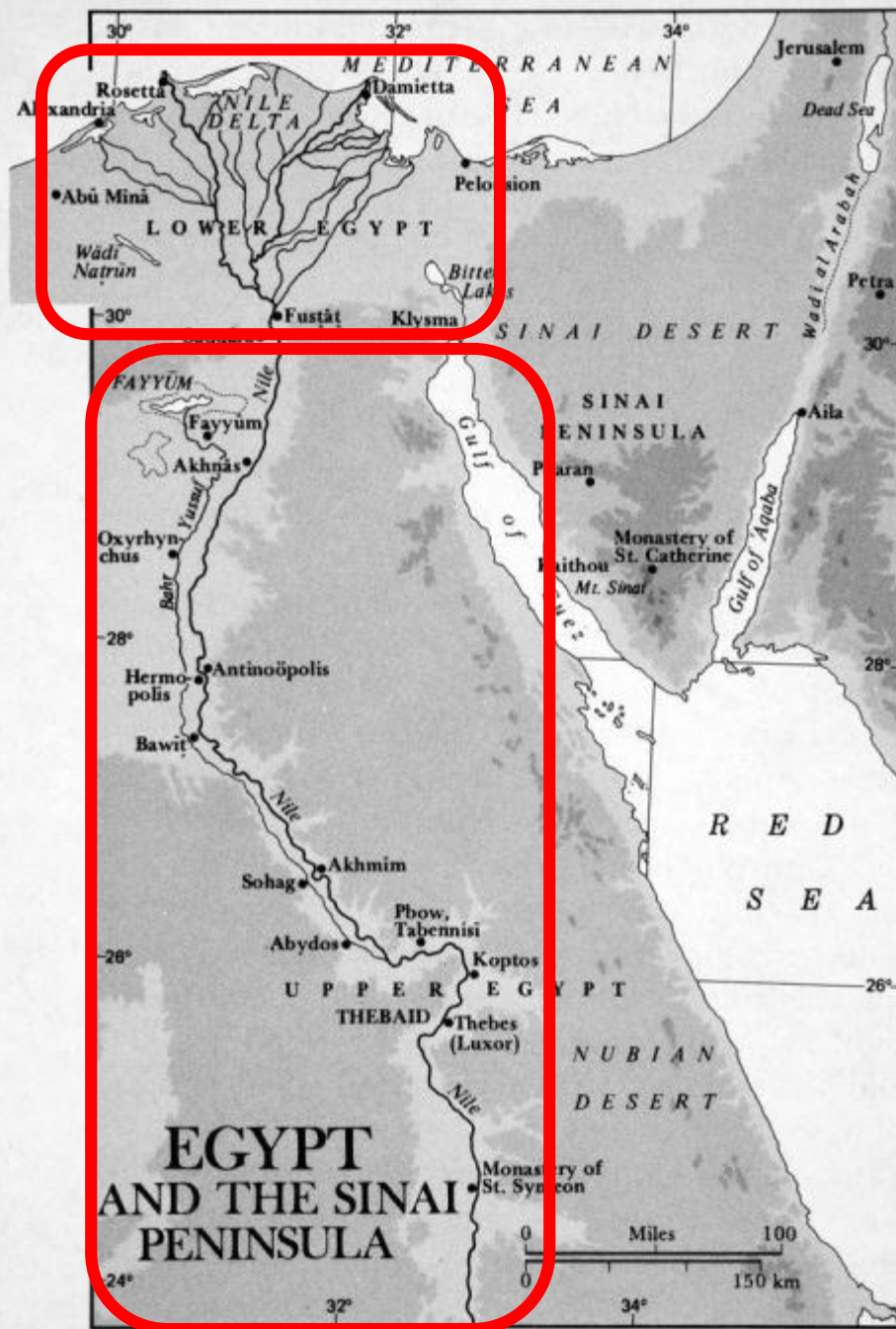


**BACKGROUND TO
ECHOES OF EGYPT**
Curator: Dr. Colleen Manassa

Yale Peabody Museum
April 13, 2013-January 5, 2014

Slide show prepared by Richard Yanowitz (www.richardyanowitz.com)

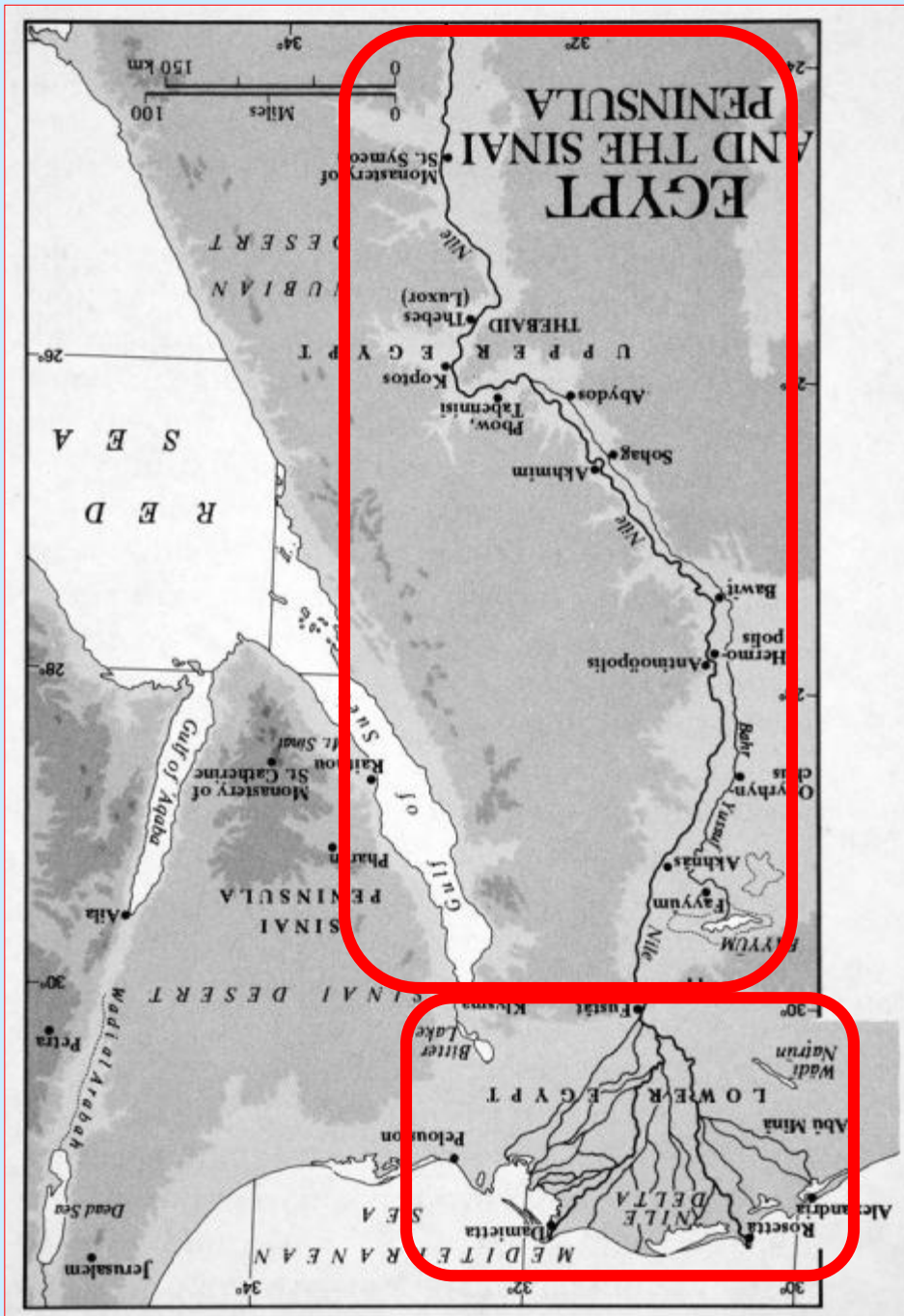


Lower Egypt

“Black land” = Nile Valley

“Red land” = desert

Upper Egypt



Upper Egypt

Lower Egypt

Historical dating (Western style)

OLD STYLE	NEW STYLE*
BC (Before Christ)	BCE (Before the Common/Christian/Current Era)
AD (Anno Domini: “the year of Our Lord”)	CE (Common/Christian/Current Era)

**“Common Era” goes back at least to 1615 in Latin (European Christian vulgaris aerae) and to 1635 in English (“Vulgar Era”) and 1708 (“Common Era”). Jewish academics introduction “BCE/CE” in the mid-19th century, and the usage has gradually become common in Western academia since about 1980. [Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Era]*

1st hieroglyphs

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD:
start of Ancient Egypt, royal burials in mastabas

OLD KINGDOM:
first pyramids, Sphinx, pyramid texts

MIDDLE KINGDOM:
coffin texts

NEW KINGDOM:
books of the dead, Nefertiti, Tut, Ramesses, Moses(?), Valleys of the Kings and Queens

LATE KINGDOM:
mostly foreign rulers

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD:
Alexander the Great, Ptolemaic pharaohs, Rosetta Stone inscribed, Cleopatra

Roman Empire
13BCE-476CE
(Coptic Christians in Egypt)

~3400/
3300

~3100/
3000-
2600

~2600-
2100

~2000-1600

~1500-1100

~700-332

332-
30

1st intermediate
period (~100 yrs)

2nd intermediate
period (~100 yrs)

3rd
intermediate
period (~400-
600 yrs)

Birth of Jesus

Last known
hieroglyph (394CE)

Ancient Egypt

BCE

CE

A mastaba (early dynastic)



Step Pyramid of Djoser (Old Kingdom)



Giza pyramids and Sphinx (Old Kingdom)



Valley of the Kings

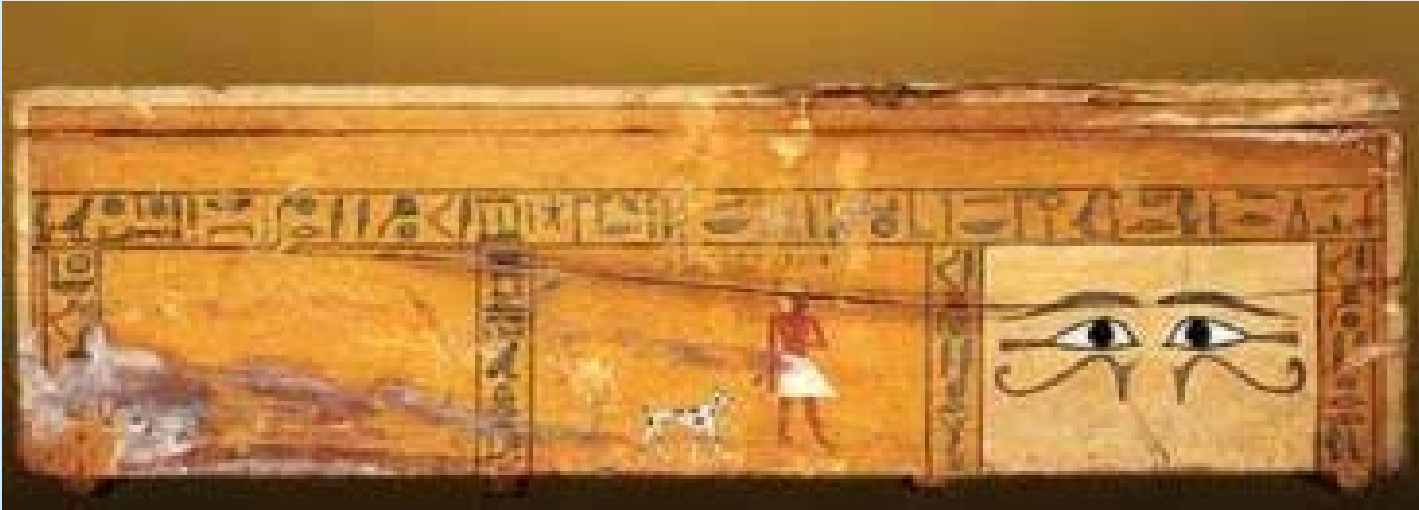


First pyramid texts

(Old Kingdom, ca. 2345 BCE)

