

**FROM  
NARMER'S KEMET  
TO CLEOPATRA'S EGYPT**



African Heritage Forum



# FROM NARMER'S KEMET TO CLEOPATRA'S EGYPT



African Heritage Forum

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# PREFACE

**I**N 2019, African Heritage Forum applied to and received an award from National Lottery Heritage Fund to research and publish information about Ancient Egypt. Title of the project, *From Narmer's Kemet to Cleopatra's Egypt* encapsulated the history and we commissioned Robin Walker to do the research. holding workshops and talking with members of the community about the project were also essential aspects and it was encouraging to observe the interest generated among African, Caribbean and other people.

A key outcome is the publication, which may be seen as controversial to some people but will be welcomed by others. A debate is what makes us human and sharing information keeps us alive.

This book covers thousands of years of world history and, in particular, of Ancient Egypt whose contribution to great civilisations is unmatched. Yet, half of the story has never been told. The book is unable to answer all your questions but it will challenge you to read much more about the history. At the end of the book there are dozens of other publications listed and the list is not exhaustive.

The book celebrates the lives of Africans in Ancient Egypt and it is a living document to be used in learning and teaching environments; also, it is a resource for members of the general public who wish to widen their knowledge and gain a new perspective on how the subject has been taught and presented over the years.

The information contained within these pages will enable, especially young people and their parents to feel proud of their African heritage before the 'Maangameezi'. The book will serve as a catalyst for them to engage in further study about Ancient Egypt and other areas of this vast subject.

*From Narmer's Kemet to Cleopatra's Egypt* will also be invaluable to teachers of Key Stage 2 onwards and the wider community, who will not only gain an insight into the origins of civilisations, but also why some present-day situations persist. Moreover, the Forum has produced a book that will stretch and encourage the reader to learn about Ancient Egypt and African History through the lens of their descendants.

The book is published by African Heritage Forum, a community organisation, in London, England. Established in January 2011, it has endeavoured to focus on aspects of African history that enhances knowledge and appreciation of our ancestors who have laid the foundation for future generations. We believe this will help our young people to strengthen their sense of identity.

*Fyna Dowe, Deputy Chair, African Heritage Forum*

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## **Maangameezi: The word "Maangamizi"**

is a Swahili term which speaks to the intentionality of the African holocaust of chattel, colonial and neo-colonial enslavement.







Right: Figure 1. Modern Egyptians in Aswan with appearances more typical of early Africa. © [http://footage.framepool.com/shotimg/qf/43073746\\_9-egyptian-aswan-cigarette-smoking](http://footage.framepool.com/shotimg/qf/43073746_9-egyptian-aswan-cigarette-smoking)

Right: Figure 2. Modern Egyptians in Cairo showing a variety of complexions and hair textures. © [https://www.aljazeera.com/mritems/Images/2011/1/29/2011129151649610150\\_20](https://www.aljazeera.com/mritems/Images/2011/1/29/2011129151649610150_20)

Above: Figure 3. Portrait sculpture of Pharaoh Narmer/Mena. © <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/9a/3f/a1/9a3fa16c79108fc004e14390ae6f7576>

Right: Figure 4. Wall painting from the Temple of Sebekhotep in Aswan using the symbolic colours of red and yellow.





# INTRODUCTION

## Why the title (From Narmer's Kemet to Cleopatra's Egypt)?



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4

**F**rom Narmer's Kemet to Cleopatra's Egypt is a summary of that country's history and heritage. It was written for teachers of children from the age of ten, for students and for adults who will find plenty of value in this book. The study of Ancient Egypt and the Ancient Egyptians is on the British National Curriculum at Key Stage 2 (Year 6 / age 9 to 11). Most books for school children are not readily understood and some adults may be unable to make sense of the text and images. Not only is most of the published material unreliable, but they focus on less important matters, like mummies, death, cats and magic.

The Ancient Egyptians did not call their country 'Egypt', but 'KMT', which was written as four hieroglyphic symbols: *a piece of charcoal, an owl, a loaf of bread, and a circular village with crossroads*. The charcoal piece represents the letter K, the owl is an M, and the loaf of bread is a T. Scholars read this as 'KMT'. When the vowels are added, it becomes 'Kemet'. It means 'black'. The circular village with the crossroads means village, city, land, nation or community. Ancient Egyptian villages were circular as are many African villages. The four hieroglyphic characters means 'Black Land'.

The name 'Egypt' is derived from the 'Greeks' who had been impressed by the Temple of Ptah, in the Ancient Egyptian capital city. The Ancient Egyptians called this temple 'Hi-ka-ptah' which means 'Temple of the spirit of Ptah'. Ptah was considered the God of Gods. The Greeks modified 'Hi-ka-ptah' into 'Aiguptos'. 'Aiguptos' was originally just the name of the temple. Eventually, the Greeks began using 'Aiguptos' as the name for the whole country. When they fell under Roman occupation, 'Aiguptos' became 'Aegyptus' in Latin. 'Aegyptus' became 'Egypt' in English.



# INTRODUCTION

## Why the title (From Narmer's Kemet to Cleopatra's Egypt)?

In this book the indigenous names will be used as much as possible for Ancient Egypt during the early periods when the Kemetic people were dominant. They were the indigenous people of Africa, whereas modern Egyptians are mainly Arab people who had seized control of North Africa from the seventh century AD.

El-Maqrizi, an Arab historian of the 'Middle Ages', explained this: "Know the land of Egypt when the Muslims entered it, was ... divided among themselves in two sects, both as to race and religion. The one part was made up of men about court and public affairs ... and their number was above three hundred thousand, all Greeks. The other portion was the whole people of Egypt, who were called Qibt, and were of mixed heritage, among whom one could not distinguish Egyptian from Abyssinian, Nubian or Israelite."

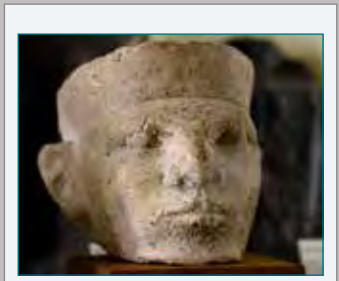
Manetho, an Ancient Egyptian, wrote a History of Egypt based on the archives that existed during his lifetime. He wrote the history around 241 BC for a Greek speaking audience. Consequently, he presented the Kemetic names in versions that Greeks could pronounce. He divided the history into the rise and fall of 30 dynasties. Dynasties are powerful families in which the rulers are related to each other. Manetho listed their names in Greek and the length of their reigns and found the period to be more than 5,000 years of history before his age.

Because of the diverse views of Egyptologists, this book provides an Annex on page 104 that shows Chronologies of six sources and gives details of the periods and lengths of Dynasties. Also, it tells the stories during the generally accepted periods of Ancient Egyptian history: The Early Dynastic Period, The Old Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, Middle Kingdom, and Second Intermediate Period, New Kingdom, Third Intermediate Period, and the Late Period of Kemet.

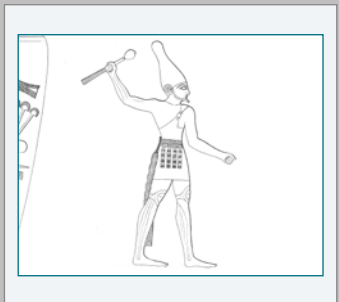
Egyptologists use writings recovered from excavated tombs in their study of Ancient Egypt. Some texts were written on papyrus, the precursor to paper. There were books on medicine, magic and religion. Other documents included letters, poems, travel writings and even romances. Inscriptions were cut into the walls of important buildings or statues and there were public notices, commemorative writings or epitaphs. After the archaeologists



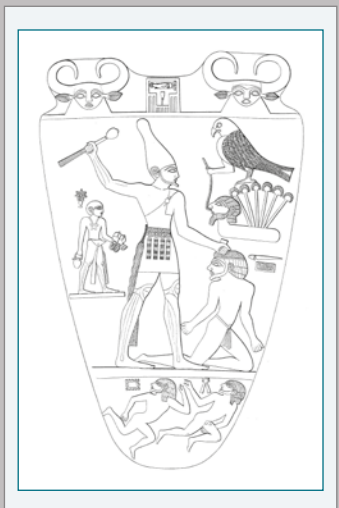
'Kemet' was written with four hieroglyphic symbols: a piece of charcoal, an owl, a loaf of bread, and a circular village with cross-roads.



Portrait sculpture of Pharaoh Narmer/Mena



Narmer palette



Narmer palette





Above: Figure 7. Narmer's Tablet showing how he conquered Lower Kemet and unified it with Upper Kemet. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/be/Narmer\\_Palette.jpg/1200px-Narmer\\_Palette](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/be/Narmer_Palette.jpg/1200px-Narmer_Palette)



Right: Reconstructed image of Cleopatra VII showing African and European ancestry. © [http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_cpTolwY89Rc/TI4g5vQEFII/AAAAAAAAACZE/czPy2--xFlo/s1600/cleopatra-reconstructed](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_cpTolwY89Rc/TI4g5vQEFII/AAAAAAAAACZE/czPy2--xFlo/s1600/cleopatra-reconstructed)

Right: Statue of Cleopatra, Rosicrucian Museum, San Jose.

Above: Cleopatra Wall at a temple at Dendera on the west bank of the Nile River in Egypt.

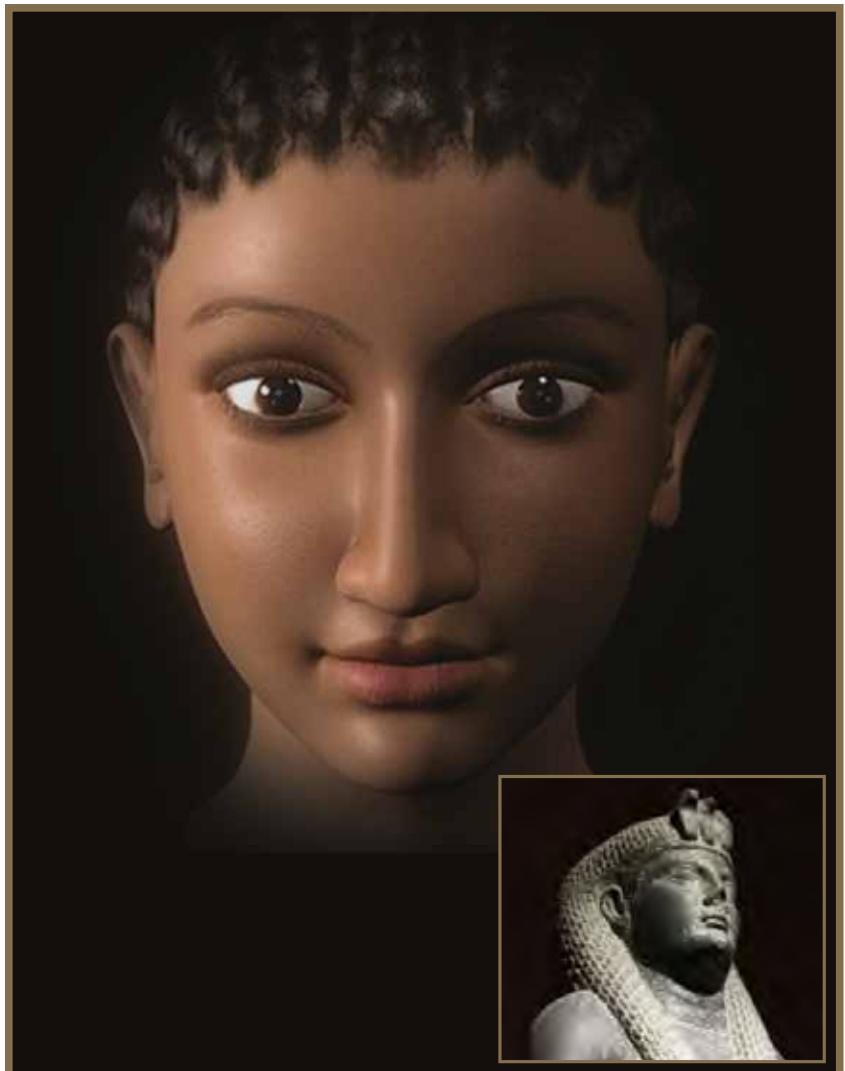


# INTRODUCTION

## Why the title (From Narmar's Kemet to Cleopatra's Egypt)?

found the documents, the next hurdle was reading them. European scholars in 1821 discovered the key to interpreting Kemetic writing. A French scholar, Jean-François Champollion (1790 – 1832), found a public notice in Greek, Egyptian Hieroglyphs and Demotic, and showing the same information. Champollion was also a scholar of Ancient Greek; he read the narratives and unravelled the Kemetic writings. His discoveries made it possible to translate other hieroglyphic documents.

Narmer was the first Ruler of a unified Kemet. Cleopatra VII was the last resident ruler of a unified Egypt.

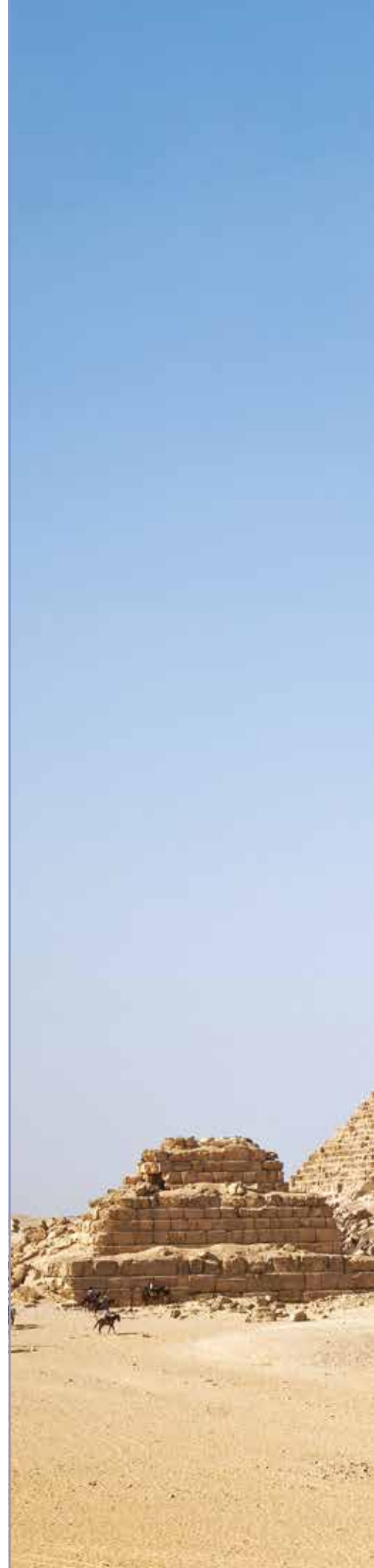
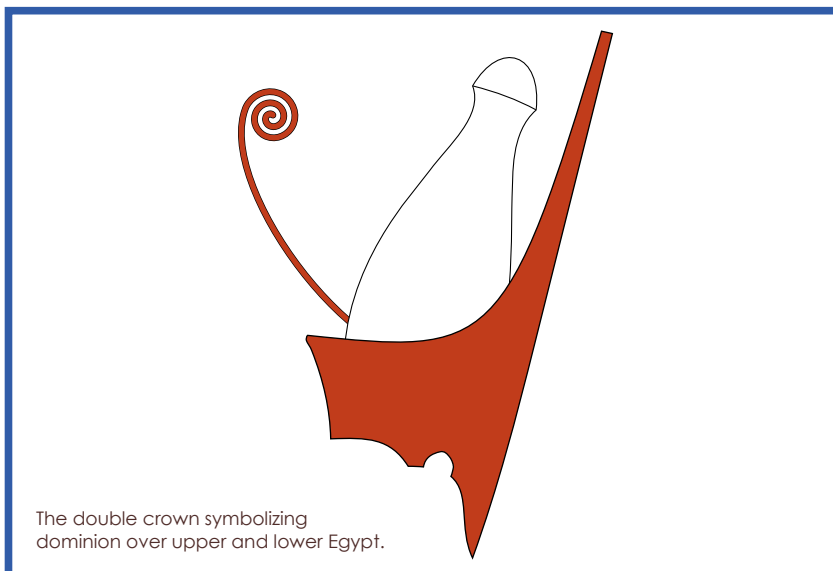




# THE EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD

**T**he Early Dynastic Period of Kemet immediately follows the unification of Lower and Upper Egypt. It is generally taken to include the First and Second Dynasties, lasting from the beginning of the Old Kingdom. With the First Dynasty, the capital moved from Abydos to Memphis where an Egyptian god-king ruled a now unified polity that extended from the Nile Delta to the first cataract at Aswan. Abydos remained the major holy land in the south.

Before the unification of Egypt, the land was settled with autonomous villages. The rulers established a national administration and appointed royal governors. The buildings of the central government were typically open-air temples constructed of wood or sandstone. State formation in Egypt was primarily indigenous in character, and it is likely that a common language, namely Egyptian, was spoken in Upper and Lower Egypt in variant dialects, which facilitated the unification. The earliest hieroglyphs appear just before this period, though nothing is certain about the spoken language represented by the writing at the time.







A step pyramid or stepped pyramid







Right: Figure 5. Close up of the Sphinx of Giza.  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/2e/Visage\\_sphinx.JPG/1200px-Visage\\_sphinx](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/2e/Visage_sphinx.JPG/1200px-Visage_sphinx).





# THE GREAT SPHINX

**T**he Great Sphinx of Giza is the oldest known colossal statue ever made. The indigenous name for the sculpture is 'Hor-m-akhet' and it means the god 'Heru is on the horizon'. 'Sphinx' was the name given by the Greeks. Khem was the Kemet name for the city of Giza. Carved in the shape of a lion, it had the head of an African man wearing the pharaonic headdress. Most Egyptologists believe that a king (or 'Pharaoh') from the Fourth Dynasty commissioned it to be made. Egyptian records name him: 'Khafra' or 'Suphis II'. Greek records call him 'Kephren'. However, the title 'Pharaoh' is not a Kemetan name and it was not used by the people of Kemet. Pharaoh is a name given by authors of the Bible for the kings of Kemet.

