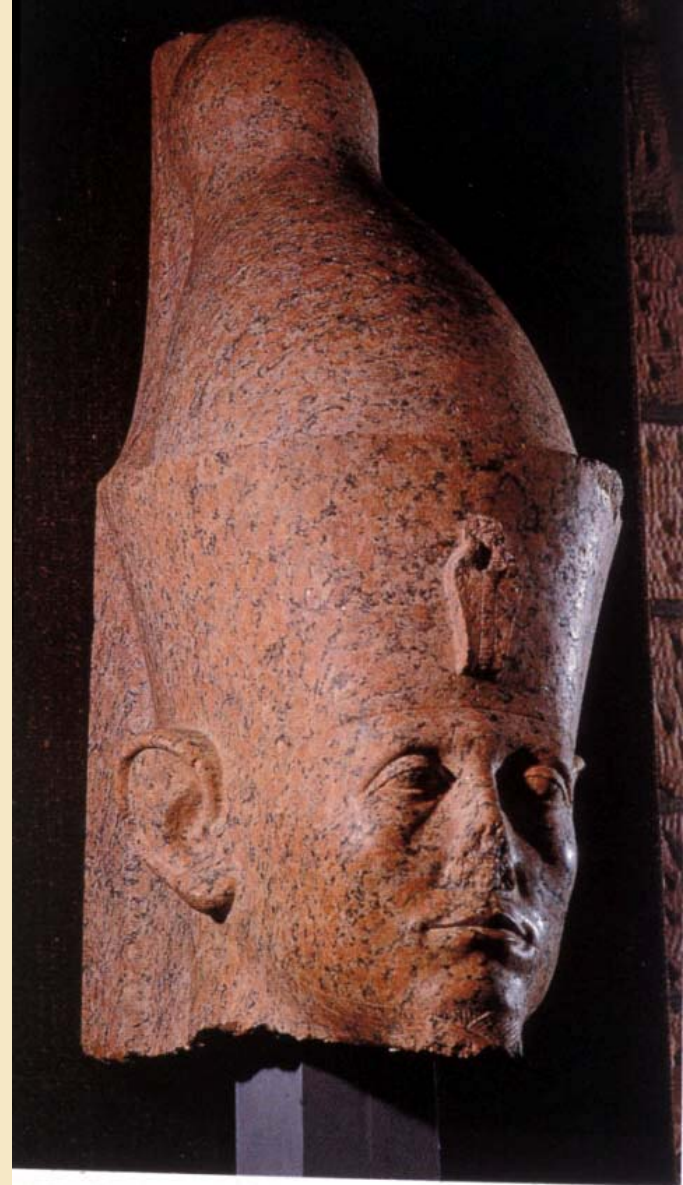


Sesostris III

E3-37

In the second half of the Twelfth Dynasty, nomarchs and other nobles had grown powerful enough to threaten royal control, and King Senwosret III thought it necessary to restrict their rights and form a new class of bureaucrats. The king's efforts to maintain firm

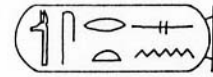
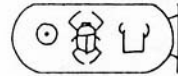
Sesostris III



[26]

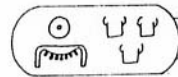
Head of King Sesostris III
DYNASTY 12, CA. 1878–1841 B.C.
RED GRANITE; HT. 80 CM

KHEPERKARA (T) SENUSRET I



According to another literary jewel, 'The Tale of Sinuhe', this king heard of the news of his father's death while he was on a military campaign in the Western Desert, and had to rush to Itj-tawy. The hero of the tale, Sinuhe misunderstood the king's haste and fled to Palestine where he survived great adventures before returning to Egypt under royal pardon. A further literary manuscript, a leather roll now in Berlin, may record directly a text of the king on the walls of the sun-temple in Heliopolis, relating the decision of the king to build a new monument there. Senureset I completed his father's campaign to subdue Lower Nubia, with the help of fortresses set at strategic points along the river. The king was buried at Lisht.

NUBKARA (T) AMENEMHAT II



This ruler sent an expedition to the Red Sea to procure incense from the exotic land of Punt. His pyramid complex is at Dahshur, where jewellery of his daughters, princesses Khnumet and Ita the Elder, was discovered in 1895. A block from a temple wall erected by Amenemhat II (perhaps at Heliopolis, although the block was found at Memphis) records the bounty of military and trading expeditions to Western Asia and Punt.

Wall Painting from Beni Hassan

Nomadic Semitic Tribe This Egyptian fresco captures the essentials of nomadic life. These Semites have captured a gazelle and an ibex. The four men behind the leaders are portrayed with their weapons, a bow and spears, which were used for both hunting and defense. Bringing up the rear is a domesticated burro. (Source: *Erich Lessing Culture and Fine Arts Archive*)



200. Serabit el Khadim, temple;
Retenu chief riding a donkey. Dynasty XII



AND Abner said to Joab,
“Let the young men arise and
play before us . . .”
(2 Sam. 2 : 14)

