

G9 (week 3, Monday)

Gender beyond family:
education, professions, economy

HPAH5013/6013 – Gendered Lives in Ancient
Egypt

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Heritage

Reading

- ❑ DuQuesne, T. (2008) 'Power on their own: gender and social roles in provincial New Kingdom Egypt', in *Sex and Gender in Ancient Egypt. "Don your wig for a joyful hour"*. (ed., Graves-Brown, C.), Swansea: Classical Press of Wales: 47-62.
- ❑ Eyre, C. J. (1998) 'The market women of Pharaonic Egypt', in *Le commerce en Égypte ancienne*. (eds., Grimal, N. and Menu, B.), Le Caire: Institut Français d'archéologie orientale: 173-189.
- ❑ Quirke, S. (2007) 'Women of Lahun (Egypt 1800 BC)', in *Archaeology and Women: Ancient and modern issues*. (eds., Hamilton, S., Whitehouse, R. D. And Wright, K. I.), Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press: 246-263.
- ❑ Ward, W. A. (1995) 'The Egyptian Economy and Non-Royal Women: Their Status in Public Life (NEH Lecture, Brown University, 21 June, 1995)', [accessed 05/02/2013]. Available from <http://www.stoa.org/diotima/essays/wardlect.shtml>
- ❑ The Life of Meresamun
<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1092543710462>
- ❑ Bryan, B.M. (1985) 'Evidence for Female Literacy from Theban Tombs of the New Kingdom', *BES* 6: 17-32.

DOCUMENT

The Wills of Two Brothers and the Inheritance of One Brother's Wife

Pap. Kahun I, 1 (ca. 1900 B.C.)

First Will

Copy of the will made by the Trustworthy Sealer of the
Controller of Works Ankh-renef.[7]

Year 44, Month 2 of the Summer Season, day 13. Will made by
the Trustworthy Sealer of the Controller of Works Ihy-seneb,
nick-named Ankh-renef, son of Shepsut,[8]of the Northern
District.[9]

All my possessions in field and town shall belong to my
brother, the Priest in Charge of the Duty-shifts (of priests) of
(the god) Sopdu, Lord of the East, Ihy-seneb, nick-named Wah,
son of Shepsut. All my dependants shall belong to my brother.
A copy of these matters has been given to the Bureau of the
Second Recorder of the South in Year 44, Month 2 of the
Summer Season, day 13.[10]



Second Will

Year 2, Month 2 of the Inundation Season, day 18. Will made by ~~the Priest in Charge of the Duty-shifts (of priests) of (the god) Sopdu, Lord of the East, Wah.~~

I am making a will for my wife, a lady of the town of Gesiabet, Sheftu, nick-named Teti, daughter of Sit-Sopdu, concerning all the property that my brother Ankh-renef, the Trustworthy Sealer of the Controller of Works, gave to me along with all the goods belonging to his estate that he gave to me. She may give these things as she pleases to any children of mine she may bear.

I also give to her the four Canaanites that my brother Ankh-renef, the Trustworthy Sealer of Works, gave to me. She may give (them) as she please to her children.



As for my tomb, I shall be buried in it with my wife without anyone interfering therewith. As for the house that my brother Ankh-renef, the Trustworthy Sealer, built for me, my wife shall live therein and shall not be evicted from it by anyone.

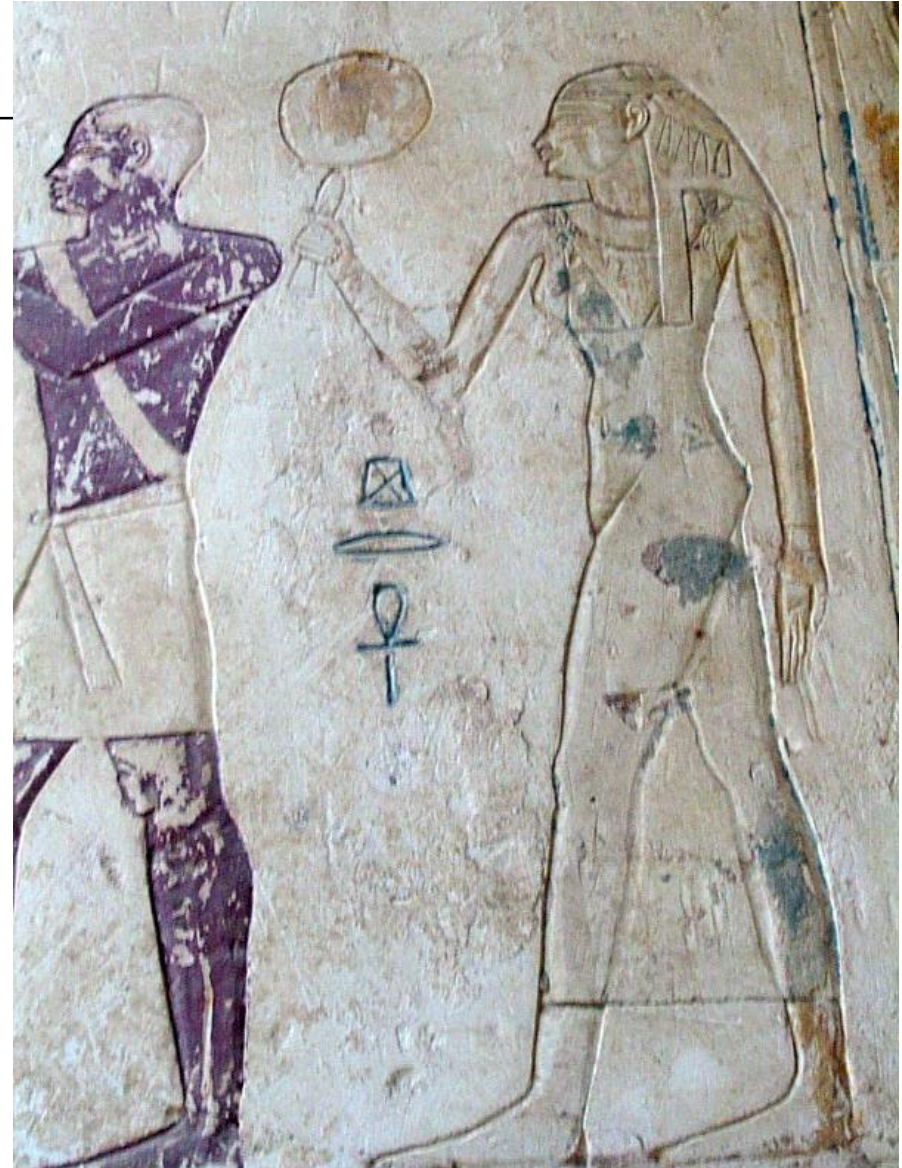
The Deputy Gebu shall act as the guardian for my son.



