

Block 7

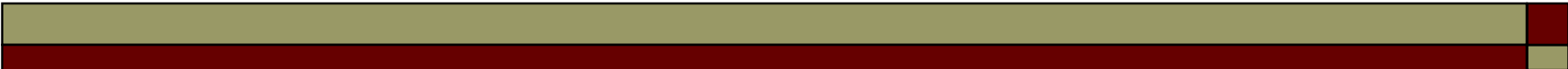
A9

Royal and other women in Amarna

HPAH5003/6003: Amarna – Materiality of a
religious revolution

AHAR7005: Akhenaten and Amarna:
Religion, culture and people

Dr Katharina Zinn



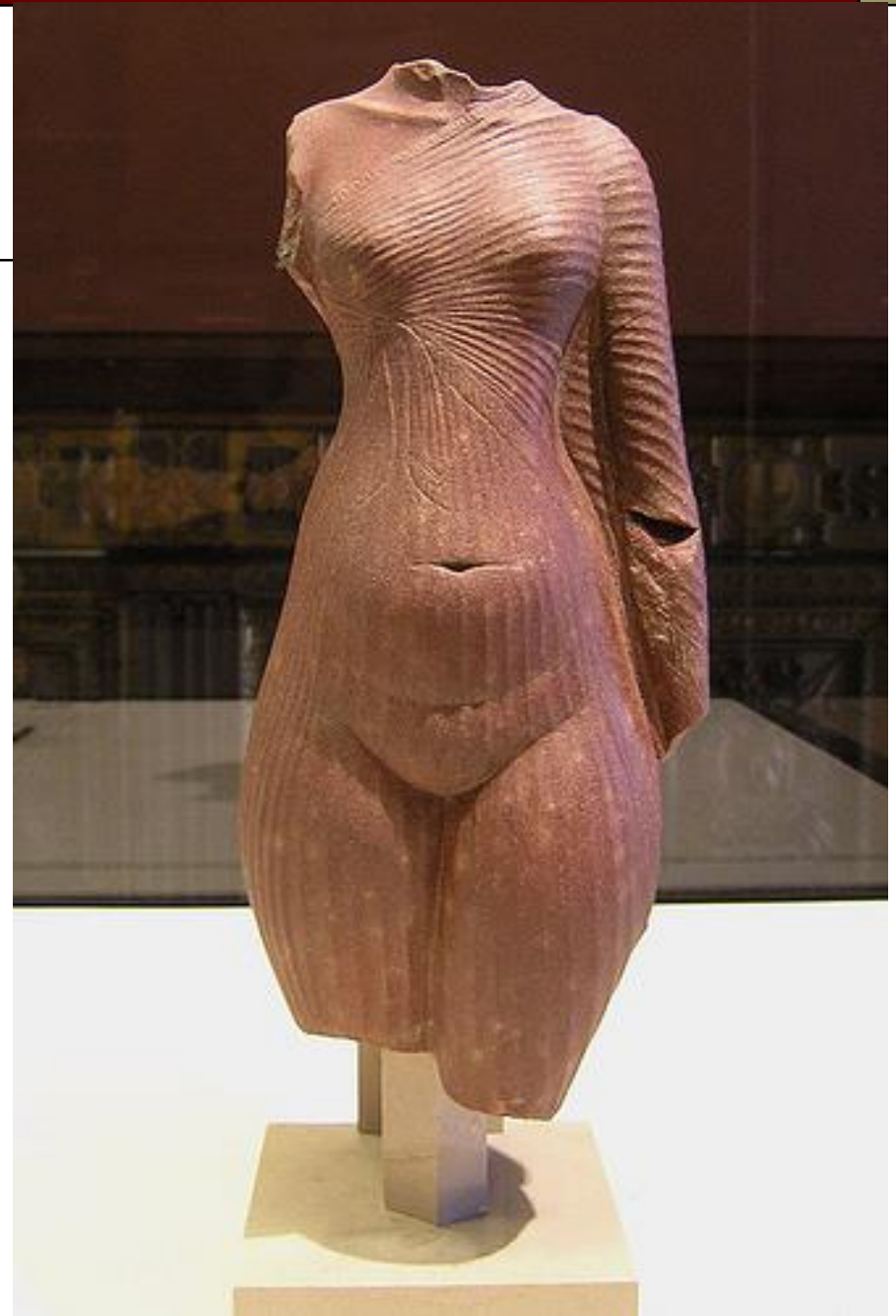
Royal women in Amarna

- Who are royal women?
- What is their status?
- Who is (the female) who in Amarna?

- → chronology and genealogy

Royal Women?

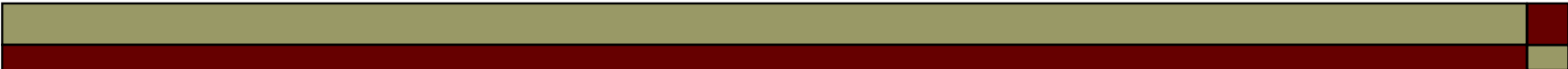
- ❑ King's Chief Wife
 - ❑ King's Daughters
 - ❑ Other royal women
-
- ❑ BUT: some daughters became wives and rivalled (?) the Chief Wife, their mother



Royal Women?

