

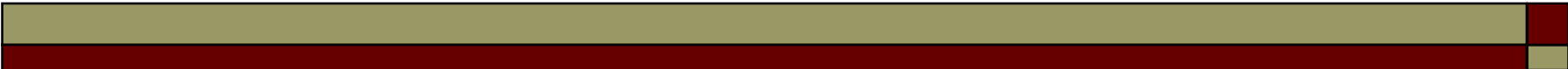
Week 1

Introduction to the
approach of the module:
**A new time? The Amarna
Period**

HPAH7022 - Religious Change and
Resilience: The case study of Amarna

Dr Katharina Zinn

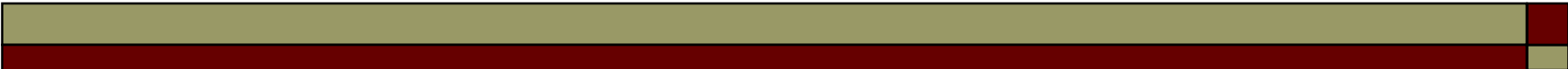
Associate Professor in Egyptian Archaeology
and Heritage



The Popularity of The Amarna Period

- The Amarna Period (circa 1352–1323 BCE)
- Most widely discussed topic in Egyptology
- Over 3,000 titles and more than 50 books in the last 15 years
- Ironical given that Akhenaten's name was intended to be erased from history

The Tel el-Amarna Period has had more nonsense written about it than any other period in Egyptian history, and Akhenaten is a strong rival to Cleopatra for the historical novelist. The appeal of Cleopatra is the romantic combination of love and death; Akhenaten appeals to religion and sentiment. In the case of Akhenaten the facts do not bear the construction often put on them.



What is the Amarna Period?

- ❑ Approx. 30 years long
- ❑ From end of the reign of Amenhotep III until the beginning of Horemhab
- ❑ Egypt was at its imperial height
- ❑ Focused around the ancient city of Akhetaten (new foundation)

The people

The King

- Amenhotep IV / Akhenaten
- 10th king of 18th dyn., son and successor of AIII



Queen Nefertiti:

Chief consort

Thought to be the
daughter of Aye
(Noble family with
origin in Akhmim)

Bore AIV at least 6
daughters



Nefertiti and Meretaten offering to Aten (Ashmolean Oxford)



House altar Amarna (Berlin)



Queen Kiya:

Other consort, favored
compared with other minor
consorts

Little known about her,
poorly documented in the
historical record

Mitanni princess?

Mother of Tutankhamun?

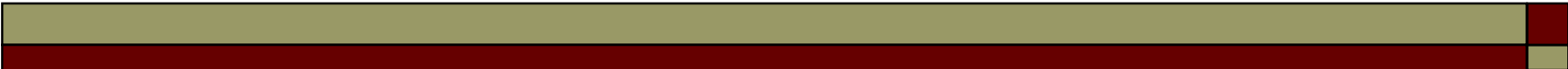


Semenkhkare

?

Coffin or mummy
from KV55?



- 
-
- ❑ first two years of the reign: nothing seems to change
 - ❑ king crowned in Thebes
 - ❑ Adopted traditional titulatur (clear reference to Amun, kept birth name of Imen-htp)
 - ❑ rare representations adopting traditional cannon
 - ❑ → lintel of entry of tomb of Kheruef (TT192, Amenhotep III and IV): sees king (cartouches hacked out) making a classic offering to Amon



From year 2

- introduces a new solar divine entity based on Horus of the horizon (Horakhty) which he/it names "Ra-Horakhty in his nature of solar light which emanates from the Aten disk", thus making of Ra a "sovereign of the horizon", thus establishing his proximity to the terrestrial royalty
- Keeps this imagery, but calls god Aten

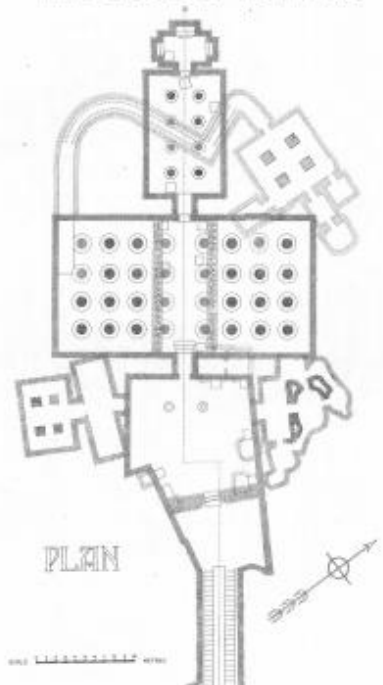


A sandstone block from Karnak preserving the remains of two scenes. On the left, the Aten is seen in its earliest manifestation – not as a rayed solar disc but in anthropomorphic form with a falcon's head. The fragmentary scene on the right shows Amenophis IV himself, in the style current during his father's reign.

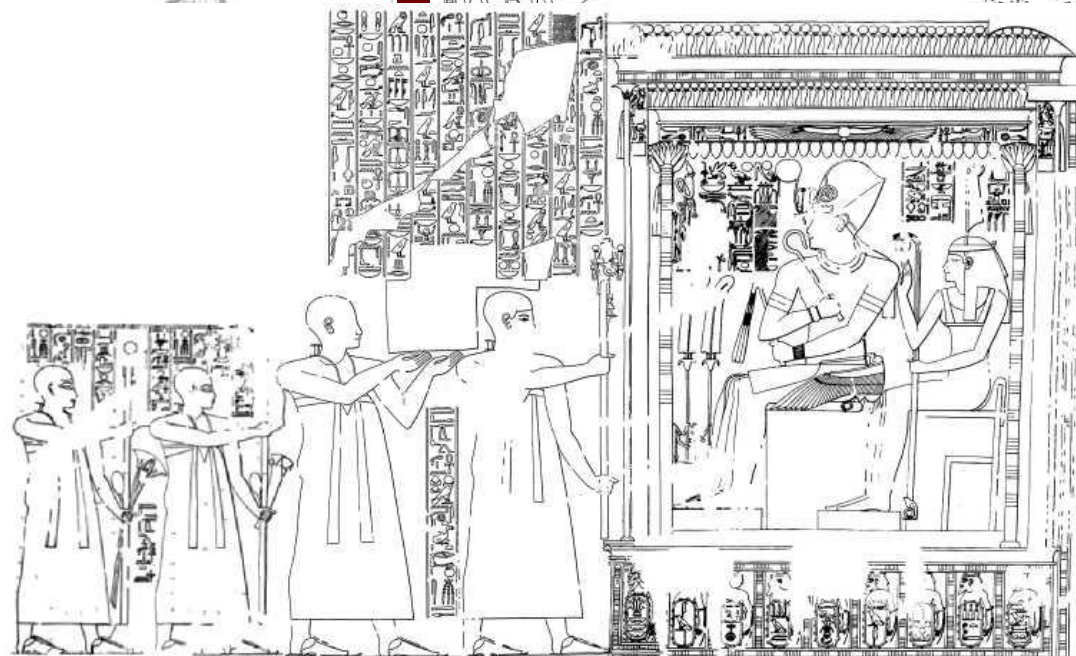
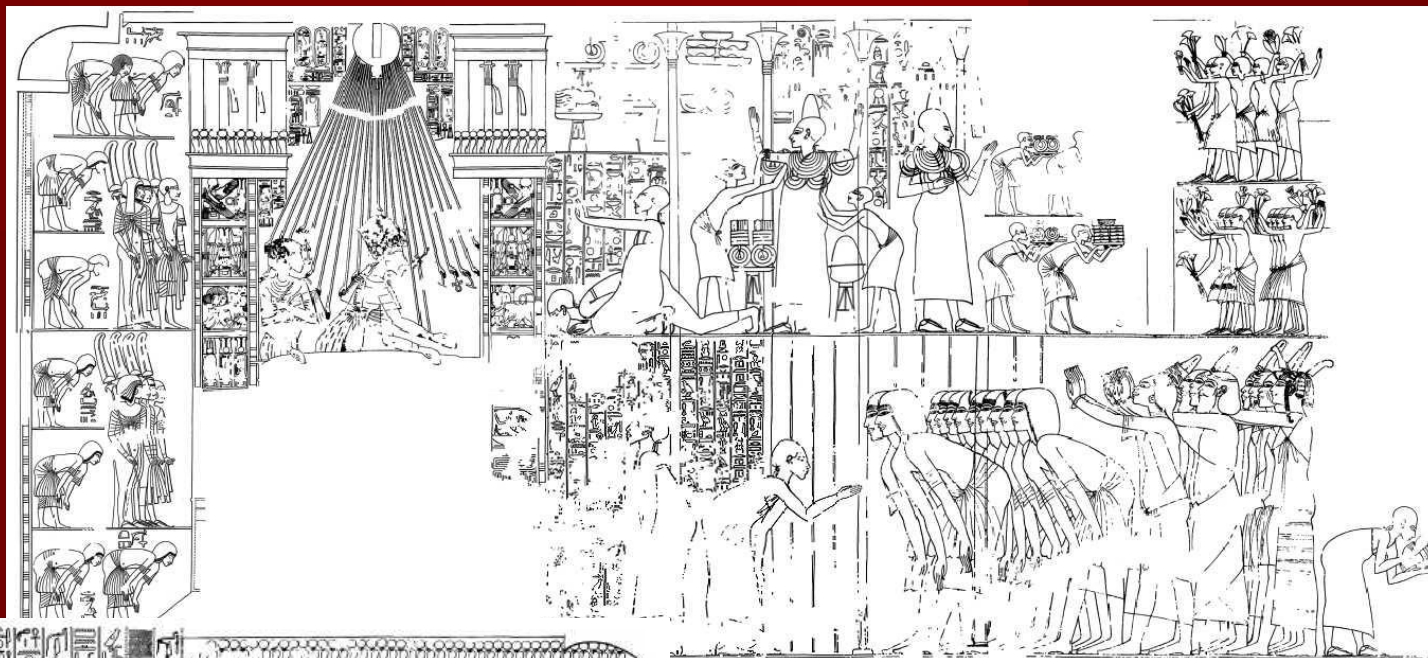


AIV in Karnak (Aton Temple), dismantled and reused as filling for pylon on Horemhab (10th pylon)

