

Week 1 – Tuesday
W2

The emergence of civilisations – Case Study: Egypt

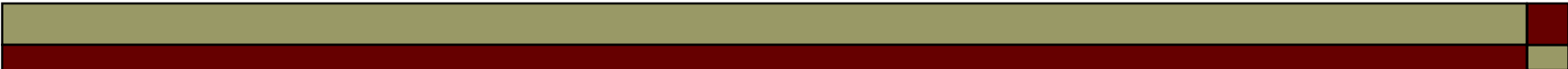
HPAR4006

What makes civilisation?

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Readings

- Kemp: Ancient Egypt, chapter 2
- Dee M., et al. 2013. An absolute chronology for early Egypt using radiocarbon dating and Bayesian statistical modelling. In: Proceedings of Royal Society A 469(2013) 20130395
→<http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspa.2013.0395>
- Wilkinson, T.A.H. 2000. What a King Is This: Narmer and the Concept of the Ruler. In: *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 86(2000), pp. 23-32 →<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3822303>

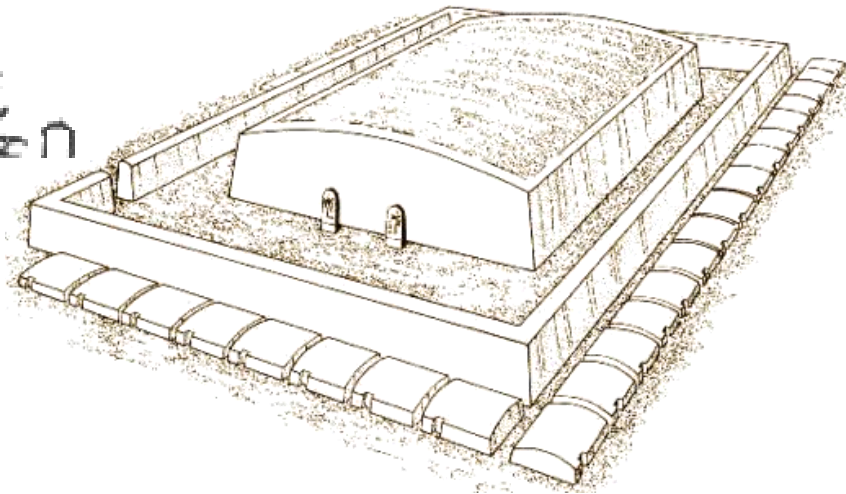
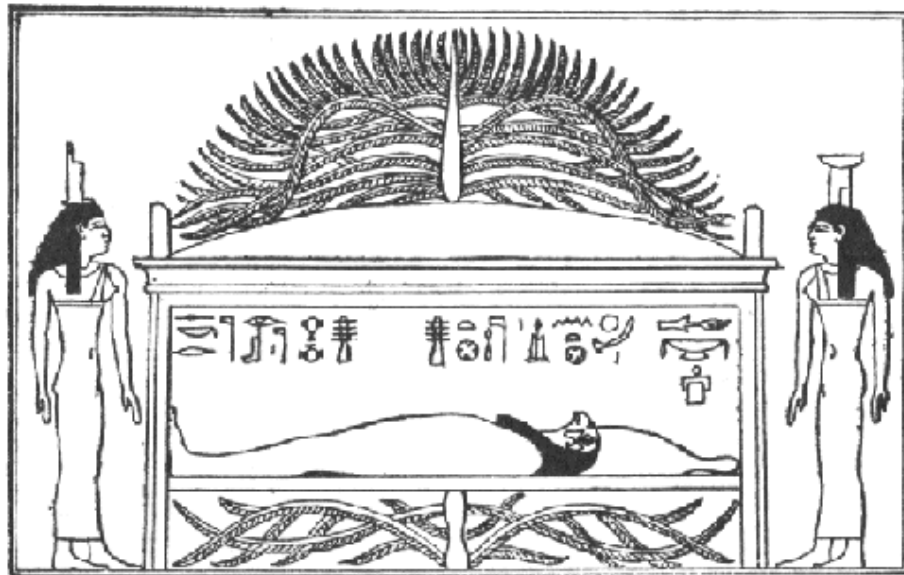
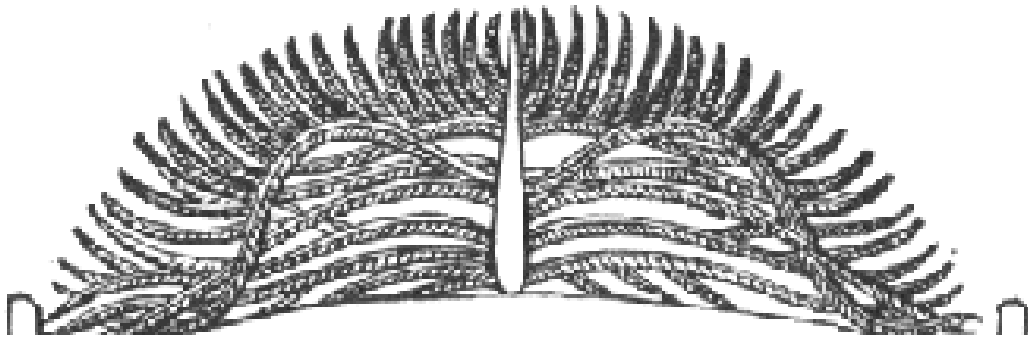


Additional Reading

- Wilkinson, T. A. H. (2001). *Early Dynastic Egypt*. Cambridge.
- Wengrow, D. (2006). *The Archaeology of Early Egypt: Social Transformations in North-East Africa, 10,000 to 2650 BC*. Cambridge.
- Wenke, R. J. (2009). *The Ancient Egyptian State: The Origins of Egyptian Culture (c. 8000-2000 BC)*. Cambridge.

Emergence

= appearing, breaching, rising



Narmer Palette (31st century BC), found in Hierakonpolis, now Egyptian Museum



Paris, Louvre 290

Limestone

Upper part stela, king
Wadj (dyn. 1)

One of a pair, set up
on east side of kings
tomb (offering place)



PUAM

Slate palette
(fish) and
mace-heads



Egypt Centre AB72

Disc shaped granite macehead, broken. 86mm in diameter.

The disc shaped macehead seems to have been generally earlier than the pear-shaped macehead.

Both date from the Predynastic to the Early Dynastic (4000-3000 B.C.) and are found in graves.