The title has since become universal and distinctive, and easily identifies the kings of Ancient Egypt. Egyptologists are agreed that Khafra, Suphis II, and Kephren are different names for the same Pharaoh. A minority of Egyptologists, however, believe that the Great Sphinx of Giza was carved in Pre-Dynastic times, suggesting it was carved before the time of the Pharaohs. Most Egyptologists today believe that the Sphinx of Giza was built around 2550 BC.

Manetho, an Ancient Egyptian historian, wrote a History of Egypt in 241 BC. He dated the Fourth Dynasty to between 4938 and 4654 BC. Most Egyptologists today, however, disagree with him. They think the Fourth Dynasty was from 2613 to 2494 BC. They therefore think the Sphinx of Giza was built around 2550 BC. However, a geologist from the University of Boston, Professor Robert Schoch, confirmed that the Sphinx is from 5000 BC or even older. Nobody has been able to disprove him. What does this mean? Manetho's dates for the Fourth Dynasty seem closer to Professor Schoch's dating of 5000 BC than the dates used by the others.

There are three possibilities

- The Great Sphinx of Giza was built before the time of the pharaohs and the historians are wrong to say it was commissioned by Khafra
- The Great Sphinx of Giza was built during the time of Khafra in around 2550 BC, but historians should just ignore Professor Schoch's findings
- The Great Sphinx of Giza was built during the time of Khafra, but historians should use the Manetho dating for Khafra



# THE OLD KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

**E**gyptologists have divided the country into two: Upper Kemet (the southern area) and Lower Kemet (the northern area). Each area had its own capital city, heraldic flowers, crowns, and protective goddesses. Upper Kemet had its capital at Nekhen. It was called the land of the 'lotus flower' and its rulers wore the 'white crown'. The people of Upper Kemet believed that Nekhbet, the vulture goddess, protected their land. However, Lower Kemet had its capital at Pe (or Buto). It was the land of the 'papyrus plant', and its rulers wore the 'red crown'. The people of Lower Kemet believed that Wadjet, the snake goddess, protected their land.

Archaeologists have excavated the Upper Kemetan city of Nekhen and the Lower Kemetan city of Pe (or Buto). Both cities had houses made of mud bricks. Nekhen existed four hundred years before the time of Narmer. The city was over two miles in diameter and had many neighbourhoods. A potter's house, workshop and 300,000 cooking pots were found. In another part of the city, a brewery was discovered that could have produced beer for 200 people every day. However, Pe had pottery that looked like products made in the Middle East and it indicated that some of the inhabitants of Pe migrated from the Middle East. However, the latter's pottery was like Upper Kemetan's and that after the unification of Kemet, the Lower Kemetans adopted Upper Kemetian pottery. One of the names they used to describe their unified country was 'Sema Tawi', which means 'United States'.

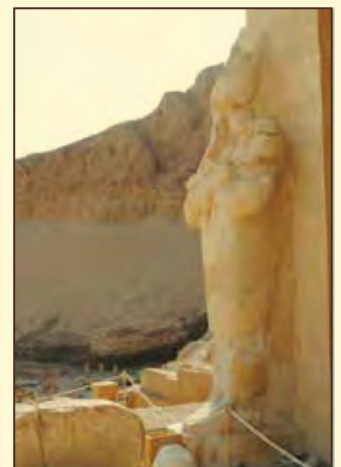
Archaeologists discovered a pictorial document carved in stone. It was called Narmer's Tablet and showed how the two lands were unified. Narmer is shown wearing the white crown of Upper Kemet. He stands with his arm raised holding a mace and he is about to strike an enemy. On the other side of the document, Narmer is shown wearing the red crown of Lower Kemet. Walking in front of him are high officials carrying 'royal standards'. Egyptologists interpret it as showing Narmer, Pharaoh of Upper Kemet, defeating the rulers of Lower Kemet. Therefore, Narmer became the first Pharaoh of a unified Kemet. From then, all Pharaohs of the unified Kemet wore



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Upper Egypt - Egypt SST  
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Figure 9. Pharaoh Djoser



Figure 11. Golden chair and bed buried with Queen Hetepheres, the wife of Pharaoh Sneferu.



Figure 10. Columns in the Funerary Complex of Saqqara.



Figure 13. Portrait of Pharaoh Menkaura

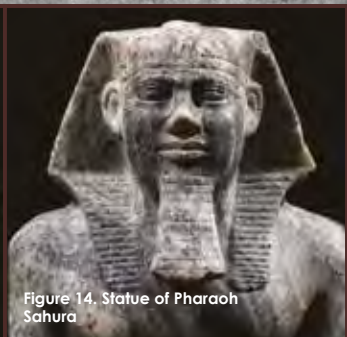


Figure 14. Statue of Pharaoh Sahure



Figure 8. Statuette of Pharaoh Bawitcheh

Figure 8. © AHF \ Figure 9. © AHF \ Figure 10. © [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saqqara\\_-\\_Pyramid\\_of\\_Djoser\\_-\\_Mortuary\\_temple\\_-\\_Hypostyle\\_hall](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saqqara_-_Pyramid_of_Djoser_-_Mortuary_temple_-_Hypostyle_hall) \ Figure 11. © <https://www.disd.edu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Armchair-of-Queen-Hetepheres-I> \ Figure 13. © <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/72/3a/48/723a481d2ca5f21eba099ff77de21280--cairo-museum-amon> \ Figure 14. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/SahureAndNomeGod-CloseUpOfSahure\\_MetropolitanMuseum](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/SahureAndNomeGod-CloseUpOfSahure_MetropolitanMuseum)





## THE OLD KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

the white and red double crown which symbolised their authority over the southern and northern regions of Kemet.

An Ancient Greek historian named Herodotus visited Egypt around 450 BC. After talking with Ancient Egyptian priests, he wrote the following: "The priests said that Menes was the first king of Egypt, and that it was he who raised the dike which protects Memphis from the flooding of the Nile." He also recorded: "besides these works, he also ... built the Temple of Vulcan which stands within the city." It meant that the first Pharaoh of Egypt commissioned workers to build a dike to protect the city of Memphis from flooding. Narmer had commissioned the building of the Temple of Vulcan in Memphis that was still standing in 450 BC. 'Vulcan' is a European name for the Kemetan God 'Ptah'. It may imply that the city of Memphis, built on the border between Upper and Lower Egypt, was first built during the time of the first Pharaoh. 'Ineb-hedj' was the Kemetian name for Memphis.

However, there are differences between Narmer's Tablet and Herodotus' account. One of the sources says that Narmer was the first Pharaoh of Egypt, and the other source says that Menes was. Most Egyptologists believe that Narmer and Menes is the same person. Another source of information on the first ruler of Egypt comes from Manetho. He wrote: "... the First Dynasty consisted of 8 kings. The first was Menes the Thinite; he reigned 62 years and perished by a wound received from a hippopotamus." It indicated that Menes came from an Upper Kemetan city called Thinis, he was the first king of a dynasty of 8 rulers. 'Tjeny' was the Kemetian name for the city of Thinis. Archaeologists found the tablet in 1864. Further information comes from a later king of the Nineteenth Dynasty. 'Seti I' commissioned the Tablet of Aabdu (or Abydos) to pay homage to 75 royals. The first Pharaoh on the list is Mena and the latter may be the correct Kemetian pronunciation of Menes, said to have ruled at the start of the Early Dynastic Period.

### **Different sources of information tell us the following about the first Pharaoh of Kemet:**

- **He was called Narmer during his lifetime but known as Mena and Menes afterwards**
- **He originated in the Kemetian city of Tjeny**
- **He became king of Upper Kemet**
- **He conquered Lower Kemet and unified the two lands**
- **His workers built a major dike near the border between Upper and Lower Kemet**





## THE OLD KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

- **He founded the new capital city of Ineb-hedj near the site of the dike**
- **He commissioned the Temple of Ptah in that city**
- **He ruled for 62 years**
- **He died from a hippopotamus wound**

King Hor-Aha was the next ruler of the dynasty. Archaeologists found his tomb in Memphis. It had five underground rooms carved out of the rock and of an incredible size. Djer followed him as the Pharaoh. Manetho said that Djer wrote books on anatomy and medicine that were still being read thousands of years later. Mer-Neith was the next Pharaoh, the first woman in history to rule a nation. Djet, the next ruler of the line, is best known for the artistic merits of his tomb stela now in the Louvre Museum in Paris. 'Den' followed him as Pharaoh. Medical studies on bone fractures carried out during his lifetime appeared in a much later Kemetan medical document: the Edwin Smith Papyrus. Details of the last three members of the dynasty are not known.

Pharaohs of the Second Dynasty were from the Upper Kemetan city of Tjeny. However, beyond knowing their names, not much is known of them. Archaeologists discovered a Second Dynasty monument near Ineb-hedj. The people of Egypt today call it 'The Gate of the Boss' which is probably not the real name. It is 1,150 feet wide and 2,130 feet long with walls 49 feet thick and may be the world's very first building made of stone.

Farming was the basis of Kemetan civilisation during the first two dynasties. Farmers paid their taxes in grain and foodstuffs to the government. The government collected the grain and stored it in warehouses and if there was a food shortage, they would give the grain to local people who needed it. If there was a surplus of grain, they sold it to people in the Middle East. The Kemetan court had a Court Chamberlain, the Commander of the Nile Flood, the Commander of the Elders, the King's Chief Butler, the Royal Seal Bearer, the Royal Architect, the Keeper of the King's Vineyards, the Leader of the Peers, and the Master of Ceremonies. The country had two treasuries: Lower Kemet was the Red House and the other for Upper Kemet was the White House.

The Third Dynasty included rulers who originated in the capital city of Ineb-hedj (or Memphis). However, during that period there was a change in how the government was organised. The position of Prime Minister became important for the first time. The Prime Minister headed a bureaucracy that governed the country. The first



Above: Figure 12. Royal ship from the time of Pharaoh Khufu. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/e/e7/Gizeh\\_Sonnenbarke\\_BW\\_2](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/e/e7/Gizeh_Sonnenbarke_BW_2)









Above: Figure 13. Portrait of Pharaoh Menkaura  
© <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/72/3a/48/723a481d2ca5f21eba099ff77de21280--cairo-museum-amon>





## THE OLD KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

person to hold this post was Imhotep, the Prime Minister during the time of King Djoser, the second ruler of the dynasty. Imhotep was an astronomer, medical doctor, poet, philosopher, and an architect. His job titles were 'Chancellor of the King of Lower Kemet', 'First after the King of Upper Kemet', 'High Priest of Iunu (or Heliopolis)' and 'Administrator of the Great Palace'. Imhotep designed the Funerary Complex of Saqqara for Djoser. The complex contains Kemet's first pyramid, The Step Pyramid, that was built of six steps. Its shape represents the primaevial mound of creation and had a life-size statue of the Pharaoh. The whole complex was a major leap forward in Kemetan technology and artistic skills. Several thousand years later, tourists still flocked to see the structure.

The Fourth Dynasty included rulers who were said to have originated in the ancient capital city of Memphis. The six huge pyramids were the greatest achievement of the dynasty. Sneferu was its first ruler whose armies fought against the Nubians in the South, seizing 7,000 prisoners as well as 200,000 heads of cattle. His armies also fought against the Libyans to the West, seizing 11,000 prisoners and 13,100 heads of cattle. Those raids boosted Kemet's treasury. Stone quarrying and building projects took place on a large scale. He commissioned the Pyramid at Meidum, the Bent Pyramid of Dashur, and the Red Pyramid. Archaeologists have found a magnificent alabaster sarcophagus, a carrying chair inlaid with gold, a gold encased bed, golden implements, and silver bracelets inlaid with butterflies.

Kemet in the Pyramid Age was an urban society with cities, towns and ports dotted along the Nile River. The Nile was described as a long urban strip. Cities were constructed around temples, craft specialities, graveyards, and government buildings. Some modern statisticians believe that the population of Kemet was then about 8 million people. Since only 11,500 square miles of Kemet was habitable, an estimate of 695 people lived per square mile, a greater population density than modern Belgium, which is the most densely populated European nation.

An example of Kemet technology was in 'shipping'. At the time of Sneferu, the Palermo Stone Annals record that 40 ships returned from Canaan in the Middle East laden with cedar trunks. A Kemetan ship from the time of Khufu, Sneferu's son, has survived and is 25 feet longer than the flagship, Santa Maria, on which Columbus sailed in 1492 (AD) to the Americas.

Khufu, the second Pharaoh of the dynasty, commissioned the Great Pyramid of Giza, the single most important piece of architecture



## THE OLD KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

in world history. Its size, accuracy, and orientation has impressed mathematicians, astronomers, architects, and surveyors over the years. Many books have been written on the monument alone as it was the first of the Seven Wonders of the World. Khafra, the fourth ruler of the dynasty, commissioned the Second Great Pyramid of Giza. Some Egyptologists believe that his face was the model used for the Great Sphinx that is next to his pyramid. Menkaura, the fifth ruler of the dynasty, commissioned the Third Great Pyramid of Giza.

The Fifth Dynasty included Pharaohs who originated in the Kemetan Nubian border city of Anu (or Elephantine). 'Sahura' was the Pharaoh who sent a fully documented expedition to 'Punt' which had the status of a 'holy land' or a land of the Kemetan ancestors. Scholars believe that Punt was, probably, where Ethiopia or Somalia is today. During the Fifth Dynasty, another great person emerged, and he wasn't a Pharaoh, but a Prime Minister, Ptah-Hotep. He wrote a famous philosophical book which offered practical advice on how to conduct oneself in the presence of superiors, inferiors, and equals. It also discussed ethical and social responsibilities. For example: 'If you are a leader, be courteous and listen carefully to the presentations of petitioners. Stop not their speech until they have poured out their heart and spoken that which they came to say ... Not all that is asked for can be granted, but a fair hearing satisfies the heart.' The main lesson it taught was that a righteous act was like a Kemetan idea called Ma'at. Ma'at was a goddess that represented the law, truth, balance, and the 'scales of justice'.

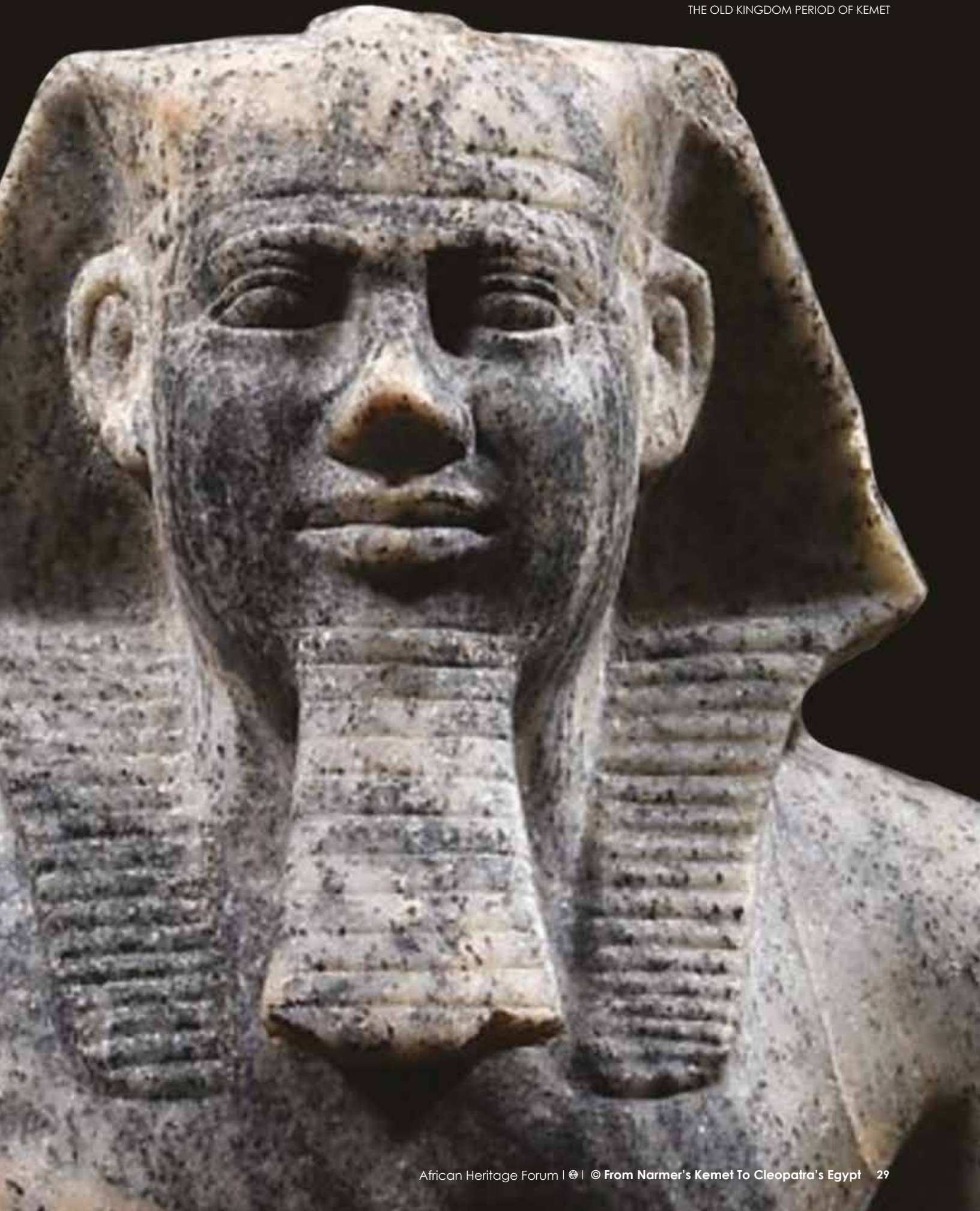
The pyramid of the last king of the dynasty, Unas, had wall inscriptions. Scholars who have copied and translated them, called them the Pyramid Texts. It is the oldest surviving religious literature in the world. The texts included 'spells', religious sayings, and hymns. They represented a Kemetan belief that when the king died, his soul went on a difficult and challenging journey to meet the god 'Ra'. The spells, religious sayings, and hymns were necessary for the king to successfully make his spiritual journey and remain righteous before Ra. The inscriptions also said that earth, air, fire and water were the building blocks of creation. Years later, the Ancient Greeks embraced these ideas known today as 'Greek philosophy'.

