

G16 (week 4, Friday)

Gender and Perception:
Museums, Orientalism,
Egyptomania, Afrocentrism, Media

HPAH5013/6013 – Gendered Lives in Ancient
Egypt

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Senior Lecturer for Egyptian Archaeology and
Heritage

Laurent Commynes:
Aegyptomanie – watercolour,
1993 (h.46.1 in; w.63.8 in)



Egyptomania



Orientalism and Postcolonialism



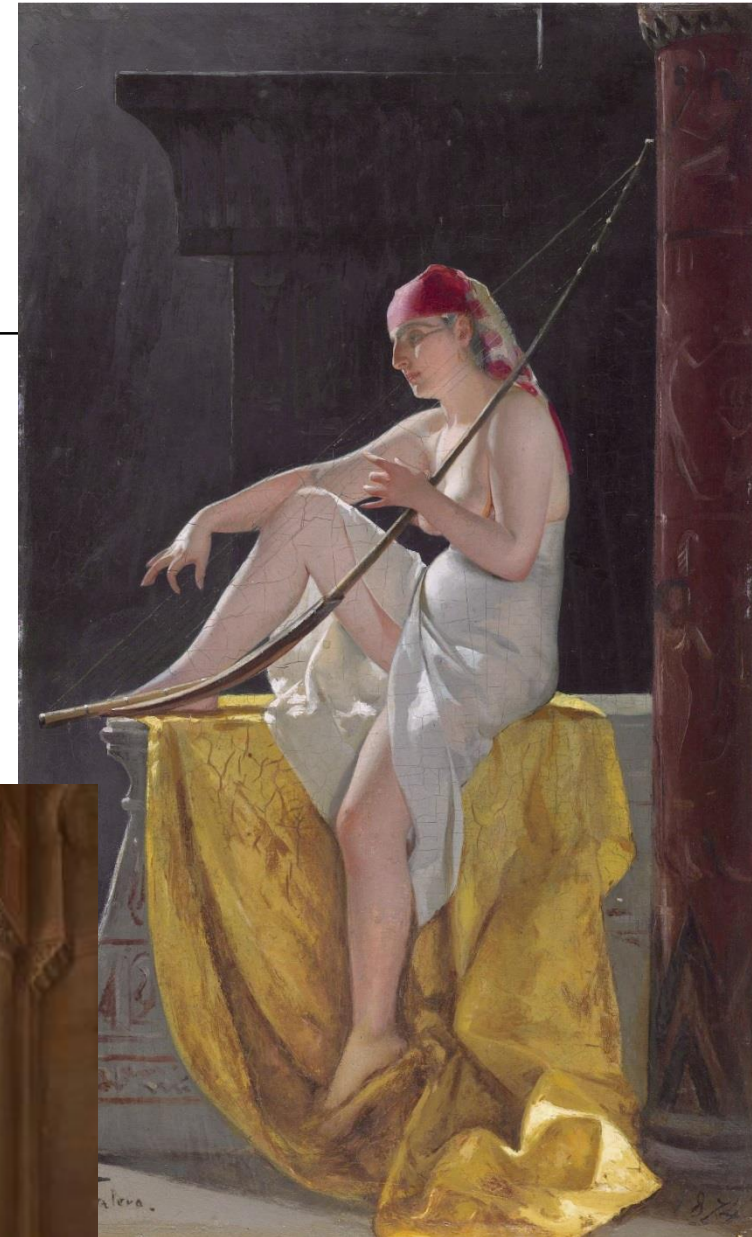
Orientalism

- ❑ Systematic, negative & Western way of discussing the Middle East
- ❑ Western academic, artistic & cultural engagement with the Middle East is paternalistic & inextricably linked with imperialism



Edward Said: *Orientalism*

- Specialist academic enquiry
- Epistemological distinction: Orient v. Occident
- From eighteenth century it was a systematic way of **controlling** the 'East'



Said on Orientalism

- “‘Orientalism’ can be discussed & analyzed as the corporate institution for dealing with the Orient - dealing with it by making statements about it, authorizing views of it, describing it, teaching it, settling it, ruling over it: in short as a Western style for dominating, restructuring and having authority over the Orient”
(Said 1978: 3)

People in the Orient

- The Other
- The Oriental: a single image, a sweeping generalization, a stereotype that crosses countless cultural boundaries
- Men depicted as feminine, weak, effete



People in the Orient

- The Oriental: a single image, a sweeping generalization, a stereotype that crosses countless cultural boundaries
- Women: strikingly exotic, mysterious, alluring
- Here: Theda Bara (actress)



