

Week 5

Amarna as city:

**Living and Dying
in Amarna**

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

Dr Katharina Zinn

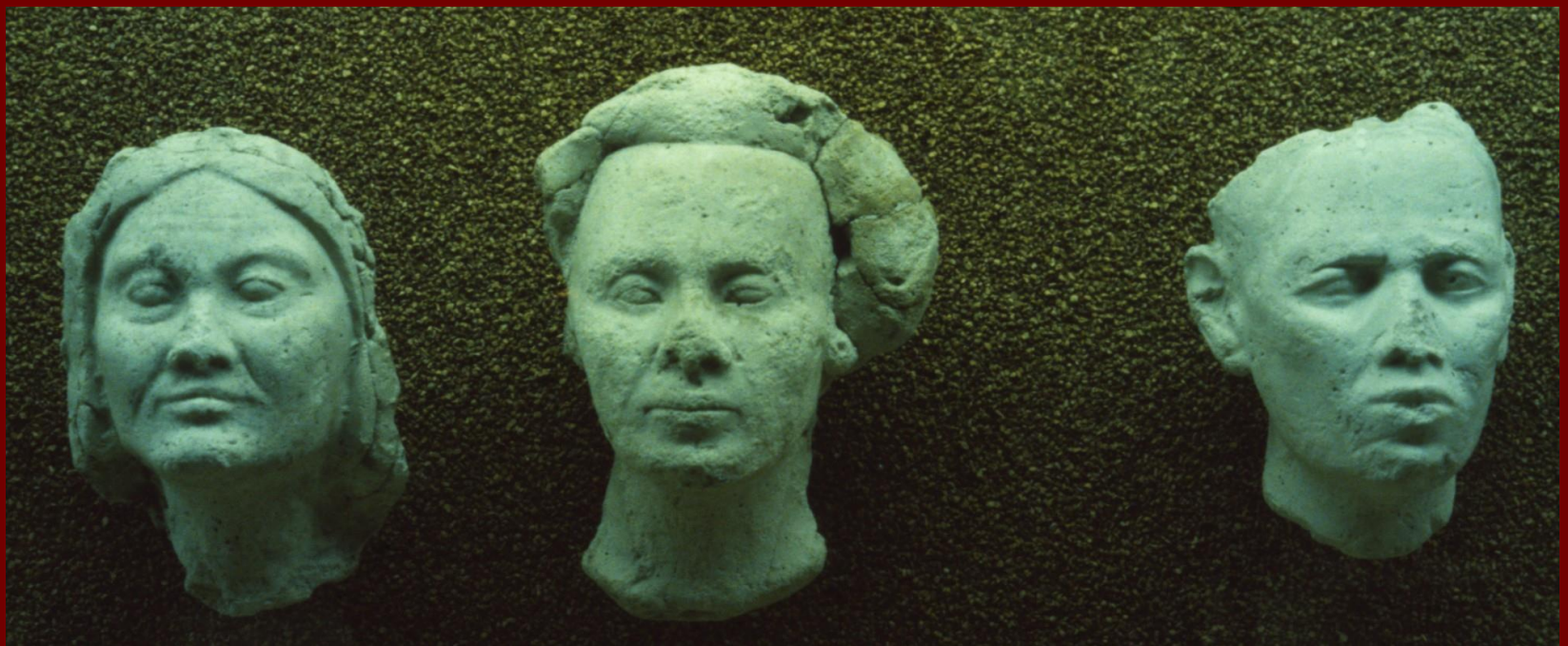
Associate Professor in Egyptian Archaeology
and Heritage

