

A5: Week 2, Tues

**The Middle Kingdom: Tradition
and New Styles**

Second Intermediate Period

HPAH5086/6086 - Art and Ancient Egypt 4000BC to the
2020ies: Exhibiting artistic representations

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Readings:

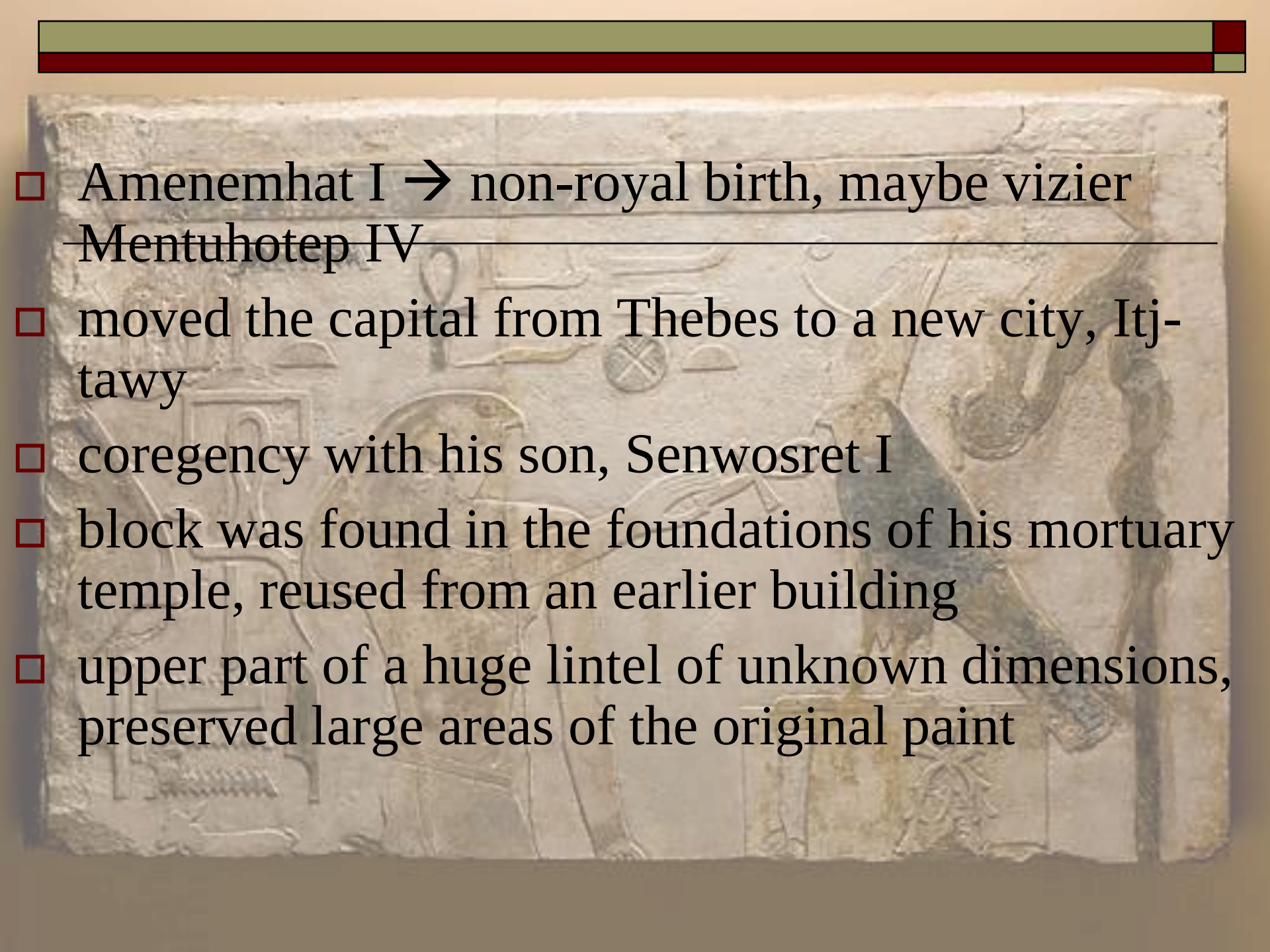
- ❑ Robins 90-109 (6)
- ❑ Smith 158-215 (9-11)
- ❑ Deir el-Bahari on Osirisnet
http://www.osirisnet.net/monument/deb/mentuhotep/e_deb_mentuhotep.htm

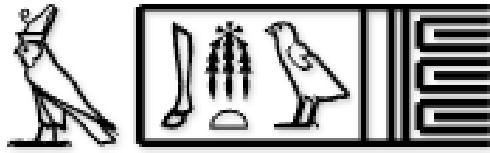
Your object of the day





- **Relief Block from a Building of Amenemhat I**
 - **Period:** Middle Kingdom
 - **Dynasty:** Dynasty 12
 - **Reign:** reign of Amenemhat I - Senwosret I
 - **Date:** ca. 1981–1952 B.C.
 - **Geography:** From Egypt, Memphite Region, Lisht North, Pyramid Temple of Amenemhat I, re-used in foundation, MMA 1907–1908
 - **Medium:** Limestone, paint
 - **Dimensions:** h. 61 cm (24 in); w. 96.5 cm (38 in); d. 13.3 cm (5 1/4 in)
 - **Accession Number:** 08.200.6

- 
- ❑ Amenemhat I → non-royal birth, maybe vizier
Mentuhotep IV
 - ❑ moved the capital from Thebes to a new city, Itjtawy
 - ❑ coregency with his son, Senwosret I
 - ❑ block was found in the foundations of his mortuary temple, reused from an earlier building
 - ❑ upper part of a huge lintel of unknown dimensions, preserved large areas of the original paint



Wehem mesut

whm-mswt

The one who has repeated births



- ❑ blue painted stylized depiction of sky with stars in white or yellow
- ❑ upper part of scepter supports sky
- ❑ top of scepter: uraeus with the shen ring around neck extends toward head of Horus falcon on serekh (only the first two signs are preserved inside the usual rectangular representation of a palace)
- ❑ Horus presents an ankh sign to falcon on Horus name
- ❑ To the left: rear part of left-facing ram-headed deity (horn) → horn and text between the two gods identifies Khnum
- ❑ text above and behind the god reads [Khnum], he who is before the house of protection; Recitation: I establish for [you] a shelter (?)"