Ancient Egypt and Exoticism / Orientalism



Egyptomania and Hybridisation

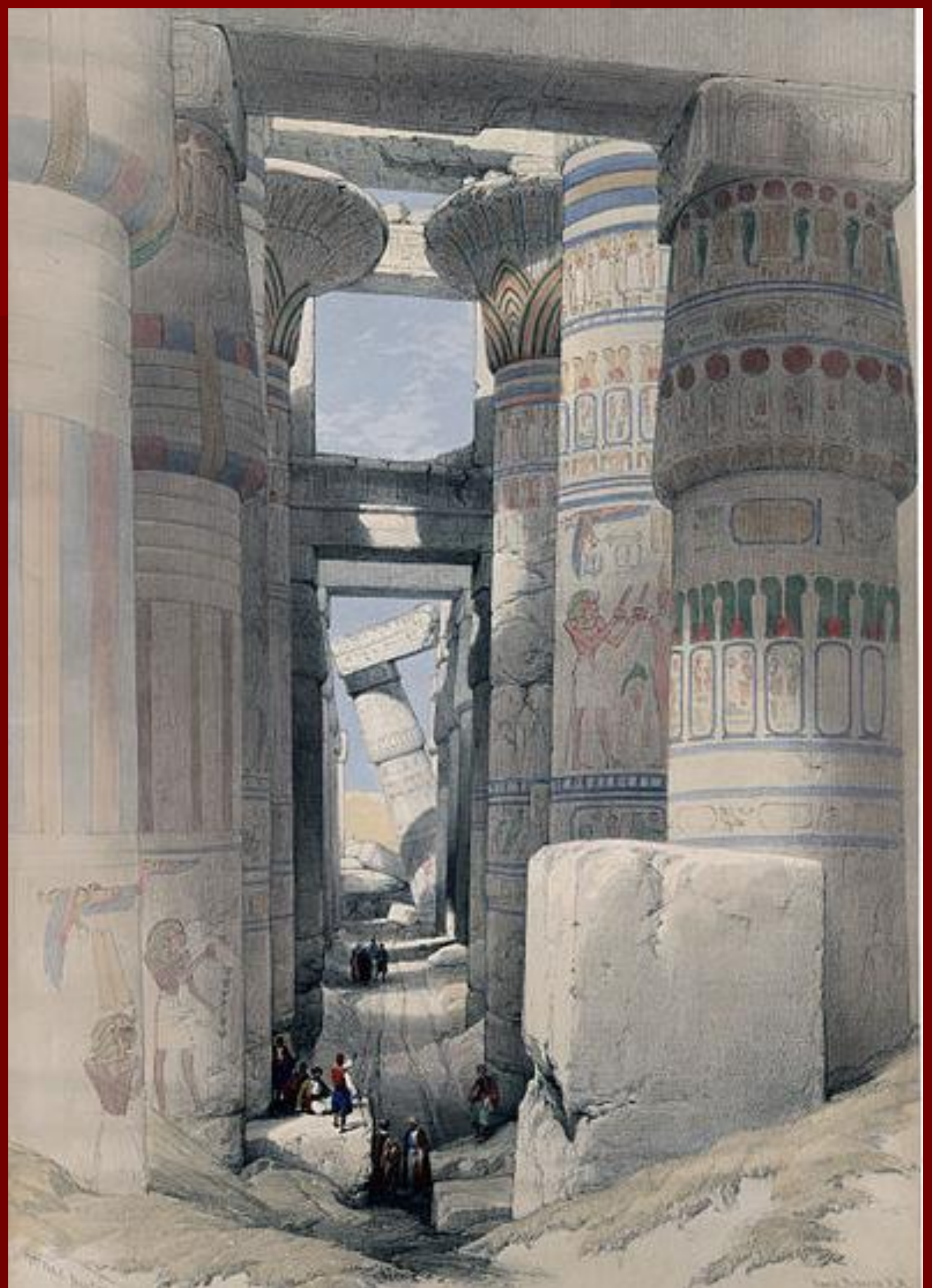
With the discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922 the world exploded with decorative arts and fashion inspired by the Egyptian mode.



Figure in the Egyptian style; detail of a fountain on the Rue de Sèvres, Paris



David Roberts:
"Dromos or first
court of the
temple."
colored lithograph of
Karnak
Date Sketch dated
1838; published
between 1846 and
1849



Karnak 1914

(A. D. White Architectural Photographs, Cornell University Library Accession Number:
15/5/3090.01487



Karnak in popular culture

final battle
between Optimus
Prime versus
Megatron, The
Fallen, and
Starscream takes
place in the
hypostyle hall at
Karnak



Karnak in popular culture

Block falls on Linnet Doyle in the hypostyle hall at Karnak



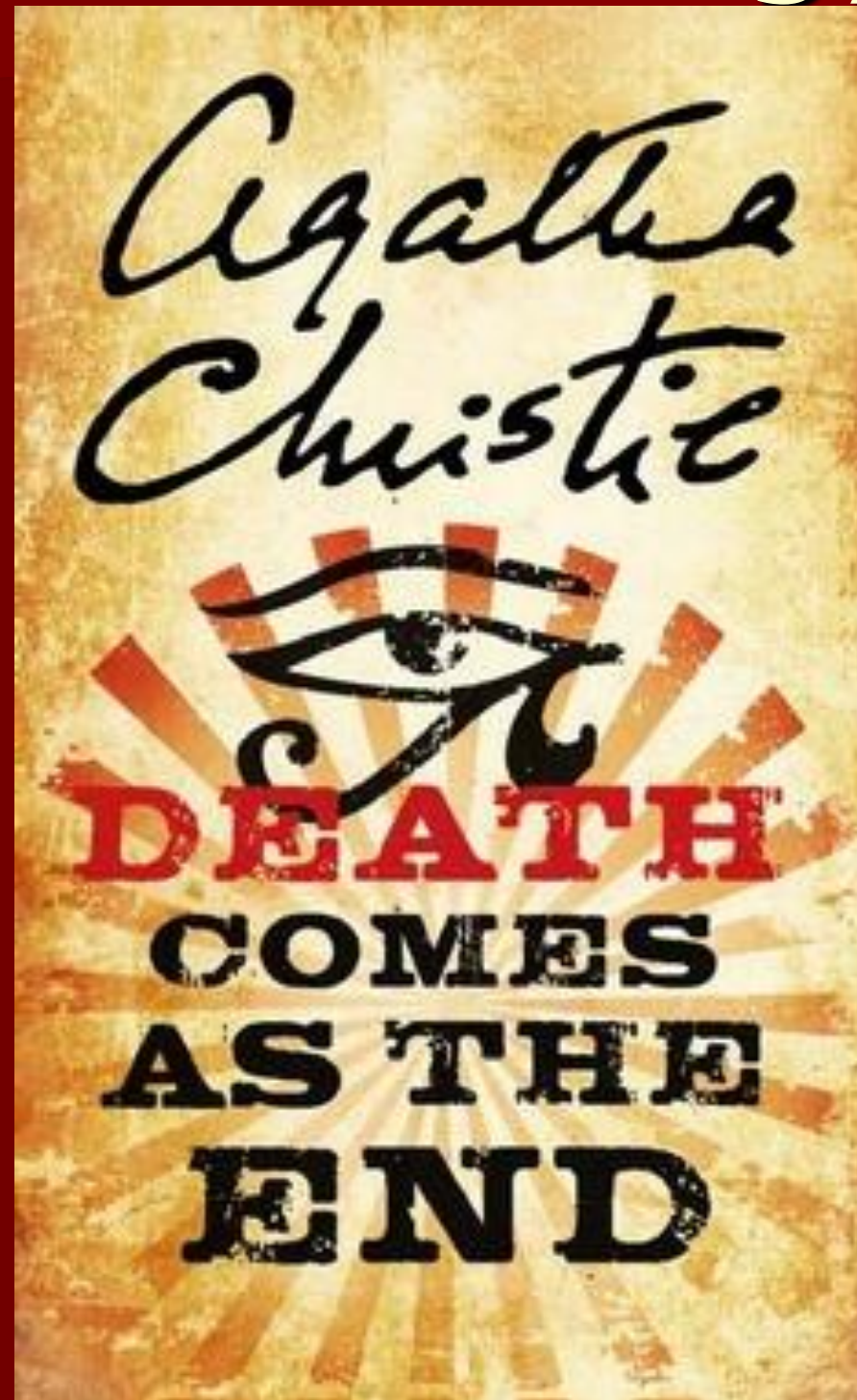
Dame Agatha Christie and Sir Max Mallowan



