



Identifying Joseph, and Early Hebrew

Prof. Douglas
Petrovich

West Houston Bible Church

ḥk3 = ruler

n = of

Rtnw = Retjenu

Signet Scarab

Who is
Sobek-em-ḥat?

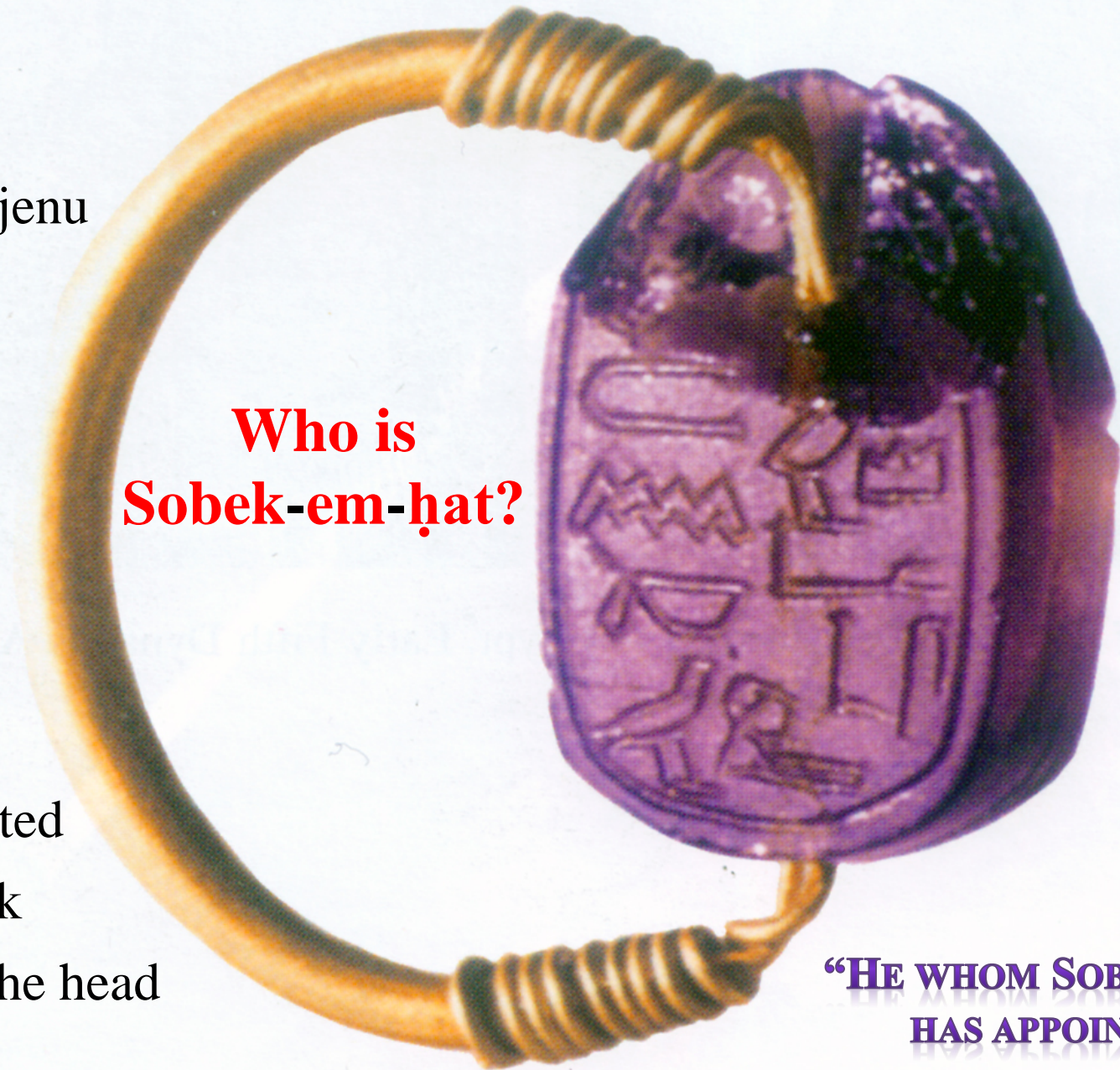
di = appointed

Sbk = Sobek

m-ḥ3t = at the head

**“HE WHOM SOBEKEMḤAT
HAS APPOINTED”**

[ḥk3 n R]tnw Di-Sbk-m-ḥ3t = [the ruler of R]etjenu, Di-Sobek-em-ḥat



Identifying Joseph in the Archaeological Record

**Topic: Sobekemhat's
Mastaba at Dahshur**

(Dynasty 12)

Dahshur

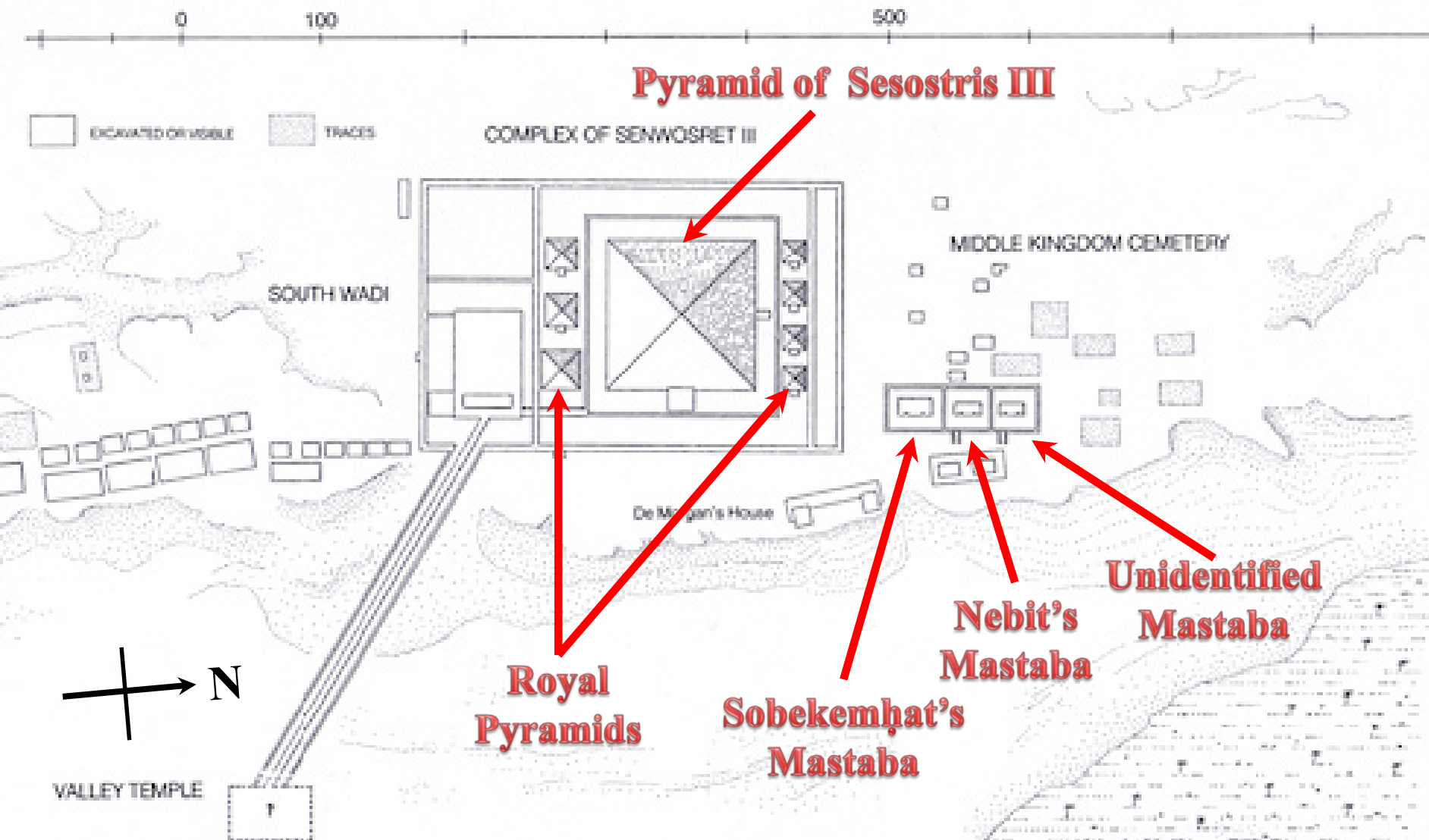
Dahshur is located in Middle Egypt, between Memphis (to the N) and el Lisht (to the S).

Several pyramids of the kings of Dynasty 12 were built at Dahshur, including those for Amenemhat II, Sesostris III, and his son Amenemhat III. The pyramidal complex of Sesostris III helps to identify who Sobekemhat is.



