

Hieroglyphs 8

- a) Excuse: Language and writing system of Ancient Egypt
- b) Other formulaic objects – funerary cones

AHAR5004

Hieroglyphs, Text and Society

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Languages in the Near East

- Egyptian - geographically and in position as language between two major families of languages:
 - Semitic - the family of language on which many languages of the Near East are based (including Arabic)
 - Hamitic - the family of languages spoken in North-east Africa
- two families together are often called Afroasiatic or hamito-semitic)

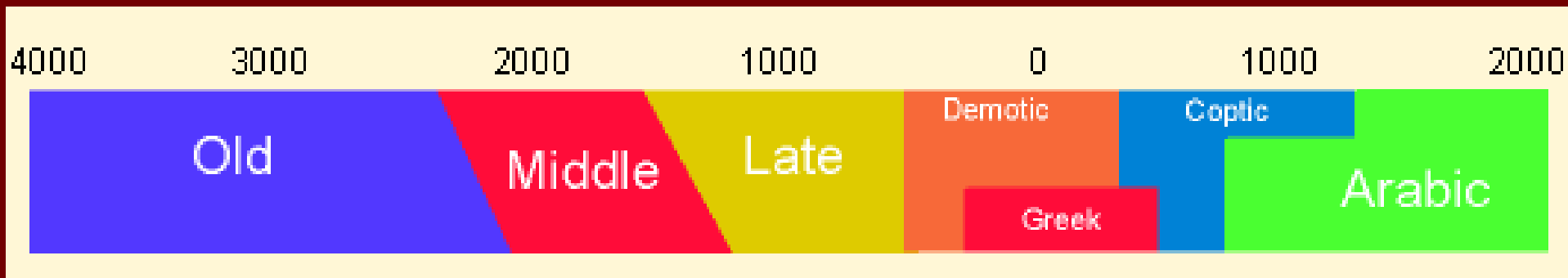
examples

Egyptian	Hamitic	Semitic
ink (anok) - I	aniga (Somali)	anaku (Akkadian)
gemi - to find	egmi (Tuareg - to look for)	
khenet - face, front	hancii (Hausa - nose)	khanna (Arabic - speak nasally)
jan - baboon	yani (Bantu - kind of ape)	
semu - pasture, plant		shamu (Akkadian)