Stela of the
mistress of the
house jwHt-jbw
with dedication
'it is her
daughter nbw-
m-wAD who
perpetuates her
name'

Women in activities depicted in visual art

- Temple:
- women may sing and dance for cult of gods and goddesses, but they are not recorded making offerings, with the exception of those with the highest ritual positions.



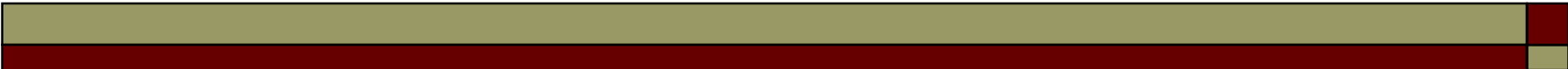
Women in activities depicted in visual art

- Family chapel:
- women generally appear secondary to a man, either husband or son



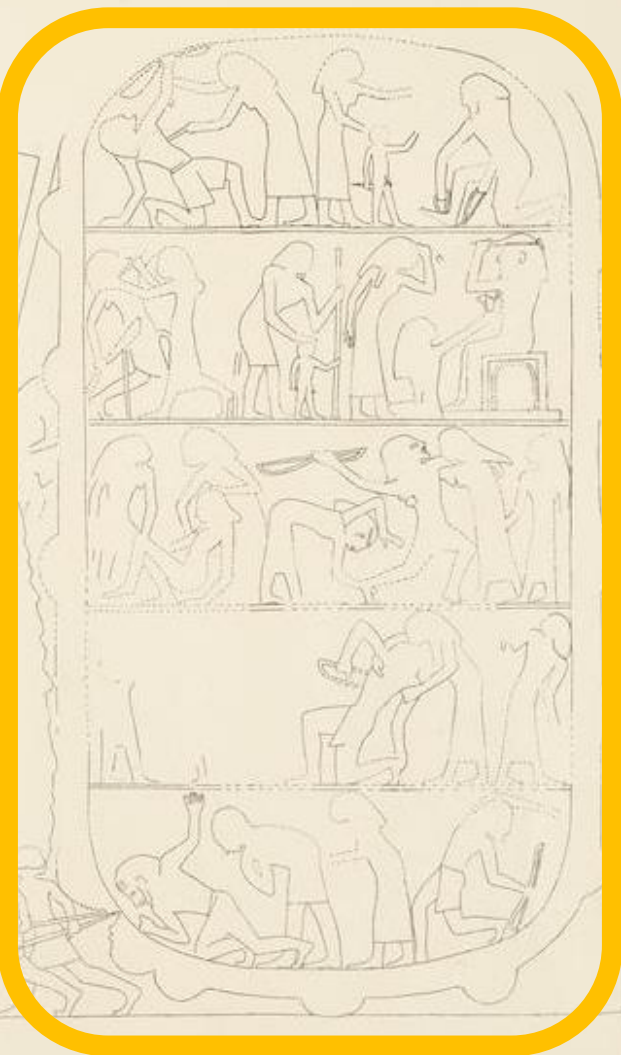
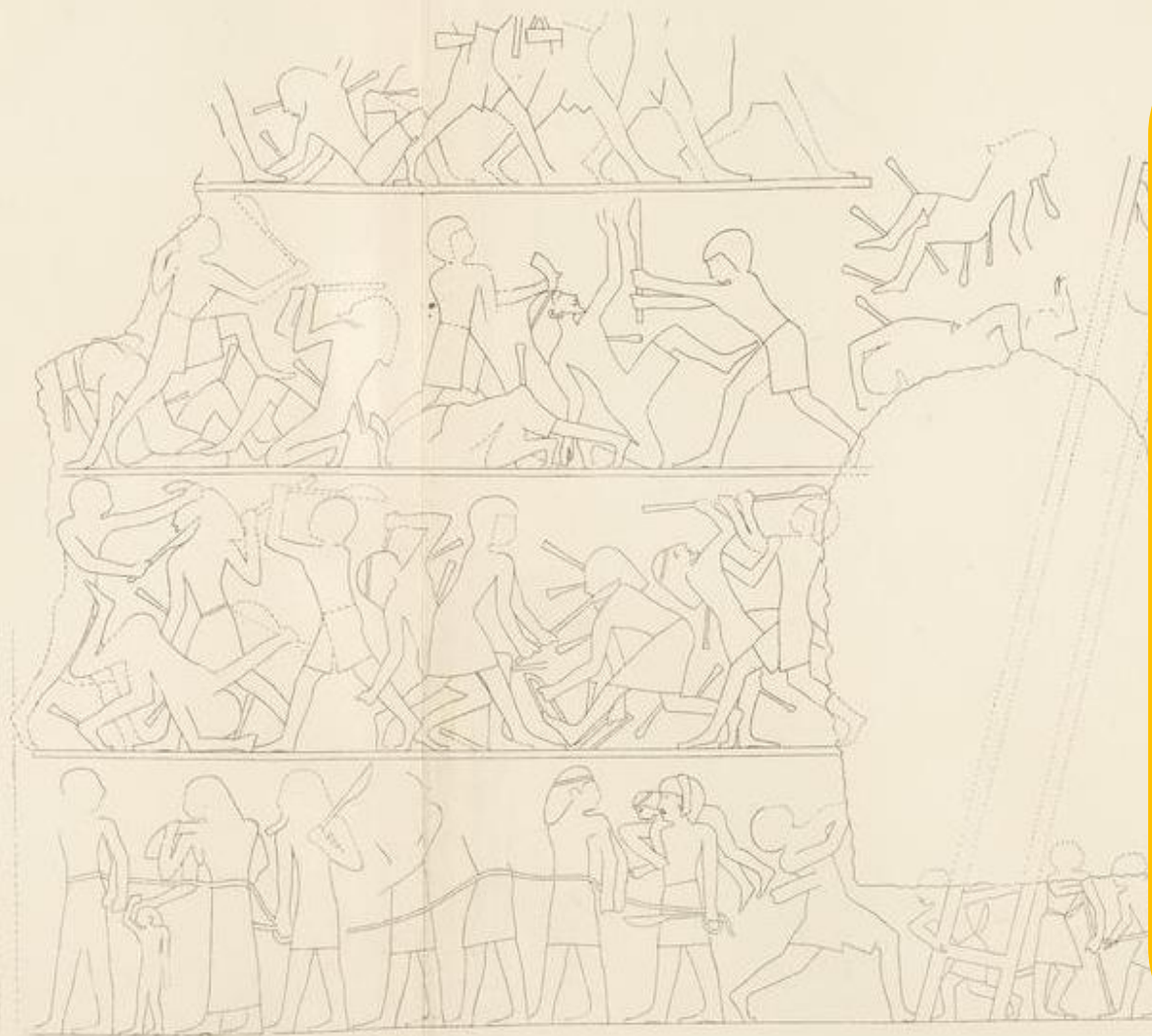
Women in activities depicted in visual art