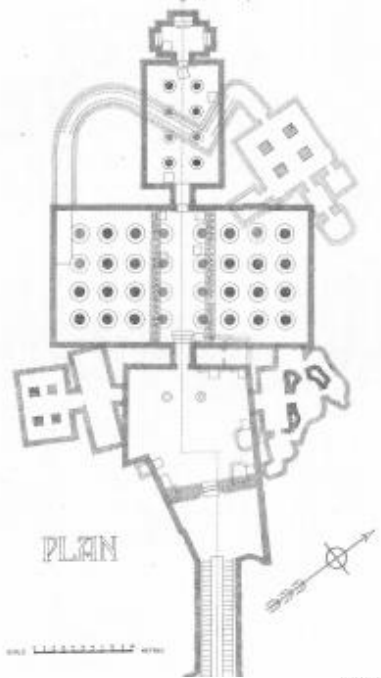
THE TOMB OF RAMOSE



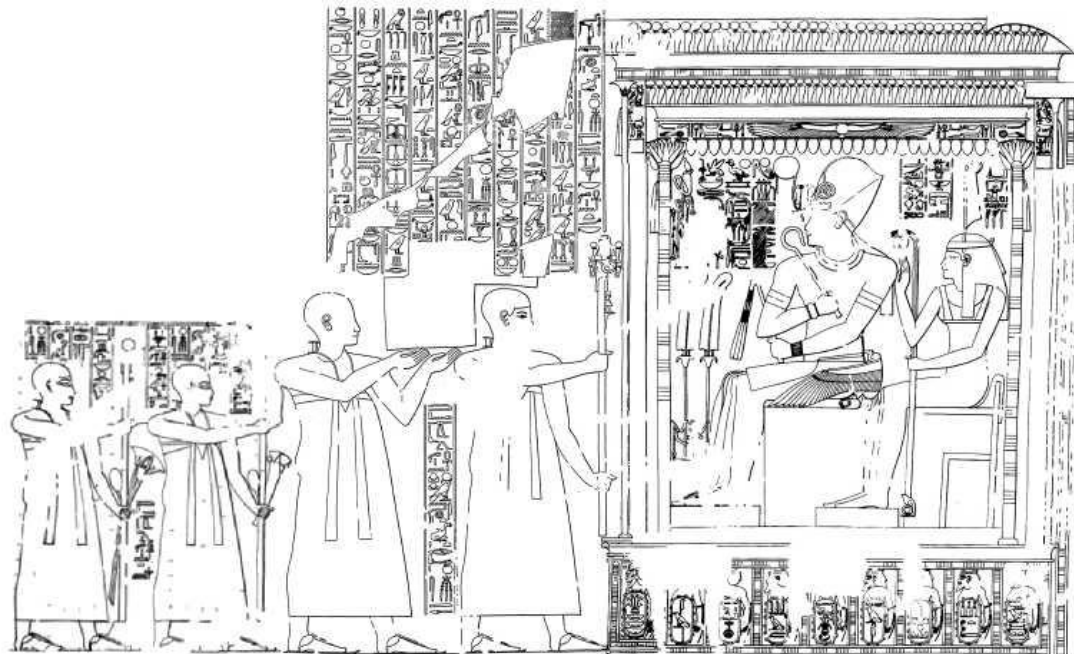
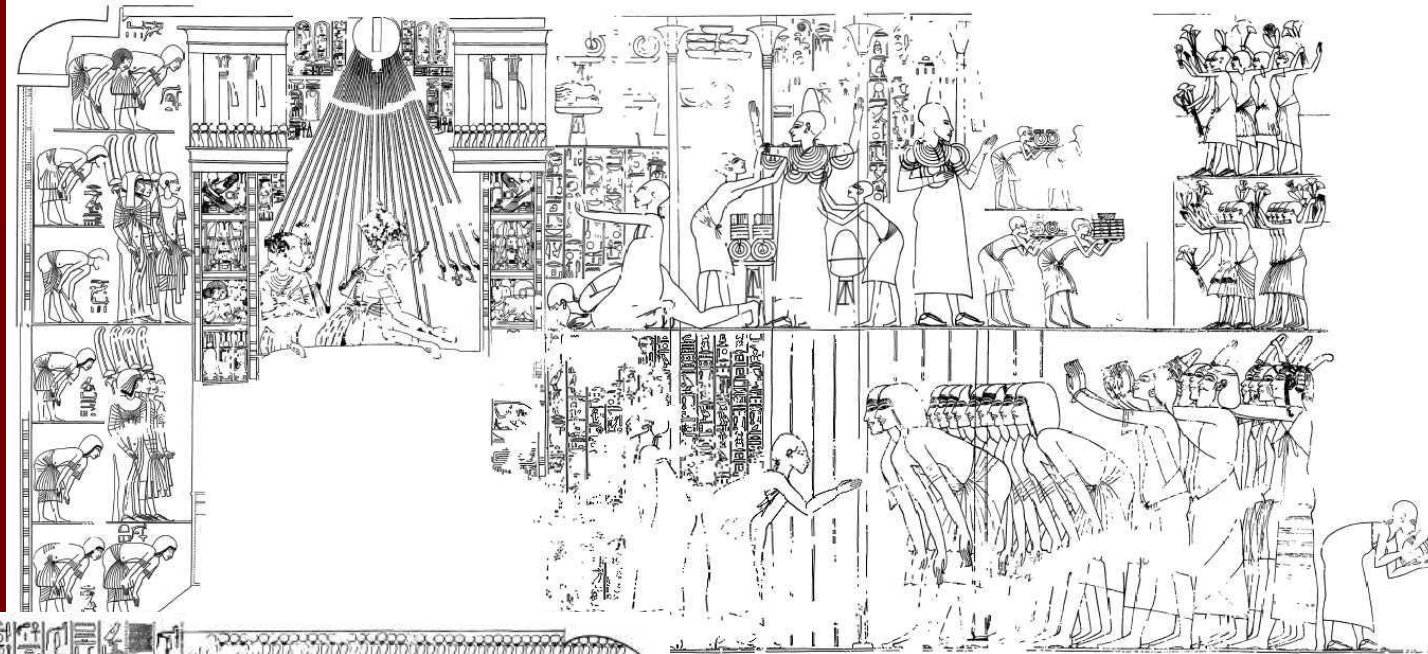
TT55: Ramose



THE TOMB OF RAMOSE

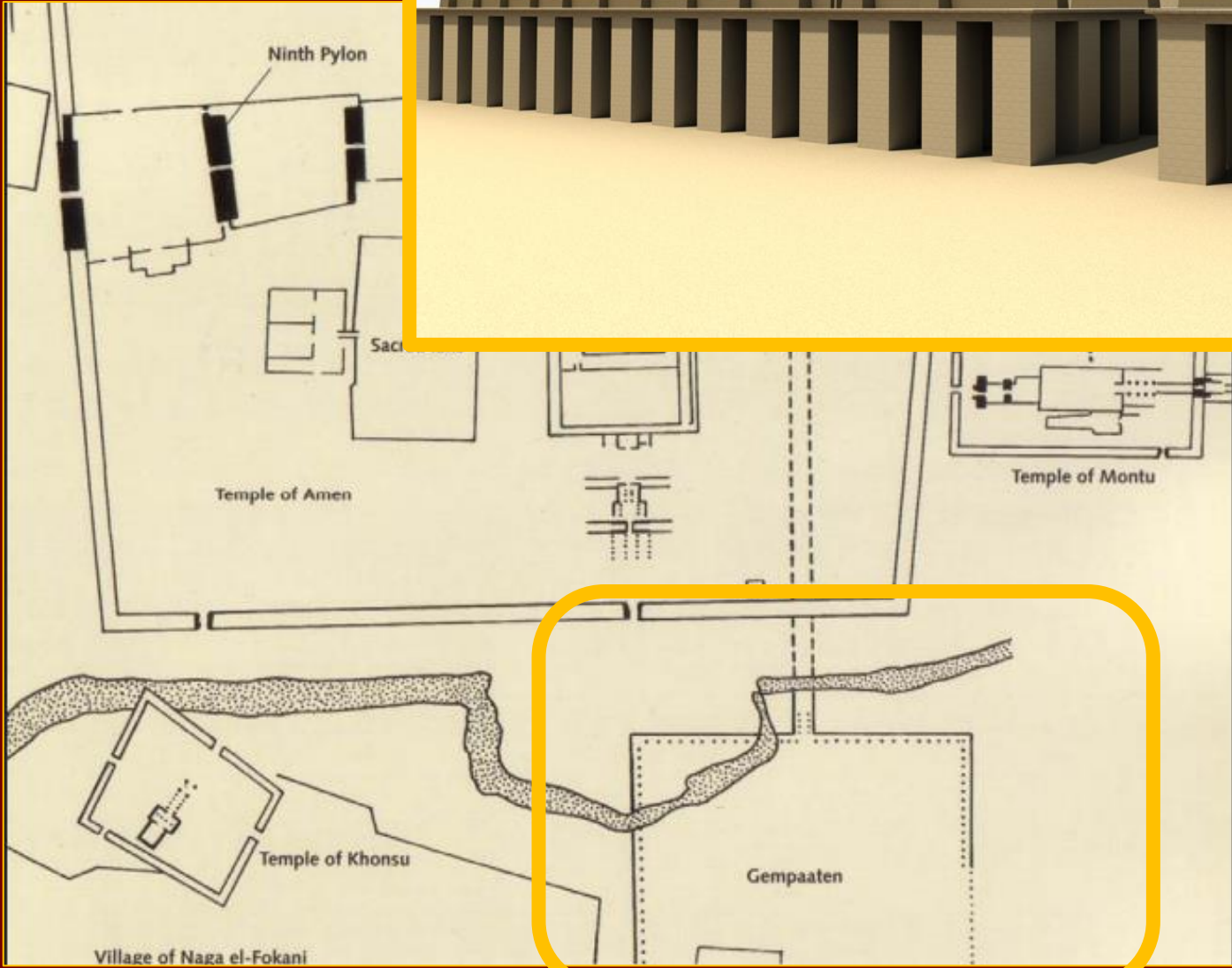
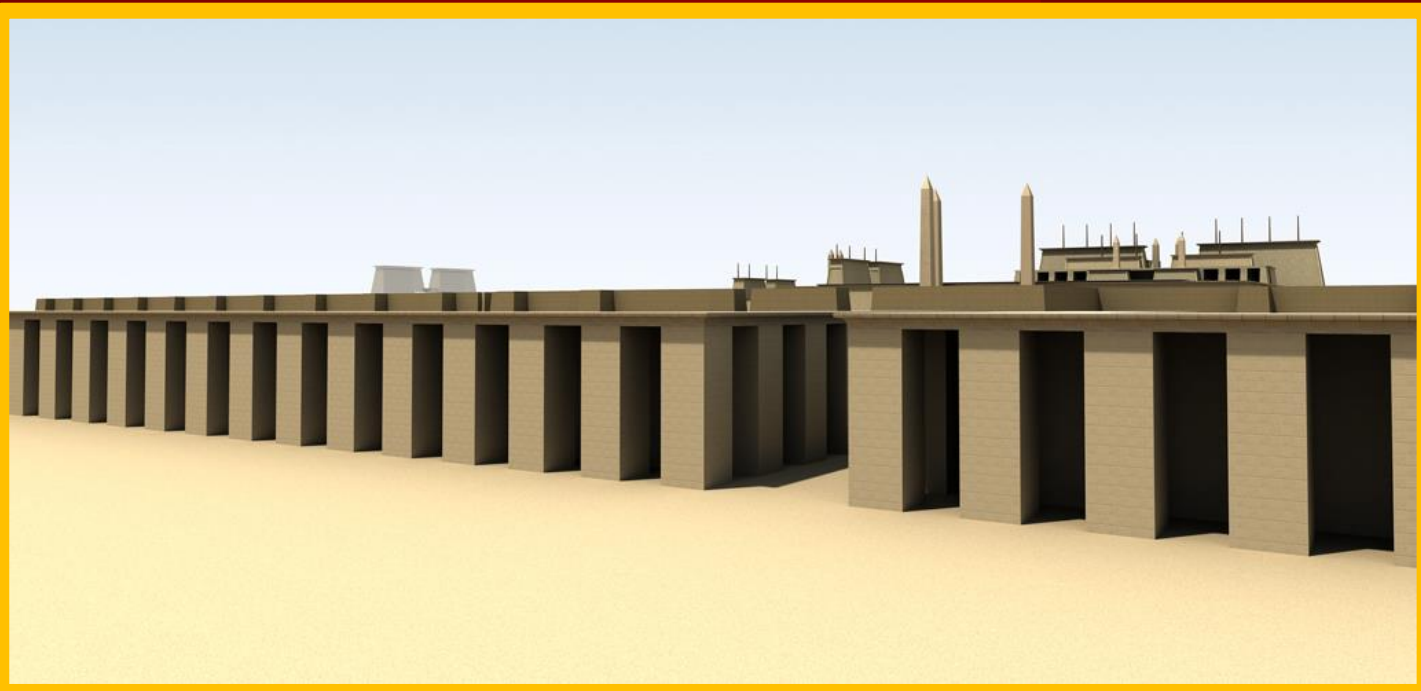


