

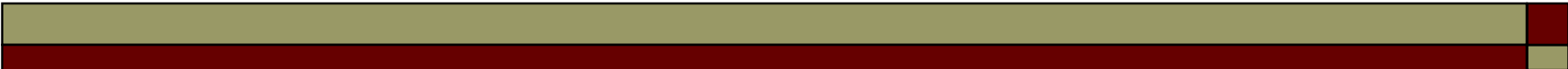
Week 4, Friday

**Monumentality and
Performance:**

Case studies from Ancient Egypt

HPAR4002 – Introduction to Archaeology

Dr Katharina Zinn



Monumentality in ancient Egypt

- Give examples....

Colossal granite fist

BM: EA 9

From Memphis, Egypt
19th Dynasty, reign of Ramesses II,
about 1250 BC

Part of a statue, hand grasping a
roll, possibly from the Temple of
Ptah at Memphis



Colossal granite fist

BM: EA 9

From Memphis, Egypt
19th Dynasty, reign of Ramesses II,
about 1250 BC

Part of a statue, hand grasping a
roll, possibly from the Temple of
Ptah at Memphis

Width: 145 centimetres

Height: 94 centimetres (including
pallet)

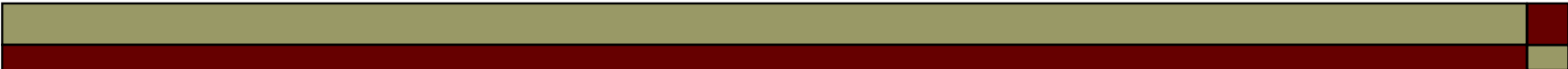
Depth: 105 centimetres

Weight: 1390 kilograms



Monumentality (modern definition)

- ❑ resembling a monument; massive or imposing.
- ❑ exceptionally great, as in quantity, quality, extent, or degree: *a monumental work*.
- ❑ of historical or enduring significance: *a monumental victory*.
- ❑ *Fine Arts*. having the quality of being larger than life; of heroic scale.
- ❑ of or relating to a monument or monuments.
- ❑ serving as a monument.



mnw – monument (ancient Egyptian)

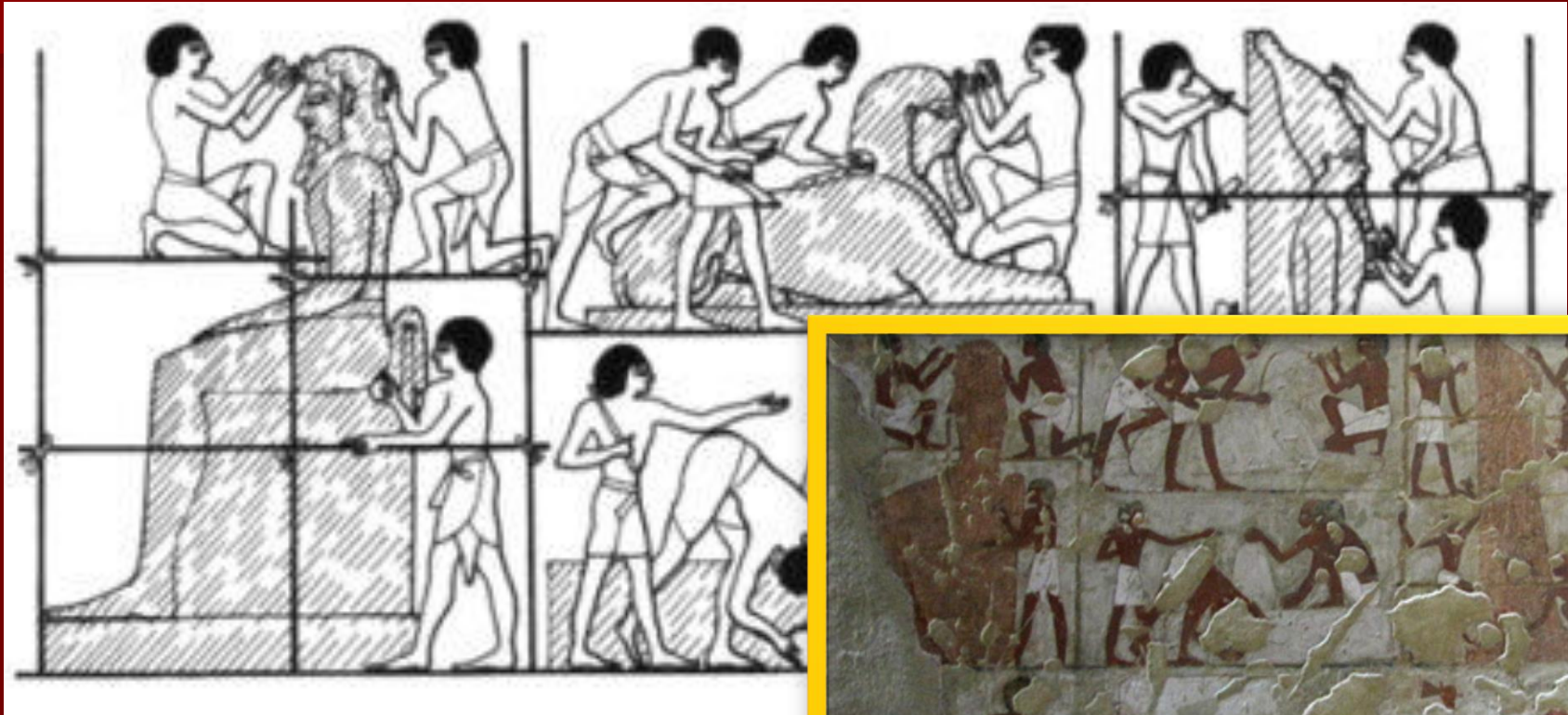
- ❑ Characteristics: large or valuable or dedicated to a god or given by a king
- ❑ → needs to be DURATIVE