- ❑ Far more information about women of this period than any time else in AE
- ❑ Married their fathers? – religious marriages, “consumed” marriages → modern scholars in difficulties to explain (modern taboos about incest)
 - Incestuous relationship might be difficult to understand
 - But we have no proof of offspring coming from such a relationship

Who is who?!



Amenhotep III's family

- **King's Chief Wife Tiye:**
- Remembered as “Commoner Queen” – non-royal birth: daughter of God's Father and Commander Yuya and Priestess of Min, Tuya (normally not used to express royal relationship)

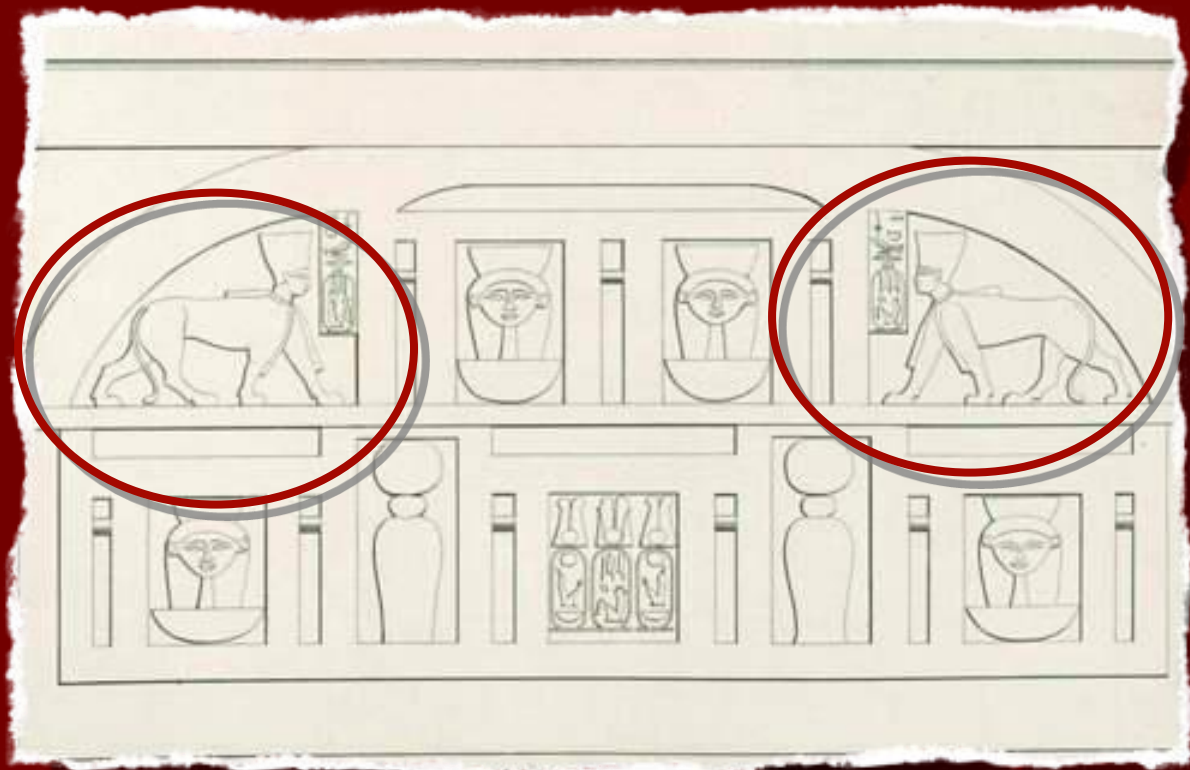
Tiye with feather crown

- Berlin ÄM 21834 and ÄM 17852
- Face shows characteristic of queen
- Reworked after death of AIII, but in lifetime of Tiye: silver scarf → crown with double feathers → deification



Deification of Amenhotep III and Tiye

- AIII worshipped as the sun and Lord of Nubia at Soleb
- Tiye worshipped as the sun god's consort, Hathor, at Sedeinga



Amenhotep III's family

- ❑ **King's Chief Wife Tiye:**
- ❑ Remembered as “Commoner Queen” – non-royal birth: daughter of God's Father and Commander Yuya and Priestess of Min, Tuya (normally not used to express royal relationship)
- ❑ Mentioned in Amarna letters
- ❑ Wrote Amarna letters

Amarna Letter 26

Say to Teye [= *Tiye*], mistress of Egypt: Thus, Tušratta, the king of Mittani [. . .] You are one that knows that I myself always showed love to Mimmureya [= *Nebmaatre*], your husband [. . .] And now you are the one that must not forget your love for Mimmureya, your brother. Increase it for Napkhurreya [= *Neferkheperure*] and maintain it for him.

BM
EA57399:
Shrine stela of
Amenhotep
III and
Queen Tiye



Amenhotep III's family

- ❑ **King's Chief Wife Tiye:**
- ❑ Remembered as “Commoner Queen” – non-royal birth: daughter of God's Father and Commander Yuya and Priestess of Min, Tuya (normally not used to express royal relationship)
- ❑ Mentioned in Amarna letters
- ❑ Wrote Amarna letters
- ❑ Died around year 14 of Akhenaten → buried in Amarna (Royal tomb?), later reburied in Thebes (tomb of AIII), some funerary goods in KV55

Mummy: Elderly Lady

Queen Tiye



Who is who?