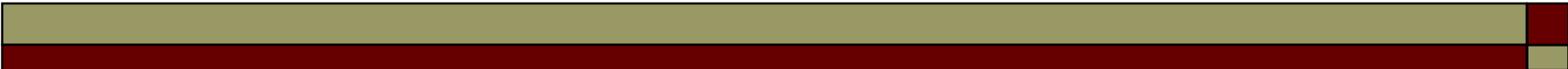
- ❑ three historical periods in which women enjoy a higher profile in the surviving record in art and architecture:
- ❑ Old Kingdom : women held administrative positions, including within the sphere of the estates of mothers or wives of kings (maybe not supervises men, but evidently appointed as manager for a group of women)
- ❑ Example: female physician Peseshet who served in the estate of a king's mother → "lady overseer of the female physicians" → “physician herself? (known from excavation of the tomb of Akhet-Hetep at Giza revealed a monument dedicated to his mother Peseshet)



professions

- Examples OK
 - Military service (Deshasheh – 4th dyn. Women stabbing enemies)





professions

- Examples OK
 - Military service (Deshasheh – 4th dyn. Women stabbing enemies)
- Examples MK
 - hairdresser

D11 Queen Nofru tomb hairstresser Inu

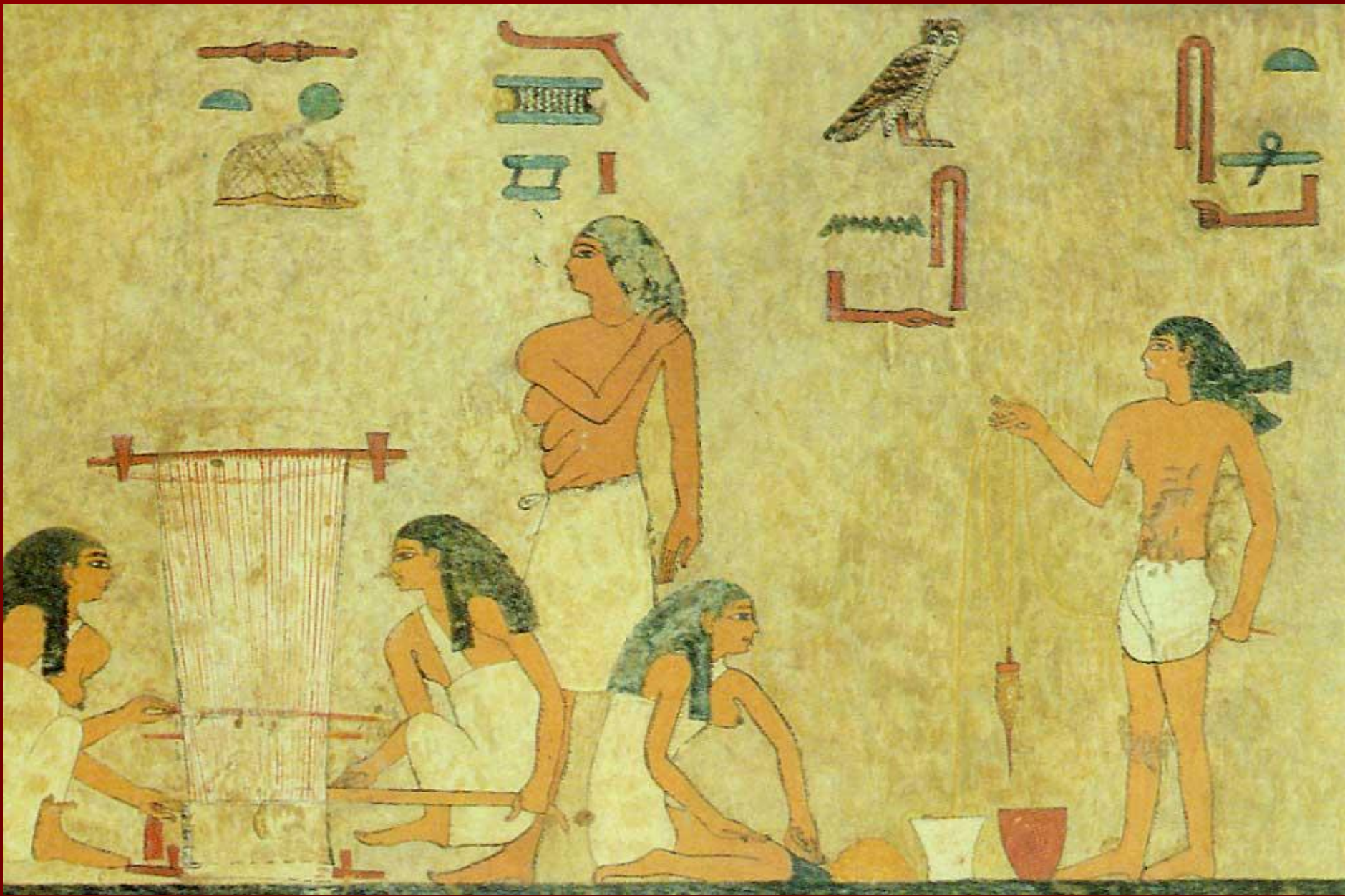


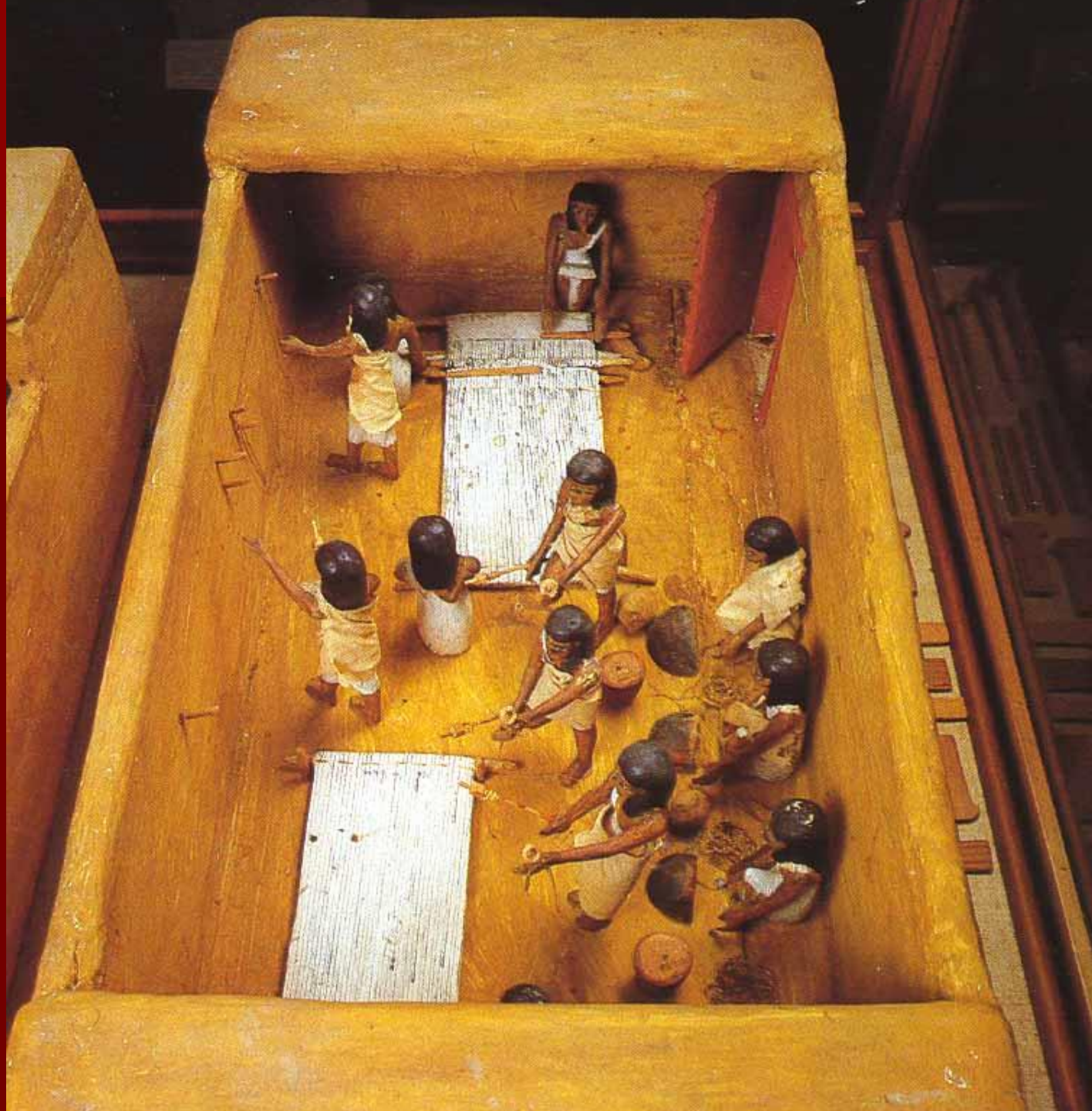
Women in activities depicted in visual art

- ❑ In the early Eighteenth Dynasty (about 1550-1450 BC) women appear more prominent on chapel monuments, both offering and dedicating monuments
- ❑ latter is exceptional in Ancient Egyptian history, and coincides with a period in which royal women were especially prominent in the iconography of kingship.
- ❑ In the late Twentieth, the Twenty-first and the early Twenty-
- ❑ Second Dynasties (about 1100-900 BC) women again appear in the
- ❑ formal record in more active roles: they sometimes hold titles otherwise