Pharaohs of the Sixth Dynasty originated in the Ancient Kemetan capital city of Ineb-hedj (or Memphis). Pepi II was the fifth ruler of the dynasty and inherited the throne as a child. He was said to have ruled for 94 years, the longest of any king in history. When Pepi was a child, one of his subjects, Harkhuf, made four important journeys into central Africa and returned with foreign goods including ebony,



Above: Figure 14. Statue of Pharaoh Sahura. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/SahureAndNomeGod-CloseUpOfSahure\\_MetropolitanMuseum](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/SahureAndNomeGod-CloseUpOfSahure_MetropolitanMuseum)









Above: Pepi II  
© <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/565131453218473056/>



## THE OLD KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

incense, ivory, oils and panther skins. He also returned with a 'Pygmy'. The child king wrote a letter to Harkhuf saying how keen he was to have meet him. The letter also said: "Hurry and bring with you this Pygmy whom you brought from the Land of the Horizon Dwellers who does the dances of the Gods."

Years later as an adult, Pepi II became a great conqueror, seizing control of countries to the south of Kemet, including Wawat, Irthet and Punt. However, in his senior years, things fell apart. The central administration was weakened as the 'nomarchs' gained more power. They took advantage of the king's advanced age to press for greater power and concessions. When Kemet faced economic problems such as famine, the central government wasn't strong enough to help and support. Merenre II became the next ruler but only for a year. 'Nitocris' was the last of the 50 Pharaohs of the Old Kingdom Period and ruled for 12 years.



Jar of Pepi II. © <https://www.ancient.eu/image/11214/jar-of-pepi-ii/>



# THE FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

**A**fter the fall of the Old Kingdom Period, the nation declined and the central economy collapsed. Egyptologists call it the 'First Intermediate Period', an era that is the subject of disagreement among them. A Kemetan document from the period was called Admonitions of Ipuwer. It described how the poor seized power from the rich and the invasions by Middle Eastern armies: "... the tribes of the desert have become Kemites everywhere ...

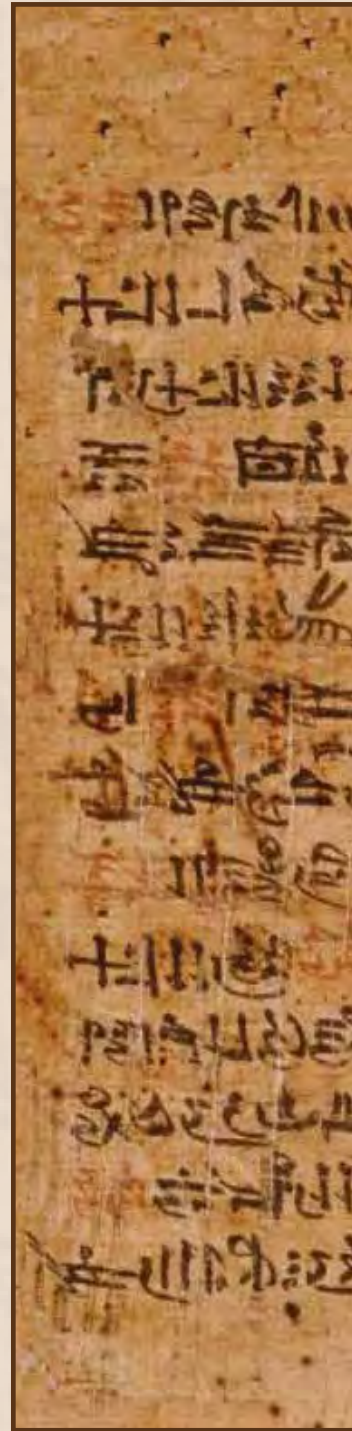
The land is full of confederates, and a man goes to plow with his shield ... Indeed, hearts are violent, pestilence is everywhere, blood is throughout the land, death is not lacking, ... the robber is a possessor of riches and a rich man has become a plunderer ... barbarians from abroad have come to Kemet. Those who were Kemites have become foreigners and are thrust aside ... and the man of rank can no longer be distinguished from him who is nobody ... All is ruined."

Admonitions of Ipuwer include texts upon which the 'Ten Plagues of the Bible' are based.

- For example, Ipuwer wrote: "Nay, but the river is blood." Exodus 7:20 says: "all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood."
- Ipuwer: "Doth a man drink thereof, he rejecteth it as human, (for one thirsteth for water." Exodus 7:21 says: "... the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river."
- Ipuwer: "... and blood is everywhere". Exodus 7:21 says: "... and there was blood throughout the land of Egypt."

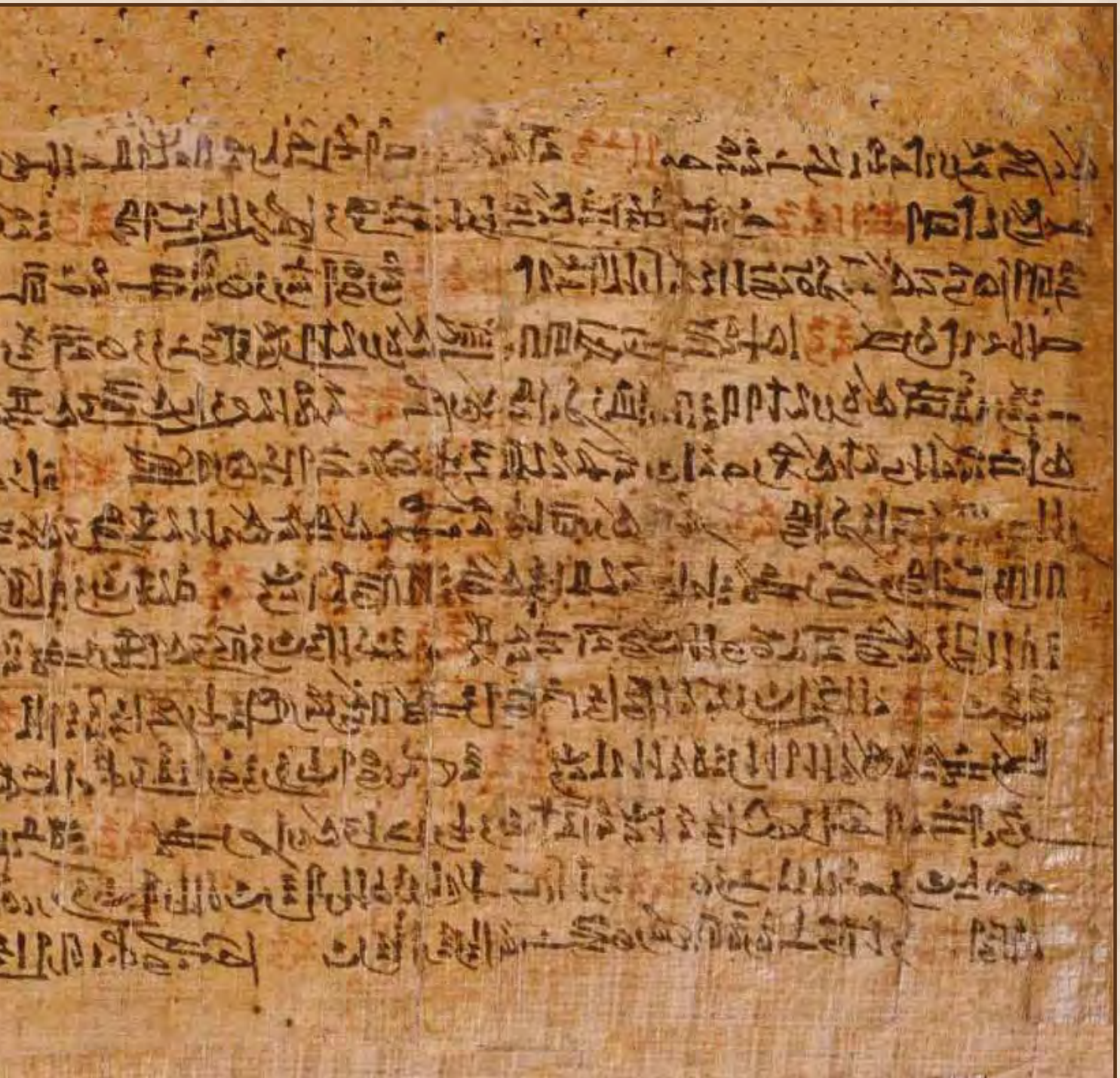
The Seventh and Eight Dynasties are often combined as they include Pharaohs who originated in Ineb-hedj (or Memphis).

The Ninth and Tenth Dynasties ruled from 'Henen-nesut', a city that became the new capital of Kemet. The greatest of the Pharaohs recognised today are Kheti I, Kheti II, Neferkare, Kheti VII and



Above: Figure 15. The Admonitions of Ipuwer. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c8/Papyrus\\_van\\_Ipuwer\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg/1200px-Papyrus\\_van\\_Ipuwer\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c8/Papyrus_van_Ipuwer_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg/1200px-Papyrus_van_Ipuwer_-_Google_Art_Project)





Merikare. Kheti VII wrote the famous Instruction of Merikare for his son 'Merikare'. It advised the young man how to be a good ruler when he inherited the throne. A reading of the text showed that stability was achieved. Pharaonic power was firmly established from Tjeny (or Thinis) in the South to the Mediterranean in the North. The lands south of Tjeny belonged to the Empire of Kush.

Some order returned to Kemet during the Ninth and

Tenth Dynasty periods. The only important advances were the two texts mentioned above: 'Admonitions of Ipuwer' and 'Instruction of Merikare'. Another development was the birth of the 'Coffin Texts'. These were religious writings on the coffins of dead people. The content was based on the 'Pyramid Texts'. However, the spells, sayings and hymns were then available to many more people in their afterlife, not only to the Pharaoh.



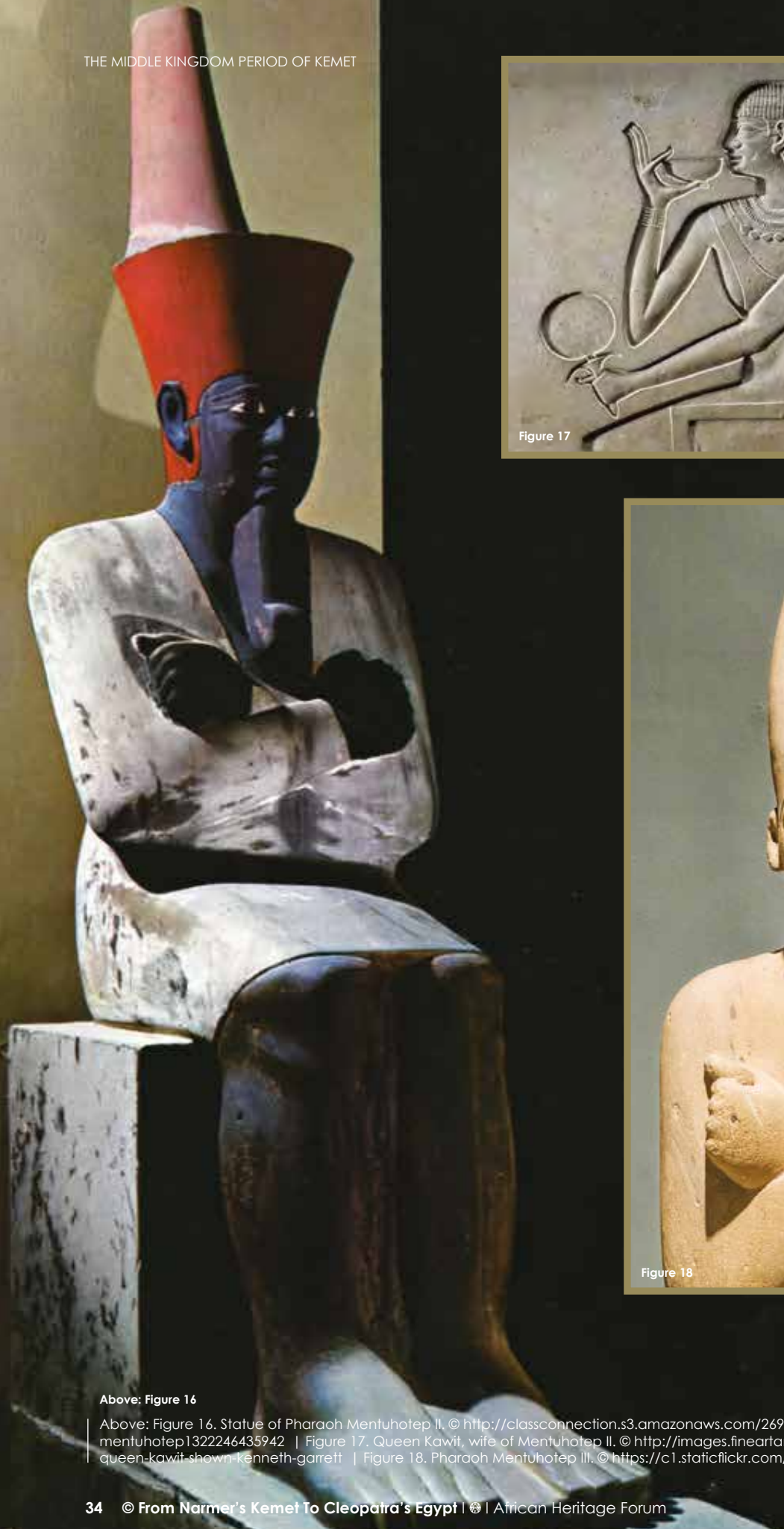


Figure 17



Figure 18

Above: Figure 16

Above: Figure 16. Statue of Pharaoh Mentuhotep II. © [http://classconnection.s3.amazonaws.com/269/flashcards/832269/png/seated\\_mentuhotep1322246435942](http://classconnection.s3.amazonaws.com/269/flashcards/832269/png/seated_mentuhotep1322246435942) | Figure 17. Queen Kawit, wife of Mentuhotep II. © <http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/nubian-queen-kawit-shown-kenneth-garrett> | Figure 18. Pharaoh Mentuhotep III. © [https://c1.staticflickr.com/1/551/31491423553\\_52f3c1faee\\_b](https://c1.staticflickr.com/1/551/31491423553_52f3c1faee_b)



# THE MIDDLE KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

**T**he Eleventh Dynasty included Pharaohs who originated in the southern city of Waset. When the rulers came to power, the Tenth Dynasty was still ruling most of Kemet from their capital at Henen-nesut. The Tenth Dynasty Pharaohs had ruled Lower Kemet and most of Upper Kemet. The first two Pharaohs of the Eleventh Dynasty, Mentuhotep I and Antef I, exercised power only over a small part of Upper Kemet. Antef II was the third king of the Eleventh Dynasty. His armies conquered the northern areas towards Tefibi and southern towards Anu (or Elephantine), the old Kemetan Nubian border. Mentuhotep II, the fifth king of this dynasty, conquered further north. He defeated the Tenth Dynasty Kings of Henen-nesut and unified all of Kemet under his rule. It marked the beginning of the Middle Kingdom Period. Waset became the new capital of the unified Kemet and a great monument built during Mentuhotep II's time was the Mortuary Temple in Deir-el-Bahri. At a much later period, the monument inspired Queen Hatshepsut to build her temple which is still one of Kemet's most celebrated monuments. After 51 years on the throne, Mentuhotep II was succeeded by Mentuhotep III and then Mentuhotep IV.

Amenemhet I was the founder of the Twelfth Dynasty and he was of the 'nomarchy' of Elephantine. He had been the Prime Minister of Mentuhotep IV. However, he overthrew the Pharaoh and became the next ruler himself. As before, Waset remained the new capital, a centre for the worship of the God Amen. Amenemhet I sent his forces into Wawat, the country to the south of Kemet. He guarded control over Wawat by building a chain of powerful fortresses and moved the royal residence to a site near to Ineb-hedj (or Memphis).

The Middle Kingdom was very different from the Old Kingdom Period. Middle Kingdom Pharaohs spent fewer resources on grand





## THE MIDDLE KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

monuments that reached the heavens but instead on more practical things. They excavated wells and reservoirs, built roads, encouraged business, and increased agricultural production. They also guarded their kingdom by building strong fortresses over the territories they controlled. In many ways, the Middle Kingdom rulers were closer to the way that governments operate today.

Among the most interesting Kemetan stories ever written were the Tale of the Court of Pharaoh Khufu, Pharaoh Neferkare and General Saset, the Story of Sinuhe, The Eloquent Peasant, and the Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor. The Eloquent Peasant, for example, was an inspiring story of a peasant standing up for his rights in court against people of much greater power. He won the court case and got justice. The Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor was a tale of an East African expedition on which the sailor was shipwrecked on a magical desert island. One of the characters he encountered was a 'talking snake'.

Some of the Middle Kingdom ships were huge. Diodorus Siculus, an Ancient Greek historian, wrote that the largest ship in the fleet of King 'Sesostris' was 480 feet long. However, when the Greeks mentioned Sesostris, sometimes they meant the Twelfth Dynasty rulers Senwosret I, II, or III. On other occasions they meant Rameses II of the Nineteenth Dynasty and so there is no certainty about whom Diodorus was writing. Nevertheless, one of the Twelfth (or Nineteenth) Dynasty ships was four times the size of the ship on which Columbus sailed to the Americas. Mathematical documents from that period exist today. There is the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus, the Moscow Mathematical Papyrus, the Egyptian Leather Roll, the Berlin Mathematical Papyrus, the Reisner Papyri and the Kahun Papyrus. The numerical problems in those documents were like the high school mathematics that we do today. Among the topics covered were multiplication, division, algebra, simultaneous equations, area, volume, fractions, square roots, geometric series and trigonometry.