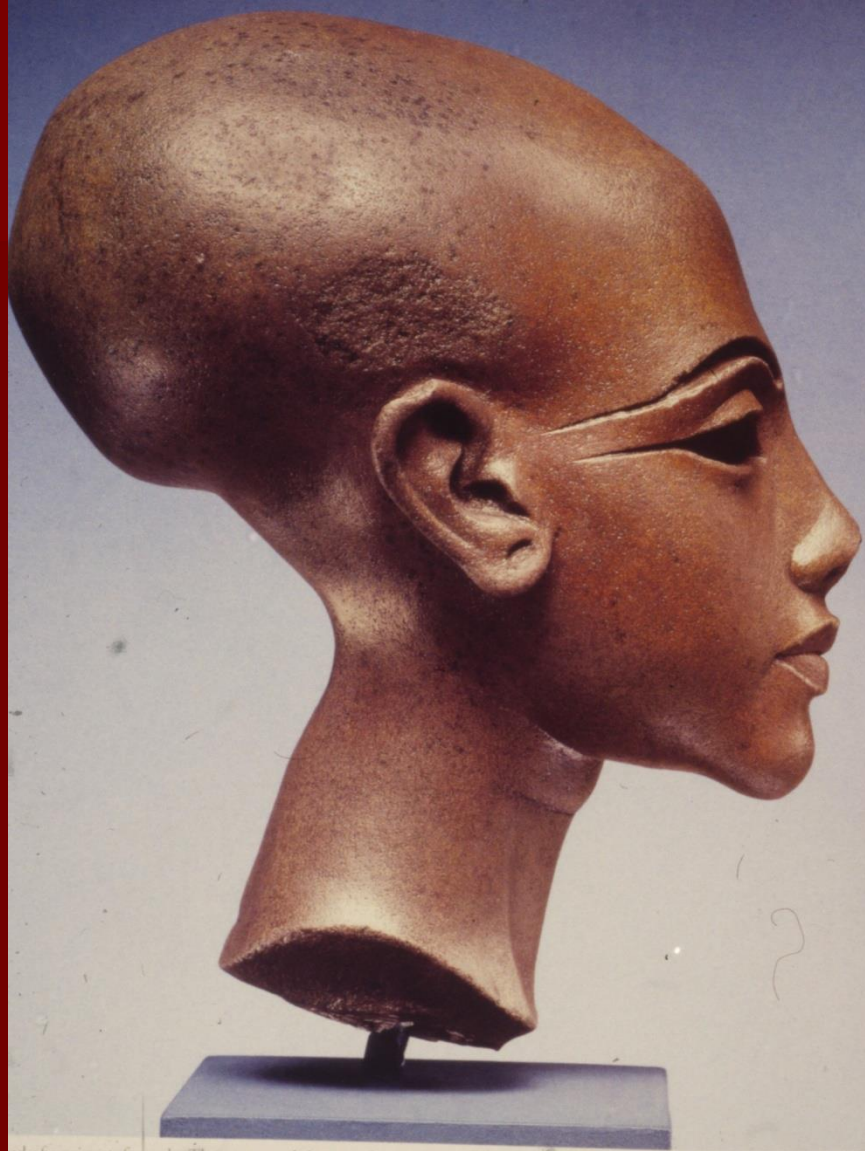


004 Limestone
Akhenaten, Nefertiti and Princess



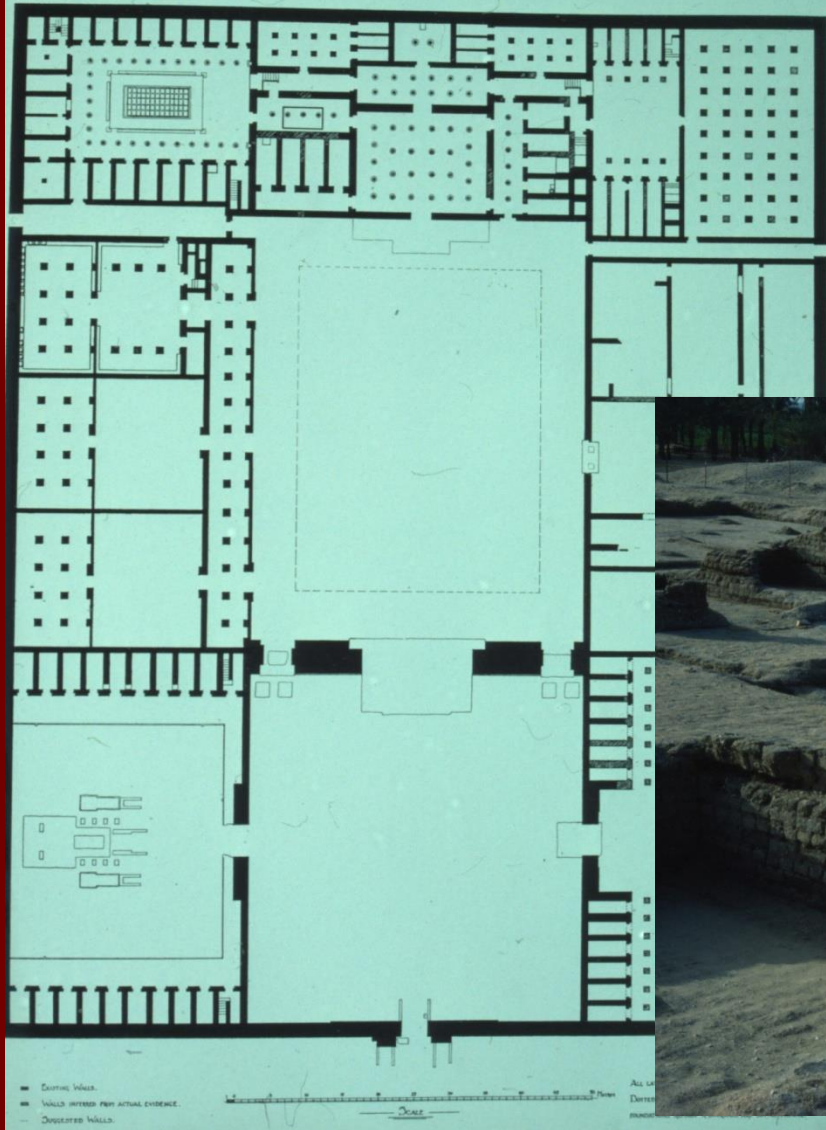






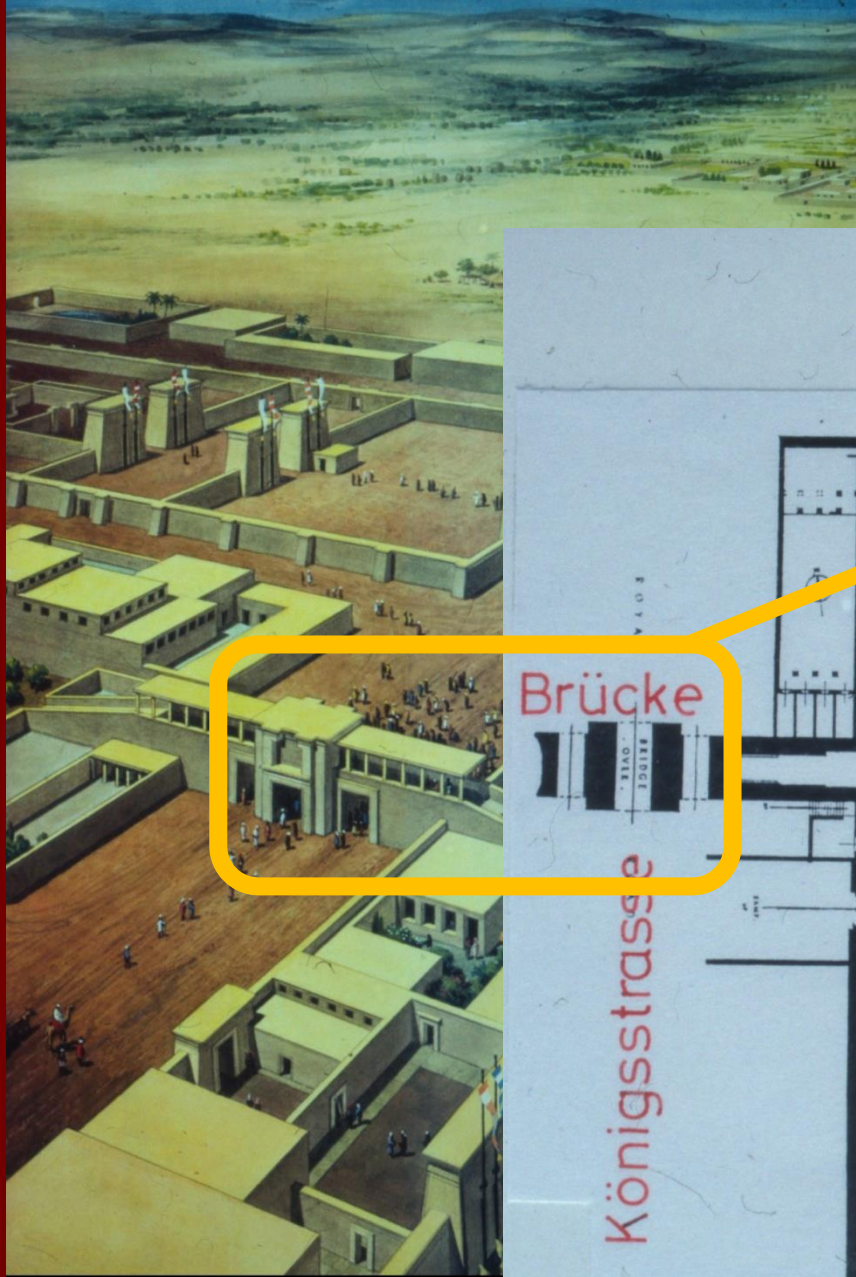


— PLAN OF THE NORTHERN PALACE — OF THE CITY OF AKHENATEN



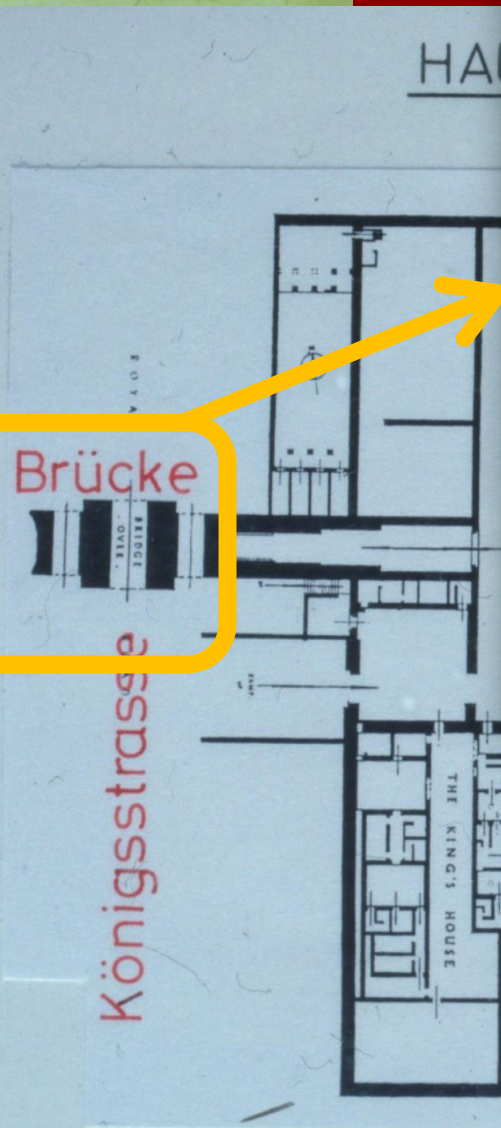






Brücke

Königsstrasse



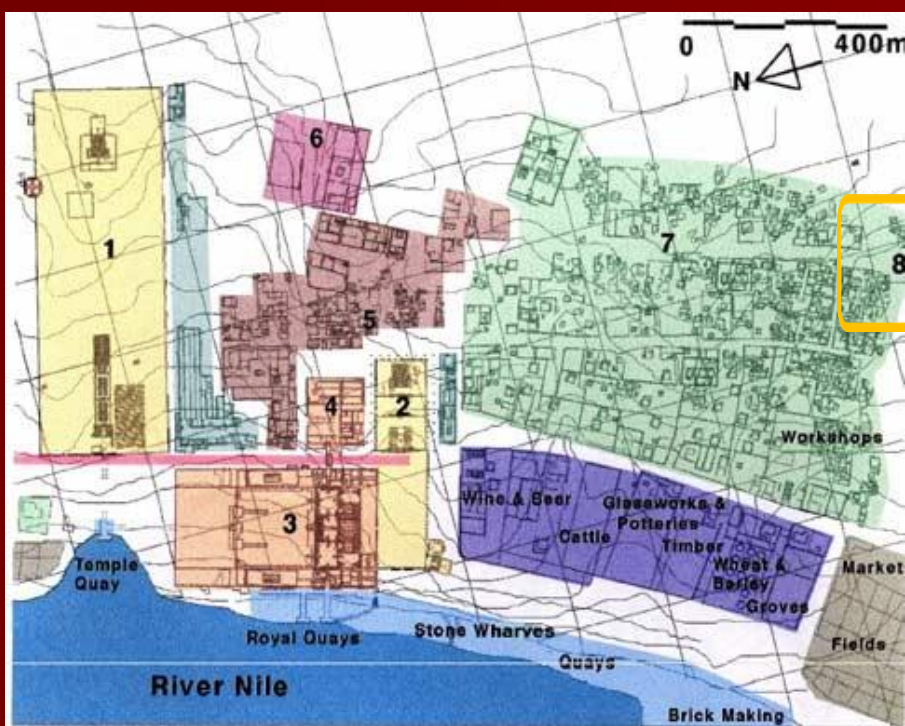
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Magazine





KEY

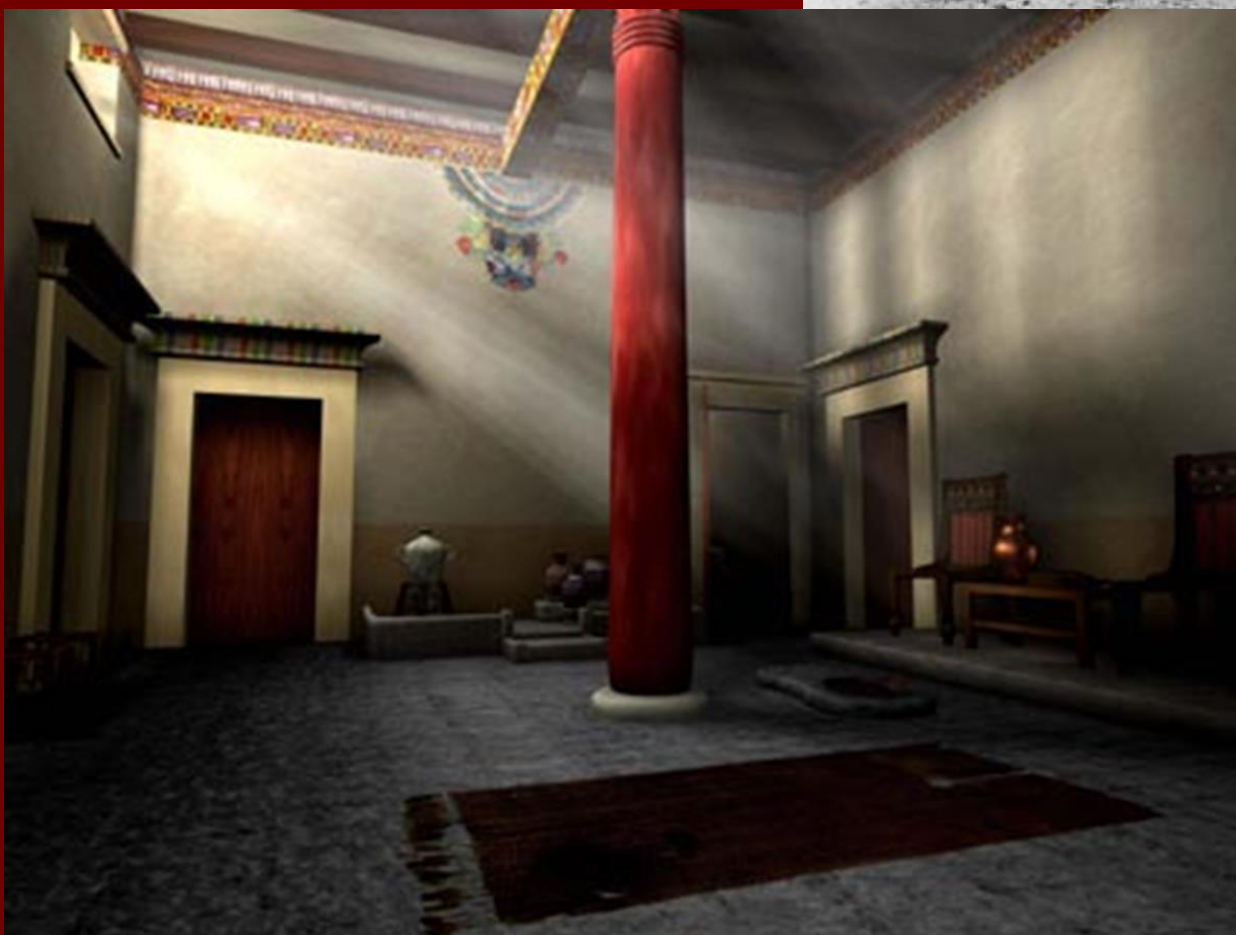
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Great Aten Temple | 5. House of Correspondence |
| 2. Small Aten Temple | 6. Military Barracks |
| 3. Great Palace | 7. South Suburb |
| 4. King's House | 8. Thutmose Workshop |







TUT HOUSE FROM NORTH SIDE



Portrait masks (workshop of the artist Thutmose)

- near life-size mask – series
- portrait study – unique view of the work technique of the artist
 - first a form was taken directly from the sitters face
 - gypsum copy was made from the mould
 - then finished by the sculptor in various details (eyes – originally closed when the mask taken)
- directly confronted with 'real' people (do not know their names or anything else about them)





Fragment of a horse blinker from P 47.03
with inscription of the name Thutmose, New
Empire, 18th dynasty, 1351-1334 BC
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin



Malkata-Ware Vase in restoration



Biconical pottery jar, decorated with a design in blue, red and black – BM EA 56841



- 'blue painted ware' = Malkata Ware
- made only in 18th dyn.
- painted in blue, with highlights in black and red, on a buff background
- Motifs generally floral, with horizontal bands and festoons
- similar to the elaborate collars worn by wealthy Egyptians

Beads



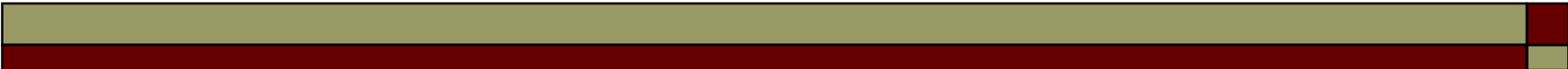
Faience ring bezels

EC L.VAD29

Ring bezel of king (?)
(anonymous lender)

A sample of faience
finger-ring bezels from
the 1933/4 EES
excavations. EES
Negative 33/34-0.112.