Death comes as the end

- ❑ This is Christie's only book with a historical setting.
- ❑ The idea of setting a murder mystery novel in Egypt was suggested to her by Stephen Glanville a noted Egyptologist and close personal friend and colleague of Christie's husband Max Mallowan.

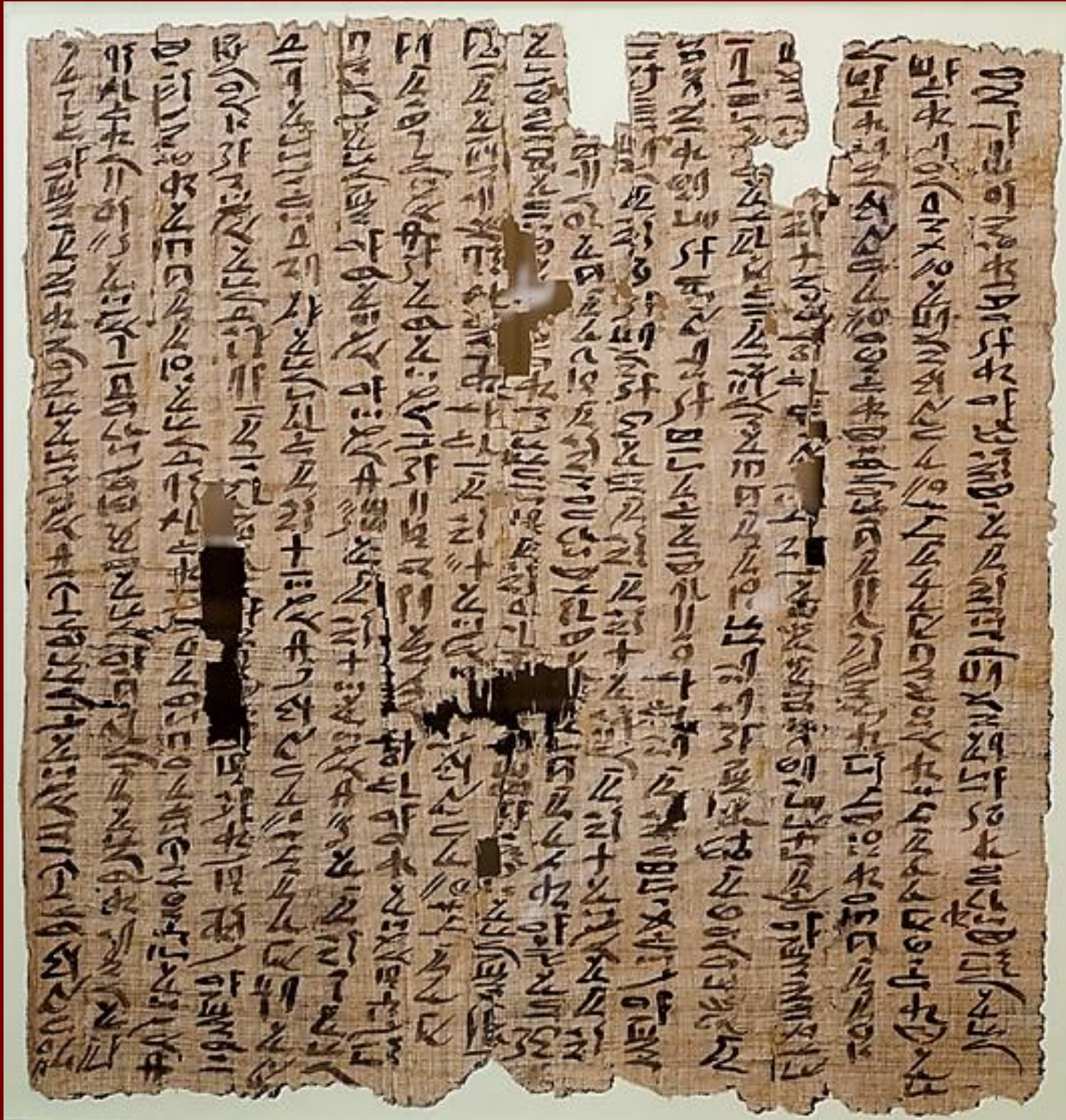
Agatha Christie and Archaeology



Death comes as the end

- It is 2000 BC in Egypt and Imhotep the Ka-Priest brings home his beautiful young concubine Nofret. But not all the members of his family welcome her. When she is found dead Imhotep's daughter, Renisenb, suspects it might not have been an accident. The death unleashes the greed and hate that have been building up within the family and the horrific events that follow tear it apart.