Monumentality and art

Big or small – does not matter

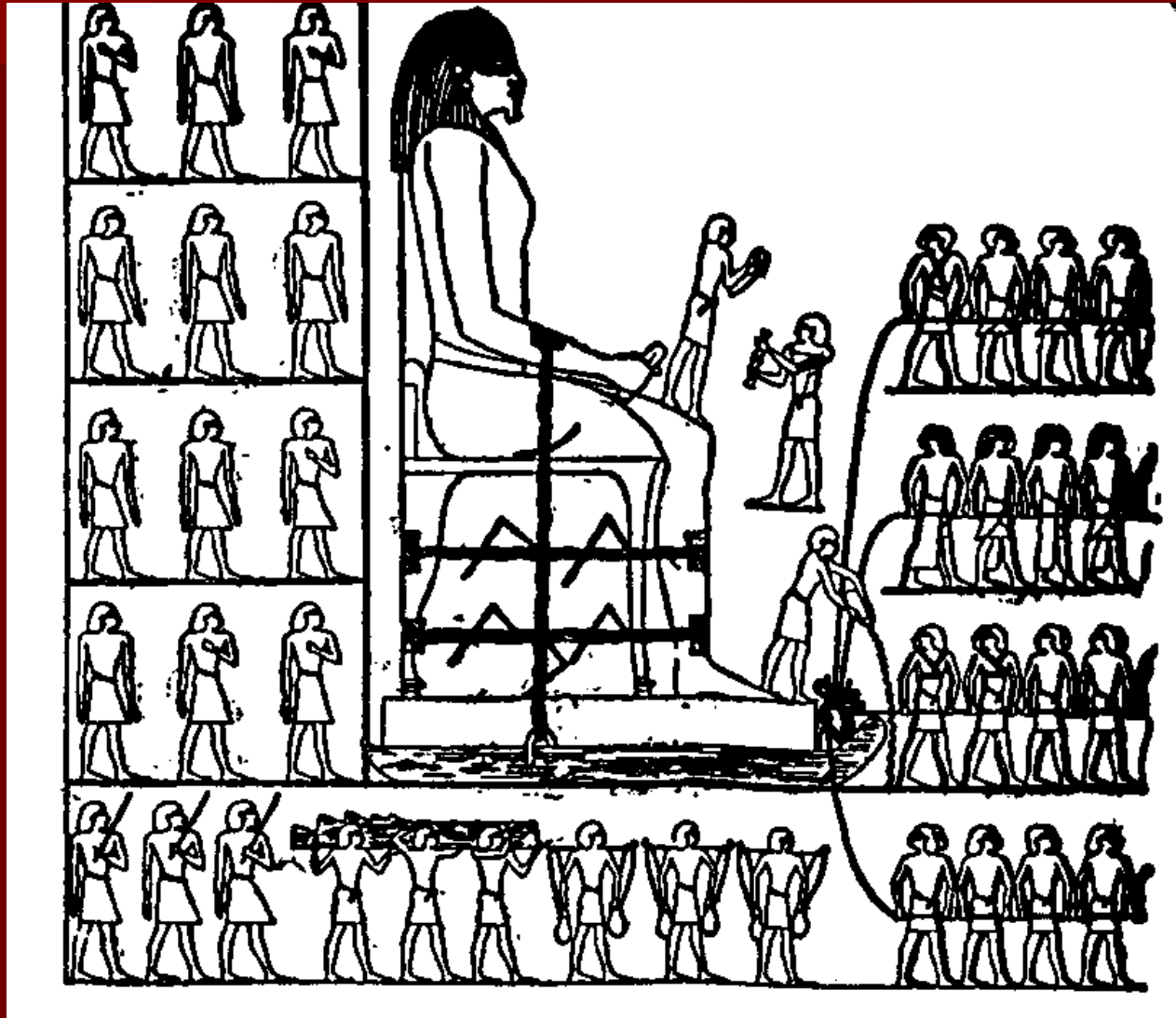
The canon

Workshop of sculptures (Rekhmire TT100)



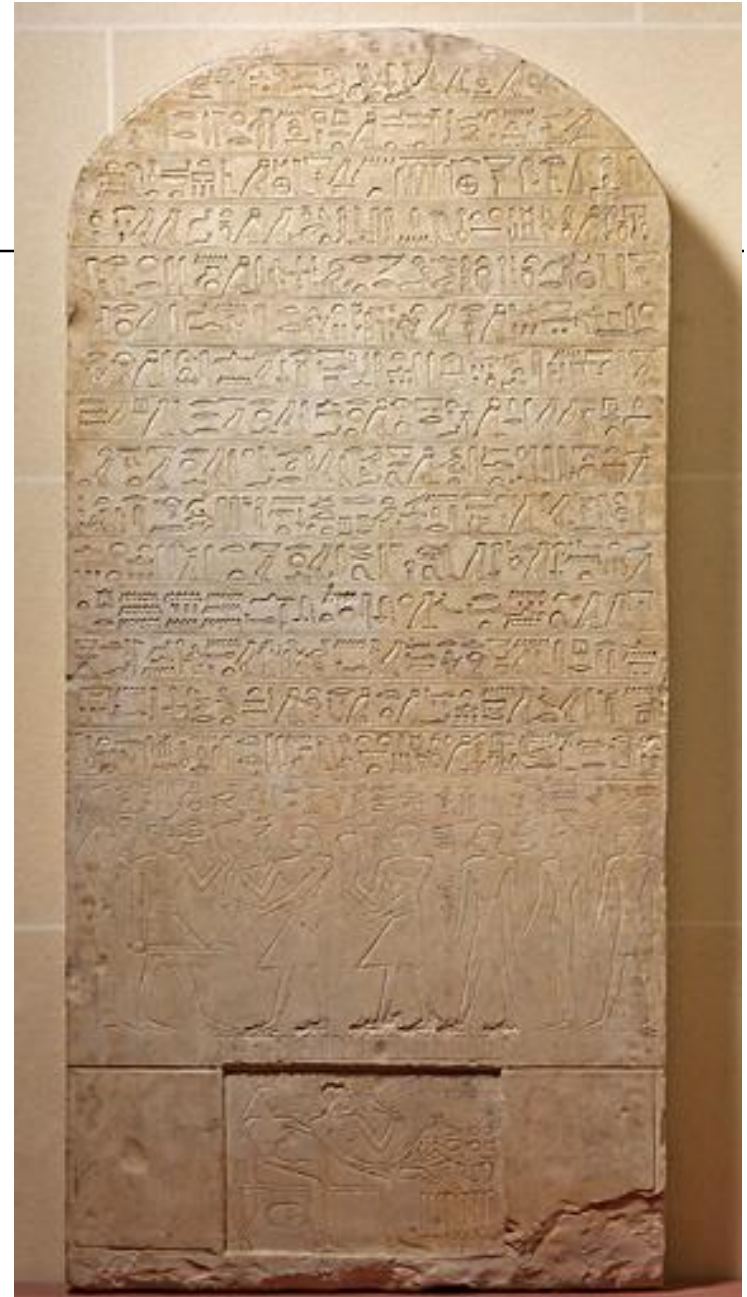
Tomb of Djehuty-hotep, Deir el-Bersha

Scene of moving a large statue



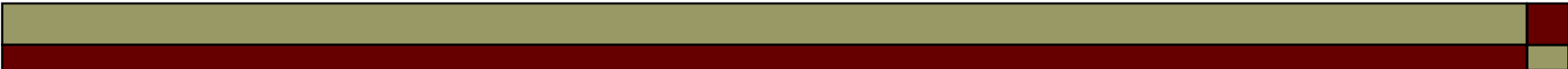
Louvre C14 – Stele of Irtysen

- sculptor and chief craftsman
- from his chapel at Abydos (sacred city of the god Osiris)
- on display because inscription is of exceptional interest:
- Irtysen boasts of his various skills: writing, drawing, and all manner of artistic techniques
- claims knowledge of certain production methods that he intends to keep secret and reveal only to his son
- was very unusual for an Egyptian to talk about his art; Irtysen must have hoped to be read and recognized by all thanks to this inscription in the great temple of Abydos, which was a national pilgrimage site



Louvre C14: Irtysen's multiple skills

- *"I know the secret of the divine word [i.e. of hieroglyphs], the composition of ceremonial rituals; I have acquired mastery over all the magical formulae, and there is nothing I don't know about them. Moreover I am a craftsman who excels at his art and has a superior level of knowledge; **I know how to estimate dimensions, recut and fit until an element is in place.** I know the posture of the male statue and the appearance of the female, the attitude of the eleven birds of prey, the convulsion of the isolated prisoner, how to portray a squint, the enemies' expression of terror, the arm movements of a hippopotamus hunter and the leg movements of a running man."*



Canon of Proportions

- ❑ system used to depict an idealized version of reality
- ❑ applicable to only the figures within an artwork and not the artwork as a whole (this is following the principle of importance)