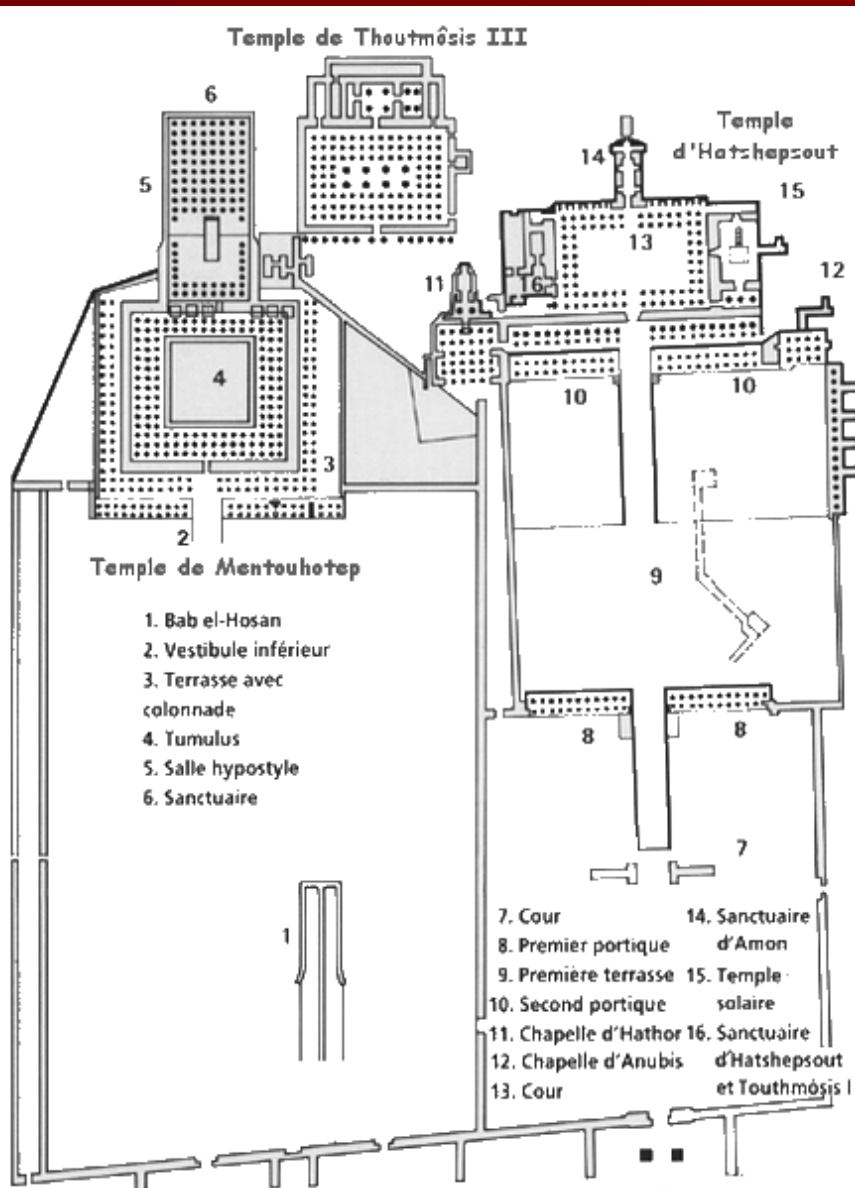
Egyptian Renaissance

Egypt in the Middle Kingdom

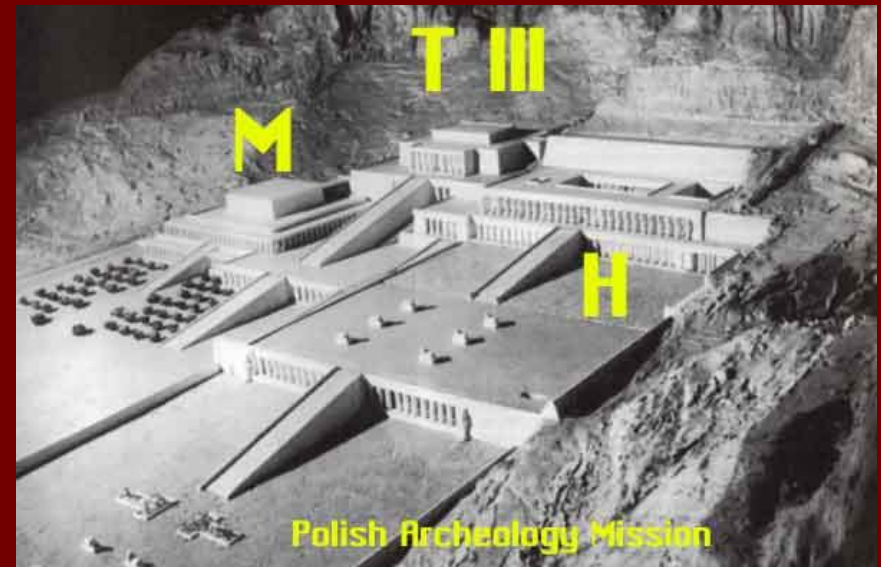
- mid-Dynasty 11–Dynasty 13 (ca. 2030–1640 B.C.)
- began with Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II: reunited Upper and Lower Egypt,
- second great flowering of Egyptian culture
- Thebes came into prominence for the first time: capital and artistic center during Dynasty 11

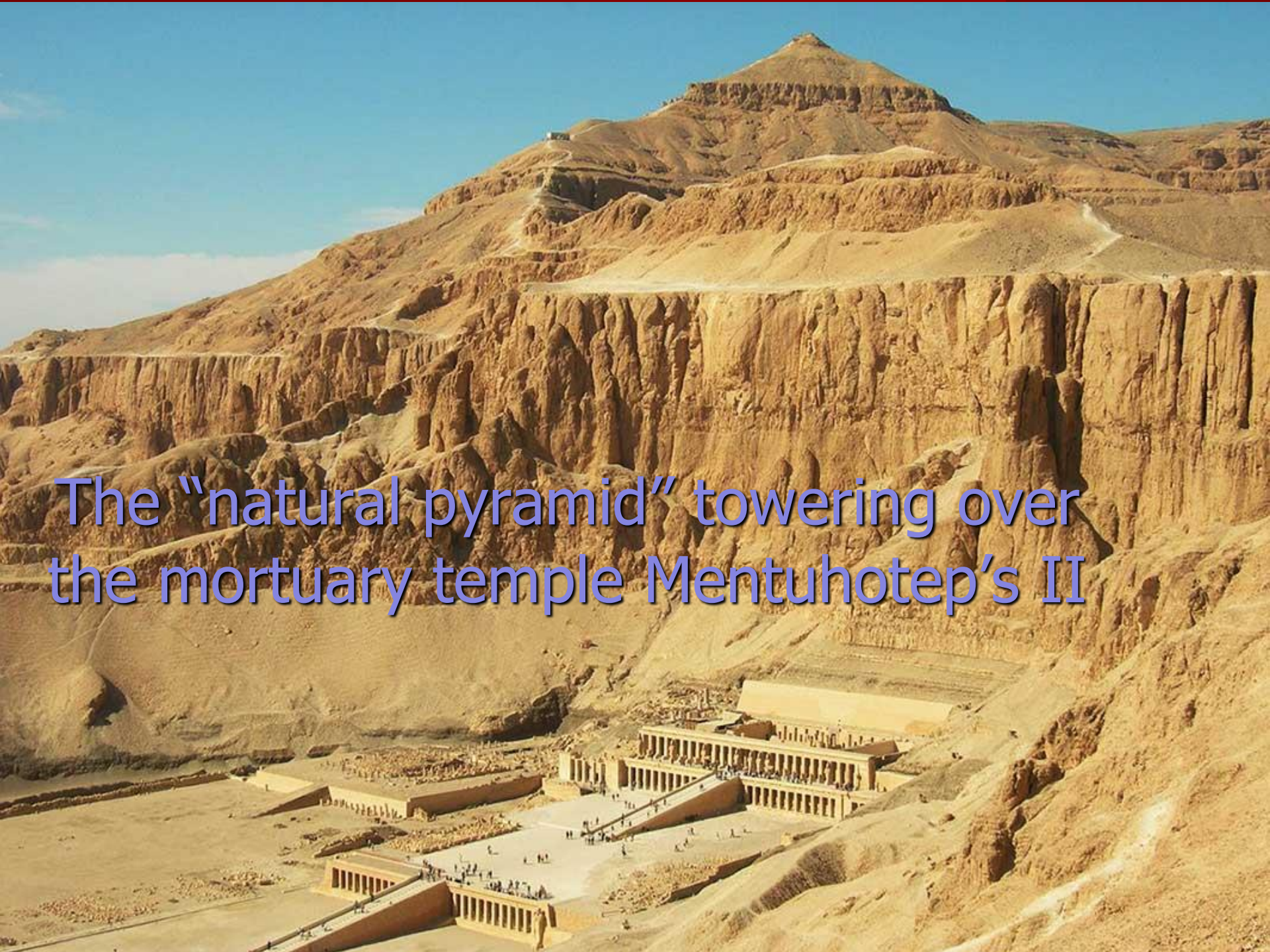


Map of Deir el-Bahari: Mortuary complex Mentuhotep II



- grand scale
- terraced temple, pillared porticoes
- perfect union architecture landscape
- painted reliefs of ceremonial scenes, hieroglyphic texts
- carved in distinctive Theban style (also in tombs of M II officials)

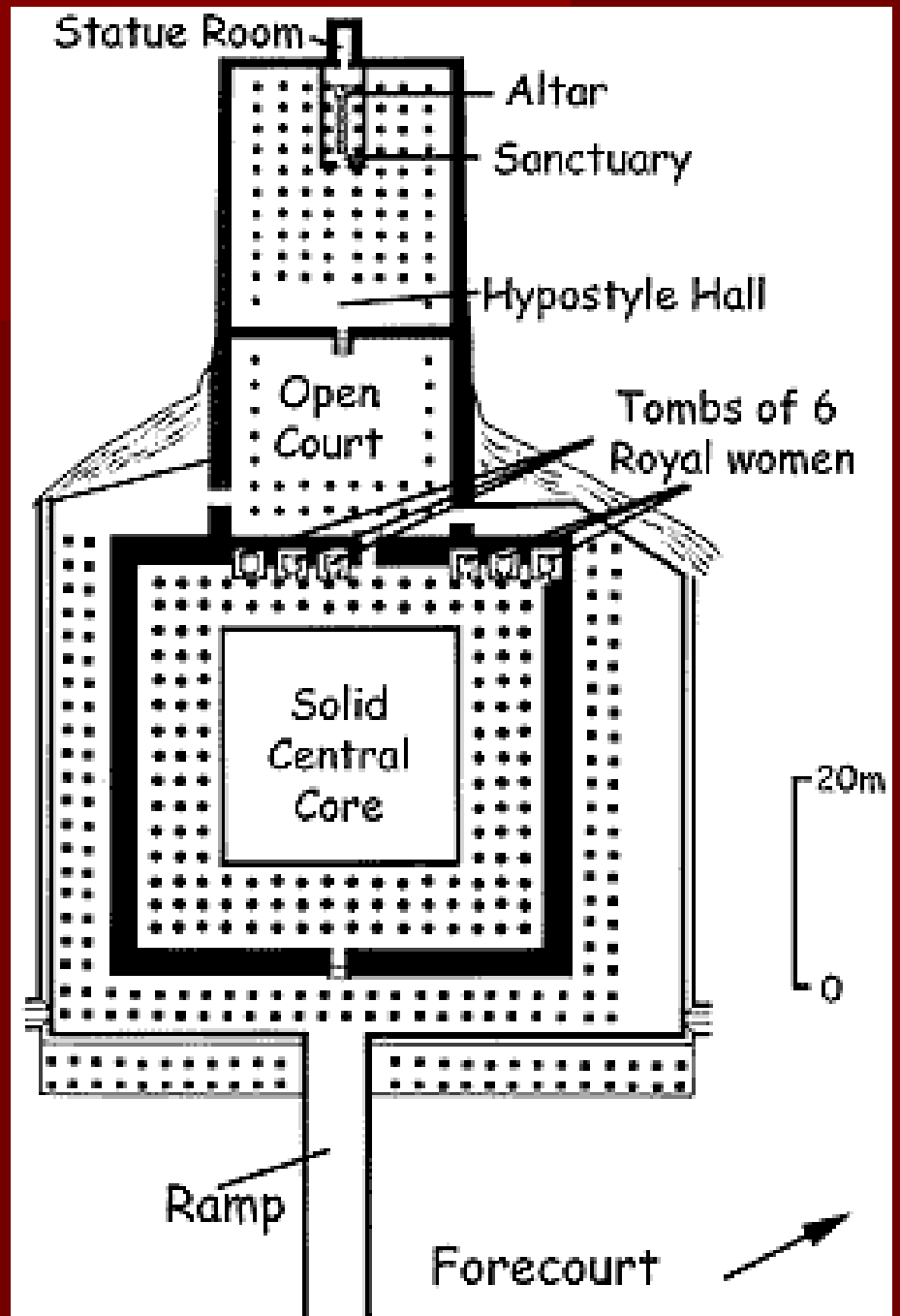
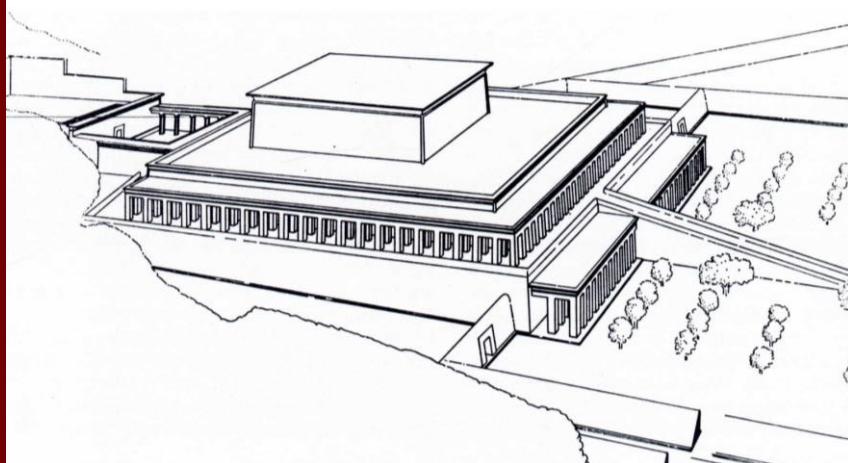