Before the Middle Kingdom Period, 'civilisation', as it is defined today, existed mainly in the Nile Valley regions of Africa. During the Twelfth Dynasty period, states appeared for the first time in Asia. The Sumerian people emerged around 3300 BC. Sumer was located where modern Iraq is today. It was quickly followed by the Elamites. Elam was where modern Iran is today. The Akkadians were the next civilisation to emerge. Akkad was where modern Syria is today. A civilisation emerged in the Indus Valley, where Pakistan and Western India are today. Crete emerged as Europe's first 'civilisation'.



Above: Figure 19. The Kiosk for Amen in Karnak. © [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Karnak\\_Weiße\\_Kapelle\\_02](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Karnak_Weiße_Kapelle_02)





| Right: Figure 14.  
| Statues of Senusret III © British Museum





## THE MIDDLE KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

Senwosret was the second king of the Twelfth Dynasty. He completed the Kemetan occupation of Wawat, the country immediately south of Kemet. Guarding Kemetan power, he commissioned the building of castles in the region: at Quban and Aniba. His armies even entered Kush, the empire to the south of Wawat. In Kemet, he commissioned great temples. The Kiosk for the barque of Amen in Karnak is still widely admired today. Its wall-decorations are impressive. However, a Greek legend claimed that Senwosret I founded the Greek city of Athens.

Senwosret II was the fourth king of this dynasty who commissioned the building of dams and canals. They were built around Lake Moeris to irrigate the Fayum region. Another of his constructions was the city of Kahun. Archaeologists discovered that it was a planned city with straight roads that crossed each other at right angles. A stone gutter ran down the centre of each street. The smallest homes of the poorest people had 4 to 6 rooms and larger than most modern flats or apartments. In areas where the wealthy people lived, archaeologists discovered mansions, each with 70 rooms.

Senwosret III was the fifth king of the dynasty whose armies continued the colonisation of Wawat. He commissioned castles built over an area 30 miles long. He sent his armies into Palestine. The conquered Middle Easterners then began using the Kemetan writing system and the Kemetan calendar. The portrait sculptures of this king show an expressiveness and realism never seen before. Praise songs were written for him and may be the earliest praise songs in African culture. One of them reads:

*"Praise to thee, Khakaure! Our Horus, Neter-kheperu!  
That protects the land and extends his boundaries,  
That vanquishes the foreign countries with his crown.  
That encloses the Two Lands in his arms,  
And strangles the foreign lands with his grip;  
That slays the People of the Bow, with the stroke of the club.  
Shooting of the arrow, or drawing of the string.  
His might has smitten the Troglodytes in their land,  
And the fear of him has slain the Nine Bows.  
His slaughtering has made thousands to die  
Of the People of the Bow ..., that attacked his borders.  
He that shoots the arrow as does Sekhmet,  
When he overthrew thousands of them that knew not his might.  
It is the tongue of his majesty that confines Nubia.*



## THE MIDDLE KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

*And it is his utterances that make the Bedouins to flee.  
Sole youthful one that fights for his boundaries,  
And suffers not his people to wax faint;  
That suffers men to sleep unto daylight,  
And his recruits to slumber, for his heart is their defender.  
His decrees have made his boundaries,  
And his word has joined in one the Two River-banks."*

Amenemhet III was the sixth king of this dynasty. He commissioned two important pyramids, at Hawara and Dashur. At Hawara, he commissioned the Labyrinth. It was the very largest building in antiquity with 3000 rooms and 12 palaces. 1,500 rooms were above ground. The other 1,500 were underground. Herodotus, the Ancient Greek historian, saw it in ruins three thousand years later. He wrote: "I visited this place, and found it to surpass description; for if all the walls and other great works of the Greeks could be put together in one, they would not equal, either for labour or expense, this Labyrinth; and yet the [Greek] temple of Ephesus is a building worthy of note, and so is the temple of Samos. The pyramids likewise surpass description and are equal to a number of the greatest works of the Greeks; but the Labyrinth surpasses the pyramids."

Amenemhet IV, the next Pharaoh, ruled for 9 years and following him was Sebekneferura Sobekkare the last Pharaoh of the dynasty. Her reign of 3 years and 10 months was the end of the Middle Kingdom.



Pharaoh Amenemhet III  
© Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Anders Sune Berg]



Above: Figure 17. Queen Kawit, wife of Mentuhotep II.. © <http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/nubian-queen-kawit-shown-kenneth-garrett>







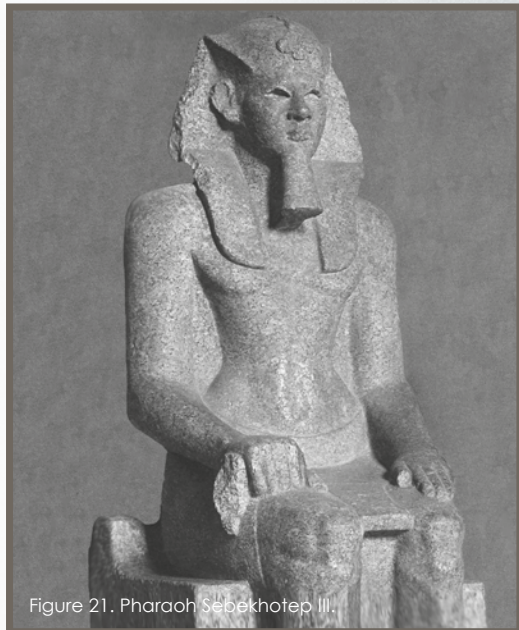


Figure 21. Pharaoh Sebekhotep III.

## Diversity of Views on the Second Intermediate Period

### Manetho provided the following information:

- The Thirteenth Dynasty had 60 kings who ruled for 453 years from Waset
- The Fourteenth Dynasty had 76 kings who ruled for 184 years from Xoïs (probably Avaris)
- The Fifteenth Dynasty had 6 Shepherd Kings who ruled for 284 years
- The Sixteenth Dynasty had 32 Shepherd Kings who ruled for 518 years
- The Seventeenth Dynasty had 43 rival kings who ruled for 151 years from Waset

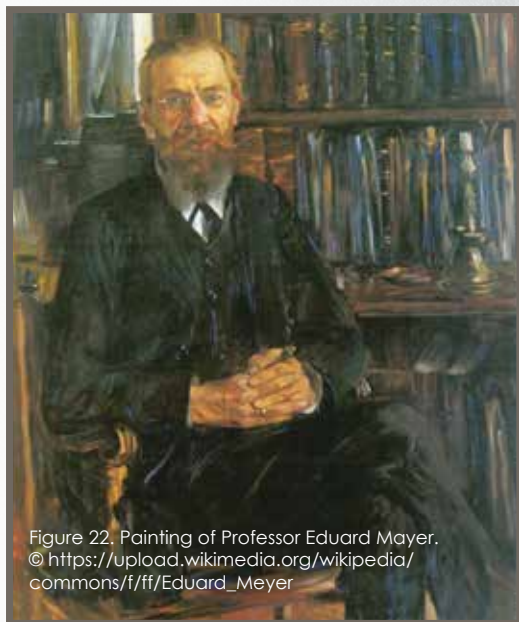


Figure 22. Painting of Professor Eduard Mayer.  
© [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/i/ff/Eduard\\_Meyer](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/i/ff/Eduard_Meyer)

Egyptologists who say that five dynasties ruled for around 200 years do not accept Manetho's account. Instead, they prefer what is called the 'Berlin Chronology'. Eduard Meyer created the timeline in 1887. The American archaeologist James Henry Breasted modified and circulated it in 1906. Two African American scholars, James Brunson and Runoko Rashidi, also circulated the dating system among Black scholars in 1989. The Berlin Chronology is the one used in textbooks, television documentaries, and on the Internet. A minority of Egyptologists believe that the Manetho account is trustworthy and reliable. Some writers, such as Champollion-Figeac in 1839, MacNaughton in 1932, Pochan in 1971 and Robin Walker in 2006 have produced timelines close to the Manetho dating.





# THE SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

**T**he Thirteenth Dynasty continued to rule from the southern city of Waset and their 60 Pharaohs reigned for 453 years. However, the power of the Pharaohs weakened as more power was taken by local ministers. Each king reigned for an average of 7 ½ years. Civil war broke out and a rival power invaded the North, adding to the problems, and the people to the south of Kemet broke free from Kemetan control. They burned the Kemetan castles, and later the southern boundary returned to Anu (or Elephantine).

Nomadic Semites entered Lower Kemet and became the rival power to the Pharaohs of Waset. They built Avaris, their own capital. Enslaved Asiatics and free men joined the invaders. They built pyramids at Dashur and Saqqara. Ruling from Avaris in Lower Kemet, the foreign rulers became Dynasty Fourteen. The exact date of assuming power is unknown but they took advantage of the chaos to make themselves rulers of the North while Dynasty Thirteen ruled in the South. They remained in power 184 years after the fall of Dynasty Thirteen. 76 Pharaohs reigned in this dynasty.

The Fifteenth and Sixteenth Dynasties were ruled by foreign people called the 'Hyksos or Shepherd Kings'. The two dynasties had a combined total of 38 Pharaohs. A Greek language document names 28 of them. Manetho said they reigned for 802 years but Robin Walker's study shows this to be 836 years. However, a rival indigenous dynasty of 43 rulers challenged the Hyksos Pharaohs. They became known as Dynasty Seventeen. Eventually, the Dynasty Seventeen kings defeated the Hyksos and drove them out. Kemet was unified again and the Second Intermediate Period came to an end.



# THE NEW KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

**S**eqenenre Tao II of the Seventeenth Dynasty rebelled against the Hyksos. However, the foreign rulers had stronger chariots and more powerful bows and arrows. While the Kemetans used wooden bows, the foreign rulers had the composite bow that could fire over a much greater distance. Consequently, Seqenenre Tao II died in battle. Kamose was the next Pharaoh of the Seventeenth Dynasty, continued the war of liberation against the Hyksos and liberated Upper Kemet from their control. However, he did not live to see the final victory.

Ahmose I, his brother, became the next Pharaoh, and defeated the foreigners, driving them into the Middle East, and then conquering the Canaanitic city of Sharuhen. Manetho considered Ahmose I as the beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty. There were 15 Pharaohs of the dynasty. Moreover, Ahmose I's reign was the beginning of the New Kingdom Period. The New Kingdom was the Third Golden Age of Kemet. At the time, Kemet included large Asian and African-Asian populations that had settled there in the previous 1,000 years.

Amenhotep I, was the second Pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty. He brought together scientists, artists, architects, poets and theologians. Together, they created the greatest cultural flowering since the Twelfth Dynasty. A Kemetan astronomer invented a water clock during the period, and other scholars wrote a medical encyclopaedia. Egyptologists call it the Ebers Papyrus that had chapters on intestinal disease, ophthalmology, dermatology, gynaecology, obstetrics, pregnancy diagnosis, contraception, dentistry, etcetera. Kemetan priests wrote a book called the Book of the Hidden Chamber that for the first time depicted the idea of 'Hell'.



Figure 24

Above right: Figure 23. Mortuary Temple at Deir-el-Bahri. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4c/Tempel\\_der\\_Hatschepsut\\_%28Deir-el-Bahari%29.jpg/1200px-Tempel\\_der\\_Hatschepsut\\_%28Deir-el-Bahari%29](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4c/Tempel_der_Hatschepsut_%28Deir-el-Bahari%29.jpg/1200px-Tempel_der_Hatschepsut_%28Deir-el-Bahari%29)

Above: Figure 24. Statuette of Pharaoh Hatshepsut. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/53/HatshepsutStatuette\\_MuseumOfFineArtsBoston.png/350px-HatshepsutStatuette\\_MuseumOfFineArtsBoston](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/53/HatshepsutStatuette_MuseumOfFineArtsBoston.png/350px-HatshepsutStatuette_MuseumOfFineArtsBoston)







Above right: Figure 25.  
Head from a colossal statue  
of Pharaoh Amenhotep III.  
© [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bf/British\\_Museum\\_Egypt\\_074](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bf/British_Museum_Egypt_074)





## THE NEW KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

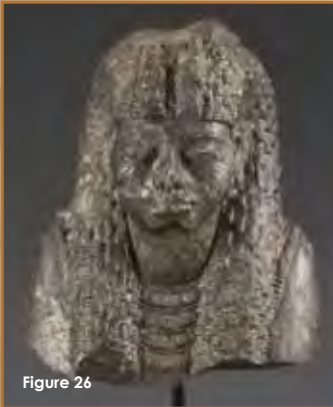


Figure 26



Figure 27

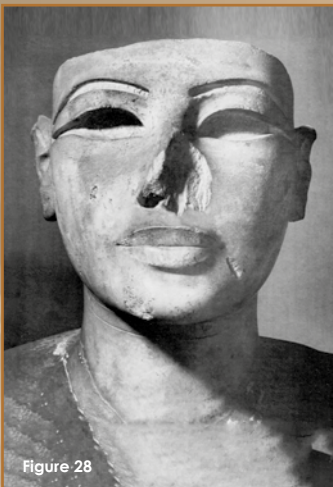


Figure 28

Above: Figure 26. Statuette of Queen Tiye. © [https://www.albanyinstitute.org/system/html/2013.1.10\\_a\\_QuennTiy-e8a2d0fd](https://www.albanyinstitute.org/system/html/2013.1.10_a_QuennTiy-e8a2d0fd).

Figure 27. Canopic Jar depicting Pharaoh Amenhotep IV, also called Akhenaten.

Figure 28. Detail from a colossal ivory statue of Pharaoh Seti I.

Thutmose I was the third Pharaoh of this dynasty. His military conquests extended Kemetan power further, and his forces conquered Kush, the empire south of Wawat. He had its capital city sacked and then burned, then his armies marched further into the Middle East. They conquered as far as Syria and the ancient city of Ineb-hedj was chosen to be the military headquarters of the empire. Waset remained the religious and cultural capital.

Thutmose II chose his daughter, Hatshepsut, to become co-regent with him. Eventually she became the Pharaoh, commissioning the building of a temple cut out of the rock at Deir-el-Bahri. Tourists today admire this monument. She dedicated it to the Gods Amen, Anubis and Hathor. On the temple walls are records of voyages from Kemet to Punt that she authorised. The ruler of Punt, Queen Eti is depicted on the walls. The Kemetan sailors sold weapons and jewellery to the people of Punt and in return, the Puntites sold incense, animals, animal skins, gum, gold, ivory and ebony to the Kemetan sailors. The Kemetans continued to think of Punt as a land of their distant ancestors.

Thutmose III was the sixth ruler of the dynasty. He fought 17 battles to keep control of Syria and Kush. Each year, he collected 794 kilograms of gold from the Kushite goldmines. Kemet became wealthy and powerful in the time of Amenhotep III, the 9th Pharaoh of the dynasty. His royal wife, Queen Tiye, was the mother of Akhenaten and grandmother of Tutankhamen.

The city of Waset was said to have had a population of one million residents and more than 6 square miles on both sides of the Nile. On the edge of the city along tree-shaded avenues were the houses of the nobles having 50 or more rooms, lakes and flower gardens. Inside were beautifully painted walls, exquisite furniture, vases and sculptures that were of gold, bronze, ebony, ivory or glass. Towards the centre of the city stood the royal palace, the House of Rejoicing. Along the Nile, in the centre of the city, stood the great temples of Karnak and Luxor, towering over everything. The Kemetan name for the Karnak Temple was Ipet-Isut, and for the Luxor Temple it was Shemayit-Ipet. Students and priests energised temple activities. Horse-drawn chariots rode along the sphinx-lined avenues. On the river, lay quays where the merchant ships of the Nile mingled with those from the Mediterranean. Across the river to the western plain stood other temples, equally magnificent. From there led to the Valley of the Kings, the royal graveyard. The temples in Kemet had libraries with thousands of papyrus scrolls. The head of these libraries had the title, Governor of the House of Books.





## THE NEW KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

Amenhotep IV, also called Akhenaten, was the tenth member of the dynasty. His wife was Queen Nefertiti. Akhenaten commissioned a new capital city north of Waset called Akhetaten, built on a horizontal vertical grid that was landscaped with flowers and beautiful gardens. Moreover, Amenhotep IV/Akhenaten unilaterally changed Kemet's religion and accused the priests of Amen of becoming corrupt, also sidestepped their influence. He spread his new ideas of peace, perfect love, brotherhood, and truth promoting a new god called 'Aten'. He composed the Great Hymn to Aten. Many writers have noticed the similarity between the Hymn and a later book: Psalm chapter 104 in the Bible.

(Psalms 104) Jehovah my God you are very great.  
*(Hymn to Aten) Sole God beside whom there is none!*

(Psalms 104) Jehovah, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.  
*(Hymn to Aten) How many are your deeds ... You made the earth as you wished, you alone, All peoples, herds, and flocks.*

(Psalms 104) You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.  
*(Hymn to Aten) When you set in western nightland, Earth is in darkness as if in death*

(Psalms 104) The young lions roar for their prey ... when the sun rises, they withdraw, and lie down in their dens.  
*(Hymn to Aten) Every lion comes from its den*

Tutankhamen, the twelfth member of the dynasty, inherited from his father Akhenaten the throne while still a teenager. Because of his age, the chief priest made the decisions. The chief priest decided to reverse the radical religious ideas of Amenhotep IV. He restored 'Amenism' and Waset as the religious capital. Tutankhamen passed away while a teenager and scholars who studied his mummified body found that he died from 'sickle-cell' anaemia. Unlike most of the other Pharaohs, Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered intact with the treasures buried with him in the chamber.