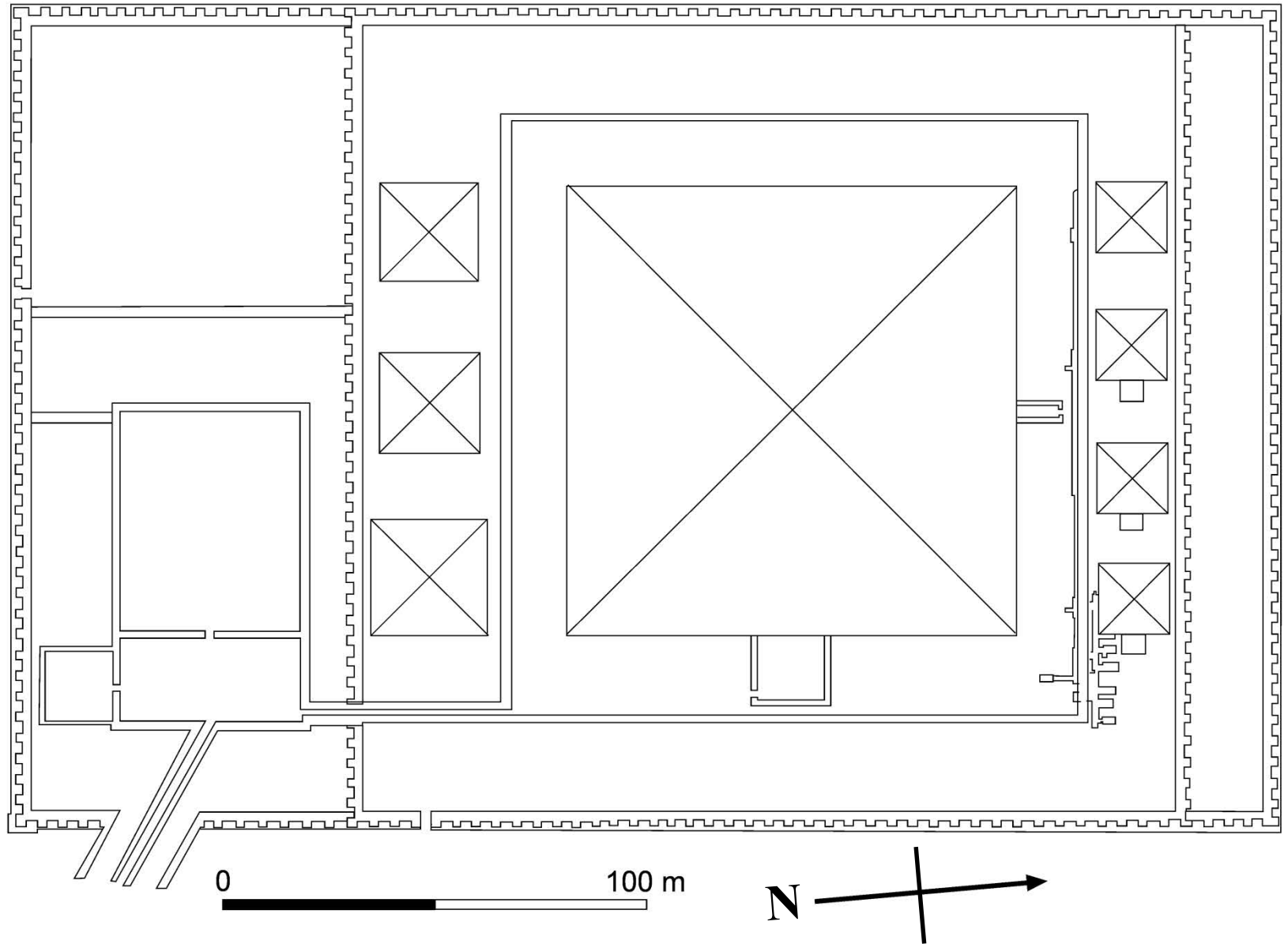


Pyramid of Sesostris III at Dahshur



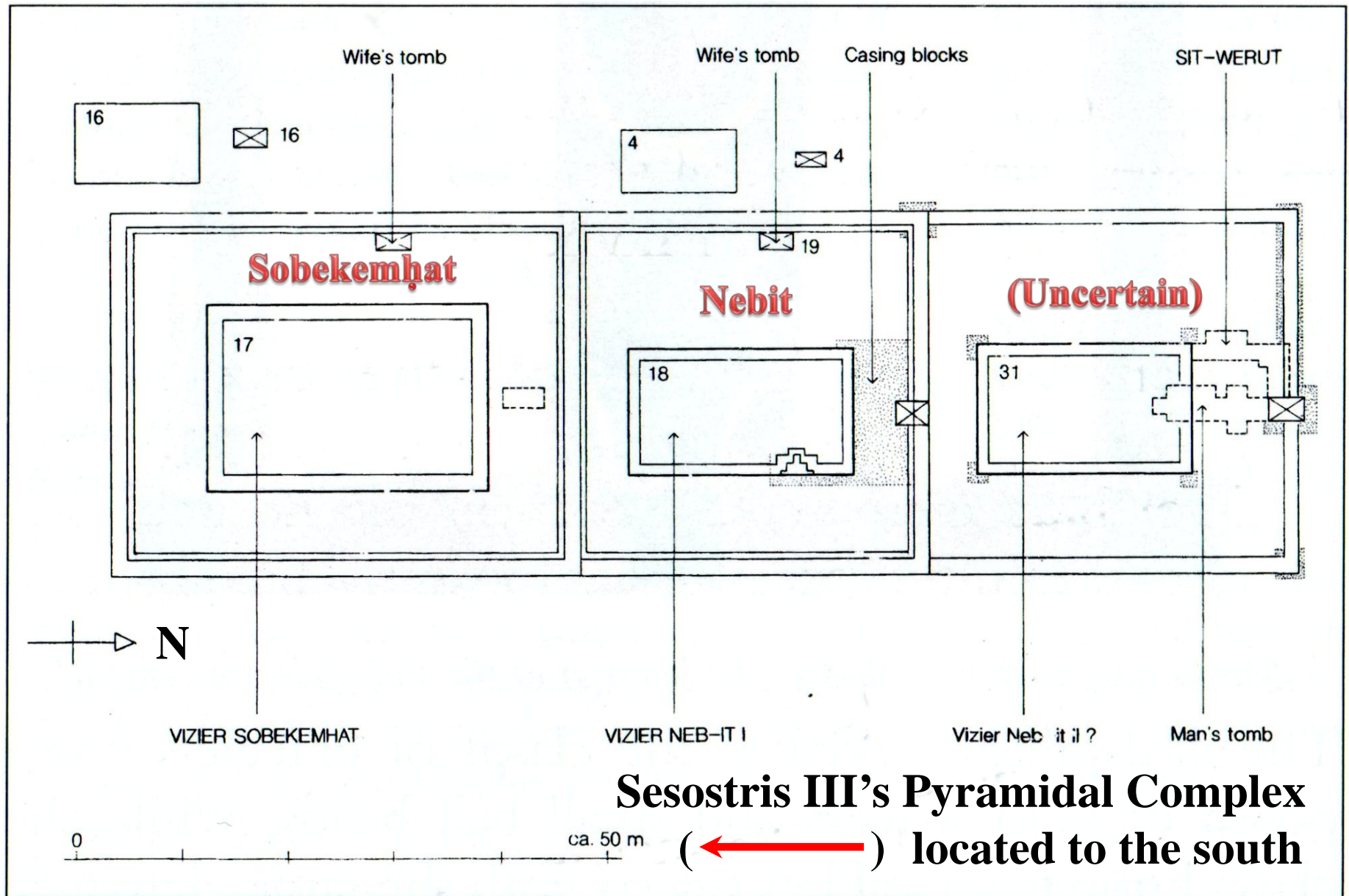
Pyramidal Complex of Sesostri III at Dahshur

Pyramid of Sesostris III



Credit: Grajetzki, *Tomb Treasures*, 81

Mastabas of the Viziers of Sesostris III (at Dahshur)



Identifying Joseph in the Archaeological Record

**Topic: Identifying Nebit
as a Vizier of Sobekemhat**

(Dynasty 12)



Casing Slabs on N-side of Nebit's Mastaba

Mastaba of Nebit

2nd Vizier under Sesostris III

1) *iry-p^c[t]*

2) *ḥ3ty-^c*

3) *mr niwt*

4) *t3ty*

1) *iry-p^c[t]* = member of elite

2) *ḥ3ty-^c* = foremost of hand

3) *mr niwt* = pyramidal-tomb
city (of the king)

4) *t3ty* = the shrouded one (a
title of the **vizier**)

Inscription from the second
vizier's mastaba to the south of
Sesostris III's pyramid at Dahshur

Identifying Joseph in the Archaeological Record

**Topic: Sobekemhat's Name
Attested at Mastaba (Dahshur)**

(Dynasty 12)

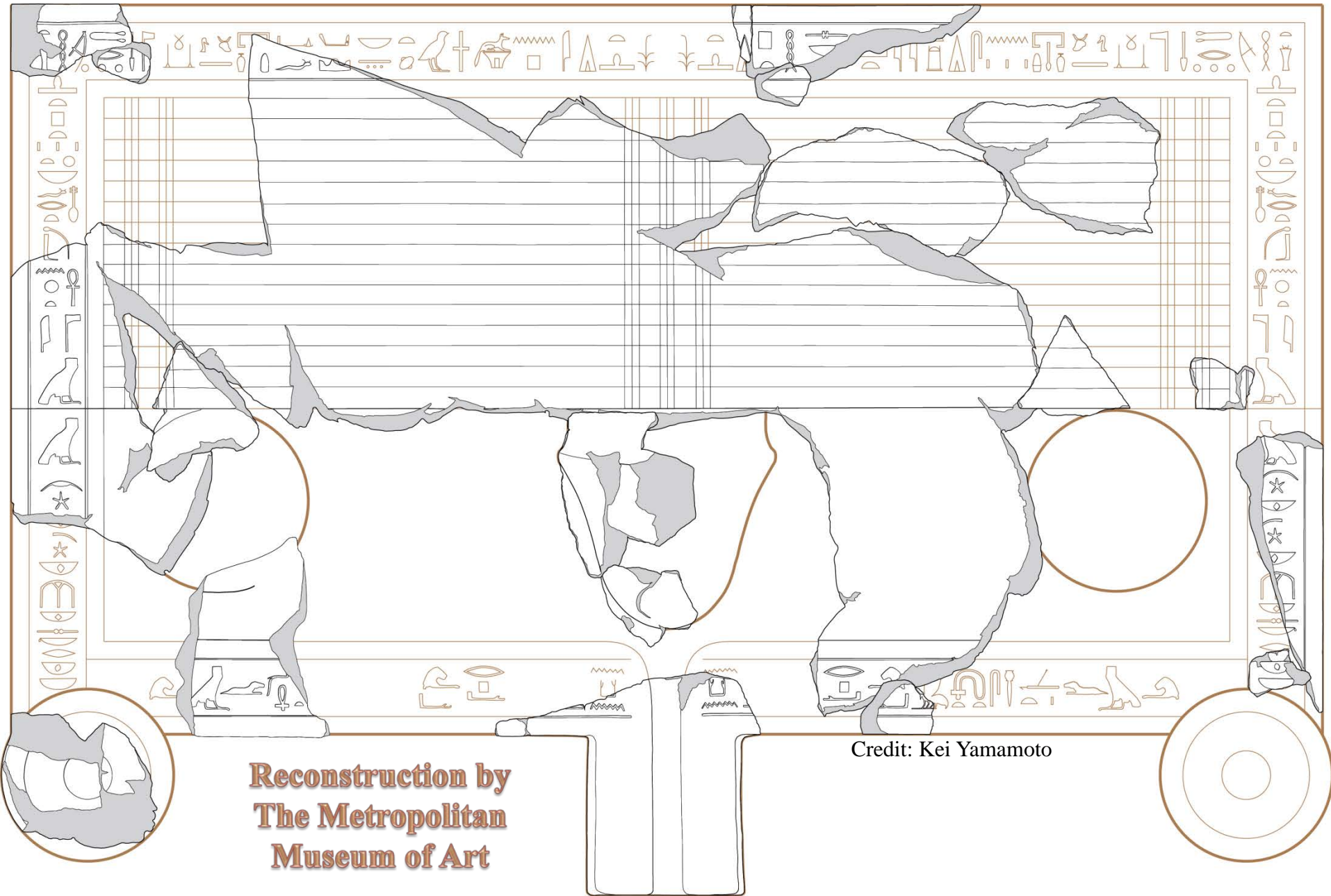
TITLES OF SOBEKEMHAT

- 1) *Sbk-M-[ḥ3t]* = Sobek-em-hat
- 2) [*imy-r*] *ḥtmty* = treasurer
- 3) *iry-p^c[t]* = member of the elite
- 4) *ḥ3ty-[^c]* = foremost of hand

1) *Sbk-M-[ḥ3t]* | 2) [*imy-r*] *ḥtmty* | 3) *iry-p^c[t]* | 4) *ḥ3ty-[^c]*

Quartzite Offering Table, with Titled Inscriptions
Sobekemhat, 1st Vizier under Sesostris III

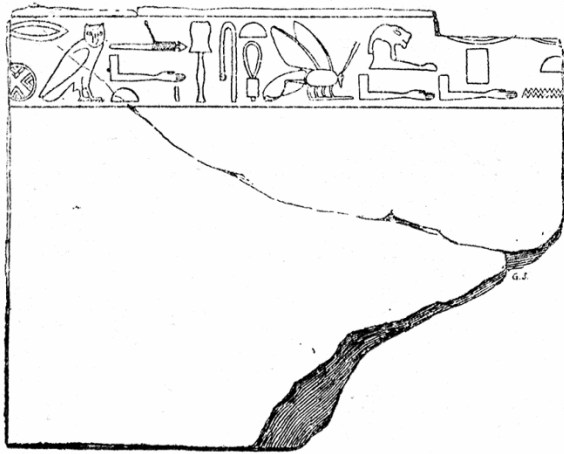
Reconstruction of Sobekemhat's Offering Table



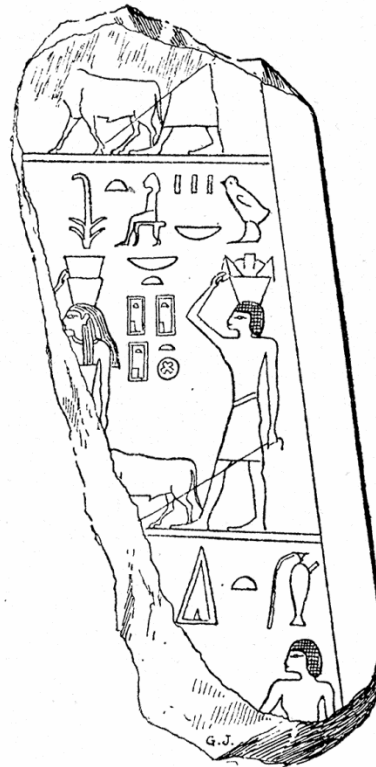
Reconstruction by
The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

Credit: Kei Yamamoto

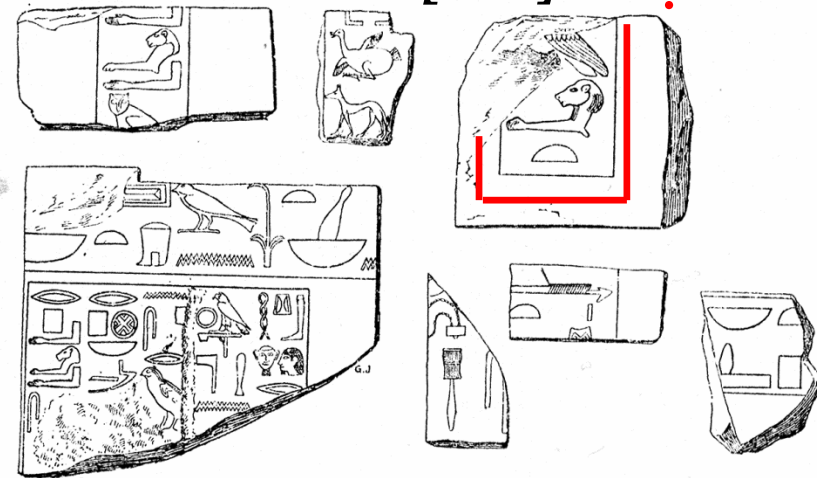
Inscriptions from Mastaba No. 17 (Dahshur) [Sobek]emḥat, 1st Vizier under Sesostriis III



de Morgan's Figure 66



de Morgan's
Figure 65



de Morgan's Figure 67

[Sbk]-M-ḥ3t

(Quartzite Table)

(Mastaba No. 17)

(Composite Reading)