Proportional grid lines

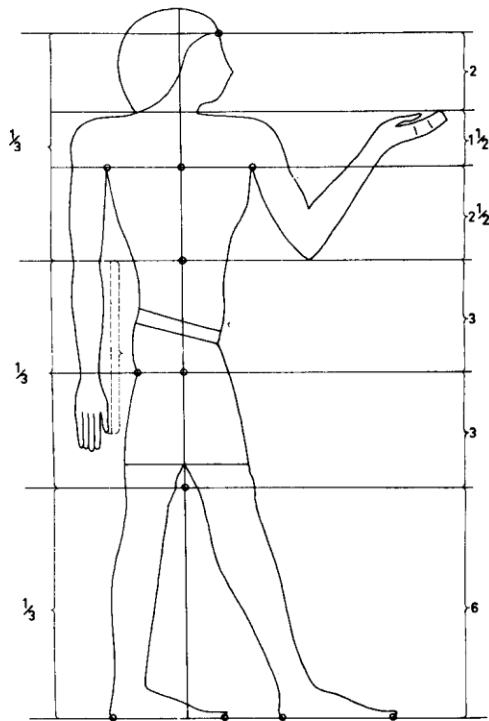


Abb. 16: Der Kanon des Alten Reiches

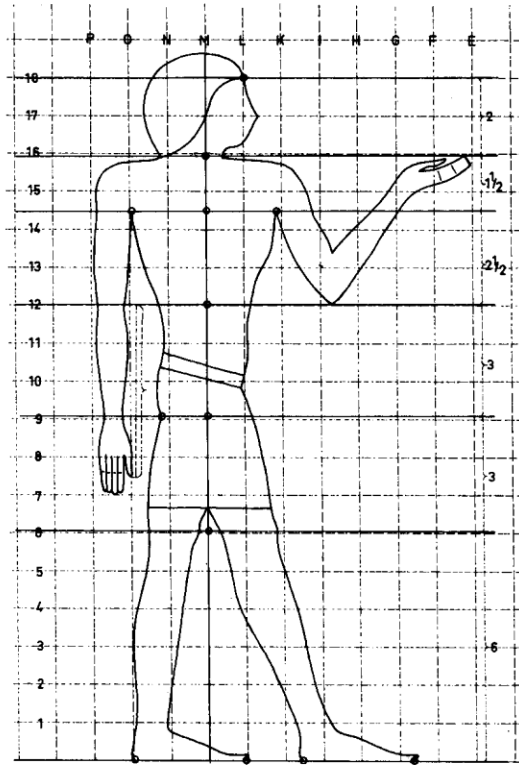


Abb. 17: Der Kanon des Mittleren Reiches, Standfigur

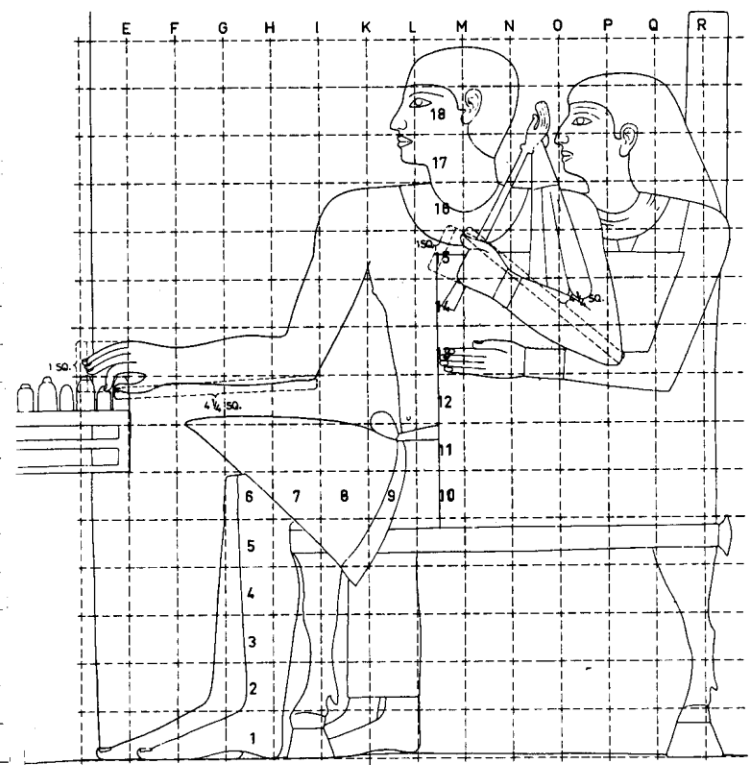


Abb. 18: Der Kanon des Mittleren Reiches, Sitzfigur

Canon of Proportions

- system used to depict an idealized version of reality
- applicable to only the figures within an artwork and not the artwork as a whole (this is following the principle of importance) → key features:
 - figure divided into 18 equal units starting at the soles of the feet to the hairline
 - 1 unit: from the sole of the foot to the ankle
 - navel rests at the 11th unit
 - 19th unit = area above hairline (mostly obscured by headdress)
 - The face and the legs are depicted in profile (side view) while the torso is depicted from the front view.

BM EA 579: Userwer

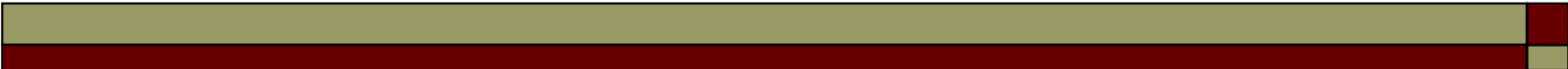


PLATE 1.1

Detail of unfinished scene in TT 92, eighteenth dynasty,
Mond photo 2122, reproduced by permission of the
Griffith Institute.

PLATE 1.2

Detail of stela of Userwer, twelfth dynasty, British Museum
EA 579, reproduced by courtesy of the Trustees of the
British Museum.



Exercise

- Create your own monumental drawing

Monumentality and writing

Hieroglyphs vs. hieratic/demotic

Artist's gridded sketch

New Kingdom, Dynasty 18, reign of Hatshepsut, ca. 1479–1458 B.C.,
from western Thebes



Specific literacy – the individual ability to read and write

- Writing
 - Administrative device
 - Element of (monumental) art
- Could be practiced by crafts men with limited or no literacy, controlled by a literate person



MMA

1.4.93

Private stela
Senba
Abydos,
King Djer
→ Marking
subsidiary
graves around
the royal tomb
– “personified”

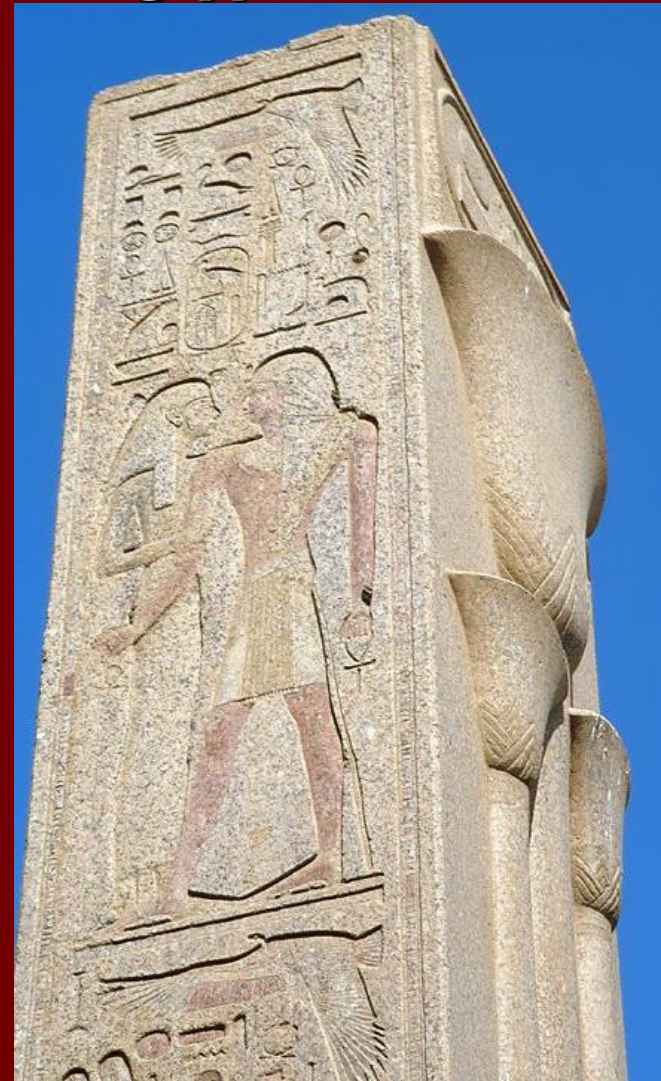


Script and Monumentality

Hieratic (Pap. Ebers)