A wide-angle photograph of the Mortuary Temple of Mentuhotep II in Thebes, Egypt. The temple complex, featuring several long colonnades and a central courtyard, is situated at the base of a massive, sheer limestone cliff. Above the cliff, the natural rock pyramid of Mentuhotep II rises prominently against a clear blue sky. The pyramid's stepped structure is clearly visible, and its peak is the highest point in the image. The foreground shows the desert floor with some smaller structures and a path leading towards the temple.

The “natural pyramid” towering over
the mortuary temple Mentuhotep’s II

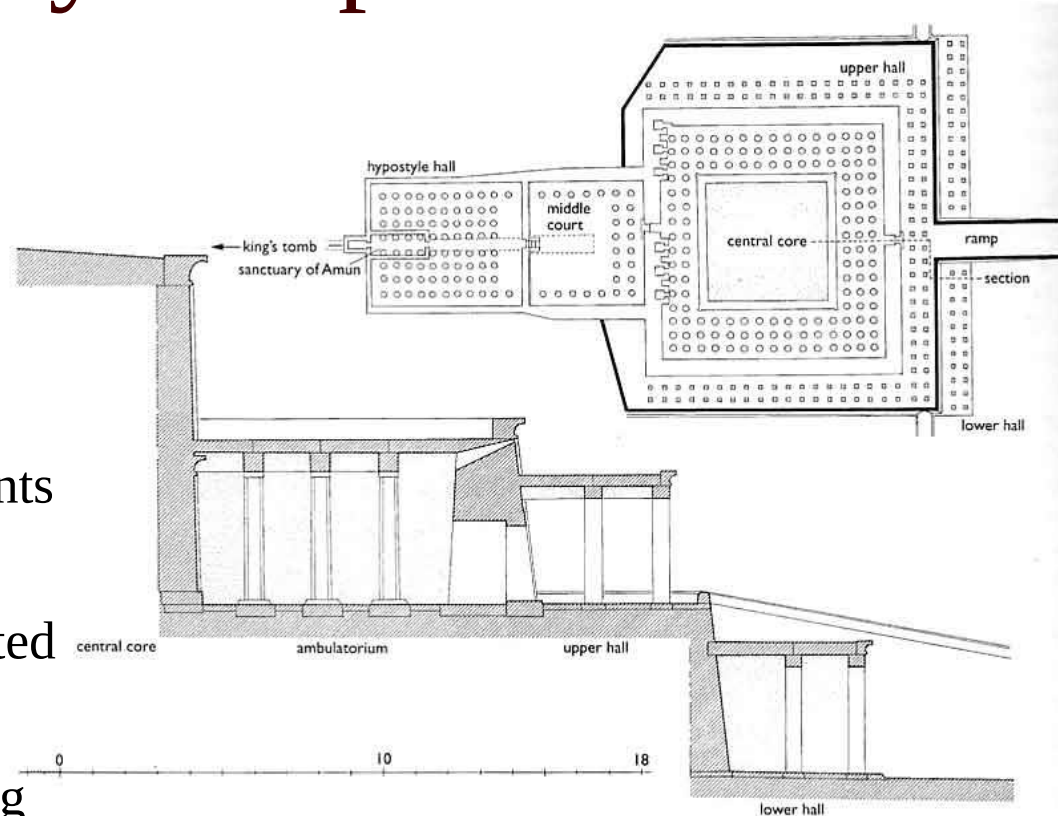


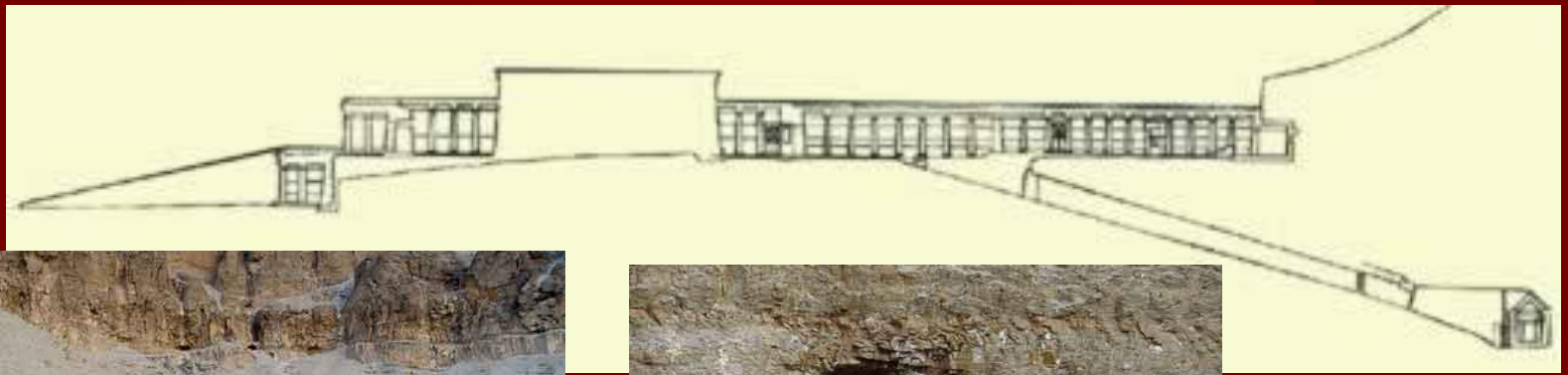
The temple

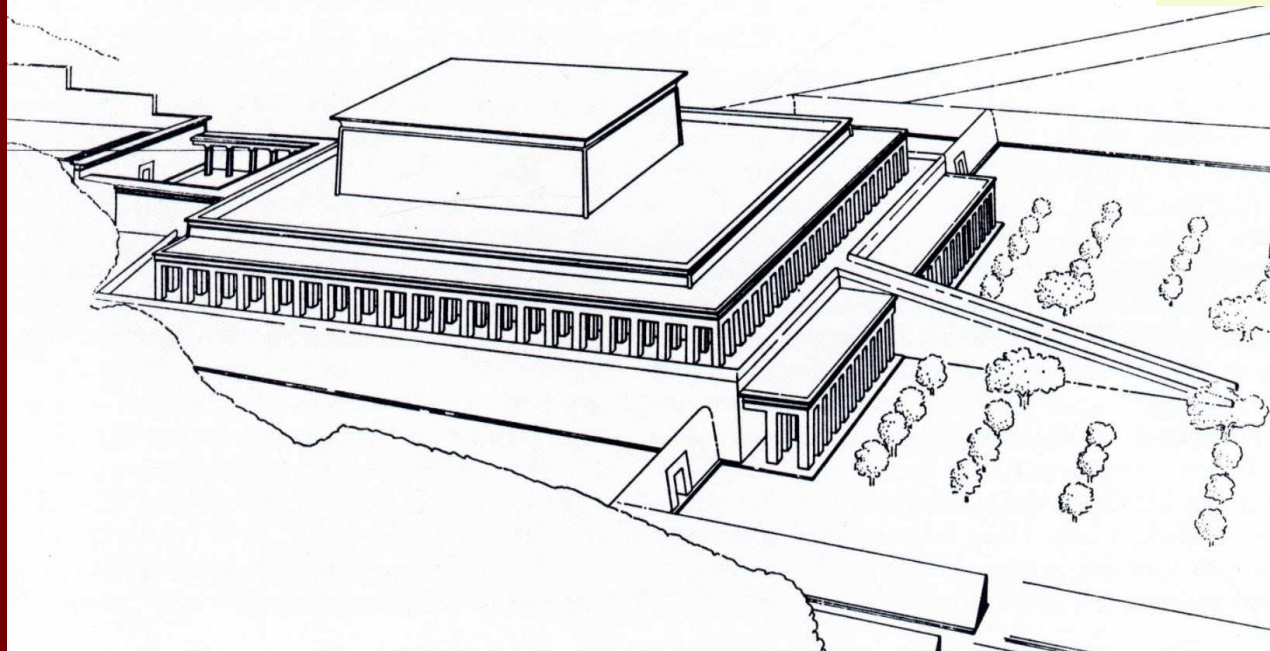


Unusual funerary complex

- built on several levels
- was approached by a 16-metre-wide (150-ft) causeway, leading from a valley temple (no longer existent)
- mortuary temple: forecourt (enclosed by walls on 3 sides), terrace on which stands a large square structure (maybe represents primeval mound arising from waters of chaos)
- faces east □ likely to be connected with the sun cult of Re and the resurrection of the king
- eastern part of forecourt: opening (called the Bab el-Hosan – 'Gate of the Horseman') leads to underground passage and unfinished tomb or cenotaph with seated statue of the king