Languages in the Near East



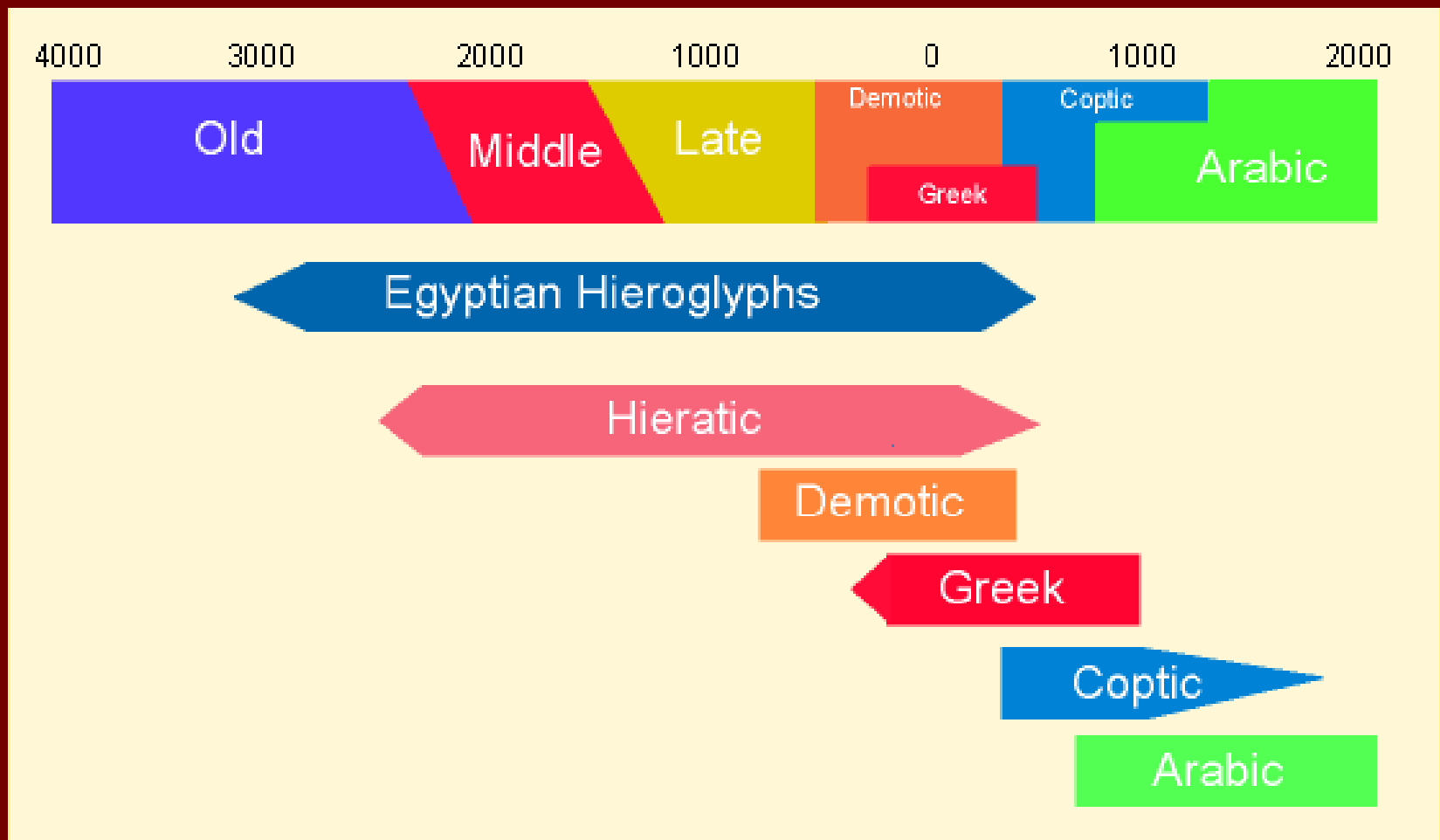
Successive phases of the Egyptian language



Good to know

- ❑ Old and Middle Egyptian are synthetic phases of the language, i.e. words include number, gender, case, tense. There is no word for 'the'.
Example: 'he will not hear' nn sDm.f / 'of the house' pr
- ❑ Late Egyptian, demotic, and Coptic are analytic , i.e. number, case, tense are articulated in larger series of separate words. An old word for 'that' pA becomes the Egyptian for 'the'. So 'he will not hear' would be nn iw.f r sDm/ 'of the house' would be n pA pr

Successive phases of the Egyptian language and the writing systems in Egypt



History of language and writing

- ❑ Egyptian as spoken language???
- ❑ Egyptian as written living language: 3200 BC – 11th cent. AD
- ❑ Tremendous changes!
- ❑ Dead language, but used – like Latin – in the rituals of the Coptic Church (Egyptian Christian Church)
- ❑ Two phases with 5 major stages

History of language and writing 1

□ Earlier Egyptian:

1. Old Egyptian

- appears as Archaic Egyptian in names and on labels before 3200BC, must have been older as spoken language (oral use)
- Old Egyptian (proper) 2700 BC (with appearance of first longer texts) – about 2100 BC

2. Middle Egyptian (Classical Egyptian)

- Closely related to OE
- Spoken already before 2100 BC when it appeared in writing, until 1600 BC
- Stayed as standard hieroglyphic in use until the Roman Period

History of language and writing 2

□ Later Egyptian:

1. Late Egyptian

- Replaced ME as spoken language after 1600BC, fully established as written language 1300BC (Akhenaten), remained in use until 600BC
- Substantially different grammar