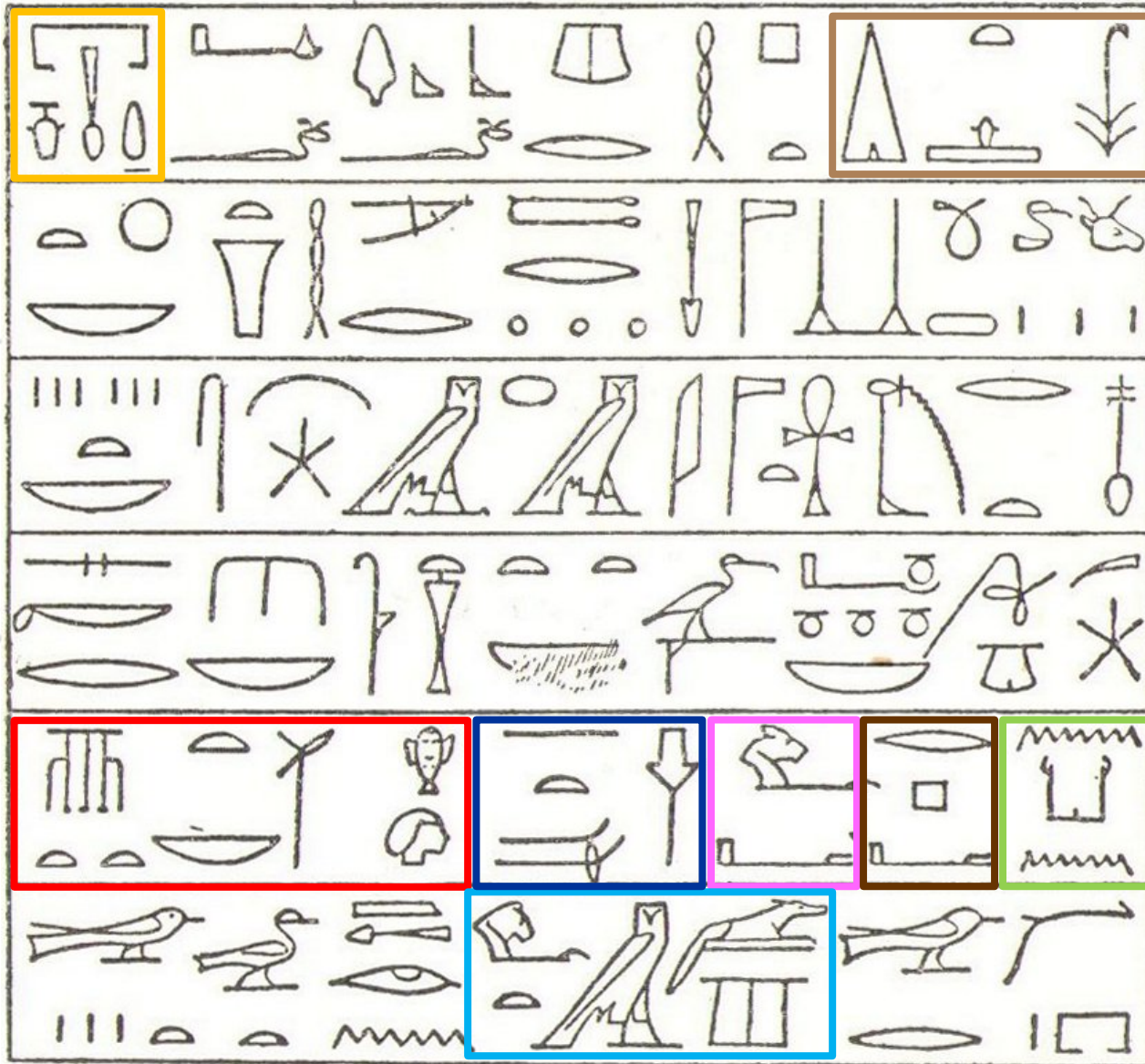
Sbk-M-[ḥ3t] + [Sbk]-M-ḥ3t = Sobek-em-ḥat

Identifying Joseph in the Archaeological Record

**Topic: Sobekemhat's Funerary
Inscription at Dahshur**

(Dynasty 12)

Sobekemhat's Funerary Inscription (unpublished)



VITAL COMPONENTS

ḥtp di nsw = An offering
that the king presents

pṛt-ḥrw t ḥnkt = Invocation
offerings of beer, bread,

n k3 n(t) = for the *k3*-spirit of

Sbk-m-ḥ3t = Sobekemhat

iry-p^ct = Member of the elite

ḥ3ty-^c = Foremost of hand

ḥrp t3 tm = Controller of the
entire land (Gen 41:41)

ḥry-tp i3t nb(t) ḥntt = He
who has authority over
every preeminent office
(Gen 41:25, 38–39)

“Someone stating on a monument that his only title is ‘member of the elite’ was at the top of the administration and second only to the king. Officials with the full sequence [of the four classical ranking titles], ‘member of the elite,’ ‘foremost of hand,’ ‘royal sealer,’ and ‘unique friend (of the king)’ were still important people, but lower ranking than the official with the single title (Grajetzki 2009: 7).”

Jacob's Family in the Archaeological Record

**Topic of Focus: Death of
Jacob and End of Phase H**

(Jacob in Egypt: 1876–1859 BC)

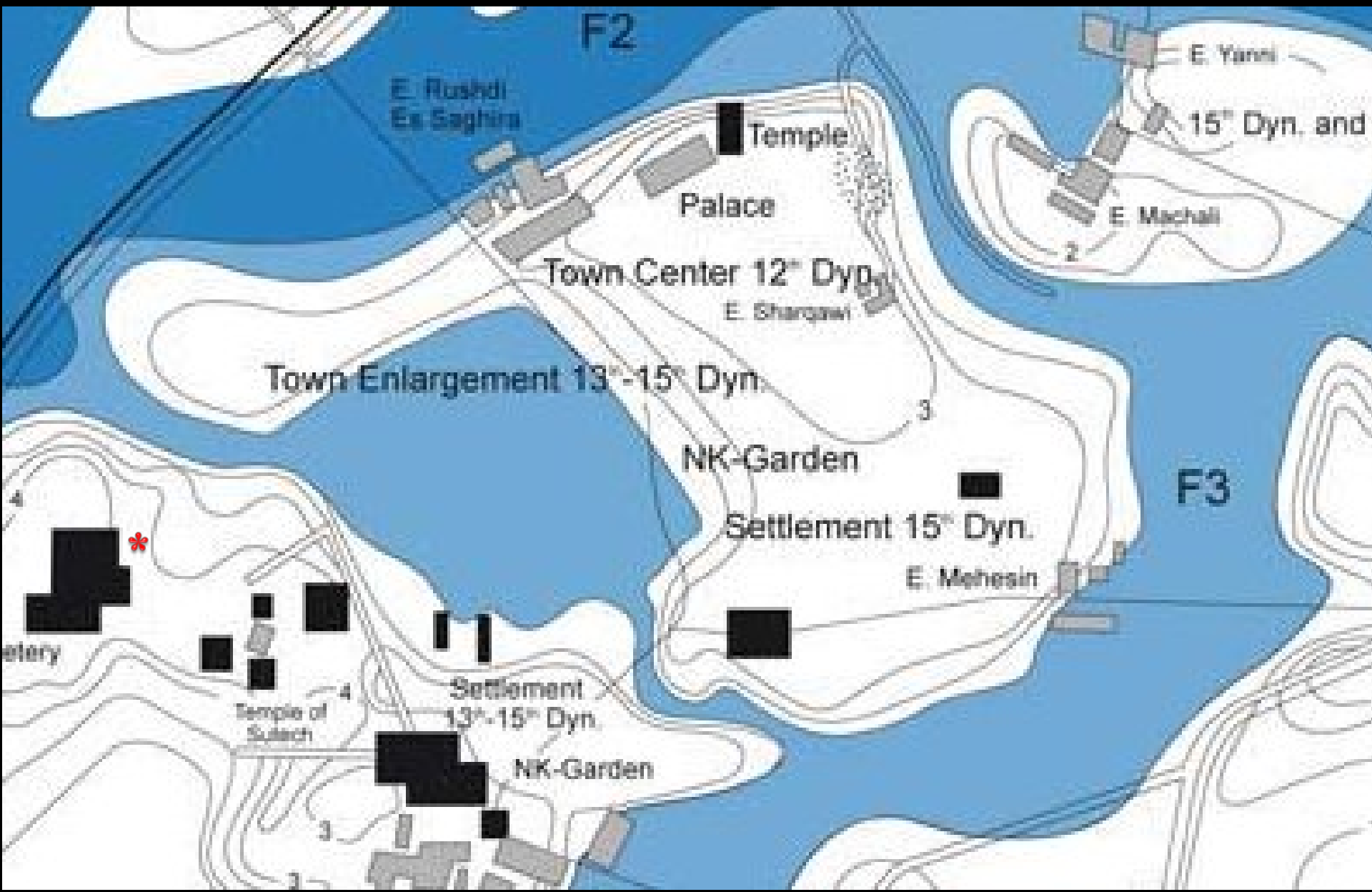


Avaris (Tell El-Dab'a)

Avaris is biblical Ram-
eses (Gen 47:11), the Nile-
Delta site to where Jacob
et al. moved in 1876 BC.

‘Now Joseph settled his
father and his brothers,
and he gave them
property in the land of
Egypt, in the best of the
land, **in the land of Ram-
esse**, just as that which
pharaoh had commanded.’

Tripartite House of Jacob at Avaris



First Occupational Phase of Israelite Community



**F/I-p/19-Gr. 1
Reconstructed**

**Stratum d/2
Phase H**

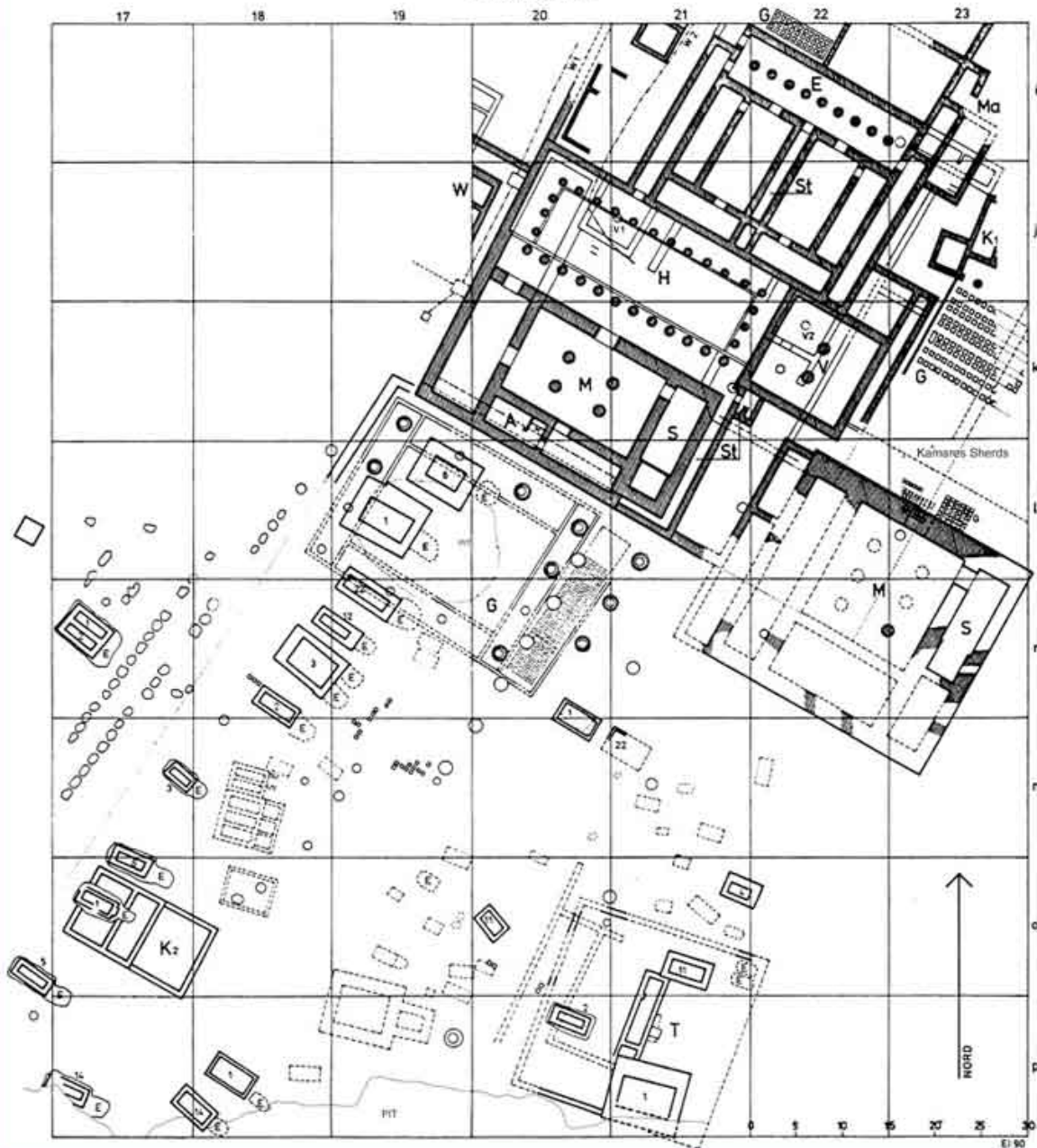
Mittelsaalhaus = Jacob's Home (4-Roomed House)

ca. 1876–1859 BC



Stratum d/2 (Phase H)