Relief of Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II

Painted limestone, Egypt Exploration Fund, 1907 (MMA07.230.2)



Neb hapet Ra

nb-ḥꜣpt-rꜥ

The possessor of the rudder of Ra



Sema tawy

smꜣ-tꜣwi

The uniter of the Two Lands



Mentuhotep

mntw-ḥtp

Montu is satisfied

mntw-ḥtp



Sankh ib tawy

s-ḥꜣib-tꜣwi

The one who invigorates the heart of the Two lands

Titulary: nswt-bjti: Nb-
hpt-Re, Serekh
(Horus): SmA-tAwj,
Mntw-htp



Limestone relief
showing
Mentuhotep II
embraced by
Montu
BM EA 1397

From the Temple of
Mentuhotep II, Deir el-
Bahari, Egypt



Limestone relief
showing
Mentuhotep's II
wife Kemsit
BM EA 1450

From the Temple of
Mentuhotep II, Deir el-
Bahari, Egypt



Fallen Asiatics, BM EA 732

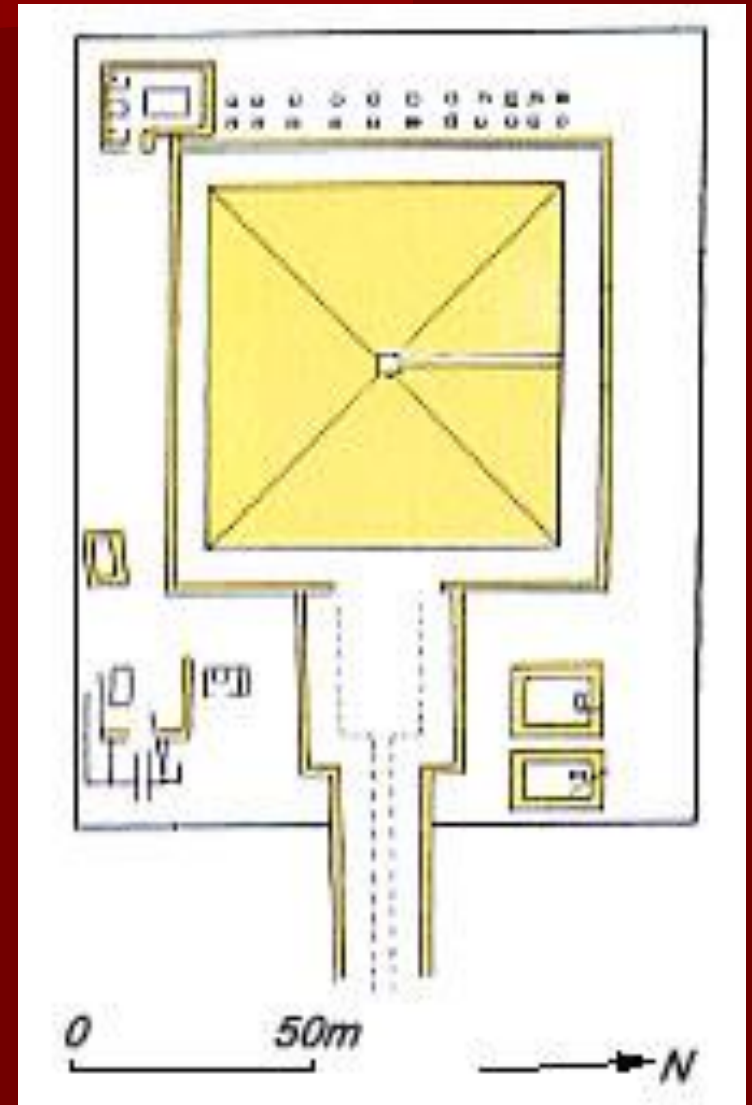
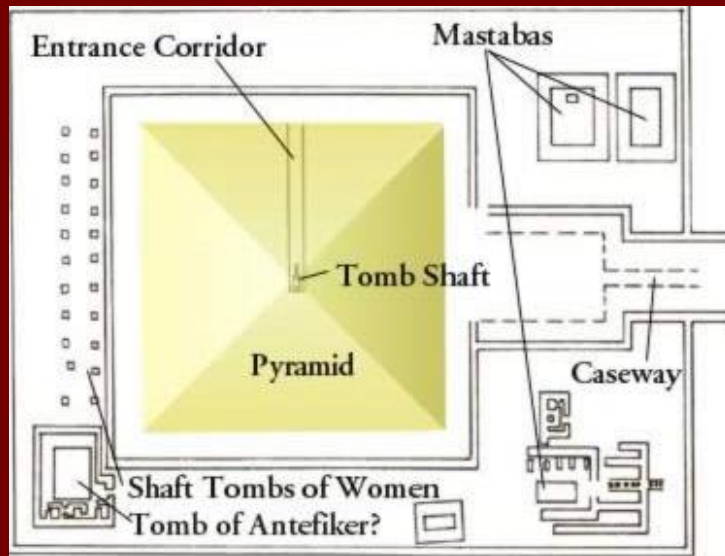


Egypt in the Middle Kingdom

- Amenemhat I moved capital north to Itj-tawy, near modern Lisht
- strongly influenced by the statuary and reliefs from nearby Old Kingdom monuments in the Memphite region, artists of Dynasty 12 created a new aesthetic style
- distinctive works of this period: series of royal statues + mortuary complexes that reflect a subtle change in the Egyptian concept of kingship



Pyramid complex Amenemhet I. at Lisht North



Ritual scene Amenemhet I, Lisht North, PUAM 50-128.1+2



PUAM y50-128.62



Re-used blocks in Lisht North; PUAM y50-128.13+14





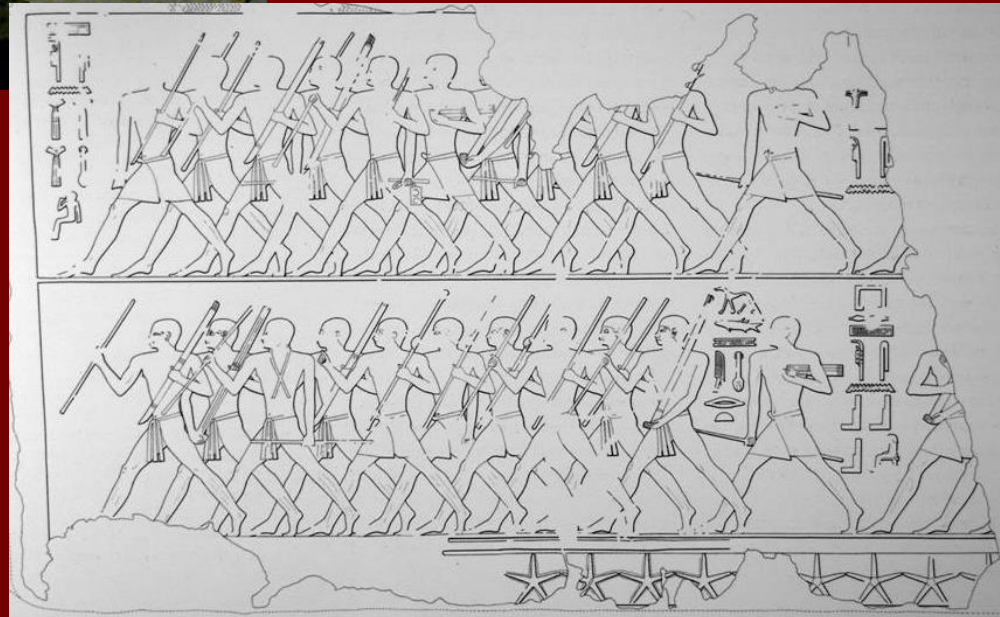
■ PUAM 50-128.17

PUAM 50-128.15+16
(reused in Mortuary
Temple Amenemhet I)



Running Troops (MMA 15.3.1163)

(from a 5th Dynasty royal mortuary temple)