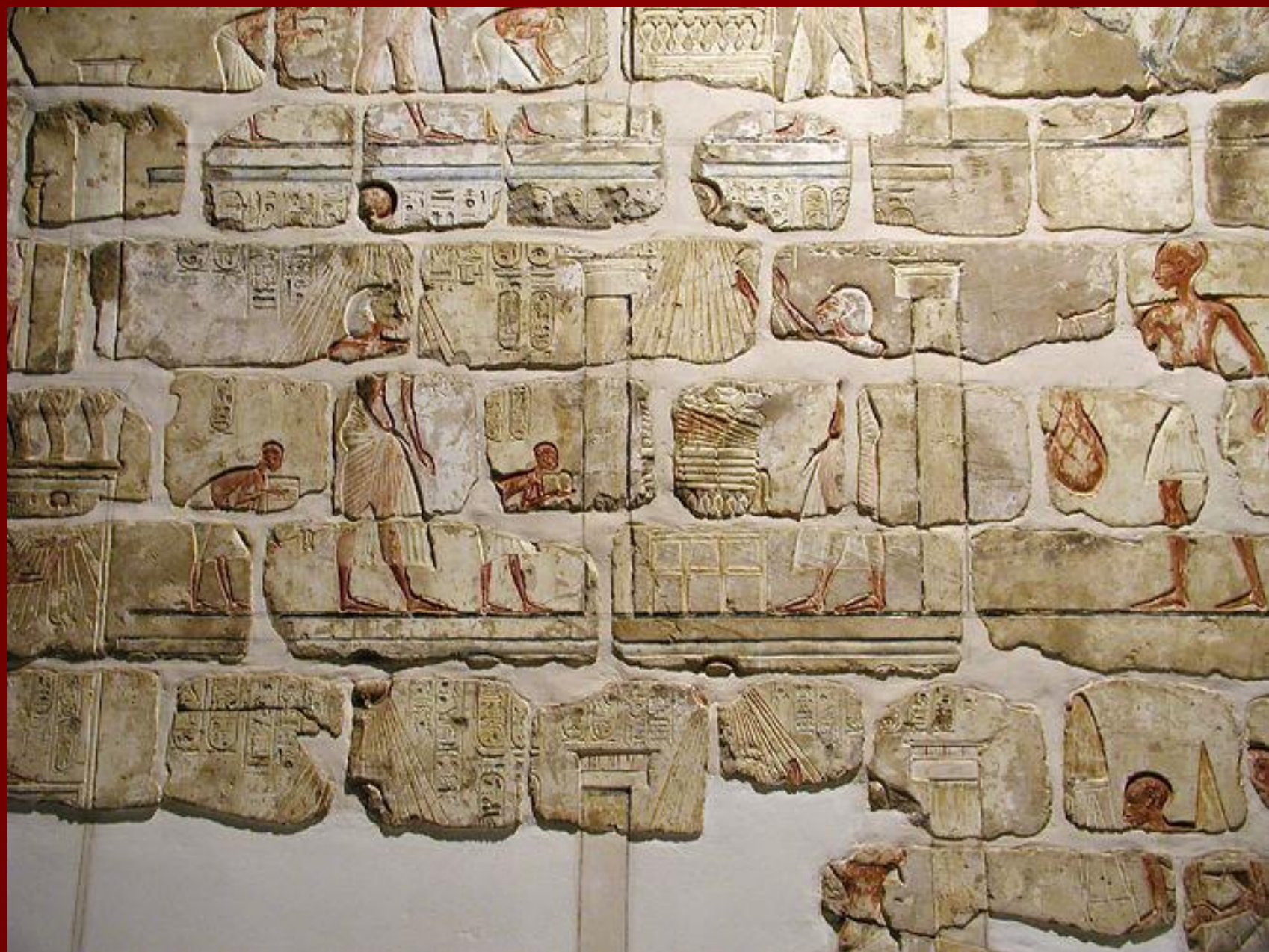
TT55: Ramose



King new style

King old style





Cairo museum

Early style
(Karnak) and
early Amarna,
king's third and
eighth regnal
year)



Founded Amarna





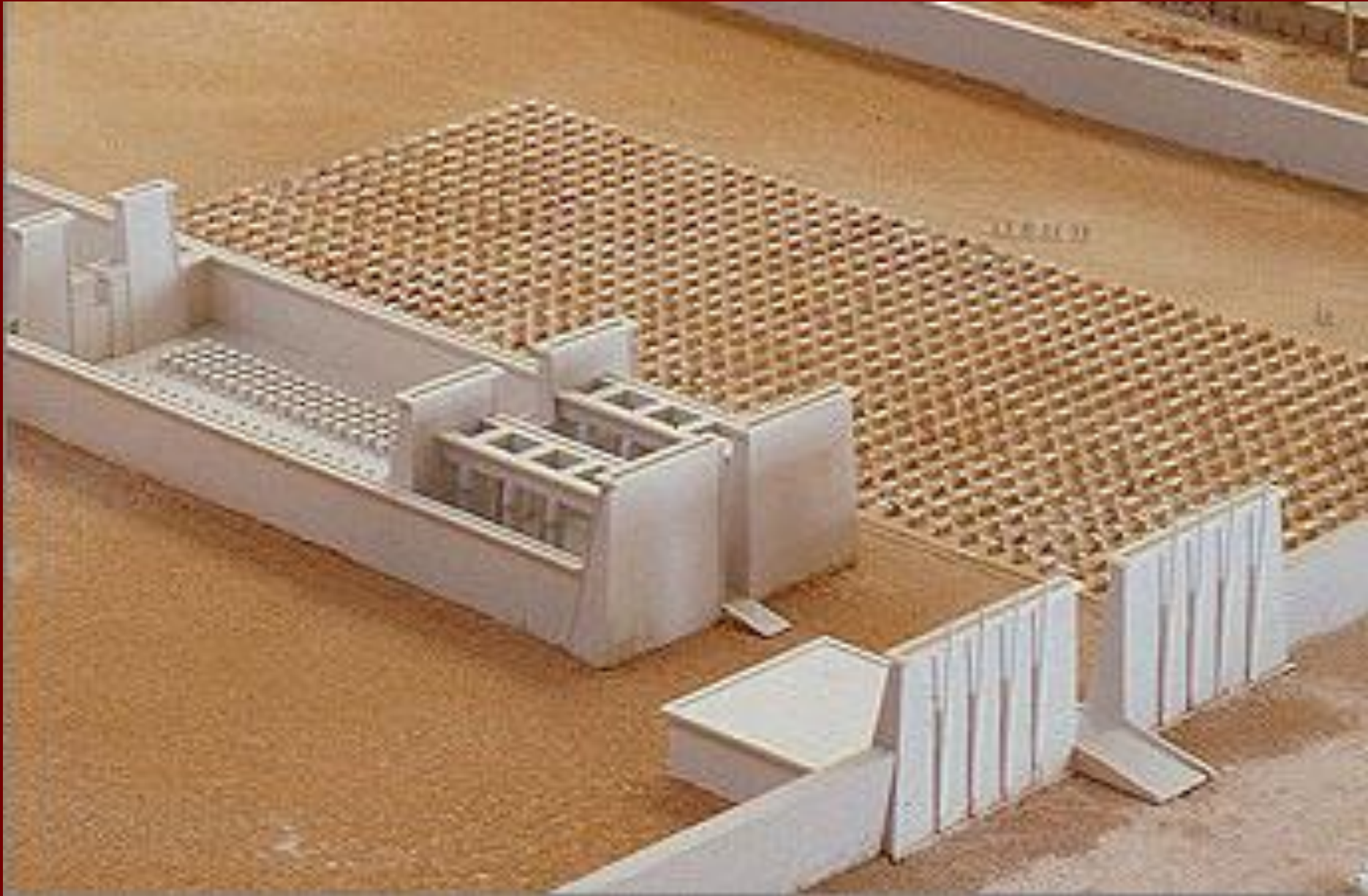


Small Aton
temple –
worship of
Akhenaton



Gem-pa-Aton,
belonging to the Aton
temple, worshipping
Aton

Aton temple, worshipping Aton







engraved in the rock
14 stelae (fig 10) →
explains reasons for
choice of site:

being the place of
"revelation "of Aten
virgin land belonging
to no temple, no
funerary estate
but nearly exact on
other side of Nile:
Hermopolis, ancient
city of the god Thoth

Amarna Letters



The re-discovery of Amarna

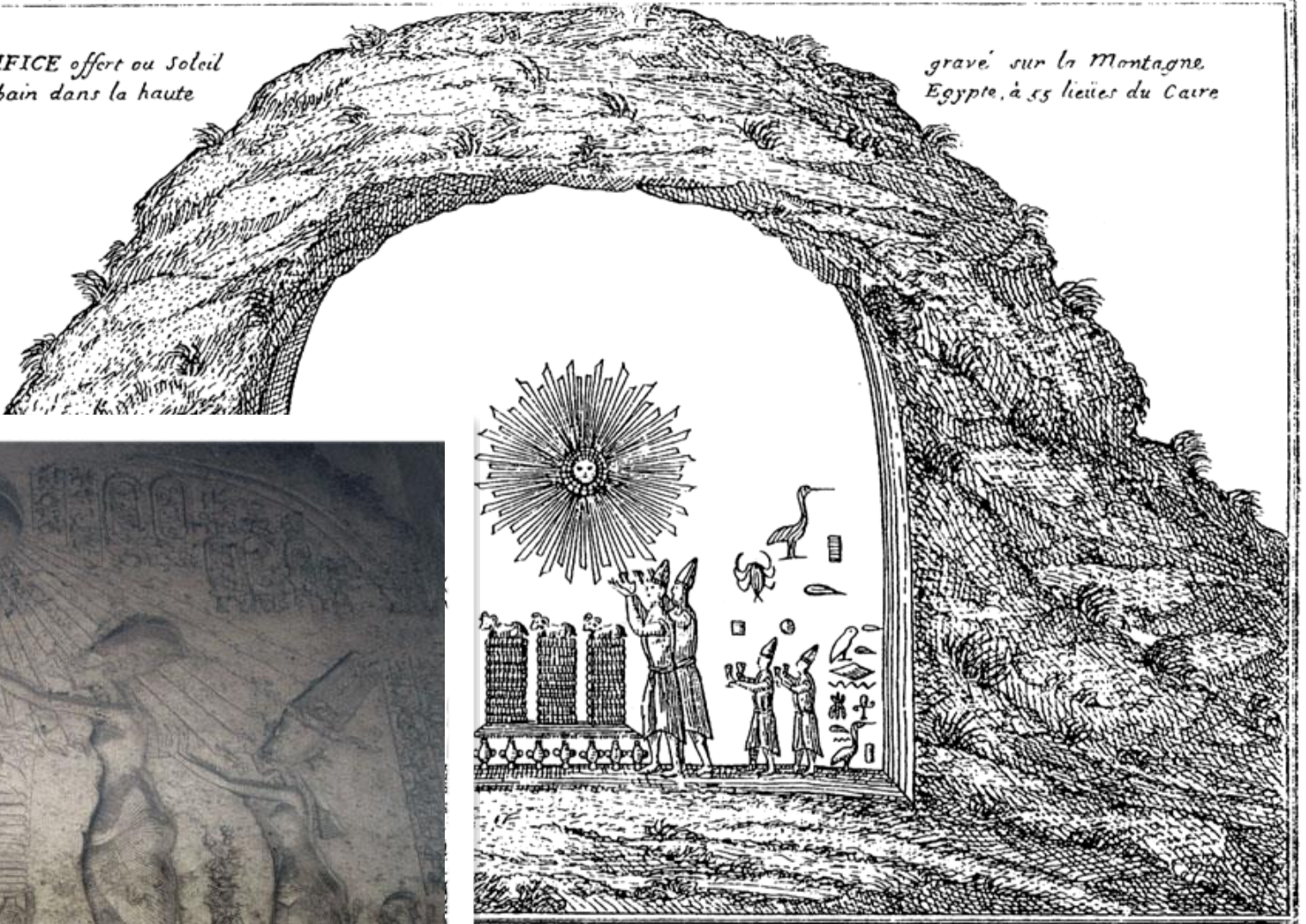
Early Explorers

- French Jesuit Claude Sicard (1677–1726)
- recorded the boundary stela at Tuna al-Gabal in 1714