The Nineteenth Dynasty consisted of 6 Pharaohs. Seti I was the first Pharaoh of the dynasty. He led campaigns into Asia, Nubia, and against the Libyans. His greatest legacy was in architecture,



Figure 30

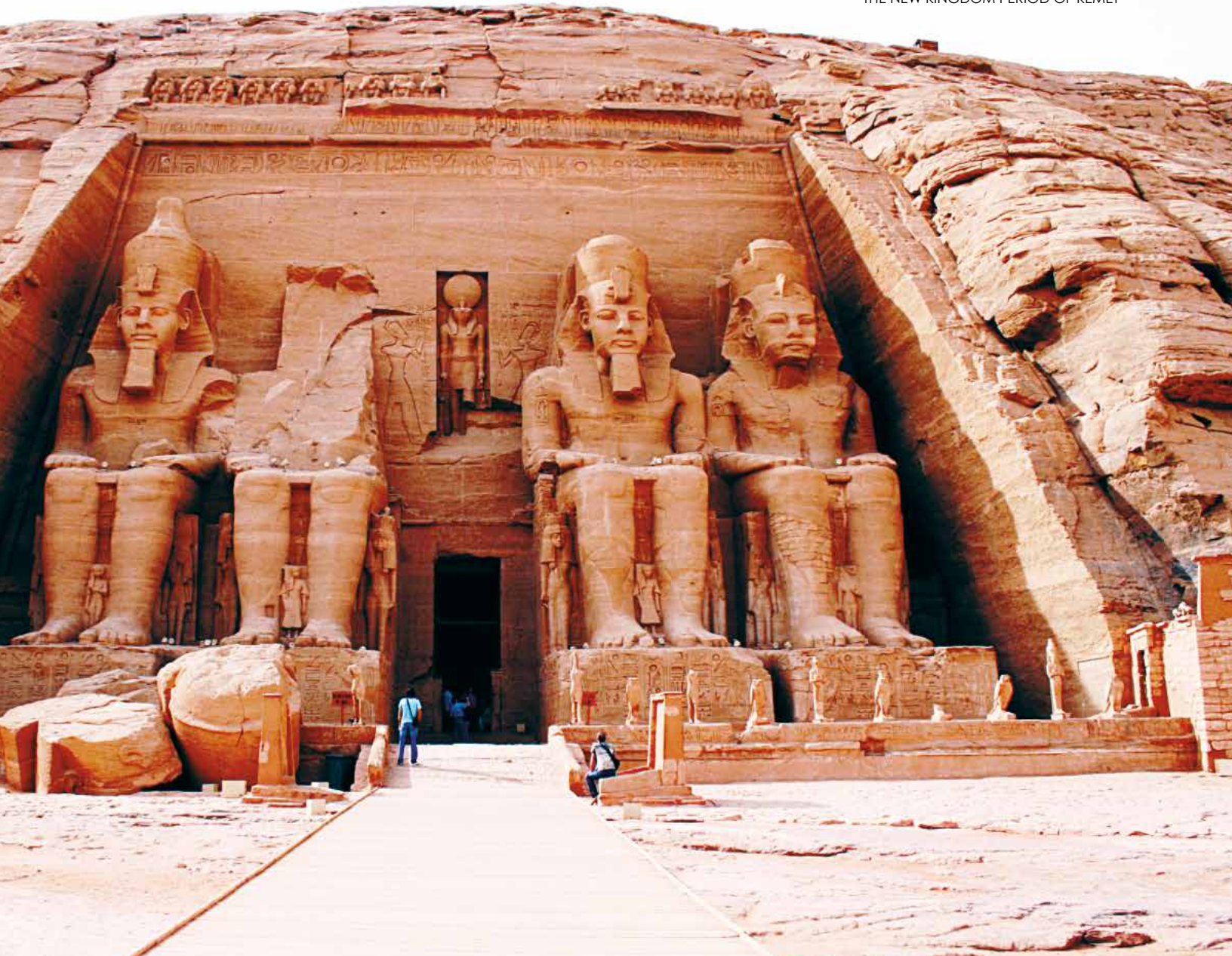


Figure 29

Bottom right: Figure 29. The Hypostyle Hall at Karnak. © <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/56/Karnakpanorama>

Top right: Figure 30. Temple at Abu Simbel with four colossal statues of Pharaoh Rameses II. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/Abu\\_Simbel,\\_GroBer\\_Tempel\\_196](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/Abu_Simbel,_GroBer_Tempel_196)













## THE NEW KINGDOM PERIOD OF KEMET

commissioning 'The Hypostyle Hall at Karnak' which had 134 columns, spread out over 5,000 square feet. One architectural scholar described it as "the most magnificent on which the eye of man has ever rested."

Rameses II was the second Pharaoh of the dynasty. He faced political problems in the Middle East where a new military power was formed in the Turkish region, called the Hittites. They threatened Kemetan power in the region and it led to a battle that Egyptologists call the Battle of Qadesh. The outcome of this battle is disputed. The Kemetans claim that they won. Some documents found show that they lost. Over the following century, the Kemetans lost all their power in the Middle East. However, Rameses II left behind a massive architectural legacy. In the swamplands of Lower Kemet, he built the new capital city called Pi-Ramesseu on the site of the former Hyksos capital: Avaris. In Waset he commissioned major buildings. However, his most famous monuments visited today are in Kush. He commissioned the carving of two rock cut temples at Abu Simbel that included four colossal statues of himself.

Merneptah was the third Pharaoh of the dynasty. He moved the capital from Pi-Rameses back to the ancient city of Ineb-hedj which gained a new prestige during his time and he commissioned the building of his palace complex there. However, he faced new political threats from Libyans who joined forces with people from across the Mediterranean. Scholars call the foreigners 'Sea Peoples'. Merneptah's forces eventually crushed the invasion.

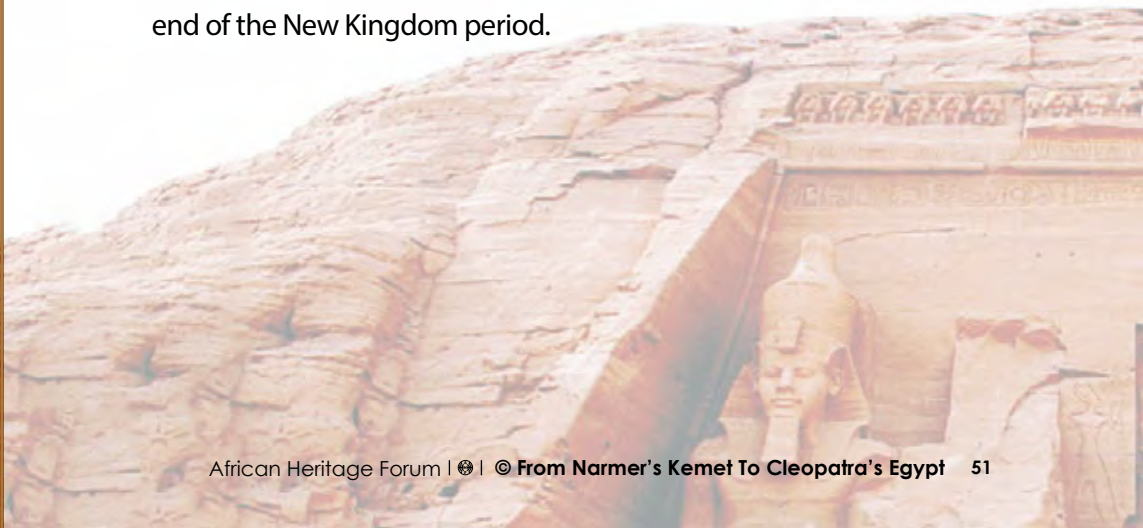
Rameses III was the second king of the Twentieth Dynasty. All of them from Rameses IV to Rameses XI were not effective rulers and when the Twentieth Dynasty fell, central authority in Kemet collapsed. Kemet became split into two powers, the North and the South. With the death of Rameses XI came the end of the New Kingdom period.



Figure 31. Pharaoh Rameses VI.  
© [https://farm1.staticflickr.com/90/258554867\\_ce043bb185\\_z](https://farm1.staticflickr.com/90/258554867_ce043bb185_z)



Ahmose I.







# THE THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

**S**ome of the Twenty First Dynasty Pharaohs ruled from Tanis in Lower Kemet holding the title of Pharaoh. However, they exercised control only in the North. The others ruled from Waset in Upper Kemet with the title of High Priest of Amen and had control only in the South. Manetho presented the two different dynasties as one. Egyptologists have a diversity of views on this matter.

The Twenty Second Dynasty included Pharaohs who were of Libyan heritage. They appointed their sons as High Priests of Amen and brought some unity to Kemet. However, Libya included indigenous Africans, Asians, African-Asians, and other people among the populations. For that reason, some Egyptologists dismiss the Libyan Pharaohs as not of African heritage. Well-preserved mummies of Libyan queens have survived and they were clearly indigenous Africans. The most important of the Libyan Pharaohs was Shoshenq I, the first ruler of the dynasty.

The Twenty Third Dynasty ruled from Tanis in Lower Kemet. Beyond knowing the names of the first two rulers, Pedibast and Osorkon III, little else is known. It is likely that this dynasty was also of Libyan origin. Some Egyptologists do not believe those Pharaohs were indigenous Africans. Various petty rulers took power in different parts of Kemet.

The Twenty Fourth Dynasty consisted of two Pharaohs: Tefnakhte and Bakenrenef. They ruled from the lower Kemetan city of Sau (or Saïs). Both kings supported the kingdoms of Israel and Samaria against the newly rising power of Assyria in the Middle East.

The Twenty Fifth Dynasty was Kushite, the empire to the South. Piye was the third Pharaoh in this line. His armies and navies defeated Tefnakhte in battles at the Kemetan cities of Kemenu (or Hermopolis), then Ineb-hedj, and then Iunu (or Heliopolis).









## THE THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Shabaqa was the fourth Kushite Pharaoh. The whole of Kemet had now been unified under a single ruler for the fourth time. Women relatives were given posts of 'High Priestess of Amen' in Kemet.

There was an attempt to rebuild Kemet inspired by Old Kingdom examples. A new writing script called 'Demotic' was developed, and much quicker to write than the earlier systems of Hieroglyphics and Hieratic. It spread literacy widely and many more ordinary people took the opportunity of reading the new script than Hieroglyphics and Hieratic.

The Twenty Fifth Dynasty included Pharaohs of Kushite heritage, three of whom also ruled over a unified Kemet. Shabaqa was the first of these three Pharaohs. He not only unified Kemet but united it with the Empire of Kush. Just as the Twenty Fourth Dynasty supported kingdoms in the Middle East, Shabaqa did the same. When the Assyrians attempted to invade the kingdom of Judah, an ally of Kush, King Taharqa intervened, saving Jerusalem from destruction. An account of the story is found in the Bible, 2 Kings 19:9; Isaiah 37:9). Taharqa was the third of these Pharaohs and the empire stretched to Syria in the Middle East. His armies extended it further by invading northwest Africa and Spain. Taharqa built and restored grand monuments in Waset, Ineb-hedj and Napata, the capital of Kush. Serious problems followed when in 671 BC the Assyrians invaded Kemet and captured Ineb-hedj but Taharqa's armies fought and re-captured it in 669 BC. The Assyrians invaded a second time and successfully persuaded local rulers in Kemet to swear allegiance to them.

Tanwetamani was the next ruler of Kush. His armies kept up the fight against the Assyrians and re-captured Ineb-hedj. The Assyrians invaded a third time and their armies reached Waset in 663 BC. They devastated the city and placed Libyan rulers on the throne.

The Libyan Pharaoh, Psammetik I, was the first of Dynasty Twenty-Six Pharaohs. Psammetik I installed his daughter as the High Priestess of Amen in 654 BC. The Kushite priestess, Shepenoupet II, who held that position was deposed. The Libyan Pharaohs eventually broke the yoke of Assyrian control. The Assyrian destruction of Waset was a turning point in history, but the Kushite empire remained a significant power for another 1,000 years.

Above left: Figure 33. Pharaoh Taharqa. Image  
© Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University | AN1931.553  
<https://www.ashmolean.org/ram-of-amun-re>.





# THE LATE PERIOD OF KEMET

**T**he Persians were the next Middle Eastern power to conquer Kemet. They seized control of the country in 525 BC and it became part of the Persian Empire. Eight Persian kings ruled as the Twenty Seventh Dynasty. The Persian conquerors allowed Greek scholars to settle and study in Kemet. Among them were Solon, Thales, Hecataeus, Herodotus, Plato, Pythagoras, Eudoxus, and Democritus. The scholars became foremost Greek intellectuals and philosophers, and were the second 'European' people to become important on the world stage after the Cretans.

The Twenty Eighth Dynasty included a Pharaoh named Amyrtaeus who was of Libyan origin and who ruled from the city of Sau (or Saïs). He led a five-year revolt against the Persians.

The Twenty Ninth Dynasty included 4 Pharaohs; the Thirtieth Dynasty included three, the last being Nectanebo II.

The Greeks conquered Ancient Egypt in 332 BC under the leadership of 'Alexander the Great'. Some Kemetans saw him as a saviour as he defeated the Persians. The library and city were developed during the reigns of Ptolemy I and Ptolemy II. Ptolemy II onwards built and added to temples in the south. A fifteen-mile wall surrounded the city and it became the intellectual capital of the Greek Empire. It shows that Kemetan culture was still regarded very highly even though it had been conquered by foreigners.

After Alexander the Great died, a Greek general was appointed as Pharaoh and known as 'Ptolemy I'. He began a new dynasty of foreign rulers of Kemet and there were between 11 and 15 Ptolemies, and 7 Cleopatras (one of them was counted twice). Ptolemy I's reigns saw expansions of the Alexandrian Museum and Library that became the chief institutions of learning in the world at the time. Ptolemy II commissioned the Pharos Lighthouse that became one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The building no longer exists. Ptolemy V commissioned major rebuilding works of temples in the far south of Kemet: at Denderah, Edfu and Kom Ombo. Two important pieces of literature emerged

Head from a

Red Granite  
Found, Temple of  
Tanis, Egypt, 1897

Original  
identical  
origin







Above: Figure 35. Assyrian wall carving from the Palace of Nineveh showing the Assyrian conquest of Waset taking Kushitic and Kemetic prisoners. © <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DuSPoAIXgAAQan7>





## THE LATE PERIOD OF KEMET

during that period: the first five books of the Jewish Bible were translated into Greek from the Hebrew script and Manetho wrote a History of Egypt. Greek became the language of power and scholarship and its influence was so big that most Egyptologists on Ancient Egypt used Greek versions of Kemetan names.

Cleopatra VII was the last ruler of the dynasty and she attempted to keep Ptolemaic Egypt free from direct Roman rule. She was well educated and lived when the Romans were the third European power on the world stage after the Cretans and the Greeks. The Romans' North African conquest began in 146 BC. Cleopatra VII is most famous for her affairs with the Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. With Julius Caesar she had a son, Ptolemy XV Caesarion who later became co-regent. In 30 BC Octavian, the later emperor Augustus, defeated Cleopatra VII and Mark Antony at the battle of Actium. Cleopatra VII killed herself following the suicide of Antony, and Octavian had her son murdered. Kemetan scholars were said to have reformed the Roman calendar and the Roman accounting system. Romans ruled North Africa for the following 600 years during which time, 'Christianity' became an important part of Egyptian culture. The new religion had some similarities with ancient religion, for example, the Christian 'Cross' is like the Egyptian 'Ankh'.

Cleopatra VII's sister, Arsinoë, was the Queen of Syria. Archaeologists discovered her sister's skeletal remains which showed African as well as European features.

The armies of Arabia conquered Egypt in 639 AD and from 708 AD to date, Arabs have controlled North Africa.







# THE KEMETANS

**A**ncient Greek and Roman writers described the Ancient Egyptians as 'black-skinned' people, with 'sable limbs' and 'thick lips', and as descendants of the 'Ethiopians' to the south of them.

- Diodorus wrote "the Egyptians are colonists sent out by the Ethiopians"
- Herodotus wrote: "they are black-skinned and have woolly hair"
- Galen wrote: "The hair of Egyptians ... and in general all peoples who inhabit hot, dry, places, has poor growth and is black, dry, curly, and brittle"
- Lucian wrote the following about a high-status Egyptian boy: "This boy is not merely black; he has thick lips and his legs are too thin"
- Aristotle claimed they were mostly bandy-legged and snubnosed
- Aeschylus described the Egyptians as having "sable limbs"
- Heliodorus described them as "black coloured"
- Appolodoros/us called them "the black footed ones"
- Aristotle wrote that they were "too black"

Dr Cheikh Anta Diop, a Senegalese scholar, conducted research on the skin of Kemetan mummies and found that their skin was 'black'. He took skin samples from mummies discovered by nineteenth century archaeologist Auguste Mariette. Diop presented the research at a 1974 United Nations event called The Cairo Symposium. The report says: "They all revealed ... the presence of a considerable quantity of melanin."

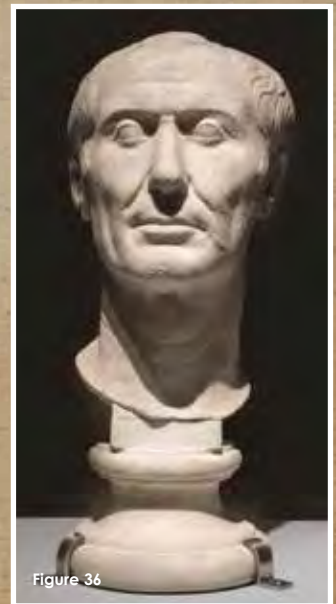


Figure 36



Figure 38

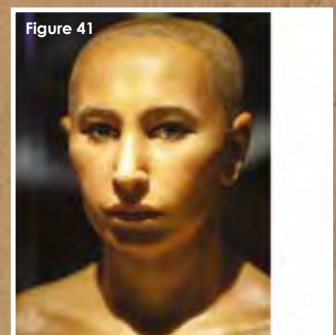


Figure 41

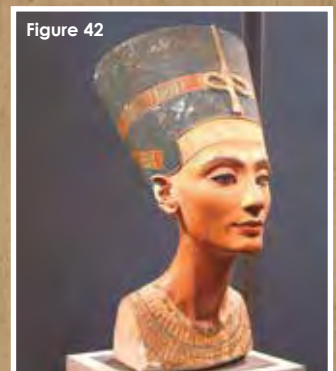


Figure 42

Right: Figure 36. Bust of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar. © [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius\\_Caesar#/media/File:Retrato\\_de\\_Julio\\_César\\_\(26724093101\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar#/media/File:Retrato_de_Julio_César_(26724093101)).

Right: Figure 38. Diagram of a hair follicle showing a round, oval and flattened cross section. Kemetite hair shows a flattened cross section like that of other Africans.