Faience in Amarna

- ❑ very versatile material + extremely well suited to making small items (beads, jewellery, ...) → manufacture jewellery on an industrial scale
- ❑ pottery moulds used to make small objects (necklace elements, amulets)
- ❑ Moulds littering the sites of faience workshops
- ❑ produced by heating crushed quartz and natron, with a pigment
- ❑ addition of pigments allowed a range of colours to be produced: red, yellow, green, blue and white

Faience openwork collar

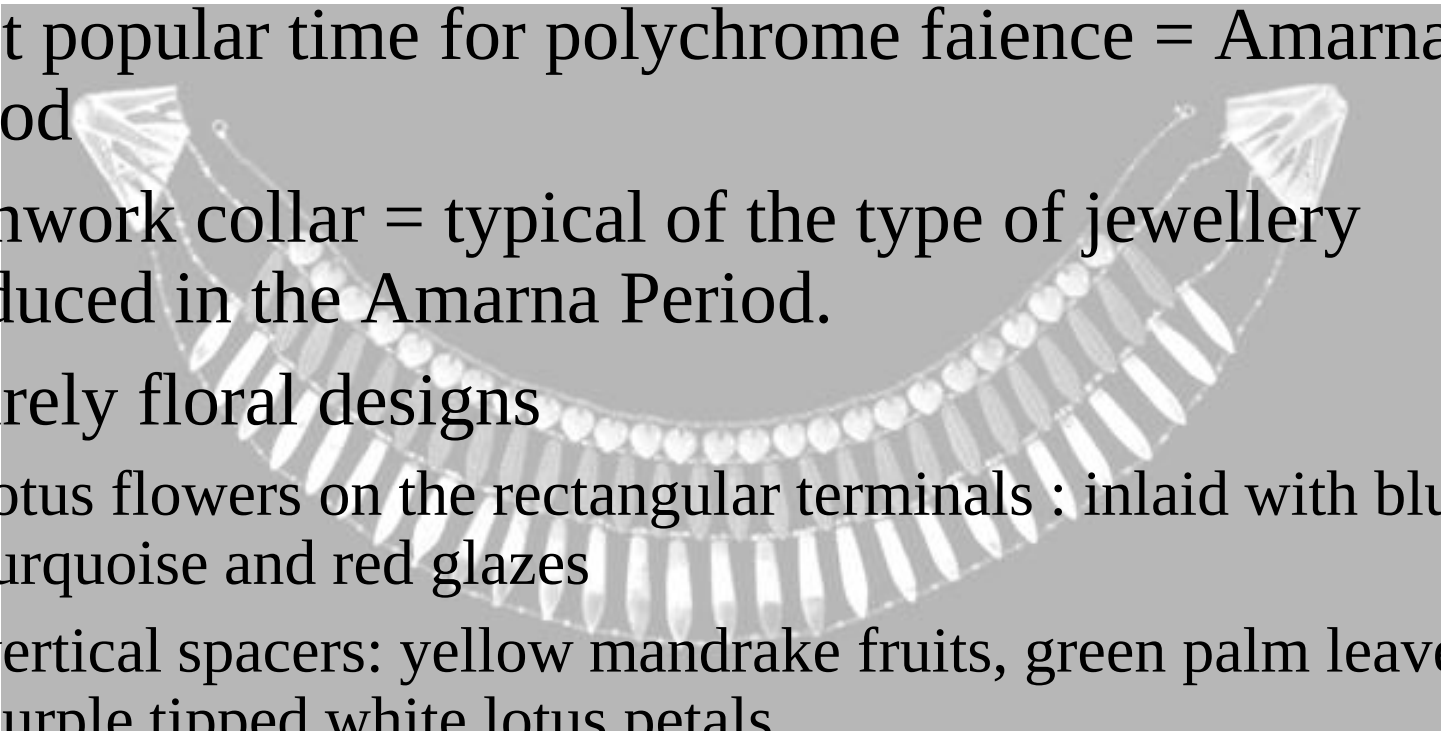
Polychrome faience openwork collar
with inlaid terminals

EA 59334



Faience in Amarna

- ❑ most popular time for polychrome faience = Amarna Period
- ❑ openwork collar = typical of the type of jewellery produced in the Amarna Period.
- ❑ Entirely floral designs
 - lotus flowers on the rectangular terminals : inlaid with blue, turquoise and red glazes
 - vertical spacers: yellow mandrake fruits, green palm leaves, and purple tipped white lotus petals
 - separated by tiny beads of blue, yellow and red



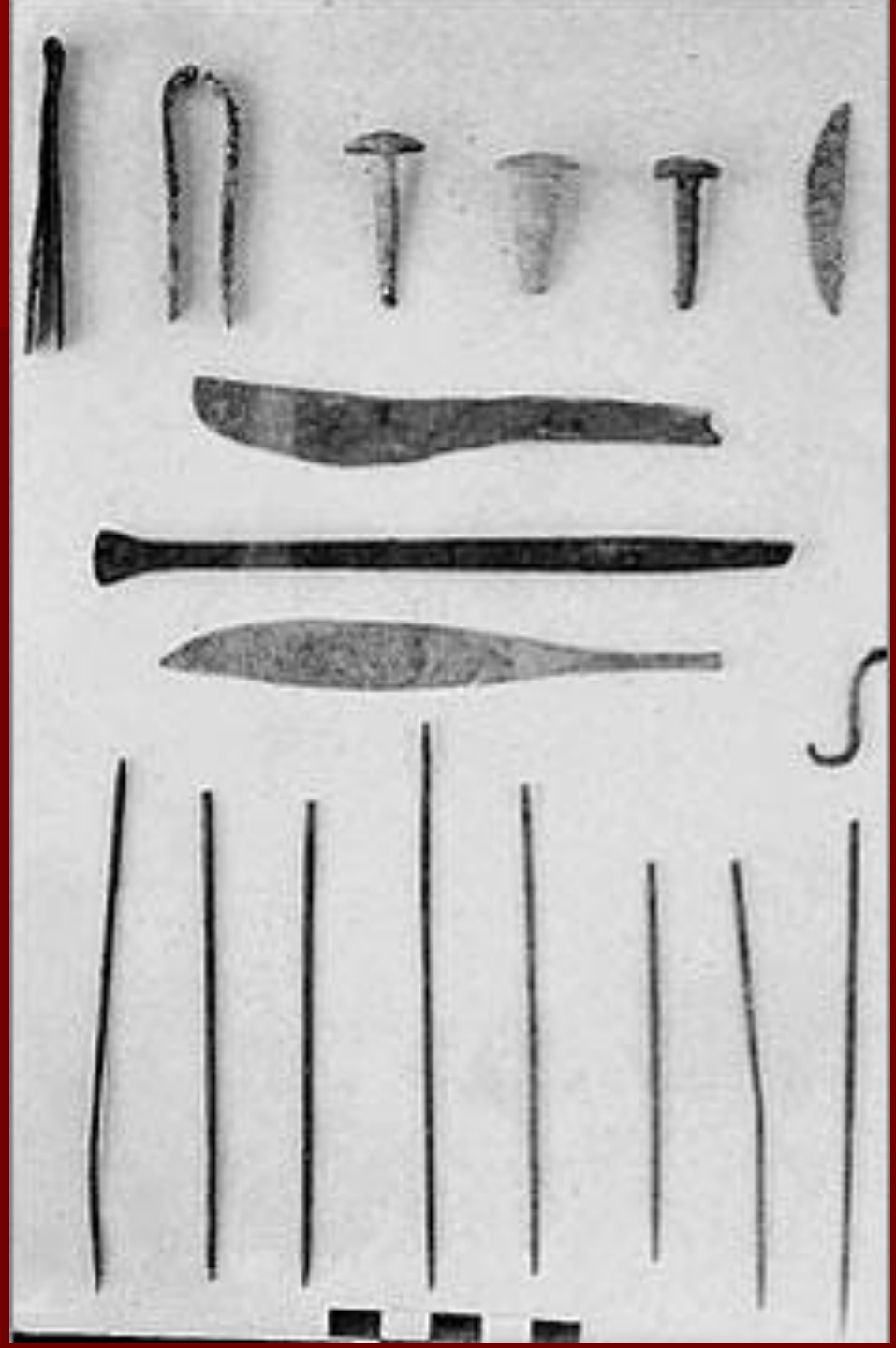
Glass



- Glass vessels – primarily functional rather than ritual objects
 - main use was as containers for cosmetics or precious oils
- most complete fish-shaped glass vessels
- found under the floor in a house at Tell el-Amarna, where it may have been buried by its owner
- fish = Nile tilapia (symbol of rebirth): frequently worn as an amulet
- highly colourful object → more versatile / less expensive than semiprecious stones
- made by trailing molten glass over core made of clay mixture, coloured glass rods wrapped around, dragged with tool (fish-scale pattern), body was smoothed, eyes and fins added, core scraped out

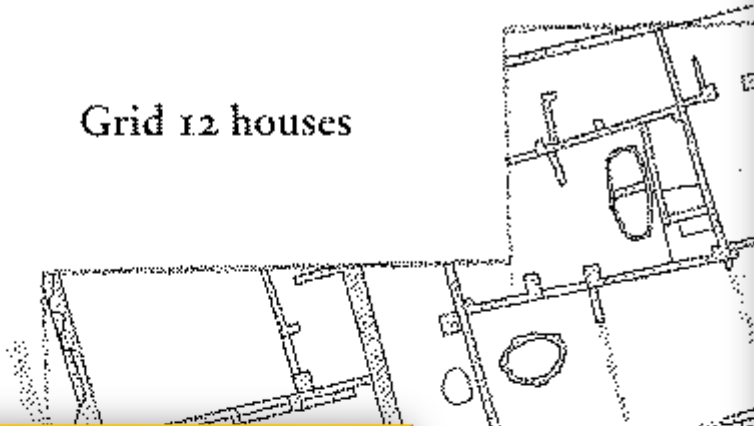
Metal working:

A selection of metal nails, blades, implements and a fish hook, from various locations in the Central City. Excavated by the EES in 1933/4. EES Negative 33/4-O.28.



International relations within Amarna: pottery sherds from Mediterranean and Aegean

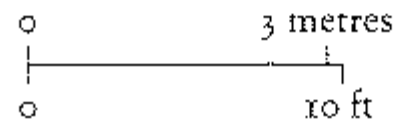
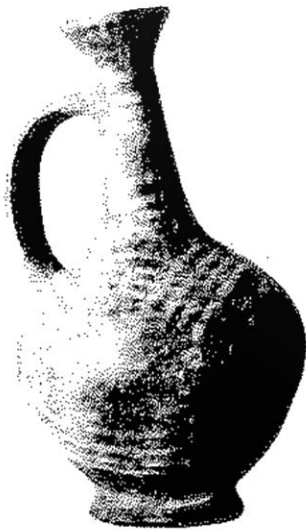
Grid 12 houses



