

F2a – Week 1, Tuesday

**The materiality of death
and afterlife**

HPAH5076/6076

Funerary Beliefs in Ancient Egypt

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Tombs...





PYRAMIDS...

Djoser Pyramid Sakkara



Mummies...

Seti I



MMA 22.2.21



TT ? (Nebamun) Banquet scene



Sennefer



Performing (reading) a ritual: Funerary Procession



ANCIENT EGYPT COMES TO LAMPETER

EXHIBITION OF
ARTEFACTS FROM CYFARTHFA CASTLE
MUSEUM, MERTHYR TYDFIL

"I HAVE FLOWN UP IN PRIMEVAL TIME"

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN FUNERARY BELIEFS

ENTRY FREE

WHERE

Roderic Bowen Library and Archives,
University of Wales Trinity Saint David

WHEN

24th May—2nd June 2018
Open Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



EVENTS:

THU 24TH MAY 2018 @ 3PM – ALL WELCOME,
ENTRY FREE

PUBLIC OPENING - WITH
PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY THE
INVOLVED STUDENTS AND RECEPTION,
ALL WELCOME

FRI, 25TH MAY

WORKSHOP DAY WITH YSGOL BRO PEDR
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AFTERLIFE
BELIEFS

TUES, 29TH MAY

PUBLIC TALK (DR. KATHARINA ZINN) –
ALL WELCOME, ENTRY FREE

DID YOU SLEEP WELL? – THE BODY,
THE SENSES AND ANCIENT
EGYPTIAN HEADRESTS FROM
CYFARTHFA CASTLE MUSEUM,
MERTHYR TYDFIL

THU, 31ST MAY

WORKSHOP FOR HOME-SCHOOLED
CHILDREN (AGE 10-16) – ENTRY FREE
BUT RESERVATION REQUIRED (RVSP
K.ZINN@UWTS.D.AC.UK)

Sleep like an ancient Egyptian – hear
about sleep in death, try to lie down on an
Egyptian headrest and make a headrest
amulet





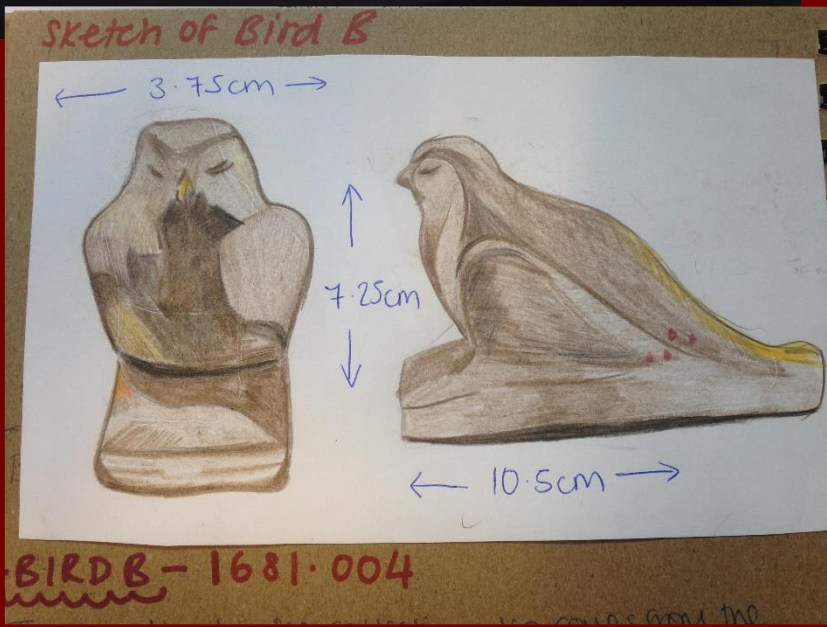
The Museum of Lies

I was walking

I was walking through the museum, when I saw an Egyptian artwork through the ornate glass of the display. The artwork was that of a small bird, perhaps a falcon, with its wings spread in flight. The wings of the bird were jagged, with parts of the wing in different shades of brown. The wings of the bird were jagged, with parts of the wing in different shades of brown. The wings of the bird were jagged, with parts of the wing in different shades of brown.