The original sources:



Heqanakht Letter I

Middle Kingdom (dyn. 12, Senwosret I)

Thebes, Deir el-Bahri, Tomb complex of Ipy (TT 315, MMA 516), Tomb of Meseh (MMA 516B)

Papyrus (h. 28.4 cm, w. 27.1 cm) , ink

Rogers Fund and Edward S. Harkness Gift, 1922

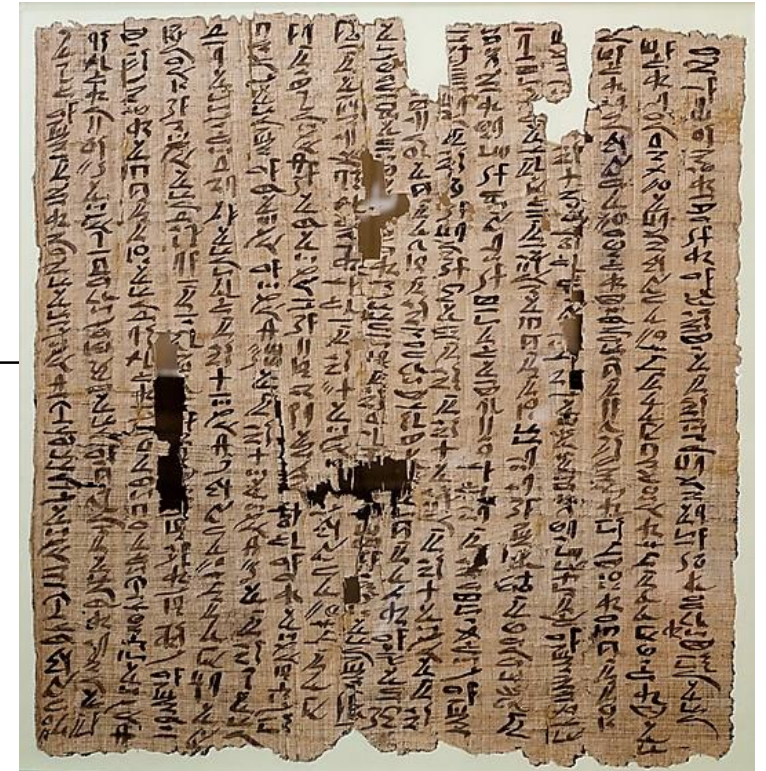
Accession Number:
22.3.516

The Heqanakhte Paper

- Heqanakht = native of Thebes during the early twelfth dynasty
- "ka-servant" of a high official he was responsible for the high official's statue cult and the administration of the land and income that had been endowed to maintain this cult
- letters and accounts written by Heqanakht and one or more scribes on sheets of papyrus discovered by Herbert E. Winlock in MMA excavation season of 1921-1922 in the tomb of Meseh (owned a side passage and crypt in the tomb complex of the vizier Ibi) → rock cut tombs overlooking the temples at Deir el-Bahri
- documents were still folded, tied and sealed, = unique insights into the domestic and financial affairs of an average middle class family

Heqanakhte 1

- ❑ front side (recto) of letter I
- ❑ written, probably by Heqanakht himself
- ❑ columns from right to left
- ❑ pristine sheet of papyrus in hieratic script with black ink
- ❑ addressed to Heqanakht's family, specifically to a man called Merisu, who was a kind of steward responsible for the functioning of the household and its production
- ❑ Heqanakht gives instructions to send two individuals (Nakht, possibly Merisu's deputy, and Sinebniut, a subordinate) to rent land in a place named Perhaa, comments on the rental fee of land previously leased, directions about the rations to be provided for the man Nakht on his mission to Perhaa



The original sources:

- ❑ Read the Heqanakhte Papers

<http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/texts/heqanakht.htm>

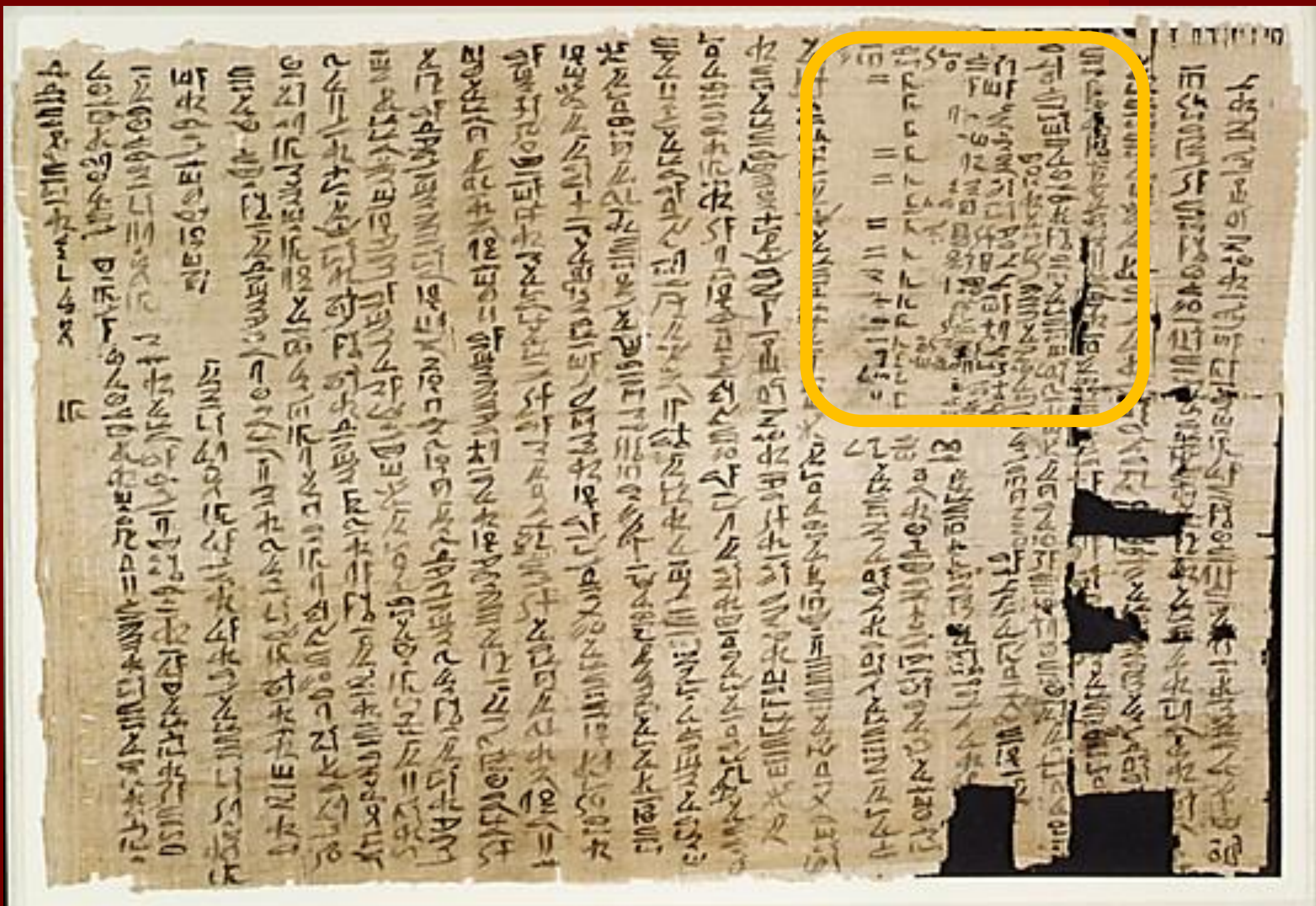
- ❑ **Second Letter**

- ❑ *A son speaks to his mother, (namely) the ka-servant Heqanakht to his mother Ipi (jpj) and to Hetepet (Htp.t):*

How is your wellbeing through the favour of Monthu, Lord of Thebes (wAs.t)? And how is your whole household, how is your wellbeing?

Do not worry about me! Behold, I am healthy and alive. Behold, you are like one who can eat his fill, when he was (already so) hungry that he had sunken eyes. Behold, the whole of Egypt has died (and) you did not hunger.

Heqanakhte II



The original sources:

- *Record of the household's incomes:*
 - Ipi (jpj) and her servant woman 8 (heqat)*
 - Hetepet (Htp.t) and her servant woman 8 (heqat)*
 - Heti's (Ht) son Nakht (nxt) together with his dependants 8 (heqat)*
 - Merisu (mr.sw) and his dependants 8 (heqat)*
 - Sahathor (zA-Hwt-Hr) 8 (heqat)*
 - Sanebnut (ZA-nb-n'.t) 7 (heqat)*
 - Anpu (jnp) 4 (heqat)*
 - Snefru (snfr.w) 4 (heqat)*
 - Sa-inut (zA-jnw.t) 4 (heqat)*
 - Mai-sa-hetepet (may-zA-Htp.t) 5 (heqat)*
 - Nofret (nfr.t) 3½ (heqat)*
 - Satwerut (zA.t-wr.wt) (?) 2 (heqat)*
 - Total 79½ (heqat)*





Detailed checked objects

- Wooden toy cat/lion of Teti, Renisenebs daughter

BM EA 15761



**Wooden toy
cat**

From Thebes,
Egypt

New Kingdom
(1550-1070
BC)

Moving jaws
and bronze
teeth



Detailed checked objects

- Wooden toy cat/lion of Teti, Renisenebs daughter
- Tripartite necklace of Nofret: jewelry, found in tomb of Sithathor, Lahun, MK



Detailed checked objects

- Wooden toy cat/lion of Teti, Renisenebs daughter
- Tripartite necklace of Nofret: jewelry, found in tomb of Sithathor, Lahun, MK
- Letters to the Dead (Christie inspired by one bowl, now in Berlin + Leiden Pap. J 371)