Tell el-Dab'a, Area F/I
Stratum d/1



Courtesy of the Austrian Academy and the Austrian Archaeological Institute

***Egyptianized Asiatic
Residence = Home
of Ephraim and
Manasseh**

**Stratum d/1
(Phase G/4)**

20

21

22

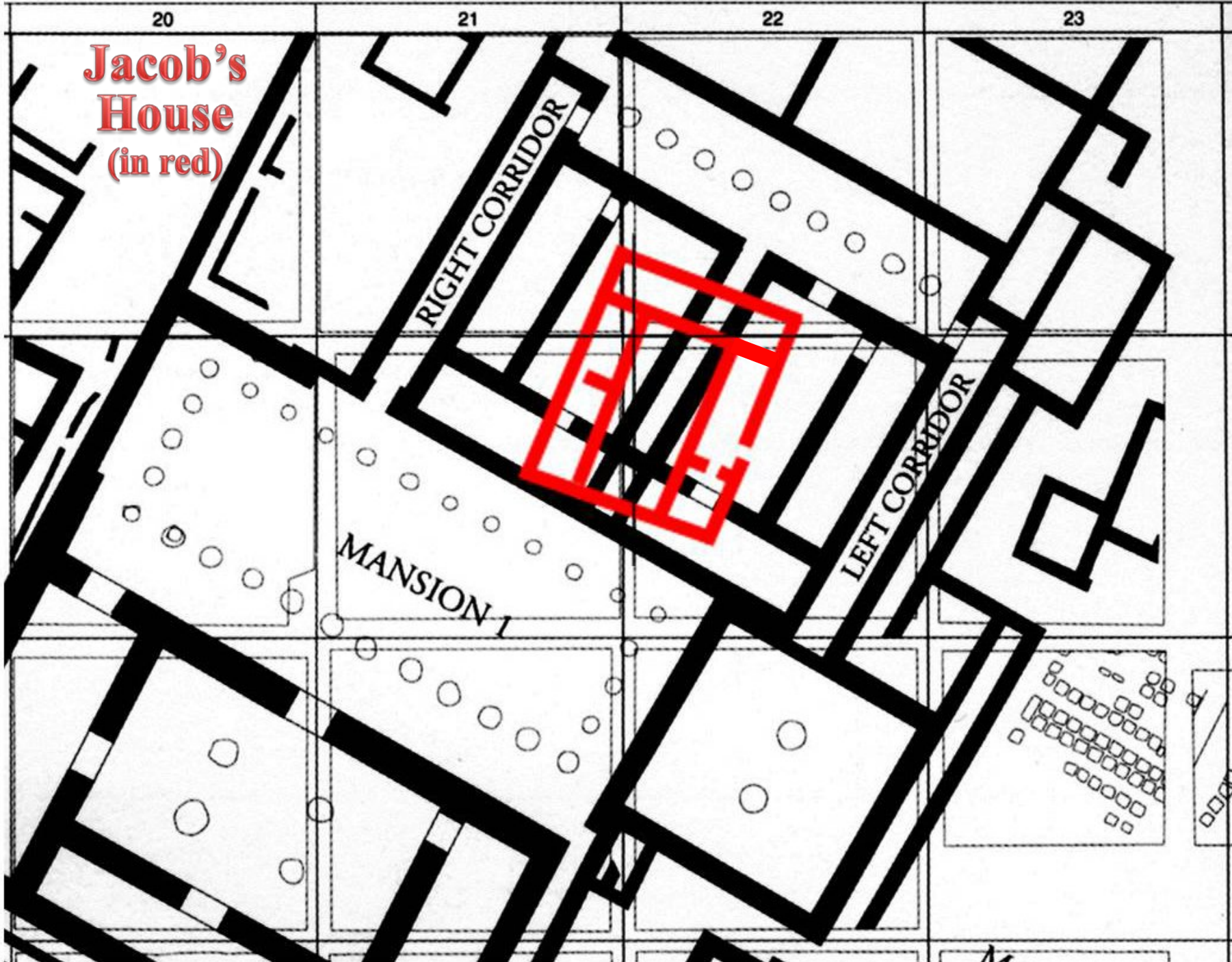
23

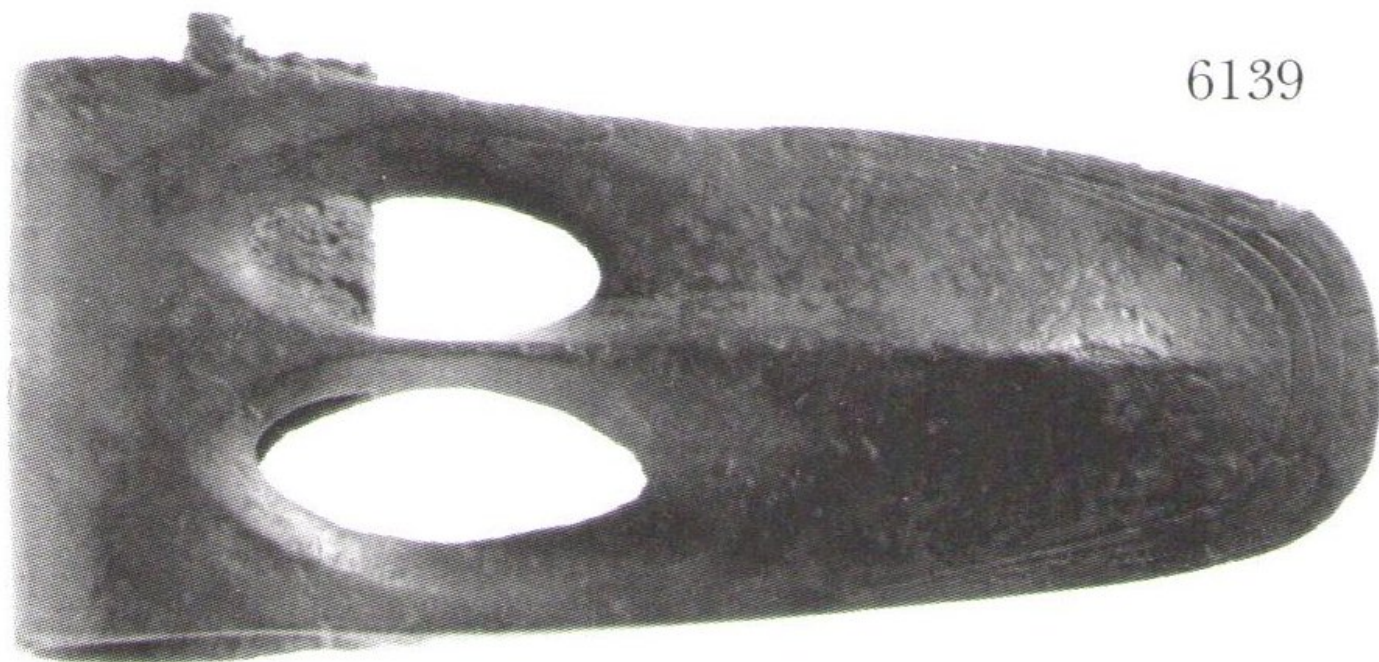
**Jacob's
House**
(in red)

RIGHT CORRIDOR

LEFT CORRIDOR

MANSION 1





6139

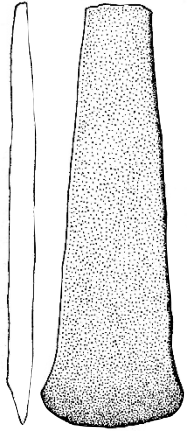
**Stratum:
d/2**



**Duckbill Axe
(Indicative of MBA IIA)**

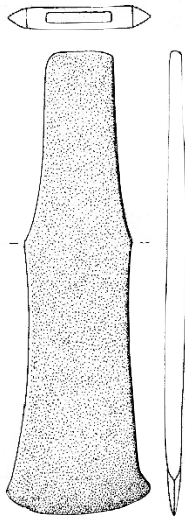
**Tomb:
F/I-o/19-
Gr. 8**

Typology of Axes from Canaan



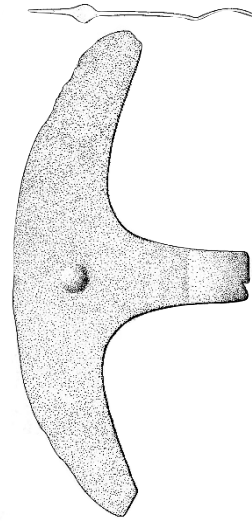
Simple Blade

2700 – 1000 BC



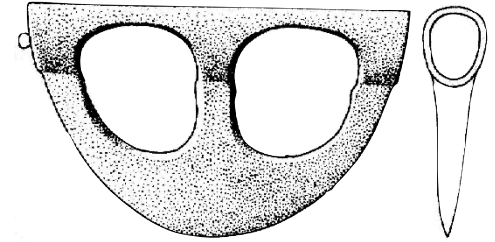
Lugged Blade

1850 – 1000 BC



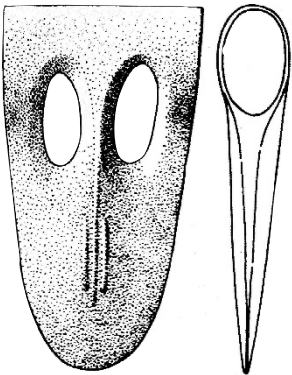
Crescent Axe

2450 – 2100 BC



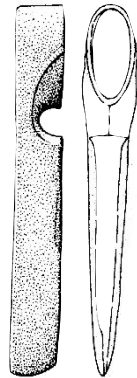
Eye Axe

2050 – 1950 BC



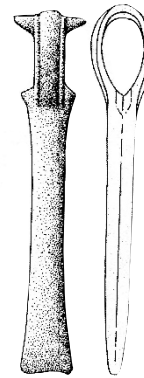
Duckbill Axe

1960 – 1800 BC



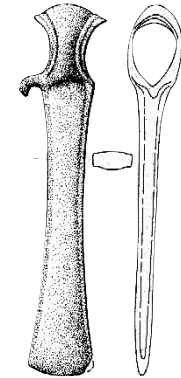
**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 1)**

1875 – 1750 BC



**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 2)**

1755 – 1650 BC



**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 3)**

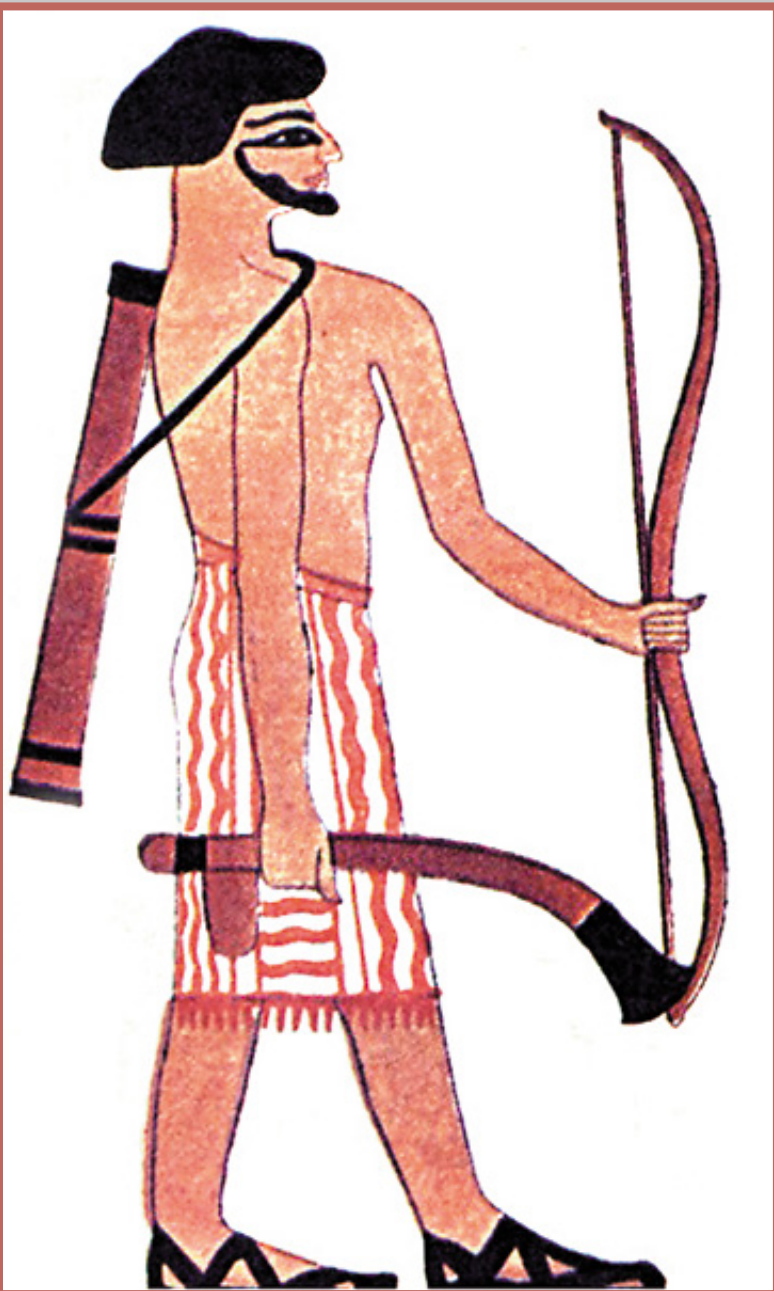
1710 – 160 BC

Duckbill Axe



From the Tomb of
Khnumhotep II at
Beni Hassan

(Year 6 of Sesostris II)



Duckbill Axe

Replicated
Handle

Authentic
Blade



Jacob's Family in the Archaeological Record

**Topic of Focus: Probable
Evidence of Jacob's Death**

(Time of Jacob: 1876–1859 BC)