Dani Cook

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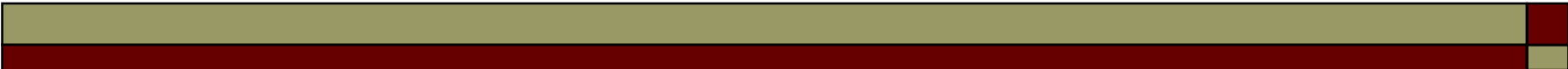
Reading

- ❑ Taylor, J. *Death and Afterlife in Ancient Egypt*. London: British Museum Pr., 2001.
- ❑ Taylor, J. *Journey through the Afterlife: Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead*. London: British Museum Pr., 2010.
- ❑ Ikram, S. *Death and Burial in Ancient Egypt*. Harlow: Longman, 2003.
- ❑ Grajetzki, W. *Burial customs in ancient Egypt: life in death for rich and poor*. London; Duckworth, 2003.
- ❑ Kemp, B. 1989. *Ancient Egypt. Anatomy of a Civilization*. London: Routledge. [also available as ebook]
- ❑ Snape, S. 2011. *Ancient Egyptian Tombs: the Culture of Life and Death*. Oxford: Wiley.

The Nature of Sources

or

How do we know what we know?

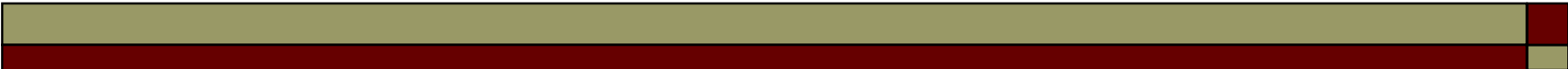


Sources

Ancient Egypt

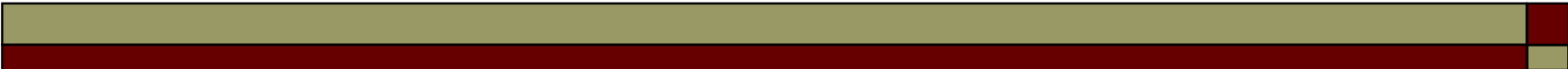
- ❑ been studied primarily through the written and artistic sources that survived
- ❑ reveal an ancient Egypt directly experienced by Egyptians themselves
- ❑ BUT: Only tiny proportion of sources survived, never covered the full spectrum of experience
- ❑ Writings: the Egyptians limited themselves in their reflections on their own behaviour and society
- ❑ Art: strongly guided by conventions and propriety





Sources available

- Architecture
 - Tombs
 - Settlements
 - Ritualistic / religious sites



Sources available

- Architecture

- Art

 - What is art?

 - Are all images art?

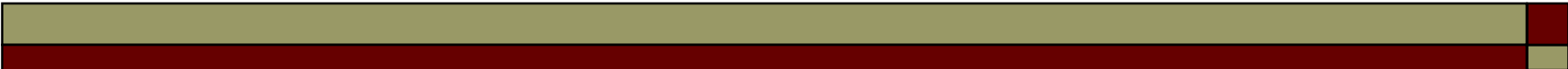
 - What is the symbolic behind the images?

 - Tomb texts

 - Stela

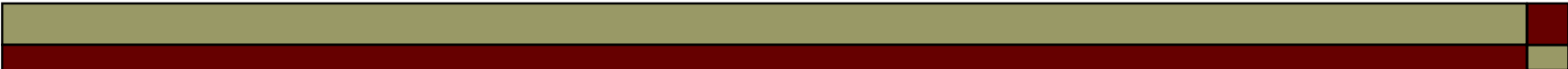
**Paris,
Louvre 290**





Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
 - Finds
 - Archaeological record
 - Materials used for dating



Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
- ❑ Textual
 - Papyri, Ostraka, Wooden boards

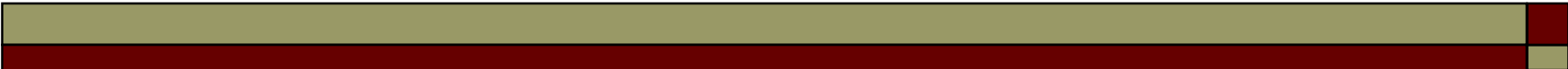
Pap. Abott (BM EA10221): Account of tomb robberies at the end of NK