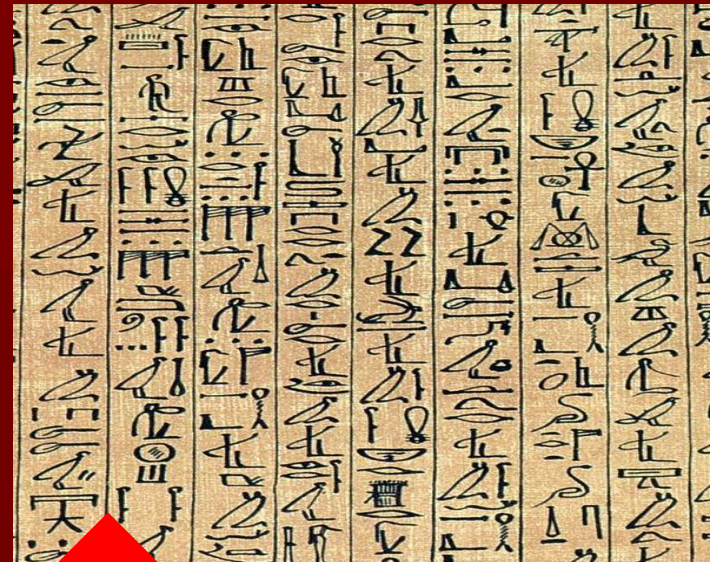
Hieroglyphs



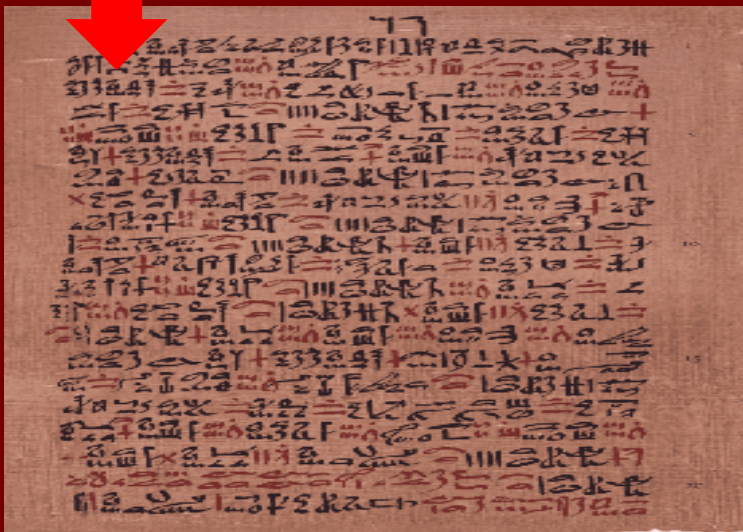
SCRIPTS



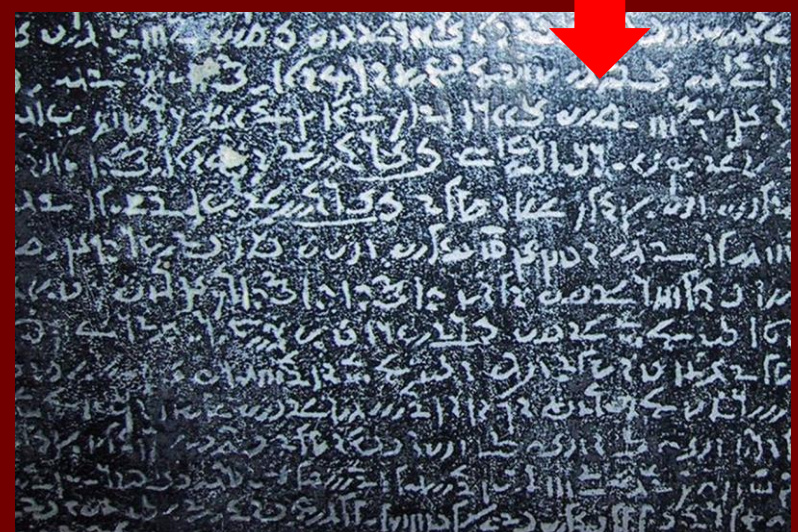
Hieroglyphs



Cursive Hieroglyphs

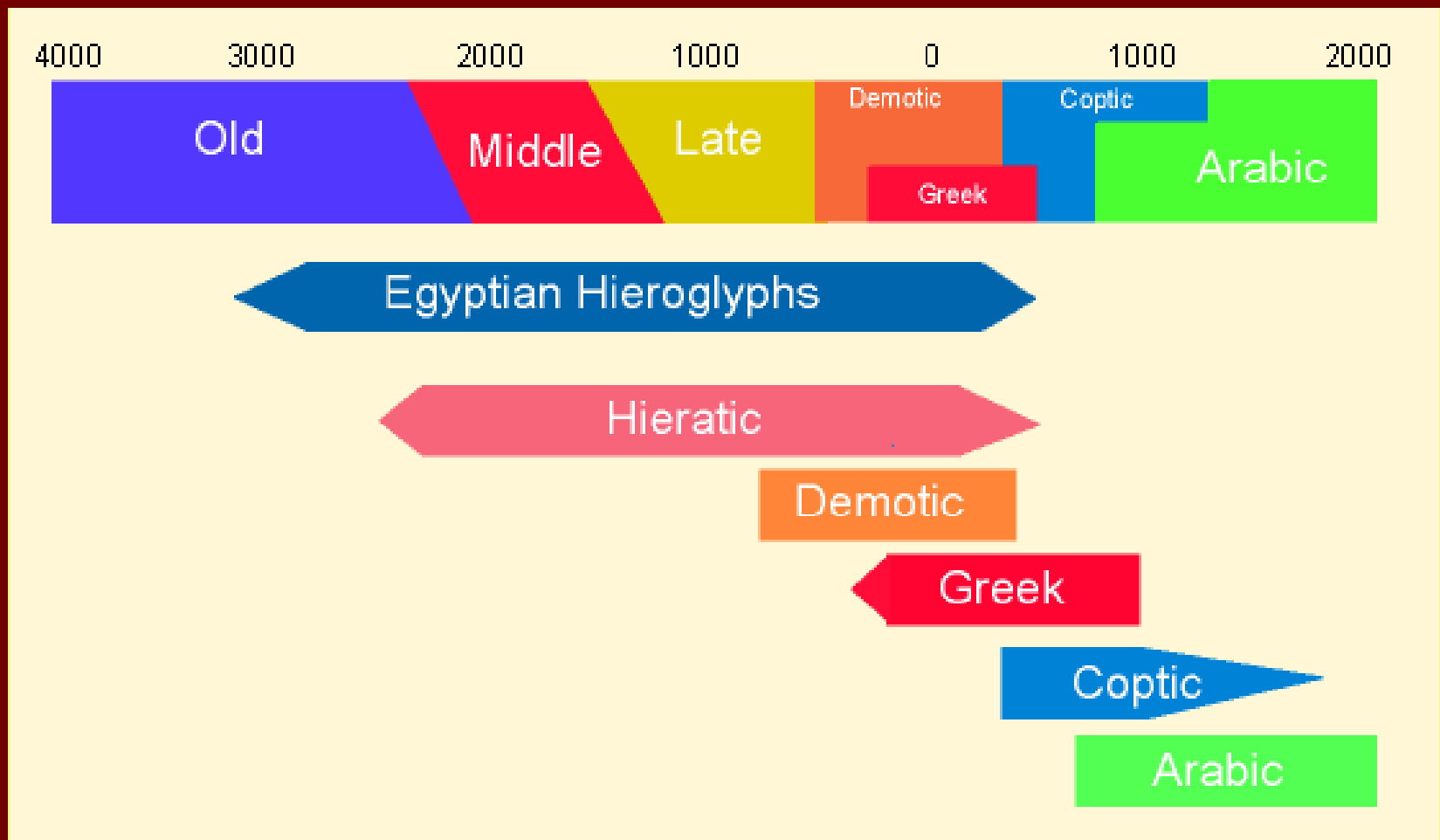


Hieratic



Demotic

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



Literacy in Ancient Egypt



- Not known what proportion of population was literate (between 0.5 and 5%)
- Evidence, however, of scribal class
 - ❖ high status – described as a ‘princely profession’
 - ❖ know of some scribes by name