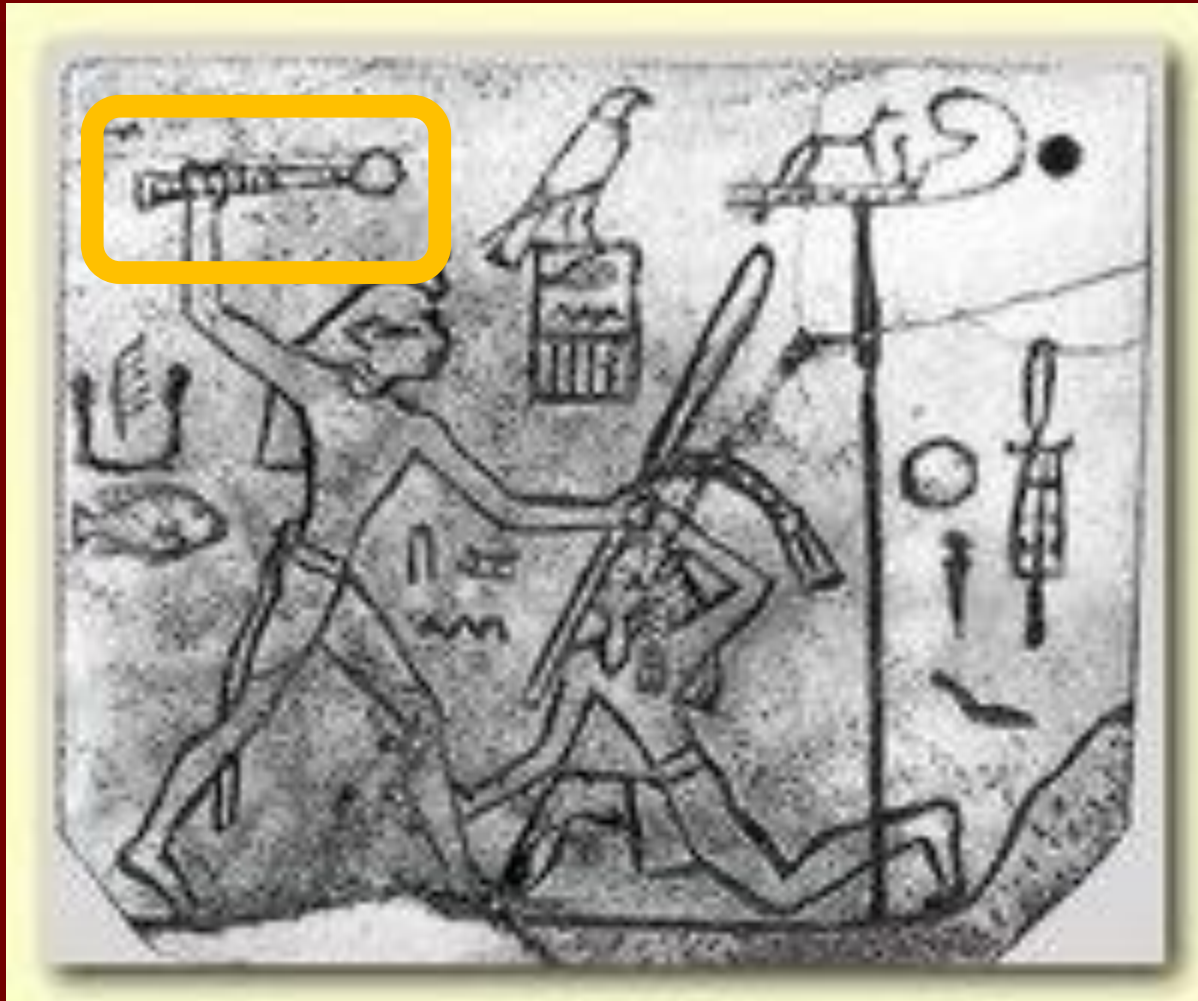
Gift from University of Wales Aberystwyth.



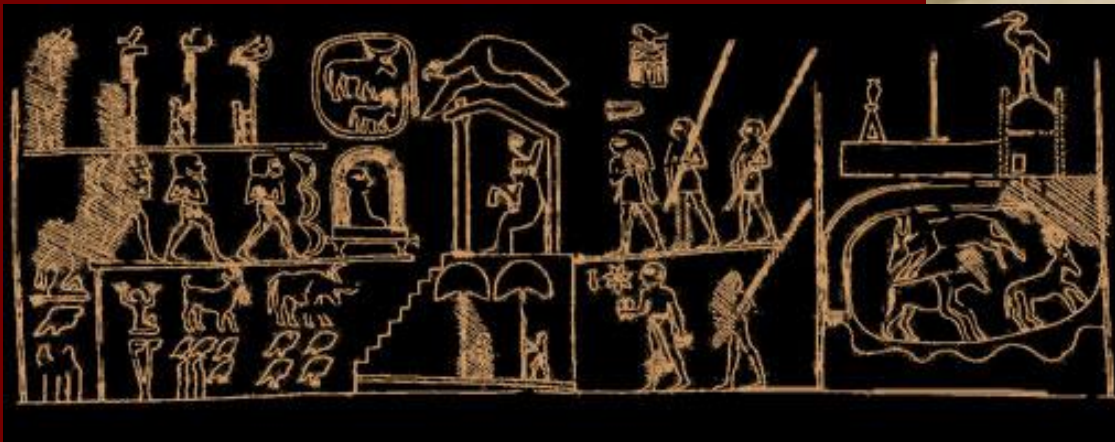
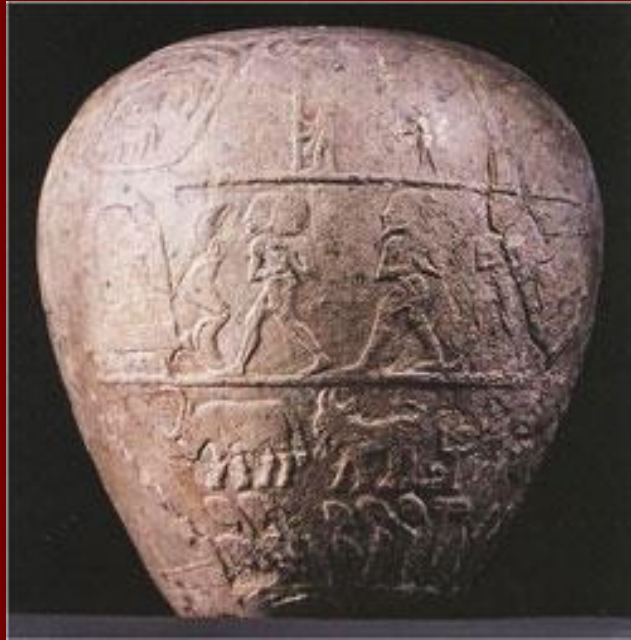
Narmer Palette (31st century BC): new composit figures typical for Eg. art