- Amenhotep III's family
 - The King's Chief Wife Tiye
 - Sisters of AIV / Akhenaten
 - Sitamun – oldest daughter of AIII and Tiye , King's Chief Daughter (special position) → mentioned in Royal Tomb Amarna, already queen with own household during first Sed festival of AIII
 - Sometimes suggested as mother of Tutankhamun, less likely than Kiya

Sitamun

- relief from Amenhotep II's mortuary temple
- Petrie Museum, London (UC 14373)



Who is who?

- Amenhotep III's family
 - The King's Chief Wife Tiye:
 - Sisters of AIV / Akhenaten
 - Sitamun
 - Henut-taneb (means "Mistress of all Lands") → seems to have been in similar position as Tiye and Sitamun

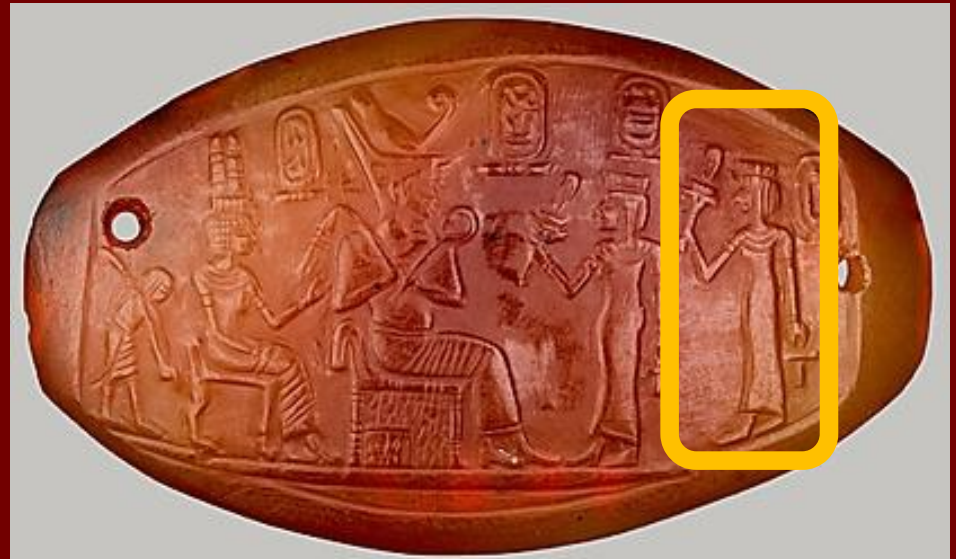


- Carved bracelet plaque of Amenhotep III (MMA 44.2.1), carnelian
- Princesses Henuttaneb and Isis in front of their parents, playing sistrum
- AIII celebrating jubilee together with Tiye

Who is who?

- Amenhotep III's family
 - The King's Chief Wife Tiye:
 - Sisters of AIV / Akhenaten
 - Sitamun
 - Henut-taneb
 - Isis → her name sometimes in cartouche, once addressed as King's Wife

Queens: daughter AND wife



Who is who?

- Amenhotep III's family
 - The King's Chief Wife Tiye:
 - Sisters of AIV / Akhenaten
 - Sitamun
 - Henut-taneb
 - Isis → her name sometimes in cartouche, once addressed as King's Wife
 - Nebet-akh → only on colossus from Medinat Habu (today Cairo) → maybe much younger sister?

Who is who?

- **Akhenaten's family:**
- → unique roles and unique appearances (style and iconography!)
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Most important role as part of the triad
 - Her own headrest

Nefertiti



Who is who?