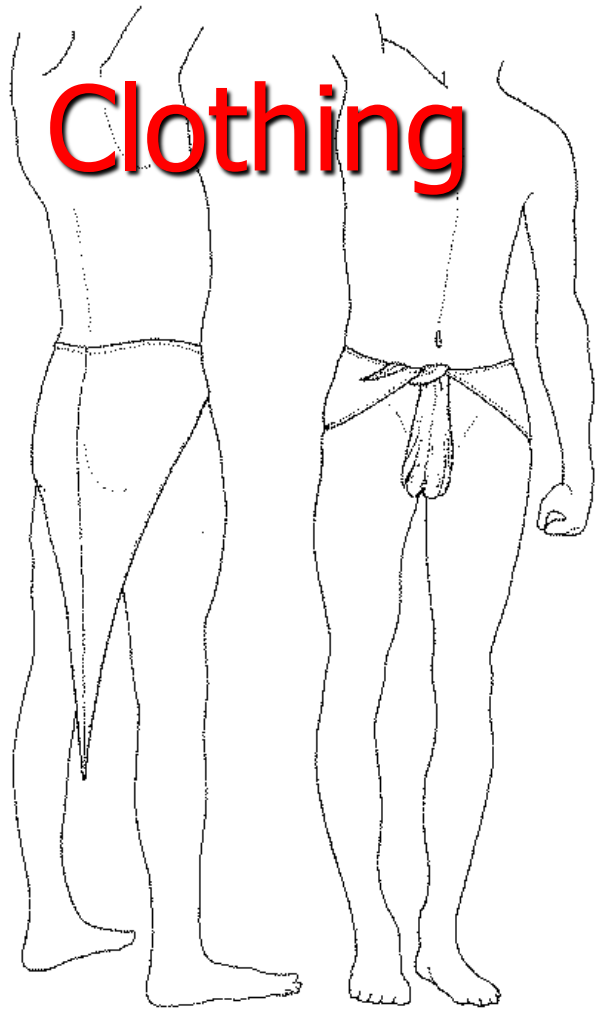
Mycenacan



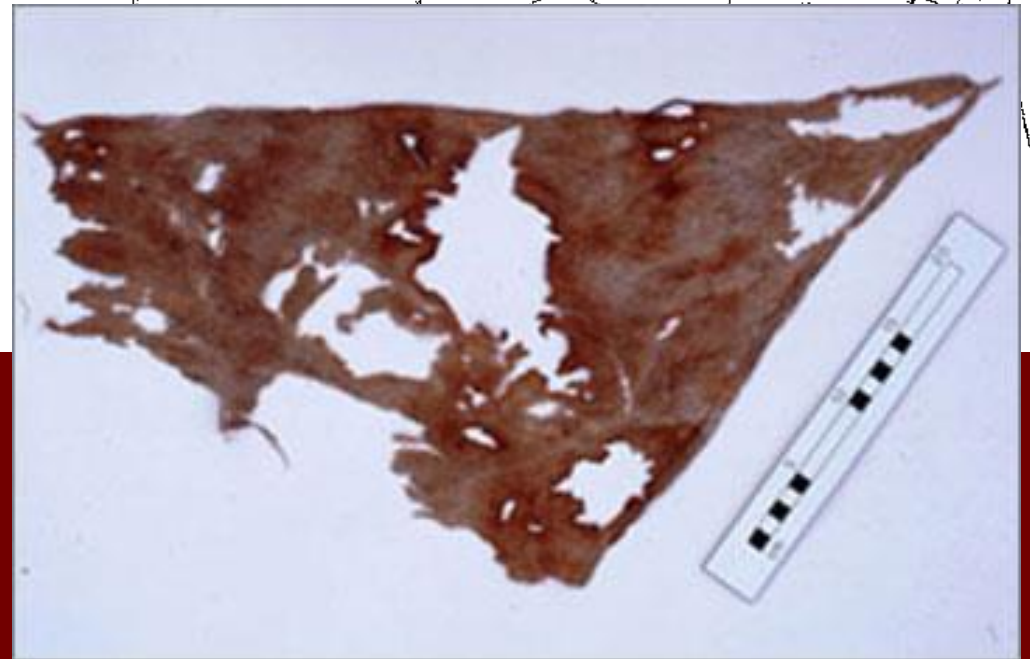
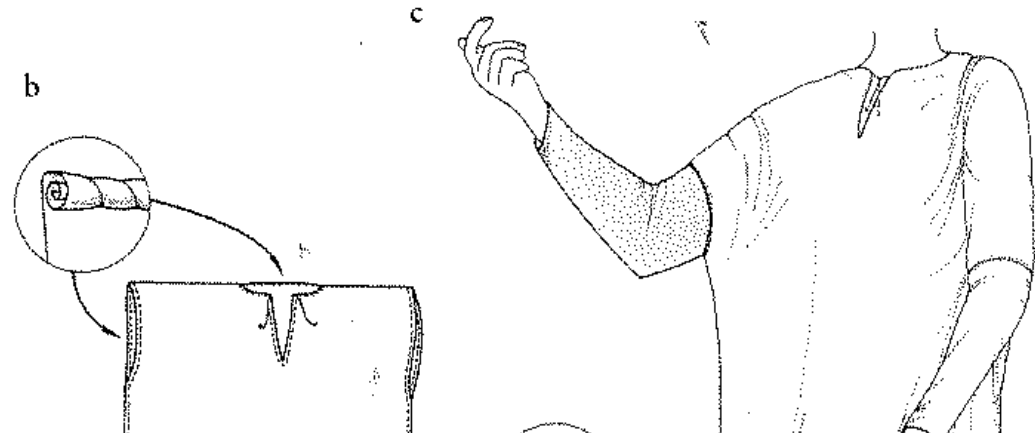
Cypriote



Clothing

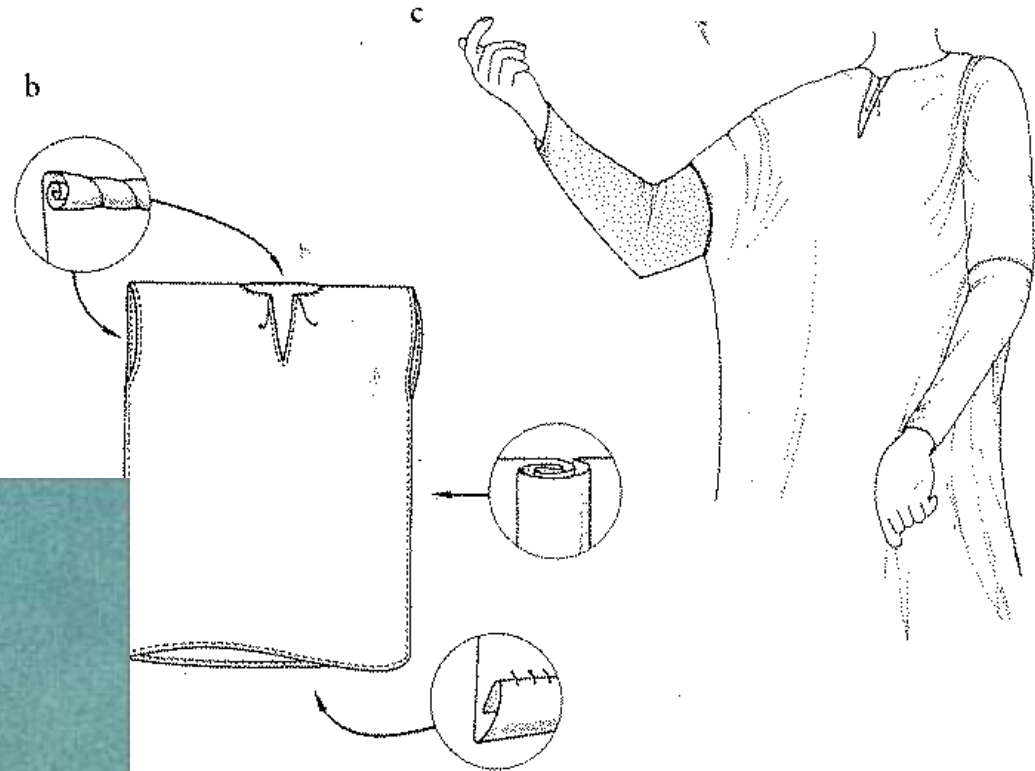


6.29 Basic male clothing. a A simple triangle of linen provided with draw strings created a loincloth. b A rectangular tunic, much wider than the wearer's shoulders, created a loose, baggy garment, to which separately made sleeves (one of them shaded in c) could be added, perhaps for winter warmth.

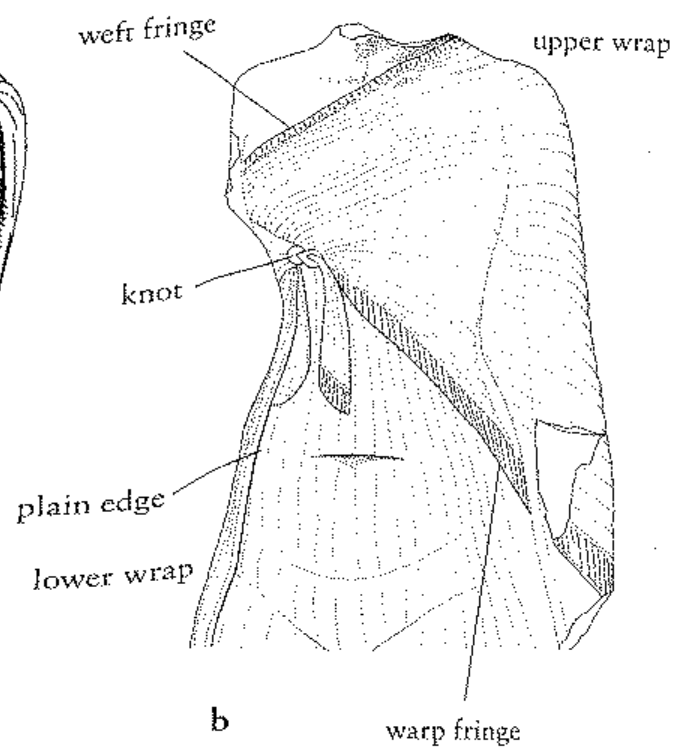


Part of one side of a
triangular loin cloth. No.
4476.1.

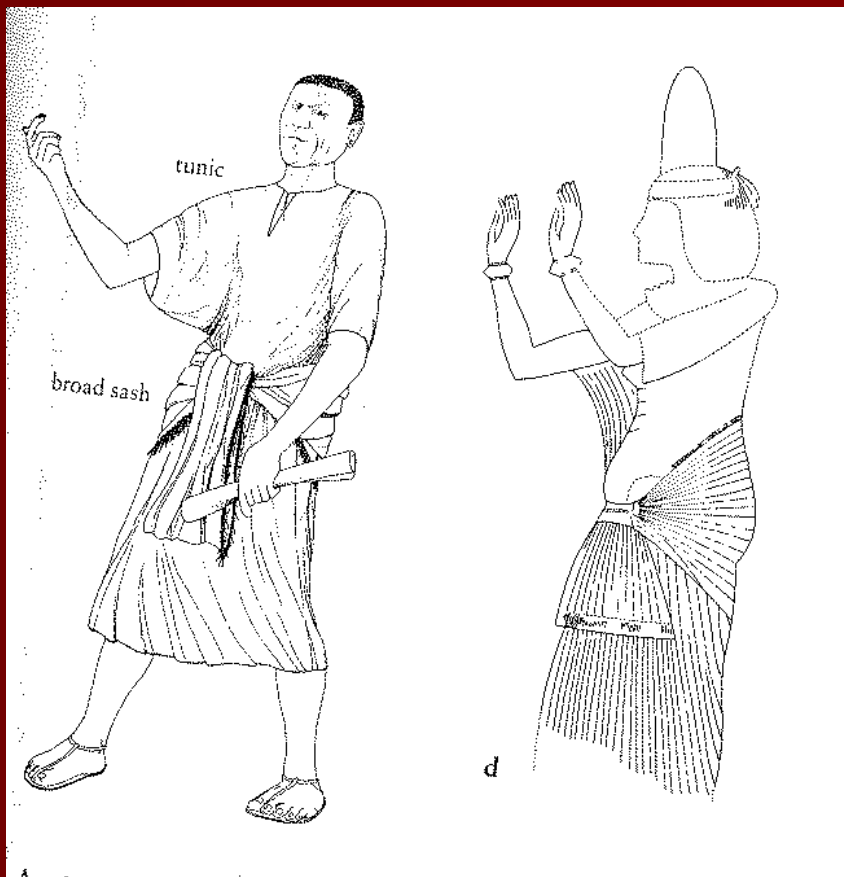
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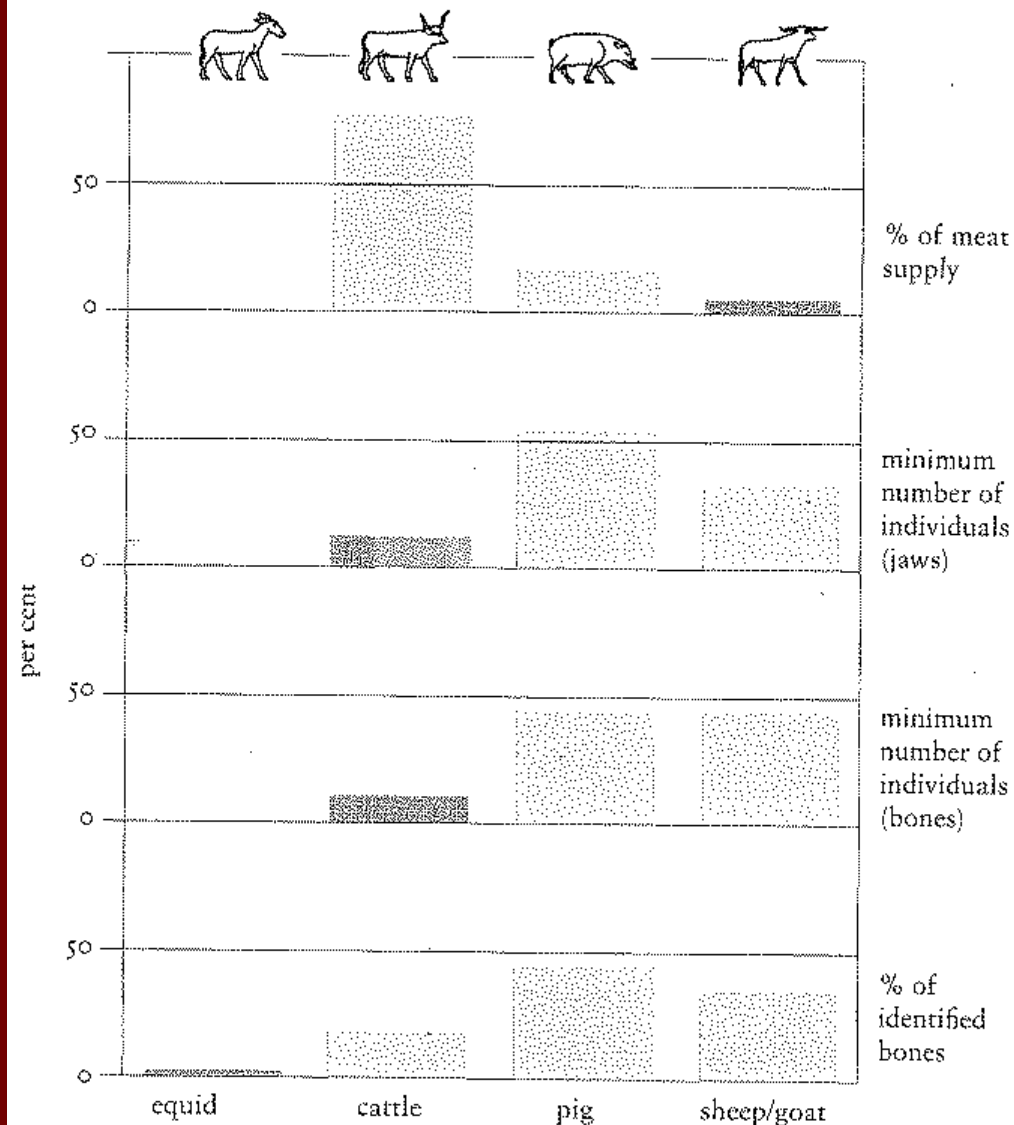