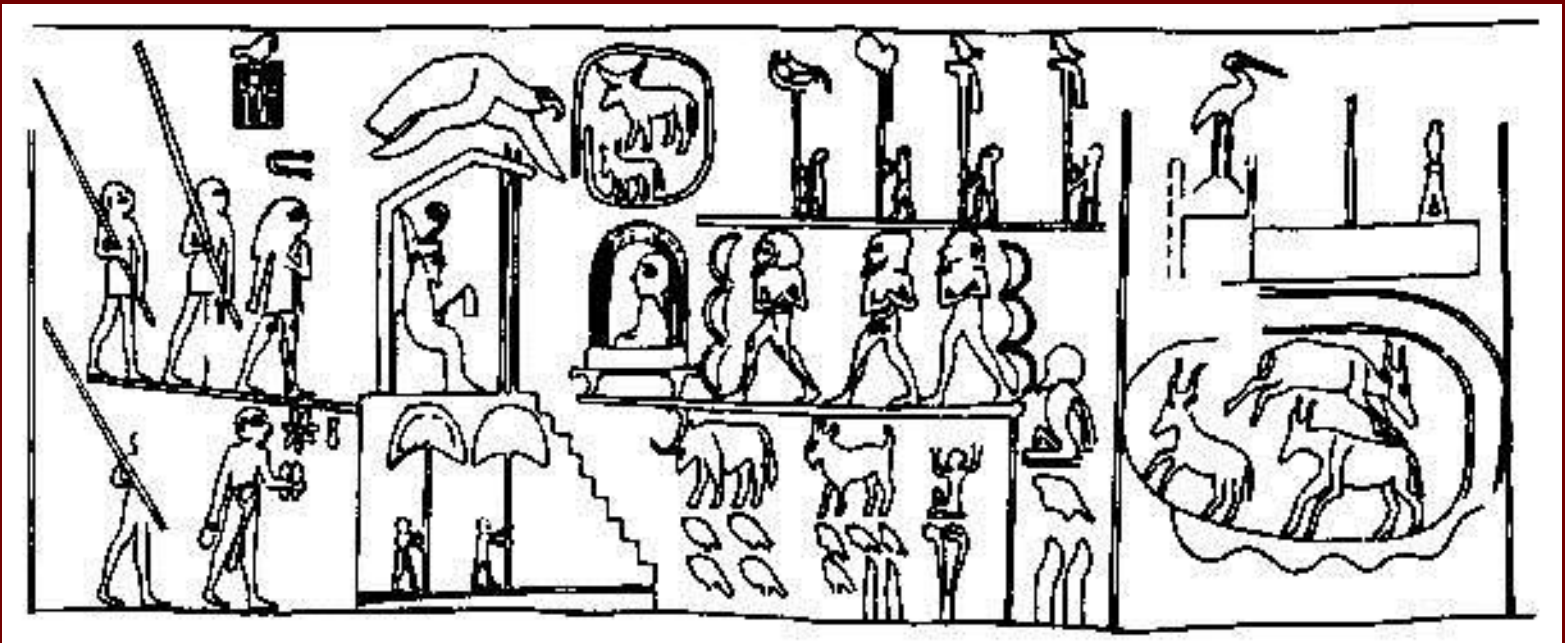
Ivory Label King De(we)n



Narmer Macehead



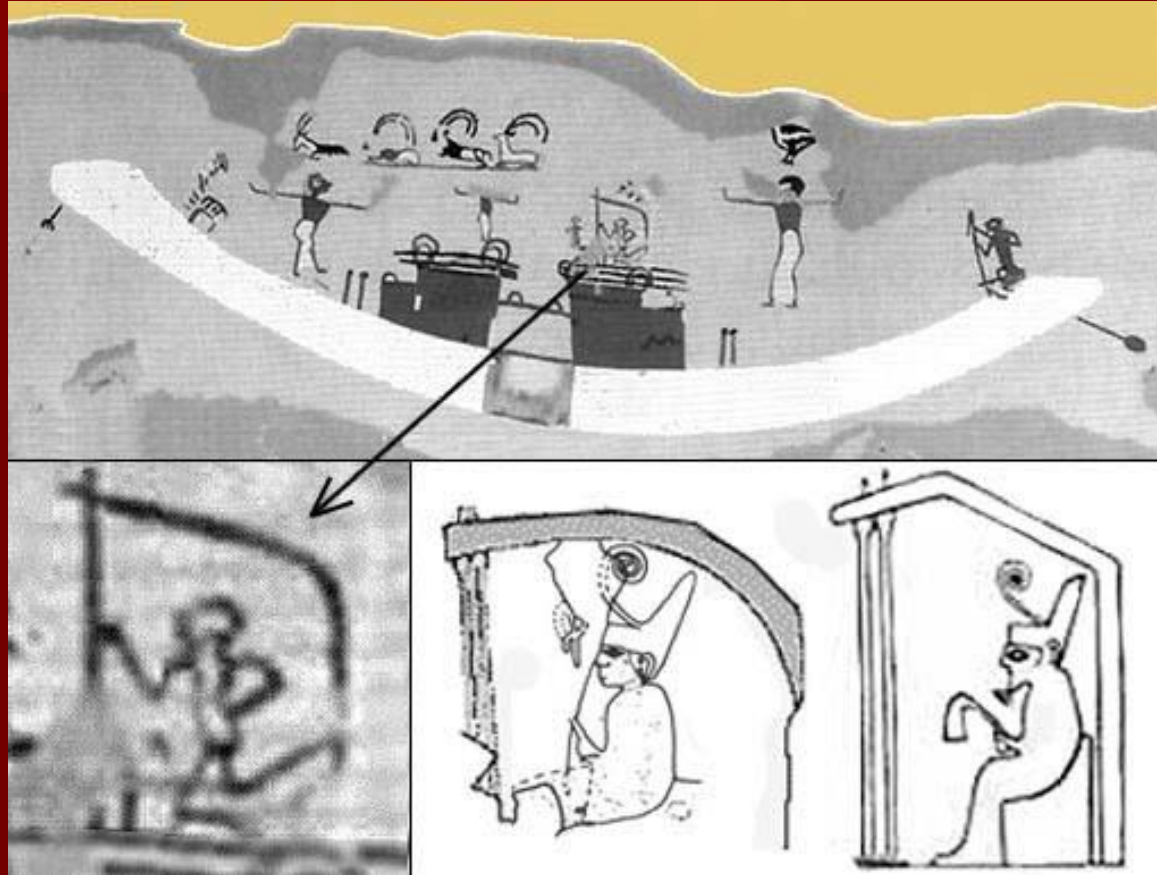
Comparison structure with Narmer- Macehead





Development: Hierakonpolis 100 – maceheads

- figure within the canopy king?
- Sedfest depictions?
- later depiction: pharaoh sitting (maceheads Scorpion and Narmer),
- king here stands up (no crown , no regalia).



Hierakonpolis, the 'Main Deposit'

some major finds in the Petrie Museum

decorated mace head UC 14898a/ UC 14898



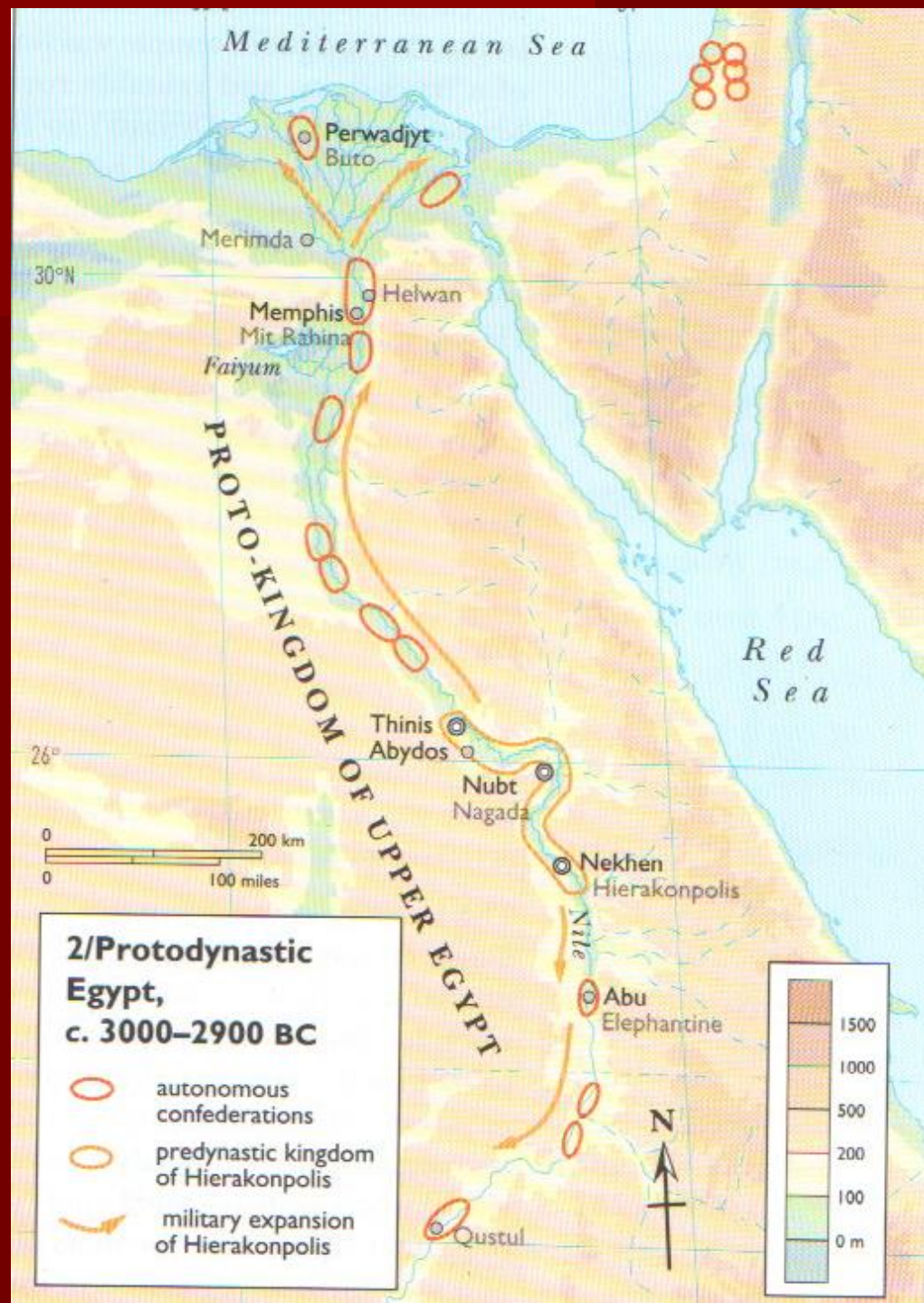
Quibell 1900: pl. XXVI A; Adams 1974: 3, no. 1, pl. 1+2