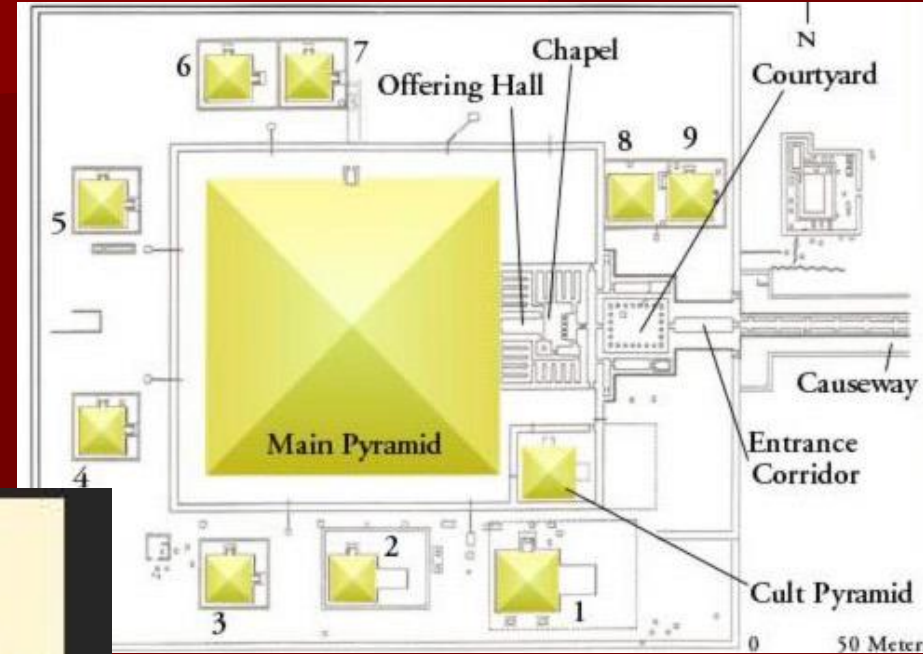
PUAM 50-128.16



Relief Amenemhet I, Lisht North, MMA



Pyramid complex Senwosret I in Lisht South



Aerial Cutaway View



Enclosure Wall



Hawk Panels Light South



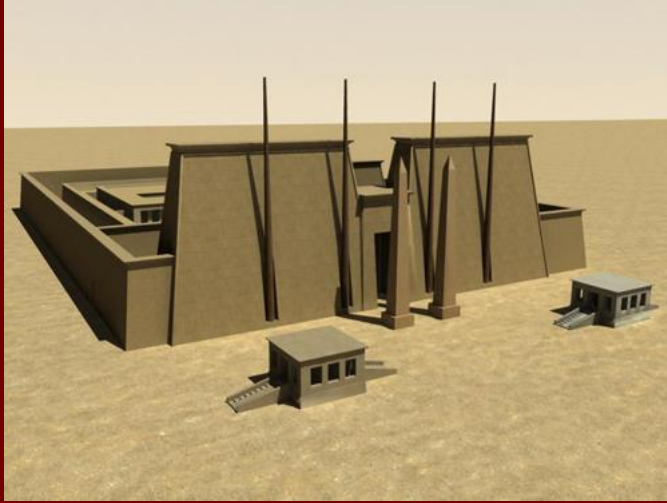
Reliefs from pyramid complex SI in Princeton Univ. Art Museum



PUAM 50-128.3

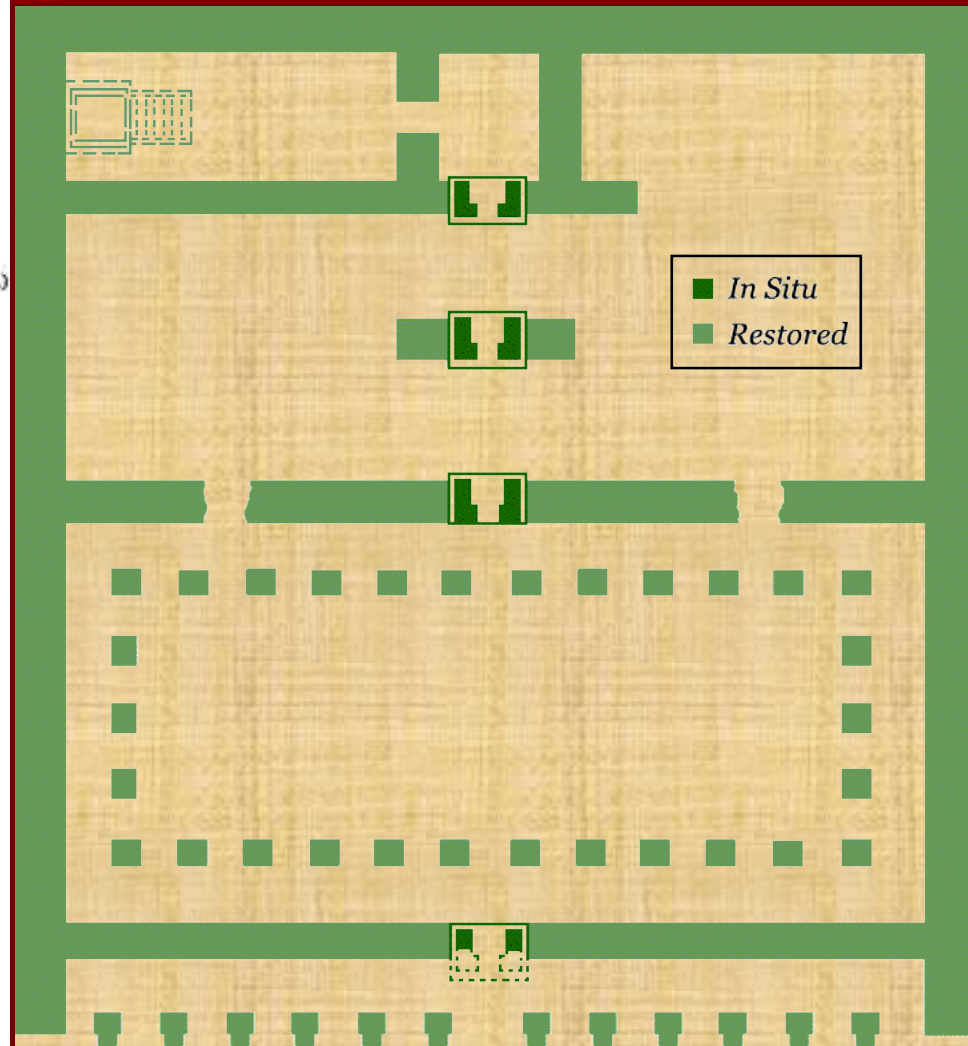
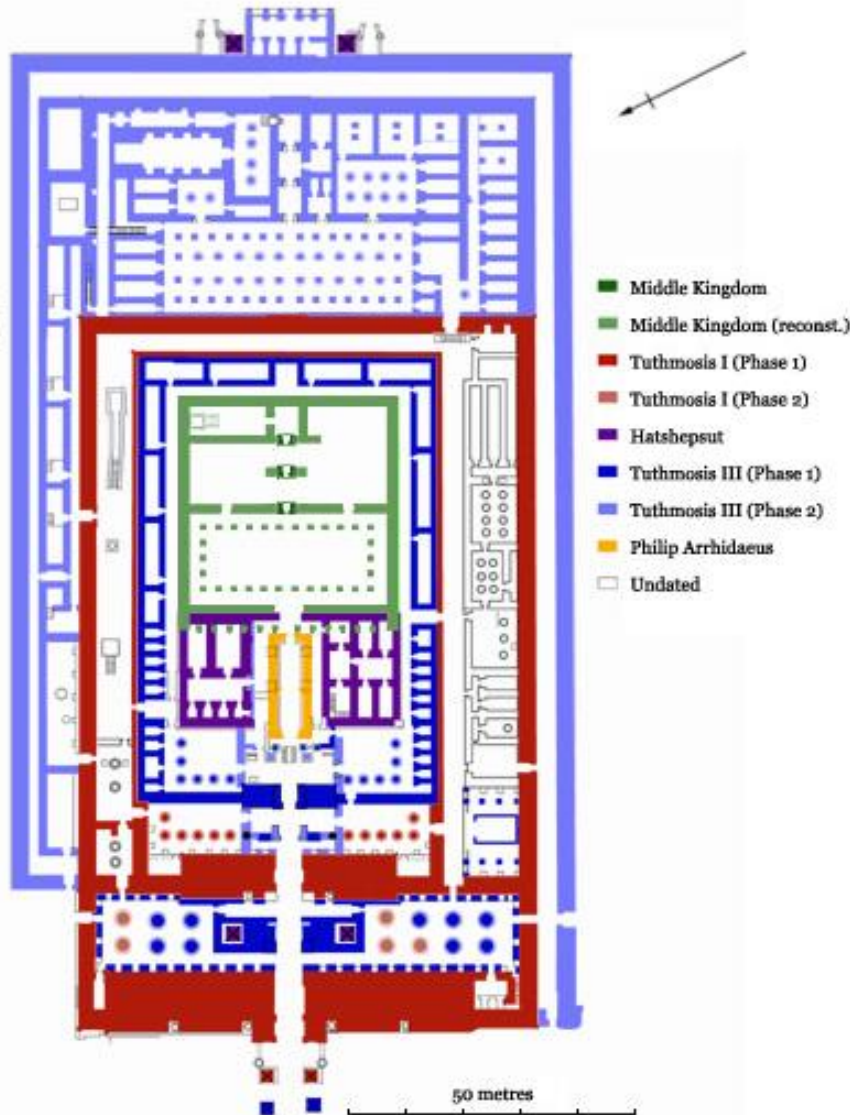


Senwosret I: White Chapel in Karnak





Karnak in the Middle Kingdom



Middle Kingdom Court



Senwosret I:

**BM EA 44 (said to be
from Karnak)**



**BM EA 963 (Elephantine,
chapel stela)**



Senwosret II



Nefret

maybe sister or wife of Senwosret II



Art and craft Senwosret II

Cairo JE 46694 →
MMA 16.1.3a,b



Senwosret III

MMA 26.7.1394 →
MMA 17.9.2

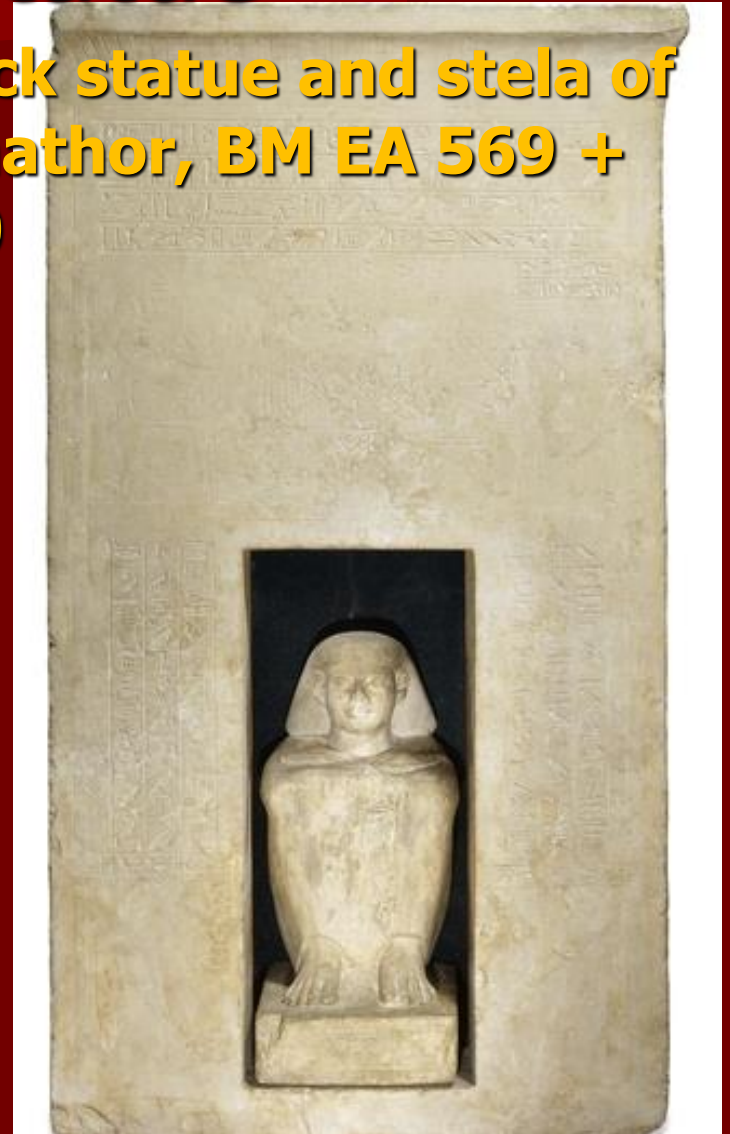


Innovations in private plastic: the block statue

BLOCK STATUE FOR IPI
Christies 2005, Lot 56, Sale
1584 (sold for 42,000\$)



Block statue and stela of
Sahathor, BM EA 569 +
570



Innovations in private plastic: cloaked male private statues (12/13th dyn.)

BM EA 1785 Ankhrekhu



Innovations
in private
plastic:
cloaked male
private
statues
(12/13th dyn.)
BM EA 1785
Ankhrekhu



Wooden Ka-statue of Hor (Cairo)

excavated by French archaeologist De Morgan at Dashur

fine wooden statue of the ephemeral 13th Dynasty king Hor I measures 1m70 in height and stands in a 2m high wooden shrine



Mortuary Temple of Senwosret III in Abydos

severely damaged, excavated by Josef
Wegner (Penn Museum Philadelphia),
believed to be actual burial place and not
cenotaph (Arnold)



SIII: First hidden royal tomb (on Anubis-Hill)



Senwosret III

Mortuary Temple *Nefer-Ka*

The Town Site of *Wah-Sut*

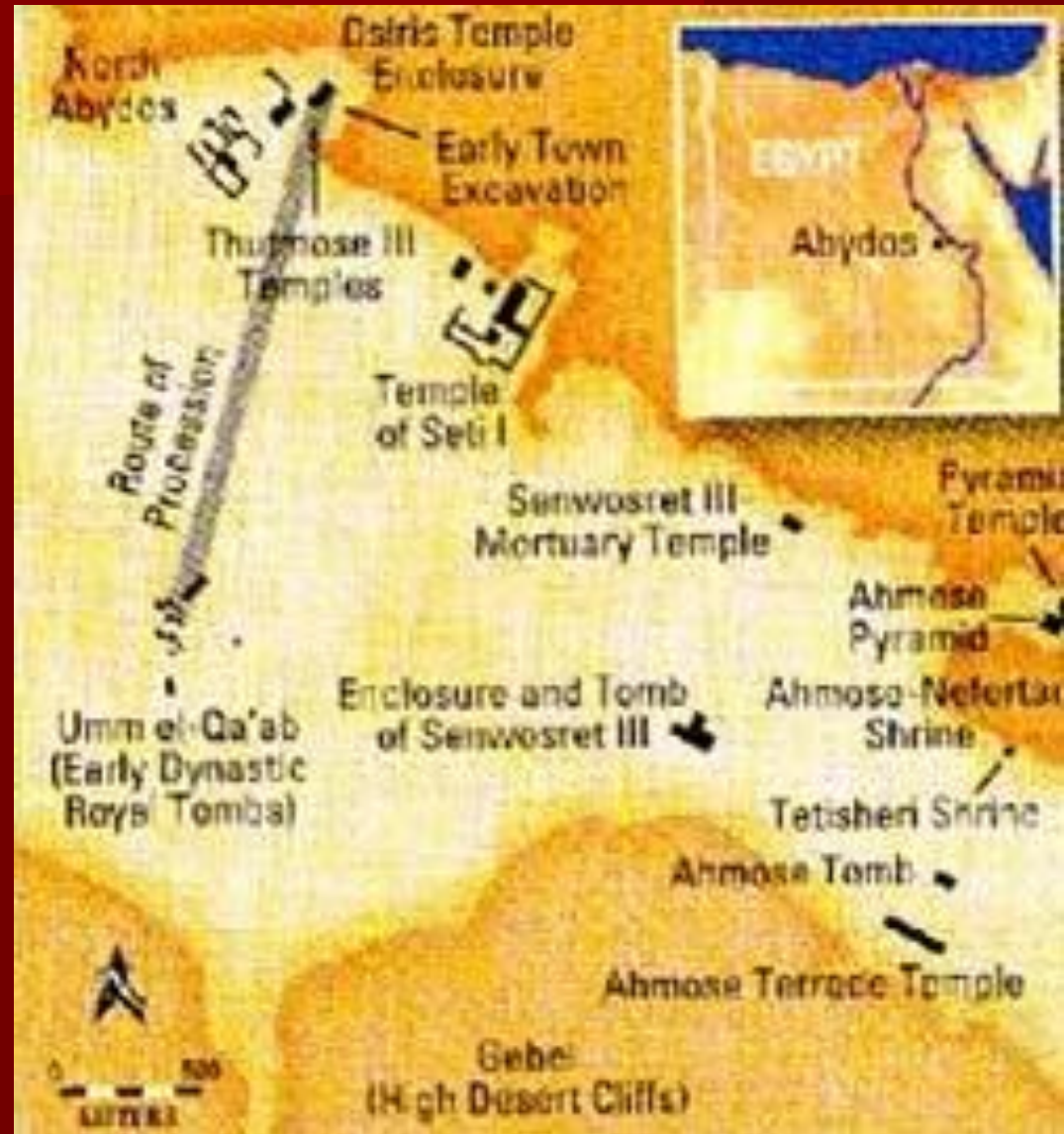


Abydos in MK and SIP

□ main cult centre for worshipping Osiris with tomb of Djer was treated as one of his tombs

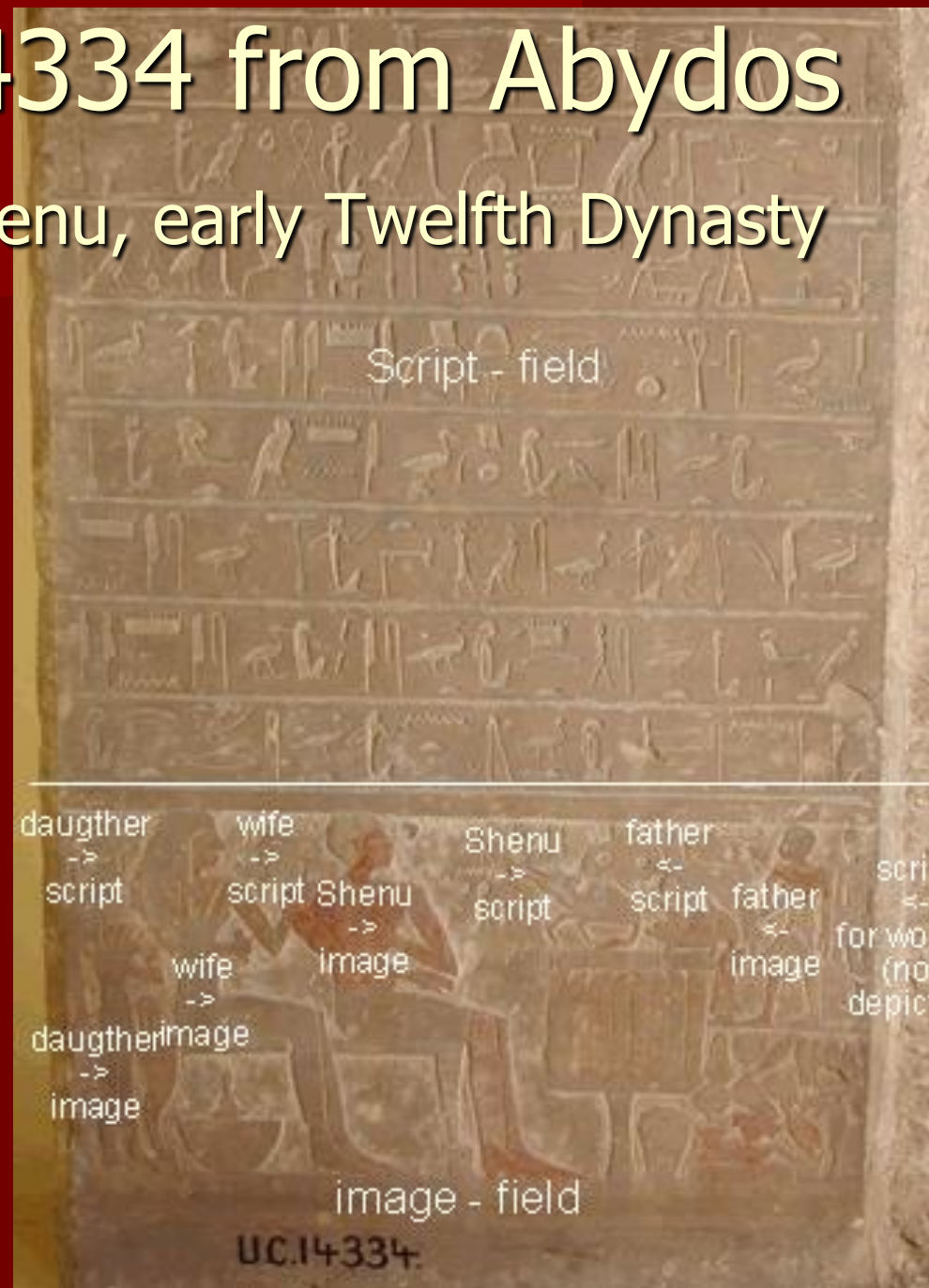
□ many people – including king - set up stelae or small chapels in Abydos