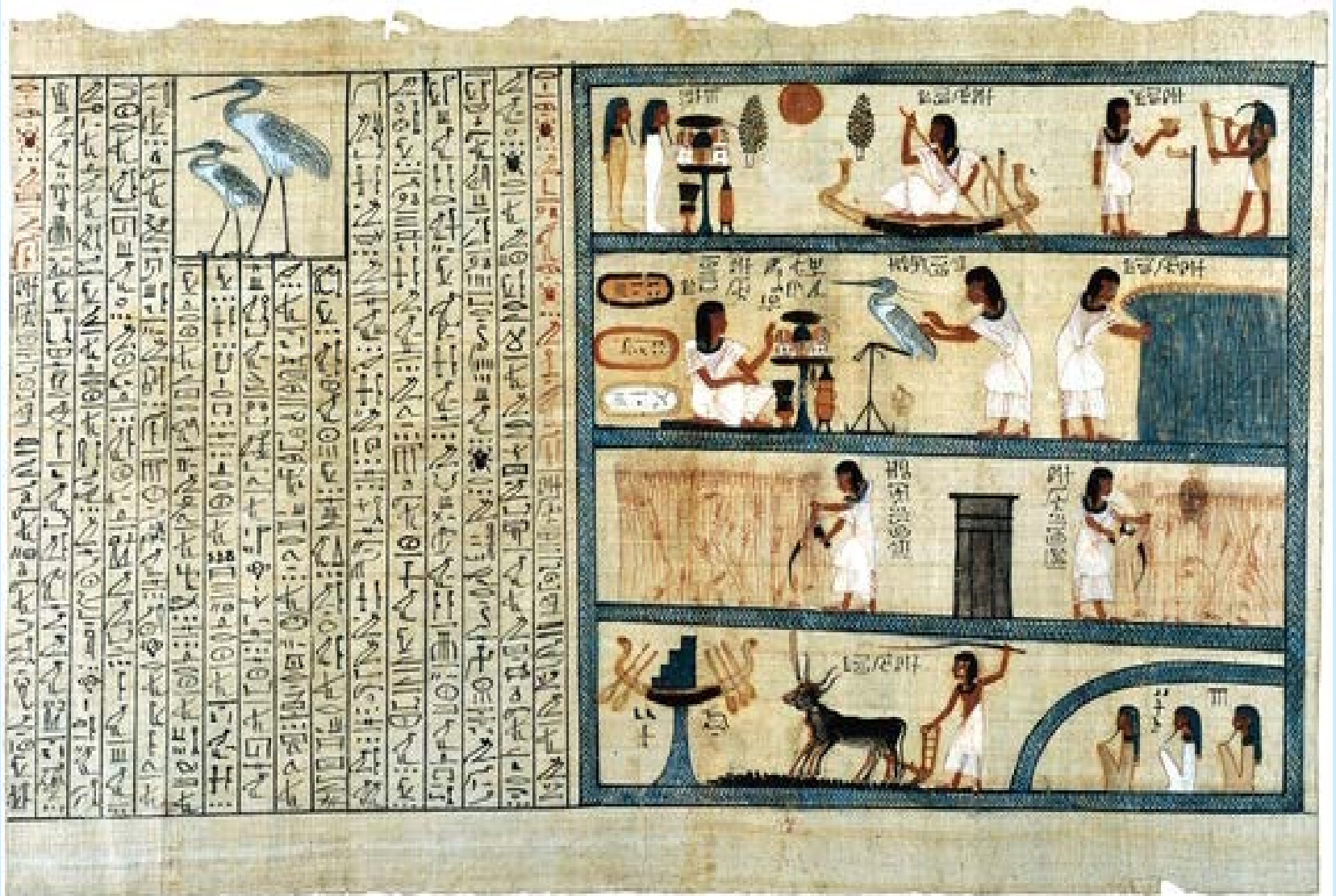


Coffin texts (Middle Kingdom)

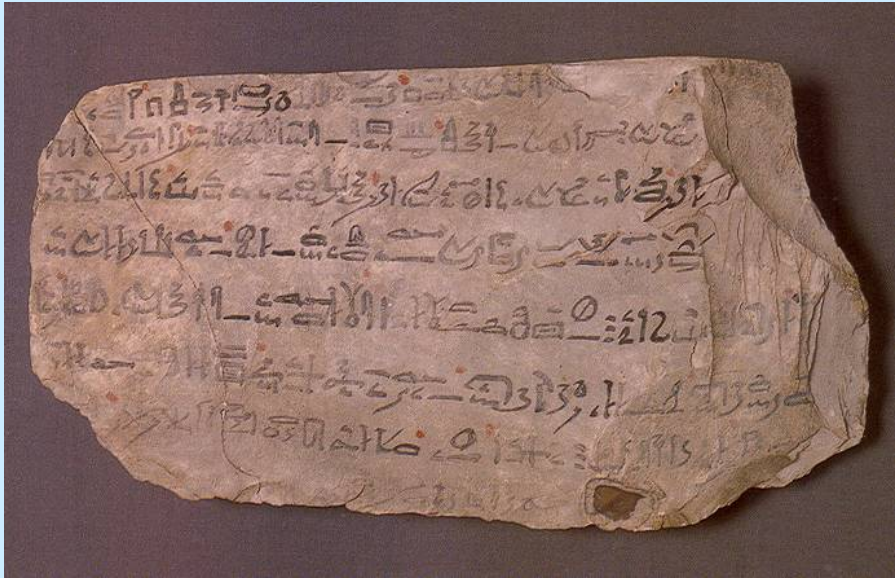


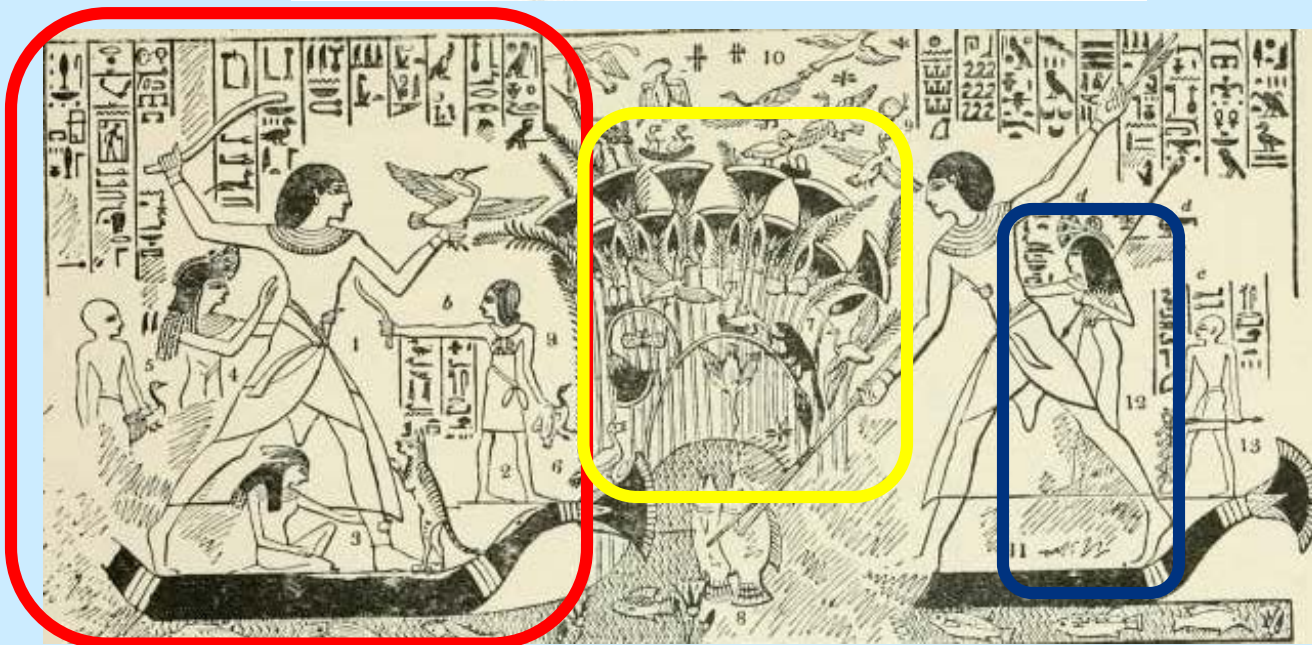
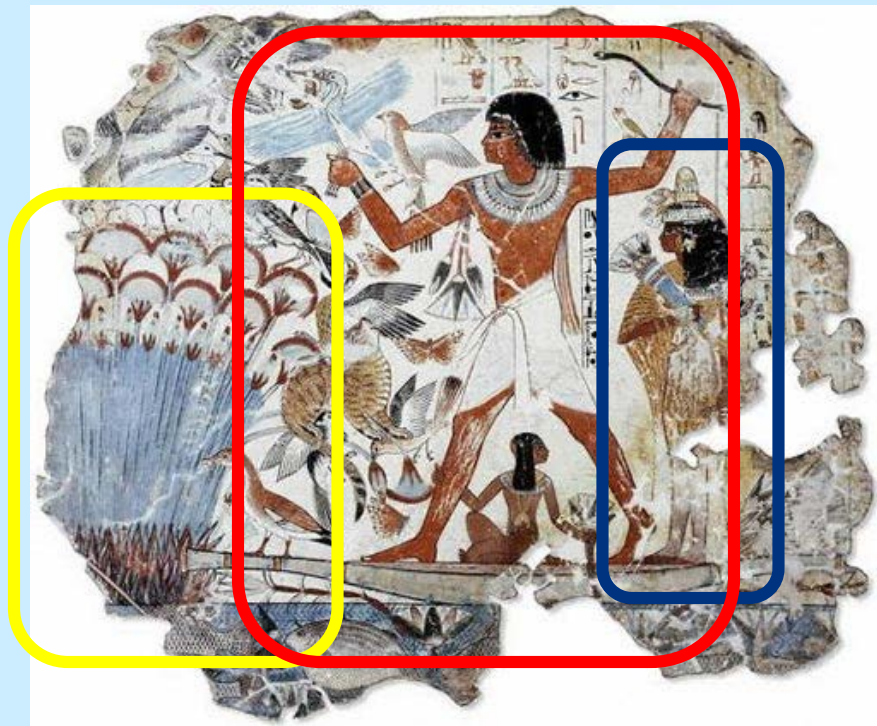
Photos are from the British Museum web site

A “page” from a Book of the Dead (New Kingdom)