BM EA 37996

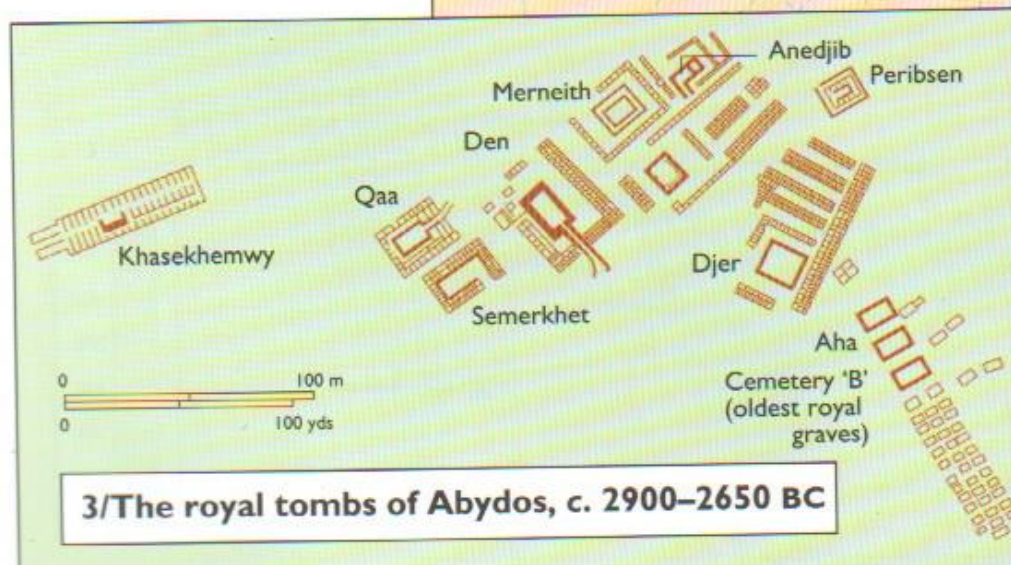
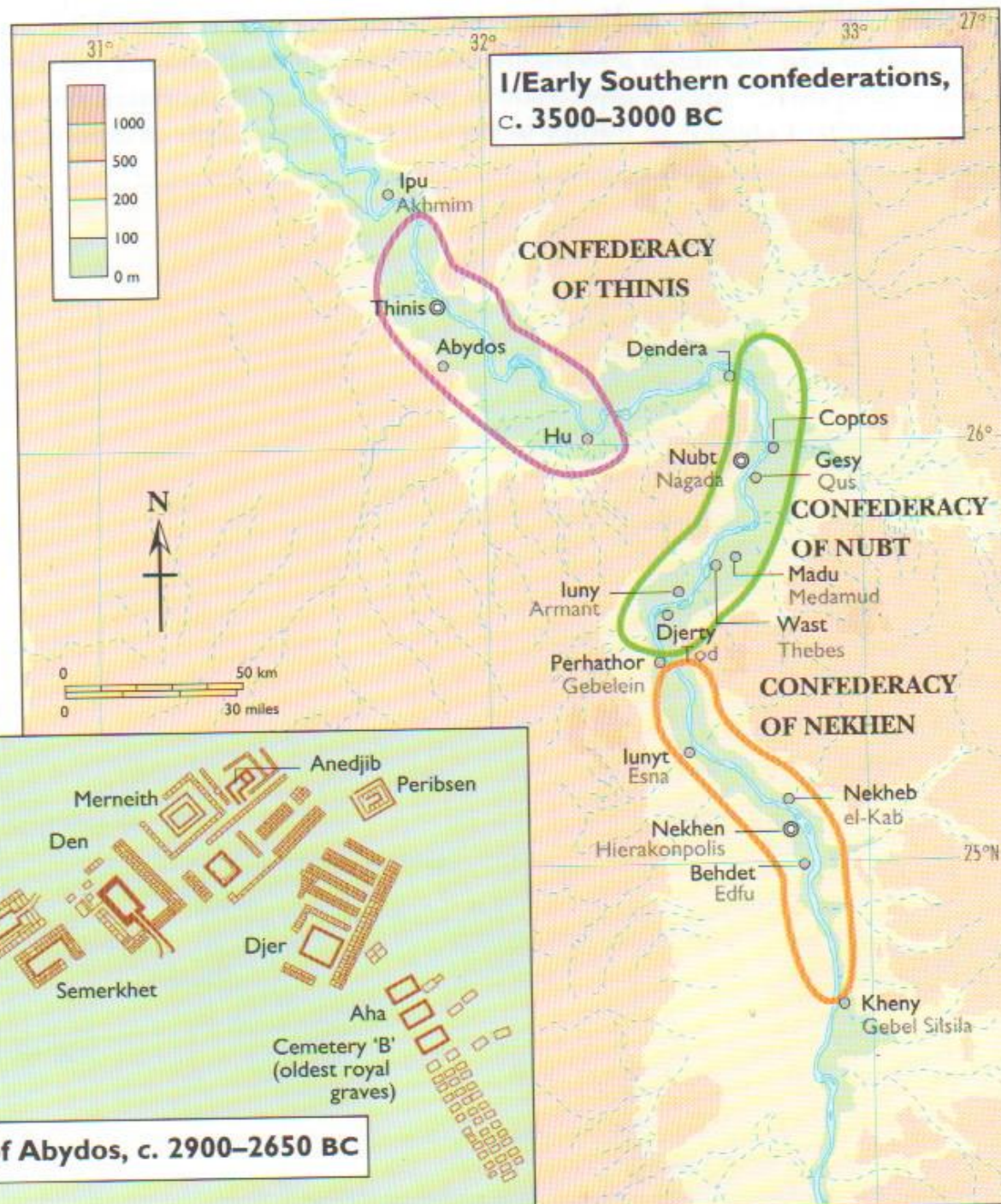


BM EA 37996: Ivory statuette of a king in jubilee robe

- ❑ From the Temple of Osiris, Abydos, Egypt
Early Dynastic period, perhaps mid-1st Dynasty
- ❑ This figurine is one of the earliest surviving portraits of an Egyptian king. (Which one?)
- ❑ The robe, decorated with a fine pattern of diamond shapes enclosed by double lines, is of the distinctive type worn by kings when celebrating the *sed* or jubilee festival. The figurine may be evidence that this festival was celebrated right at the beginning of the historical period in Egypt.