**Sculpted
Head of**

**Asiatic
Man**



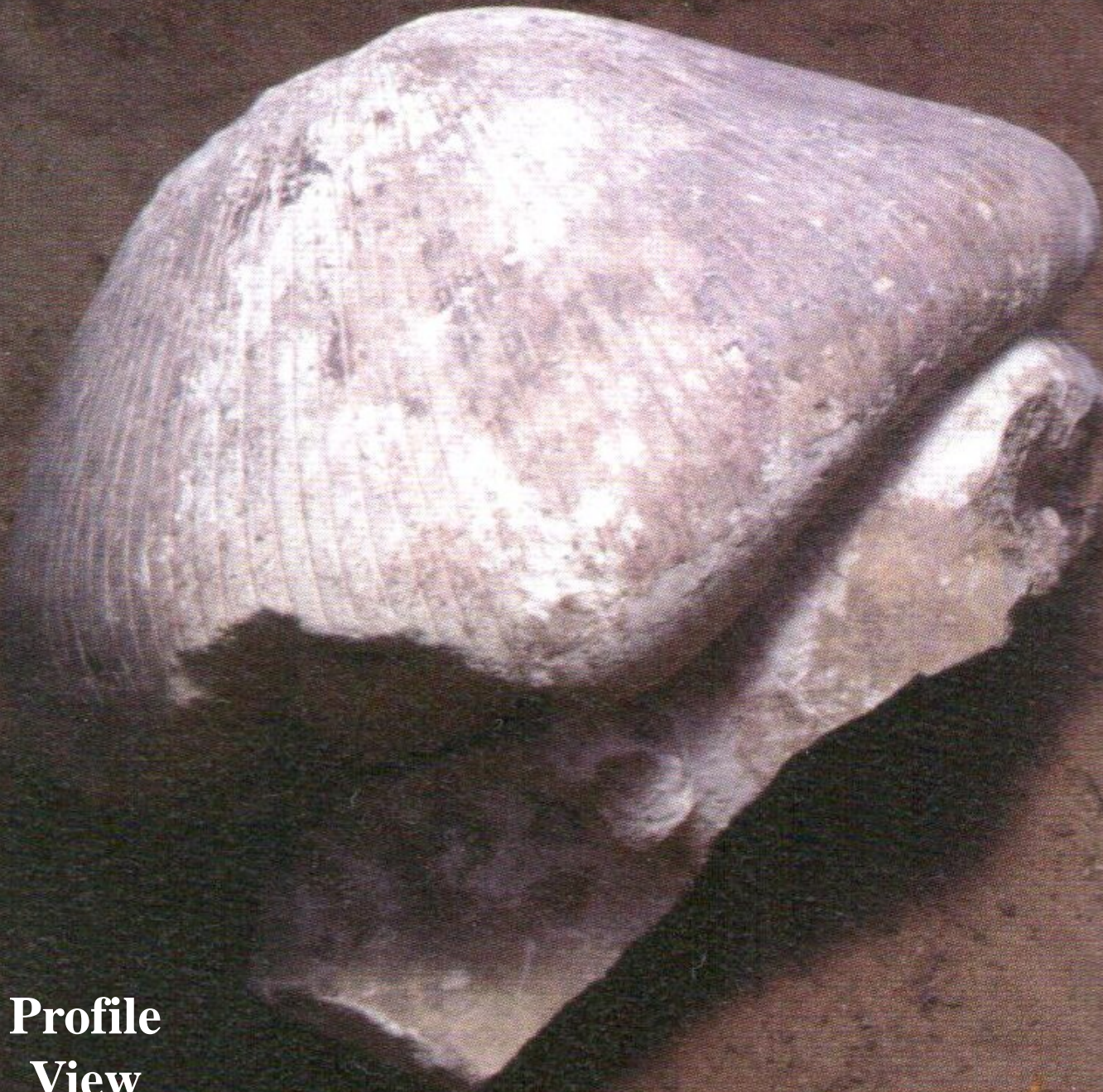
**Frontal
View**


**Tomb:
F/I-p/19-Gr. 1**

**Sculpted
Head of
Asiatic
Man**

**Tomb:
F/I-p/19-
Gr. 1**

**Profile
View**

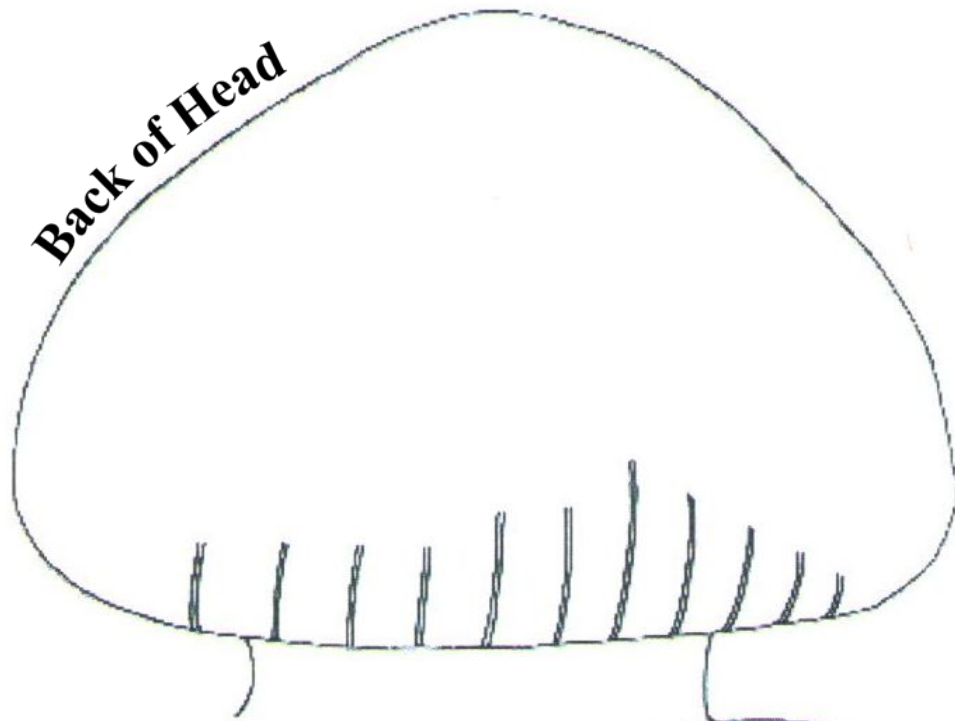




**Stratum:
d/2**

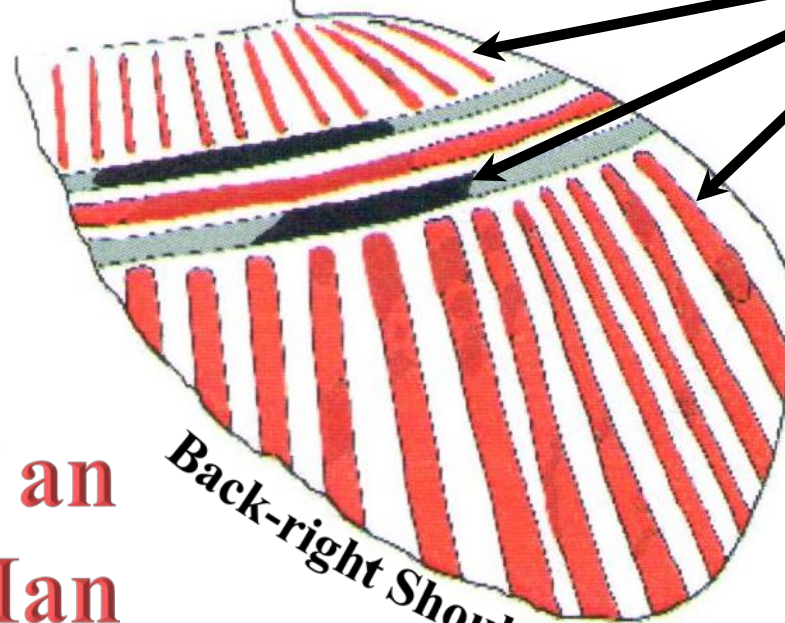
**Tomb:
F/I-p/19-Gr. 1**

Statue of Asiatic Man (Right Shoulder)



Back of Head

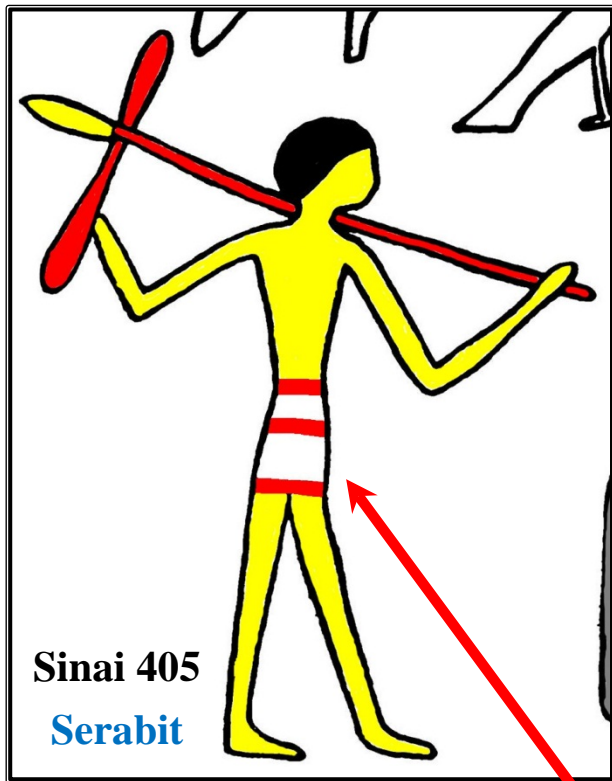
Head with mushroom-shaped coiffure, yellow-painted skin, and a long, multi-colored cloak



Red and Black Stripes

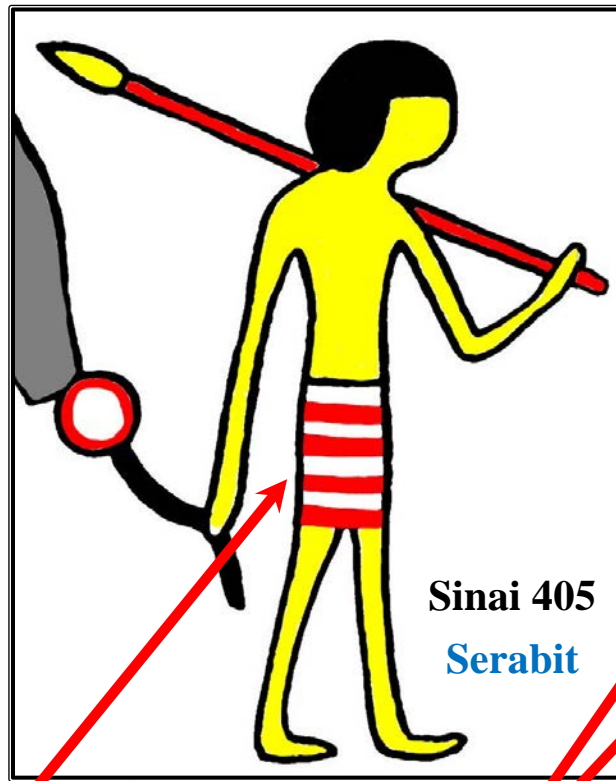
Back-right Shoulder

Statue of an Asiatic Man



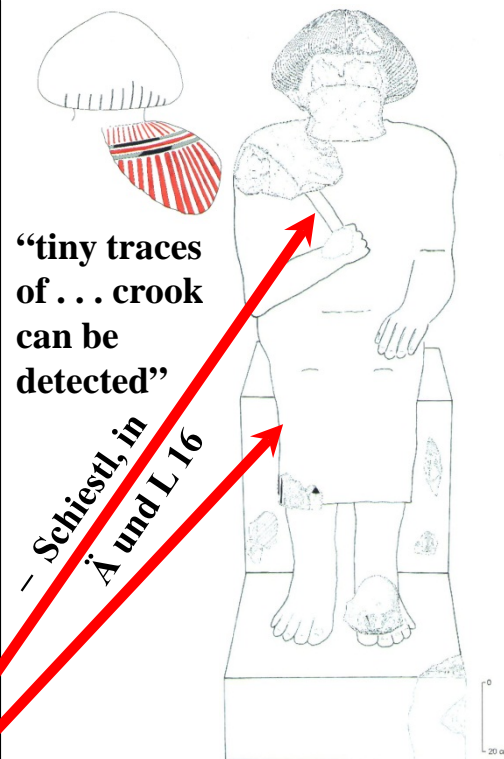
Sinai 405
Serabit

Apim



Sinai 405
Serabit

Shekam



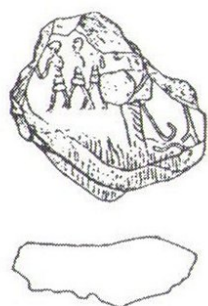
“tiny traces
of . . . crook
can be
detected”