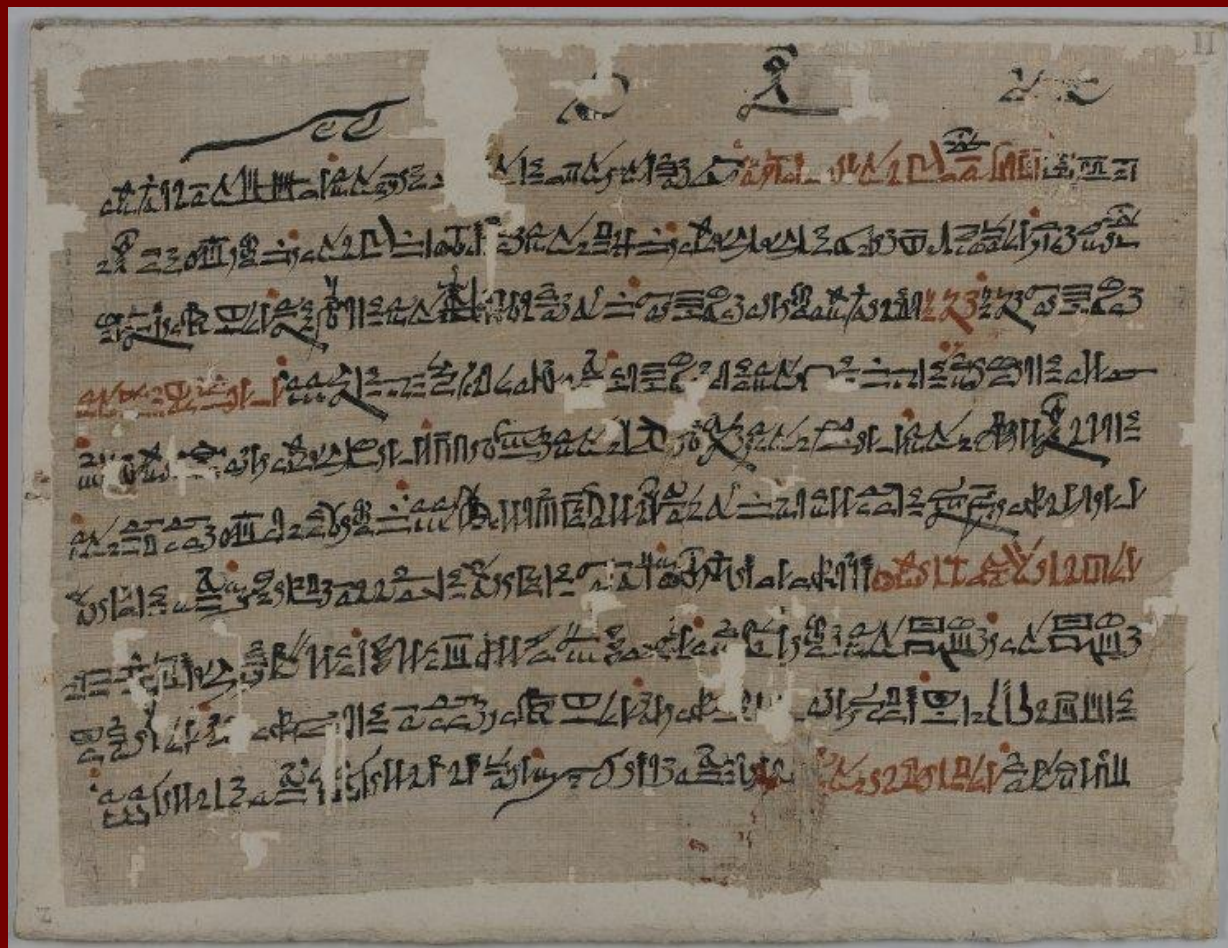
2. Demotic

- Closely related to LE, appeared a. 650BC, until 5th cent. AD
- Only in cursive

3. Coptic

- From 1st cent. AD- 11th cent. AD → written in Greek letters with 5 additional signs

Pap Sallier (BM EA10182,2) – Teaching for Amenemhet: Pap. 19th dyn., text 12th dyn. (written in Middle Egyptian, hieratic)



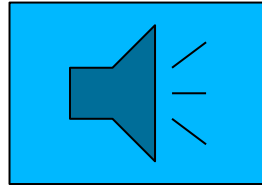
Shabti

Name and title

Shabti Formulae



Shabti formula



- ❑ The NN speaks: "O, these shabtis, if one counts (me) off for (my) duties - now indeed an obstacle is implanted for (against) me there with -, as a man at his duties; if one counts off for you at any time which has be passed there make arable the fields, to turn over the shores, to transport by boat the sand of the West (and) of the East, 'here you are' you shall say."
- ❑ Spell known from the **Coffin Text** spell 472, which is found on some mid Twelfth Dynasty coffins from Bersheh (about 1850 BC)
- ❑ also known as chapter 6 of the **Book of the Dead**.