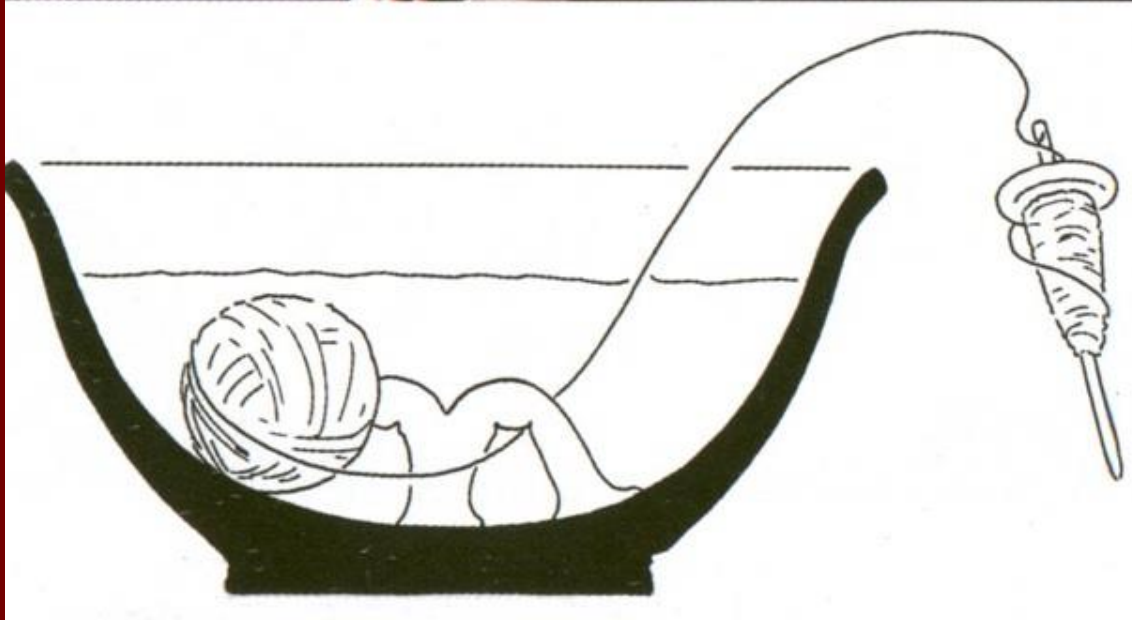
Jobs

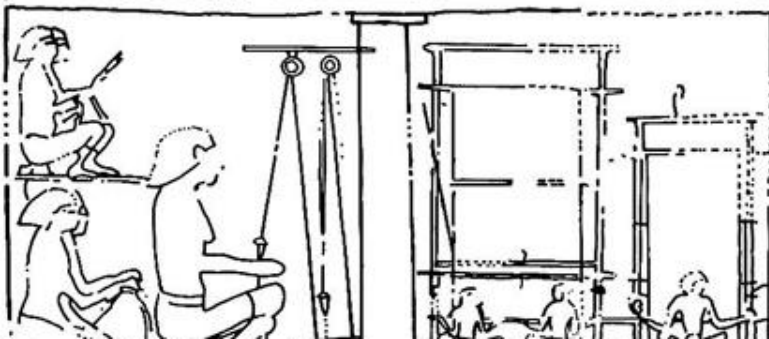
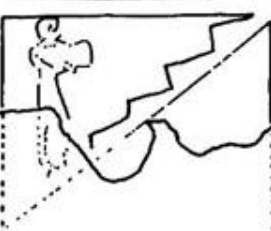
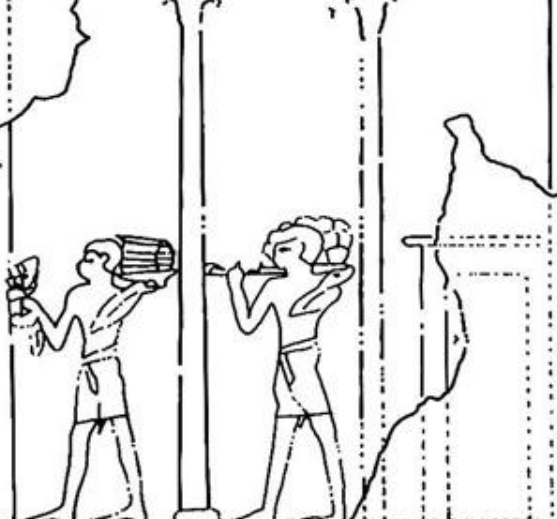
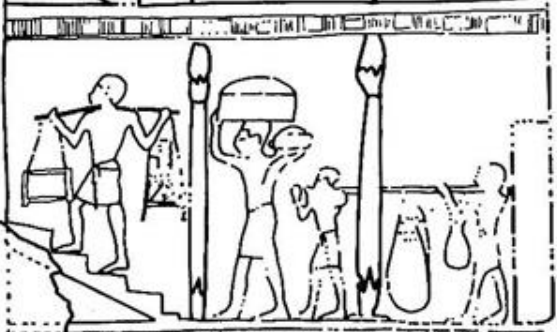
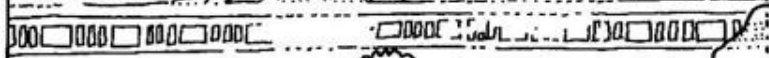
- nb.t-pr (mistress of the house)
 - Owned by royal and non-royal women
 - Not equivalent to khemet (wife) → some women have both titles, others only one of these
 - overseeing servants
 - weaving workshops