Textual Evidence

Book of the Dead



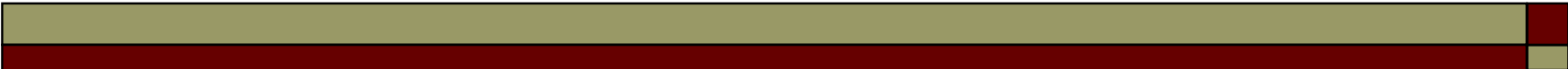


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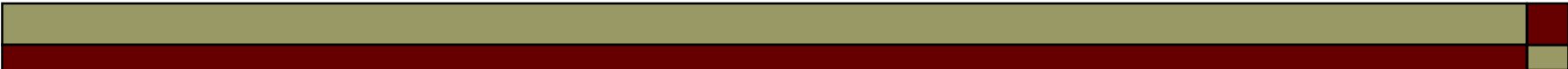


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Inside Pyramids: Unas

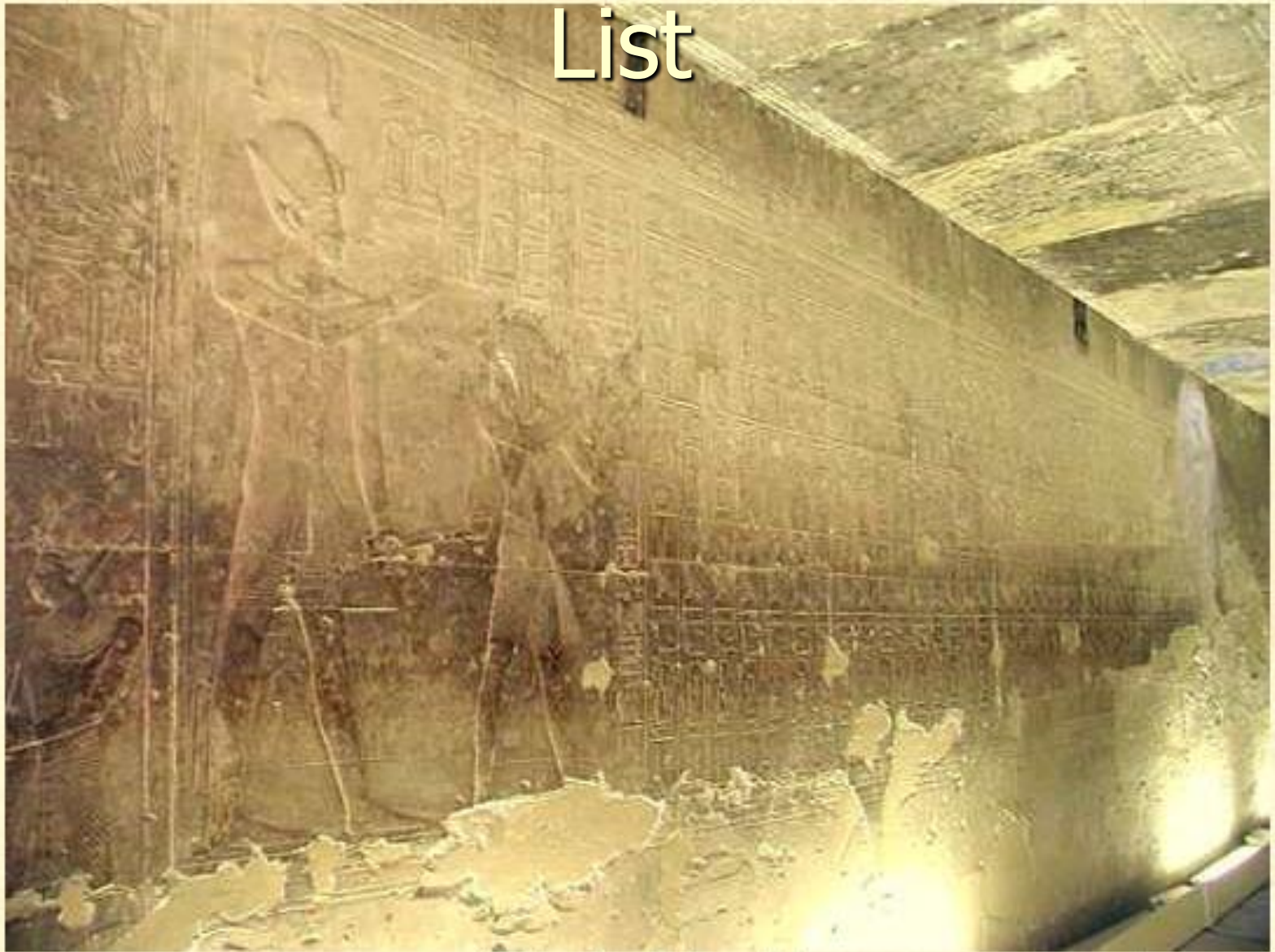




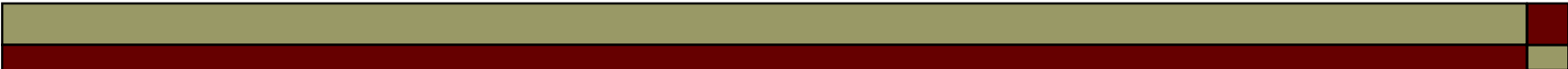
Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
- ❑ Textual
 - Stela
 - Tomb texts
 - Administrative and legal texts
 - Chronologies