Ostraca





Animal mummies

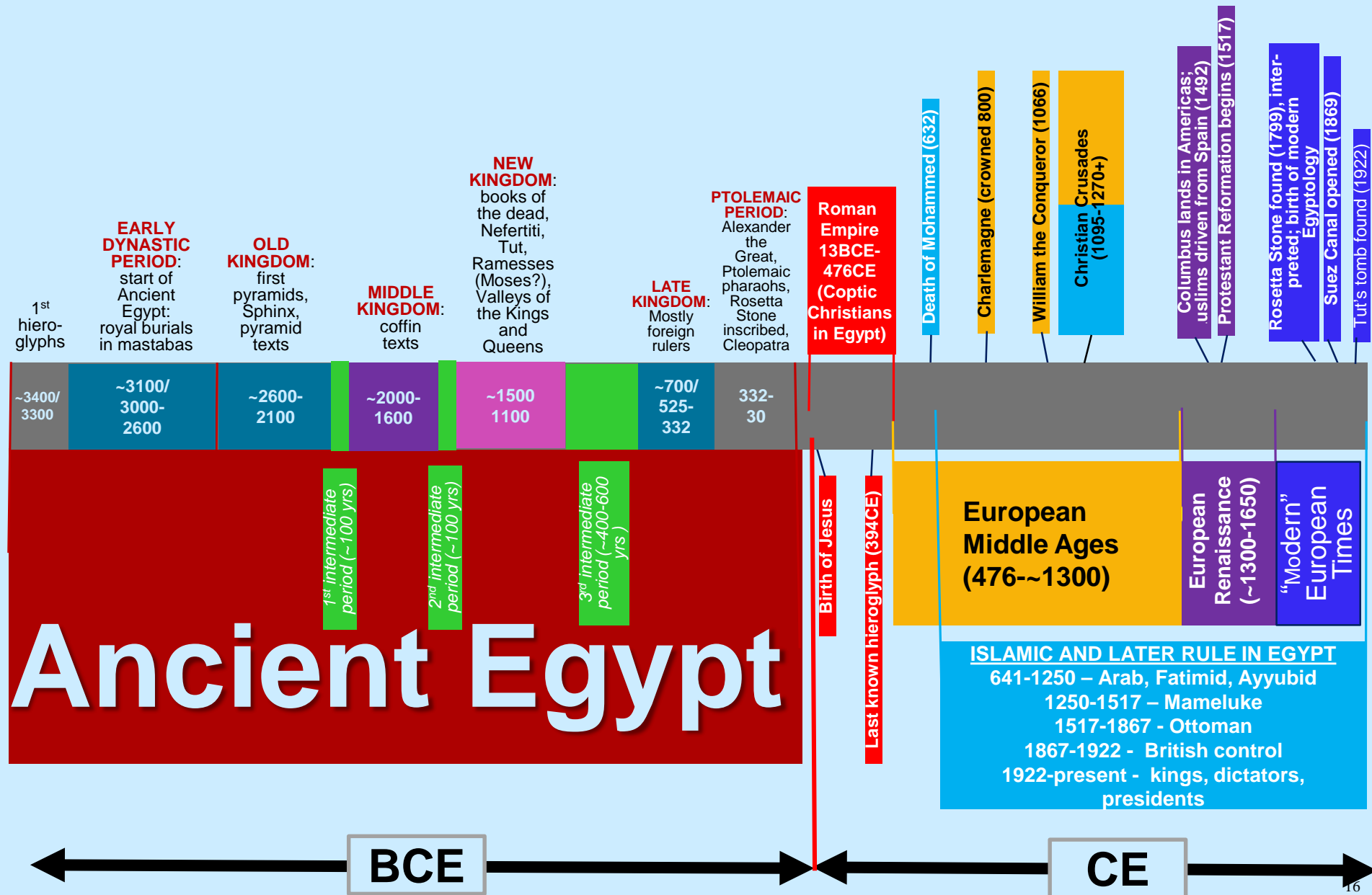




Three broad phases of responses to Egypt

- 1) Ancient (until 400 CE; includes “Egyptomania” among ancient Egyptians and other ancient societies)
- 2) Loss of knowledge of hieroglyphs (400-1822 CE)
- 3) Modern Egyptology (1822-present)

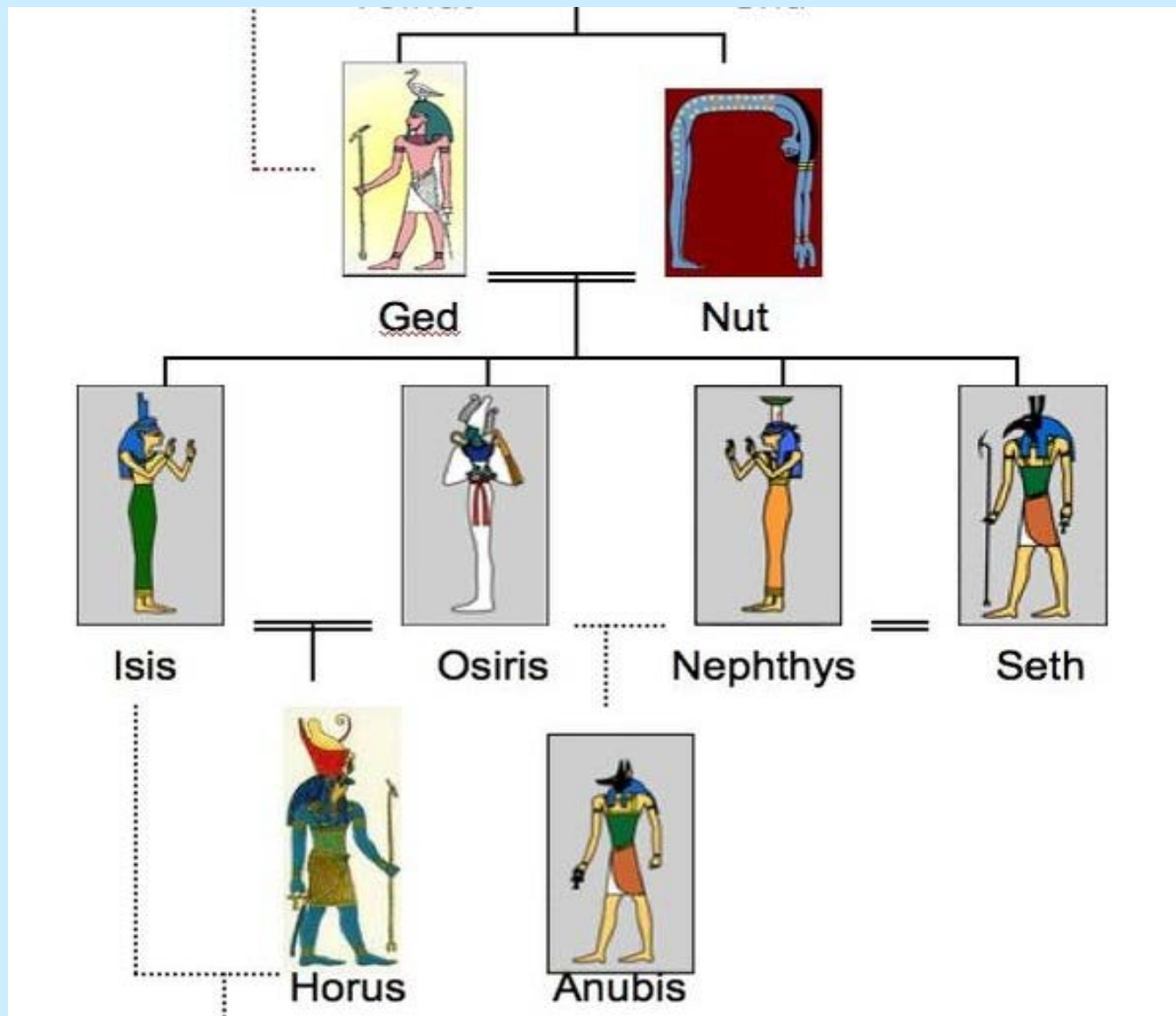
“Echoes of Egypt”



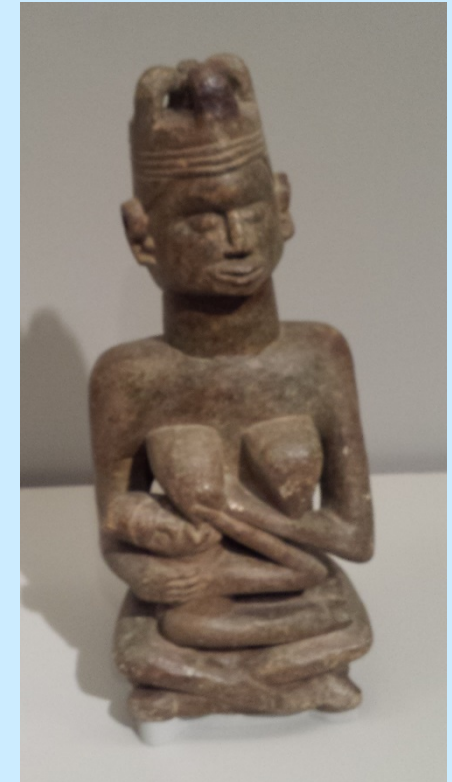
Early Christianity

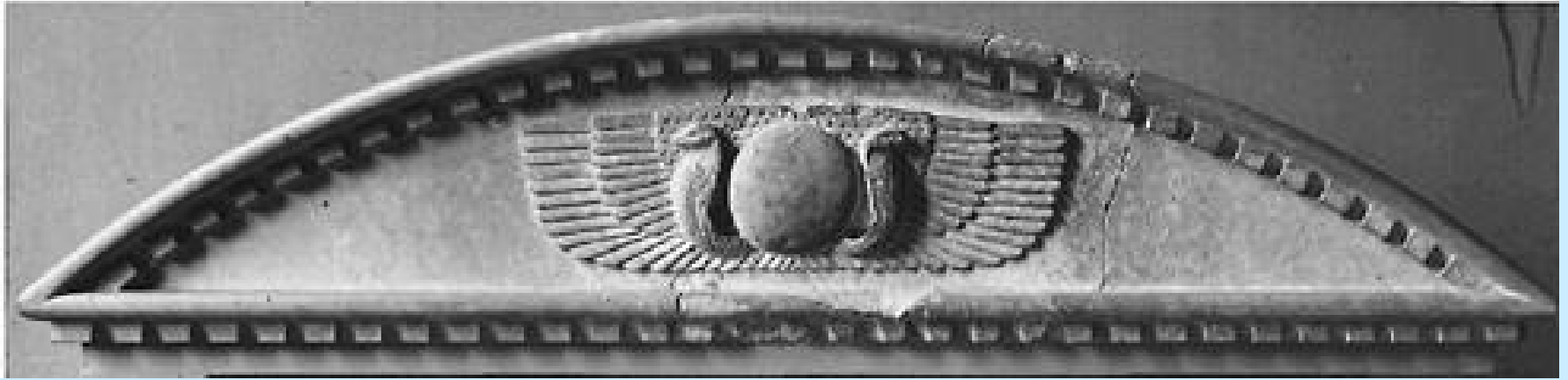
- Resemblances between Isis and the Virgin Mary were common.
- The Flight into Egypt was taken to point to Egypt (perhaps Isis) as the source of Jesus's healing powers.
- Easter today in some parts of Sicily:
Thousands of Sicilians line the streets awaiting the arrival of the Virgin Mary "in search" of her son.

Genealogy of some Egyptian gods



Isis and Mary (+?) nursing their sons





Segmental pediment with winged globe, uræi, and dentils

- Under possibly suspicious circumstances, emperor Hadrian's lover, Antinoüs (c. 110–130), drowned in the Nile.
- Hadrian promoted a cult that identified Antinoüs with Osiris, which prompted a new wave of Roman Egyptomania.

Telamones: architectural supporting pillars



Antinoös (at
Hadrian's
Villa, 2nd
century CE)



Colossus of Ramesses II





Raphael, Leo X's "dining room" (begun 1514)

This Paris fountain (a replacement of the 1844 original) transforms Antinoüs into an Egyptian water-bearer by converting the clenched cylinders into the handles of pitchers from which water flows.