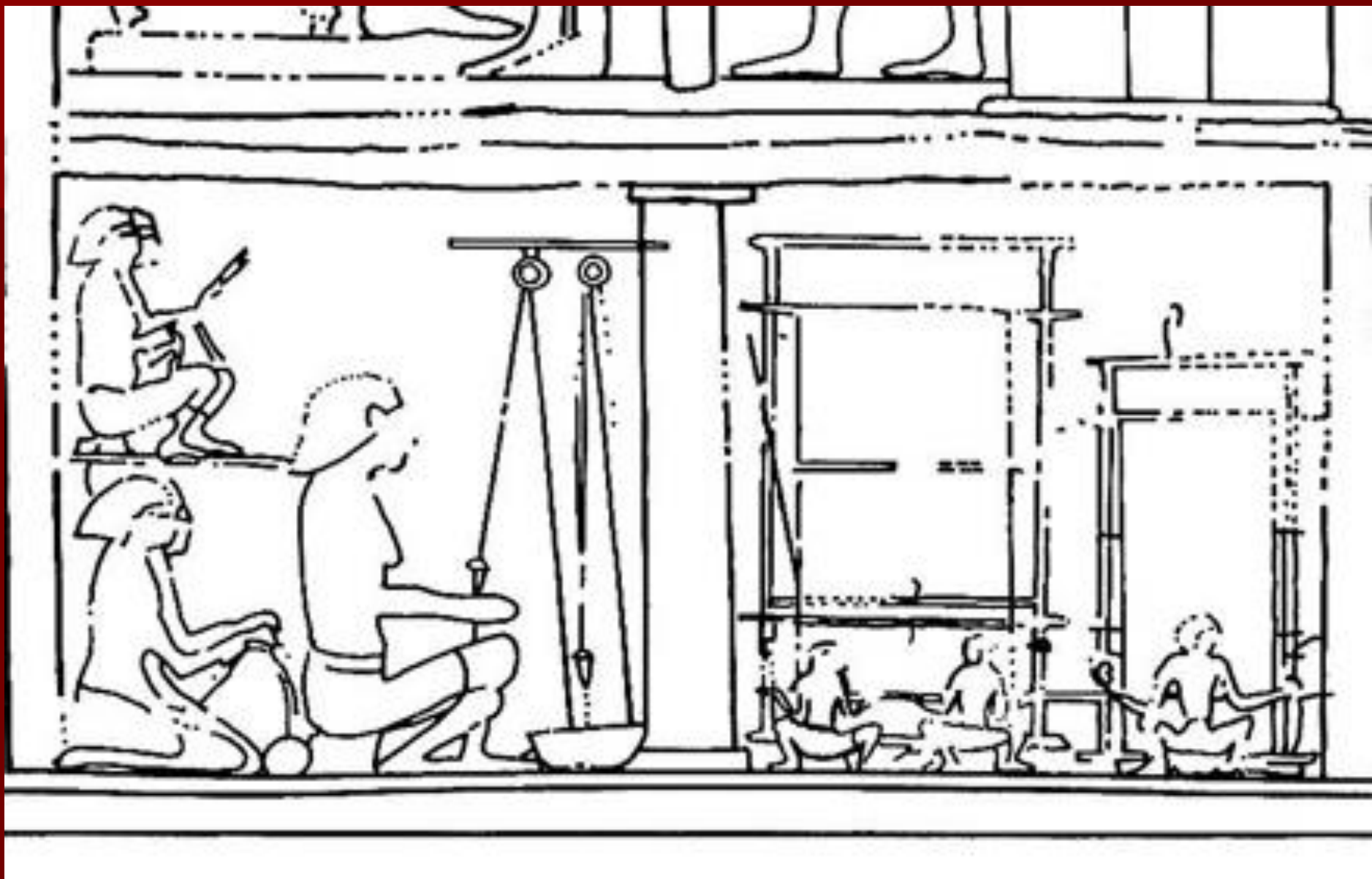


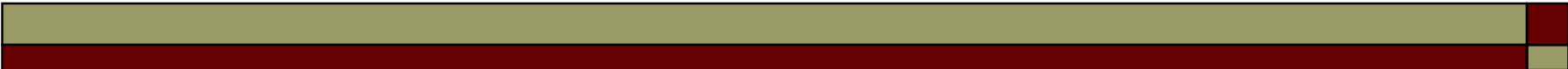












Jobs

- Nb.t Pr
 - overseeing servants
 - weaving workshops
 - food
 - clothing
 - small gardens
 - animals?
 - medicine & magic?