Abydos- Temple Sethos I, King List



(Photo: Jon Bodsworth)



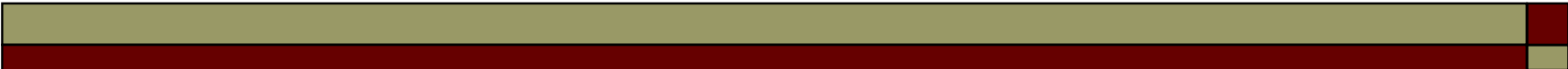
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- ❑ Architecture
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- ❑ Textual
- ❑ Human remains
 - → often / mostly connected with archaeological evidence
 - Skeletal finds

Skeletal material of a child burial

Amarna South
Cemetery





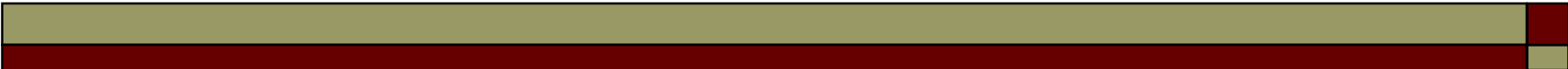
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 - Mummies

Mummy: Elderly Lady

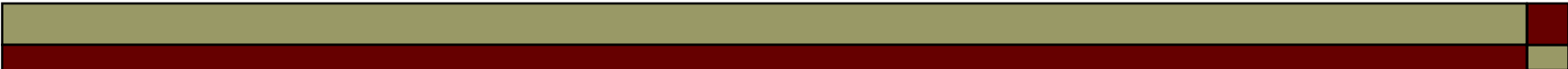
Queen Tiye,
Wife of
Amenhotep
III and
mother of
Akhenaton,
grandmother
Tutankhamun





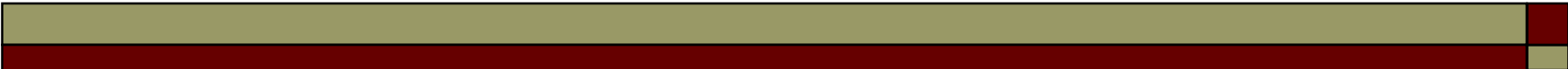
Sources available

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Art
- ❑ Archaeological
- ❑ Textual
- ❑ Human remains
- ❑ Material culture



Material Culture

- ❑ Excavation on settlement sites: large amounts of objects of diverse kinds, usually broken and discarded rather than lost or deliberately buried
- ❑ require skilled examination and recording
- ❑ offer an incomplete picture of the material, but reflect aspects of the lives and activities of people
- ❑ study of material culture needs to consider user's experience of things, how manufactured and how reached user → history of technology and study of distribution networks



Material Culture

- ❑ Some classes of objects = heightened awareness of spiritual forces
- ❑ Excavations of the first half of the 20th century = large scale: only possible to do this by being highly selective
- ❑ As soon as one accepts that fragments, if studied with care, can yield more or less the same information as complete pieces, and as soon as one introduces the sieving of loose debris as it is excavated, the number of artefacts to be kept and recorded hugely increases.

Our objects 2021





Example:

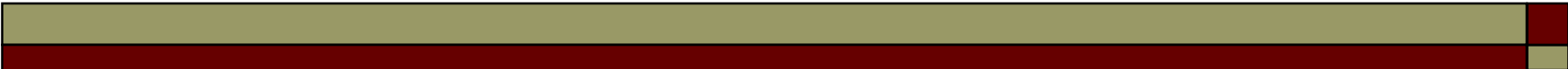
Cyfarthfa Castle Museums and Art Gallery Merthyr Tydfil



Cyfarthfa Castle Museums and Art Gallery Merthyr Tydfil







Cyfarthfa Castle Museums and Art Gallery Merthyr Tydfil

- ❑ Regional Museum:
 - serves the “valleys” in South Wales
- ❑ Community Museum:
 - represent everyday living and values
 - explores indigenous creativity, visual culture and public culture through collection and interpretation of artefacts
 - provides flexible exhibition and public programs within specific community settings
- ❑ Was: Municipal Museum:
 - until recently run by County Council Merthyr Tydfil
- ❑ Now: Independent Museum:
 - Run by a charitable trust

Just for fun at home...