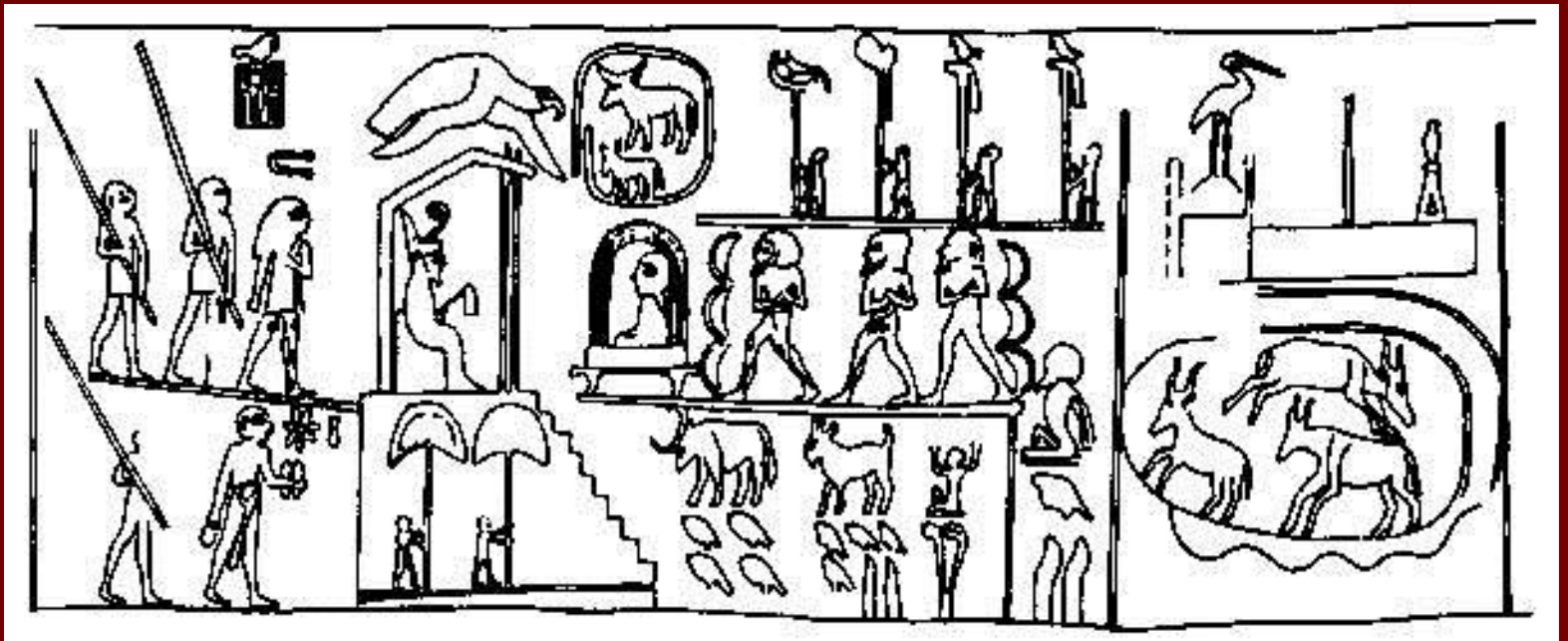






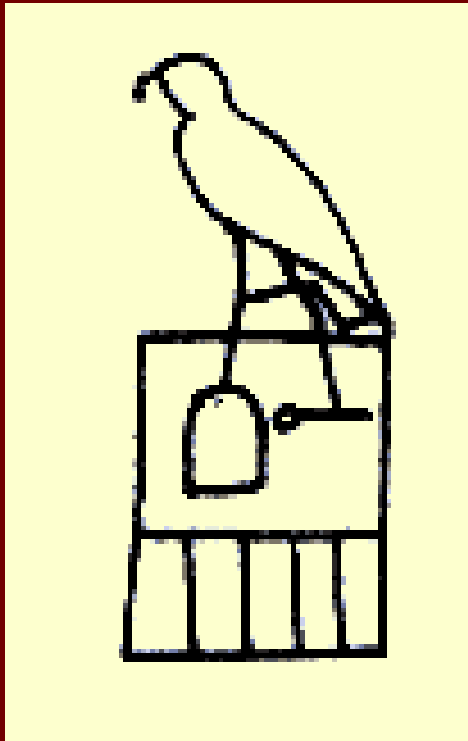
Earliest temple: HK29A





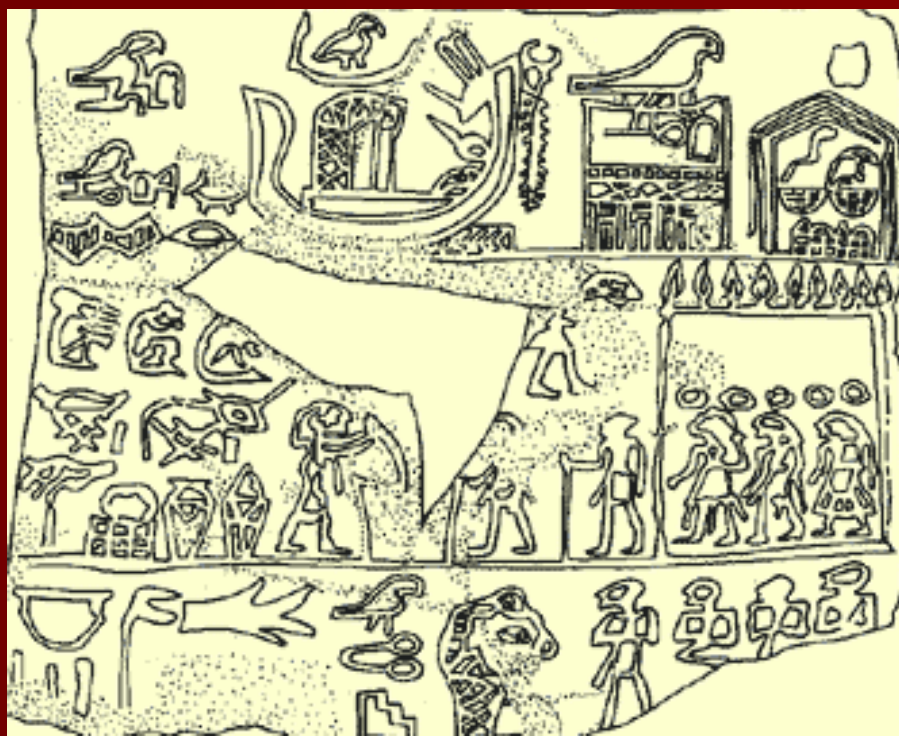
Who was Menes?

Aha ("the Fighter")

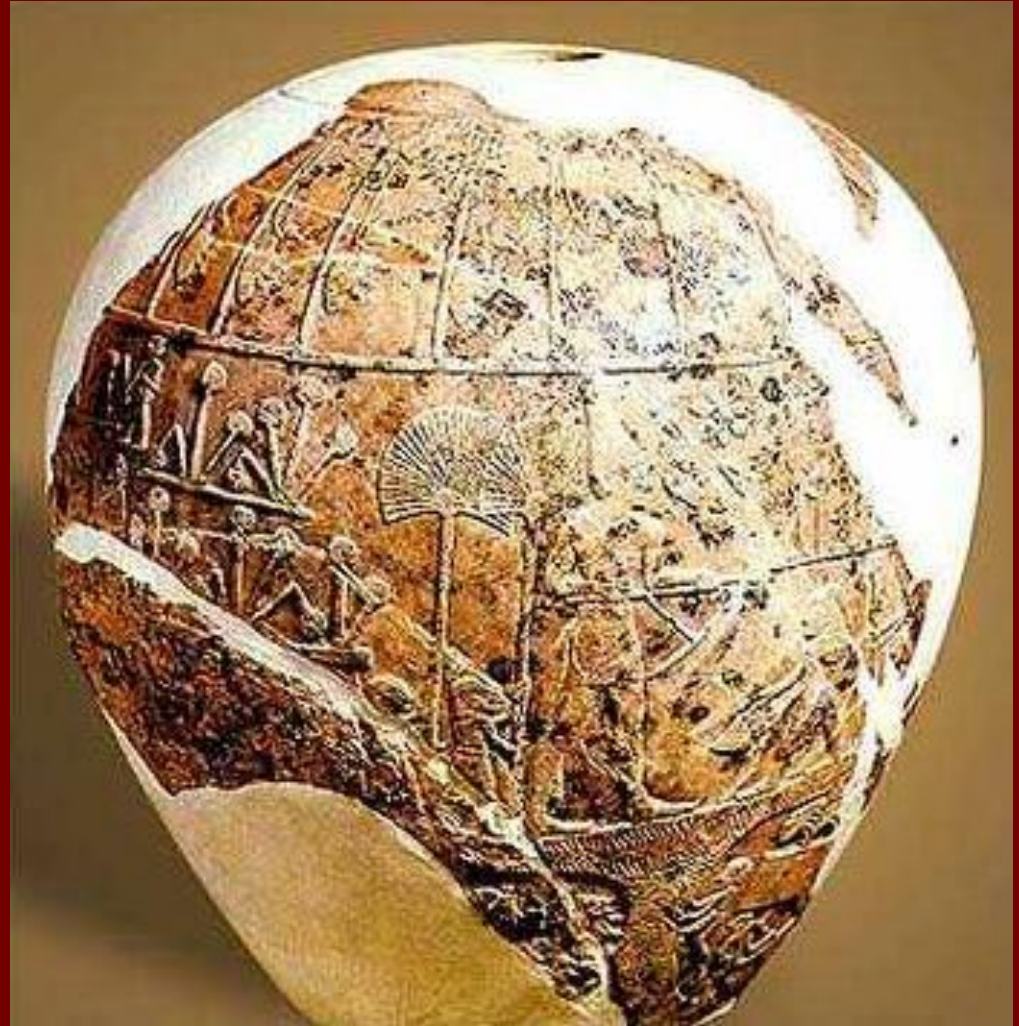


Narmer ("Strong Catfish")





Another possible candidate: King Scorpion (Ashmolean Macehead)



Be careful: Menes?