□ vast cemetery in which people were buried

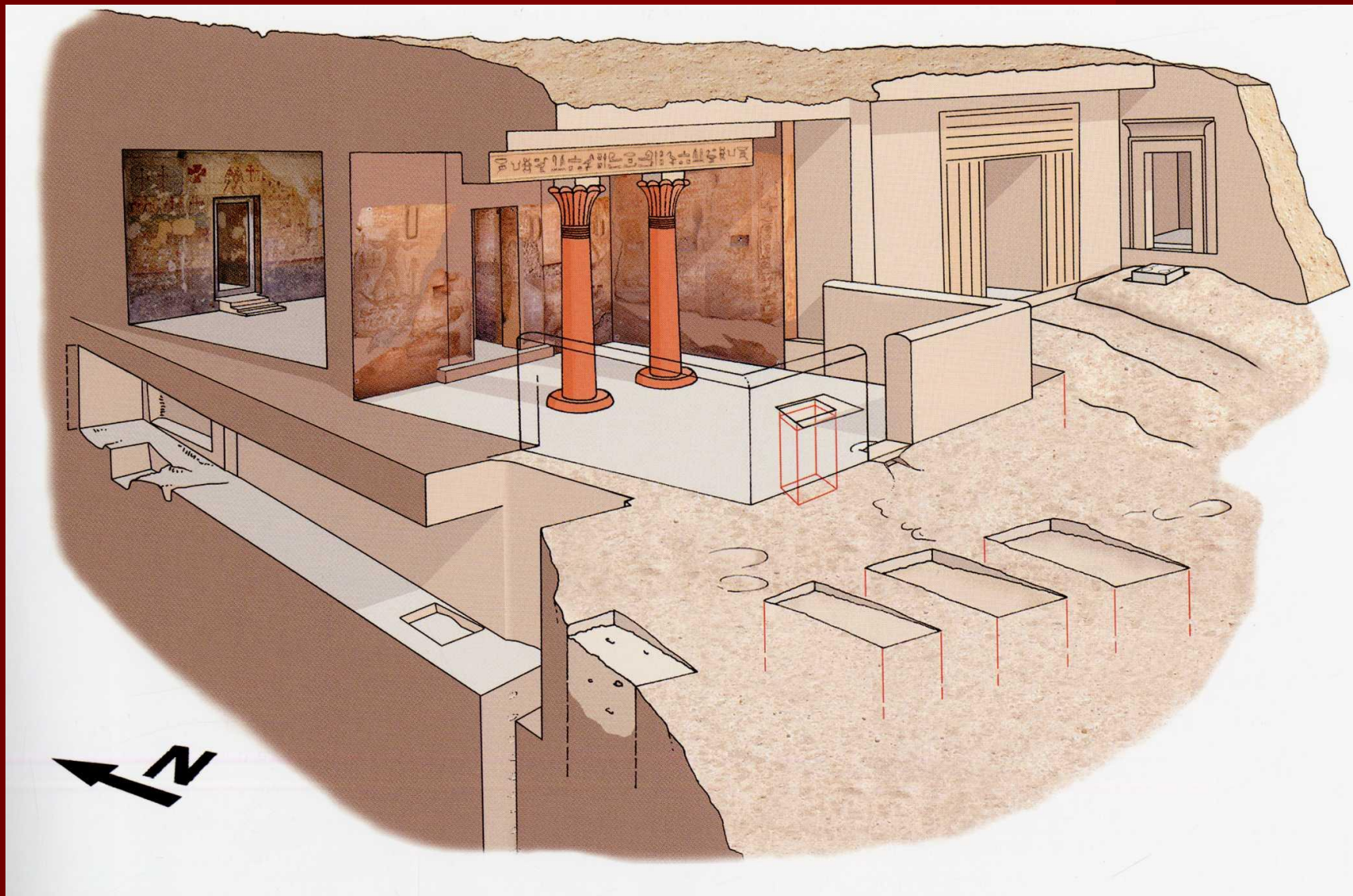


UCL London 14334 from Abydos

Stela of the herald Shenu, early Twelfth Dynasty



Tombs of El-Bersheh



Tomb of Nomarch Djehutjhotep





Outer coffin of Gua

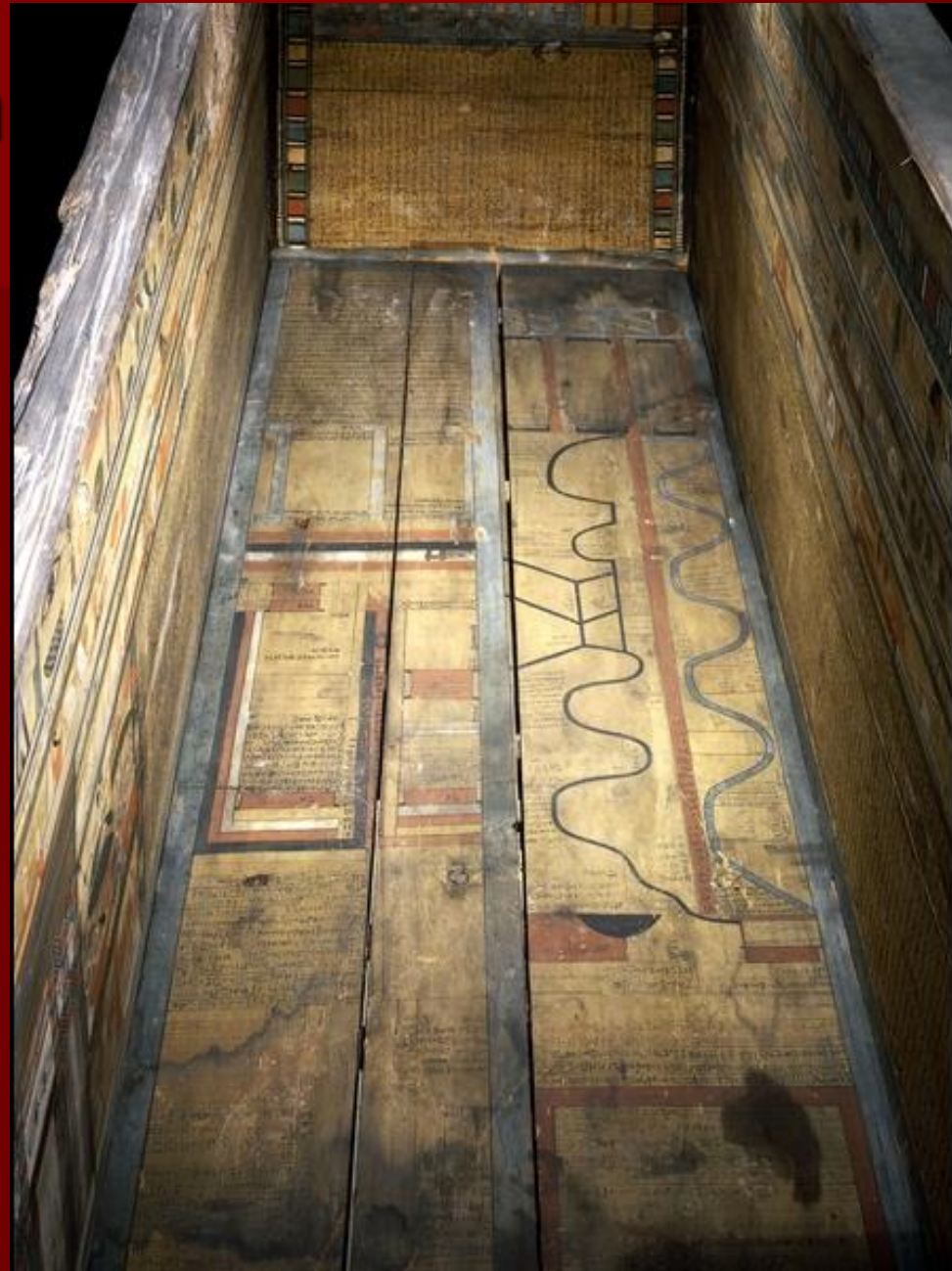
From tomb of Gua, Deir el-Bersha, Egypt

12th Dynasty, 1985-1795 BC

With maps showing the route to the underworld (*Book of Two Ways* = part of the *Coffin Texts*), intended to help the deceased reach the Afterlife.