*SACRIFICE offert au Soleil
de Babain dans la haute*

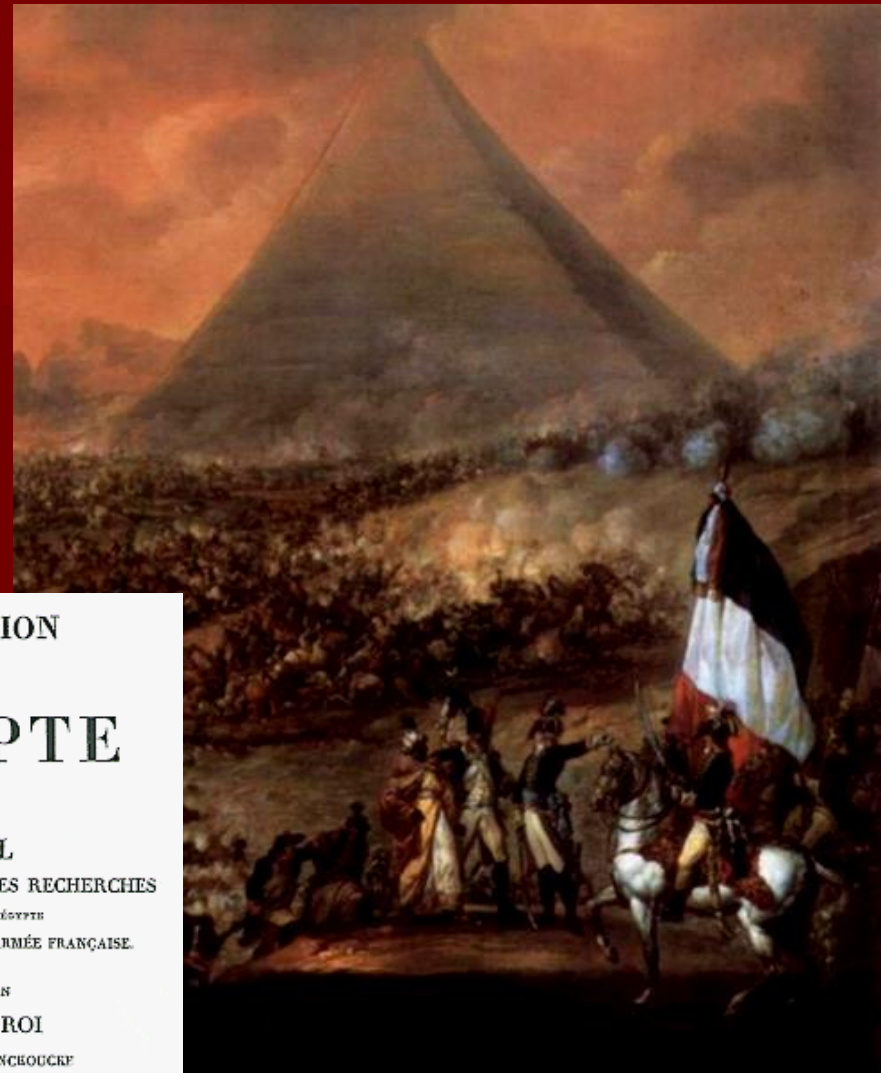
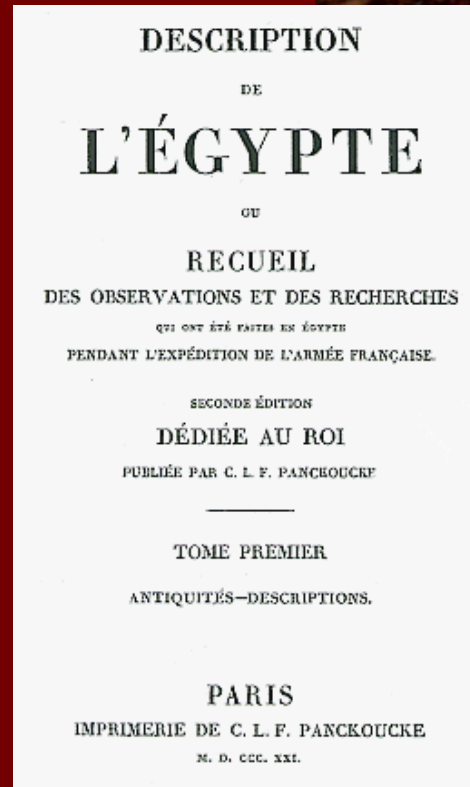
*gravé sur la Montagne
Egypte, à 55 lieues du Caire*



■ Early Explorers

Early Explorers

- Mapped by the Napoléonic mission (1798)
- Map noted the major features, including the Small Aten temple and the principle houses still above ground at the time



Early Explorers

- John Gardner Wilkinson discovers tombs & surveys site (1824 & 1826)
- discovers the South Tombs
- 1st to associate the nearby quarries with Alabastron/Hat-nub



JOHN GARDNER WILKINSON: MURRAY'S HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS IN EGYPT (1847)

- The [tombs] have sculptures of a **very peculiar style**. The figures are similar to those at [Tuna al-Gabal]; and the king and queen, frequently attended by their children, are in like manner represented praying to the Sun The royal names, as at [Tuna al-Gabal], **have been invariably defaced**, evidently by the Egyptians themselves. Some have supposed that the kings, whose names are found there, **belong to the dynasty of shepherds** [i.e., the Hyksos], whose memory was odious, as their rule was oppressive to the Egyptians They may have been later invaders, and there is reason to believe they made a change in religion.)

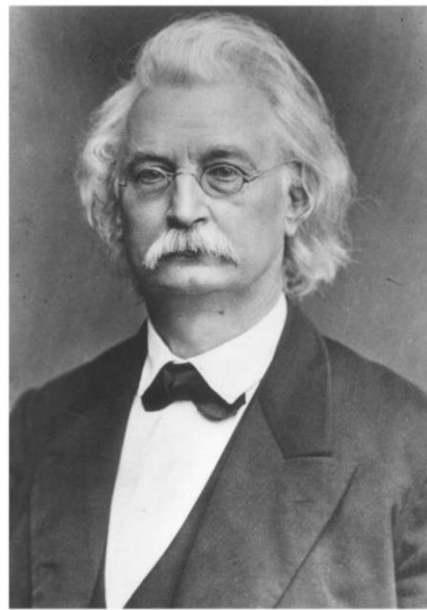
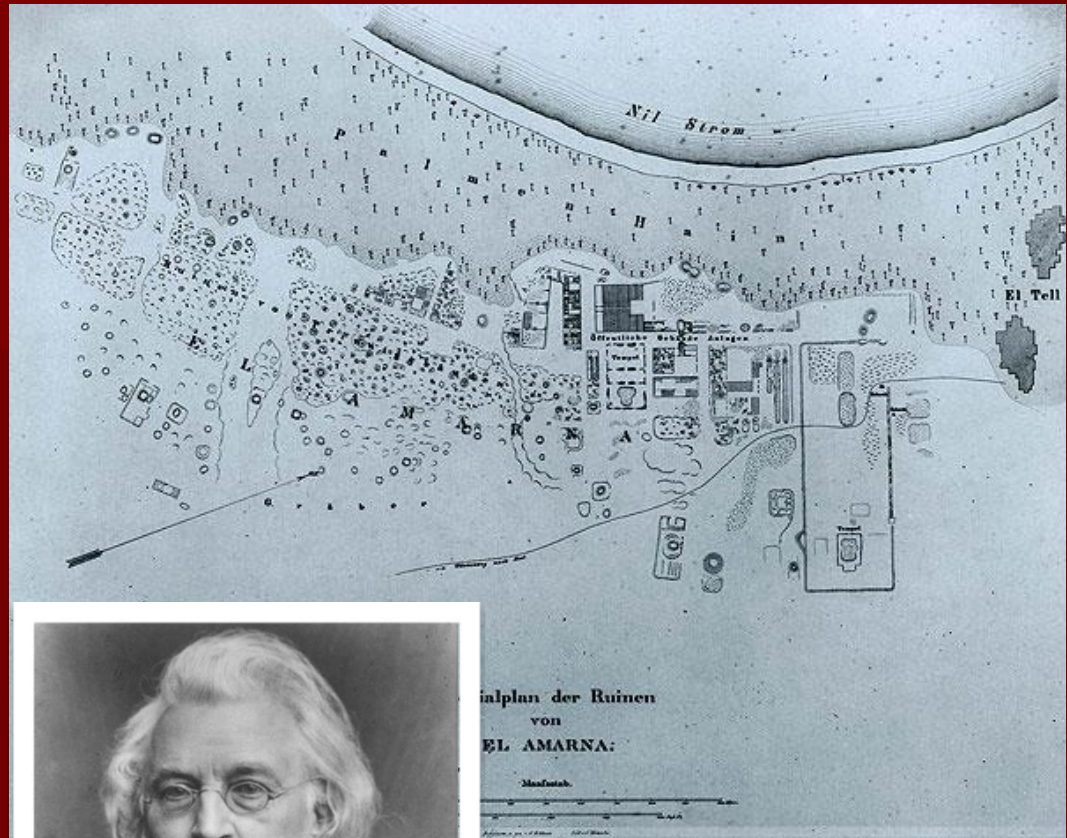
Early Explorers