Food production

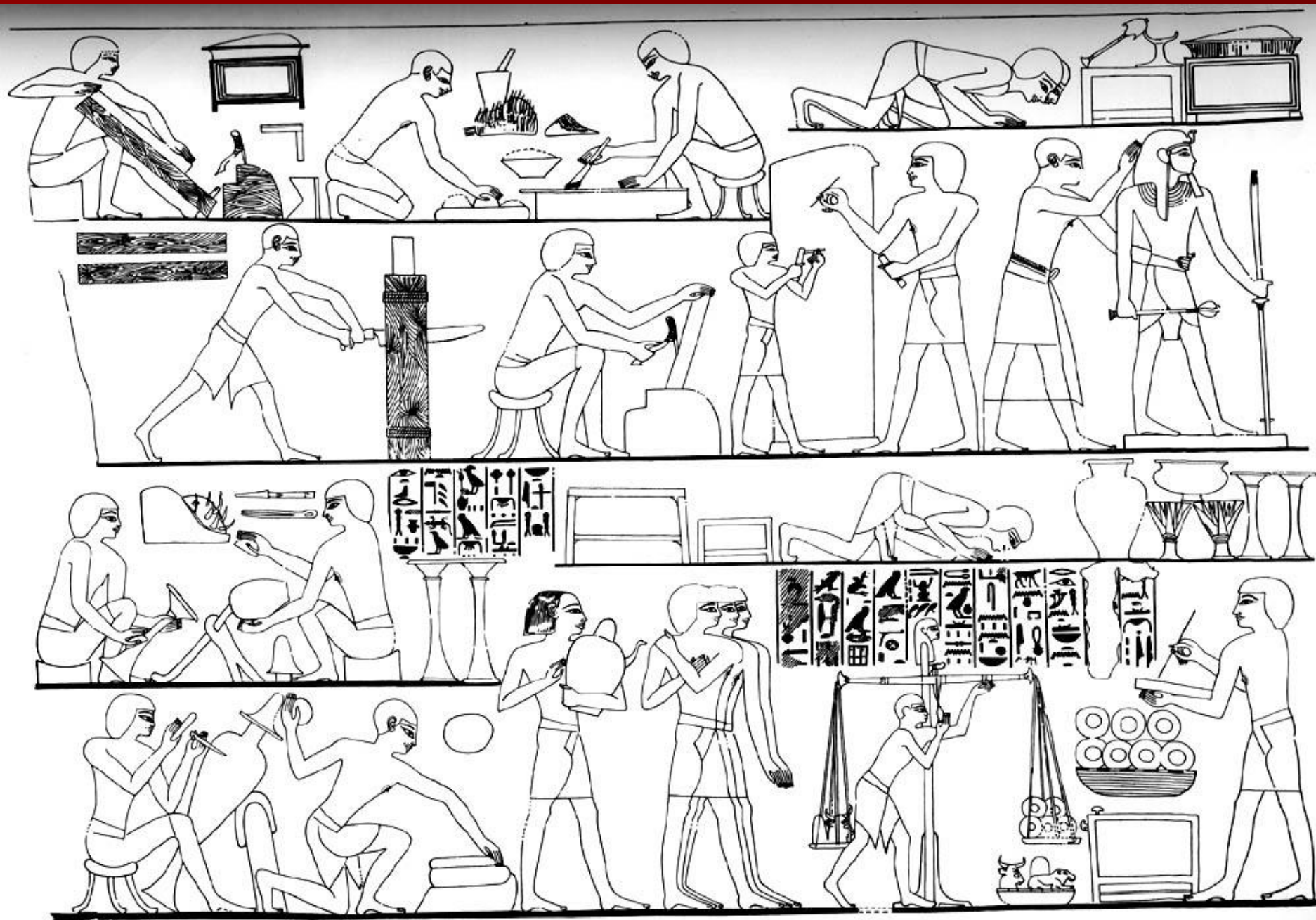


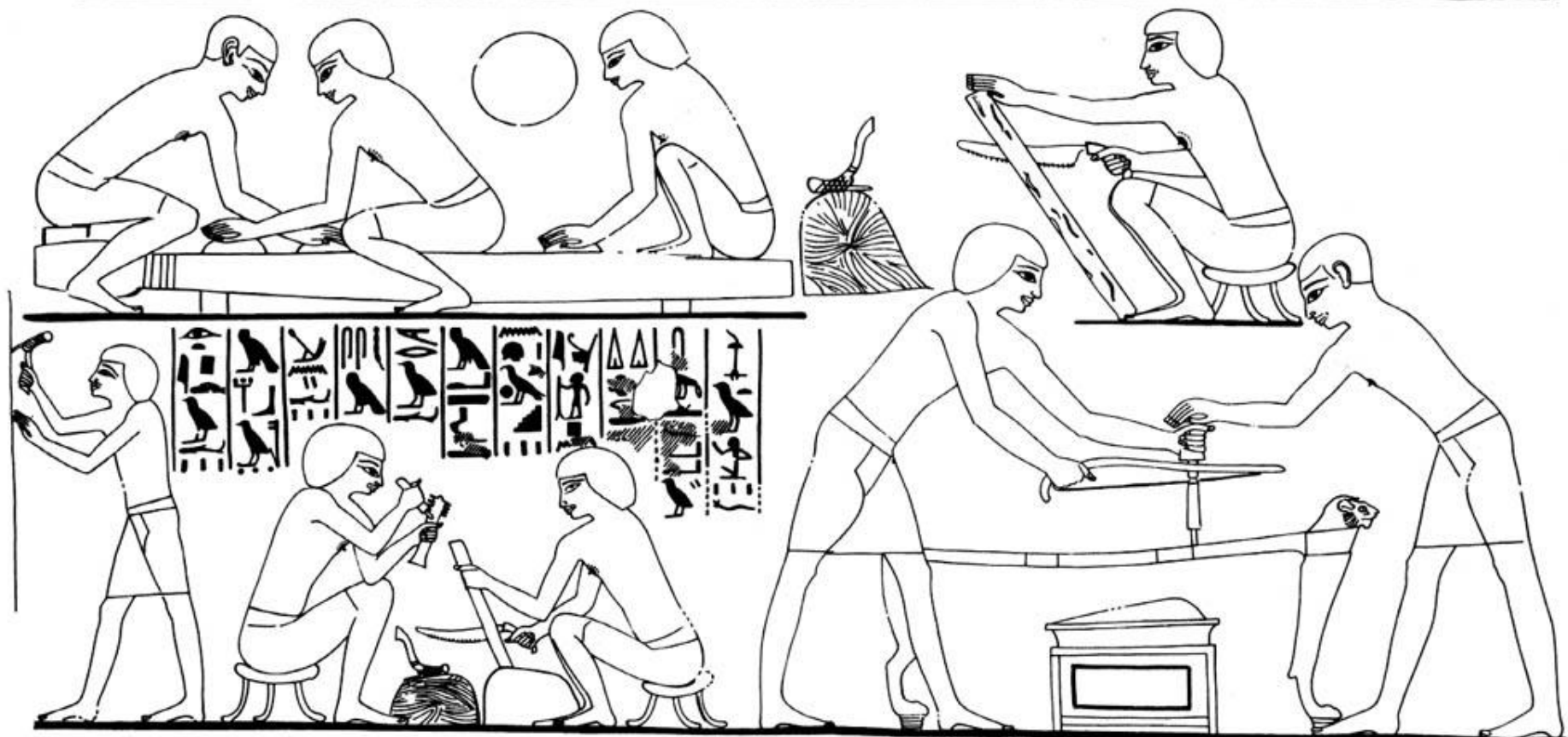