Coffin Texts are also inscribed (columns of cursive hieroglyphic)

representations of objects required for the Afterlife

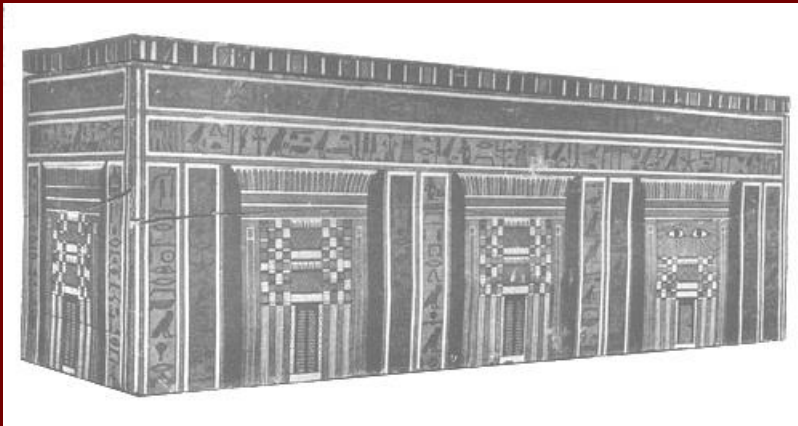


Coffins of the 12th dyn.

- ❑ first anthropomorphic (human shaped) coffins appear
- ❑ always part of a set of at least two coffins: an outer box coffin and an inner anthropomorphic coffin.

Rifeh, the tomb of the two Brothers (late 12th dyn.): coffin set (Manchester)

Outer coffin box



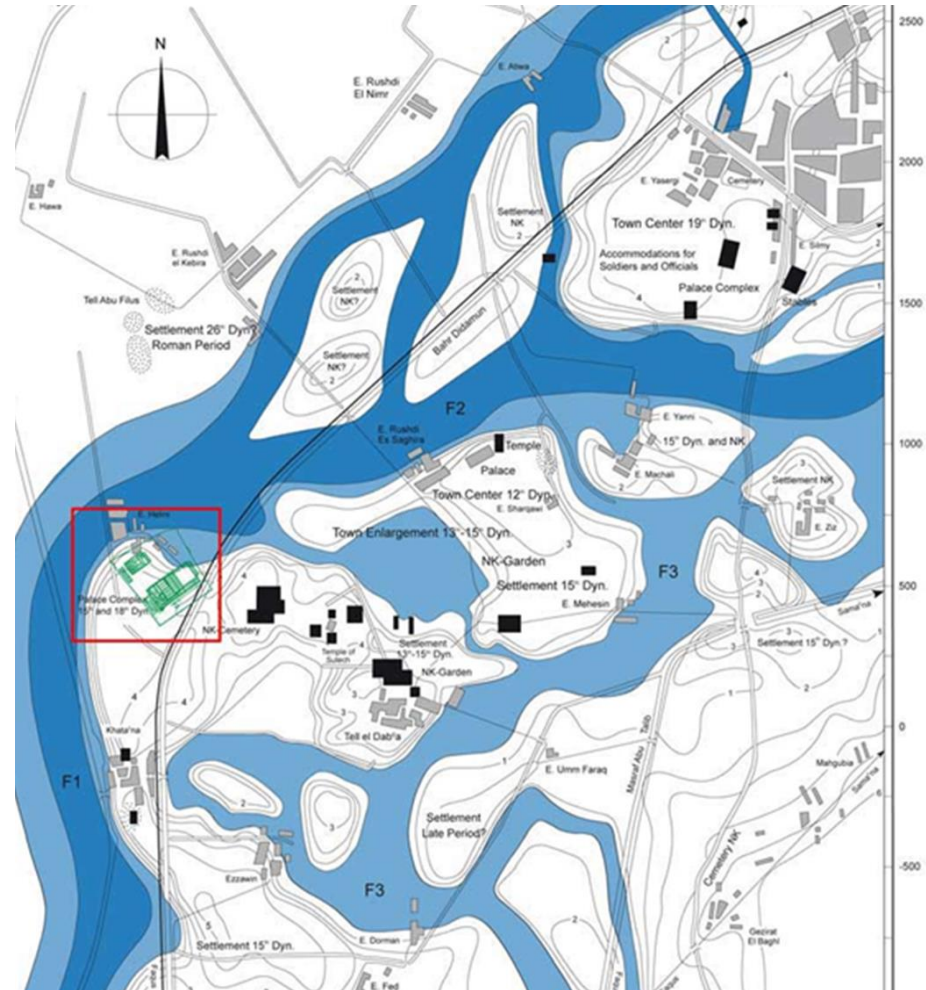
Inner anthropoid coffin



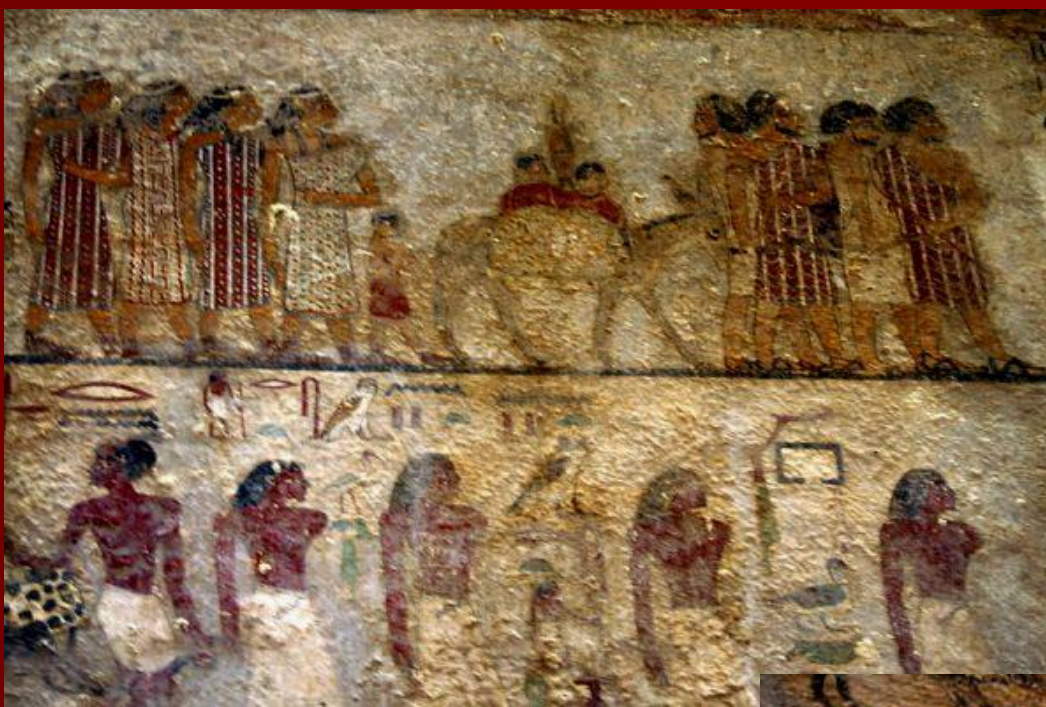
Chronological considerations SIP

- ❑ Instead of a “Second Intermediate Period” it would be better to speak of the
 1. **Hyksos period** and
 2. the Era of the Second Theban Petty State (leads into New Kingdom with the victory of the national Egyptian Thebans)
- ❑ Disagreement: which dynasties should be assigned to the MK and which to SIP
- ❑ general : Middle Kingdom as period of political unity → lasts as long as the country was ruled by one king
 - Therefore: early Thirteenth Dynasty = part of MK,
- ❑ However Ryholt (1997): country already divided at end of 12th dyn → 13th dyn = SIP (not generally accepted)

- Best known from tomb reliefs Beni Hassan (Middle Egypt) □ tomb of nomarch (local governor) Khnum-Hotep (time Senwosret II): north wall



Aamu coming into Egypt





Amenemhet III (later 12th dyn.)



Amenemhet III (later 12th dyn.)



- statues = symbolic representation of "power" of Nile to feed the mass (fish = so abundant in the river that they are jumping out and into your hands)

Hyksos (15th – 16th dyn.)

- Semitic rulers / tribes
- Heka-chaset / Heka-chasut
Ḥq3-ḥ3st / Ḥq3-ḥ3swt
Greek Hykussos (Ύκουσσώς)

Ruler(s) of the foreign lands

- Be careful → Often discussed in Bible Forums as being part or reason for exodus

Sobkhotep Khaankhre (about 1780 BC, 13. Dyn)

- Unknown burial place
- Attested:
 - Column fragment of unknown provenance UC 14411 (Petrie Museum London)
 - Chapel at Abydos



Yakareb

King of the Second Intermediate Period (reading of name uncertain) – maybe 14th dyn, but place uncertain

→ Name only known from two scarabs: crudely cut → possible that names are garbled / misread



Own culture (horse burial)



Warrior tomb Tell el-Dab'a



- orientated NW-SE with burial chamber (2,65 x 1,65 m) and single vault (mudbrick)
- Single skeleton in the entrance area together + cup and jar
- female servant buried in contracted position looking towards tomb chamber (placed at time of main burial) → human sacrifice.

Burials and art

- ❑ tradition of royal burial in pyramids ceased at the end of the Middle Kingdom (around 1750 BC)
- ❑ burials of the Hyksos kings have not been found
- ❑ native Egyptian rulers buried in rock cut tombs in their capital Thebes
- ❑ Innovations: introduction of the *rishi*, an anthropoid (human-shaped) coffin which was decorated with protective vulture wings

Coffins of the 13th dyn. and SIP

- 13th Dynasty and SIP decoration of the coffins
= stylized, palace facade turns into
geometrical pattern.
 - always part of a set of at least two coffins: an
outer box coffin and an inner anthropomorphic
coffin.
- SIP – Rishi coffins
 - NOT in coffin set

Stylized palace facade

→ similar to hawk panel S I



SIP: Rishi coffins

so-called rishi (Arabic for 'feathered') coffins came into use: are anthropoid coffins with feather decoration over the torso (on lid part). They are no longer part of a coffin set with an outer box coffin.

Petrie excavated at Qurneh an undisturbed burial of a wealthy woman, dating to the 17th Dynasty.

Today Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh