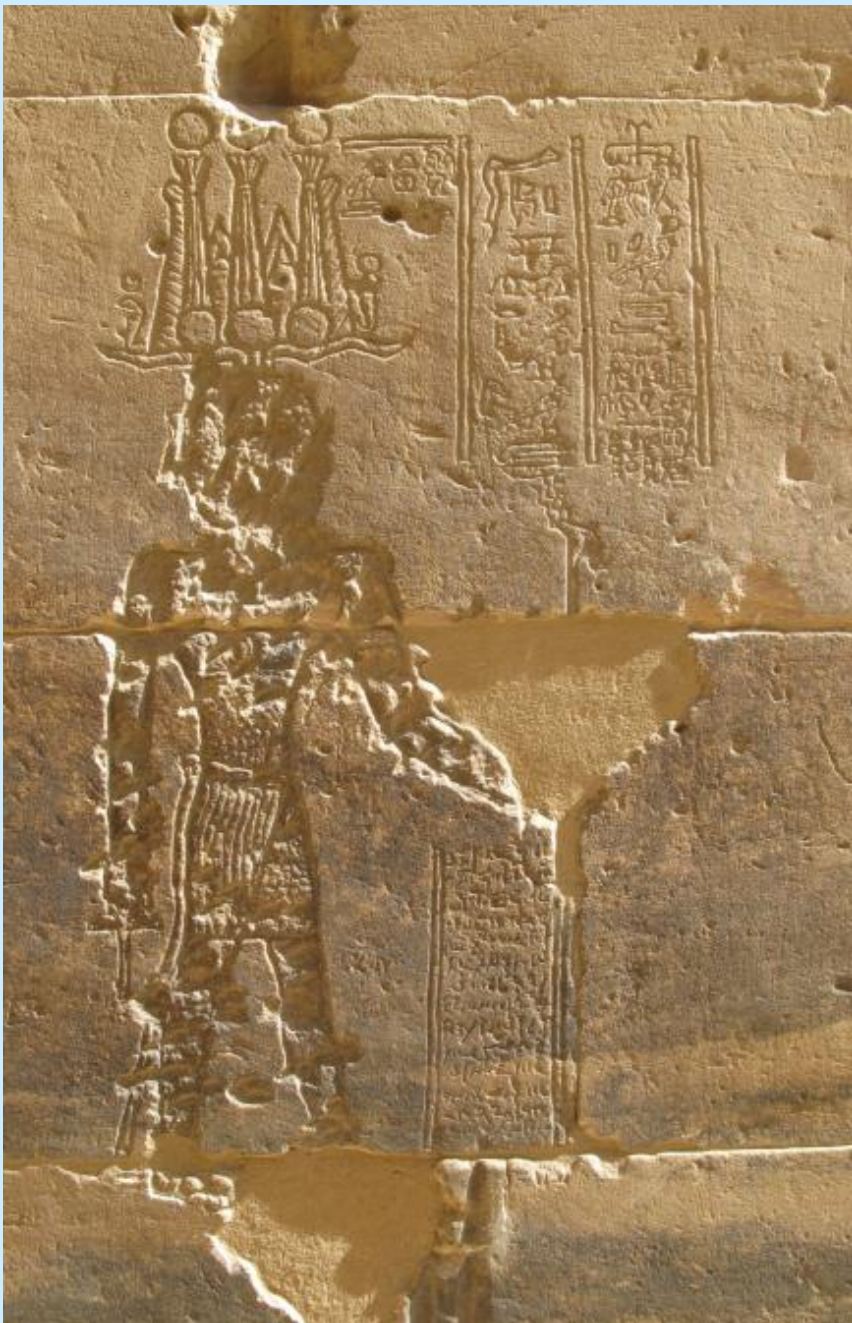
Artemis,
ca. 300
BCE



16th-century
(?) Artemis
at Hadrian's
Villa, with
many
breasts with
nipples
spouting
water

In 1513, a huge 2nd-century Roman statue of the god of the Nile (“Father Nile”) was unearthed near Santa Maria Sopra Minerva in Rome (statue is now in the Vatican).





Last datable
hieroglyphic
inscription:
394 CE



- In the 5th century, two Latin writers identified the Pyramids of Giza as the granaries of Joseph.
- In 1335, a German pilgrim reported that the pyramids were solid and could not have been storage areas, but this did not stop the tradition.
- Within the next century, however, the granaries notion yielded to frequent understanding that the pyramids had been tombs.

Islam arrives in Egypt

- An Islamic army captures Egypt 641CE.
- The Quran urges Muslims to study ancient civilizations such as Egypt.

Moslem writers asserted numerous links between Egypt and Arabs, including

- Ismael, the supposed Father of the Arabs, as the son of Abraham and his Egyptian wife, Hajar
- The Arabic name for Egypt supposedly coming from the name of Noah's son, Misr (also known as "Cham" or "Ham")
- The marriage of Mohammed to an Egyptian
- 30 Qur'anic references to Egypt

- Encountering mummies in ~641, Muslim conquerors of Egypt thought the dark surface on them was bitumen—*Mummiya* in Arabic.
- Arabs and then medieval (and later) Europeans sought powdered “mummy” or “mummia” for medication.



18th century pharmacy vial

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mummia>)

A fictitious London mummy pill factory (1842)



A Muslim account of ancient Egyptian magic

- A 10th-century scholar, Al-Mas‘udi tells the story of an ancient Egyptian queen who built temples with magic tools and pictures of potential enemies.
- An invading army could later be subjected to wounding via her damaging their pictures.

Medieval Islam and ancient Egyptian sciences

- Muslims came to believe that hieroglyphs contained mystical secrets.
- Books referred to hieroglyphs as “the Egyptian matter,” *al-Keme* (from Egyptian *Kemet*—“Black Land”), which may be the source for the word “alchemy.”
- Medieval Arab scholars were interested in Egyptian sciences, especially alchemy.

Medieval Europe and ancient Egyptian sciences

Ancient Egyptians were believed to have been...

- masters of astronomy...
- and hence of astrology...
- which in turn was the root of magic...
- which was connected with alchemy...
- which was associated with the power of hieroglyphs.

A few other Medieval European connections

- Most beliefs about ancient Egypt stemmed from the Old Testament.
- Because of his name, Claudius Ptolemy (the 2nd century CE source of later thinking about geocentrism) was assumed to have been an Egyptian pharaoh in the Ptolemaic period.
- Numerous Arabic-to-Latin translations were made in the 10-13th centuries.

Cosmati sphinxes (13th century)

- Probably the first example of a male-female sphinx couple
- Probably not identified with Egypt but with the past in general, antique Roman architecture and sculpture in particular



(a)



(b)

Horapollon's *Hieroglyphica*

- 4th or 5th...or 11th...century CE Greek text, lost and then rediscovered on a Greek island in 1419
- Contains “explanations” of 189 hieroglyphs
- Single largest influence on Renaissance approach to hieroglyphs

The ouroboros

“When they wish to depict the Universe, they draw a serpent devouring its own tail... And, as each year it sheds its skin it [represents] old age. But as each season of the year returns successively, it grows young again.”



Syncretism: Thoth/Hermes

Among other things, these gods:

- Gave names to objects
- Invented the alphabet
- Became fused into an ancient Egyptian, Hermes Trismegistus (“Hermes the thrice-great”—king, philosopher, prophet), who was believed to have written a series of works full of magical secrets (collectively called the “corpus hermetica”)

NOTE: Some coffin texts refer to a “divine book of Thoth.”

- Early Christian writers thought Hermes was a contemporary of Moses.
- As the centuries passed, the Hermetica was thought to be the oldest Egyptian writing.
- In medieval Europe, Hermes as “thrice-great” sometimes became confused with a legend about a Mercury who wrote a book on the three-part Christian Trinity.
- In the late 17th century, Isaac Newton wrote a commentary on a Hermetic alchemical work.

Renaissance humanism and antiquity

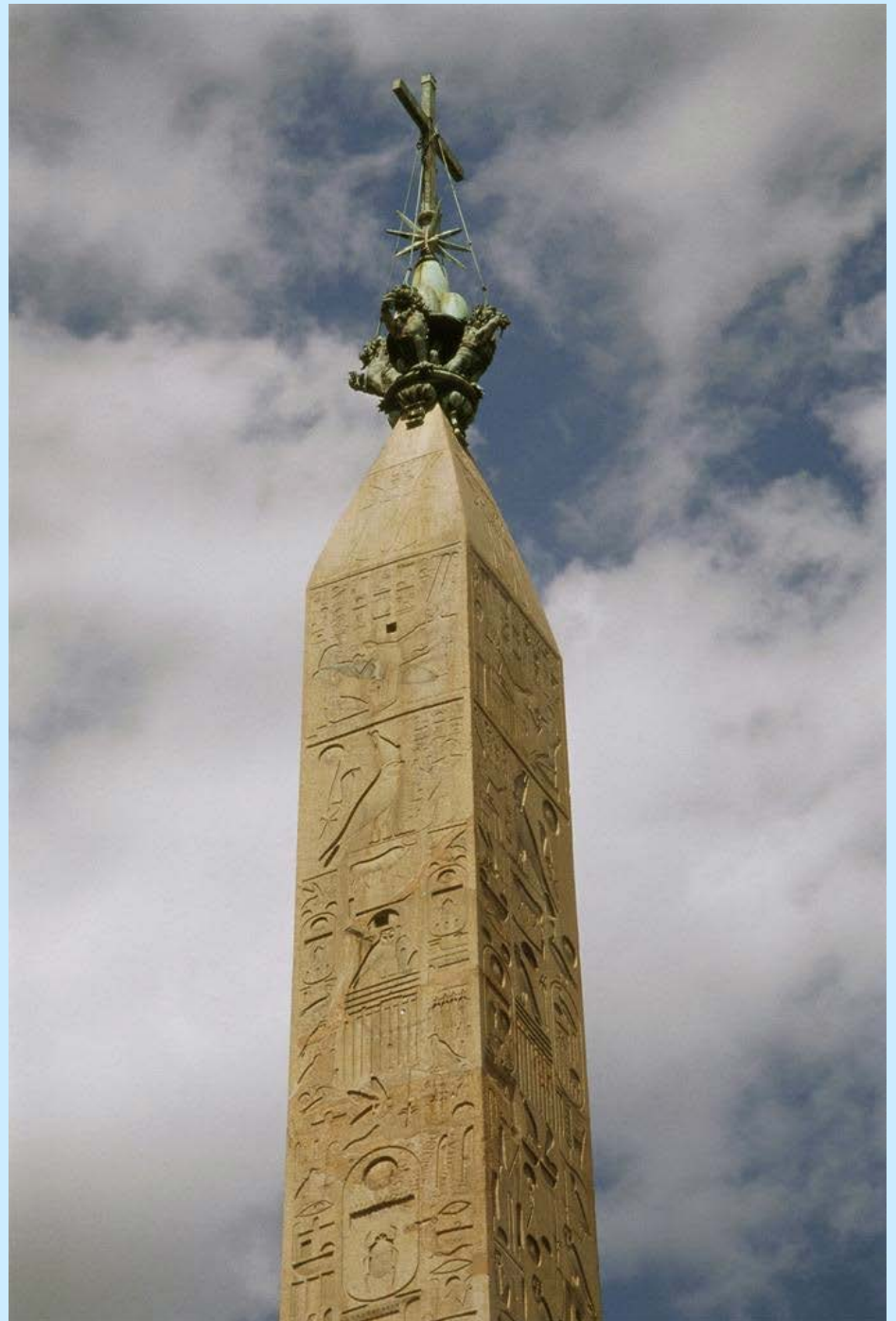
- For knowledge about Egypt, Renaissance scholars commonly turned to ancient Roman remains and texts in Greek and Latin.
- Renaissance thinkers often sought to reconcile “pagan” ideas (especially Greek, Roman, Egyptian) with Christian thought. This included (a) some tendency to look for a universal history that united all cultures and (b) a quest for anticipations of Christianity in pre-Christian writings and art.

Renaissance Italian ancestor worship...