UCL 16244

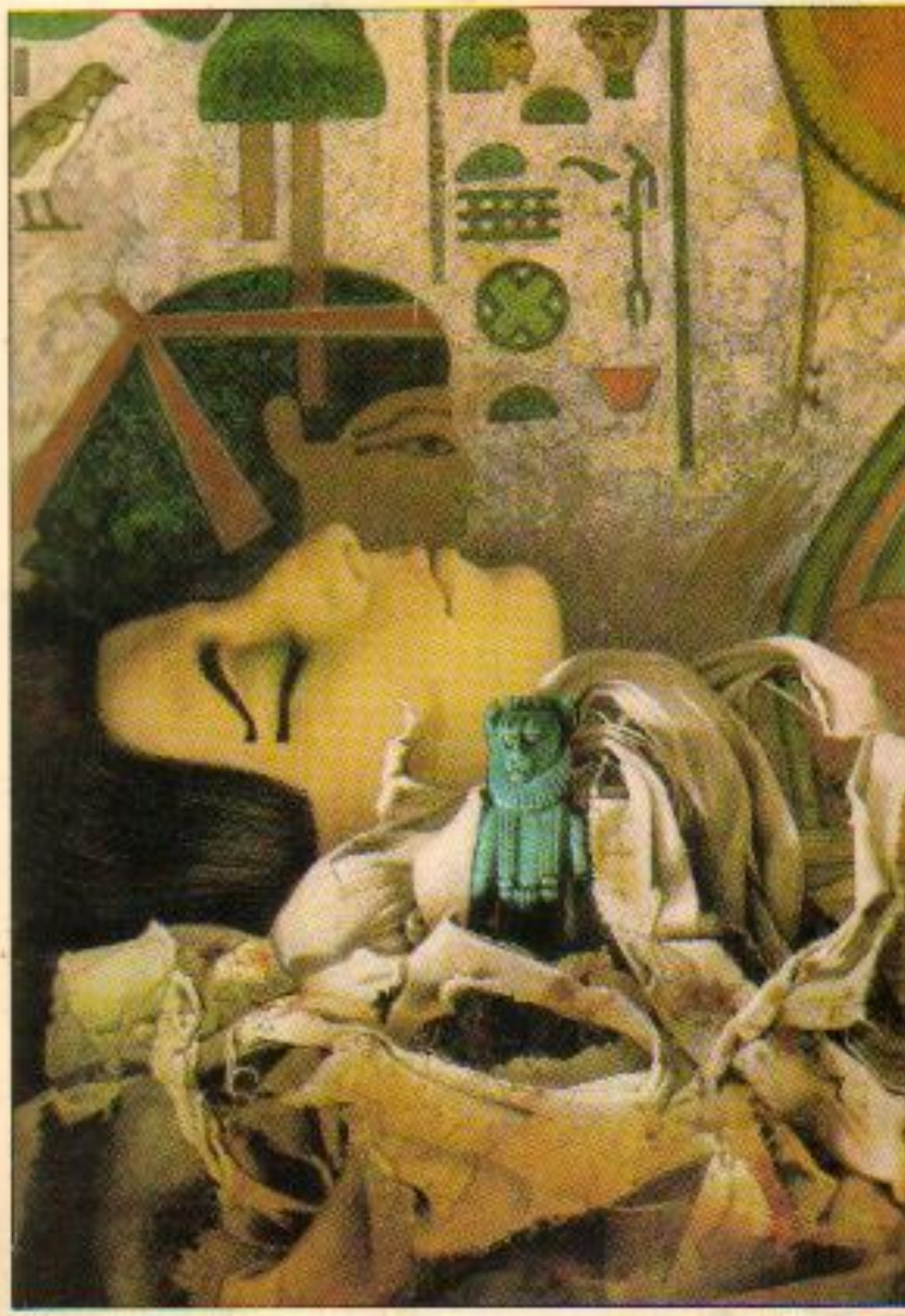


(1) A sister speaks to her brother. The sole friend Nefersefkhi. (2) A great cry of grief! To whom is a cry of grief useful? You are given it for the crimes committed against my daughter evilly, evilly, (3) though I have done nothing against him, nor have I consumed his property. He has not given anything to my daughter. Voice offerings are made (4) to the spirit in return for watching over the earthly survivor. Make you your reckoning (5) with who(ever) is doing what is painful to me, because my voice is true against any dead man or any dead woman (6) who is doing these things against my daughter



Agatha Christie

Death Comes as the End



Cover art by Tom
Adams. Fontana
Books twelfth
impression
paperback (1975).
First published
1945.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_depictions_of_Cleopatra_VII



WILLIAM FOX PRESENTS
Theda Bara
IN
CLEOPATRA

STAGED BY
J. GORDON EDWARDS

DIRECT FROM
6 MONTHS RUN
LYRIC THEATRE

A THEDA BARA
SUPER
PRODUCTION





Cleopatra VII

Philopator

- Statue Hermitage (right)
- Limestone head of a woman resembling Cleopatra VII (Castellani Collection GR 1879.7-12.15)



A question of race instead of gender? – the big dispute

- ❑ modern slavery juxtaposed west and central Africans with northwest Europeans in the Americas (genocidal experience) → race as category for uniting and dividing people in modernity
- ❑ **Ancient Egypt in race debate**
 - modern Egyptian: the ancient Egyptians are the same group of people as the modern Egyptians
 - Afrocentric: the ancient Egyptians were black Africans, displaced by later movements of peoples, for example the Macedonian, Roman and Arab conquests
 - Eurocentric: the ancient Egyptians are ancestral to modern Europe
- ❑ **Sources**
 1. Human remains as direct evidence → two dominant problems:
 - ❑ Rare: published physical anthropological study of groups remains; not objective
 - ❑ DNA research is expected to transform this debate, though self-critical consciousness is not always displayed by proponents.
 2. Material culture: evidence for supra-regional groupings of peoples (shared phenomena, differences)
 3. Language groups: modern world illustrates the use of the same language across different groupings.
- ❑ social constructivist view: ethnicity is socially agreed category combining geographical and historical origins → Afrocentric historian: = European strategy to defuse the issue of race to reinforces European and North American domination

An ancient Egyptian view on race?