Monumentality and architecture

Karnak as a place of performance

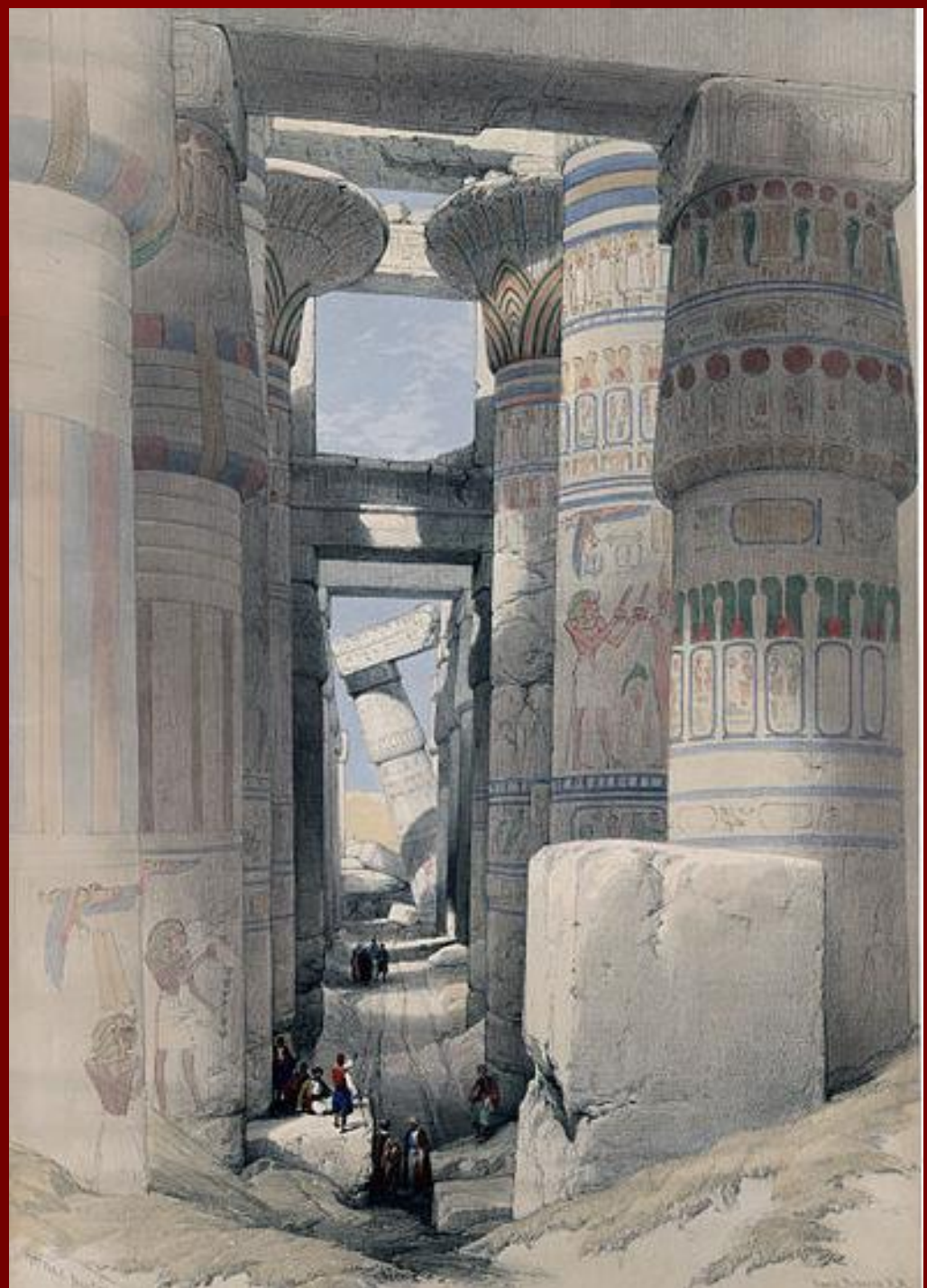
KARNAK

http://dlib.etc.ucla.edu/projects/Karnak/assets/media/resources/AnimationsOfTheTempleModel/highres/flyover_easterngate.mov

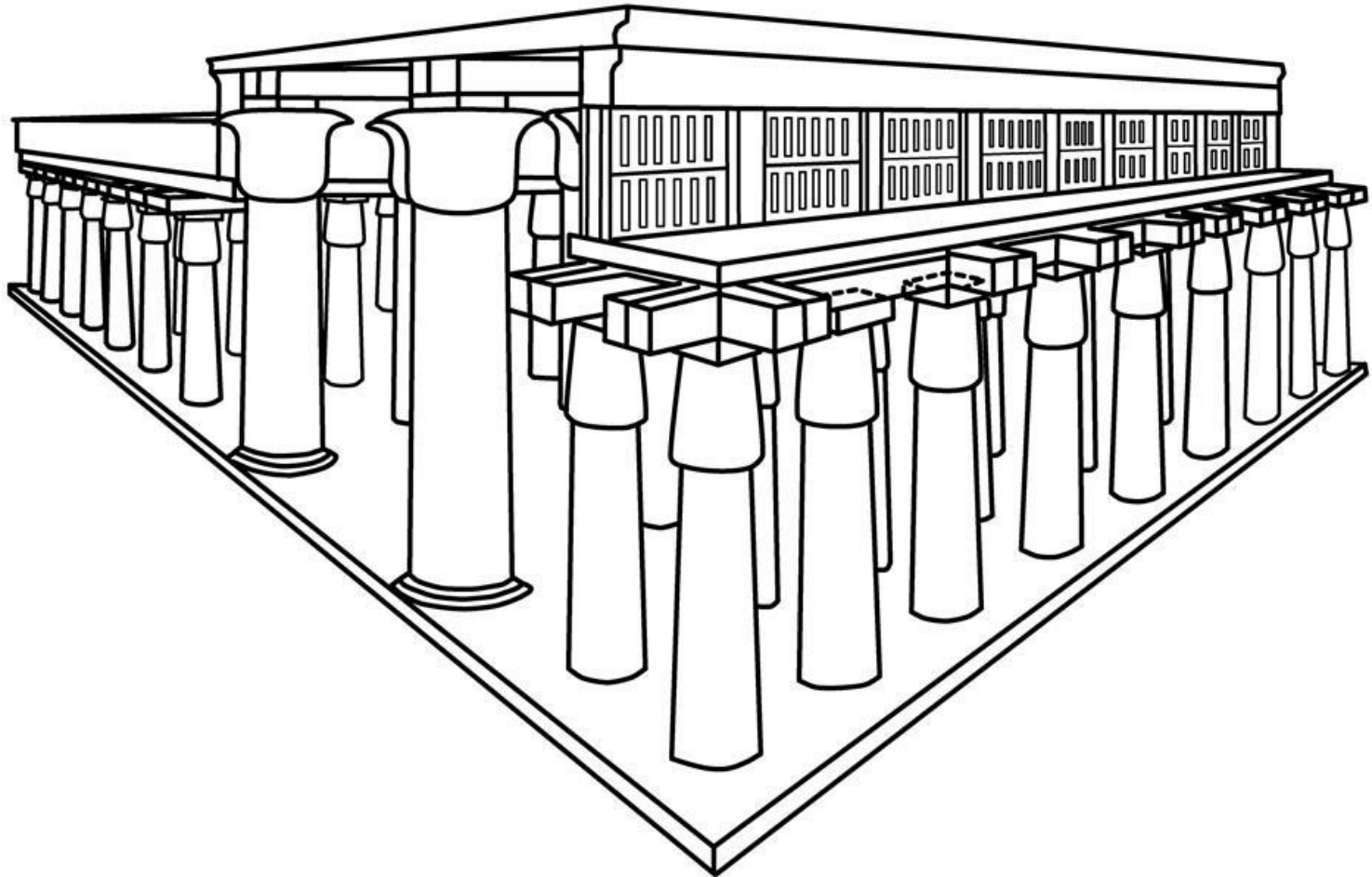




David Roberts:
"Dromos or first
court of the
temple."
colored lithograph of
Karnak
Date Sketch dated
1838; published
between 1846 and
1849