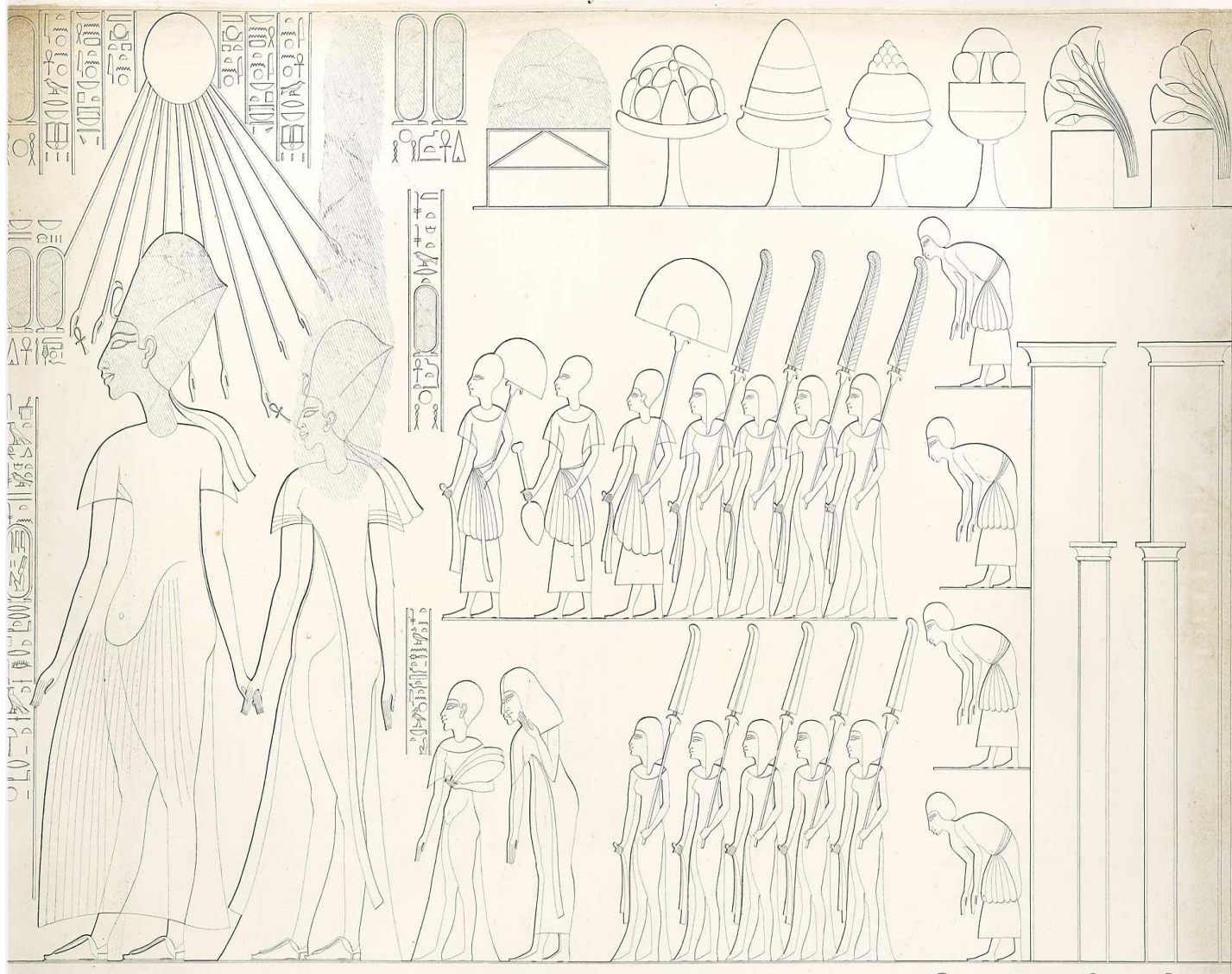
- Jean-François Champollion visits November 1828 on way to Banī Ḥasan
- Unaware of Wilkinson's discovery; failed to understand the importance of the site



Early Explorers

- Karl Richard Lepsius leads the Prussian expedition of king Friedrich Wilhelm IV to the site in 1843 & 1845
- Spent 13 days drawing inscriptions, mapping the site, making casts and squeezes
- Primarily worked in the Northern Tombs and with the Boundary Stelae

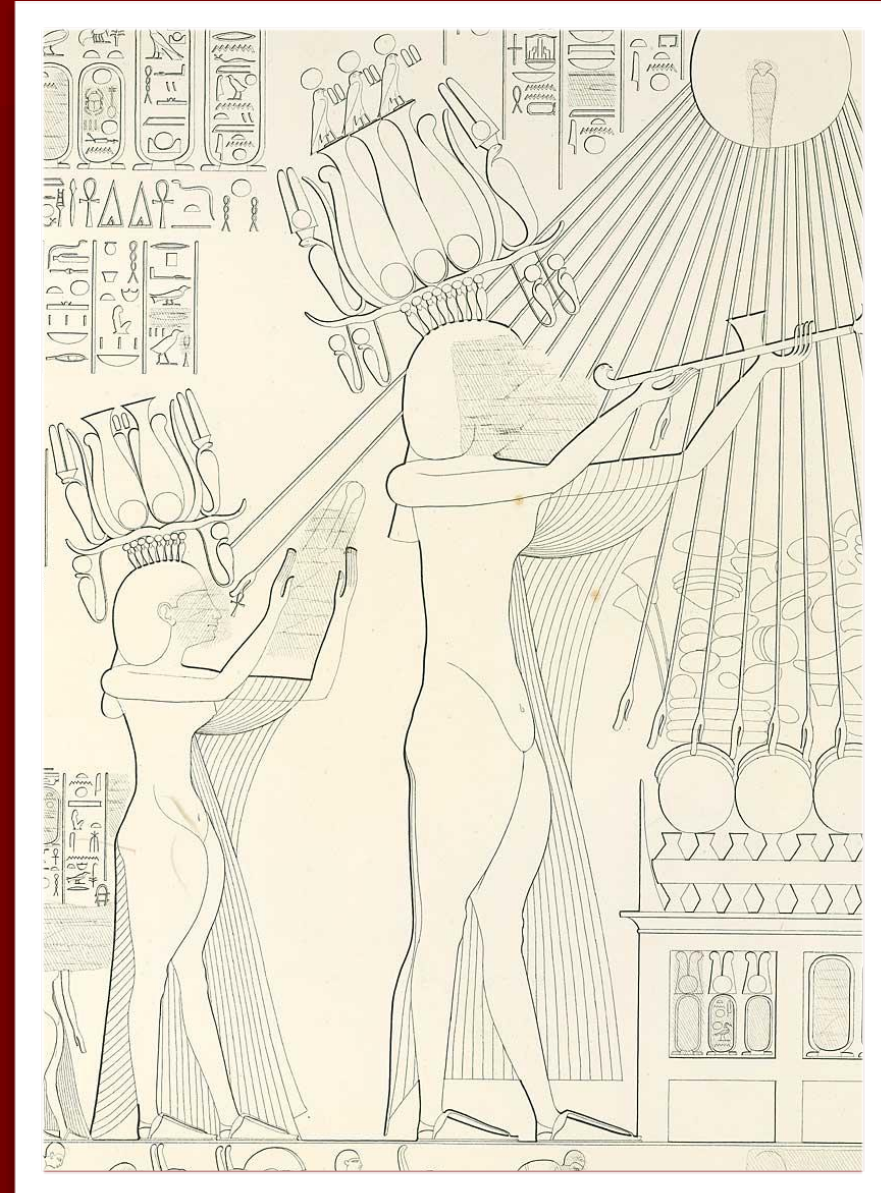




DENKMÄLER AUS AEGYPTEN UND AETHIOPIEN
[MONUMENTS FROM EGYPT AND NUBIA]

Determinations made by Lepsius

- Lepsius = first to place A. in 18th dyn.
- “Bech-en-Aten” was not a woman
- Akhenaten opposed Amun with “a pure cult of the sun”
- Only the disk was tolerated; all other divine images destroyed
- Later kings destroyed Akhenaten’s memory
- → Published his findings in 1851 with the Prussian Academy of Sciences



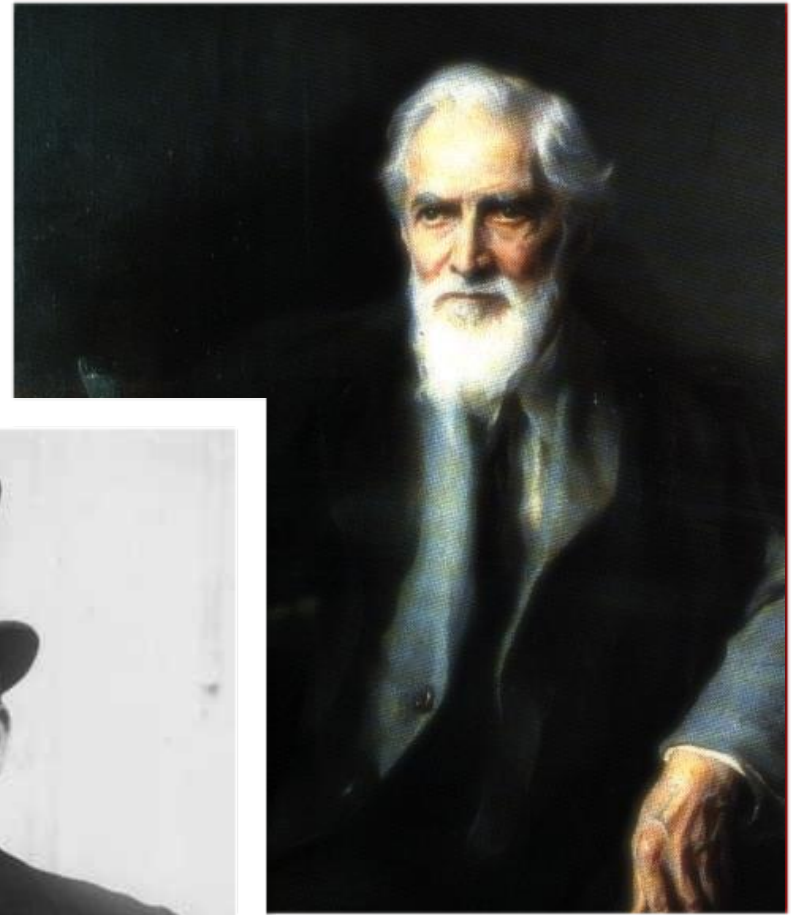
Early field Work

- The Royal tomb was plundered by locals in 1881 and poorly “excavated” by Alessandro Barsanti in 1891



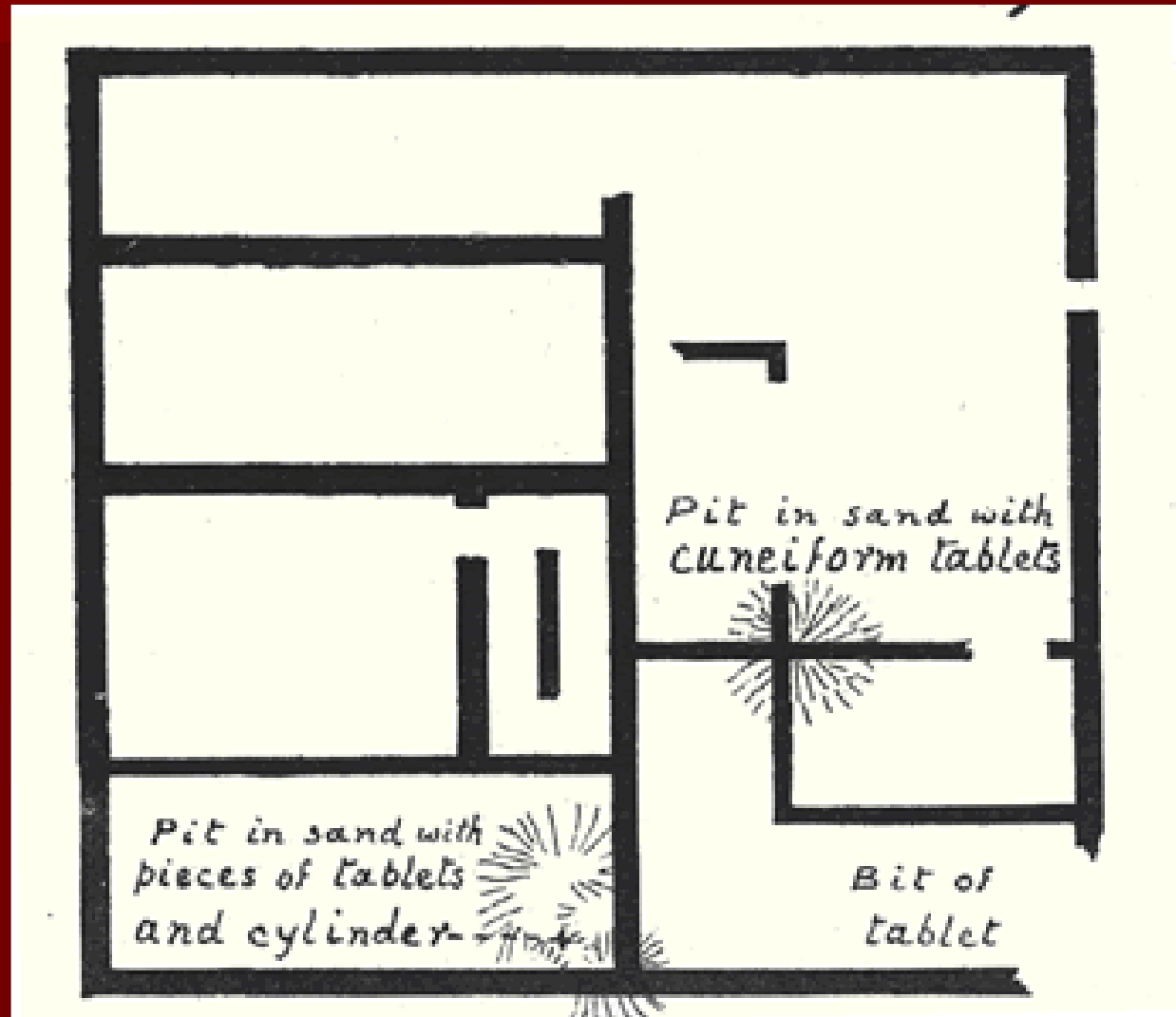
Early field Work

- 1st systematic excavations (1891–1892) by William Flinders Petrie, assisted by 17 year old Howard Carter