- Pictorial sources: differences in depicting peoples include differences in
 - skin colour
 - facial features
 - hair
 - costume
- material culture (tools, weapons, other artificial products)
 - BUT: real differences only to be verified from observation of the original, or from good photographic reproductions; an Egyptological publication may assert clear differences in skin colour and facial features, where the original depiction is not clear or reveals no difference
- Written sources
 - Self-definition
 - references to foreign lands
 - lists of words for types of people
 - Egyptians
 - those living to the south (Nubians and others)
 - those living to the west (western nomads, 'Libyans' in the sense of anyone living west of the Nile and south of the Mediterranean)
 - those living to the east (Asiatics)
 - Rarer: peoples from the north (Keftiu – Minoans from Crete; Mycenaeans – mainland Greece; Hittites – central and eastern part of modern-day Turkey)

An ancient Egyptian view on race?

- **A definition of 'ancient Egyptian' in an ancient Greek tale – Herodot**
- legal dispute 0 includes definition of Egyptian identity
 - community on the western Delta fringes argued that it should not pay tax, because it was outside Egypt, but the oracle consulted in the case gave the answer that all who drank of the Nile north of Elephantine were Egyptians (Herodotus Book II, 18).
- Elephantine as a natural southern border for this Nile Valley Egypt:
 - communications: travelling south from the Mediterranean, Elephantine heralds the first group of rocks impeding river travel (the First Cataract in the Nile Valley), and so it presents a natural communications border to the area of relatively free travel
 - linguistic: the area was unified by one language, Egyptian

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Cleopatra's mother 'was African'

Cleopatra, the last Egyptian Pharaoh, renowned for her beauty, was part African, says a BBC team which believes it has found her sister's tomb.

Queen Cleopatra was a descendant of Ptolemy, the Macedonian general who ruled Egypt after Alexander the Great.

But remains of the queen's sister Princess Arsinoe, found in Ephesus, Turkey, indicate that her mother had an "African" skeleton.

Experts have described the results as "a real sensation."

The discovery was made by Hilke Thuer of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

"It is unique in the life of an archaeologist to find the tomb and the skeleton of a member of Ptolemaic dynasty," she said.

"That Arsinoe had an African mother is a real sensation which



Elizabeth Taylor's European [Cleopatra](#) persists in the public imagination

“ They were real people and not the semi-mythical figures

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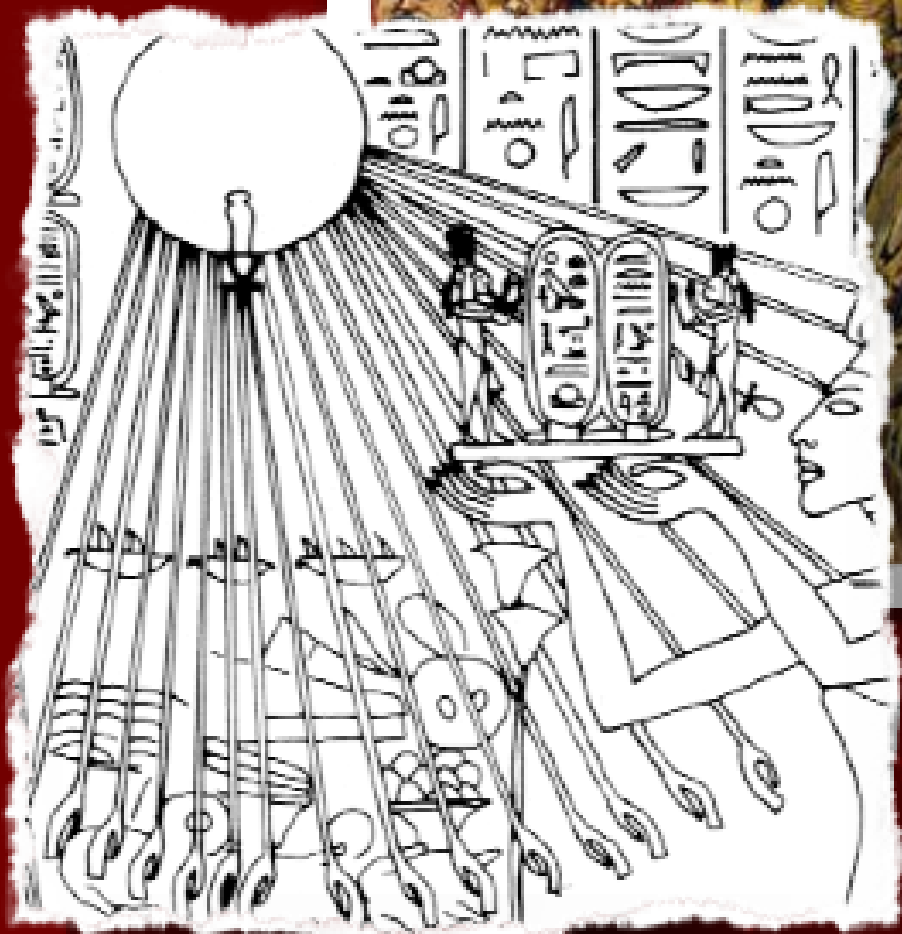
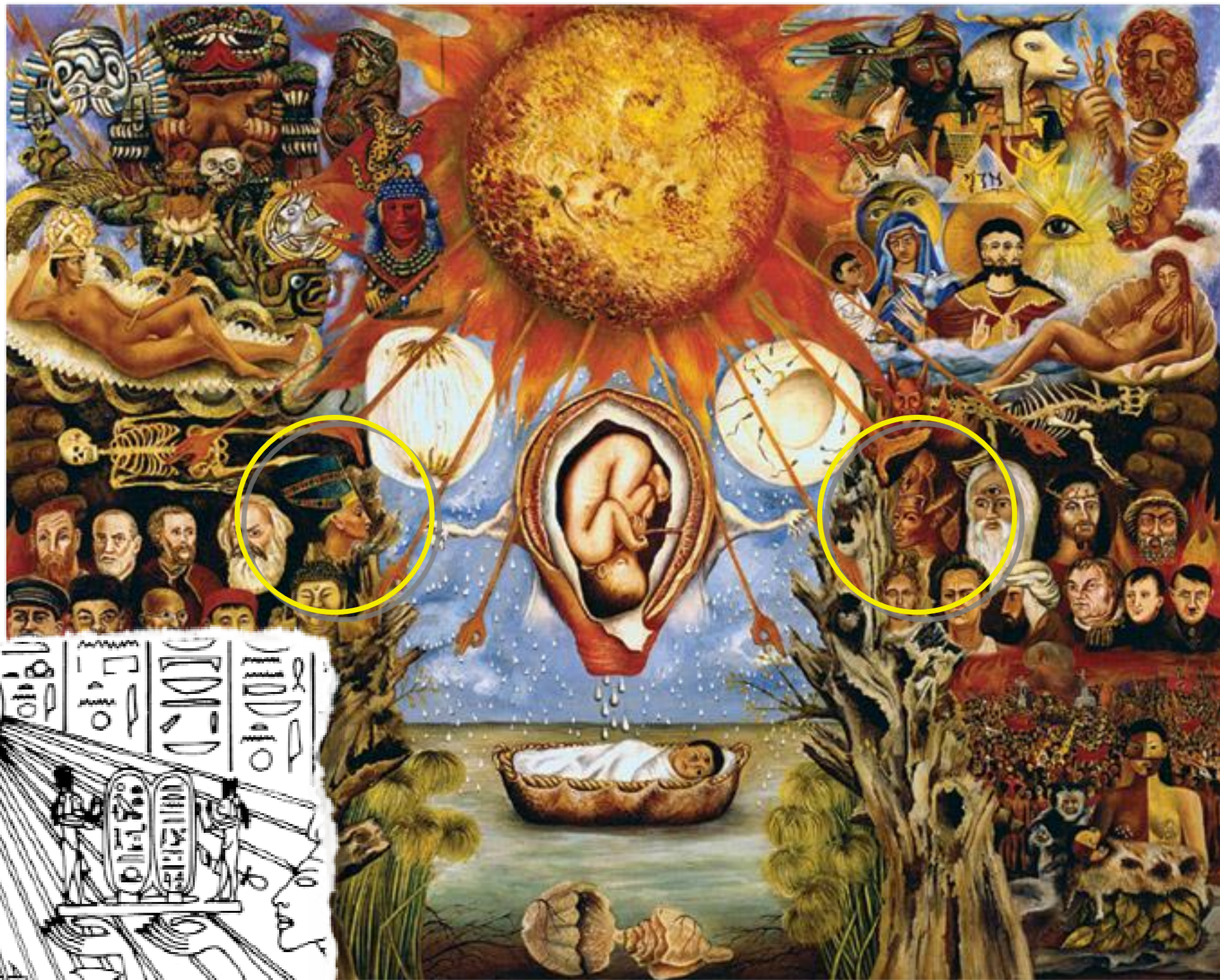
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Internet