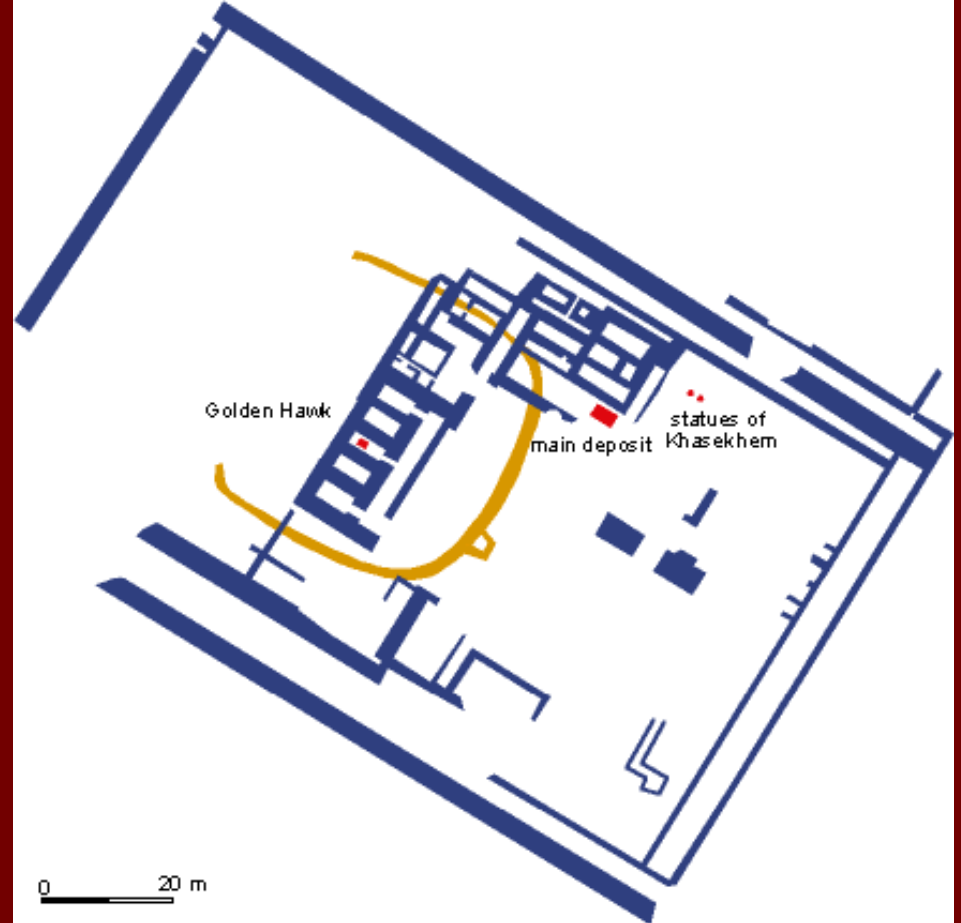
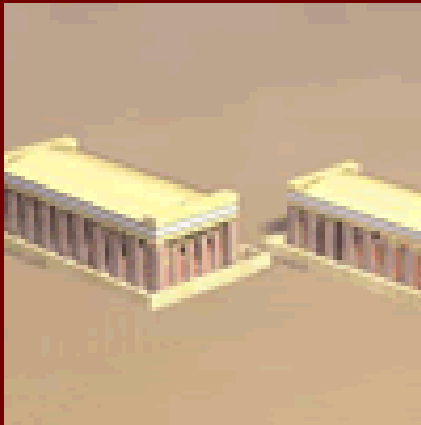
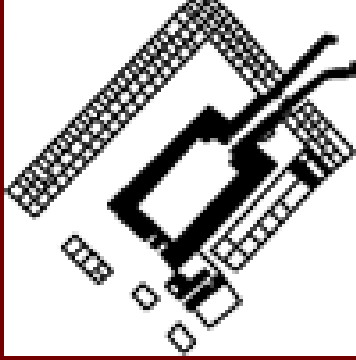
Allocated by
Petrie, recently
spread by several
webpages

Head of an
unknown king,
probably 2nd dyn.