Right: Figure 39. The hieroglyphic symbol for 'face' shows a broad African face. © [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Face\\_\(hieroglyph\)#/media/File:Hatshepsut\\_temple10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Face_(hieroglyph)#/media/File:Hatshepsut_temple10).

Right: Figure 40. Ancient Greek art showing the symbolic colours of black and white.

Right: Figure 41. Fake reconstructed image pretending to be Pharaoh Tutankhamen. © <https://www.ancient-egypt-online.com/images/tut-reconstruction>.

Right: Figure 42. Forged bust in the Berlin Museum pretending to be Queen Nefertiti. © [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nefertiti\\_berlin](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nefertiti_berlin).
















































Cheikh  
Anta Diop

Right main image: Figure 39 The hieroglyphic symbol for 'face' shows a broad African face.



Nile Valley Contributions To Civilization

Kemetic 3200 B.C.E	Semetic 1500 B.C.E	Phoenician 1000 B.C.	Greek 600 B.C.E	Roman 114 A.C.E
 Ox's Head	 Aelph = Ox	 Aelph = Ox	 Alpha	 A
 House	 Beth = House	 Beth = House and Doorway	 Beta	 B
 Boomerang	 Gimel Throwing Stick	 Hook	 Gamma	 C
 Door	 Daleth = Door	 Daleth = Door	 Delta	 D
 Man Shouting	 Shouting Man	 Epsilon	 Epsilon	 E
 Hook	 Waw = Hook	 Hook	 Digamma	 F
 Boomerang	 Gimel Throwing Stick	 Hook	 Gamma	 G
 Twisted Rope	 Cheth = Rope	 Eta	 Eta	 H
 Hand	 Hand	 Yod = Hand	 Iota	 I
 Cupped Hand	 Kaph = Palm of the Hand	 Kaph = Palm of the Hand	 Kappa	 K
 A Goad/Staff	 Lamed = Goad	 Lamed = Goad	 Lambda	 L
 Water	 Mem = Water	 Mem = Water	 Mu	 M



# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF WRITING

**T**he Kemetans used 'picture writing', calling it 'Medu Netcher'. 'Medu' means 'words'. 'Netcher' means 'God': the 'Words of God'. When carved, the Kemetans believed those words should last an eternity. Medu Netcher was of great historical importance. It was the parent of some of the Middle Eastern writing systems, and great grandparent of the Greek alphabet. It is also the great, great grandparent of the Roman alphabet: the system in use today. Medu Netcher is the basis of the modern alphabet.

The Greeks called some of the Ancient Egyptian writings 'Hieroglyphics', and the other writings, Hieratic and Demotic. 'Hiero' means 'sacred'. 'Glyphics' means 'carvings'. Hieroglyphics were used to carve information that was in some way considered religious. Hieroglyphics appeared on temple walls, tomb walls, and on objects that went into tombs. The scribes had to carve the symbols correctly and then paint them. However, the hieroglyphics are a complicated system, and very slow. Only a tiny proportion of the Kemetan population could read it and they included royal officials, scribes, civil servants and priests.

The words were sometimes read from left to right. Sometimes they were read from right to left. At other times they were read from top to bottom. If animals or people were depicted, the words were read towards the face of the animal or person.

The hieroglyphic script is beautiful to look at but not easy to write. The Kemetans created two more writing systems. The priests developed a handwritten script using a brush, 6 to 10 inches high. The new script was designed to be written on papyrus. Greek scholars called the new script 'Hieratic' which meant 'priestly'. Egyptologists still use this name. The oldest hieratic writings look just like hieroglyphics.



Right: A section of the Papyrus of Ani showing cursive Medu Neter.





## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF WRITING

One can see the same pictures as in hieroglyphics. Eventually, the priests made changes and simplifications to the script to make it quicker to write. By the Eleventh Dynasty, hieratic developed into a cursive script. Originally, hieratic was used to write religious material and documents designed to last forever. The more cursive version of the script was used by civil servants, business people and traders.

A third script evolved called 'Demotic'. In Greek, 'Demotic' means 'popular'. Egyptologists still use the name. A proportion of the population could read Demotic. They used it for day-to-day correspondence and letter writing. It was more cursive than the previous script and quicker to write. The pictures that formed the original basis of hieroglyphics disappear entirely in Demotic. Modern scholars find demotic the most difficult to decipher.

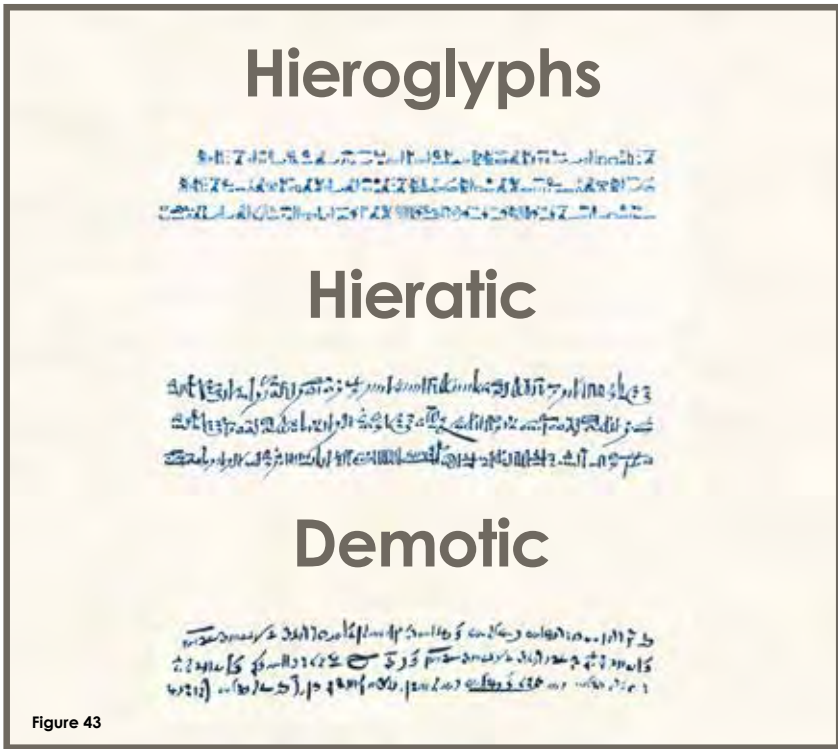
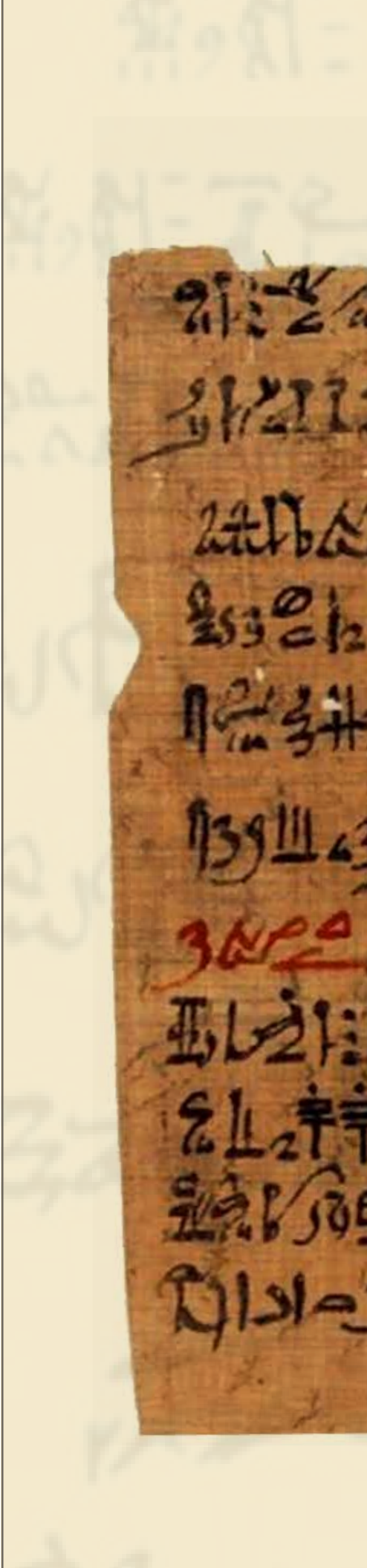


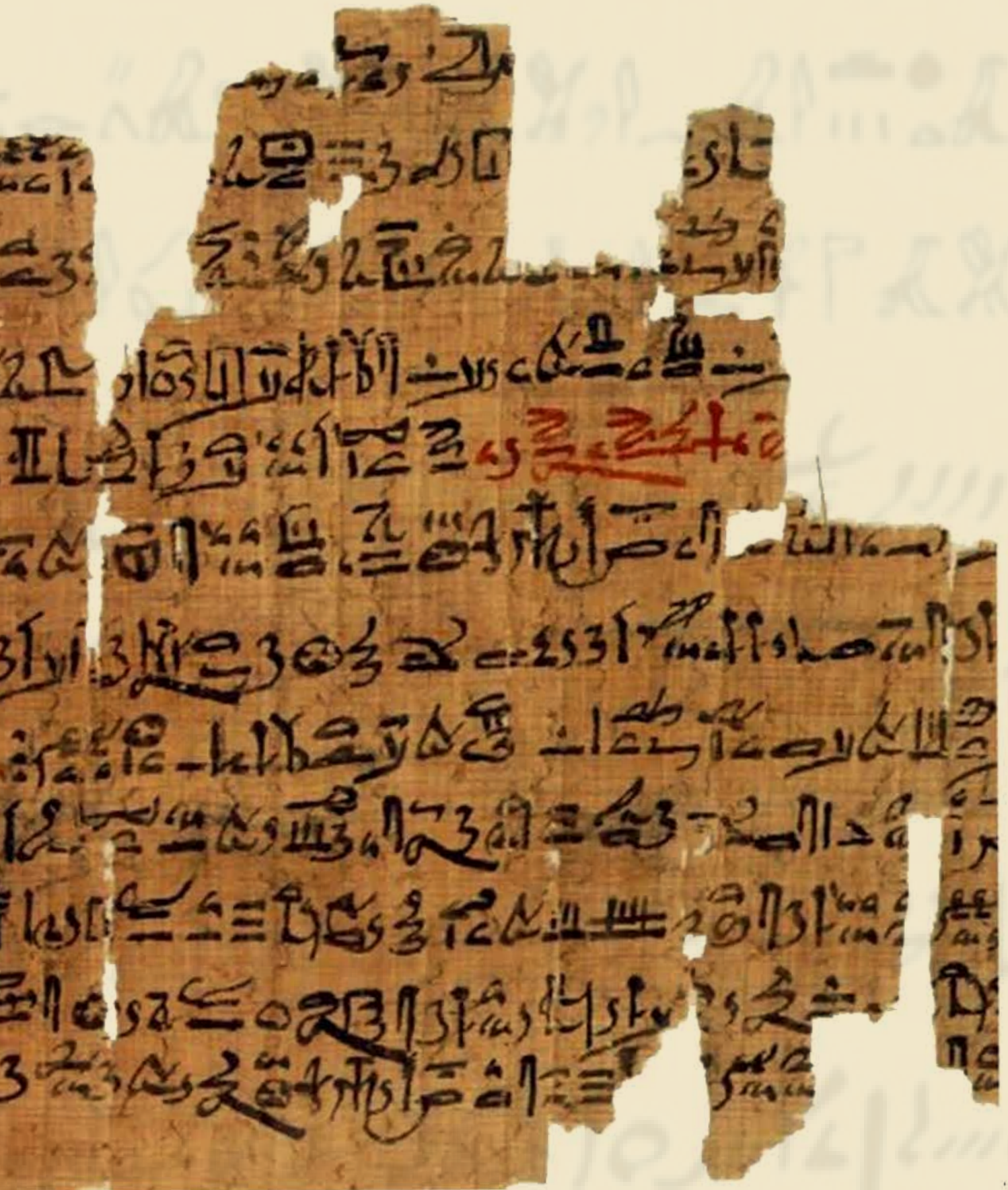
Figure 43

Above: Figure 43. Comparing hieroglyphics with hieratic and demotic © <https://knowhy.bookofmormoncentral.org/sites/default/files/knowhy-img/users/user19/hieroglyphs-hieratic-demotic-scripts>  
 Right: A section of the Papyrus of Ani showing cursive Medu Neter.

Right: The Roman alphabet, as it exists today, was perfected about 114 A.C.E. The Romans learned their alphabet from the Etruscans who migrated into Italy from the eastern region of the Mediterranean and brought the Greek alphabet with them. The early Roman alphabet consisted of 20 letters, and six others were added over time.







Demotic script © lexicorient.com



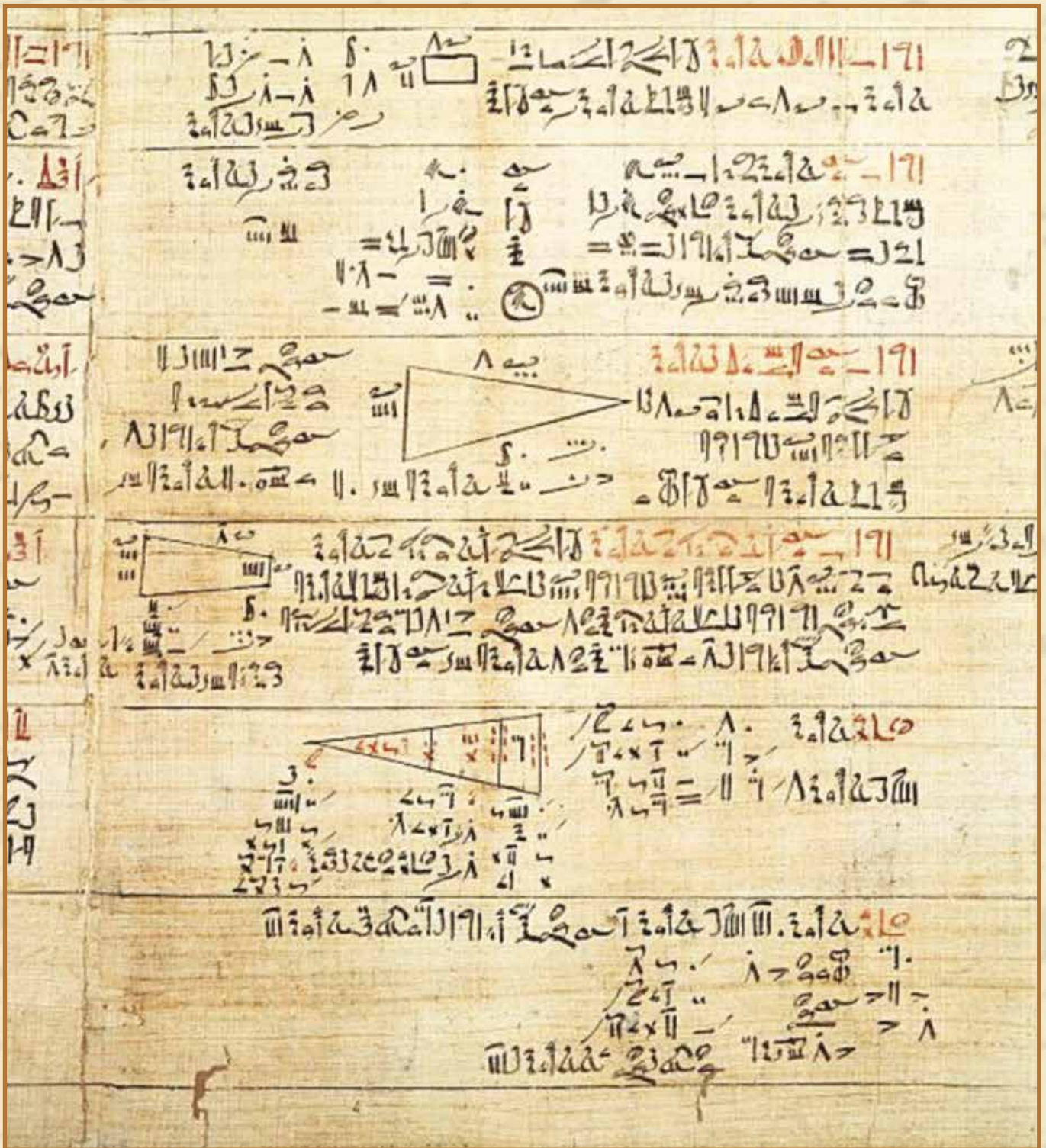


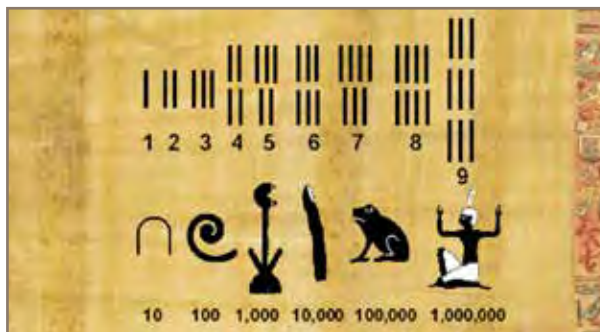
Figure 45



# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF MATHEMATICS

**T**he Kemetans made important contributions to the evolution of mathematics. They invented some of the high school maths that we do today. Aristotle, an Ancient Greek scientist wrote: 'And thus Egypt was the cradle of the mathematical arts.' Some Kemetan mathematical documents survive today: the Rhind Papyrus, the Berlin Papyrus, and the Moscow Papyrus. The Kemetans had a decimal system that was like the system we use today. They had special symbols for the numbers 1, 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000 and 1,000,000.

The Kemetans pioneered the '3, 4, 5 triangles'. Many people claim Pythagoras was the first to discover the triangle, but this is not true. Plutarch, a Greco-Roman scholar, recorded: 'The Egyptians appeared to have figured out the world in the form of the most beautiful of triangles... This triangle, the most beautiful of triangles, has its vertical side composed of three, its base of four, and its hypotenuse of five parts, and the square of the latter is equal to the sum of the squares of the two sides.'