– Schiestl, in
Ä und L 16

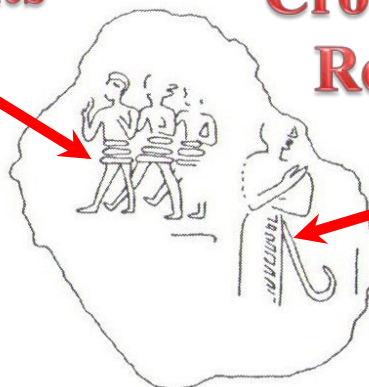
Asiatic Man
Tell el-Dab'a

Striped Kilts

Crook &
Robe

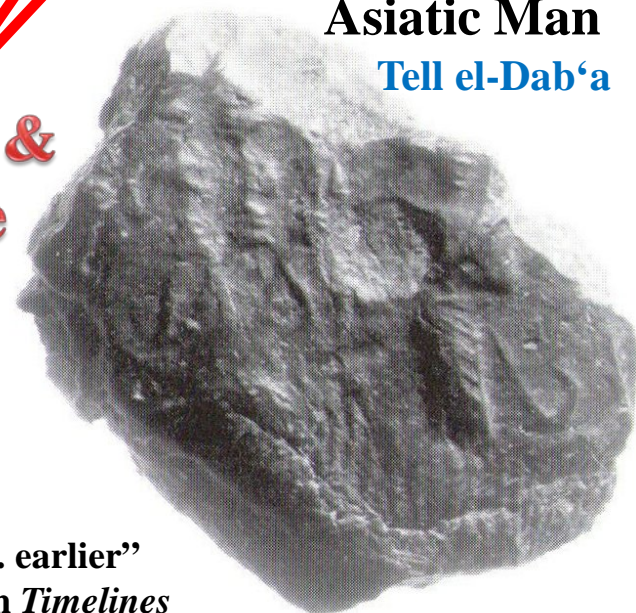


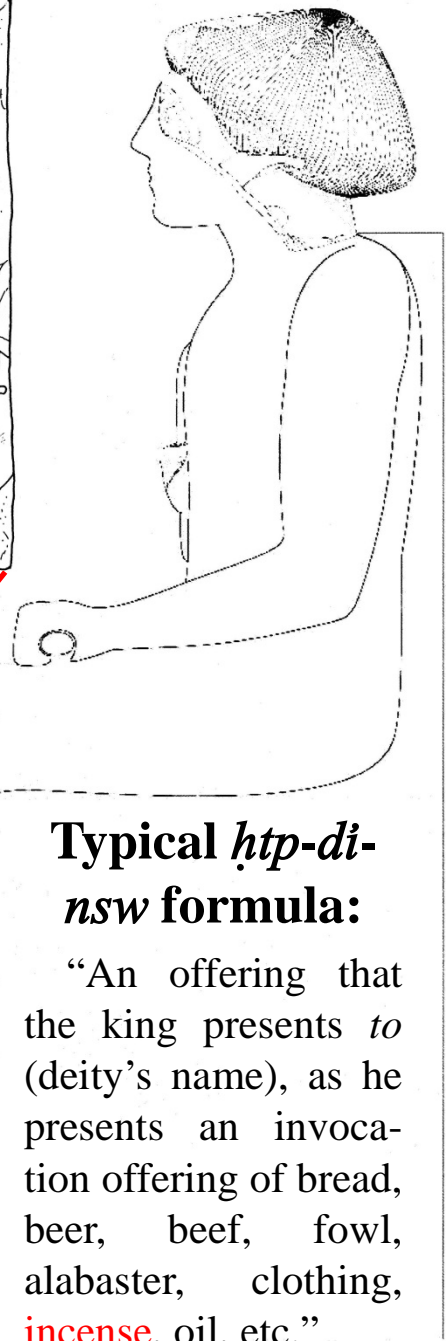
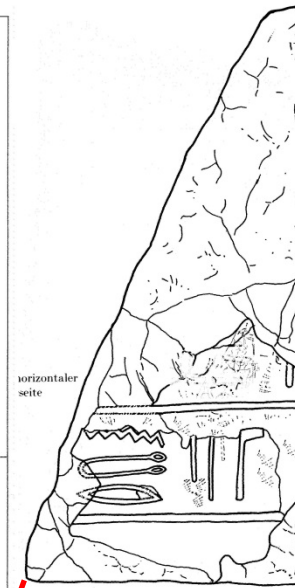
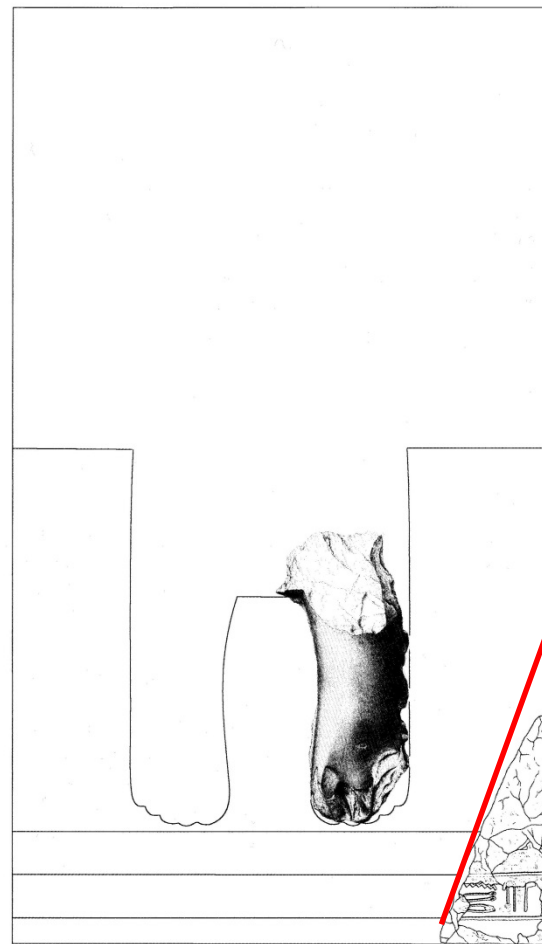
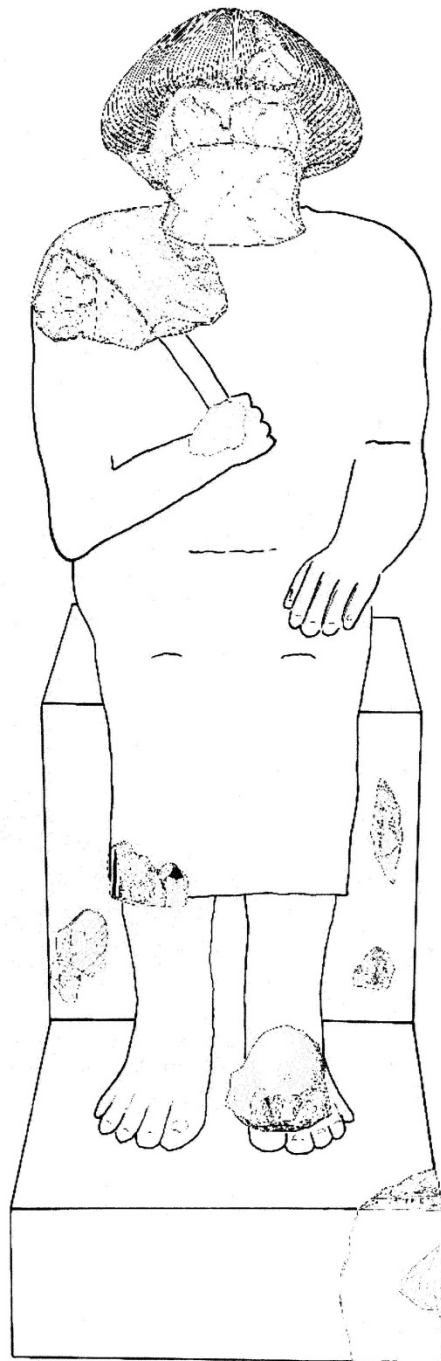
Sealing 8314
Tell el-Dab'a



“around 1750 BC or . . . earlier”

– Collon, in *Timelines*





Statue of the Asiatic Man: Jacob?

sntr = incense

Typical *hṭp-di-nsw* formula:

“An offering that the king presents to (deity’s name), as he presents an invocation offering of bread, beer, beef, fowl, alabaster, clothing, **incense**, oil, etc.”

Hebrew as the World's Oldest Alphabet

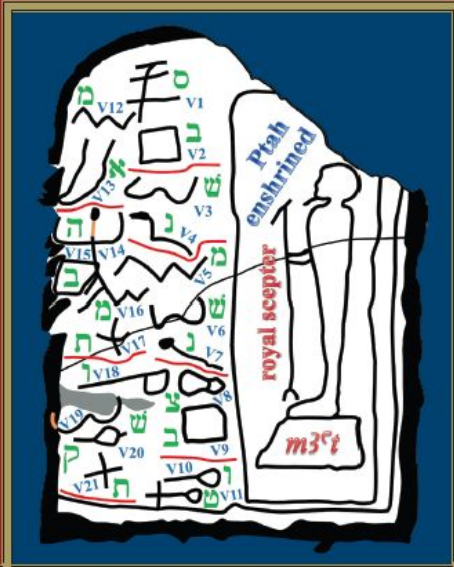
**Topic: Deciphering the
First Alphabetic Script**

(Middle Kingdom Inscriptions)

DOUGLAS PETROVICH

THE WORLD'S OLDEST ALPHABET

INTRODUCTION BY EUGENE H. MERRILL



HEBREW AS THE LANGUAGE
OF THE PROTO-CONSONANTAL
SCRIPT



CARTA JERUSALEM

Contents:

- (1) Background Matters
- (2) Inscriptions of MK
- (3) Inscriptions of NK
- (4) Concluding Thoughts
- (5) Appendices

Inscriptions:

- (1) Background to Inscript.
- (2) Paleographic Decipher.
- (3) Transl. and Orthogra.
- (4) Potential Historical Val.

A Filmmaker's Journey

of PATTERNS EVIDENCE MOSES

www.PatternsOfEvidence.com

Middle Kingdom Inscriptions in Relation to Biblical History

1876–1446 BC	Israelite Sojourn in Egypt
1842 BC	Sinai 115 Composed (Se-K: Hebeded)
1840 BC	Sinai 100 Composed (Se-K: Hebeded)
1840 BC	Sinai 377 Composed (Wadi Naşb)
1834 BC	Wadi el-Hôl Composed (Upper Egypt)
1831 BC	Lahun BO Composed (Middle Egypt)
1772 BC	Sinai 376 Composed (Wadi Naşb)

Sinai 115 and the World's Oldest Alphabet

**Topic: Map and
Background to Sinai 115**

(1842 BC)

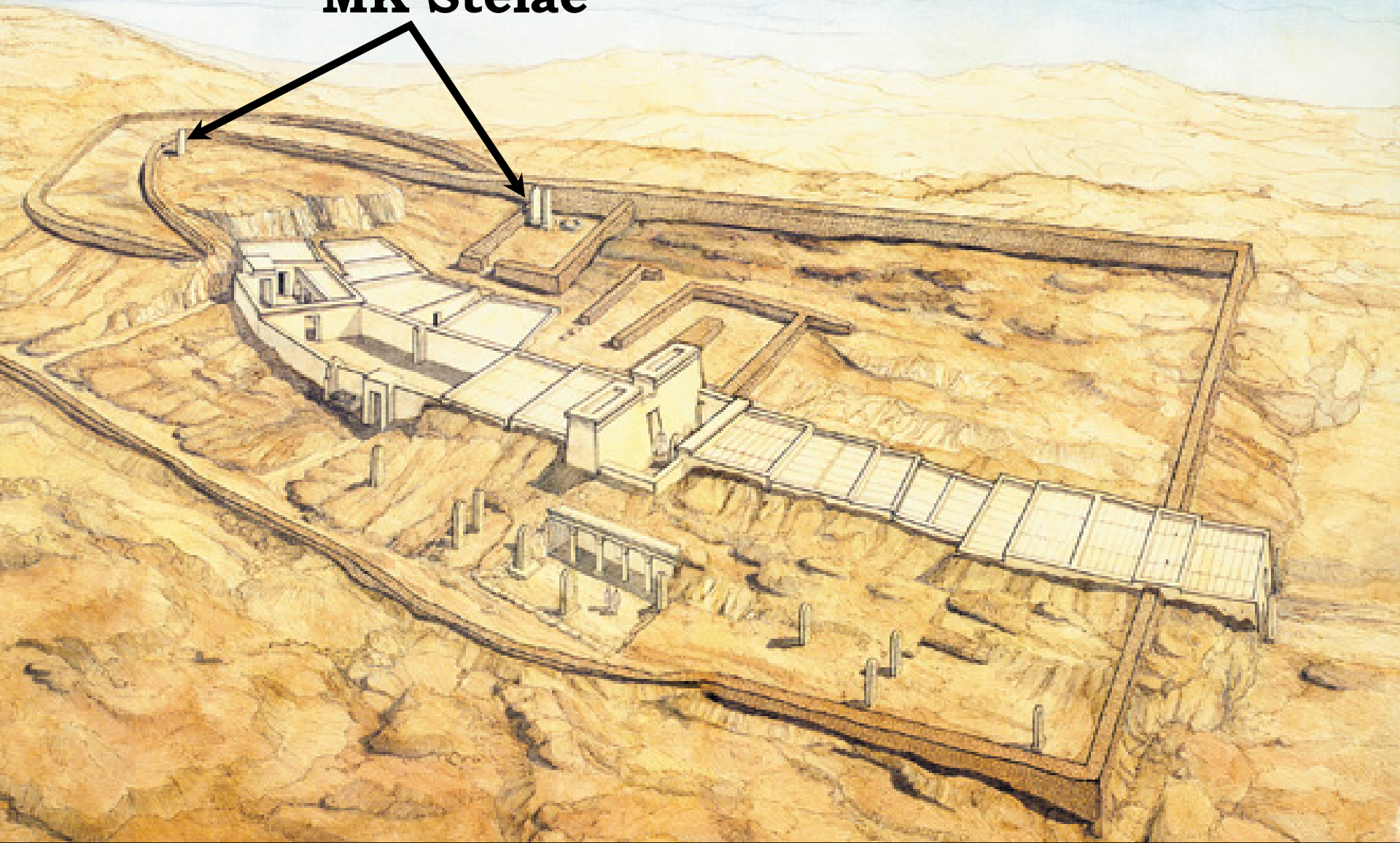
Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim

Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim is the site of turquoise mines that were exploited in antiquity by the Egyptians, who traveled there on mining expeditions.