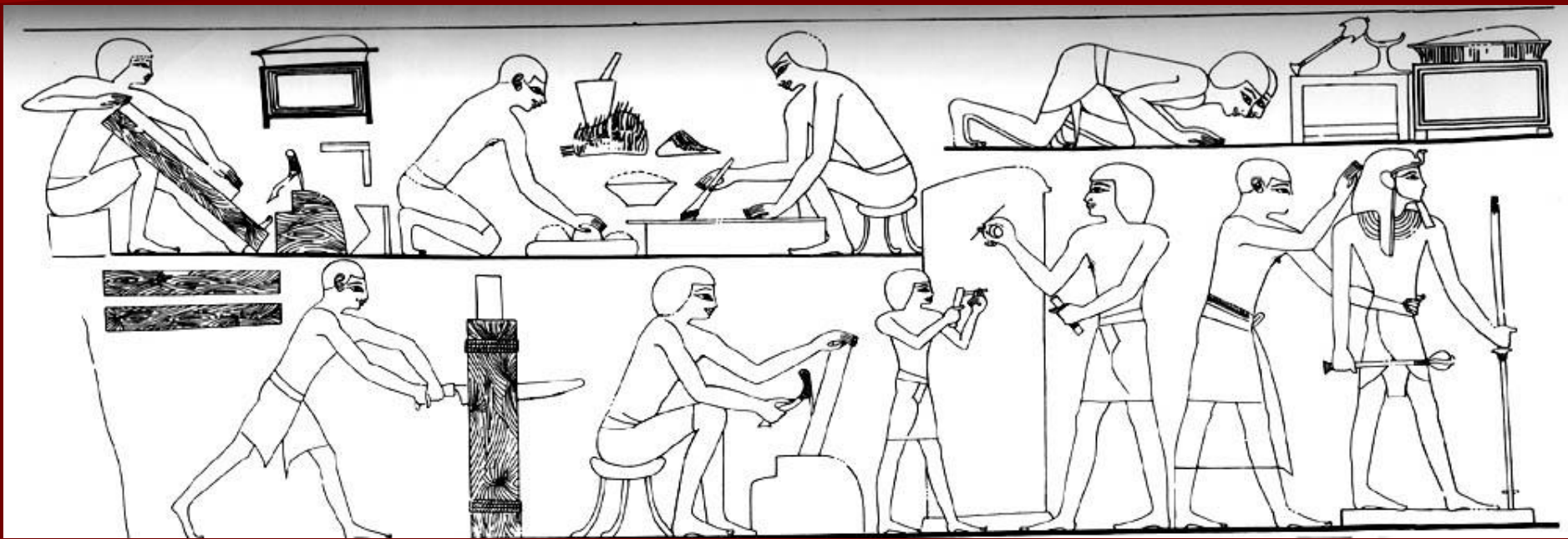


Temple workshops

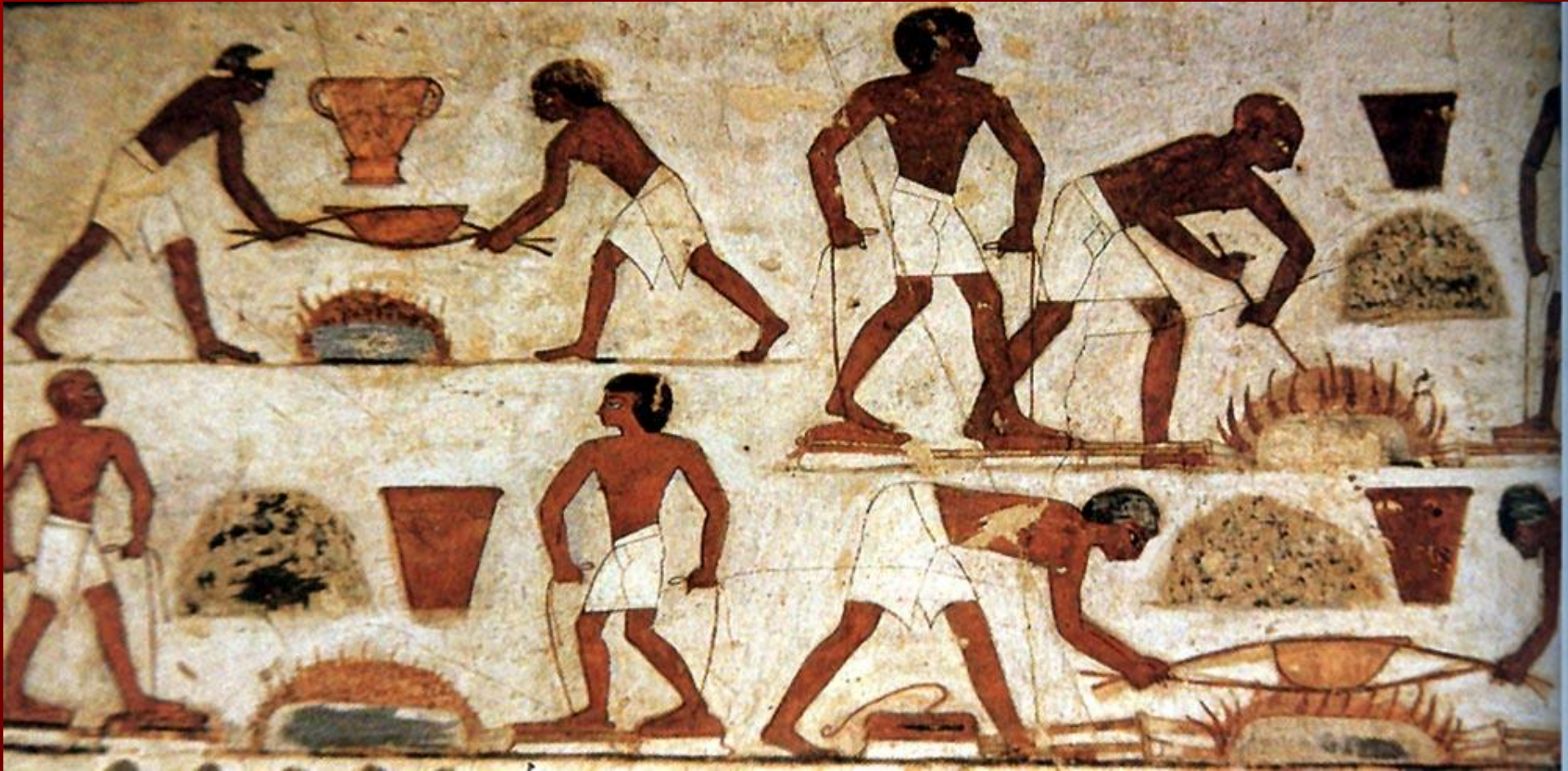