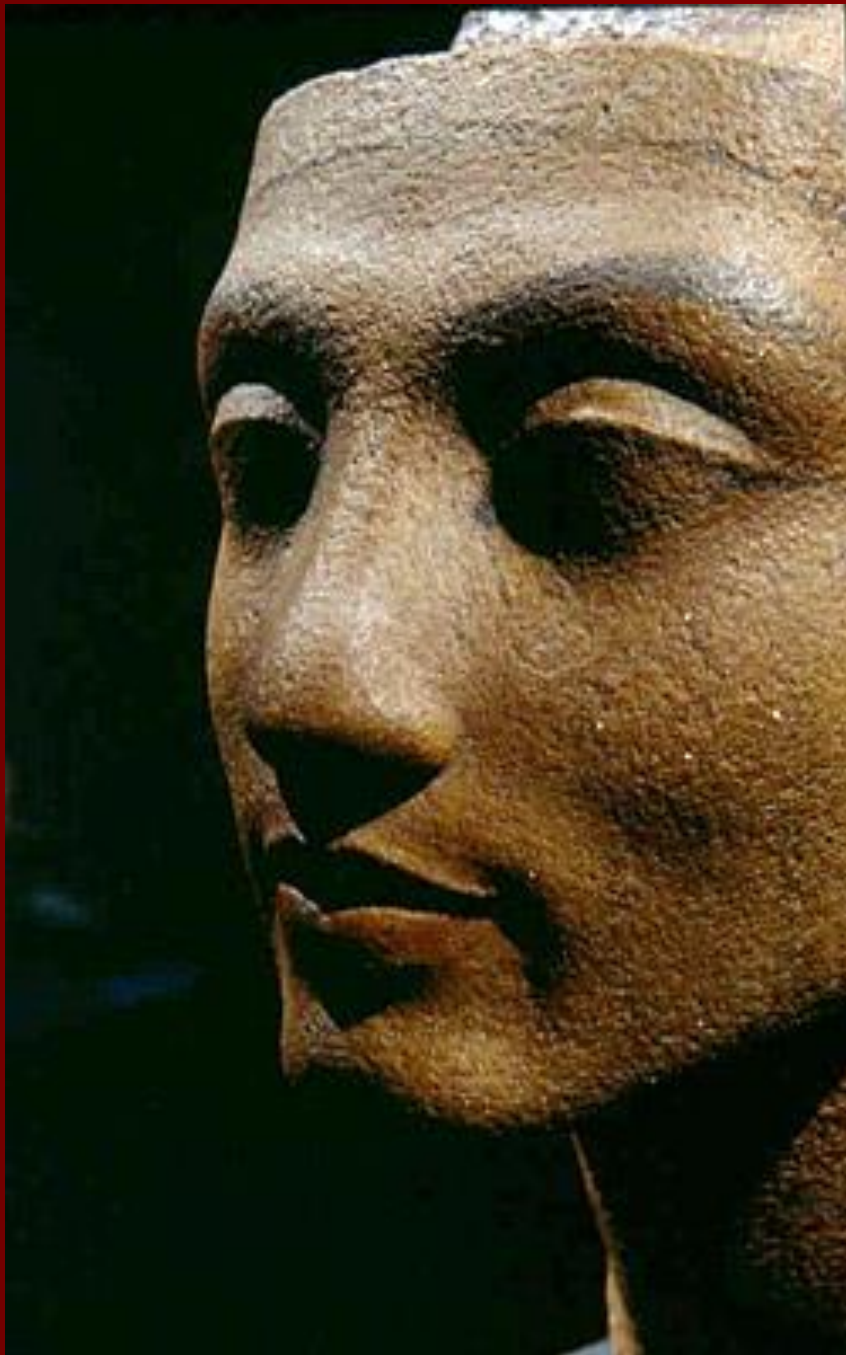
- **Akhenaten's family:**
- → unique roles and unique appearances (style and iconography!)
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Most important role as part of the triad
 - Her own headrest → based on blue crown?
 - From first years = distinctive due to her role in cult scenes (equal to her husband, already in Karnak → there even sometimes dominant)
 - Disappears from year 12 onwards: death? (but later shawabtis), change of name? (was Kiya), full co-regent?

Queen Nefertiti:

Fragment of a limestone relief showing Nefertiti wearing disk, horns and feathers, and uraeus. Amarna Period.

From the Petrie Museum in London





Nofretete Berlin ÄM 21200

- Unfinished bust
- Nefertiti or one of the daughters (Meritaton or Anchesenpaaton married to Semenckare and Tutankhamen)

Queen offering (Nefertiti?)

MMA 1993.326



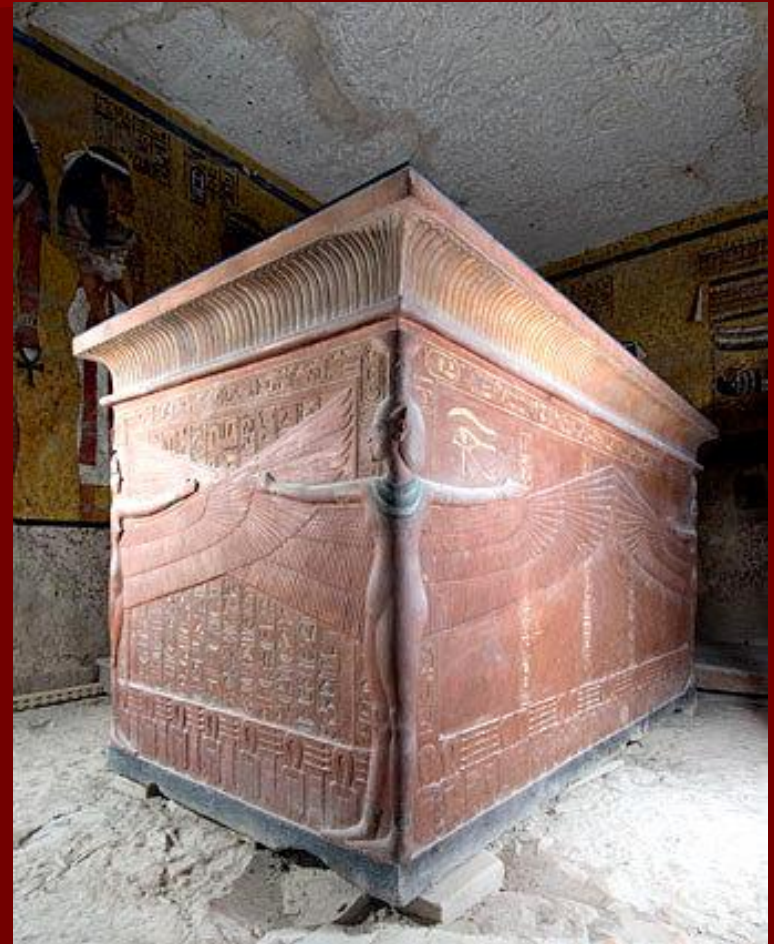
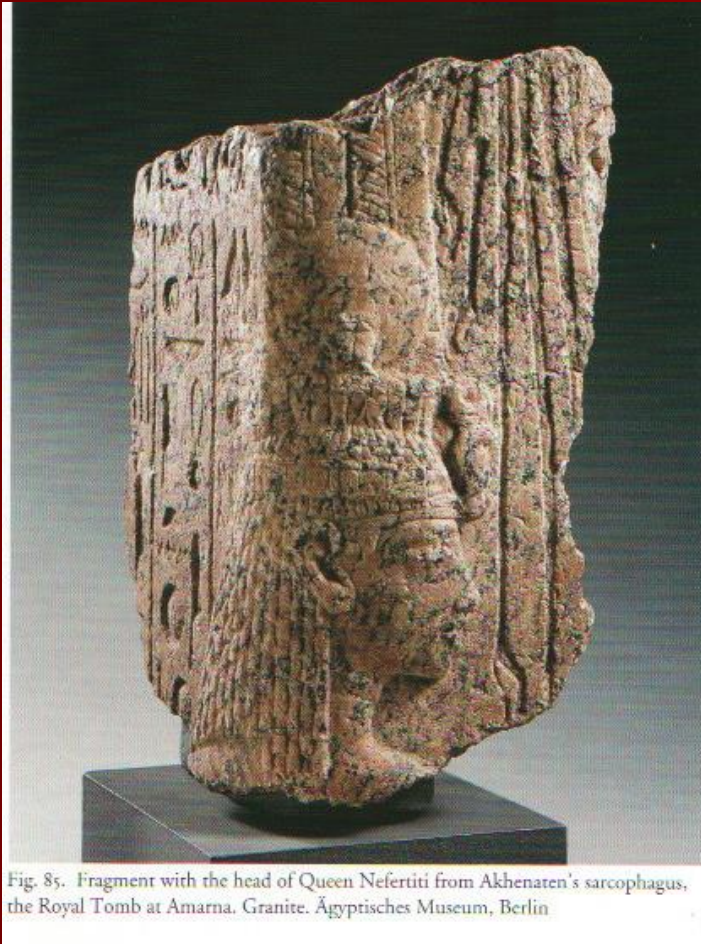
- **limestone block (temple scene): king and queen making an offering to Aten.**
- **face, usually identified as Akhenaten, actually depicts an Amarna queen, probably Nefertiti, following her husband**
- **king's shoulder just visible at the left side of the block**
- **Nefertiti wears the royal "afnet" headcloth with a uraeus cobra at the forehead**