In addition to the featuring of donkeys, the common thread between the two sites is the ‘Ruler of Retjenu’ designation.



MK Stelae



Reconstruction of Serabit el-Khadim (Dynasty 12)

Inscribed Stelae at Serabit el-Khadim

Sinai 115



Sinai 115

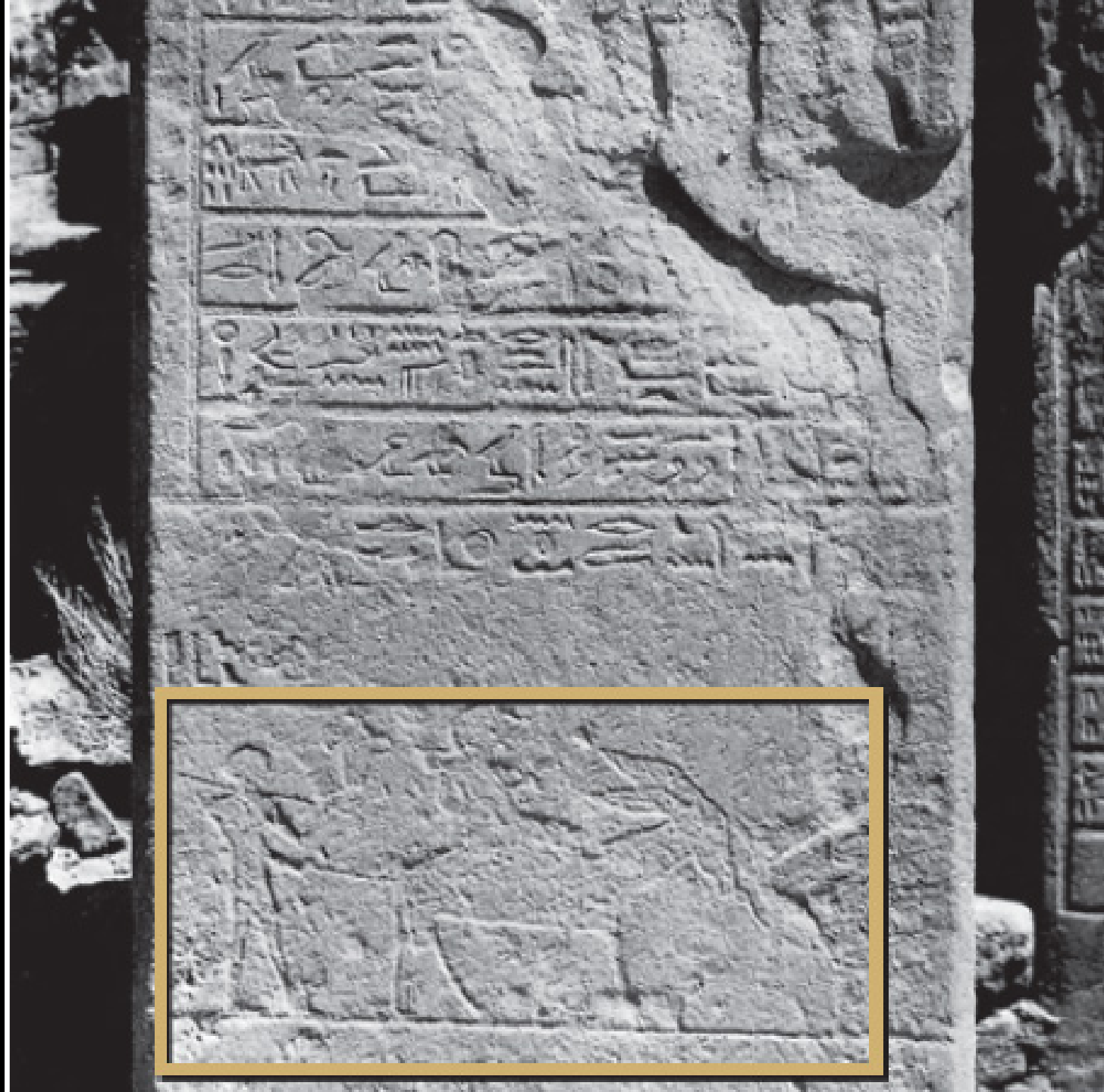
Year 18 of
Amenemhat III
(*ca.* 1842 BC)



Sinai 112

Common
Theme:

Hebeded
Riding on a
Donkey





B&W Photo by Egypt Exploration Society



Modern Photo by Erich Lessing

Sinai 115 and the World's Oldest Alphabet

**Topic: Text
on Sinai 115**

(1842 BC)



Image courtesy of the Egypt Exploration Society

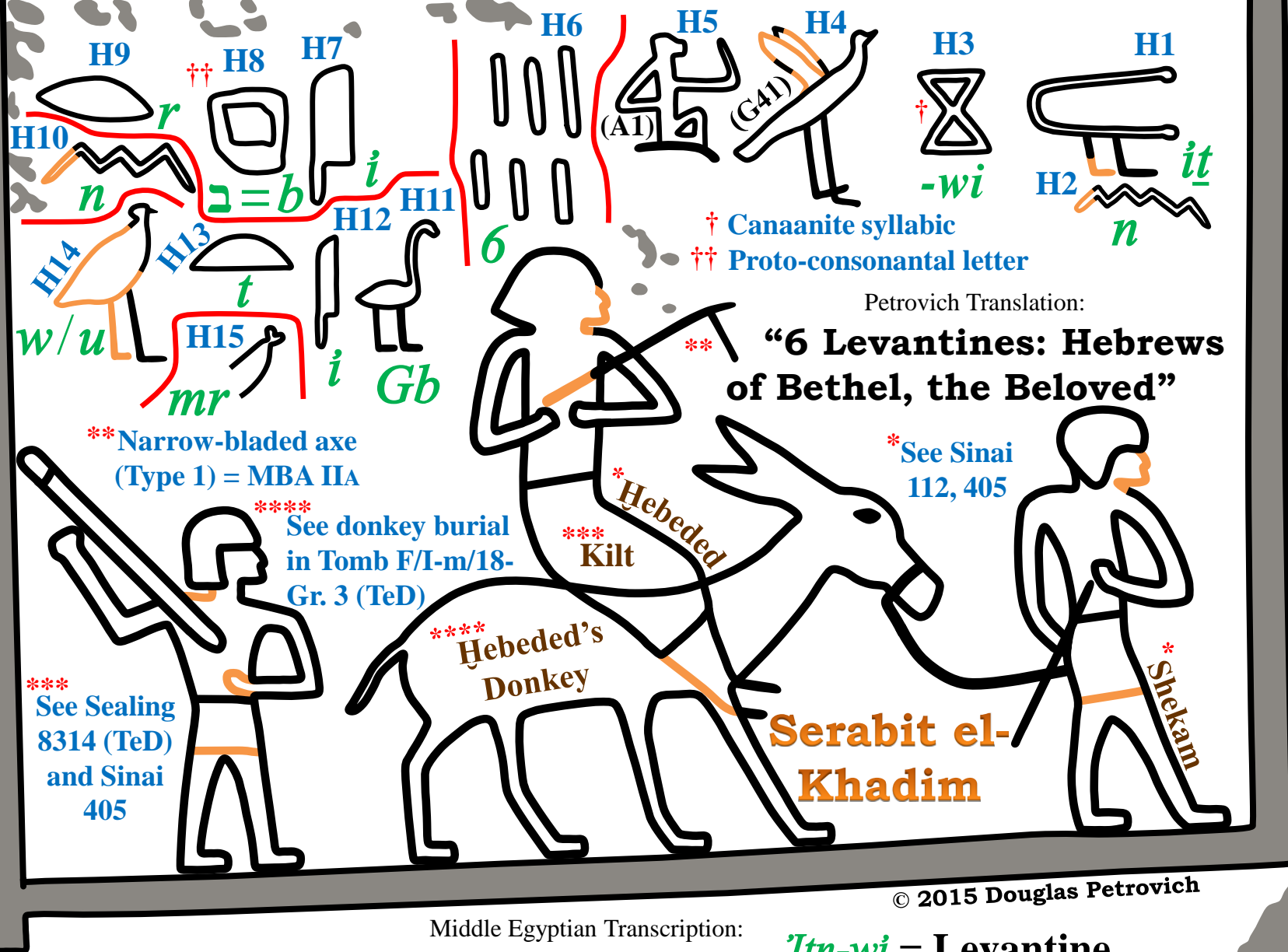
Sinai 115 (Year 18, Amenemhat III)



© 2015 Douglas Petrovich

Dynasty 12 (ca. 1842 BC)

Sinai 115 (Year 18 of Amenemhat III)



Sinai 115

Dynasty 12

Middle Egyptian Transcription:

itn-wi srsu ibr[im]

n [b]itu-Gb mr

Itn-wi = Levantine

Ibr[i] = Hebrew

bitu-Gb = House of Earth-God = Beth-el

mr = beloved

Petrovich Translation:

"6 Levantines: Hebrews of Bethel, the Beloved"

* See Sinai 112, 405

** Narrow-bladed axe (Type 1) = MBA IIA

*** See donkey burial in Tomb F/I-m/18-Gr. 3 (TeD)

*** See Sealing 8314 (TeD) and Sinai 405

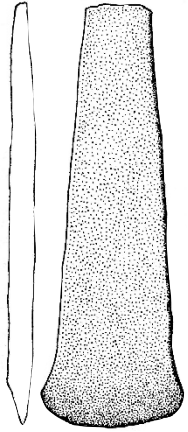
© 2015 Douglas Petrovich

Sinai 115 and the World's Oldest Alphabet

**Topic: Narrow-bladed
Axe of Hebeded**

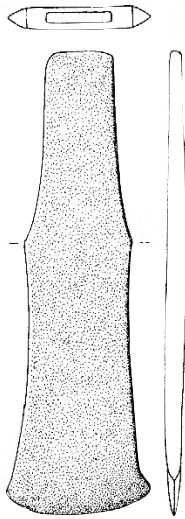
(1842 BC)

Typology of Axes from Canaan



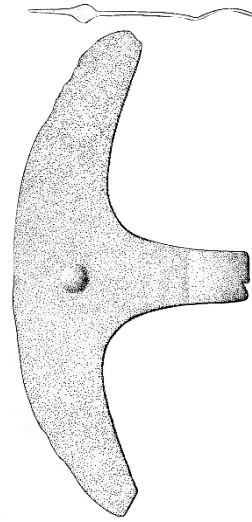
Simple Blade

2700 – 1000 BC



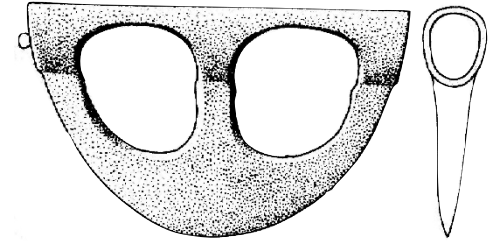
Lugged Blade

1850 – 1000 BC



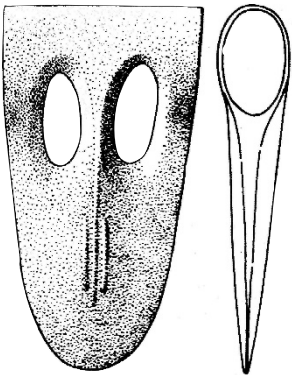
Crescent Axe

2450 – 2100 BC



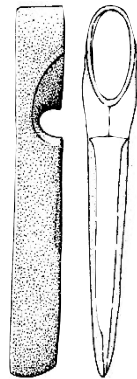
Eye Axe

2050 – 1950 BC



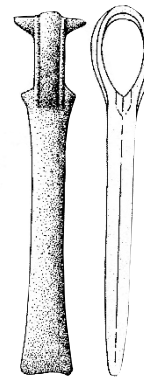
Duckbill Axe

1960 – 1800 BC



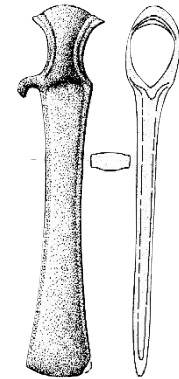
**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 1)**