Petrie Museum,
UCL

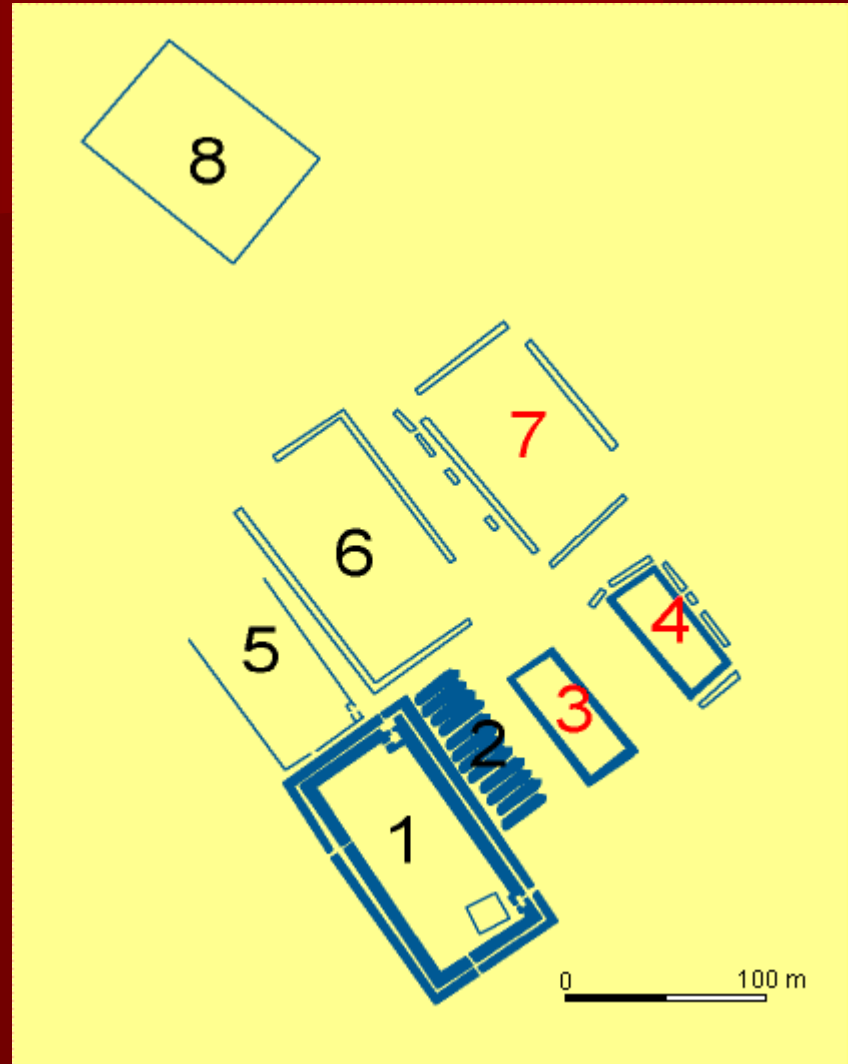


Architecture in Early Dynastic Egypt



Abydos – Royal Enclosure

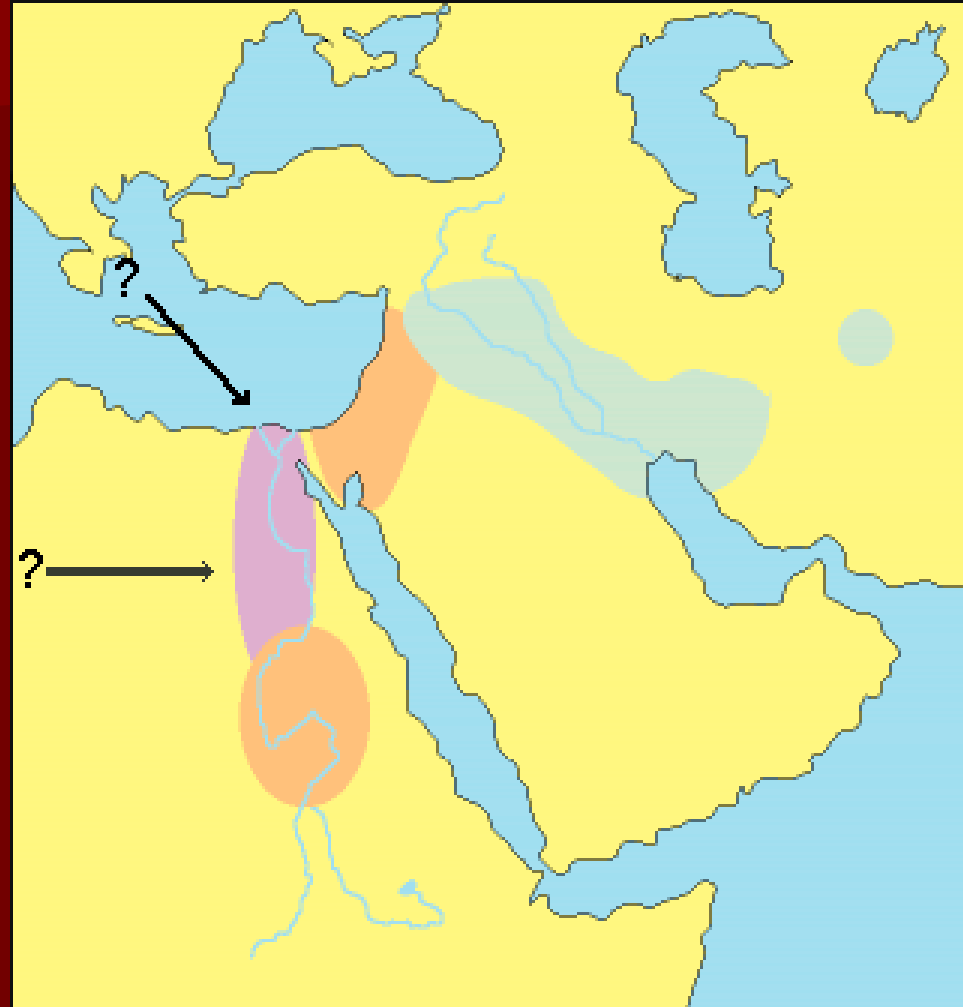
1. Khasekhemwy
2. Funerary Boats
3. Anedjib or Semerkhet
4. Merytneit (or Den ?)
5. Peribsen
6. Djer
7. Djet
8. Qaa (?)



Foreign Relations in Pre- and Early Dynastic Egypt

orange - direct
trade is attested

green - indirect
contacts are
attested





Sites in South Palestine with Egyptian archaeological finds



- Egyptian pottery of the beginning of the First Dynasty



- Sites where objects bearing the name of king Narmer have been found

Et-Tell, Jerusalem: Early Bronze Age temple

Egyptian masonry technique + presence of
alabaster



GAZA STRIP

-  Built-up area
-  Refugee Camp
-  Crossing Point

Kilometres
0 2 4 8

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

ISRAEL

EGYPT



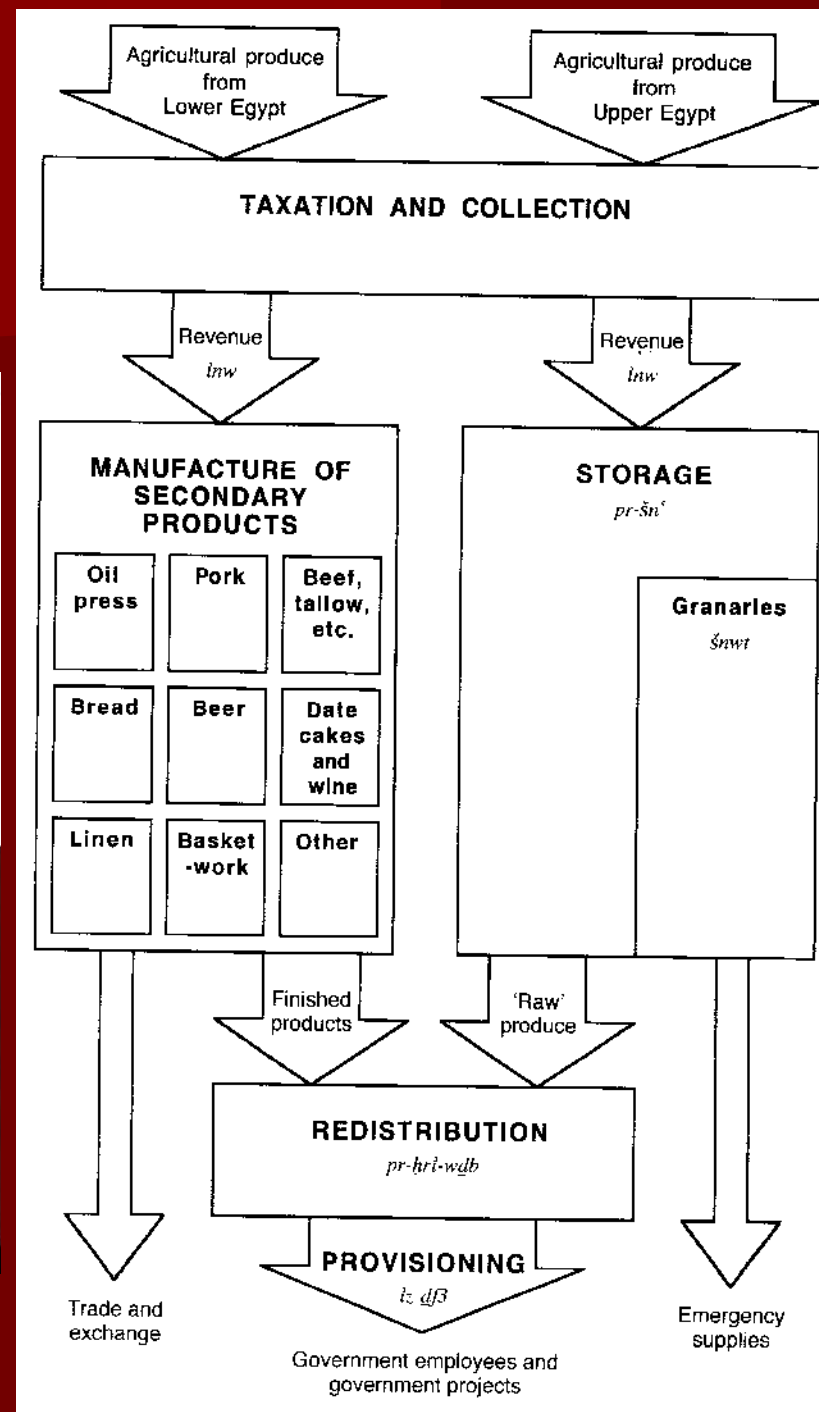
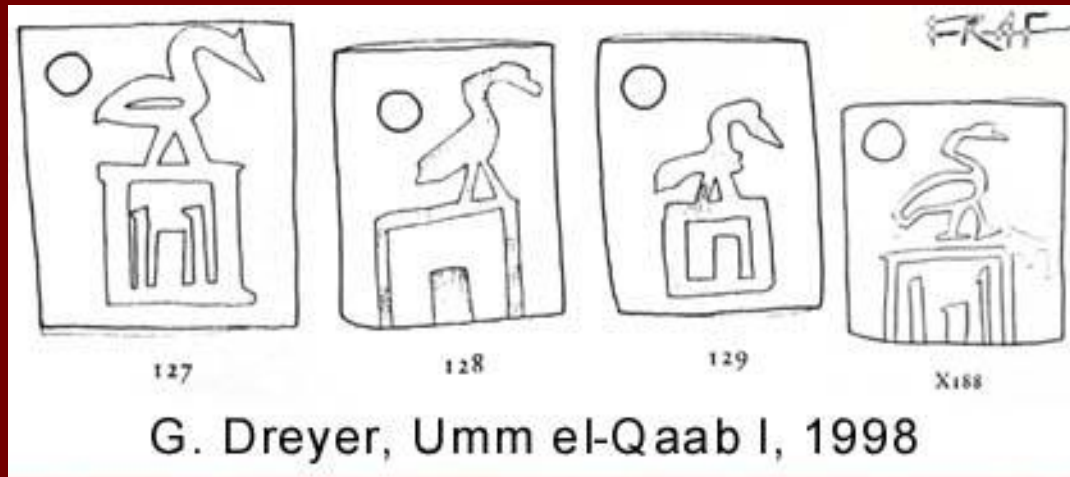
An Early Egyptian City at Tell es-Sakhan near Gaza