Special features of Nefertiti

- ❑ Nefertiti depicted at corners, not protective goddesses
- ❑ → like Isis, Nephtys, Hathor, Selket, Neith



Nefertiti as safeguarding goddess



Special features of Nefertiti

- Nefertiti depicted at corners, not protective goddesses
- → like Isis, Nephtys, Hathor, Selket, Neith
- Gives life to nose of Akhenaten!, answers his spiritual needs for protection during death



- Supports spiritual needs for protection during death
- But also humane and sympathetic family needs: kings need assistance, Nefertiti supports his arm in grief (Aldred: Akhenaten, 305)

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti
 - Kiya:
 - was rediscovered 1960/70ies from cosmetic vessels in BM,
 - foreigner? (Tadukhepa?)
 - was honoured with a temple (sun-shade) in Amarna (= combined with ownership of land)
 - bore A. at least one child (daughter, name unknown)

MMA 20.2.11



- unguent jar
- Inscription = historical interest: three columns at the right record one of the few clear writings of the titular of secondary queen, Kiya
- Hieroglyphs once filled with Egyptian blue, traces of which remain

Kiya “The Lady - Akhenaten’s “other” wife

- ❑ Unknown until 1959 when her name was rediscovered
- ❑ Now known from Series of textual erasures and recarved blocks
- ❑ Akhenaten’s secondary wife
- ❑ Greatly beloved wife of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt
- ❑ NEVER called Great Royal Wife - Nefertiti



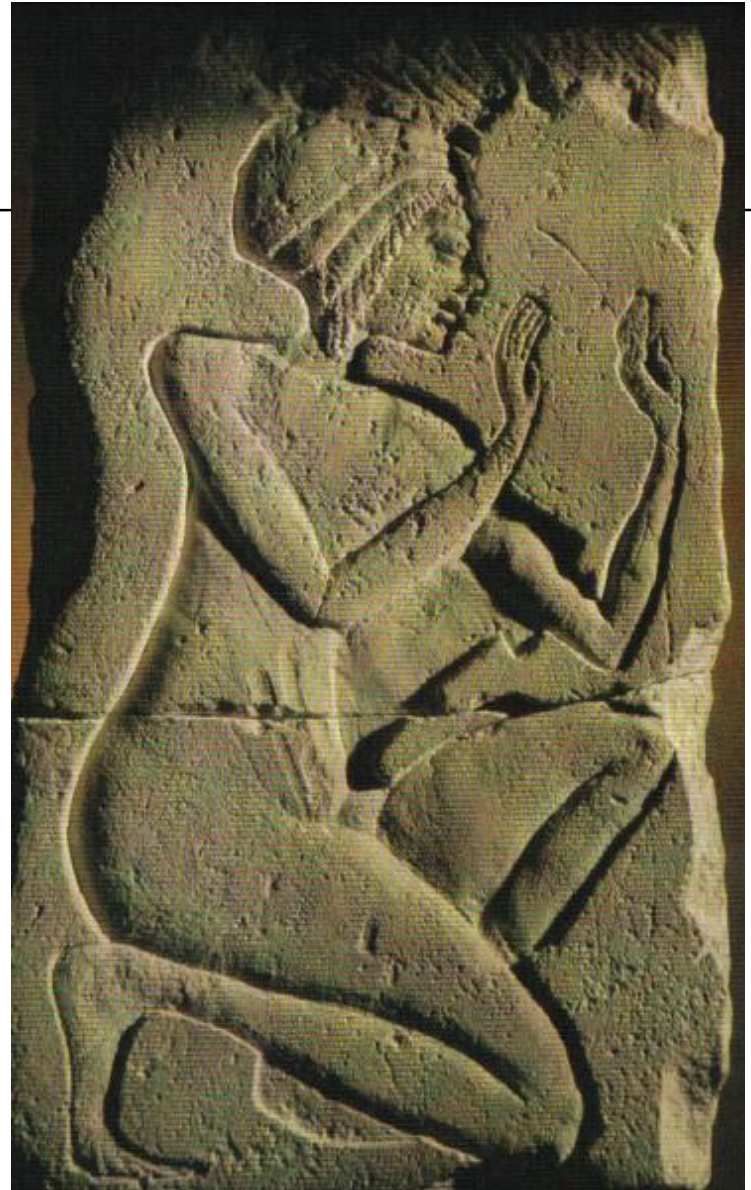
Kiya as a foreigner?