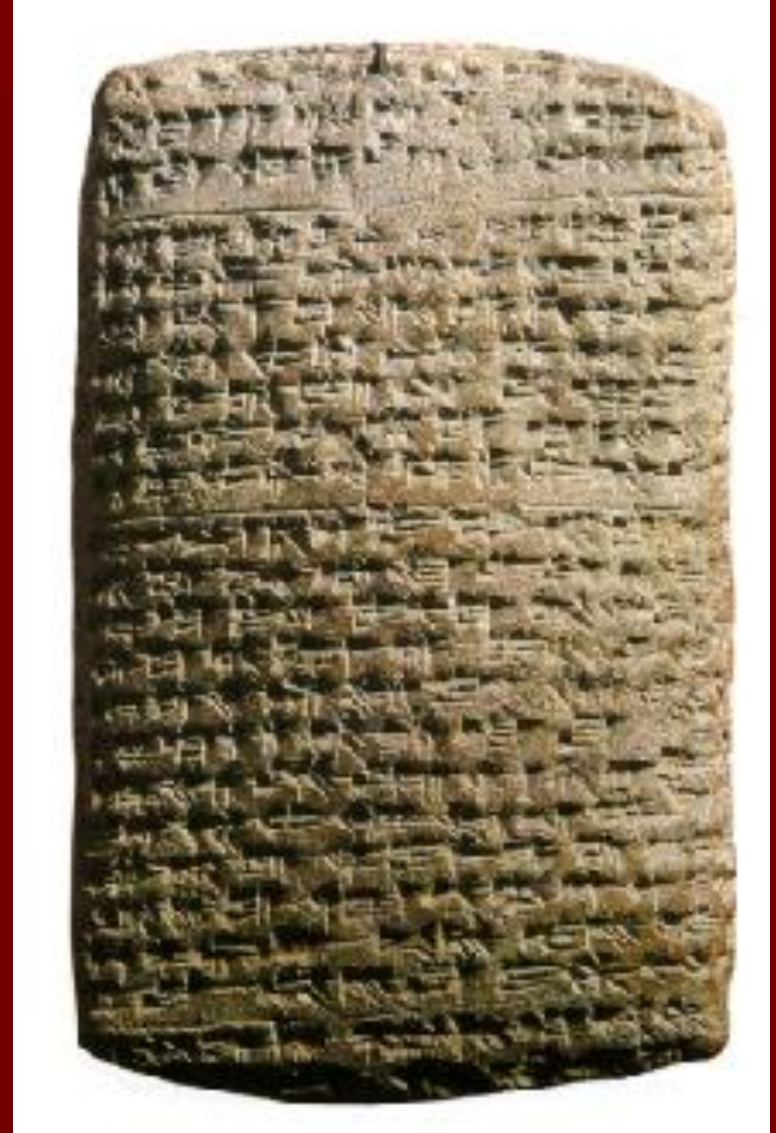
Flinders Petrie: 1891–1892

- Flinders Petrie excavated in response to the discovery of the Amarna Letters in 1887



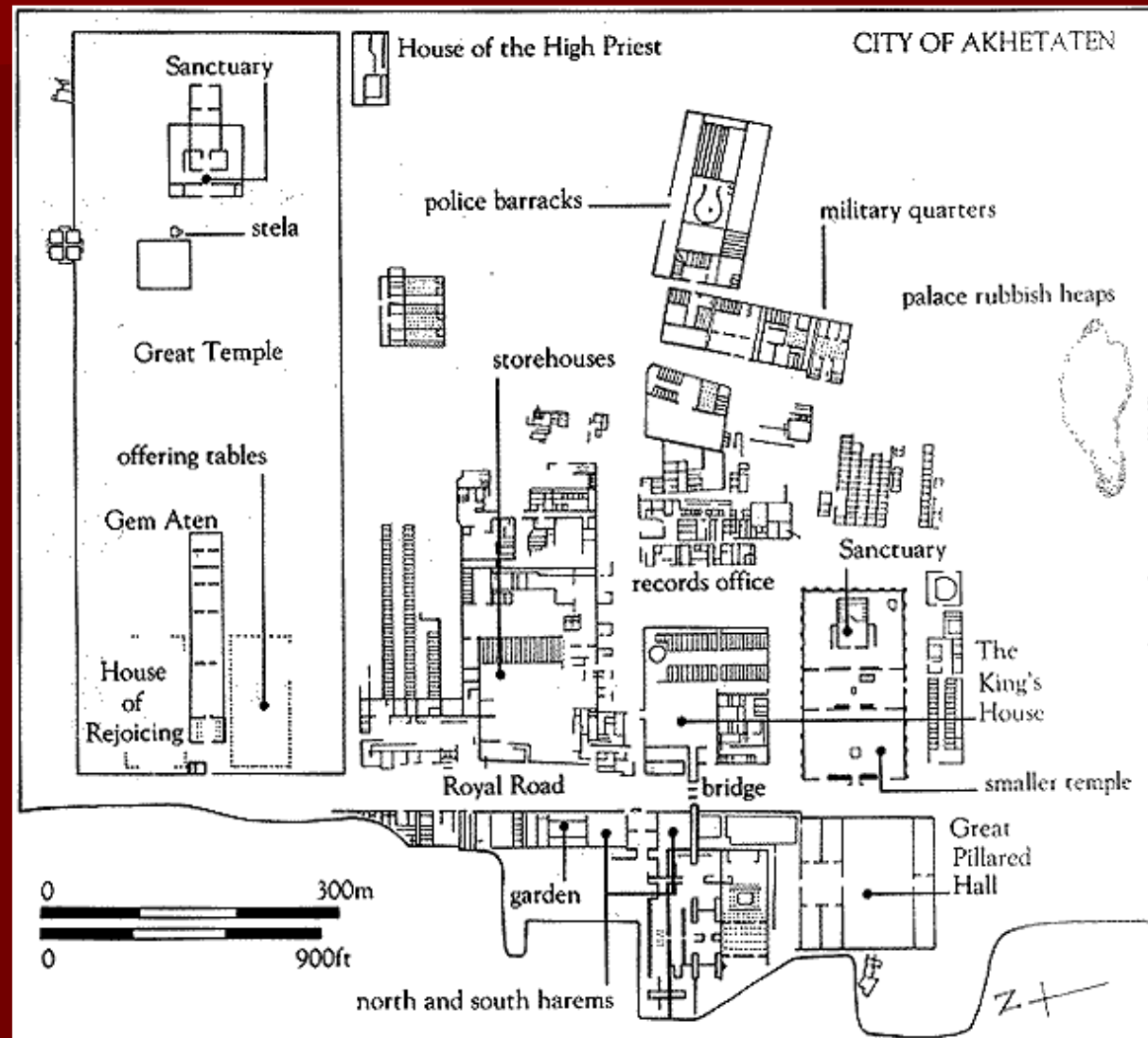
Flinders Petrie: 1891–1892

- Flinders Petrie excavated in response to the discovery of the Amarna Letters in 1887
- Discovered 22 more cuneiform texts: now in Oxford



Flinders Petrie: 1891–1892

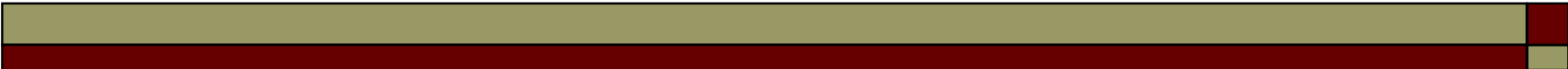
- Concentrated on the settlement archaeology rather than tombs
- Highly unusual to concentrate on settlements
- Most industrial waste and NON-ART OBJECTS thrown away, but not by Petrie



Flinders Petrie: 1891–1892

- Discovered a number of industrial areas





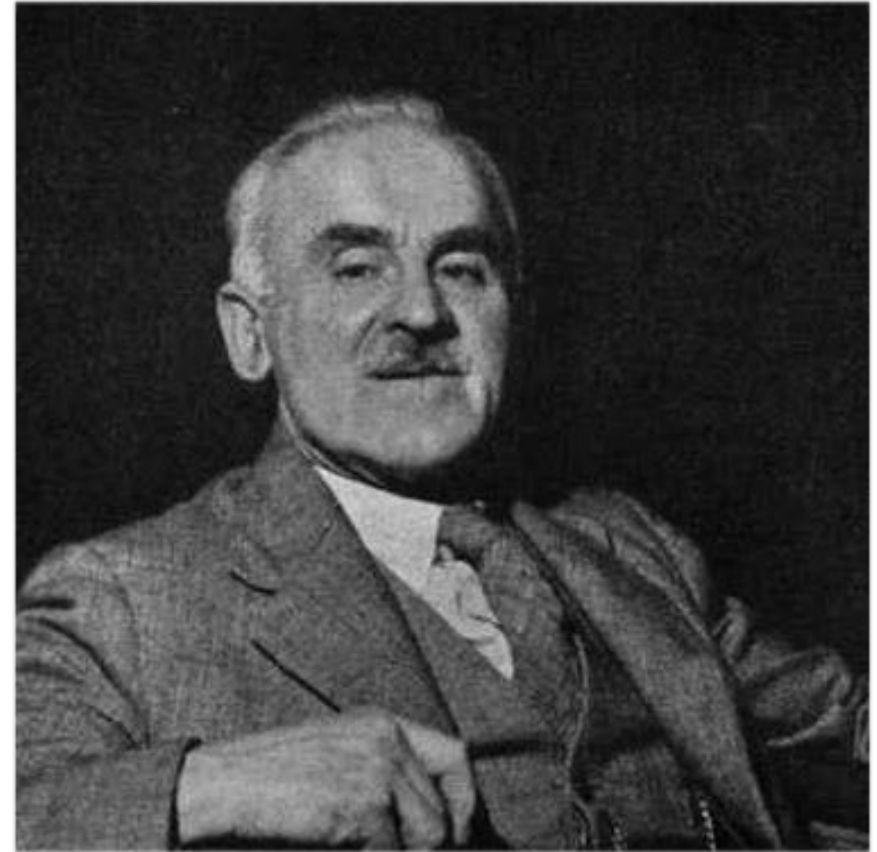
Flinders Petrie: 1891–1892

- Flinders Petrie seems to have admired Akhenaten

In ethics he “lived in truth” according to his ideals, and openly proclaims the domestic pleasures of a monogamist, riding side by side with his queen whom he kisses in the chariot, or sitting on his throne dancing the Queen and Princesses on his knee. In religion, in art, in life, we see the first great reasoner in history.