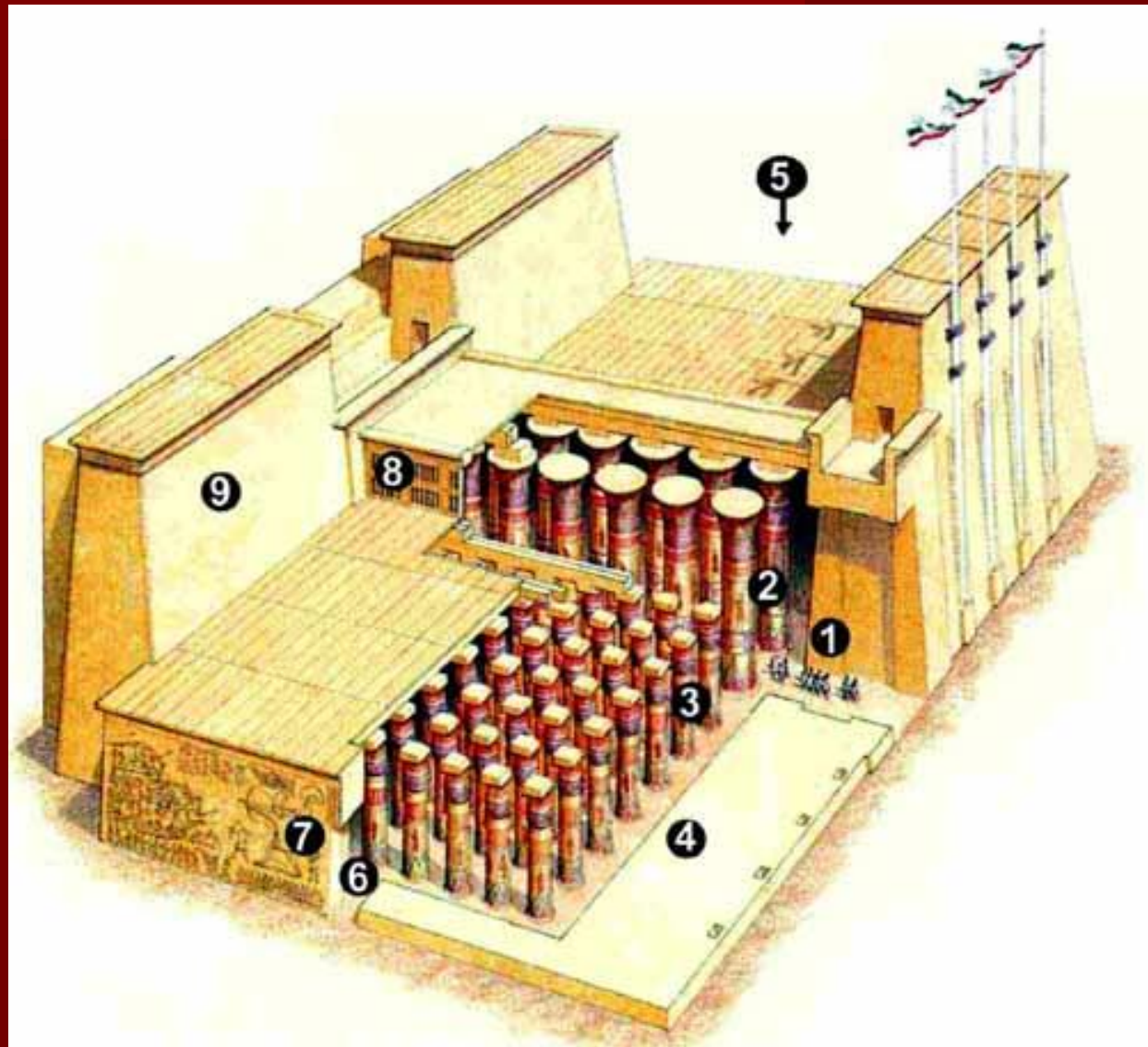


Hypostyle Hall



Hypostyle Karnak

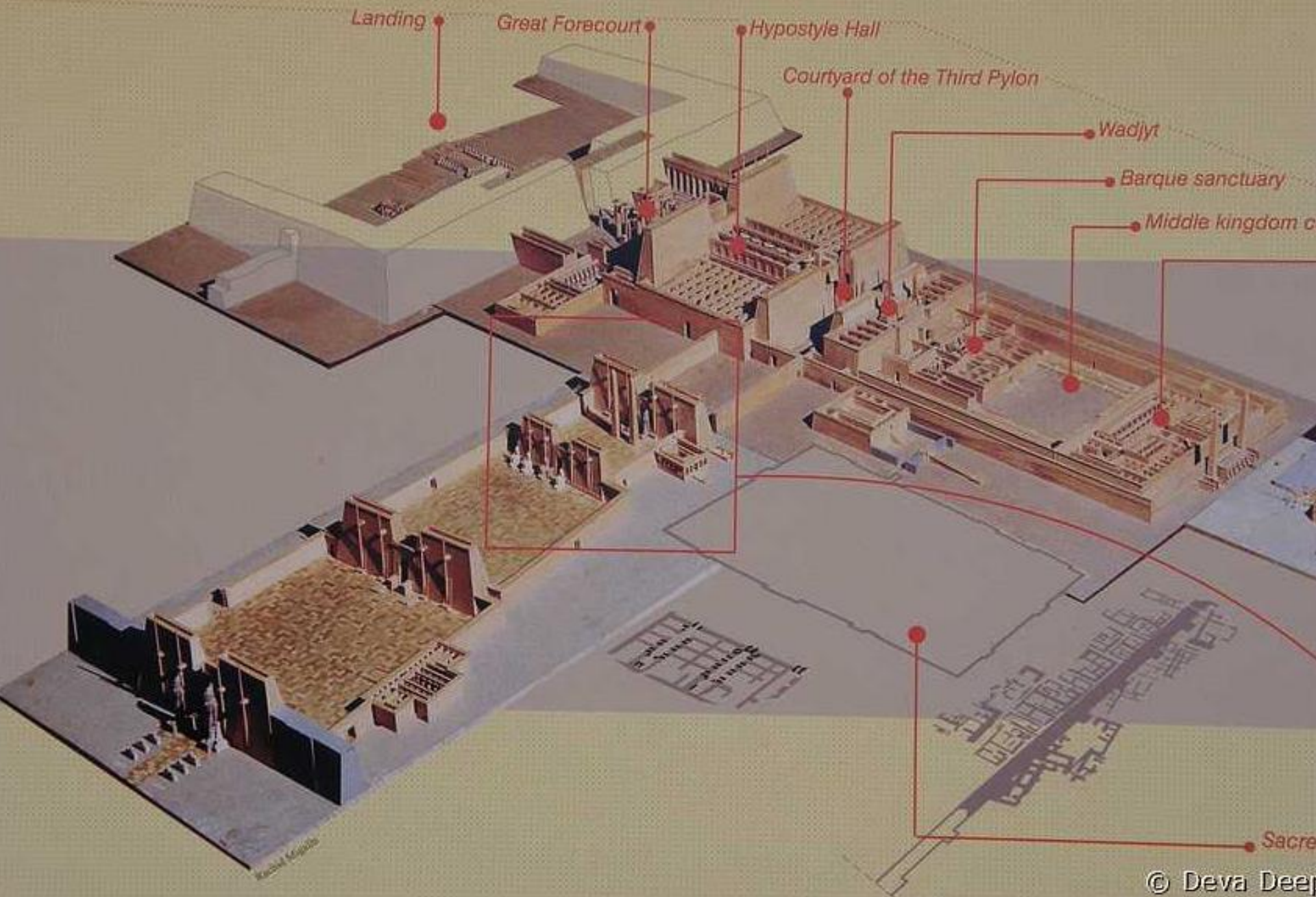
1. Entrance Passage
2. Great Columns
3. Smaller Columns
4. 2nd Pylon
5. R II War Scenes
6. North Gateway
7. Seti I War Scenes
8. Clerestory and Roof
9. 3rd Pylon