The documentary: Tomb Robbers

Pap. Abott (BM EA10221)



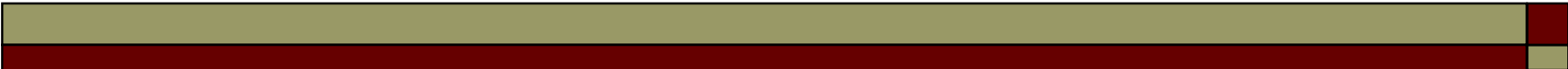
See Moodle page for link to YouTube



**Tomb
Robbers**

Scandal in Thebes, 1111BC (year 16 of Ramses IX)

- ❑ tombs of the Pharaohs are being plundered of priceless treasure
- ❑ labourer called Amenpanufer is arrested for tomb robbery, and tortured. Three thousand years later, the records of his trial still survive. But this is no ordinary criminal case. It's the true story of the greatest tomb robbing scandal in Egypt's history. The poor quarryman is just a fall guy, hauled in to cover up a web of lies and corruption - but he knows enough to bring down the most powerful men in Egypt.



The story and the sources

- ❑ late 1840s / early 1850s: ancient papyri are found somewhere on the west bank of Luxor
- ❑ court records, documenting a criminal investigation that took place in the ancient city of Thebes in the year 1111 BC
- ❑ looters divided up text corpus to maximise profit, one was torn in half
- ❑ four papyri now in the British Museum in London, and a fifth in the Pierpoint Morgan Library in New York

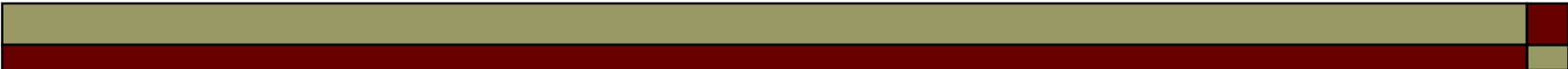


The story and the sources

- ❑ 1935, a curator of the Egyptian collection in Brussels examined antiquities bought by King Leopold II
- ❑ In back of a small wooden statue, he found a rolled up piece of papyrus - the other half of the document held in New York - part of the transcript of the trial of the tomb robber Amenpanufer

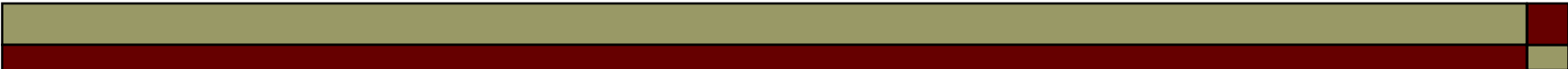
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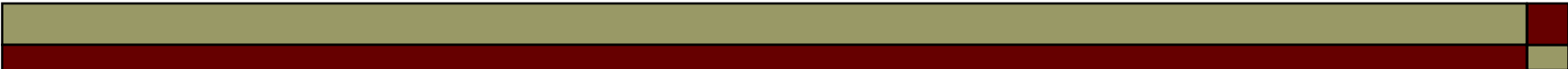
The story and the sources

- Reports started to reach Paser, the mayor of the eastern part of Thebes, that robberies had been taking place in the necropolis of the west bank of the Nile, particularly in the royal tombs. On the basis of these reports, the mayor set up a commission to investigate the allegations. This papyrus records the results of this investigation and the subsequent events.



The story and the sources

- All the royal tombs except one were found to be intact; only the tomb of King Sobekemzaf II of the Seventeenth Dynasty (about 1650-1550 BC) had been violated. A papyrus has survived that relates the trial of the robbers together with an account of the robbery itself. It also states that the non-royal tombs had been robbed as well.



The story and the sources

- ❑ Paser is shown in a bad light in the investigations. The papyrus seems to have been written from the perspective of Paser's rival, Paweraa, the mayor of the west bank of Thebes. Paweraa appears to have used this case to try and get the better of Paser. There was even a suspicion that Paweraa might have been involved in the tomb robbery in some way, and was keen to shift attention elsewhere.