More formulaic objects – Funerary cones

Funerary Cones



Readings

- ❑ M.F. Laming Macadam / N. de Garis Davies: A Corpus of Inscribed Egyptian Funerary Cones (1957)
- ❑ Ryan, D.P. The archaeological analysis of inscribed Egyptian funerary cones. Available online: <http://community.plu.edu/~ryandp/cones.html> --> as published in *Varia Aegyptiaca* 4(1988)2:165-170.
- ❑ <http://www.funerarycones.com/index.html>

Funerary Cones

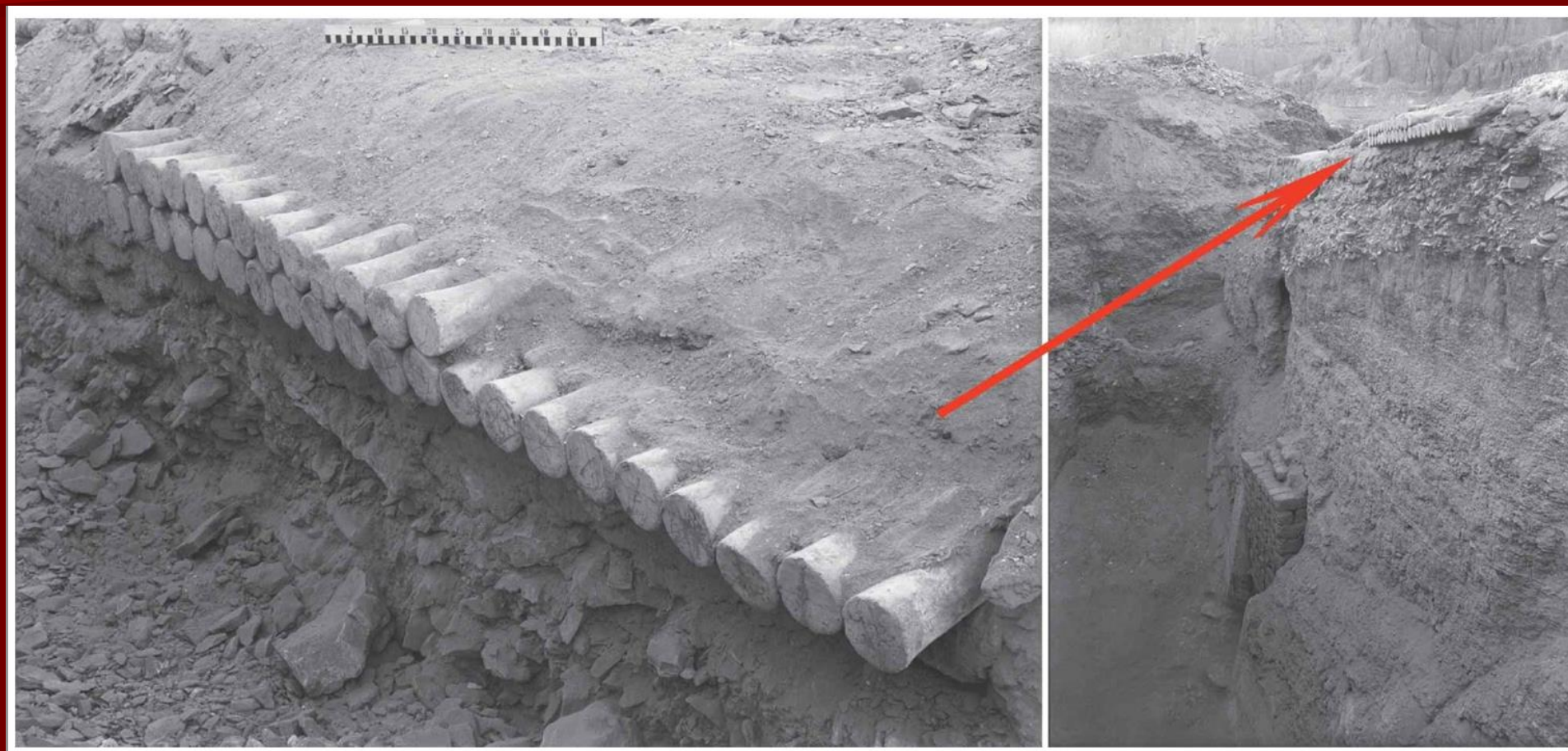
**Funerary cones in situ in
court of TT74**