“MOSES” (1945)

- Kahlo: Freud’s book inspired her to paint a very complex painting entitled “Moses”, which features Amarna iconography
- Blood-red Aten-disk sun, under which Moses is born
- Nefertiti and Akhenaten as revolutionary leaders, rising above the masses, with great/important/enigmatic leaders such as Jesus, Muhammad, Martin Luther, Napoleon, Hitler, Gengis Khan, Marx, Stalin, and others



“MOSES” (1945)



Collecting Egypt News about the collecting & display of ancient Egypt. Twitter at CollectingEgypt

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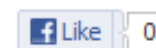
Major Harry Hartley Southey (1871 - 1917)

A small but interesting collection of Egyptian antiques can be found at Cyfarthfa Castle Museum in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. This 1825 property houses a number of collections from different periods and representing several different subjects. The Egyptian display was acquired by Major Harry Hartley Southey, a member of a local newspaper family. His army career took him to Egypt where he was able to acquire a number of objects which were donated by his family after his death. The collection includes small statues, amulets, canopic chests and jars, sections of coffins, head rests and a mummy mask.

[Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery Site](#)

Other links:

- [Personalities](#)
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Posted 13th May 2009 by [David Gill](#)Labels: [army](#) [Wales](#)

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BLANCHARD'S
EGYPTIAN MUSEUM
CAIRO - EGYPT

Isis-Horus. Osiris. The Egyptian Trinity
Period: XXVI - XXX Dynasty
Date: 600 - 300 years B.C.
Provenance: Lower Egypt.
Catalogue No. 69. Case: 75.
Guaranteed Genuine
R. H. Blanchard.

Cm





R. H. Blanchard, Schâri Kâmil, Cairo

- American antiquities dealer with store in the famous Shepherd Hotel



146 CAIRO. — Chareh-el-Ramel. — LL.





R. H. Blanchard, Schâri Kâmil, Cairo

- ❑ American antiquities dealer with store in the famous Shepherd Hotel
- ❑ Wrote a book in 1909 “Handbook of Egyptian Gods Mummy Amulets”
- ❑ Seen as reliable antiquities dealer
- ❑ Costumers were:
 - Oslo Papyrus Collection (L. Amundsen acquired various collections during his stay in Egypt 1927-1929)
 - Pitt Rivers Museum (might be donation or buy)
 - Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History