Fragment of linen in basket weave with looped threads of vegetable fibre from the Workmen's Village. No. 3175.



Examples from Huya and Meryra





6.27 The common domestic mammals at Amarna, expressed in three ways: as percentages of meat supply (dominated by cattle); by the minimum number of individuals represented by jawbones and other bones; and by the percentage of identified bones (in which pigs and goats/sheep emerge as the most numerous animals killed).

The kitchen of house East Street 10 in Workmen's village (1922 photograph).

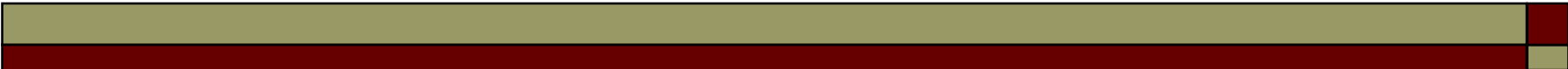


But it was a hard life! South Tombs Cemetery project

- ❑ 90% of the population that was not wealthy = buried
- ❑ evidence that the standard of living for the vast majority below expected basic threshold
- ❑ Graves simple: oblong pits, marked by limestone boulder cairns, occasional memorial stela, miniature limestone pyramid
- ❑ Grave goods sparse: pottery, amulets, jewellery, cosmetics containers → but most only human remains + coffin
 - out of 200+ graves, only 20 wooden coffins discovered
 - Otherwise only wrapped in textile and rolled in mats made of rigid plant material
 - Coffins: mostly plain undecorated boxes, some human shaped and decorated with funerary scenes (illiterate artists)

But it was a hard life! South Tombs Cemetery project

- Bones tell story:
 - children were malnourished and stunted
 - Adults = signs of backbreaking work, high levels of injuries associated with accidents
- Analysis of the 159 individuals with at least 50% of the skeleton:
 - high rates of nutritional deficiencies and workplace injuries
 - cribra orbitalia (cranial lesions caused by malnutrition that appear in the upper orbits of the eyes): 42.7%
 - porotic hyperostosis (lesions in the cranial vaults): 2.9%
 - Scurvy: 5.2%



But it was a hard life! South Tombs Cemetery project

- ❑ Adults are shorter than ones from comparable sites
- ❑ Child skeletons show significantly delayed growth starting from the age of just 7.5 months with a delay of up to two years
- ❑ Hard work: degenerative joint disease (DJD), musculo-skeletal stress markers (MSM) and healed bone fractures
- ❑ Cause: hurried construction work required to build Amarna

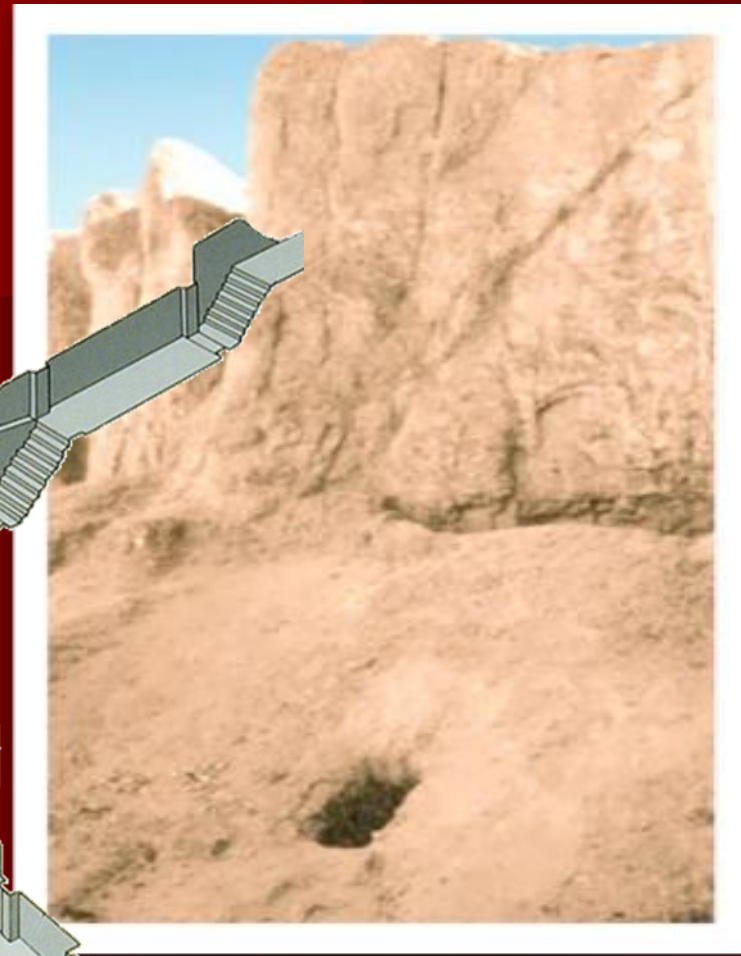
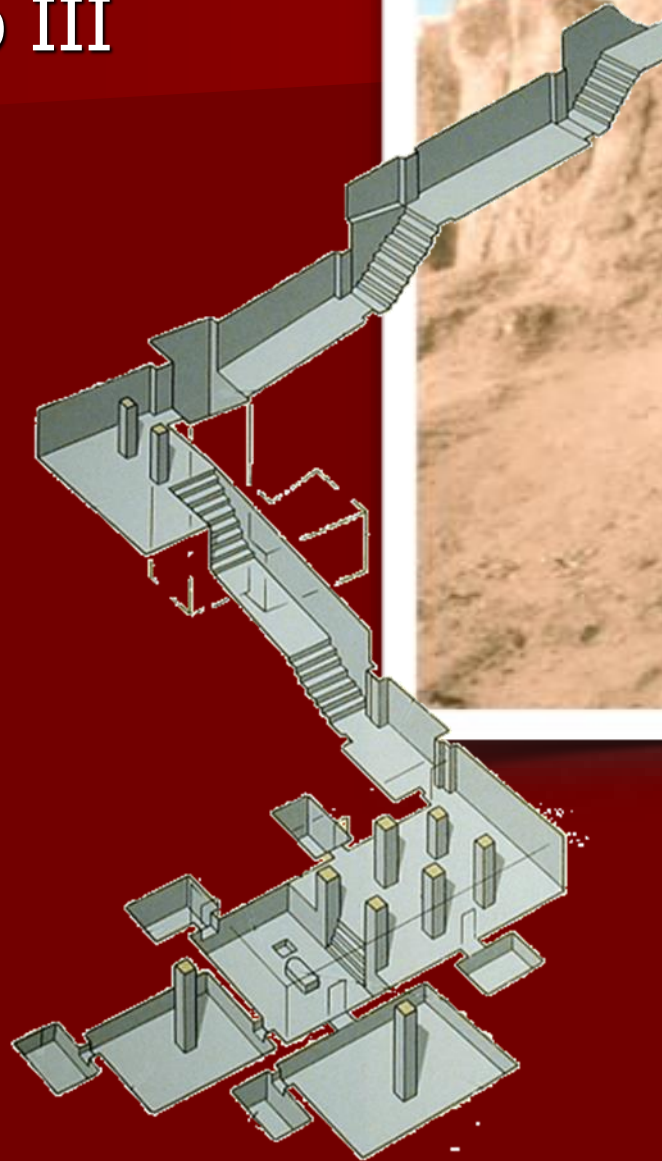
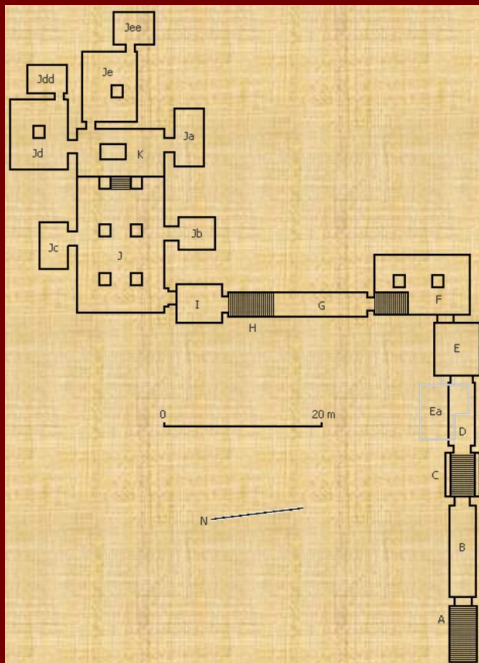
Tomb architecture in Amarna

Royal burials at Akhet-Aten

- members of the Amarna royal family supposed to be buried at Akhetaten → early proclamation of Boundary Stelae:
- *Let a tomb be made for me (Akhenaten) in the eastern mountain [of Akhetaten]. Let my burial be made in it, in the millions of jubilees which the Aten, my father, decreed for me. Let the burial for the Great Kings Wife Nefertiti be made in it, in the millions of years [which the Aten, my father, decreed for her. Let the burial of] the Kings Daughter, Meritaten, [be made] in it, in these millions of years.*
- Five tombs known