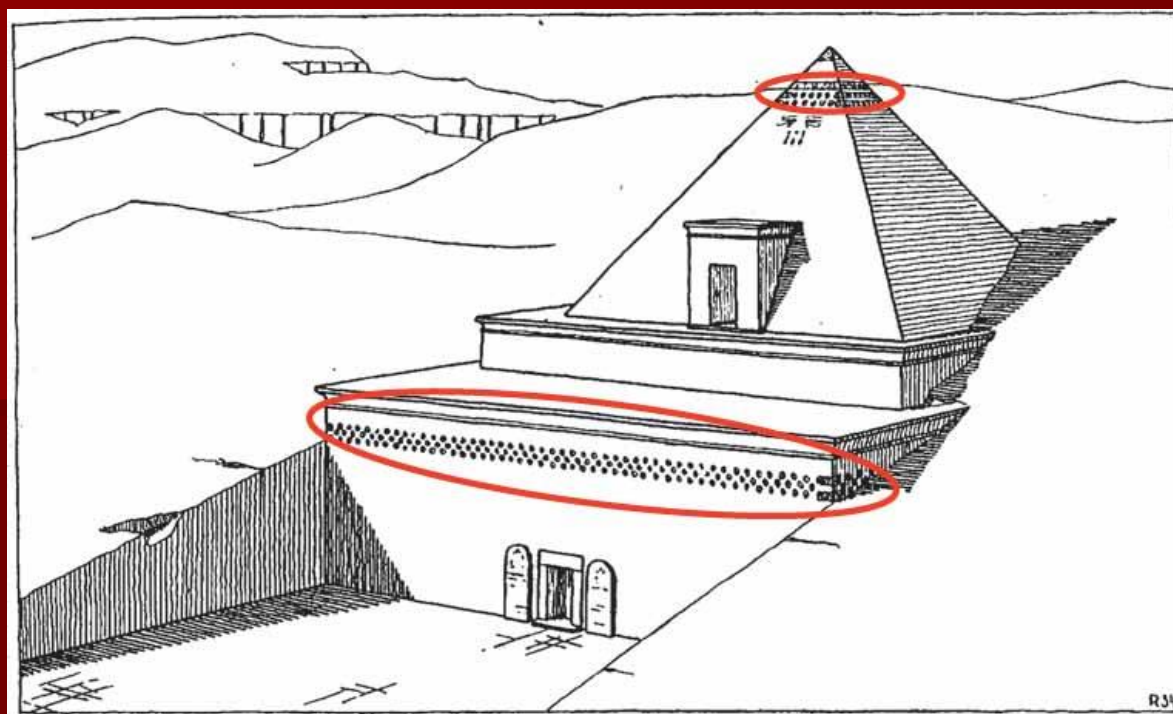


**As in BoD Louvre No
3068**

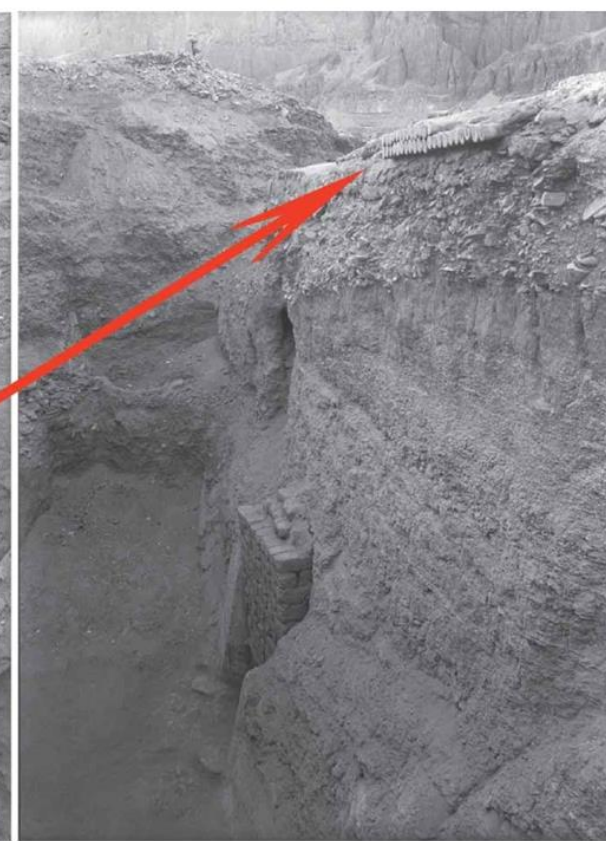
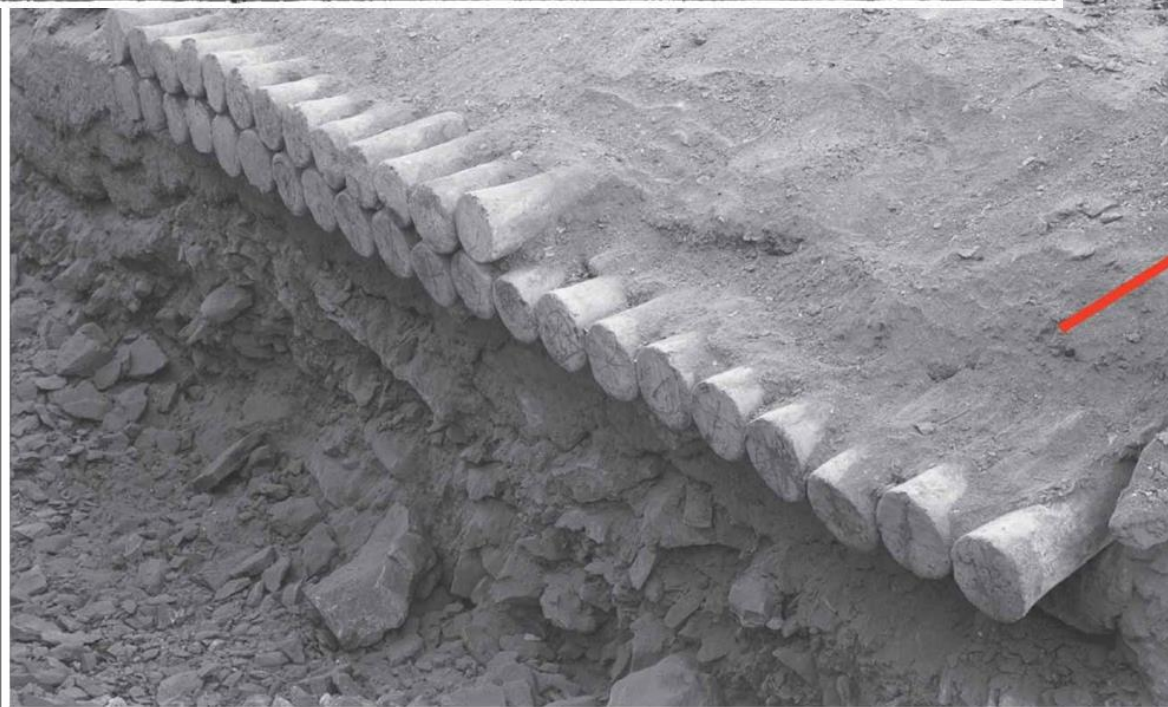


Cones discovered *in situ*. © The Metropolitan Museum of Art





For comparison:
reconstruction of
TT157



Reports of researches in the past, who have found funerary cones in situ

- actual finding of cones on the outer wall = considerably rare
- older excerpts claim:
 - (Rhind 1862: 136-137 → probably TT 47, see Manniche 1988a: 199, n.8.): “Above the scarp, and flush with it, there remained about two feet of coarse building, in continuation, as it were, of the elevation of the front of the tomb; and I mention this here because, imbedded in the building, and stretching very nearly its entire length, were two rows of clay cones, impressed with a hieroglyphic subject on the ends turned to the light.”
 - Henry Salt's manuscript (British Museum, published by Reeves/Ryan, 47f. → TTA.9?, as such cone Davies & Macadam # 54): “An ancient brick, with Hieroglyphics upon it: and a fine collection of stamped seals which have been found arranged over the door of a Tomb, found by me at Thebes.