Mathematic in Ancient Egypt / Egyptian numerals

Above: Figure 44. The Kemetans had special symbols for the numbers 1, 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000 and 1,000,000 © [http://www.mosaicreeschool.com/uploads/1/2/3/6/12365638/4211829\\_orig](http://www.mosaicreeschool.com/uploads/1/2/3/6/12365638/4211829_orig)

Left: Figure 45. Detail from the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus. © <https://media.gettyimages.com/photos/egyptian-civilization-rhind-mathematical-papyrus-written-in-hieratic-picture-id122319579?s=594x594>





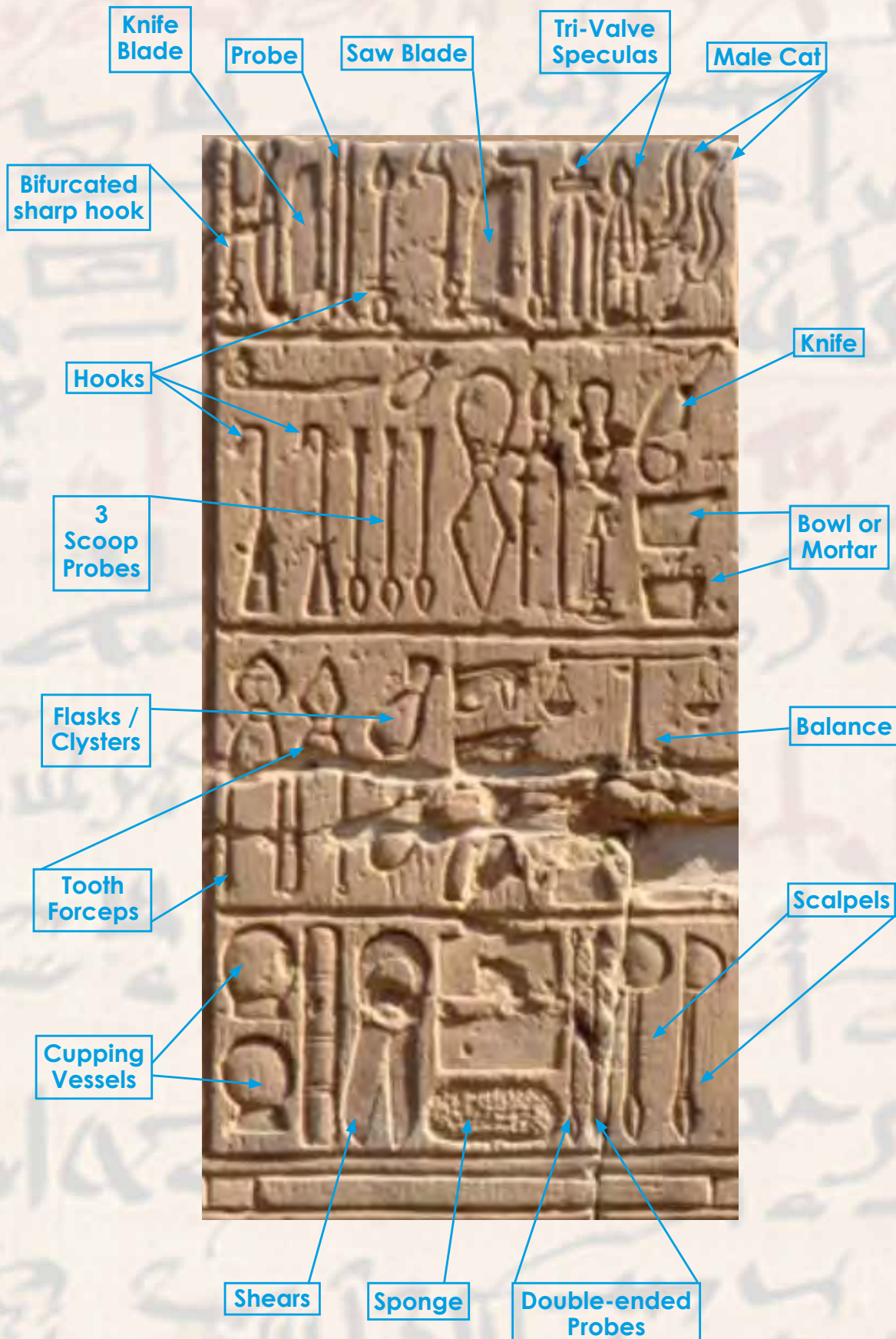


# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

**T**he Ancient Greek poet, Homer, wrote: 'In medical knowledge, Egypt leaves the rest of the world behind!' According to the Ancient Egyptian historian, Manetho, medical advances were made during the time of Dynasty One Pharaohs: Djer and Den. The Djer 'era book' was on anatomy but it has not survived. However, modern scholars think they have identified the Den 'era text'. They believe it is the Edwin Smith Papyrus, which is one of 10 surviving Kemetan medical texts. It contains 48 cases, most of which cover bone surgery of the skeletal and soft tissue parts of the head and neck. Each case is set out as an examination, a diagnosis, a treatment and glossaries. The glossaries explained the old First Dynasty language to an Eighteenth Dynasty surgeon.

With thousands of years of practising mummification, the Kemetans evolved a range of knives, scalpels and surgical techniques. They used red-hot implements to seal off bleeding. They closed wounds with adhesive tape or sutures. Archaeologists have discovered cancerous tumours in some ancient mummies. They found that the ancient surgeons were removing tumours using knives and red-hot irons. Mummifying a dead person took a team of medical personnel 70 days to complete. They eviscerated the body, removed the brain, desiccated the body, washed the body inside and out with natron, anointed the body with aromatic oils and herbs, and wrapped the body in bandages. The medical team used the following chemical substances: palm wine, spices, perfumes, myrrh, aniseed, onions and natron.

The Ebers Papyrus was the first medical encyclopaedia in history. It has chapters on intestinal disease, ophthalmology, dermatology,



Above: Figure 47. Kemetan surgical instruments depicted on the walls of the restored Temple of Kom Ombo. © <https://sleepateenjoy.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/kom-02>





Above: Figure 48. Hesire was the oldest known medical officer to hold the position 'Chief of Dentists and Physicians.' © [https://c2.staticflickr.com/8/7658/28656069192\\_616c16961b\\_b](https://c2.staticflickr.com/8/7658/28656069192_616c16961b_b)





## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

gynaecology, obstetrics, pregnancy diagnosis, contraception, dentistry, surgical treatment of abscesses, tumours, fractures and burns. The Papyrus has a section on the movement of the heart and pulse and describes how the heart pumps blood around the body. What it does not say is that the blood returns to the heart. It was this discovery that made William Harvey, the seventeenth century English scholar, famous.

Some scholars believed the Kemetans did not know about the function of the brain. However, Kemetan art shows the raised serpent coming out of the vertex of the cranium on the Pharaonic headdress. The serpent divides the cranium into two equal halves or hemispheres. Moreover, the Kemetan word for the cranial vertex also means to open, to discern, or to judge. The Kemetan word for cerebrum also means to know and to understand. Case 22 of the Edwin Smith Papyrus shows that brain damage can harm a patient's ability to speak.

The Kemetans used animal, plant and mineral products as medicines. They had a large pharmacopeia since they could combine the animal, plant and mineral products. They used moulds from bread internally and externally to treat infections. The antibiotic is from the same family as penicillin. They used poppy extract to treat colicky babies and used it also as a sedative or pain killer. They used onions to treat scurvy.



Above: Figure 46. Detail from the Edwin Smith Papyrus.. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b4/Edwin\\_Smith\\_Papyrus\\_v2.jpg/1200px-Edwin\\_Smith\\_Papyrus\\_v2](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b4/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus_v2.jpg/1200px-Edwin_Smith_Papyrus_v2)





# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF MATERIALS AND METALS

**A**rchaeologists have found Kemetan copper beads, pins, bracelets, chisels, rings, harpoon heads, needles and tweezers. Archaeologists also found gold beads, a golden ring, a gold cylinder seal, vases covered in gold foil, and knives covered in gold foil. Part of an iron tool was found lodged in the masonry of the Great Pyramid of Giza. Also found were copper alloy artefacts from the Fourth Dynasty period, and steel knife blades.

The Kemetans invented or developed several useful products in a variety of industries. Among these were:

- a variety of minerals (alum, barites, emery, feldspar, graphite, manganese compounds, mica, sulphur)
- various precious and semi-precious stones (diamonds, emeralds, opal, ruby)
- advances in agriculture (growing crops of almonds, barley, garlic, ginger, grapes, lentils, palm, sorghum)
- use of various oils, fats and waxes (almond oil, belanos oil, bean oil, castor oil, coconut oil, juniper oil, walnut oil)
- use of spices (cinnamon, dill, cumin, parsley)
- fermenting of alcohol (beer, wine, malts)
- cosmetics (perfumes, essential oils, cleansing cream)
- dyes (indigo, black, brown, green, red, yellow)
- ink (black, brown, green, blue, white)
- paints and pigments (black, blue, grey, orange, pink, red)
- adhesives (albumins, beeswax, clay, gelatin, gypsum, natron, starch)
- use of gums and resins (acacia, cedar, copal, frankincense, myrrh, pine)



Above: Figure 49. Old Kingdom wall carving of women making perfume.  
© <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/30/b7/ab/30b7abc1f26162c0626a8958a433166e>







Above: Figure 50. Golden mask of Pharaoh Tutankhamen. © [http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\\_LSxaygv6nCE/SxAeOAGdMUI/AAAAAAAAAiE/hzDs6Gvk8Zs/s1600/king\\_tutankhamun\\_golden\\_mask](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_LSxaygv6nCE/SxAeOAGdMUI/AAAAAAAAAiE/hzDs6Gvk8Zs/s1600/king_tutankhamun_golden_mask)



## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF MATERIALS AND METALS

- a pottery industry (kilns, moulds, glazed, polishing)
- glazed ware (glazed steatite, faience variants, glazed quartz)
- fibres (cordage, papyrus, also developed techniques in basketry, brushes, matting, weaving)
- textiles (cotton, linen)
- products from animal materials (bone, butter, cheese, feathers, gut, ivory, mother of pearl, ostrich eggshell, parchment, tortoise shell)
- a vast range of metals and alloys (alumina, aluminium, antimony, brass, cobalt, copper, copper-antimony alloy, copper-gold alloy, gold, electrum, hematite, silver, tin)
- a variety of wood in art and building (Egyptian timber, beech wood, birch, carob-wood, cypress wood, ebony, elm, fig, hornbeams, maple, plywood)
- building materials (asphalt, brick, cement, mortar, plaster, sun dried brick)



Late Third or early Fourth Dynasty  
 Red granite  
 H. 54.3 cm (21 3/8 in.); w. 29 cm (11 1/2 in.)  
 Brooklyn Museum of Art, Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund 46.167





# KEMET'S CONTRIBUTION TO ARCHITECTURE

**D**joser was a Pharaoh of the Third Dynasty. He commissioned the Funerary Complex in Saqqara, the oldest monument in the world celebrated today. Imhotep, his Prime Minister, designed it. An outer wall, now mostly in ruins, surrounded the structure. Khufu commissioned the first Great Pyramid of Giza, which is 481 feet high and is as tall as a 40-storey building. It was made of 2.3 million blocks of limestone and granite and some blocks weigh 100 tons.

The Karnak and Luxor temples, now in partial ruin, were built over many years. Pharaohs of the Twelfth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-Fifth Dynasties added to the building works. The Karnak Complex was a place of culture and business. A procession of sphinxes led to the outer pylon. A 'pylon' is a Greek word for the monumental gateways of Kemetic temples. The Karnak pylon was 370 feet across, 143 feet high, and 49 feet thick at the base. It became narrower at the top. Behind the pylon was the Temple of Amen. The Hypostyle Hall was one of its many temples.



Tekhenu, Karnak











Above: Figure 52. Tekhen at Karnak commissioned by Pharaoh Hatshepsut. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/81/Karnak\\_temple\\_12.jpg/1200px-Karnak\\_temple\\_12](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/81/Karnak_temple_12.jpg/1200px-Karnak_temple_12)

Right: Figure 53. Colossal statues of Osiris inside the Temple at Abu Simbel by Pharaoh Rameses II. © [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Temple\\_of\\_Rameses\\_II,\\_eight\\_Osiris\\_pillars](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Temple_of_Rameses_II,_eight_Osiris_pillars)

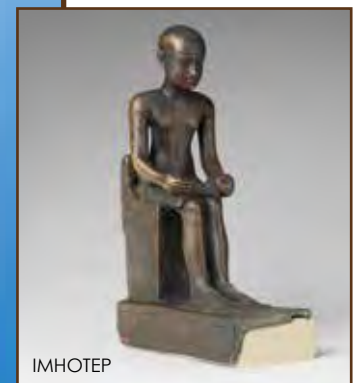
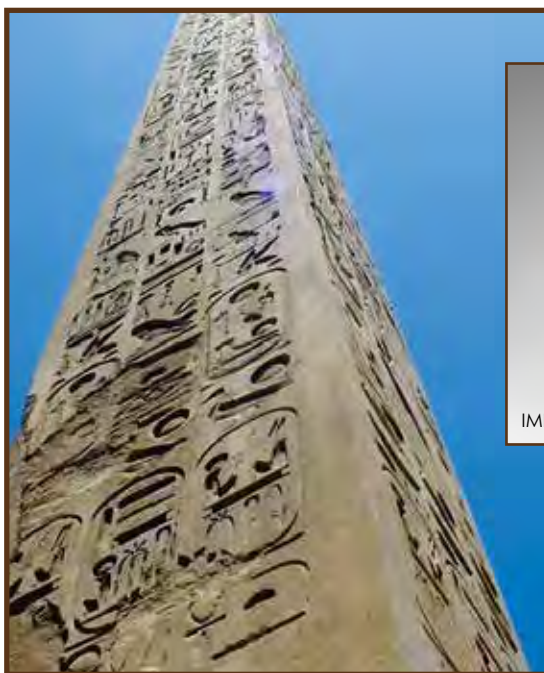


## KEMET'S CONTRIBUTION TO ARCHITECTURE

Huge obelisks once stood within the Karnak and Luxor temples. They were carved from a single block of stone and were chopped from quarries. Following this, they were transported to the required position. An obelisk that Queen Hatshepsut commissioned was 90 feet tall and weighed 302 tons. There is a gigantic obelisk that was left unfinished at Aswan. The Kemetans called obelisks 'tekhens', which represented the sexual powers of the god Osiris. It also represented his resurrection after death. The Americans built an obelisk in 1884 called the 'Washington Monument'.

Karnak had many tekhens but only two of them stand today; Luxor had two, only one remains today. The Temple of Ra in Heliopolis had 2 tekhens, but none of them remains there today, as they were looted in the nineteenth century by foreigners. One of them is now in Paris, one in Central Park, New York City, and one is on the side of the Thames River in London. Thirteen of them are in Rome, some are in Turkey, Germany, and other countries.

Hatshepsut of the Eighteenth Dynasty commissioned one of Kemet's most popular monuments: The Mortuary Temple in Deir-el-Bahri. Rather than build upwards from a base, the structure was carved out of a mountainside. Ramses II of the Nineteenth Dynasty also built a temple carved out of a hill: The Temple of Abu Simbel, in Nubia, which was 108 feet wide and had four colossal statues of the pharaoh. Each statue was 66 feet high.



IMHOTEP

Tekhen – Symbol of Ascension and Imperative Restoration

© <https://www.wakeupcallonline.xyz/tekhensymbol-of-ascension-and-imperative-restoration>





# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF ASTRONOMY AND TIME

**A**stronomy is the science of charting the heavenly bodies: the sun, moon, stars and planets, and is used to tell the time, devise calendars, orientate buildings and as a travel-guide. Kemetan books on astronomy were read widely in Greek and Roman times. One of them was called *On the Disposition of Fixed Stars and Stellar Phenomena*. Others were, *On the Disposition of the Sun, Moon and Five planets*, *On the Syzygies and Phases of the Sun and Moon*. A 'syzygy' is a straight-line arrangement of three or more celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon and another celestial bodies. None of those books survive today.

Kemetan astronomy improved the calculations of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Strabo, a Roman geographer wrote: 'The Greeks lacked knowledge of the real length of the year and several similar facts until translations of the memoirs of Egyptian priests into the Greek language spread these ideas among astronomers.'

The Sothic or Sothic Cycle was the most important Kemetan contribution to astronomy. The Sothic Cycle was based on a key fact: the earth spins 365¼ times each time it orbits the sun. Since it is impractical to have ¼ of a day, there is a leap year of 366 days once every four years to 'correct' this problem. The Sothic or Sothic Cycle handled this with even greater mathematical skill.

Egyptologists have debated the question: Who invented the modern zodiac, the Kemetans or the Ancient Greeks? The Temple of Hathor at Denderah dates from the time of the Fourth Dynasty Pharaoh Khufu. However, the temple standing there today was renovated by the Greek Pharaoh Ptolemy V. The Denderah Zodiac uses two different art styles. A few of the animals have dramatic poses and look to the side. This is European art. Those animals that look differently from the rest of the images. All the other animals



The oldest water clock (or "clepsydra") known, the Egyptian "hourglass of Karnak," dating to around 1400 BC © <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/43297895640201520/>



The water clock of Ancient Egyptian was an dual-use instrument. It has been used to indicate the time and also keep track of how long a person speaks at a courtroom in speeches. © <https://beforeitsnews.com/travel/2015/10/the-water-clock-of-the-ancient-egyptian-2475404.html>



Ancient Egyptian sundial (c. 1500 BC), from the Valley of the Kings, used for measuring work hour. Daytime divided into 12 parts. © [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_timekeeping\\_devices\\_in\\_Egypt#/media/File:Antient-egyptian-sundial.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_timekeeping_devices_in_Egypt#/media/File:Antient-egyptian-sundial.jpg)



Above: Figure 54. Zodiac on the ceiling of the restored Temple of Hathor at Denderah. © <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/4e/cb/eb/4ecbeb83dc5935d083836f4c87727056>





Above: Ancient Kemet Artifact Fragment KEMETIAN STAR MAP OF SENENMUT THE GREAT 18th Dynasty relief ancient replica - IMHOTEP AKHENATEN © <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/340795896796275099/>





## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF ASTRONOMY AND TIME

show the stiff formalism of Kemetan art and allows us to separate Kemetan originals from Greek add-ons. The Denderah Zodiac was indigenous to Ancient Egypt. The Greeks only added a few pieces of decoration to it.