Egyptian Exploration Fund

- Norman De Garis Davies began recording the reliefs in the tombs in 1901 for the Egyptian Exploration fund
- Published six volumes of "The Rock Tombs of El Amarna"



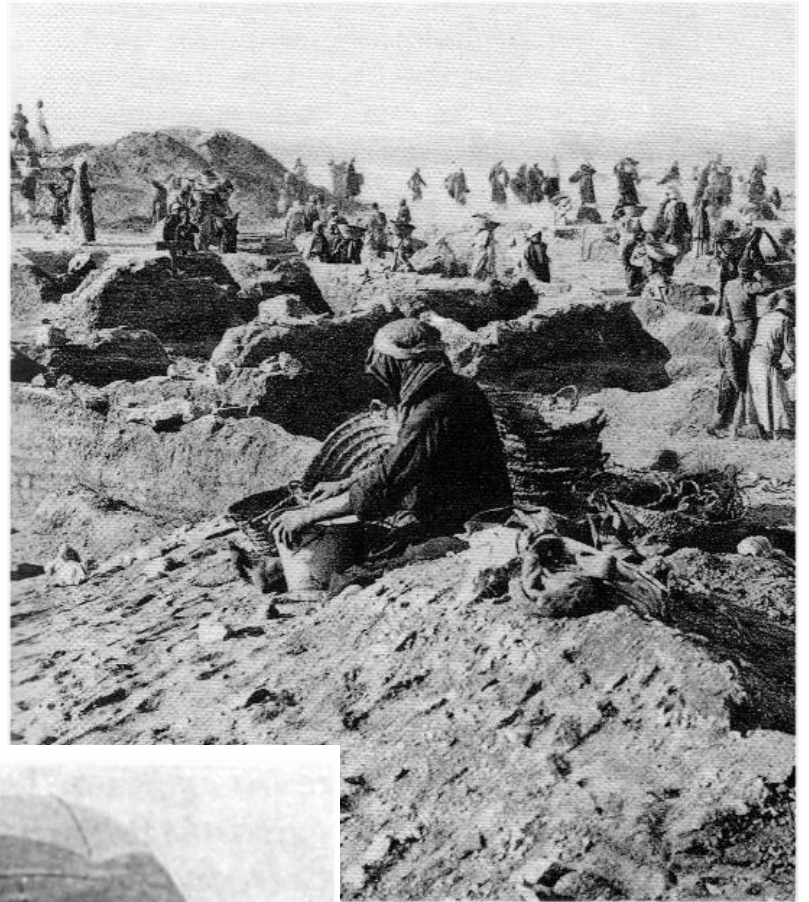
Egyptian Exploration fund

- “The Rock Tombs of El Amarna” - still standard epigraphic survey of the tombs



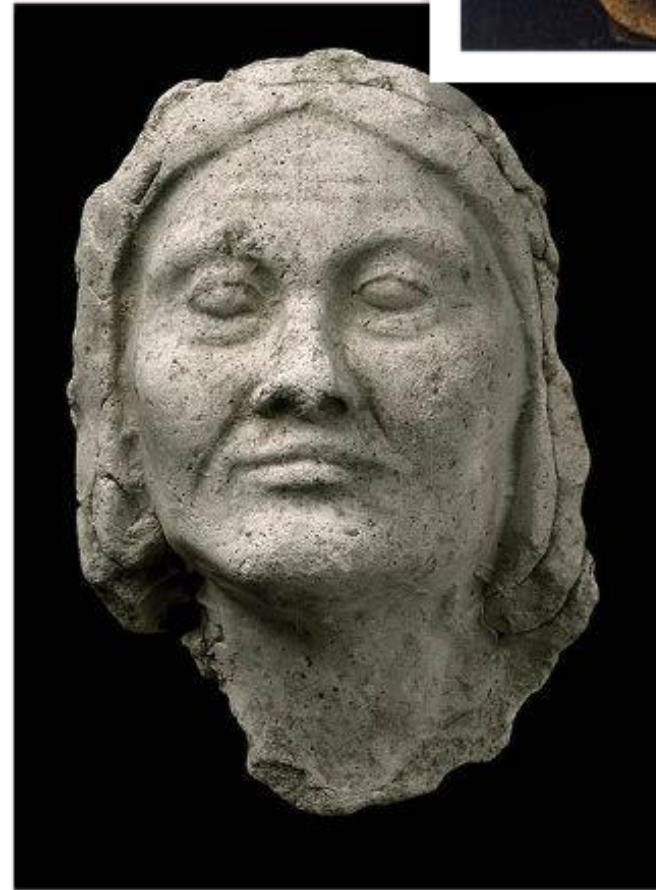
German Excavations

- Ludwig Borchardt excavated in the south Suburb from 1911–1914 for the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft
- Discovered more Amarna letters



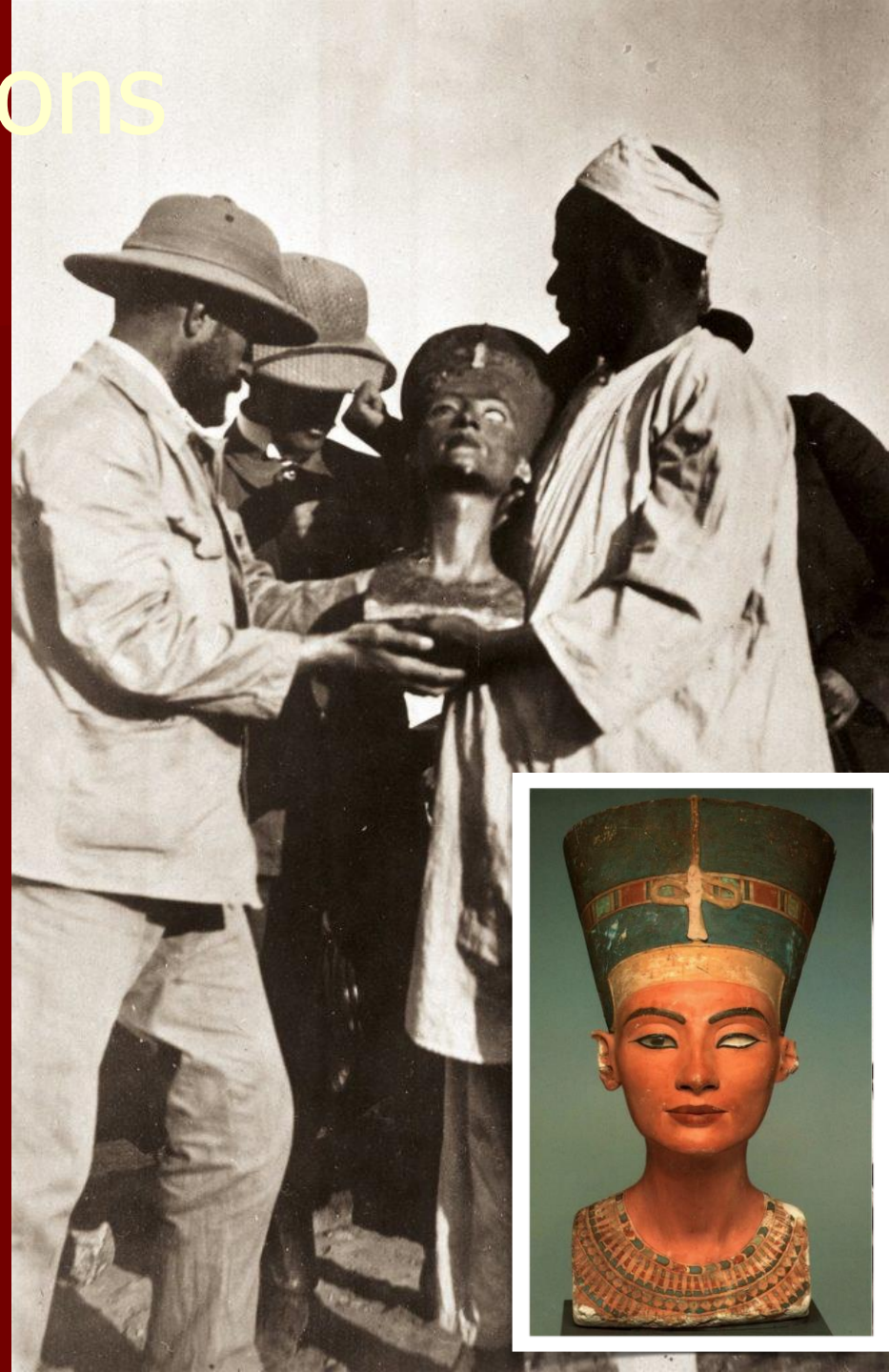
German Excavations

- Borchardt was excavating primarily for art objects for the Berlin Museum, but was also highly interested in architecture
- in 1912 discovered the atelier of the sculptor Djehutimose
- More than 20 prototype casts (NOT FROM LIFE!! NOT DEATH MASKS!)



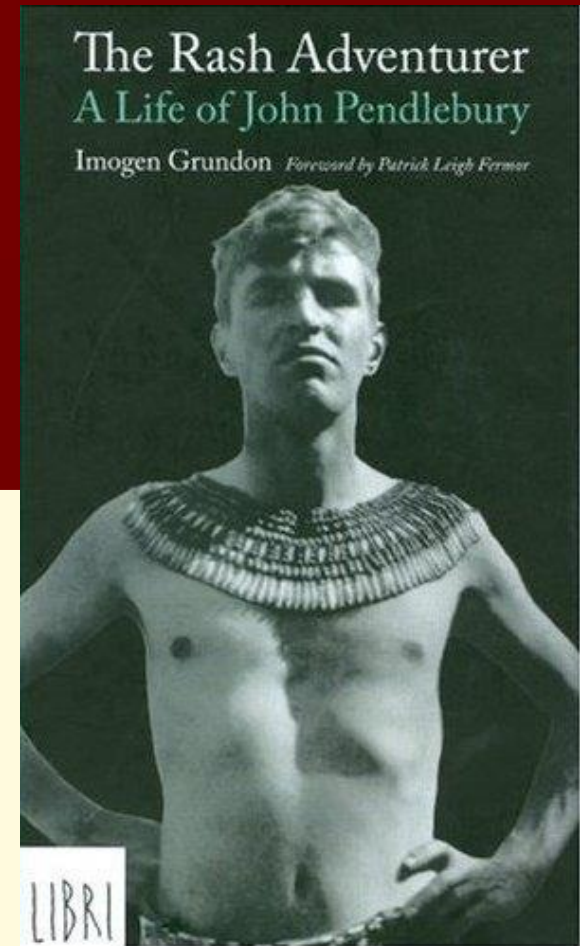
German Excavations

- bust of Nefertiti:
discovered in 12/1912
- Legally gone to Berlin, but
Egyptian administrators
might have been
incompetent
- head was almost returned
to Egypt in the 1930s, but
the personal intervention
of Adolf Hitler prevented
this (Reeves)
- Not displayed until after
World War II