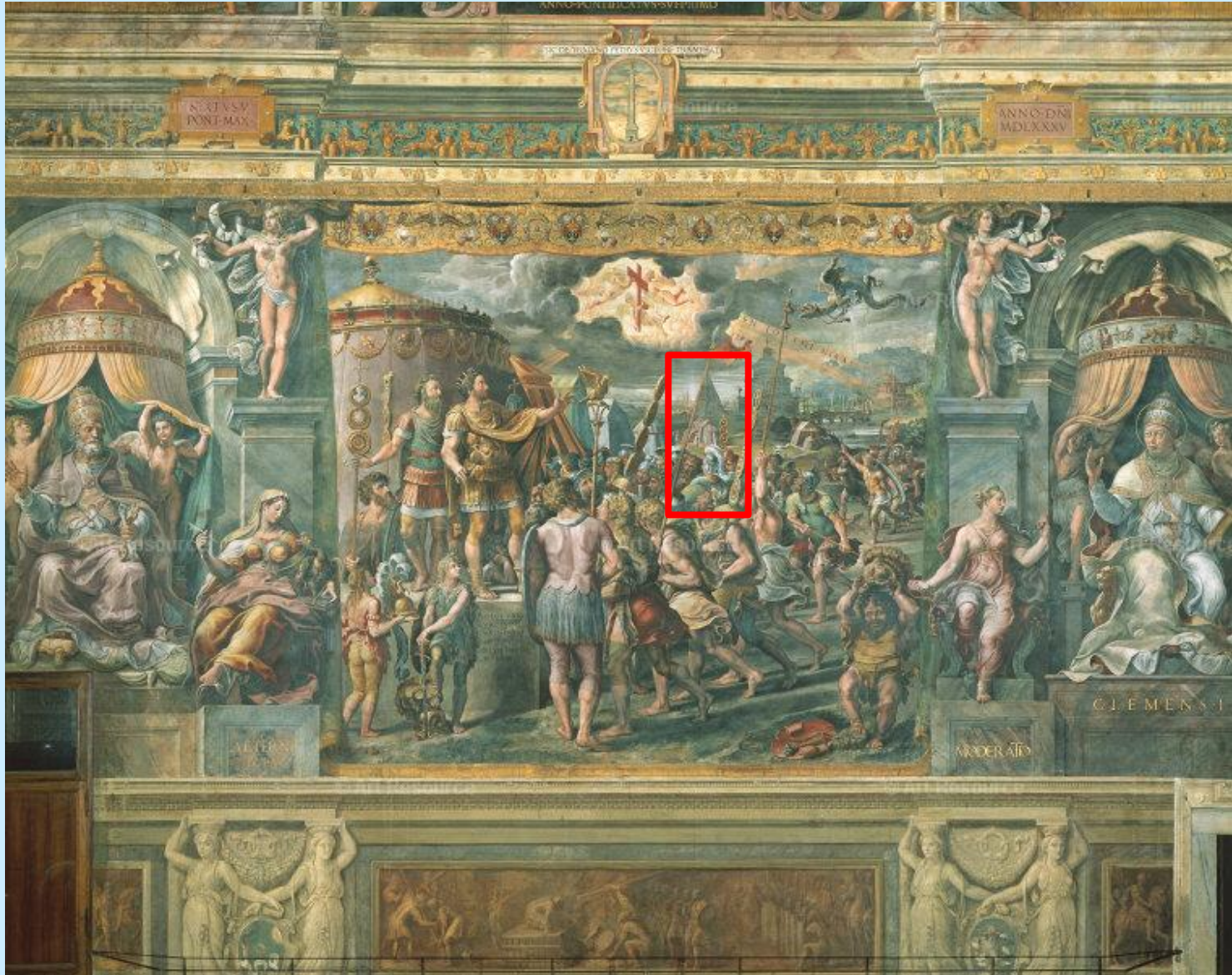
- A few popes sought to trace their family roots back to ancient Egyptian gods.
- A Vatican ceiling commissioned by Rodrigo Borgia, Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503), includes several ancient Egyptian references.



Renaissance papal modification to an obelisk top



School of Raphael, *The Vision of Constantine* (~1520)



Humanist interest in Hermetic thought reflected expectations of a continuity between ancient and Christian thought.

Floor of Siena Cathedral at west end of the nave (1480s): Hermes Trismegistus and followers (note winged sphinxes supporting the inscription panel at lower right)





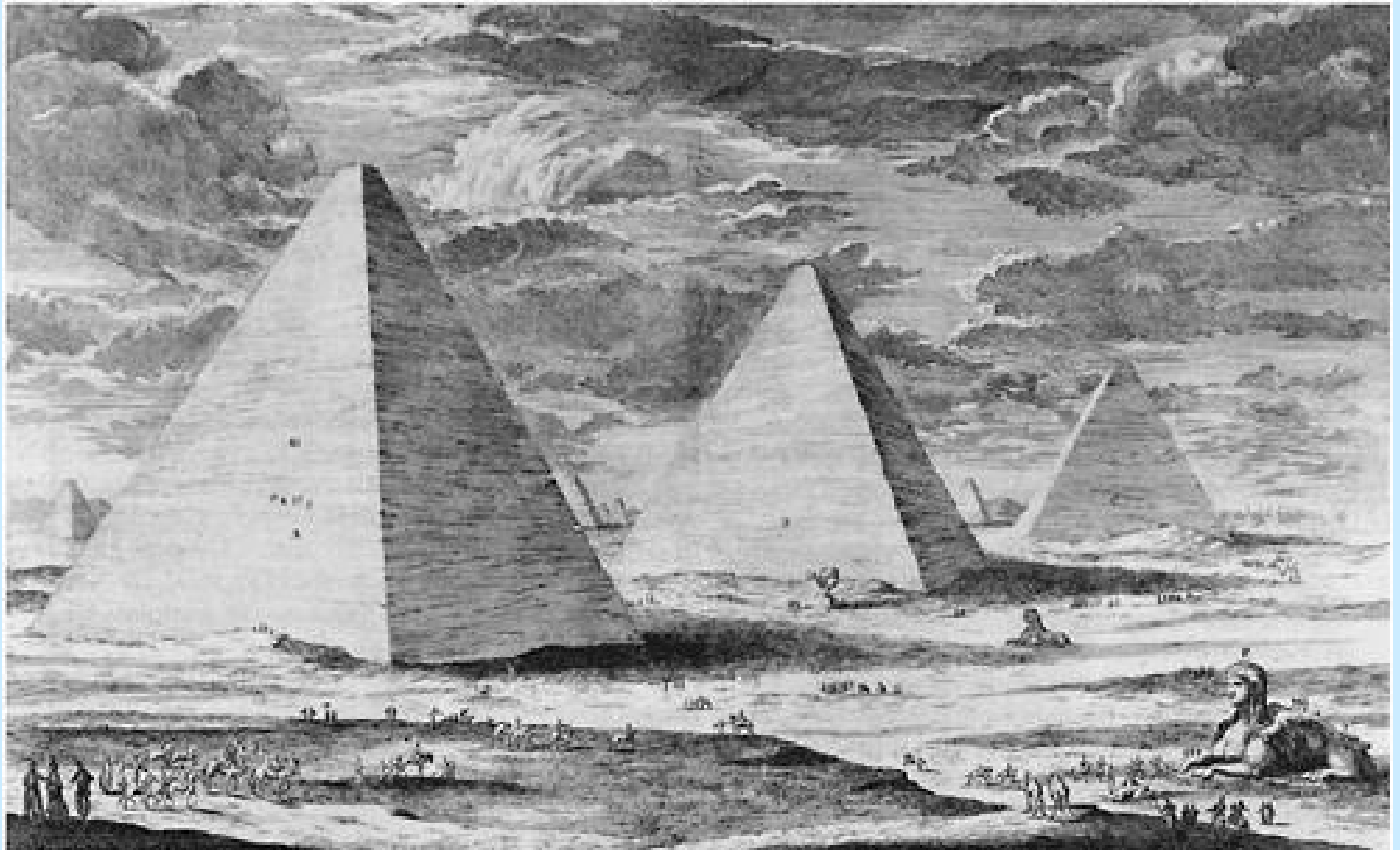
Athanasius Kircher (German Jesuit scholar, 1602-1680)

- Produced a largely accurate Coptic dictionary
- Claimed to have translated hieroglyphs
- Believed that hieroglyphs were a mysterious Hermetic vocabulary of divine knowledge
- Relied in part on Arabic texts

Giza pyramids and Sphinx (Old Kingdom)



1721 image of pyramids and Sphinx



- Isaac Newton and some other late 17th-/early 18th-century scholars argued for a connection between circular ancient monuments in Egypt and elsewhere (e.g., stone circles like Stonehenge) as ancient depictions of a heliocentric solar system.
- In later 18th-century England, there was some belief that Egyptian priests and (supposed) Celtic Druids were linked via similar beliefs and practices.

Avebury, England



One 18th-century English scholar interpreted the stone circle at Avebury as a gigantic snake hieroglyph.

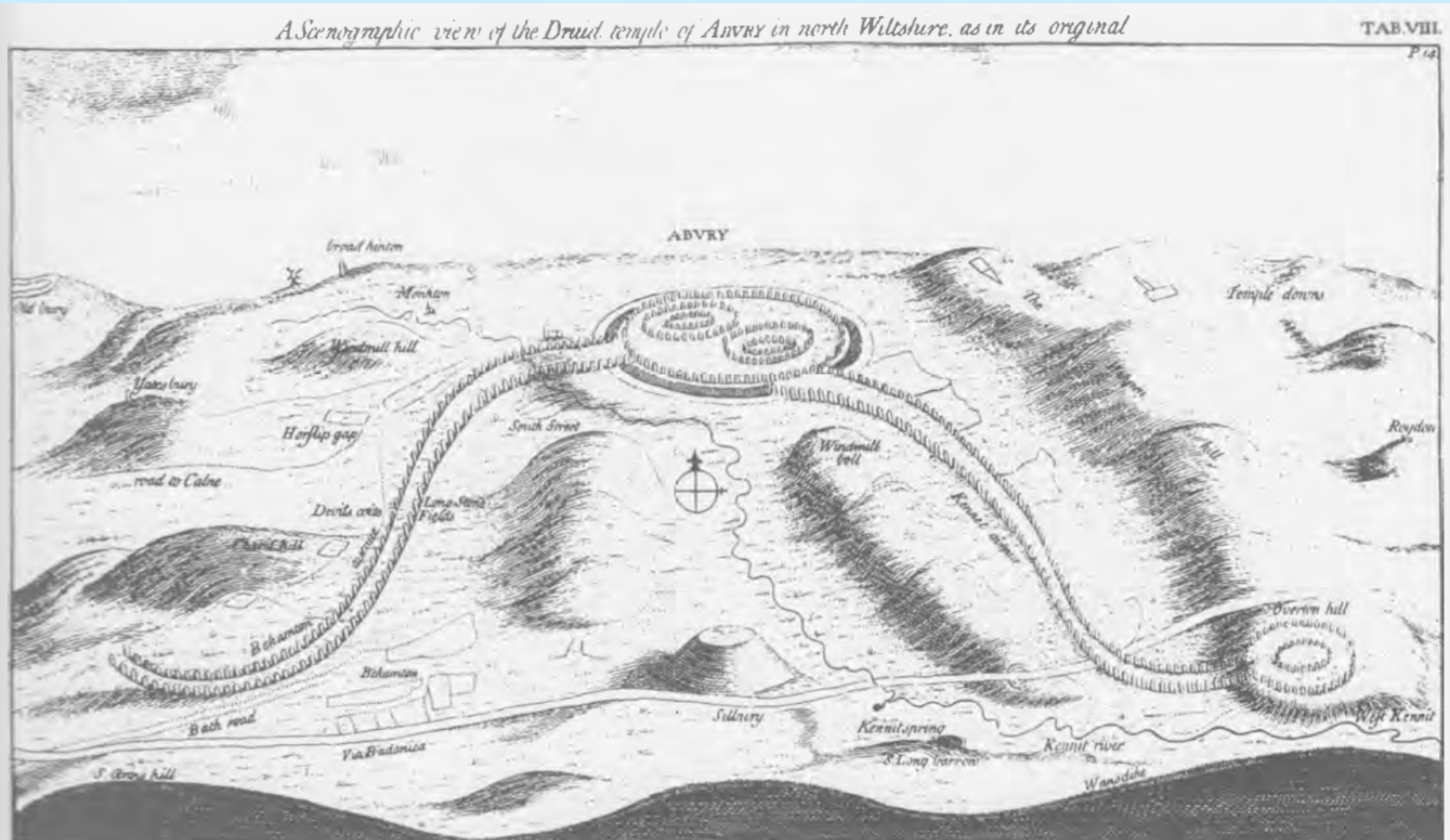
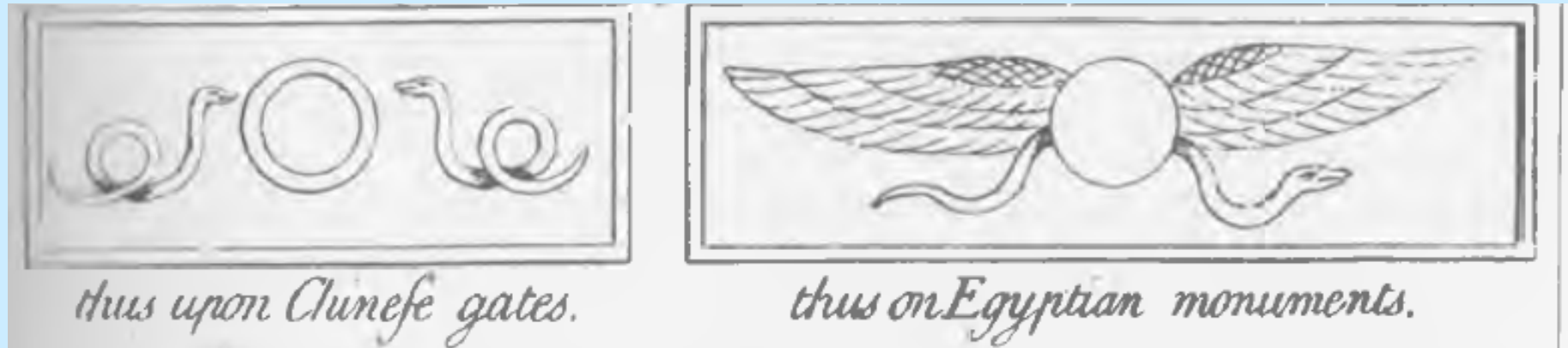