Karnak 1914

(A. D. White Architectural Photographs, Cornell University Library Accession Number:
15/5/3090.01487





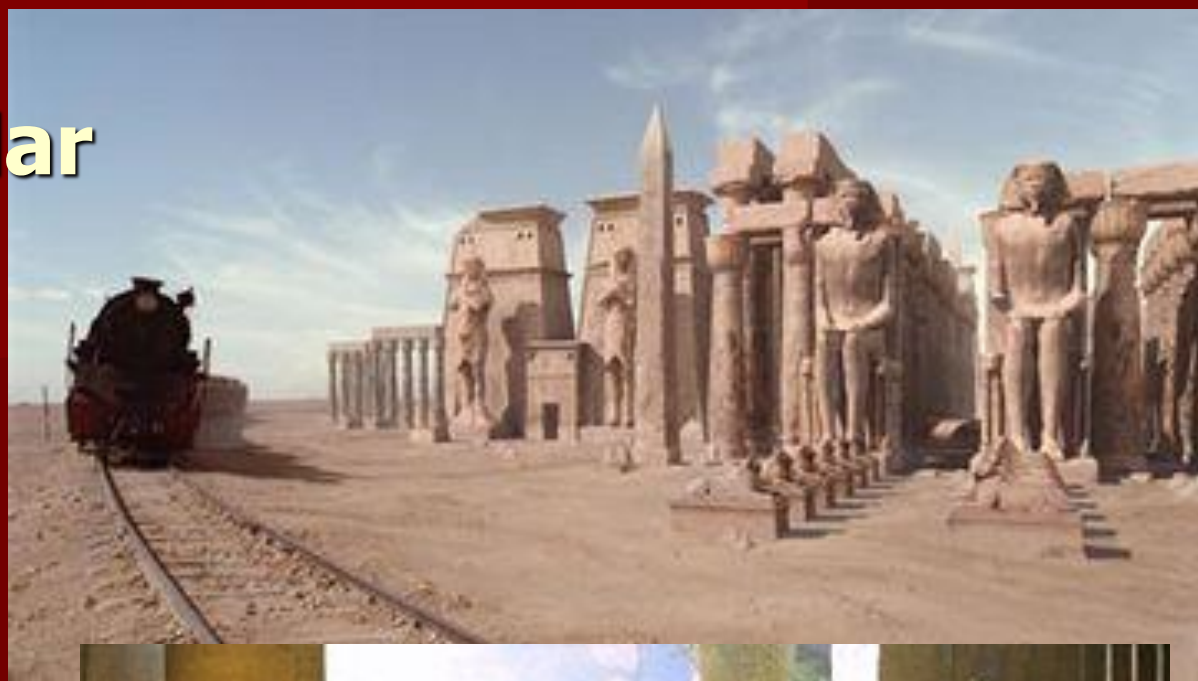
Karnak in popular culture

final battle between Optimus Prime versus Megatron, The Fallen, and Starscream takes place in the hypostyle hall at Karnak