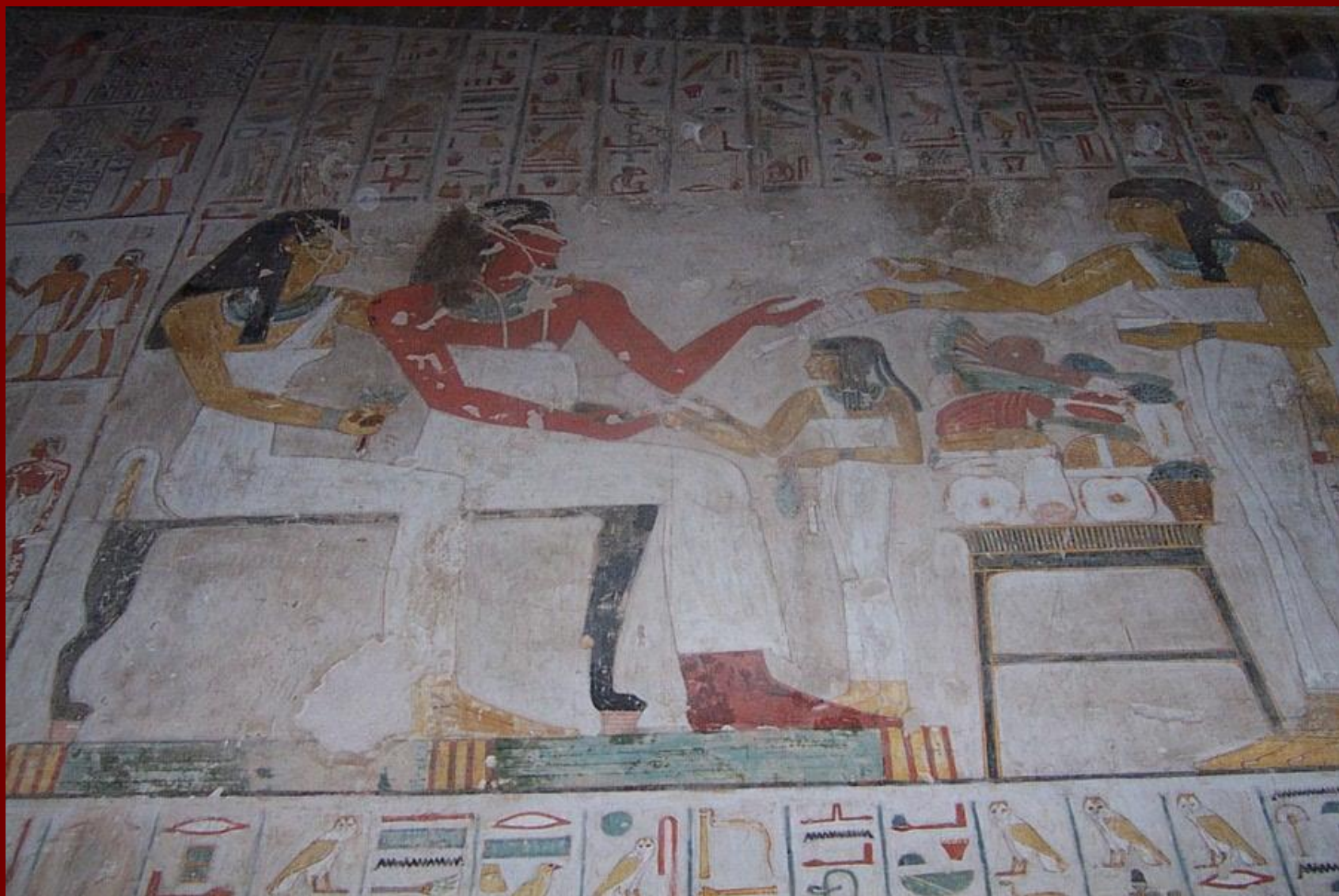
entertainment

- ❑ Singers
- ❑ Dancers
- ❑ Musicians











economy

- Market scenes