- Name seems to be an abbreviation or nickname, or perhaps foreign
- In Egyptian, “Kiya” means “monkey”; difficult to justify this usage for her
- Perhaps Tadukhepa, daughter of king Tušratta?



Kiya as a foreigner?

- ❑ Tadukhepa Entered Egypt during reign of Amenhotep III, so likely too old unless she came as a mere child
- ❑ However, Kiya Known also as “ta shepet” (the lady)
- ❑ cf. title of Bengay, “steward to the ‘ta shepet’ of Mitanni”



Kiya



- royal woman in ritual of purification
- zigzag lines = water poured over her head from a jar held by small hand at upper left
- originally Nubian wig, later filled in with gypsum plaster → recarved into side lock of daughters
- facial features + original wig → Queen Kiya?
- died several years before the end of the king's reign → images altered to represent one of his older daughters



100. Relief from Hermopolis with the head of the minor queen Kiya, later changed into Princess Merctaten. Limestone.
Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen

Canopic Lid MMA 30.8.54



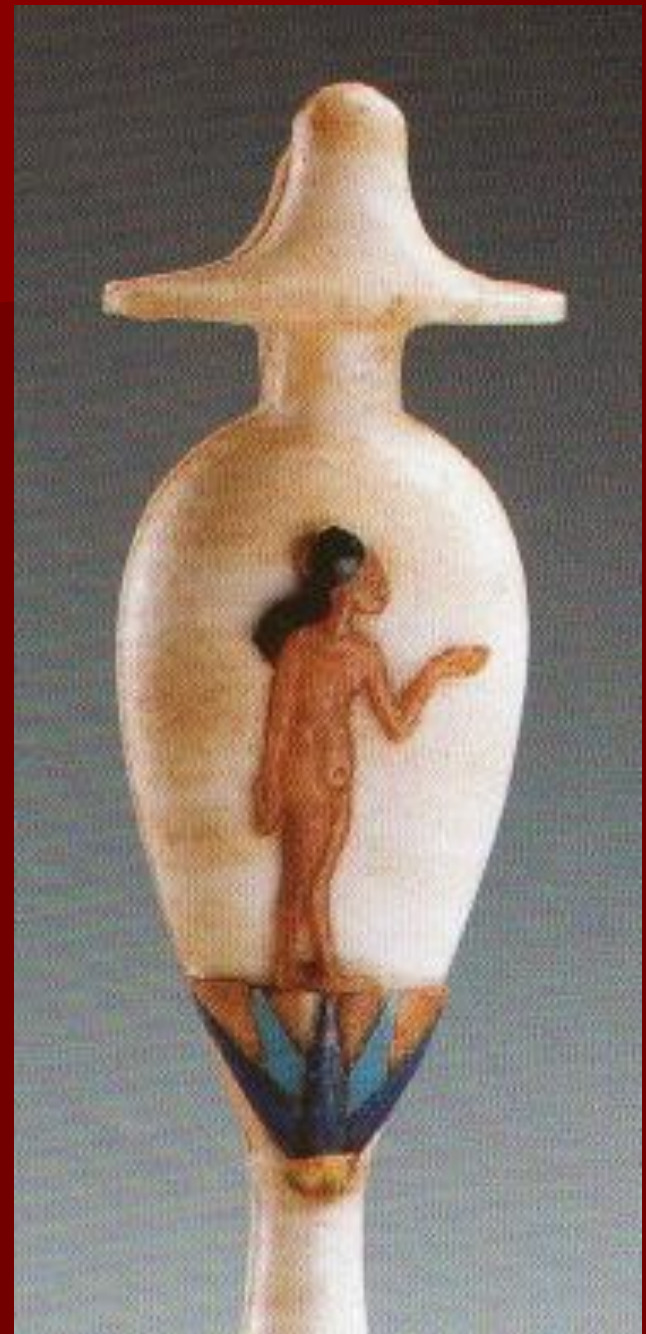
- youthful countenance for the eternal afterlife
- later Amarna style
- jar and lid altered in antiquity, making it extremely difficult to identify the original owner
- one of the royal women of Amarna
- Nubian wig (overlapping curls): worn only by adults, mostly female (Kiya, Meretaten)
- Hole forehead → separately carved upper body of a rearing cobra whose tail is visible across the top of the wig

Cartouches Aten, Akenaten, Kiya MMA 1991.237.70



Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Kiya
 - Daughters of AIV / Akhenaten:
 - → **Amarna art: daughters express new religion**





- Just by accident?
- Depiction on the mount like Nefertem on flower?