- ❑ Egyptian settlement : origin of Egyptian artefacts found all over late EB I Palestine
- ❑ contemporary with En Besor, much bigger, surrounded by a city-wall (earliest Egyptian town wall), datable with certainty
- ❑ three consequent building-phases, correlating with 3 strata of occupation.
- ❑ different kinds of walls were found, typical Egyptian in layout and building technique, belonging to domestic structures + industrial area (thick deposits of ashes, fireplaces)

An Early Egyptian City at Tell es-Sakhan near Gaza

- Around 90% of the pottery = typical Egyptian settlement of that period (late EB Ib) with only ca. 10% of local Canaanean material
- whole ceramic set: about $\frac{1}{4}$ imported Egyptian wine-jars; majority of the remaining Egyptian material mainly of Egyptian shapes produced with local clay but Egyptian techniques (e.g. bread-moulds or so-called lotiform bowls)
- Serekhs and seal-impressions as well as other finds show Tell es-Sakan as a major Egyptian centre of this period.

The Establishment of Authority



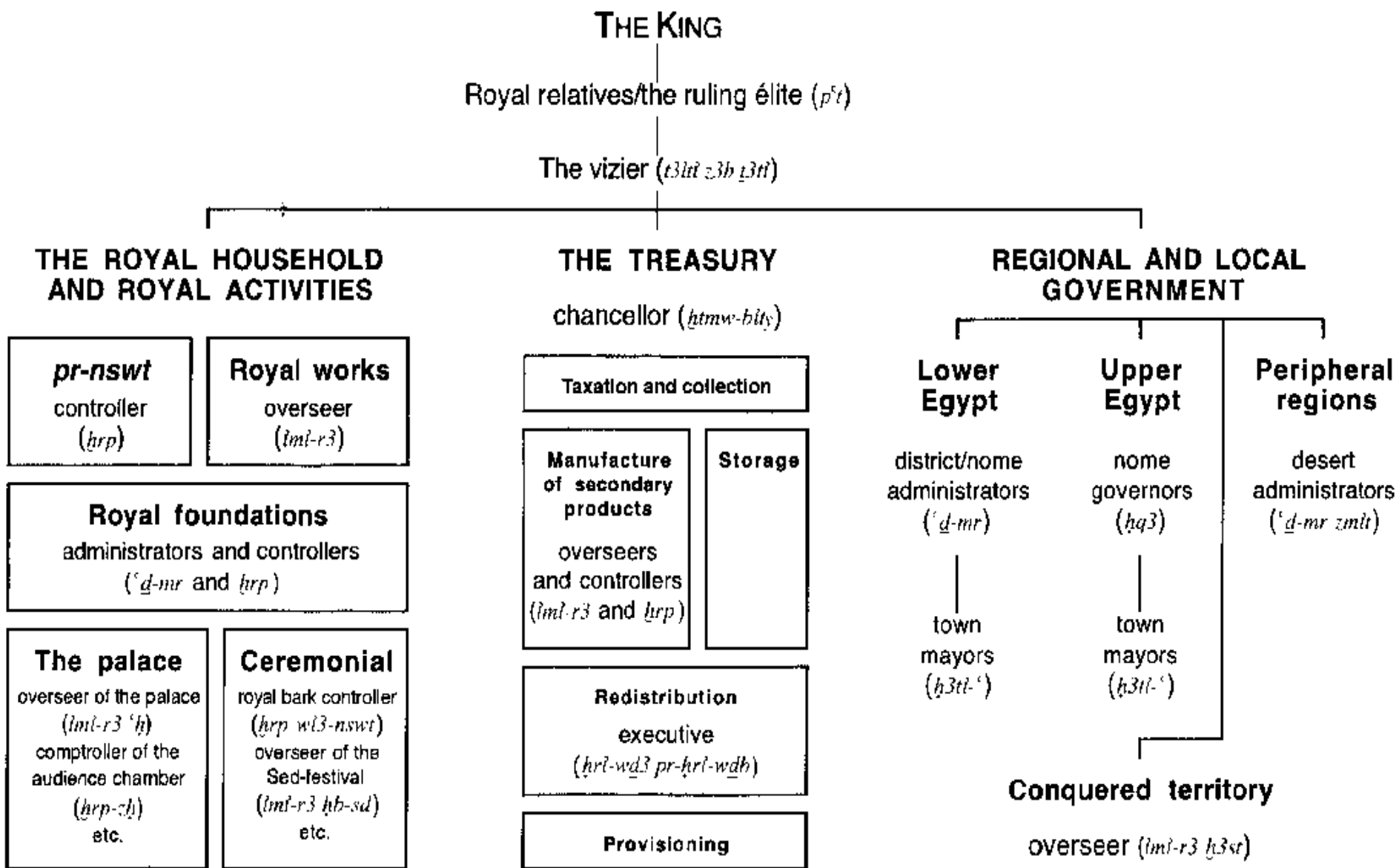
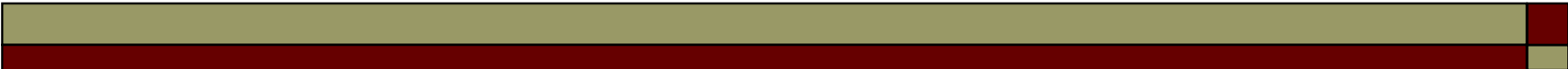


Figure 4.6 The structure of Early Dynastic administration. The chart shows the principal departments and functions of government, together with the titles of some of the major administrative officials (based upon information from contemporary sources: seal-impressions, inscribed stone vessels and Third Dynasty tomb inscriptions).



Childe (1950): Definition of early civilisation

- Large urban centres
- Craft workers, merchants, officials, priests (supported by surplus of farmers)
- Primary producer paying surplus to deity / divine ruler
- Monumental architecture
- Ruling class exempt from manual labour
- Recording information
- Exact practical science
- Monumental art
- Resident specialist craft workers (under control of ruling class)
- Social solidarity under pre-eminence of temples / funerary cults
- Dominant and permanent state organisation