The Kemetans were first to study the planets: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter. They pioneered the heliocentric theory that says the earth and planets orbit the sun. Many scholars, including Sir Isaac Newton, believed that the Kemetans held this knowledge. The Kemetans calculated and predicted lunar eclipses, and created how the hour was determined. It was the length of time it took the moon to move its own diameter relative to the sun. To measure hours, they invented the sundial and the water clock.



Astronomical ceiling relief from Dendera, Egypt





# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION

**T**he Kemetans saw life as a series of changes: birth, growth, parenthood, old age, and death. They believed that rebirth followed death and came up with the idea from watching some repeating patterns in nature. There were repeating cycles of the sun, moon and stars. Another one was the yearly flooding of the Nile. Those cycles continued forever. The Kemetans believed that after death, human existence would also go on forever.

They saw the heavenly powers through various images. Some scholars believe that the Kemetans had many gods. However, and other academics think they had one God but many different images of it: male, female and animal. Kemetan religious ideas shaped those of later civilisations. For example, the Book of Acts, Chapter 7, verse 22, says: "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians". Judaism believes that the Prophet Moses wrote the first five books of The Bible. Herodotus, the Ancient Greek historian, wrote: 'the Egyptians ... first used the names of twelve gods (which the Greeks afterwards borrowed from them); and it was they who first assigned to the several gods their altars and images and temples.' Kemetan influence can be seen on the religions of the Jews, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome and Christianity.

However, the Kemetan gods, came from lands further south. A name the Kemetans gave those lands was 'Ta Neter', which meant 'Land of God'. A Roman geography book around 250 AD says the following about Nubia: 'The kingdom of Ethiopia is a fertile and rich wonderland, possessing an abundance of gold and a royal family descended from the gods.' The Kemetan gods that originated among the Nubians are Amen, Osiris, Set, Horus, Isis, Shu, Tefnut, Hathor, Nut and Bes.

'Ra' was an important Kemetan god. They thought of him as the 'Sun', symbolically travelling across the sky and bringing life to the inhabitants of earth. At sunset, he symbolically died and journeyed through the 'Netherworld', re-emerged in the east at dawn and



### AUSAR AUSET AND HERU

© <http://afaraka.blogspot.com/2017/12/the-math-origin-ausar-aset-and-heru.html>





Above: Figure 56. Image of Ma'at on the foot of Tutankhamen's golden coffin.  
© <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mharsch/337344877>





## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION

represented rebirth. The Kemetans believed they might become a part of that endless cycle of repeating life. They celebrated the birth of the new 'Sun' each year on 25 December. This has influenced the Christian celebration of Christmas on that day.

The Kemetans believed that 'Osiris' once ruled as king, but he was murdered by 'Set' who took his place. Isis had him mummified and resurrected to life. His son, Horus, battled Set to avenge Osiris. Osiris became the eternal ruler and judge in the realm of the dead. The Kemetans believed they might have their life renewed just as Osiris had. To achieve this, they were obliged to prove their righteousness. In the art, Osiris has a flail, a djed and a shepherd's crook. The flail shows he is a king. In African societies, only kings held the flail. The 'Djed' is a symbol of resurrection, and the shepherd's crook shows that he is the 'great shepherd'. The Greek god 'Dionysus' and the Roman god 'Bacchus' were given Osiris-like status and all those deities had links with grapes. Grapes are associated with wine. Both Judaism and Christianity have religious rituals that include the drinking of wine.

Ma'at was the goddess that represented all that made a society run smoothly. She represented the law, justice and order. She is shown as a woman with outstretched hands and wings. She is also connected to the scales of justice by which standard a person's soul should be judged. The Kemetans believed their lives should be lived according to the laws of Ma'at. The Greek and Roman idea of 'Libra' is based on Ma'at. Modern civilisations still represent justice using the imagery of the scales. Later religions used the Ma'at wings to create their ideas of angels.

'Tehuti' was a god that represented knowledge and wisdom. In some wall carvings, he is shown holding a staff with two cobras wrapped around it. The Greek god 'Hermes' and the Roman god 'Mercury' were based on Tehuti. Hermes was sometimes shown in Greek art with a staff of two intertwined snakes. Mercury in Roman art is shown with a staff like the Greek one. Mercury's staff is called a 'caduceus'. Modern civilisations still use the caduceus as a symbol of medicine. Doctors, dentists, and veterinarians use the symbol, which originated with Tehuti.

The Book of the Dead was the main Kemetetic holy book. It shows the journey and trials of a dead person's soul as it travels through the 'Netherworld'. The soul was on a voyage to enter the Kingdom of Osiris or join with Ra. In some versions, the soul aimed to enter







## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION

the 'Fields of Reeds'. To get to those locations, the soul must bypass the obstacles in its way. There were gates with their fearsome guardians who could kill. There were mounds and caverns also. Other obstacles to get past were evil-minded divine beings and evil-minded serpents. There were also unearthly obstacles: turquoise trees, iron walls, fire lakes and traps. In the journey, the soul must avoid the punishments for the unrighteous. The person's soul must battle his or her way past the obstacles armed with the Book of the Dead. The chapters in that book contain the texts that the righteous soul must say to get past the obstacles.

There were '42 beings' sitting in 'judgement'. The soul of the dead individual had to address each judge and declare that they kept the laws of Ma'at. He or she should state which sin they did not commit. For example, addressed to the first judge, the individual said: "I have not done iniquity". To the second judge: "I have not committed robbery with violence." To the third judge: "I have done violence to no man." To the fourth judge: "I have not committed theft." To the fifth judge: "I have not slain man or woman." In total there were 42 such declarations, and some Egyptologists call them the 'Declarations of Innocence'. Others call them the 'Negative Confessions'. Those ideas have influenced later religions to create 'Commandments'.

The Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Book of Going Forth by Day, Chapter 18 says: "Make the word of Osiris truth against his enemies. Raise up the Djed which image the resurrection of the god, let the mummy type of the eternal be once more erected as the mainstay and divine support of all." Followers of the religion must be true to the word of Osiris even when facing enemies. Raising the Djed pillar represents the resurrection of Osiris. His resurrected mummy is the example for everyone. Some later religions taught their followers to adhere to the example of a god that died and was resurrected.



Right: Figure 57. The Judgement Scene in the Hall of the Two Truths with 42 Judges. This from the Temple of Deir el-Medina. Notice the symbolic use of colours. © [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b1/Temple\\_of\\_Deir\\_el-Medina\\_Panorama.jpg/1235px-Temple\\_of\\_Deir\\_el-Medina\\_Panorama](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b1/Temple_of_Deir_el-Medina_Panorama.jpg/1235px-Temple_of_Deir_el-Medina_Panorama)











# KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF SPORT AND GAMES

**T**he oldest record of athletics comes from the time of Narmer. On his mace-head are three male runners and six semi-circles are next to them. The semi-circles are turning points on a track. Each runner is taking part in an ancient ritual and the 'run' is a symbol of his control over a certain territory. Narmer's runners symbolise his control over Kemet. Another First Dynasty example is on a wooden panel that shows King Den participating in the run. In Kemet, it was a custom for the ruler to occasionally prove his physical fitness to rule by performing the ritual.

A 'marathon' appears on a pharaonic inscription from the Renaissance Period saying that Taharqa selected a number of soldiers to do daily training-runs. One of the runs was from Ineb-hedj (or Memphis) to Fayum and back. Ineb-hedj and Fayum were 50 kilometres apart. There was a two-hour break in between each run and the winner received a special prize from the Pharaoh.

Weightlifting appears on a tomb wall showing three contestants. Two of them seemed to be lifting with one hand while the other was trying to juggle the weights, which looked like sandbags or wooden dumbbells.

Wrestling scenes appear on tomb and temple walls and umpires also appear in some of them. An International Competition between Kemetans and Kushites is recorded on one of them. A tomb shows six pairs of boys wrestling. Other wrestling scenes are depicted near to images of soldiers. They suggest that wrestling was part of the military training and increased their agility, fitness and resistance. Another tomb shows wrestlers wearing white belts around their hips, just like those in Sumo wrestling today.





## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF SPORT AND GAMES

Sport historians say that all the 'holds' used in wrestling today appear on the Kemetan walls. The Kemetans even had holds that are no longer practised today.

A scene with 12 boxers appears on a Kemetan tomb, but they are not wearing gloves or headgear. There are words next to some of the boxers such as 'seize', 'pounce', 'touch' and 'defence'. Also, stick-fencing appears on tomb and temple walls. An example is the International Competition between Kemetans and Kushites, mentioned earlier. From reading the wall images, the fencing matches were as follows: The fencers bowed to the spectators then got into their 'start' positions. They crossed sticks. The duel began. There was an umpire. The winner made the victory pose with his hands raised and his legs apart. The loser bowed and covered his face with one hand. Some of our 'modern' concerns for safety also existed then. The fencers had protective bandages covering their chins. The weapons had rounded knobs at the end of the sticks. The grips on some weapons look like the grips on modern fencing swords.

Archery is depicted in several New Kingdom temples. One scene shows the god Set teaching Pharaoh Thutmose III archery. The young ruler had to prove his physical prowess as a sportsman. Archery formed part of the training of princes and nobles. The Temple of Amen in Karnak has a splendid carving that shows Pharaoh Amenhotep II target-shooting from a moving chariot. Elsewhere, he challenged his troops to an archery contest and offered prizes to those who could match him.

Swimming was part of the physical education of royal children. The hieroglyphic for the word 'swim' shows the 'front crawl'. But no evidence was found to show that there was competitive swimming. However, there are depictions of a girl's game requiring speed and skill. Girls swam up to ducks or fish, pounced and caught them with breath taking speed.

Amenhotep II challenged his soldiers to a rowing contest of distance and endurance, and beat them. The inscription says: "Strong were his arms and he did not tire when he seized the oar and rode at the stern of his boat as stroke for two hundred men. They stopped when they had only half a mile behind them. They were already exhausted and their limbs were tired and they were breathless. But His Majesty was strong with his twenty-foot long oar. He stopped and grounded his boat after he had rowed three miles without a pause. Faces beamed when they saw him doing this."









## KEMET AND THE EVOLUTION OF SPORT AND GAMES

The most popular board game was 'Senet', the forerunner of backgammon and of snakes and ladders. Kemetans played board games during the summer, perhaps because it was too hot to engage in sports requiring great physical exertion. One inscription captured the mood: "you sit in the hall; you play the Senet board game; you have wine; you have beer." The playing board had 30 squares in a 10 by 3 arrangement. Two opposing people played the game. Senet had two distinct types of board pieces. One set were spindle shaped. The other set were like mini bowling pins. Before starting the game, the two sets of pieces were placed alternately on the first squares of the board. The objective of the game was to snake one's way through the three rows from field 1 to field 30. The other objective was to block your opponent from doing so. Another objective was to take your opponent's pieces if those pieces stood alone. Those pieces had to start again from the beginning and each player would throw sticks or two astragals. The throwing sticks and astragals were used like dice and the highest throw was a 'five'. Once the astragals or throwing sticks determined the number, each player would use skill to determine how to apportion the moves between his or her pieces. This was not just a game of luck. The winner was the first person to snake all their pieces to the end.





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# ANNEX A: CHRONOLOGIES

Ancient Egyptian Period	Dynasty	Breasted (1906)	Shaw (2000)	Walker (2006)	UCL - 2000	MacNaughton 1932
Before 8000 BC					Palaeolithic	
8000 BC – 5200 BC					Epipalaeolithic (Tarifian ; Qarunian - Fayum B - 6000-5000 BC)	
6000 BC – 5000 BC					Nabta Playa	
5200 BC – 4000 BC					Fayum Neolithic (Fayum A)	
4800 BC – 4200 BC					Merimde	
4400 BC – 4000 BC					Badarian	
4000 BC - 3300 BC					Maadi	
4000 BC – 3500 BC					Naqada I	
3500 BC – 3200 BC					Naqada II	
3200 BC – 3100 BC					Naqada III	

Ancient Egyptian Period	Dynasty	Breasted (1906)	Shaw (2000)	Walker (2006)	UCL -2000	MacNaughton 1932
Early Dynastic Period	First	3400–2980	c.3000–2686	5660–5386	3100 - 2750	5776 - 5550
	Second			5386–5046	2750 - 2650	5595 – 5345
Old Kingdom	Third	2980–2900	2686–2613	5046–4872	2686 - 2600	5345 - 5043
	Fourth	2900–2750	2613–2494	4872–4599	2600 - 2450	5042 – 4828
	Fifth	2750–2625	2494–2345	4599–4402	2459 - 2300	4828 – 4360
	Sixth	2623–2475	2345–2181	4402–4188	2300 - 2181	4360 – 4163



# ANNEX A: CHRONOLOGIES

Ancient Egyptian Period	Dynasty	Breasted (1906)	Shaw (2000)	Walker (2006)	UCL -2000	MacNaughton 1932
First Intermediate Period	Seventh	2475–2445	2181–2160	4188–4188	2181 -	4163 – 4088
	Eighth			4188–4042	-	4088 – 4057
	Ninth	2445–2160	2160–2125	4042–3633	-	3942 – 3533
	Tenth			3633–3448	- 2025	3533 – 3348
Middle Kingdom of Egypt	Eleventh	2160–2000	2125–1985	3560–3405	2025 - 1700	3554 – 3373
	Twelfth	2000–1788	1985–1773	3405–3182	1700	3373 – 3180
Second Intermediate Period	Thirteenth	1780–1580	1773–1550	3182–2729	-	3018 – 2727
	Fourteenth			3015–2545	-	2727 – 2243
	Fifteenth			2545 – c.1993	-	2298 – 2020
	Sixteenth			1993–1709	-	2020 --1970
	Seventeenth			1860–1709	1550	2243 – 1780
Ancient Egyptian Periods	Dynasty	Breasted (1906)	Shaw (2000)	Walker (2006)	UCL (2000)	MacNaughton (1932)
New Kingdom of Egypt	Eighteenth	1580–1350	1550–1295	1709–1450	1550 - 1292	1709 – 1395
	Nineteenth	1350–1205	1295–1186	1450–1236	1292 - 1185	1450 – 1230
	Twentieth	1200–1090	1186–1069	1236–1095	1186 - 1069	1230 – 1095
Third Intermediate Period	Twenty-first	1090–945	1069–945	1095–926	1070 - 946	1095 – 926
	Twenty-second	945–745	945–818	940 – 803	946 - 735	926 – 810
	Twenty-third	745–718	818–727	809–729	818 - 715	809 – 720
	Twenty-fourth	718–712	727–715	729–716	727 - 715	720 – 714
	Twenty-fifth	712–663	715–664	716–664	747 - 656	714 – 672
Late Period of ancient Egypt	Twenty-sixth	663–525	664–525	663 – 525 525BC – 30 BC	664 BC–525 BC 525 BC – 30 BC	684 – 525
Roman & Byzantine Egypt				30 BC – 639 AD	30 BC – 640 AD	
Modern Egypt				639 AD – to date	640 AD to date	







# AFRICAN HERITAGE FORUM

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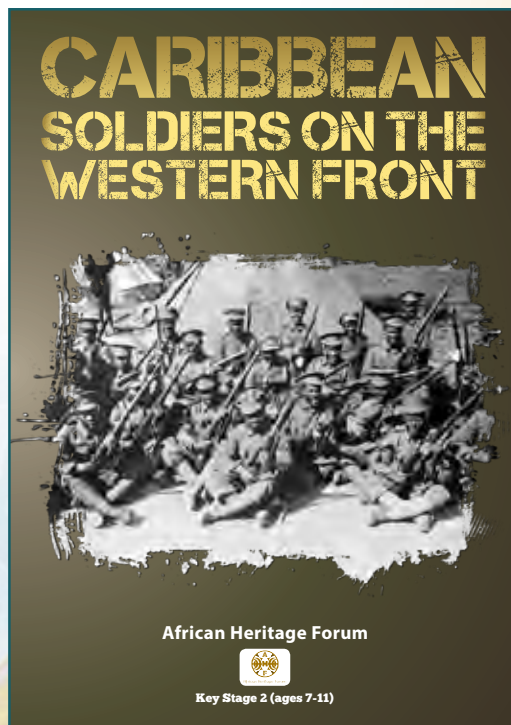
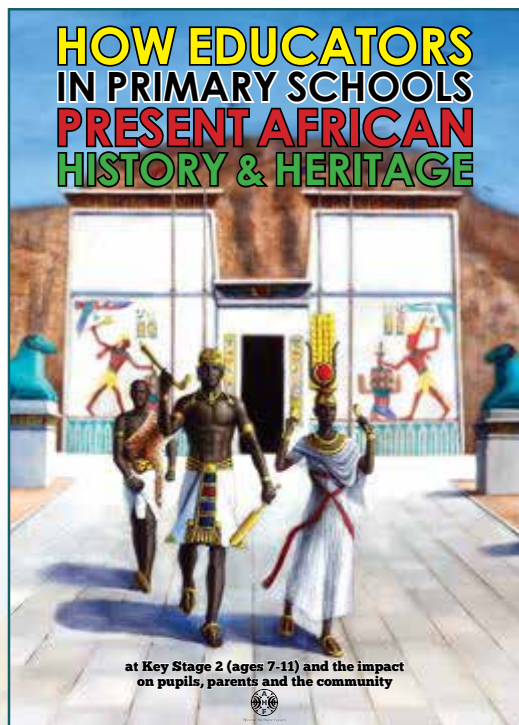
This publication also celebrates the 10th anniversary of African Heritage Forum (AHF). A decade ago, a group of more than 20 people got together to form an organisation that publicised the contributions made to civilisations by Africans of ancient times to the present day. AHF is proud of our achievements, having published two other important works: ***How Educators in Primary Schools present African History and Heritage*** (2012) and ***Caribbean Soldiers on the Western Front*** (2016).

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