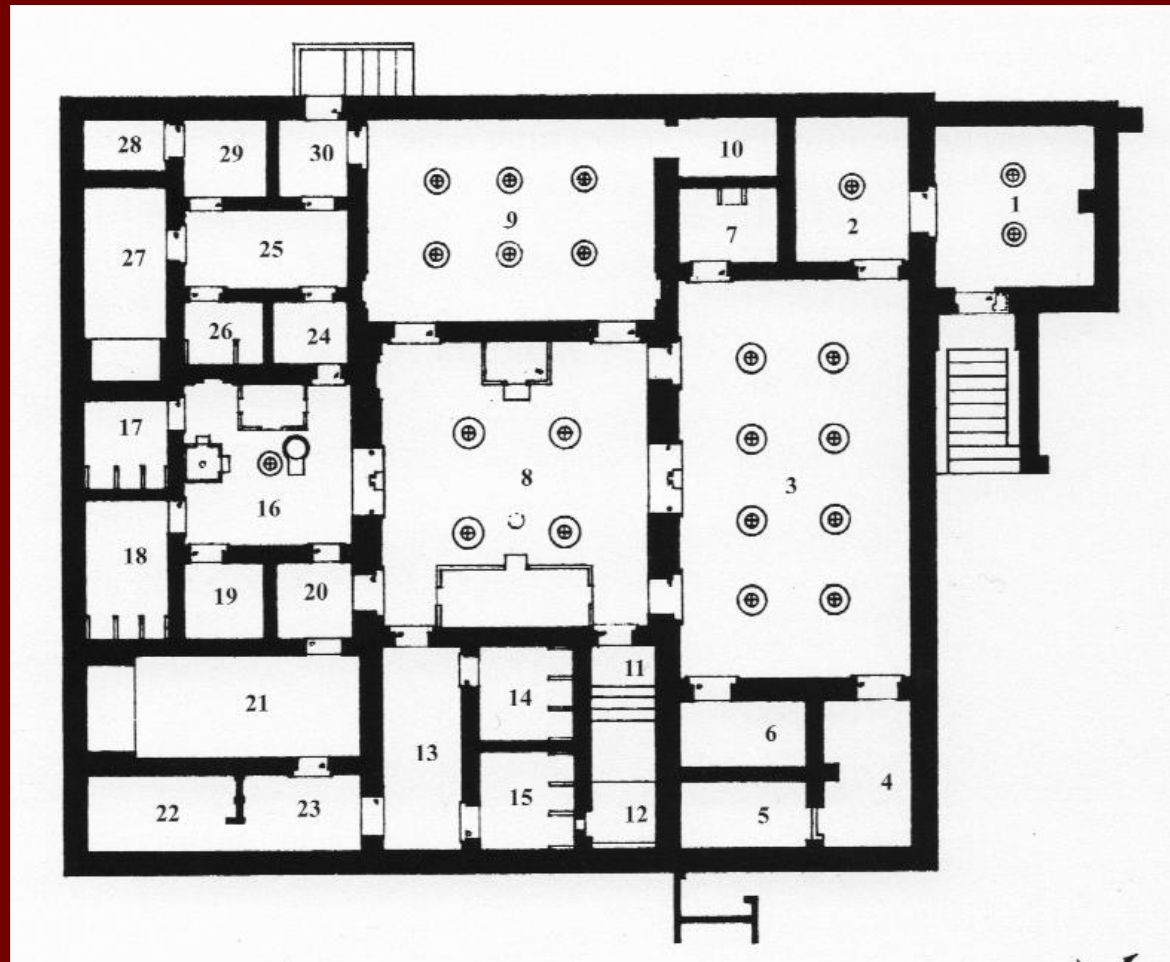
Renewed British Excavations

- The Egyptian Exploration Society regained the Amarna concession in 1920
- Work directed 1921–1930 by T. Eric Peet
- Directed 1931–1936 by John D. Pendlebury
- Pendlebury mostly known for his work at Knossos on Krete



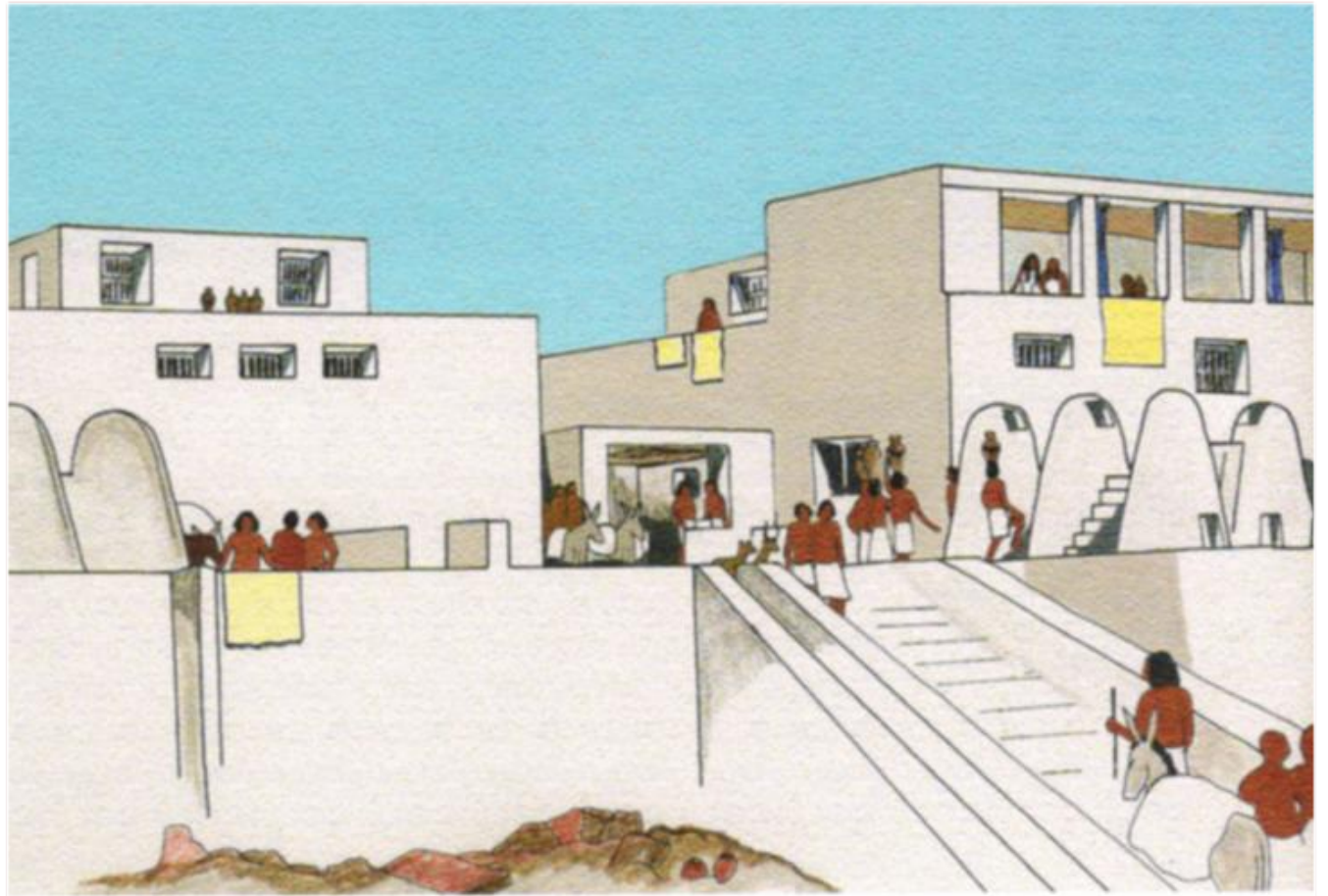
Renewed British Excavations

- EES mission primarily interested in the settlement; also worked in Royal Tomb

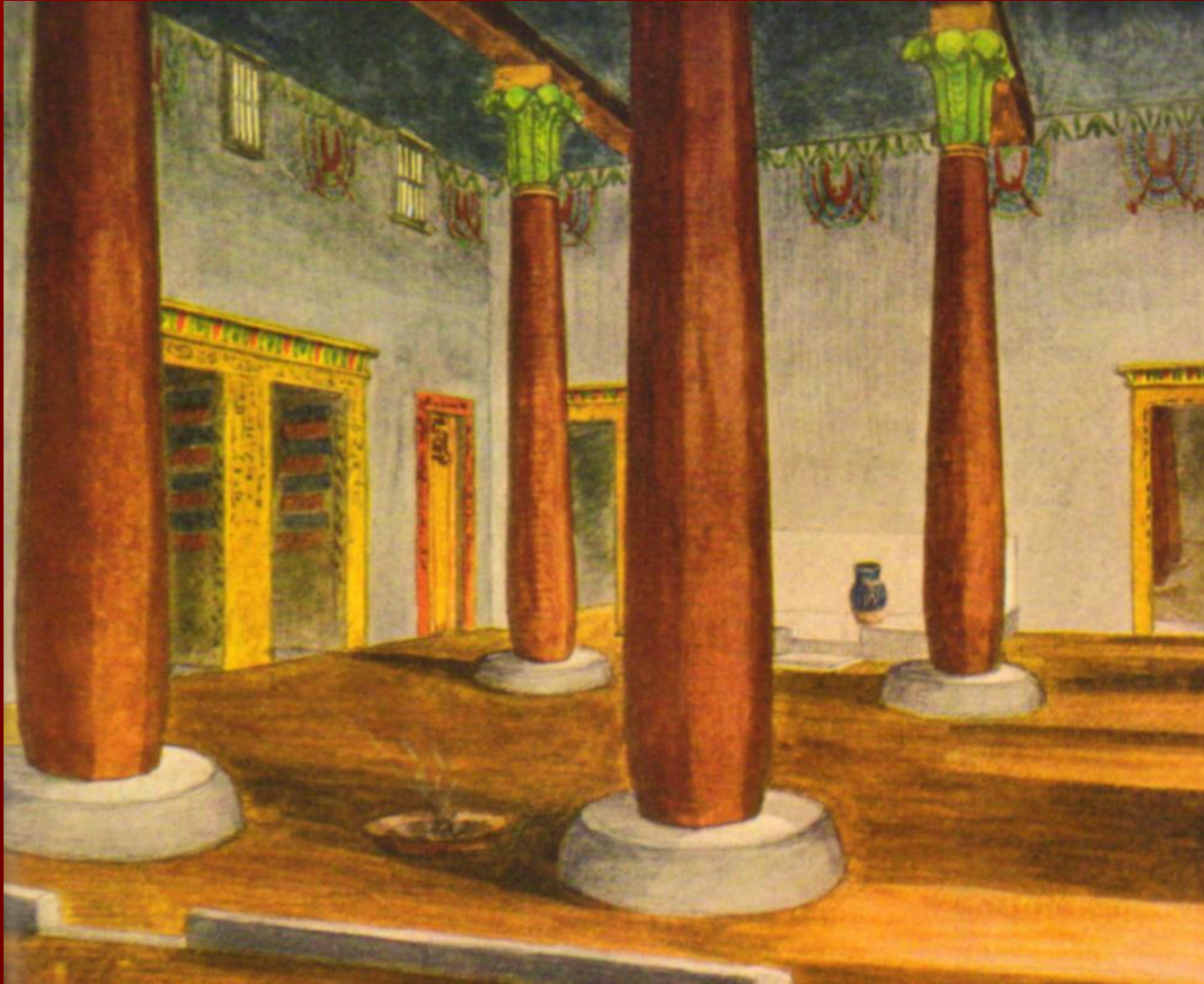


Renewed British Excavations

- Pendlebury promoted Amarna as a clean and romantic place, free of dirt and grime



Renewed British Excavations



Renewed British Excavations

- Associated by his critics as overly romantic about the past