Fig. 7. Lid of a small box from the tomb of Tutankhamun showing a child and the name of Princess Nefernefrure. Wood with glass inlays. Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Kiya
 - Daughters of AIV / Akhenaten:
 - → **Amarna art: daughters express new religion**
 - → **suggest creative force**
 - → **emphasize the sacred grouping (royal family)**
 - → **enact the intimacy as subject for newly expressive art**

Who is who?

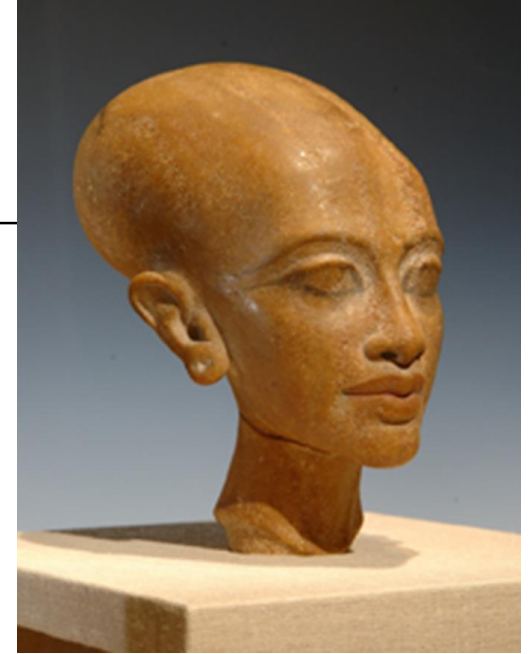
- Akhenaten's family:
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Kiya
 - Daughters of AIV / Akhenaten:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh

Royal Princesses MMA 1985.328.6



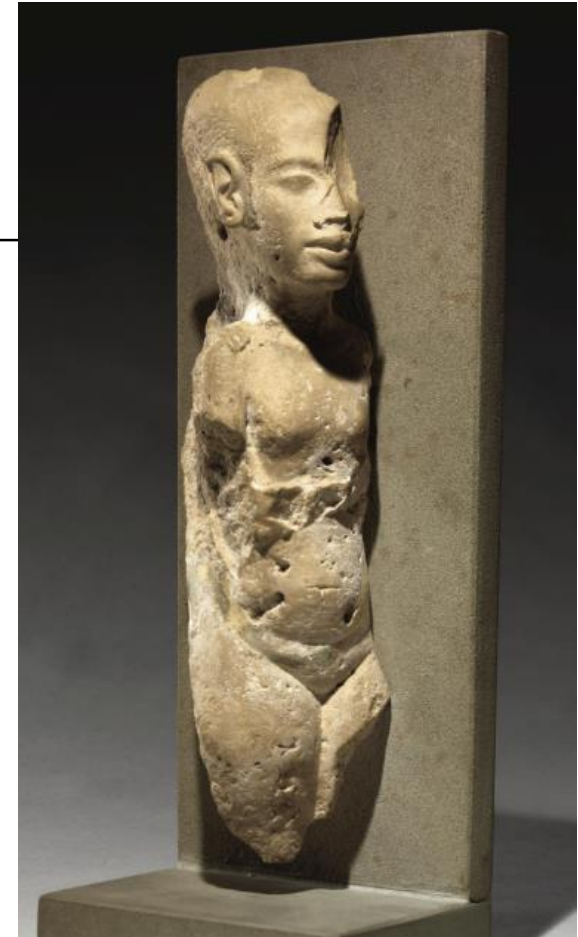
Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ??? (Aten's Servant → Handmaiden?)
 - (only known from Amarna – Tomb of Huya, Tiye's steward, connected to Tiye → more possible late daughter of AII and Tiye!!! Very likely born at end of AIII's reign (more likely their daughter))



Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ???
 - Meretaten / Meritaten (The Aten's Beloved)
 - Eldest daughter, maybe born before A came on throne, already depicted in Karnak (in cult with N), in Amarna in ritual scenes – often singled out as especially close to her father, became queen, took over Kiya's role after her death
 - → later designated King's Chief Wife, name in cartouche
 - → Amarna letters: addressed to A – Babylonian king had heard about her (EA10)



Meritaten (Maketaten?), likely to be from Stela P (Aldred), sold at Sotheby's for 1.1 million Dollar in 2008

EA 10 (BM 29786)

Egyptian gold and carpenters

- [Say t]o [Naphu]rar[ey]a,' the king of [Egypt]:
Thus Burra-Buriyas, the king of Karad[uniyas].
- *[exchange of greeting gifts]*
- and concerning your daughter Mayati, having
heard (about her), I send to her as her greeting-
gift a necklace of *cricket-(shaped) gems, of lapis
lazuli, 1048 their number.*