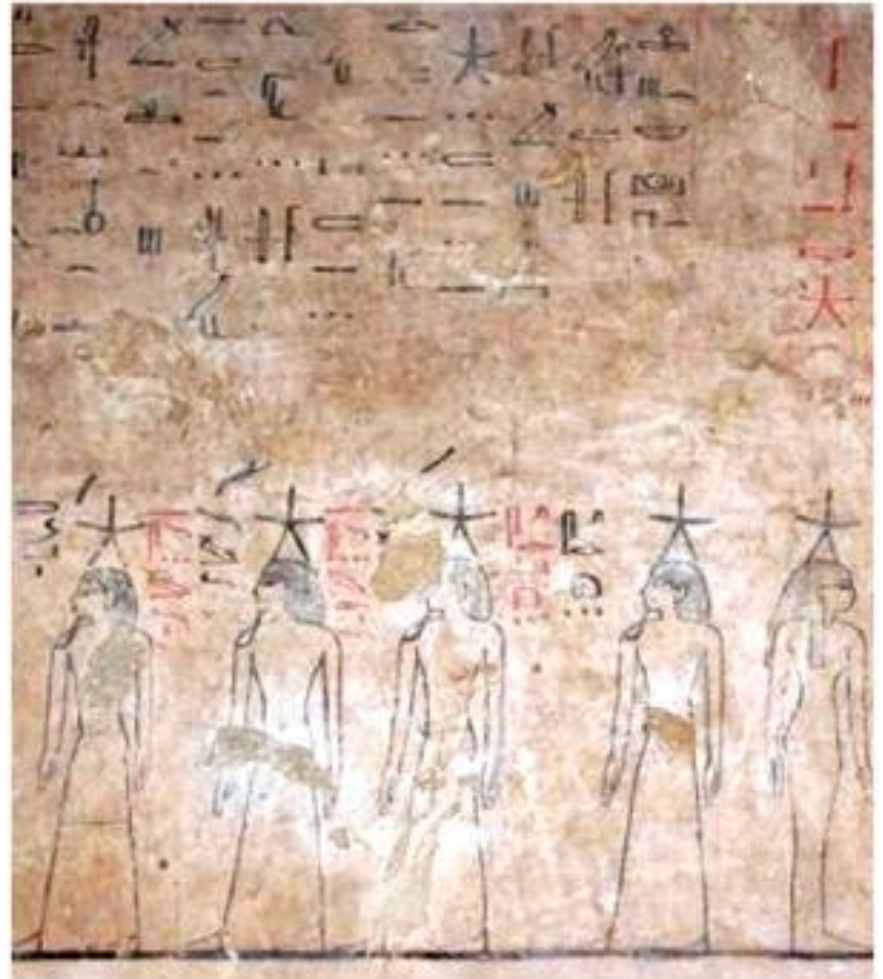
Precursors to the Amarna Tombs

- Tomb of Amenhotep III
- Located in the West Valley (KV 22)
- Typical "L"-shaped Dynasty 18 tomb



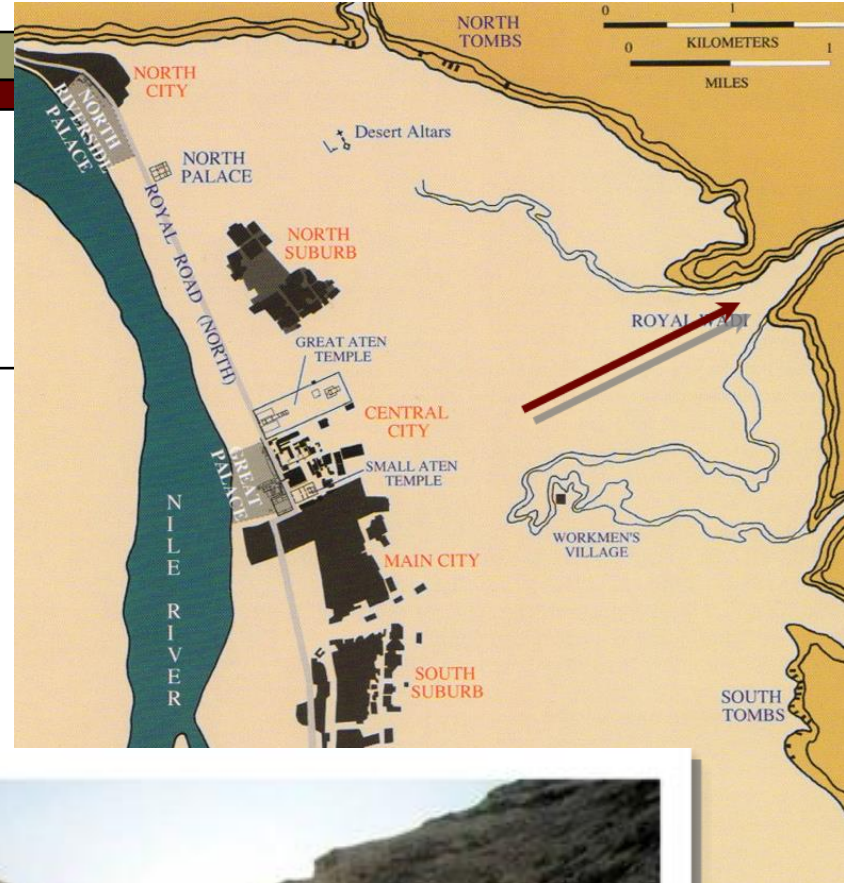
Precursors to the Amarna Tombs

- Tomb of Amenhotep III
- Located in the West Valley (KV 22)
- Typical “L”-shaped Dynasty 18 tomb
- Decorated with scenes from the Amduat (“That which is in the Netherworld”)



The Royal Tombs

- ❑ Located in the Wādī Abū Hasah al-Bahrī, (“Royal Wadi”) about 8 miles east of the city
- ❑ Attempt to duplicate the Valley of the Kings
- ❑ four other tombs in area for the Mnevis bull (?), daughter Neferneferure



Location of the royal tombs



Royal tombs

- ❑ Tomb 26 (The Royal Tomb, Akhenaten)
- ❑ Tomb 30
 - embalmer's cache?
- ❑ Tomb 27
 - Only first corridor finished
 - similar dimensions to tomb of Akhenaten
 - royal tomb – ramp down the middle of the stairway: intended for a king (successor to Akhenaten – Neferneferuaten?)



Royal tombs

- Tomb 28
 - cut in poor quality stone – thick layers of gypsum used
 - only finished tomb in the necropolis (princess / secondary wife?)
- Tomb 29
 - south of 28
 - impressive monument: descends some 40m downwards in straight line (four rock-cut doorways, slight changes in angle of descent)
 - Corridors / ceilings lined with plaster
 - no burial chamber
 - storage place for workmen of 27 after death of Akhenaten ?
- According to Gabolde, "It is clear that a burial did occur, in either tomb n°28 or n°29".

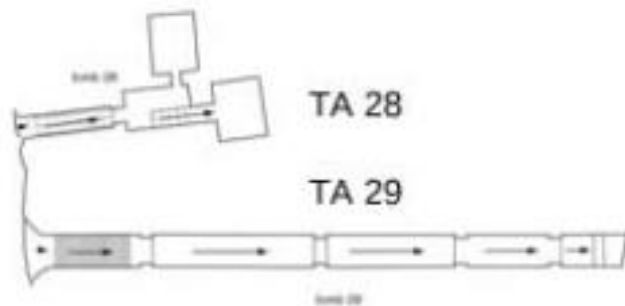


Fig. 1. Plan of the site showing the location of the structures. The plan is based on the archaeological survey of the site. The plan is based on the archaeological survey of the site. The plan is based on the archaeological survey of the site.

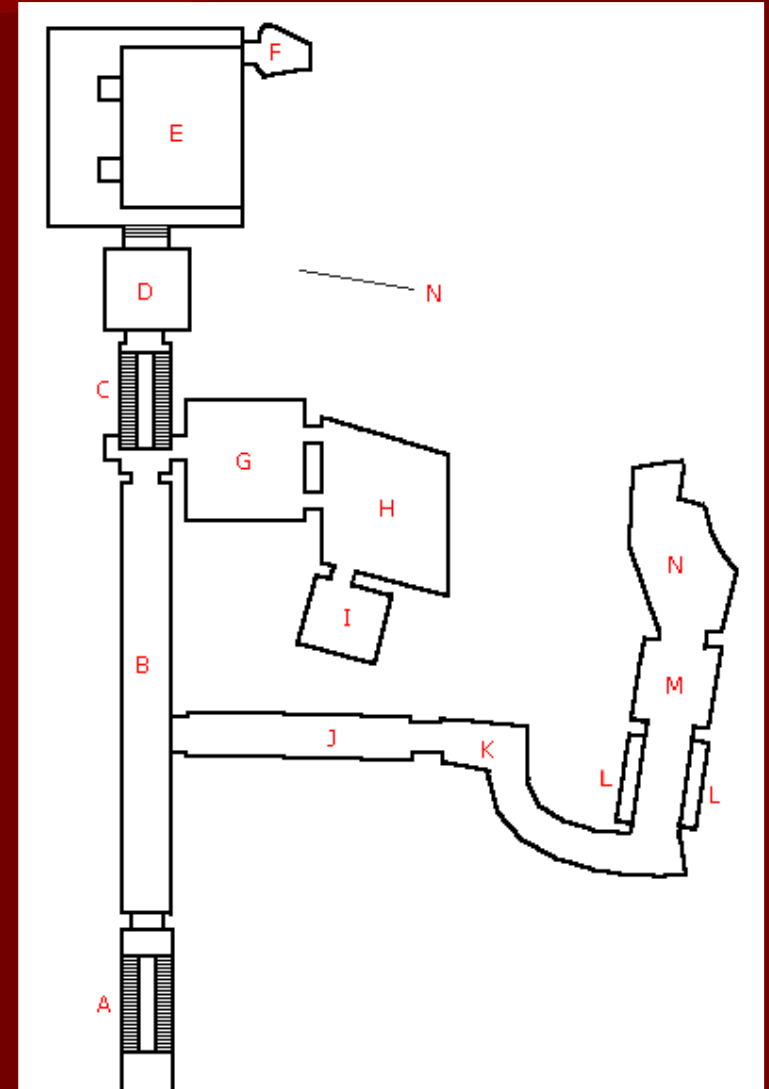
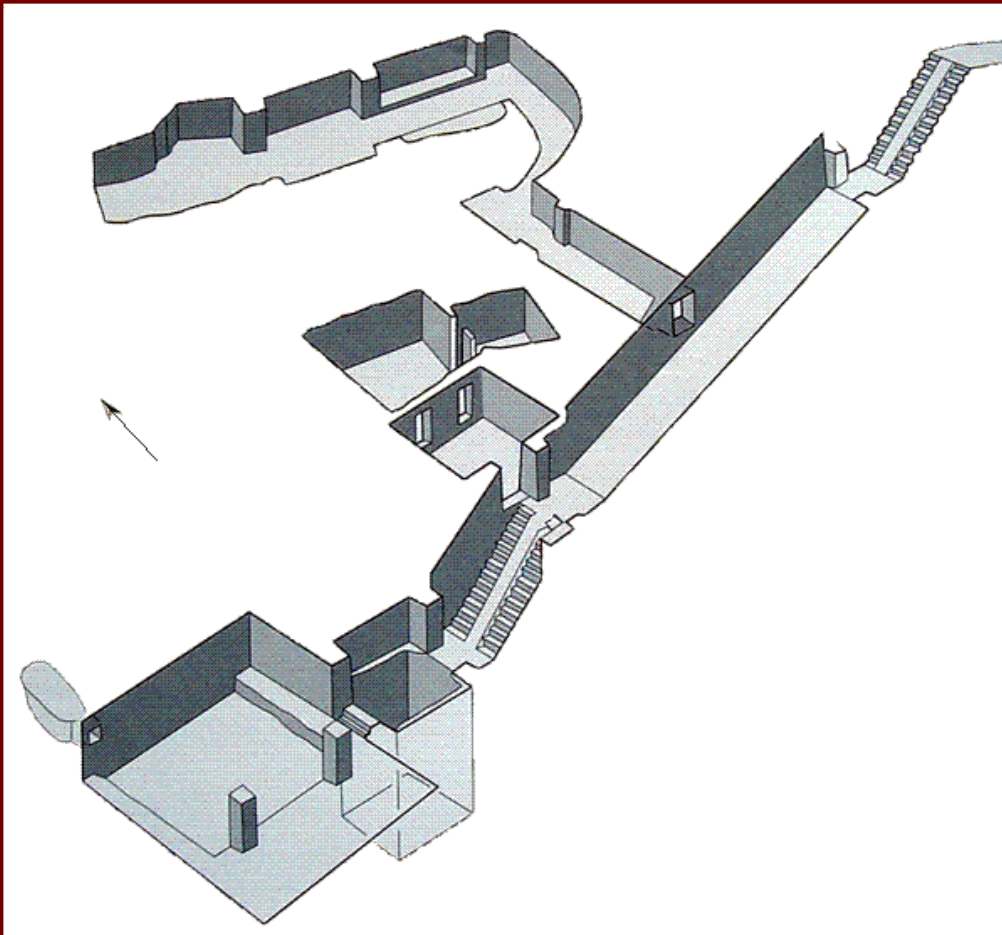