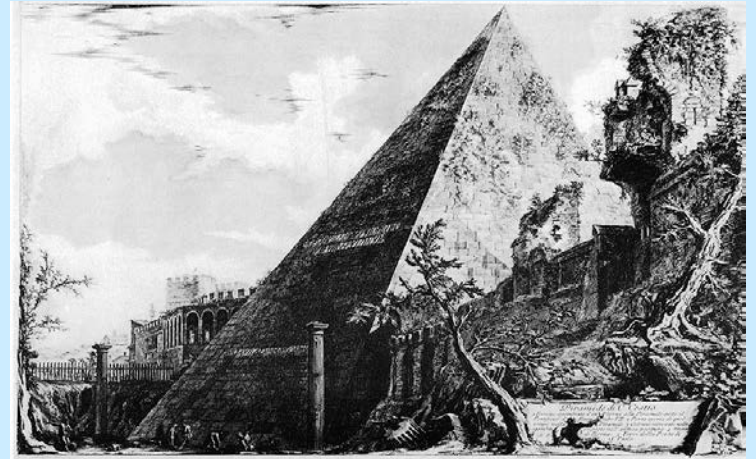
Figure 7:1 William Stukeley's (1743: pl. VII) drawing of a "scenographic view of the druid temple of Avebury in north Wiltshire", in which he interprets the Overton Hill end as the head of a snake, Avebury itself as the snake's coiled body, and the Beckhampton Avenue as its tail.

- In the 18th century, comparisons began to develop among various pictograph writing worldwide—e.g., in Egypt, China, India and Mexico.



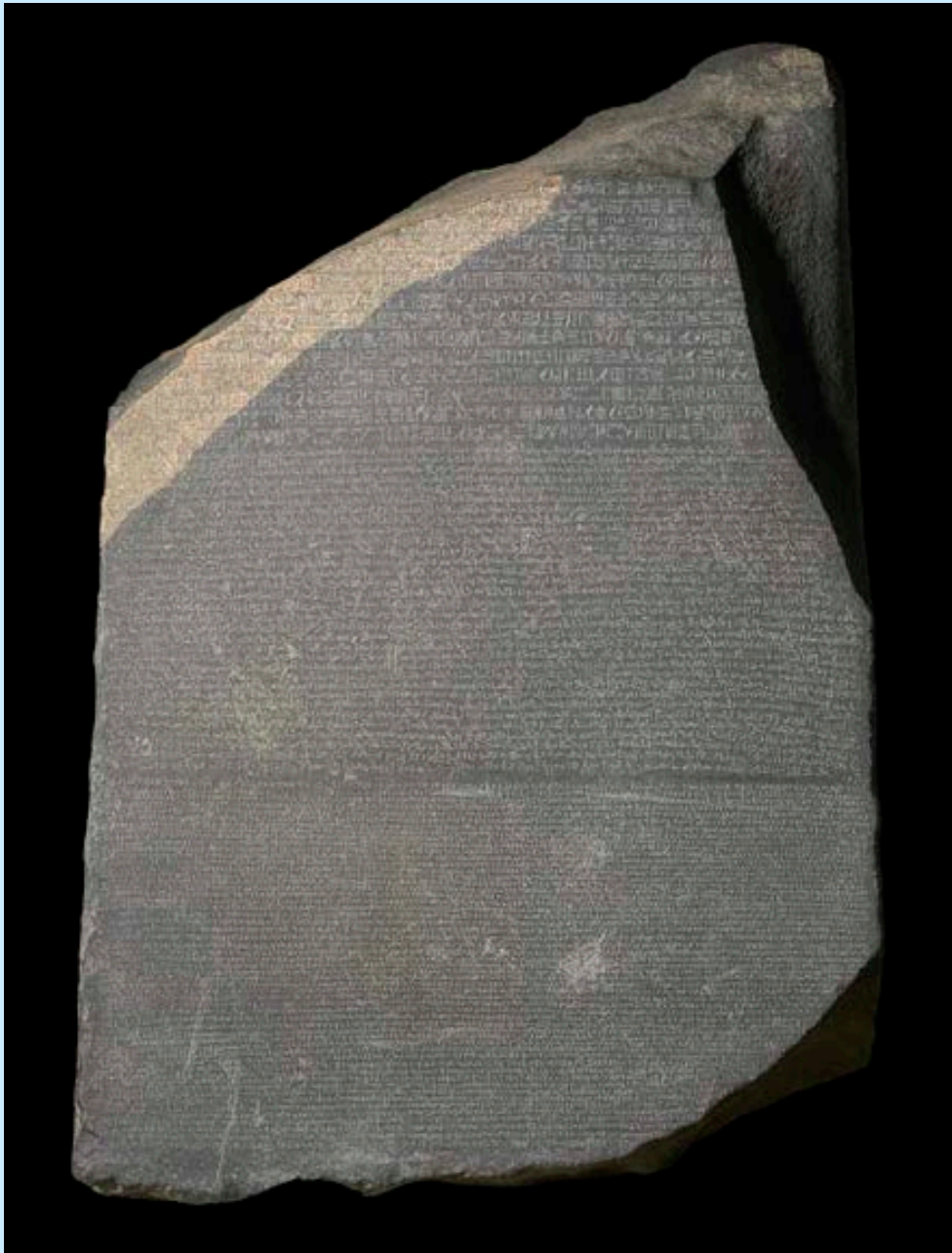
- Some scholars argued that places like China and India were settled by Egyptians.
- In the 19th century, advances in linguistic and anthropological studies began to underscore human diversity, not commonality, and ideas of Egypt as the source of many or all cultures receded.

Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778)



The French connection

- 1798: Napoleon invades Egypt, brings along 150+ scholars.
- 1799: French soldiers find the Rosetta Stone while excavating an ancient fort wall