Funerary Cones of Merymose: Sold at auctions

Christies



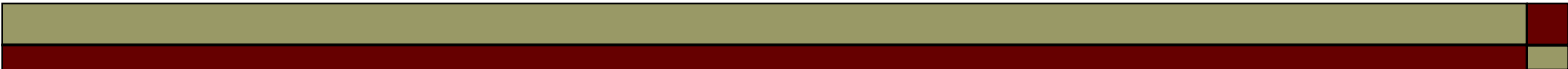
ebay



Funerary cones of Merymose (TT393)

- ❑ "viceroy of Kush, son of the pharaoh" under Amenhotep III
- fragments of large stone sarcophagus = in British Museum (Zába, Z.1950. Un nouveau fragment du sarcophagi de Merymôsé. *ASAE*, 50, 509-514)
- ❑ statue of Merimose also known
- ❑ canopy shrine found in the Cachette Royale DB320
- ❑ Mummy believed to be lost





Funerary cones of Merymose (TT393)

- Cones in mostly adequate condition, with minor chips and wear
- The inscription reads:
(1) The Beloved from (2) Osiris, King's son of Kush (3) Merimose

Funerary
Cone of
Merymose
18th dyn.
Thebes

Glasgow
City
Museum

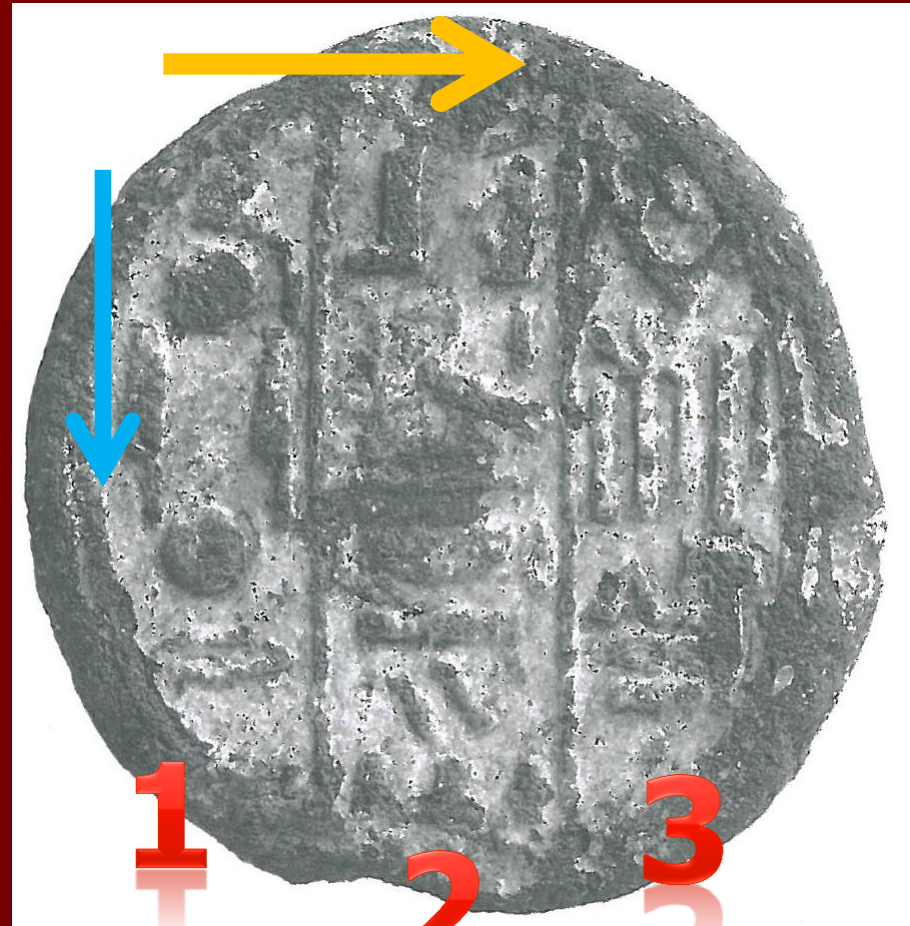


1 – honorary
title for the
afterlife
2 –
administrative
title
3 – name



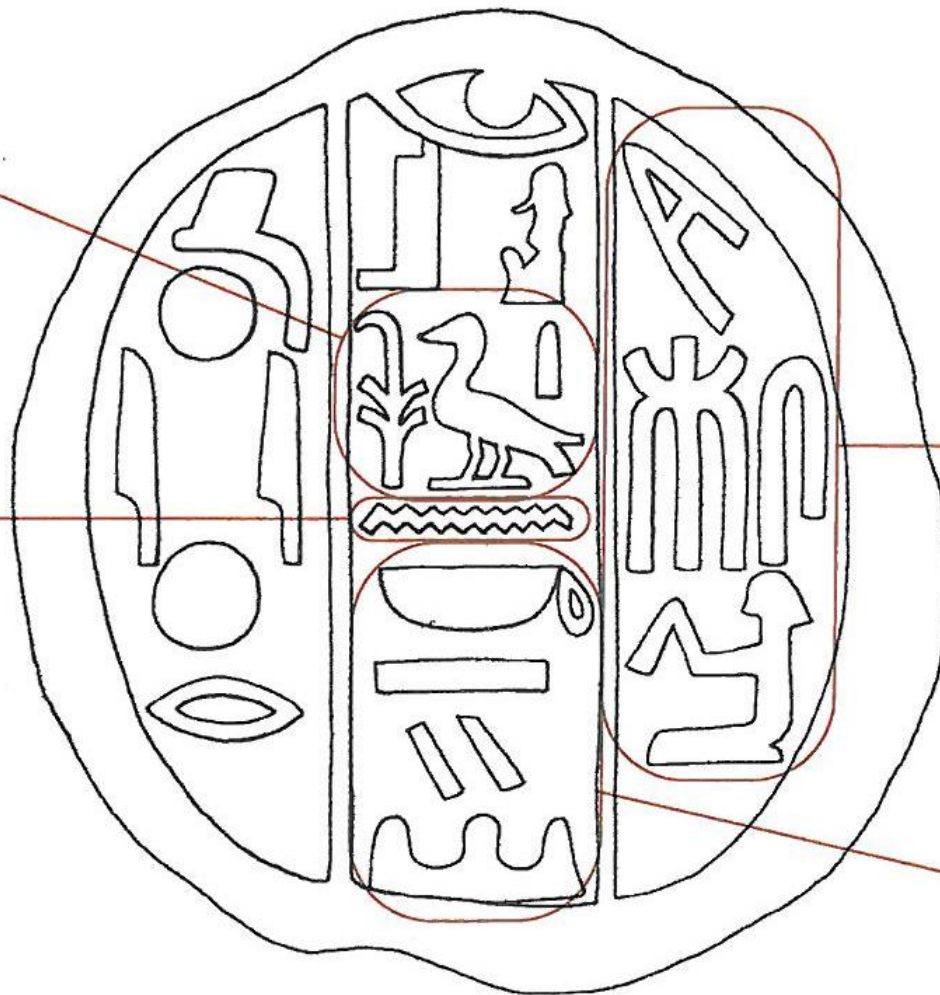
- 1 – *jm3h.y hr*
2 – *Wś-jr s3-nswt n Kšy*
3 – *Mrmś*

- 1 – (The) Revered One before
2 – Osiris, the King's Son of Kush
3 – Mer(y)mose




s³-nsw
 King's Son


n of




mrms Mermose


kšy Kush

9 Cone funerary stamp of Mermose with the inscription explained.



UCL 37620



- 1 – *jm³h.y hr*
- 2 – *Wś-jr s3-nswt n Kšy*
- 3 – *Mrmś*

- 1 – (The) Revered One before
- 2 – Osiris, the King's Son of Kush
- 3 – Mer(y)mose

UCL 37621 and UCL 37622



Sold at auction - Christies



UCL 37620

fakes