The Royal Tomb (26)

- narrow side wadi northwards from main access wadi
- only decorated one
- Burials of Akhenaten himself, Queen Tiye and three of Akhenaten's daughters
- large unfinished suite of rooms off to the right of the main corridor was probably made for Nefertiti

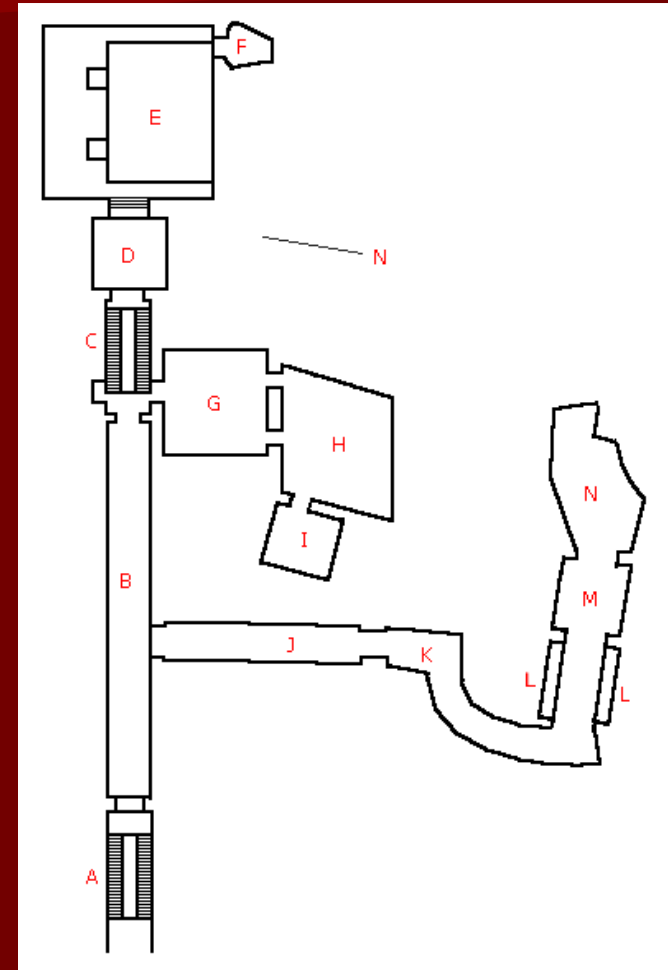


The Royal Tomb: Architectural Innovations



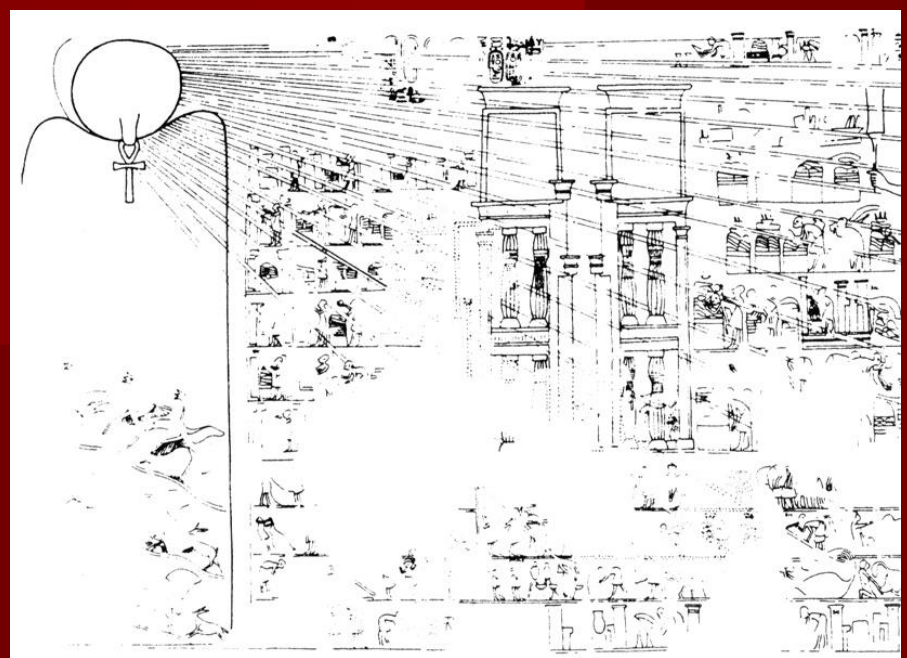
Architectural Innovations

- burial chamber lay on the central axis with no turns
- “Well” room, not just a shaft
- Side chambers for royal family members
- Burials of Kiye, Tiye, and Meketaten



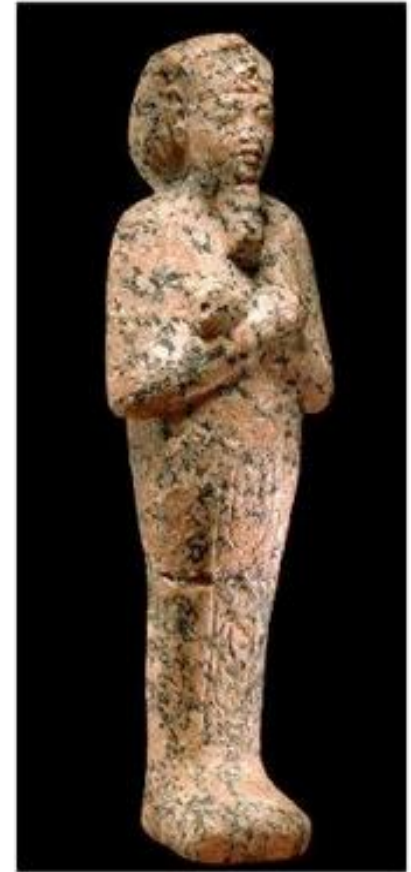
symbolism

- Straight corridor
- Geoffrey Martin & Mark Lehner suggest straight corridor was to allow sunlight into the burial chamber, as least symbolically
- C. Nicholas Reeves suggests the unique layout is to allow light out of the tomb



Funerary goods

- ❑ Two stone sarcophagi: Akhenaten and Meketaten
- ❑ ±200 ushabtis of Akhenaten
- ❑ Canopic chest for Akhenaten

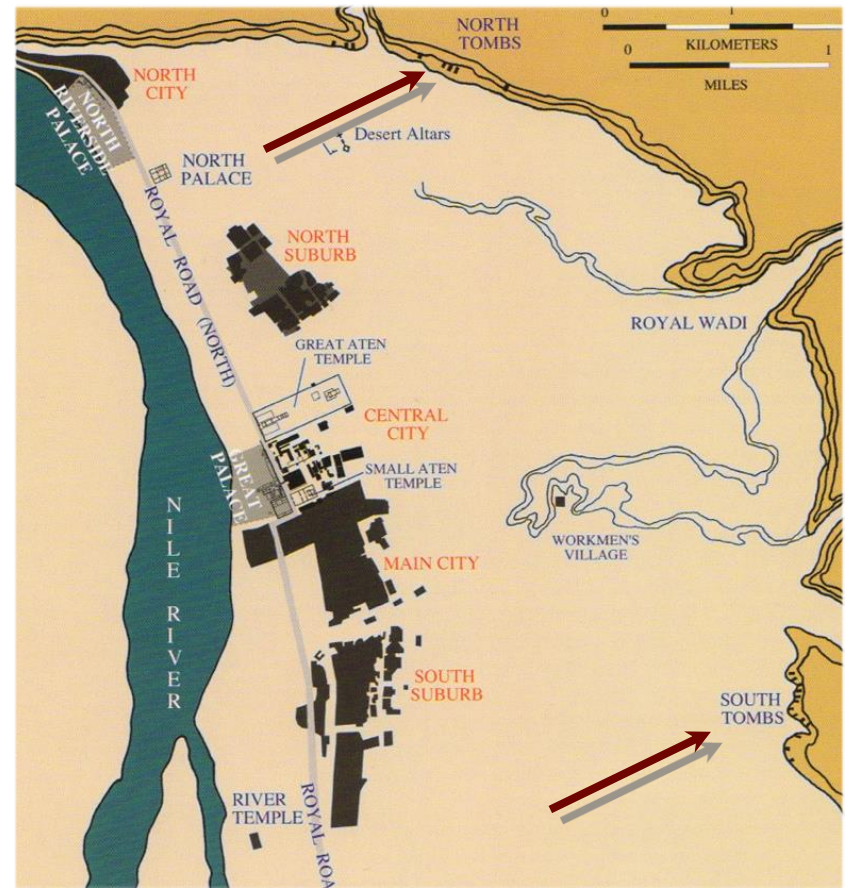


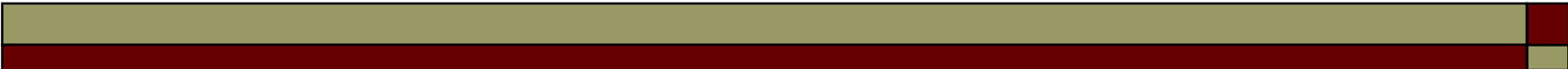
Sarcophagus Akhenaten



Private tombs

- ❑ North and south tomb groups reserved for the elite
- ❑ North: Royal advisors
- ❑ South: Military officials and administrators
- ❑ Theban T-shaped plan
- ❑ Few actually used: Amarna abandoned