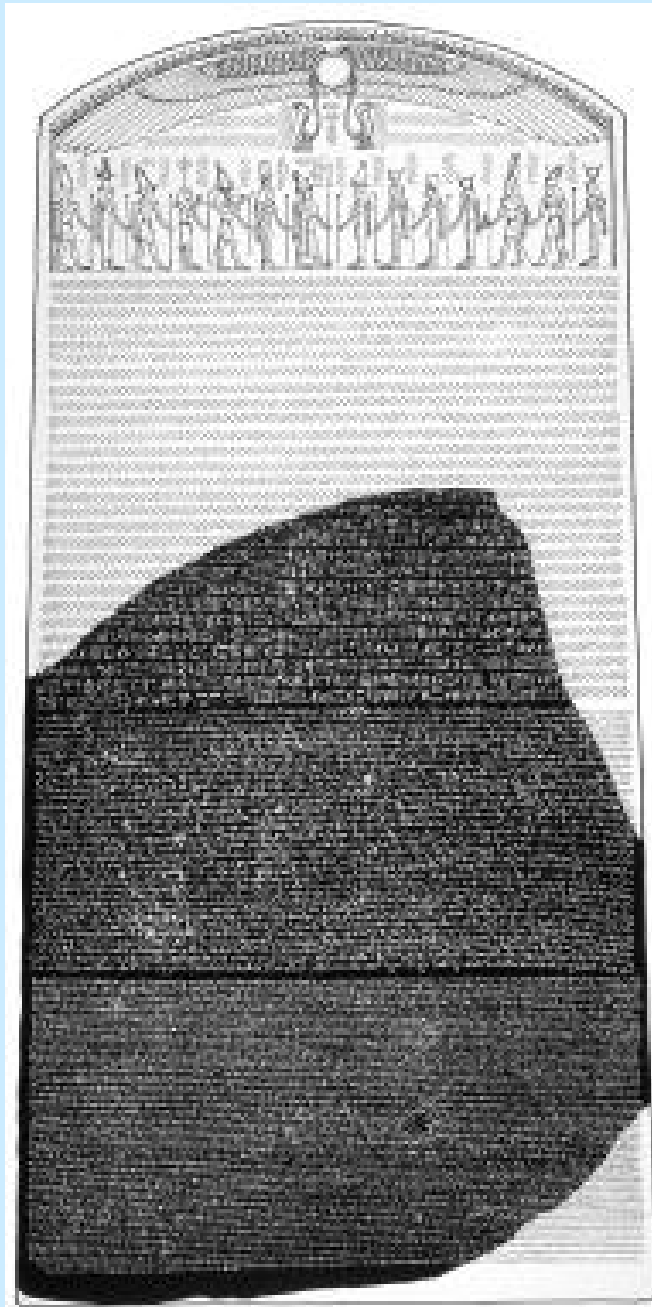


Rosetta Stone

196 BCE

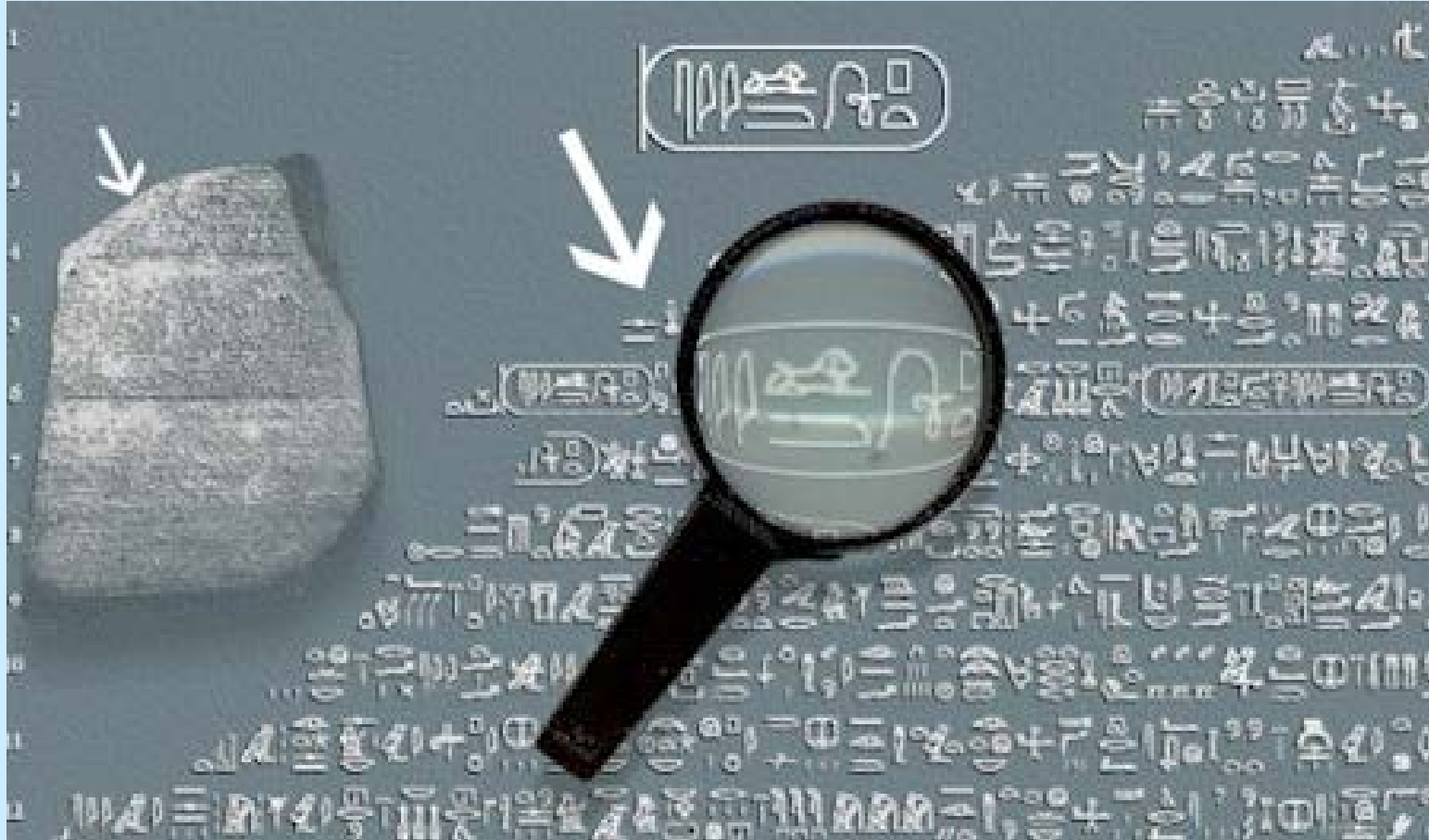
(granodiorite)

- Upper text:
Hieroglyphic
- Middle: Demotic
- Lower: Greek



Priestly Memphis
decree of “month 2 of
the Peret-season, day
18” (27 March 196
BCE) honoring Ptolemy
V, now 13 years old and
pharaoh since age 5

- English polymath Thomas Young: recognized Pharaonic cartouche content as representing sounds

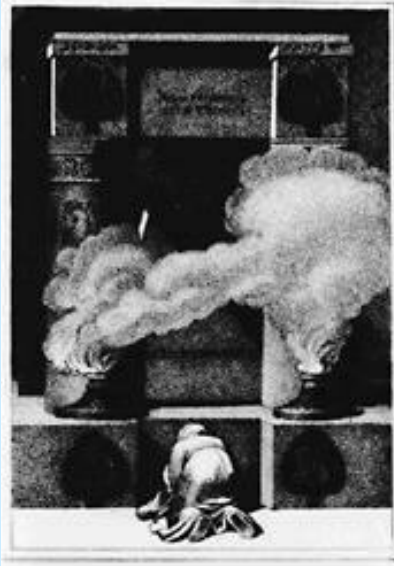


- French philologist Jean-Francois Champollion: published decipherment of hieroglyphs (1824)

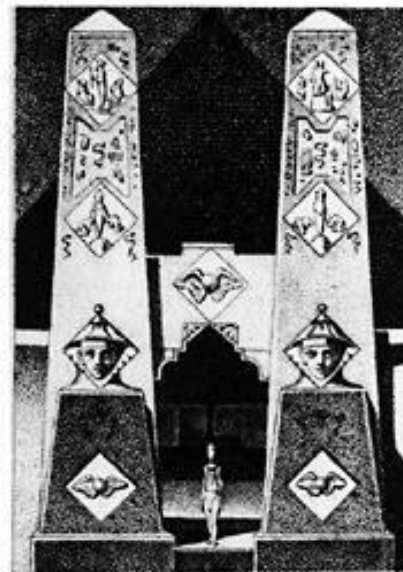
- *Description de l'Égypte*: 20 volumes of the writings and drawings of the scholars were published 1809-1829
- New wave of Egyptomania

Playing cards (1819)

4♠/6♥



2♦/9♦



19th-century U.S. and ancient Egypt

- Post-Napoleonic Egyptomania was a strong force.
- “At one level, Egypt was seen as a suitable role model for the newly independent and rapidly developing nation and a valued prototype for its emerging sense of its own future destiny.”
- The Mississippi River was sometimes referred to as the “Nile of America.”
- Many settlements were given Egyptian names (e.g., Cairo, Memphis).
- Among various explanations for how native Americans reached the Americas, one was that they came from the Nile Valley.

Egypt and 19th-century analysis of race

- In the first half of the 19th century, especially in England and the U.S., “scientific” approaches to race evolved, based on the new “science” of craniometry—measurement of skulls and their brain capacity.
- Ancient Egyptian skulls and portraits were frequently invoked to prove the superiority of Caucasians.

- In 1854, a scholar (Joseph Clark Nott) and popularizer (George Gliddon) published a large volume, *Types of Mankind*, using craniology and portraits from ancient Egyptian monuments to demonstrate racial differences.
- One conclusion in this work: “The monuments of Egypt prove, that the Negro races have not, during 4000 years at least, been able to make one solitary step, in Negro-land, from their savage state.”
- This work became highly popular and, though not universally accepted, was one standard in the field for many decades.

FIG. 44.



AMUNOPH I.
(A Grecian countenance.)

FIG. 45.

His wife.



AHMES-NOFRE-ARI.
(Strong Semitic features.)

FIG. 46.



THOTMES I.
(Strikingly Hellenic.)

FIG. 47.

Son of the
above.



His wife.



AHMES.
(Absolutely Jewish.)

19th- (and 20th-) century Egyptianized architecture

- Suspension bridges and piers
- Reservoirs and pumping stations
- Monuments, especially in obelisk form
- Prisons
- Courts
- Garden ornaments
- Zoos
- Factories
- Stores
- Cemeteries
- Cinemas

19th-century American cemeteries

Grove St.
Cemetery,
New Haven →



Wooden
cemetery gate,
Farmington, CT

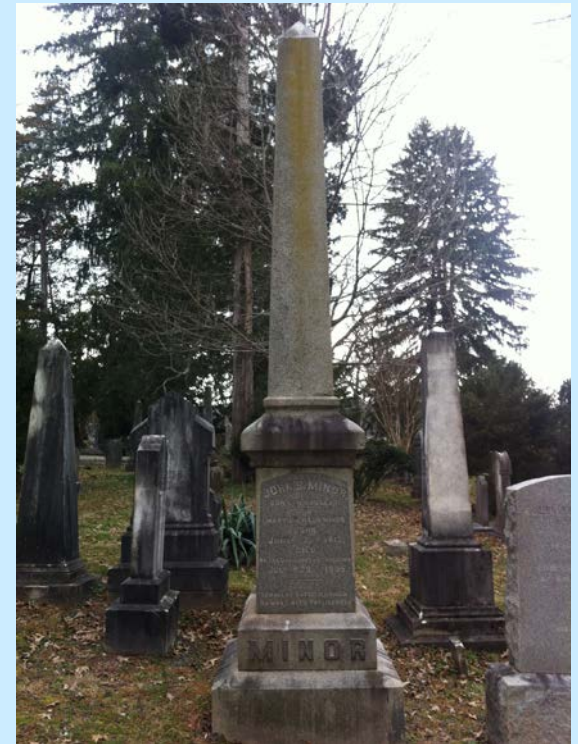


Mt. Auburn
Cemetery,
Cambridge, MA



From James Stevens Curl, *The Egyptian Revival: Ancient Egypt as the Inspiration for Design Motifs in the West*, London, 2005; *Echoes of Egypt*;
<http://echoesofegypt.peabody.yale.edu/driving-tour/cemetery-gate>.

University of Virginia cemetery



New York
City, Central
Park obelisk
("Cleopatra's
Needle,"
erected
1881)





1st hieroglyphs

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD:
start of Ancient Egypt, royal burials in mastabas

OLD KINGDOM:
first pyramids, Sphinx, pyramid texts

MIDDLE KINGDOM:
coffin texts

NEW KINGDOM:
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mostly foreign rulers

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD:
Alexander the Great, Ptolemaic pharaohs, Rosetta Stone inscribed, Cleopatra

Roman Empire
13BCE-476CE
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~3400/
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332-
30

1st intermediate
period (~100 yrs)

2nd intermediate
period (~100 yrs)

3rd
intermediate
period (~400-
600 yrs)

Birth of Jesus

Last known
hieroglyph (394CE)

Ancient Egypt

BCE

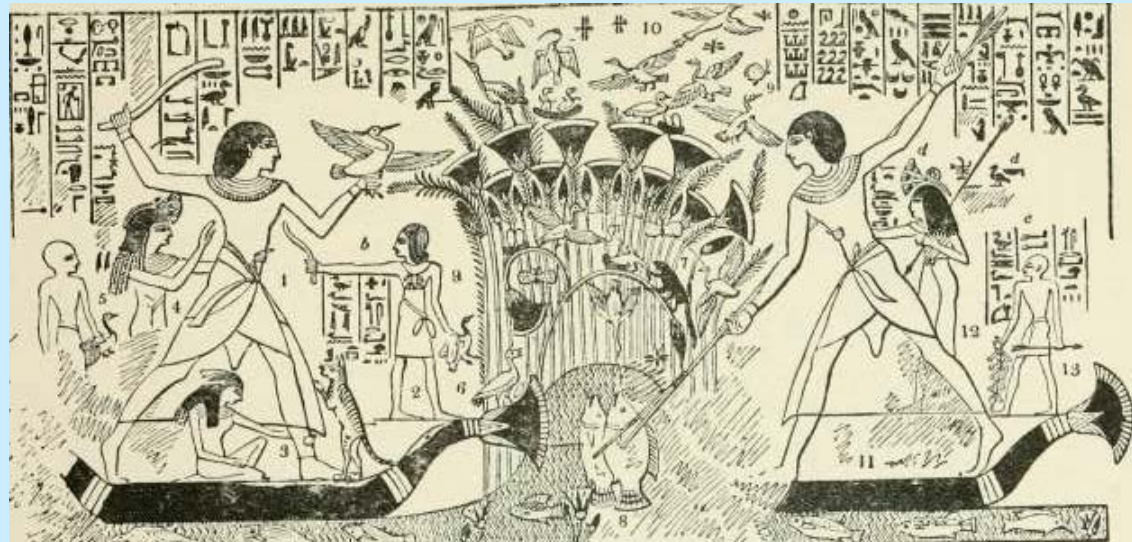
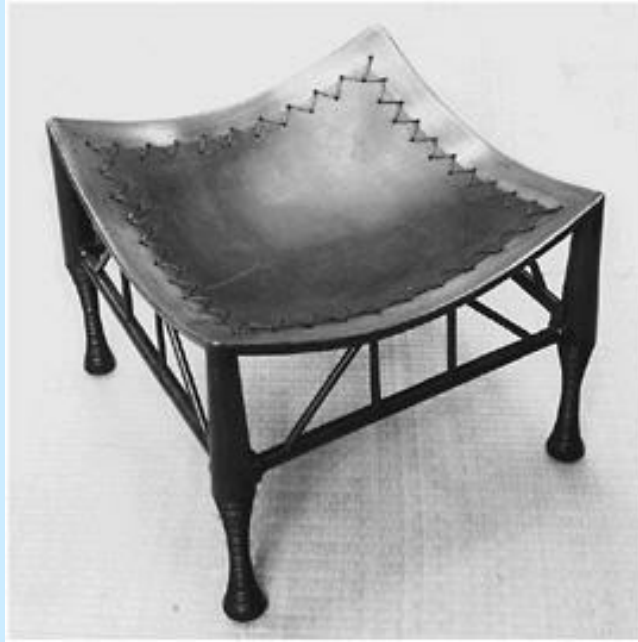
CE

“Love’s Labour Lost” (1885)



Left stool from James Stevens Curl, The Egyptian Revival: Ancient Egypt as the Inspiration for Design Motifs in the West, London, 2005.