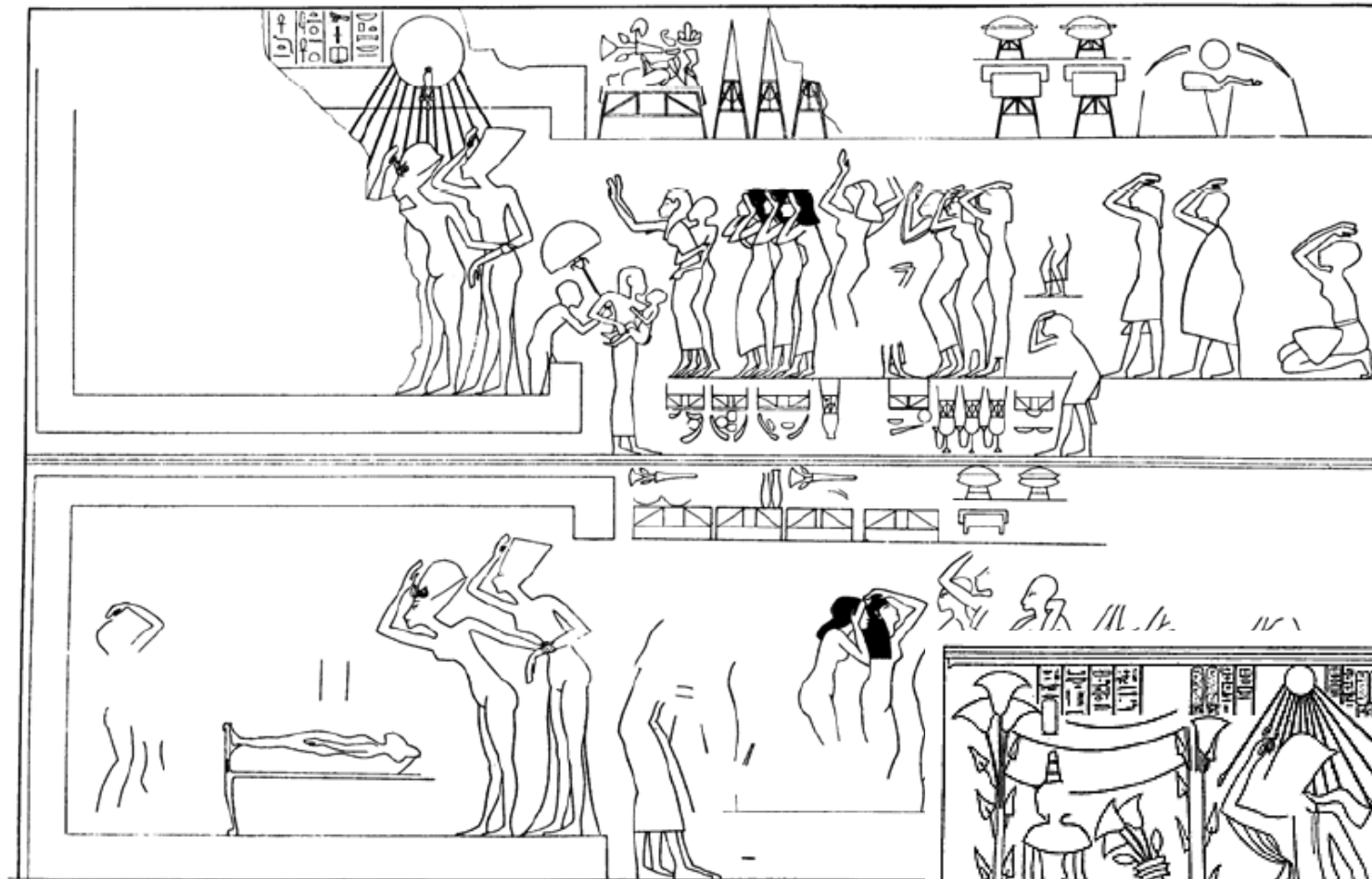
Scribal Palette (names of Meretaten + Semenkhkare)



Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ???
 - Meretaten
 - Meketaten/ Maketaten: born early years, included (sparsely) in Karnak, buried in Royal Tomb (funeral scene)

Burial: Death of Maketaten



Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ???
 - Meretaten
 - Meketaten
 - Ankhesenpaaten: born year 7?, married Tutankhamun, maybe wrote letter to Shuppiluliumash (Zennanza affair???)

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ???
 - Meretaten
 - Meketaten
 - Ankhesenpaaten
 - Nefernerefuaten-Tahserit (“Nefertiti the younger”)

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ???
 - Meretaten
 - Meketaten
 - Ankhesenpaaten
 - Nefernerefuaten-Tahserit
 - Neferneferure: tomb in the Royal Wadi?



Fig. 7. Lid of a small box from the tomb of Tutankhamun showing a child and the name of Princess Nefernefrure. Wood with glass inlays. Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - → The King's Daughters of His Flesh
 - Baketaten ???
 - Meretaten
 - Meketaten
 - Ankhesenpaaten
 - Nefernerefuaten-Tahserit
 - Neferneferure
 - Setepenre – appears only on few monuments

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Kiya
 - Daughters of AIV / Akhenaten
 - Mysterious daughters'-daughters?
 - Meretaten-Tasherit –daughter of Meretaten?
 - Ankhesenpaaten-Tasherit ??? Problematic, on blocks in Karnak and Hermopolis (mother Ankhesenpaaten or Kiya???)

Who is who?

- Akhenaten's family:
 - The King's Chief Wife Nefertiti:
 - Kiya
 - Daughters of AIV / Akhenaten
 - Foreign Queens
 - Gilukhipa
 - Tadukhipa → Kiya???