Karnak in popular culture

The Mummy returns



Karnak in popular culture

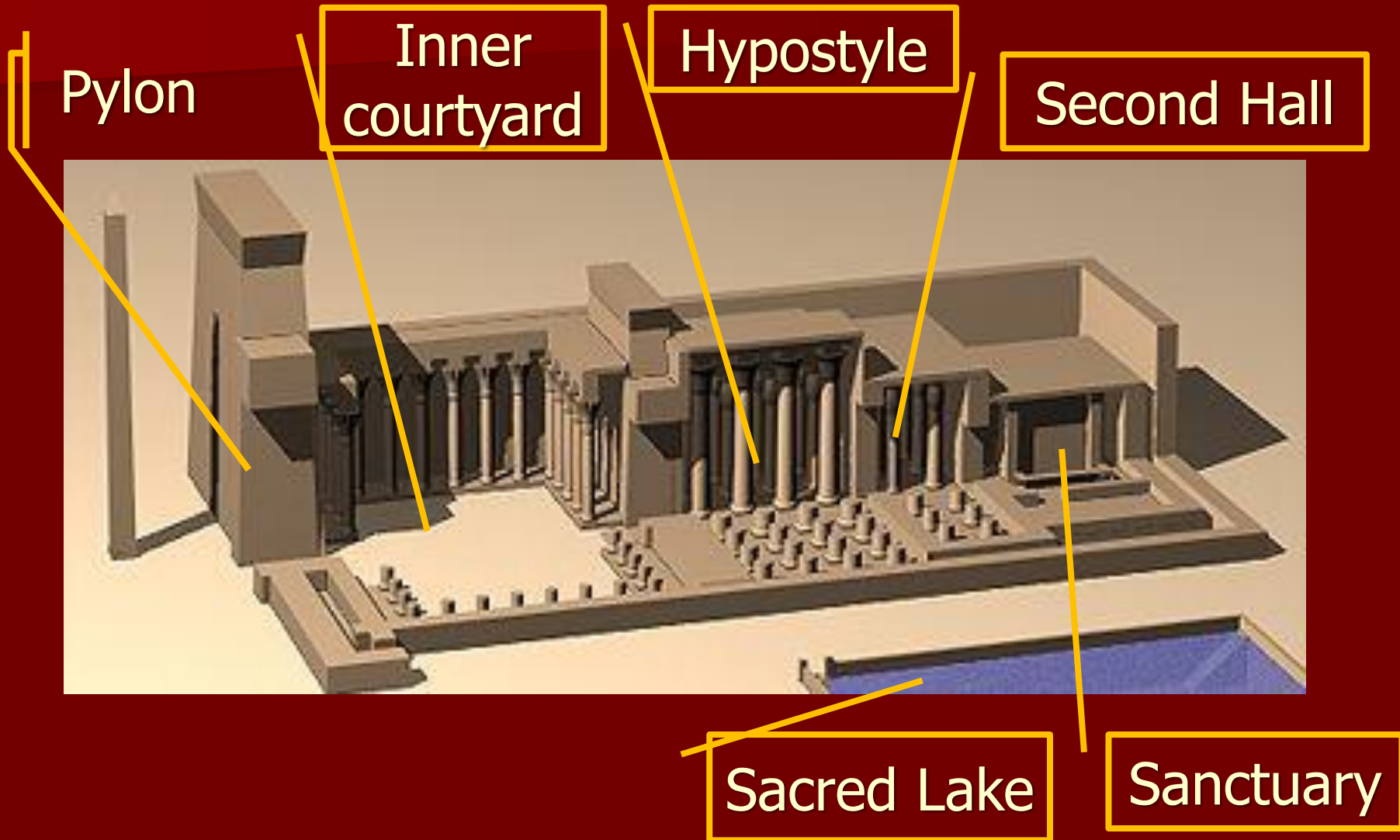
Death on the Nile

Block falls on Linnet Doyle in the hypostyle hall at Karnak

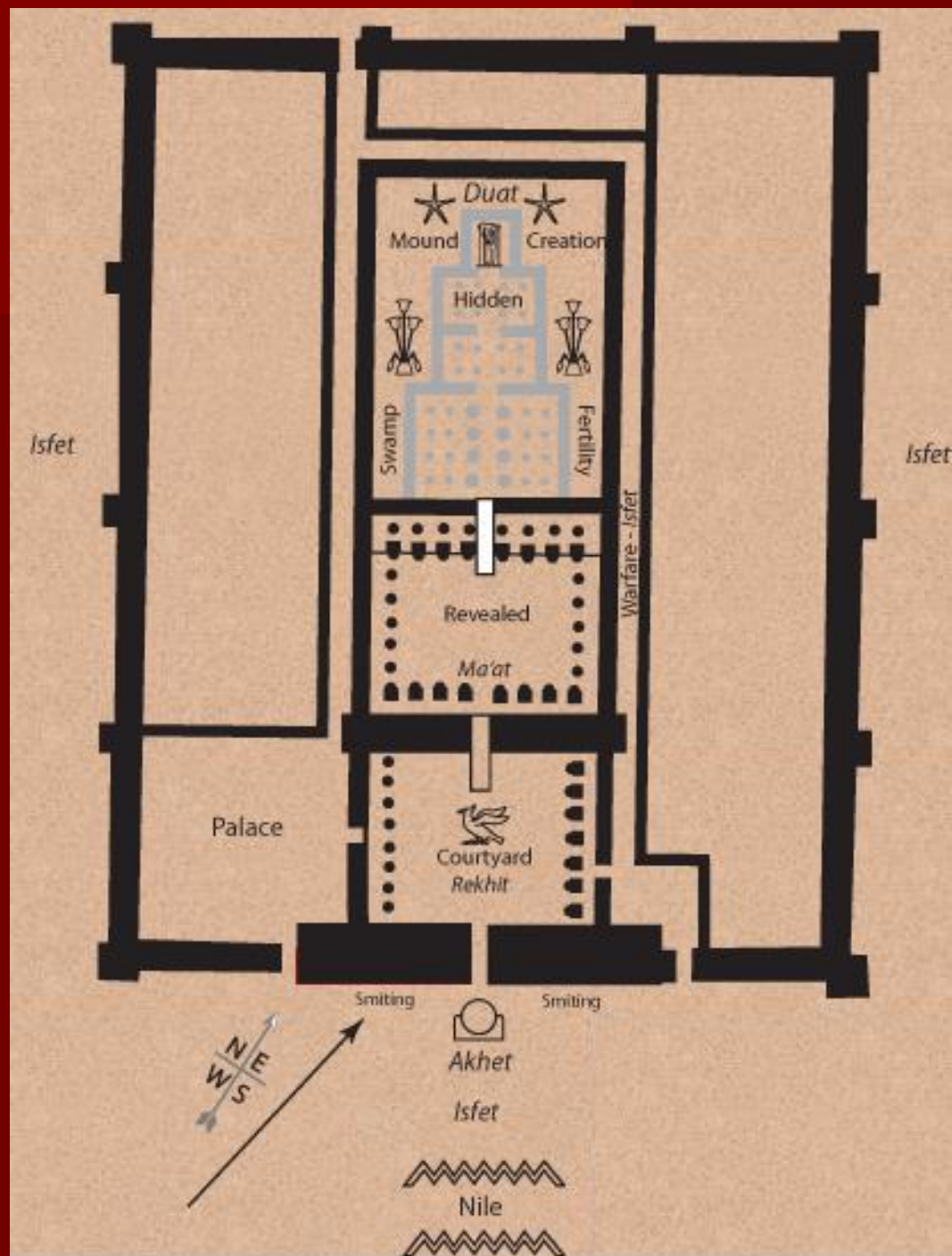


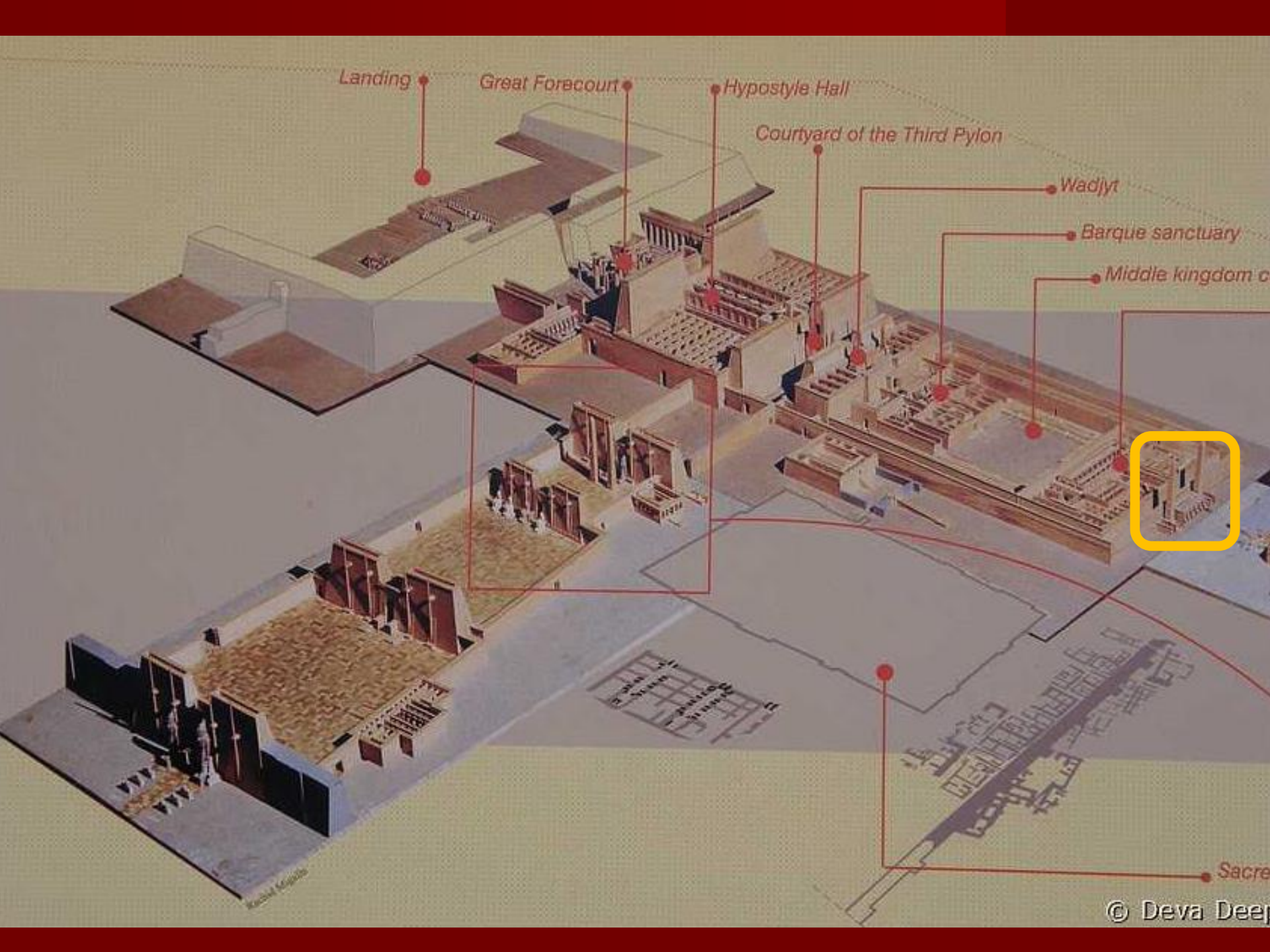
The ideal temple in Ancient Egypt

(from 18. dyn., 1500BC onwards)



The Egyptian Temple as Cosmos





Landing

Great Forecourt

Hypostyle Hall

Courtyard of the Third Pylon

Wadjet

Barque sanctuary

Middle kingdom of Egypt

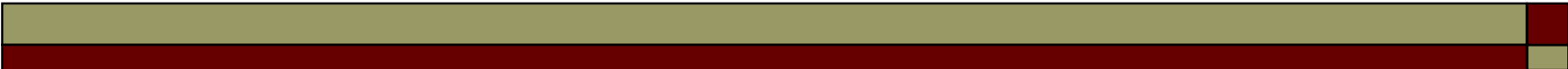
Sacred Area

© Deva Deep

Performance within the monumental

- <http://wayback.archive-it.org/7877/20160919172019/http://dlib.etc.ucla.edu/projects/Karnak/experience/BarkMovement/1>





Contra temple

- provision facilities for popular religion within state temples
 - Building / adapting shrine accessible to lay people
 - Appointing staff to deal with visitors
 - Manufacture mass votive faience offerings (with royal names) → only on sites under royal patronage?

Contra-Temple Karnak TIII, modified Nectanebo