Theban stools
(left: imitation
by Liberty &
Company in
1884, now
in V&A;
right: an
original in the
British
Museum)



From John Gardiner Wilkinson's *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*, 1878

Early 20th-century Egyptianized ads

PALMOLIVE

Re-Incarnation of Beauty

JUST as the Egyptian Princess of 3,000 years ago bequeathed a heritage of beauty to the modern girl, so did she also hand down knowledge of the surest way to keep it.

She knew that Palm and Olive Oils were mild, beneficial, natural cleansers, so soothing in their action as a lotion. A crude combination was all she could command—today she would use Palmolive.

For the mild, soothing, profuse lather of Palmolive soap, so smooth and creamy, embodies this oldest beauty secret.

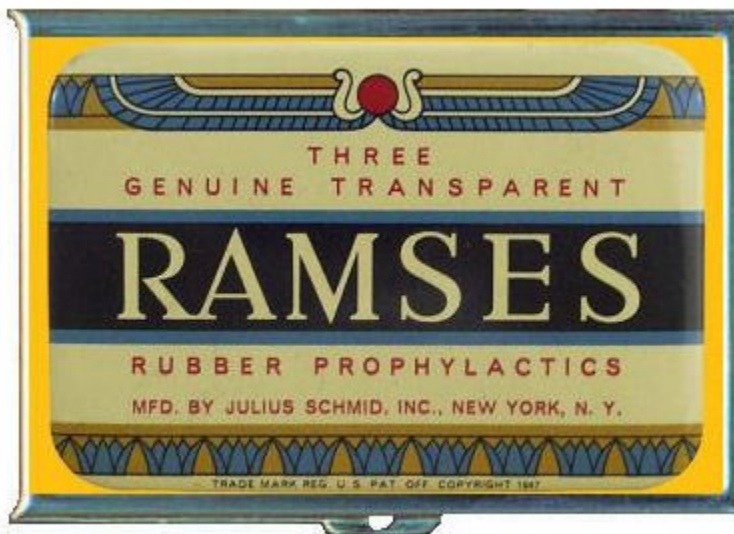
Palmolive beautifies while it cleanses because it contains the same rare oils used as both cleanser and lotion in ancient Egypt.

Palmolive may be had wherever soap is sold and supplied by popular hotels in jumbo size.

*Send this to receive for Palmolive
Containing measures and boxes
of 1 Bar Soap Palmolive regular*

*Address:
The Palmolive Company (Advertising Department)
Milwaukee, Wis., U. S. A.
The Palmolive Company of Canada, Limited
Toronto, Ont.*

An advertisement for Palmolive soap. It features a woman in a black and white dress with a red sash, standing next to a large, stylized Egyptian figure. A box of Palmolive soap and a bottle of Palmolive lotion are in the foreground. The background is a light blue sky.



RAMSÈS
PARIS

featherweight Jewel Compact

So aristocratic—it's perfect for the little "remembrance" gift. Ideally thin and light for Milady's own purse. Ramsès is imported, and it's truly fine in quality as well as in appearance. Priced at **\$1** (\$1.15 outside of U. S.)

We'll gladly send it direct, if you cannot find it at your favorite perfume counter.

LeBlume Import Co.
285 Fifth Avenue, New York City

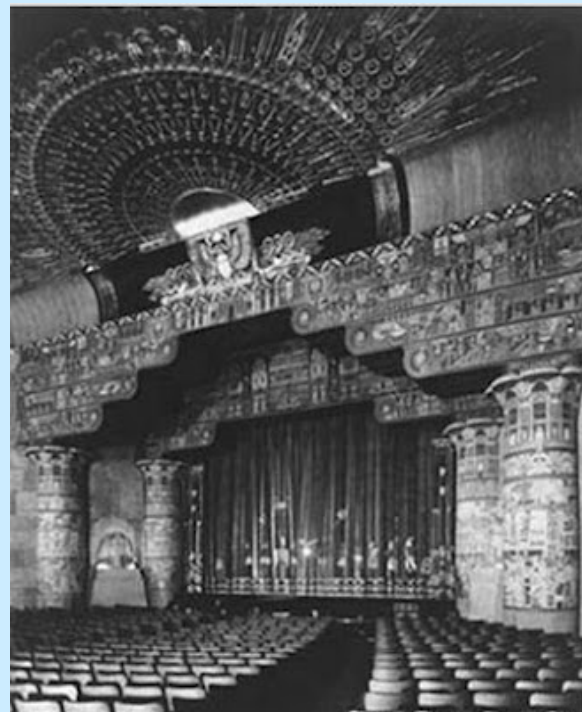
RAMSÈS
Points of Superiority

1. A slim, gold-plated case.
2. Cover of Egyptian design with enameled, engraved Medallion.
3. Lightest and thinnest vanity in the world.
4. Spring catch always opens easily—never one's nuisance.
5. Powder that beautifies, stimulates and preserves the complexion.
6. Blended with enhancing Ramsès Parfums.
7. Powder adheres to the face at the merest touch.
8. In Blanche, Mauve, Black and the new Star Blends.



Louxor Cinema, 170 Boulevard Magenta, Paris, built 1920–21

(From James Stevens Curl, *The Egyptian Revival: Ancient Egypt as the Inspiration for Design Motifs in the West*, London, 2005.)

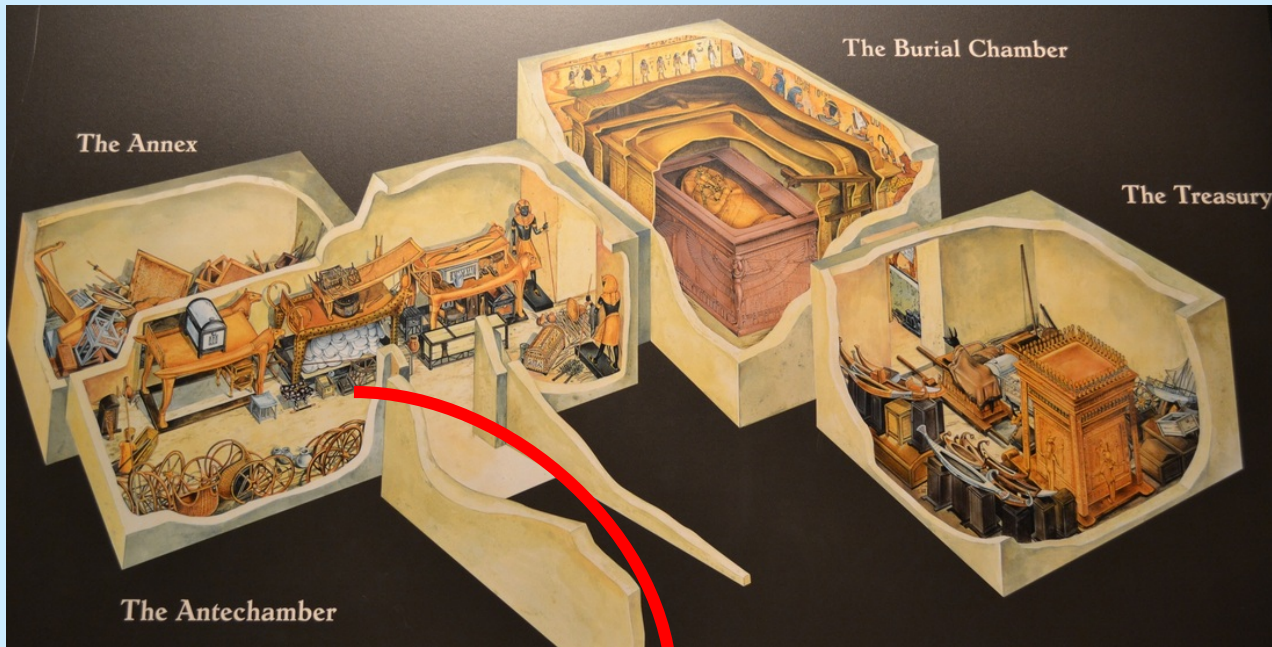


Grauman's Egyptian Theater, Hollywood Blvd., opened 1922

(From <http://egypto-maniac.blogspot.com/>)

Adolf Hitler planned to erect gigantic pyramids, smoking cones, enormous obelisks, and mighty two-axis triumphal arches to commemorate his victories throughout Europe.

King Tut's tomb (discovered Nov., 1922)



1960s *Batman* TV series

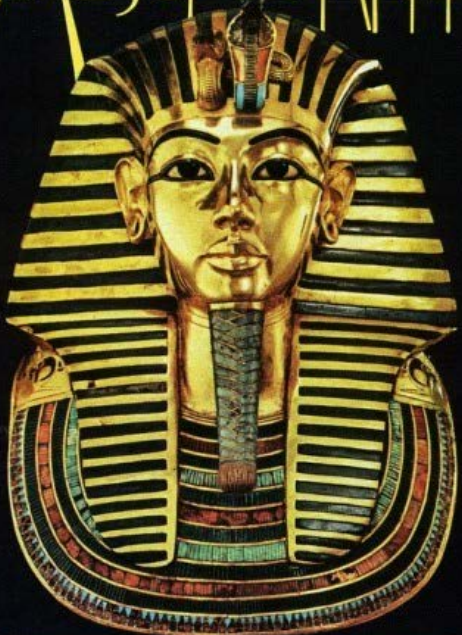


Victor Buono as King Tut, a deranged professor of Egyptology at Yale University.

King Tut exhibition tour of US, 1977

The exhibit you've been waiting for
since 1325 B.C.

TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN



The elegant solid gold funerary mask of the boy-king Tutankhamun. One of fifty-five treasures on display from King Tut's fabled hoard.

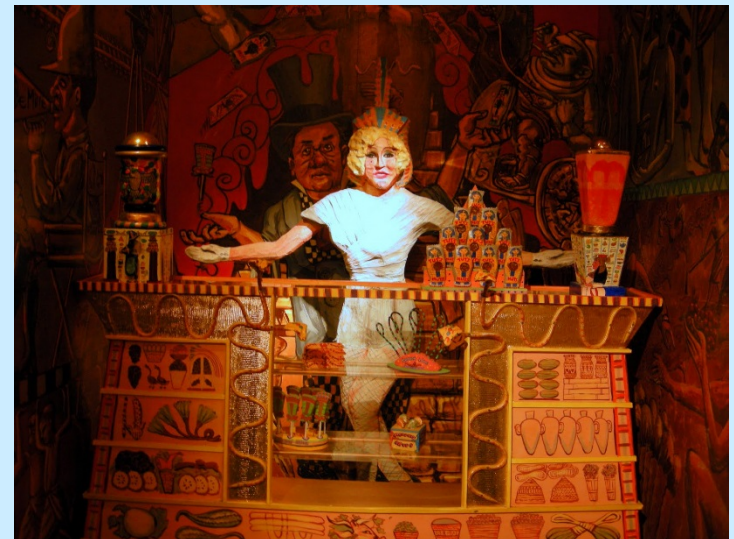
National Gallery of Art Washington, D. C. November 17, 1976—March 15, 1977	New Orleans Museum of Art New Orleans, Louisiana September 15, 1977—January 15, 1978	Seattle Art Museum Seattle, Washington July 15, 1978—November 15, 1978
Field Museum Chicago, Illinois April 15, 1977—August 15, 1977	Los Angeles County Museum of Art Los Angeles, California February 15, 1978—June 15, 1978	Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, New York December 15, 1978—April 15, 1979

This exhibition, organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art,
is made possible through the assistance of
the National Endowment for the Humanities and Exxon Corporation.

Saturday Night Live, 1970s



“Tut’s Fever” (1986-88)



Museum of the Moving Image
Queens, NYC

Boardwalk Empire (HBO, season 3, 2012)



Less than 2 months after the discovery of Tut's tomb, the lead character throws an extravagant New Year's Eve party with a Tut theme.