Private Tombs

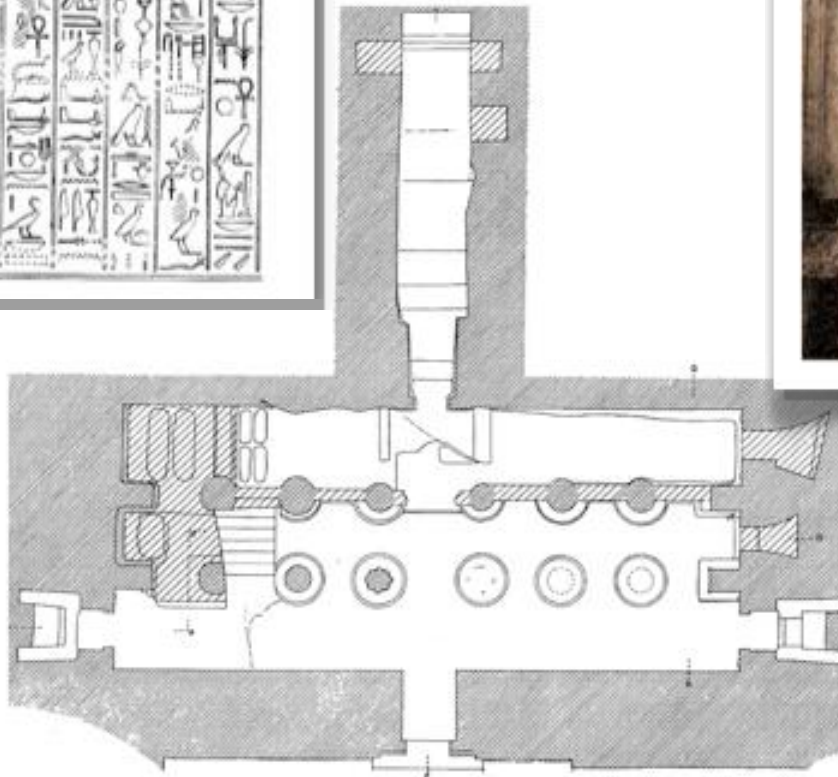
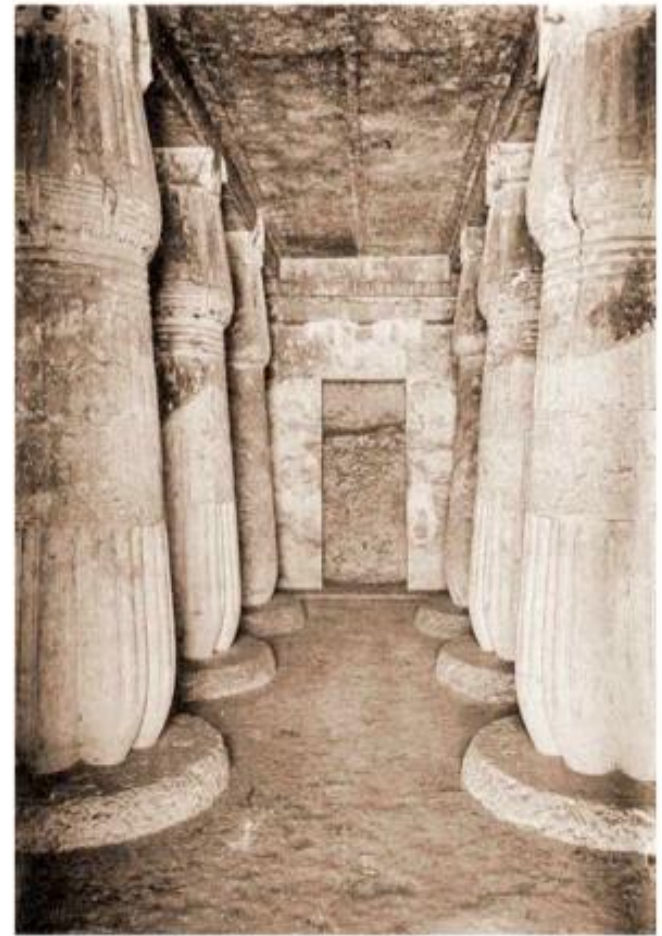
□ North:

- Pa-nehesy: High Priest of the Aten; Overseer of the Cattle of Aten
- Meryre I: Fanbearer on the right of the king; Overseer of Seers of Aten
- Huya: Overseer of the Treasury

□ South:

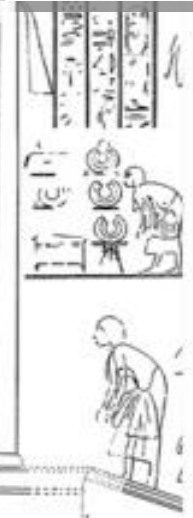
- Aye: Overseer of Horses; Fanbearer on the right
- Mahu: chief of Police
- Ramose: General of the Lord of the Two Lands
- Maya: General of the Lord of the Two Lands; Overseer of All Works

Private tombs



Decorative programs

- Generally no scenes of private, daily life
- Vignettes of the royal family
- Worship of the Aten
- Osiris eliminated
- Traditional offering formula addressed to the king



Amarna: Tomb of Meryra (no 4)

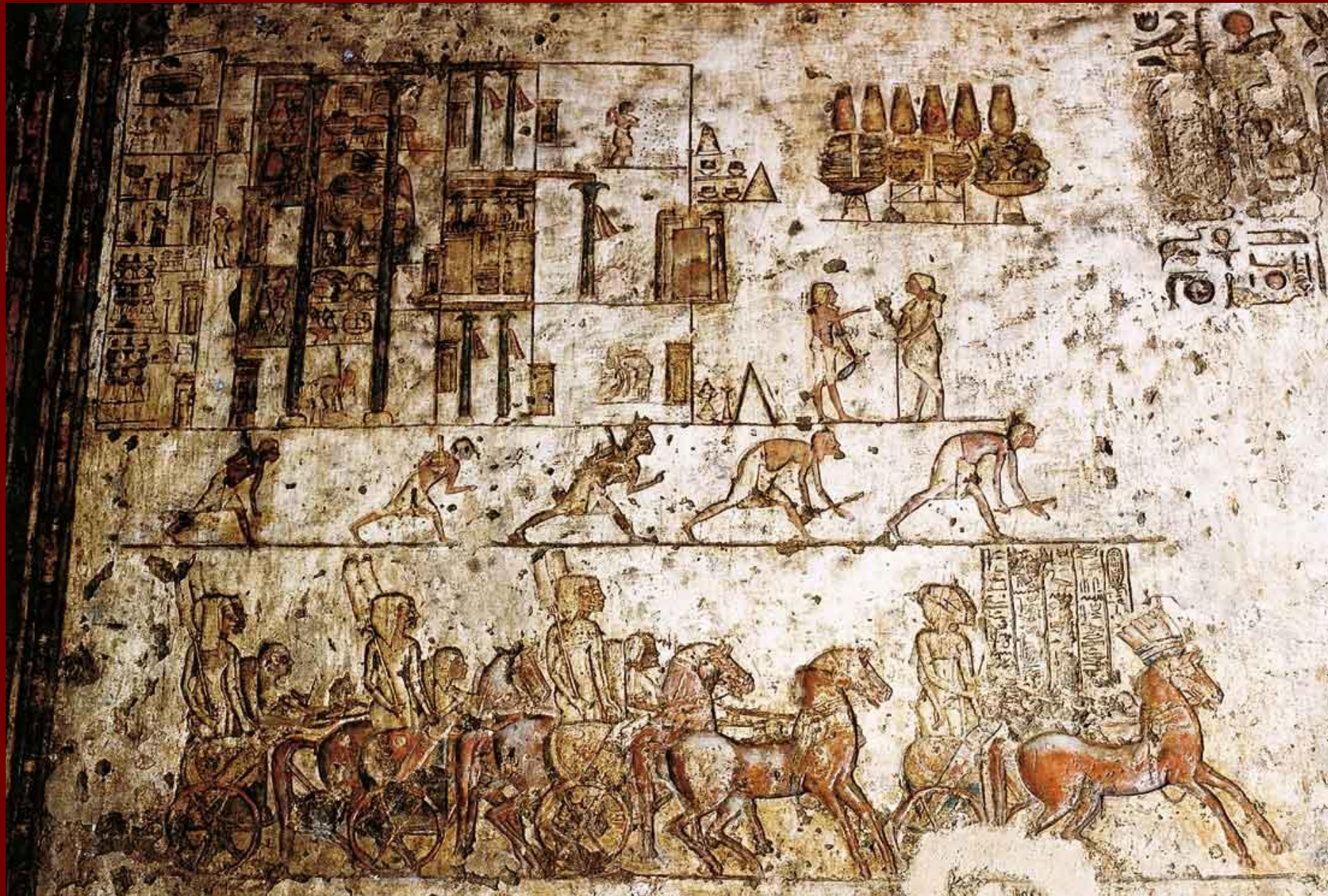
First
Hypostyle
Hall: South
Wall



First
Hypostyle
hall: South
Wall



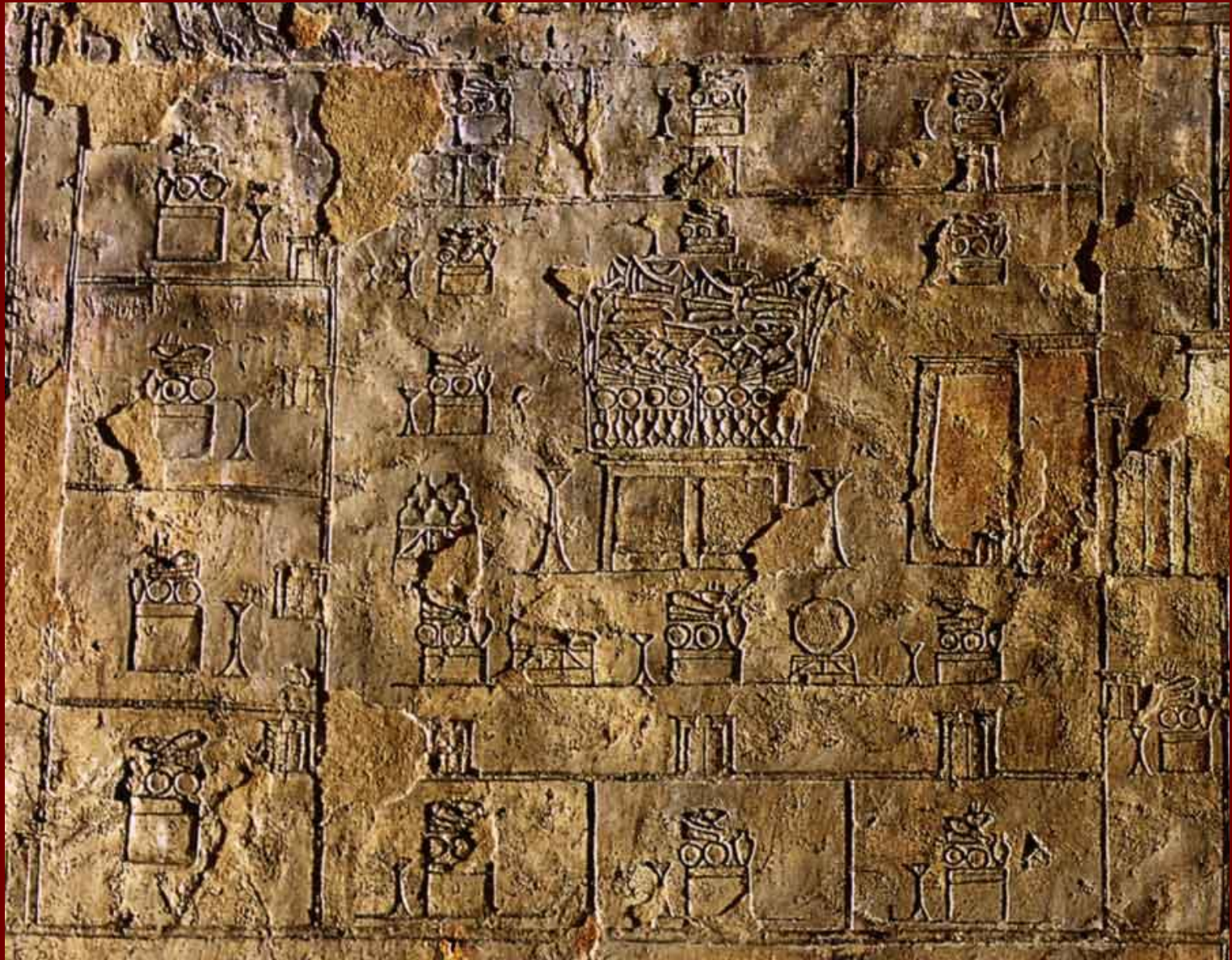
Royal Palace



Procession of king and queen



Aten Temple: Sanctuary



Funerary nature of chapels in the Workman's village

- ❑ Two chapels attached to tombs
- ❑ Small cemetery located nearby
- ❑ Wepwawet is a funerary deity
- ❑ Probably intended for ancestor cults
- ❑ Ritual meals