1875 – 1750 BC



**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 2)**

1755 – 1650 BC

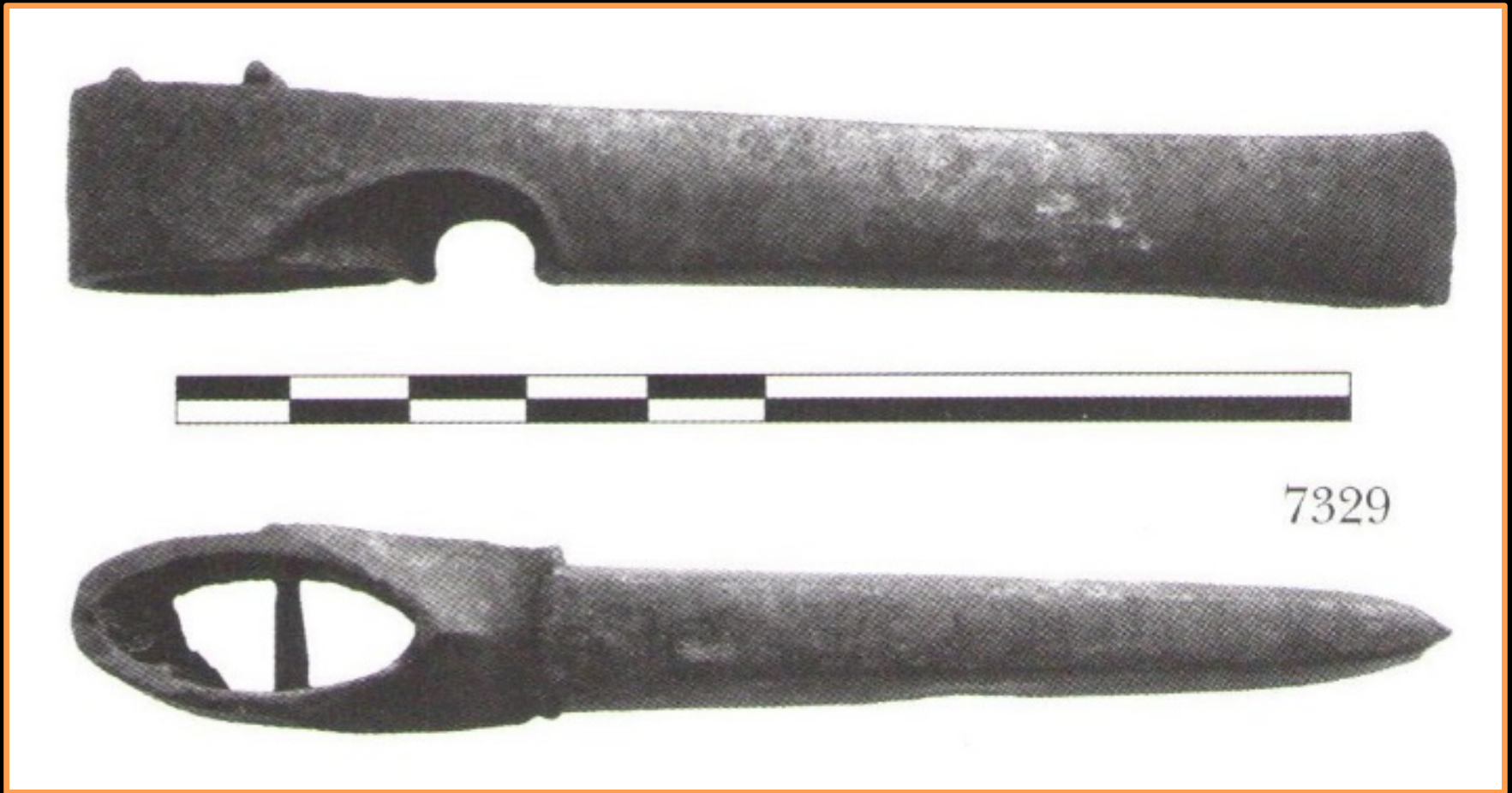


**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 3)**

1710 – 160 BC

Narrow-Bladed Axe of Di-Sobekemhat

(Stratum d/1, Area F/I, Tomb F/I-m/18-Gr. 3)



Narrow-Bladed (Type-1) Axe

Replicated
Handle



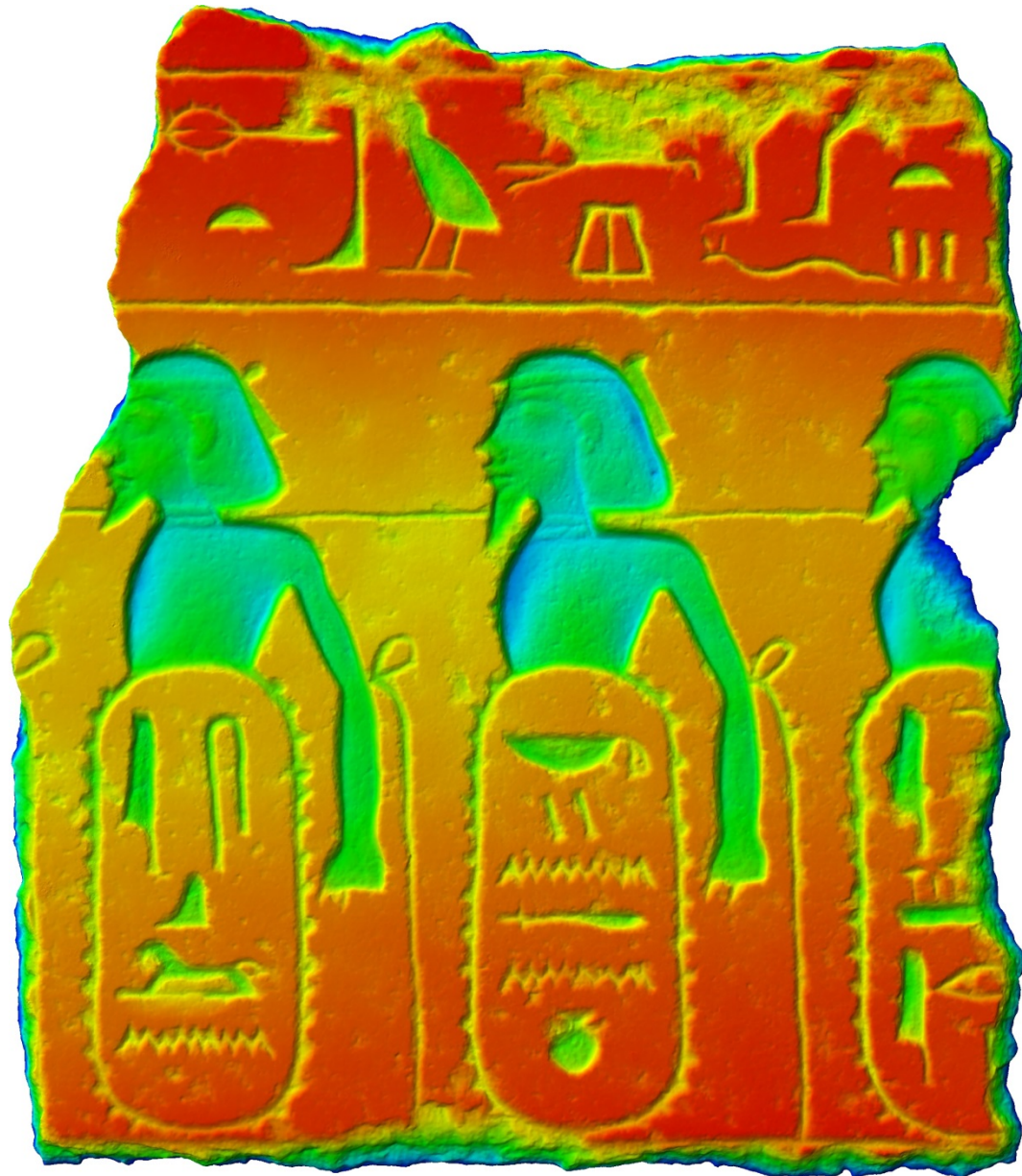
Authentic
Blade

Sinai 115 and the World's Oldest Alphabet

**Topic: Ancient-most
References to Israelites**

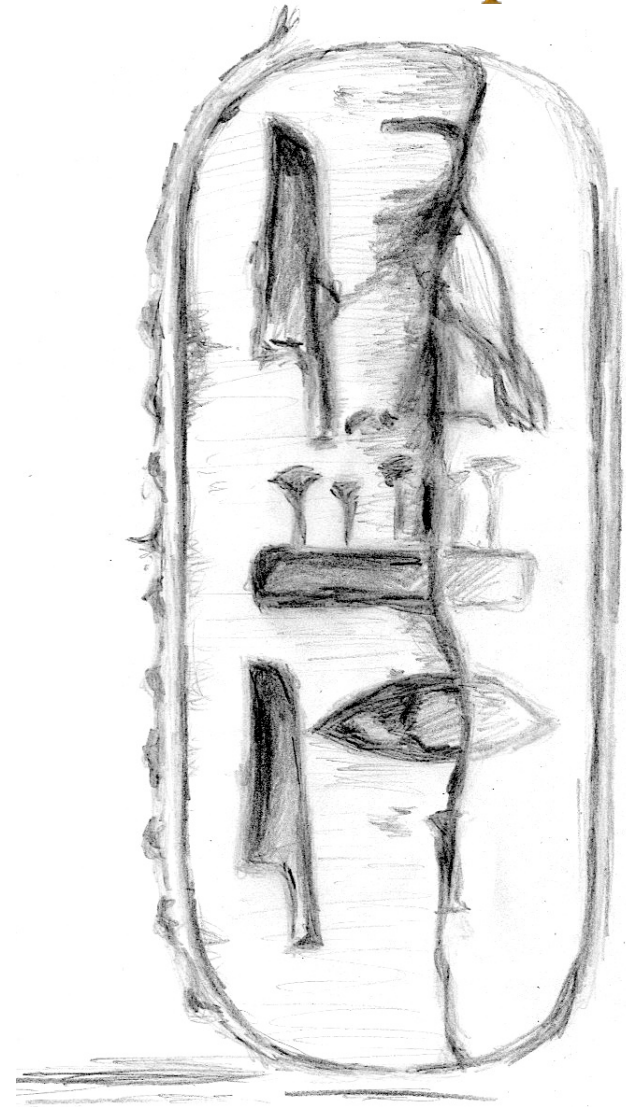
(Second Millennium BC)

Berlin Pedestal



Credit: van der Veen et al., "Israel in Canaan," *JAEI* (2012), 41

Reign of
Amenhotep II

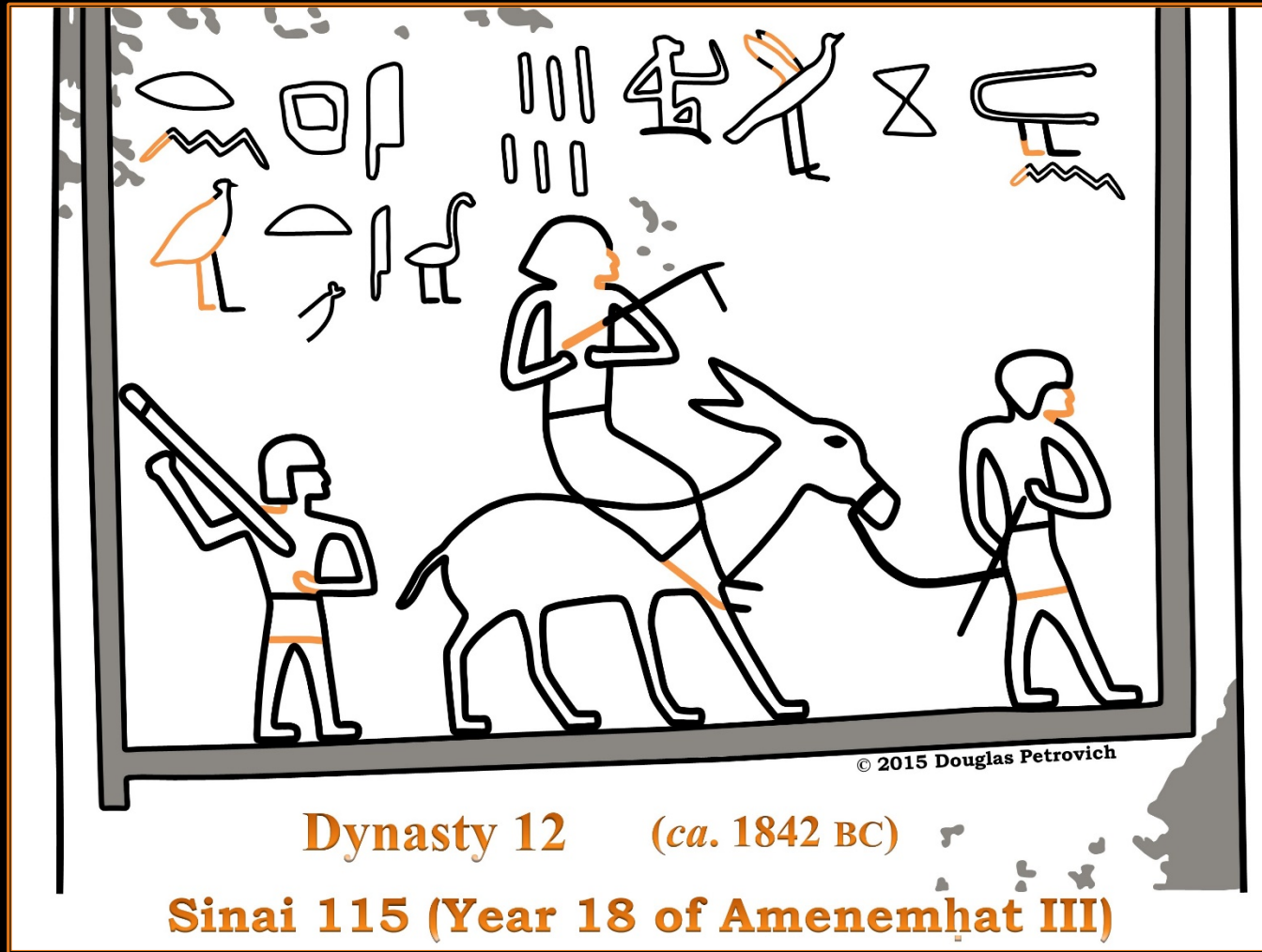


“Israelites” Inscribed in Hieroglyphics

Date: 1446 BC

Sinai 115

Date: 1842 BC



“Hebrews” Inscribed in Hieroglyphics