

Middle Kingdom Chronology

11th Dynasty (starting in the middle) (at Thebes)

Nebhepetre Montuhotep (II)

Seankhkare Montuhotep III

Nebtawyre Montuhotep IV

12th Dynasty (at Itj-tawy)

Amenemhat I (former vizier?)

Senwosret I (probable co-regency with Amenemhat I)

Amenemhat II (probable co-regency with Senwosret I)

Senwosret II (probable co-regency with Amenemhat II)

Senwosret III

Amenemhat III (probable co-regency with Senwosret III)

Amenemhat IV

Sobeknefru

13th Dynasty (at Itj-tawy, then Thebes)

many kings of whom Neferhotep I and Sobekhotep IV are the best attested

Evidence for the end of the reign of Amenemhat I:

Date: king list confusion (Manetho 16 years, Turin 2[9] years)
latest known contemporary dated document is year 30

Coregency: handful of double-dated attestations
stela of official Intef dated year 30 Amenemhat, year 10 Senwosret

Means: assassination?

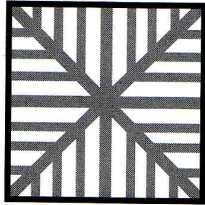
(from the Instruction of Amenemhat for Senwosret)

“When you lie down at night, let your own heart be watchful over you, for no man has any to defend him on the day of anguish. I was generous to the pauper, I sustained the orphan, I caused him who had nothing to become at length like a man of means. But it was one who ate my bread who conspired, one to whom I had given my support devised dread deeds thereby, those clad in my fine linen behaved towards me like worthless louts, and those anointed with my myrrh made my way slippery before me...

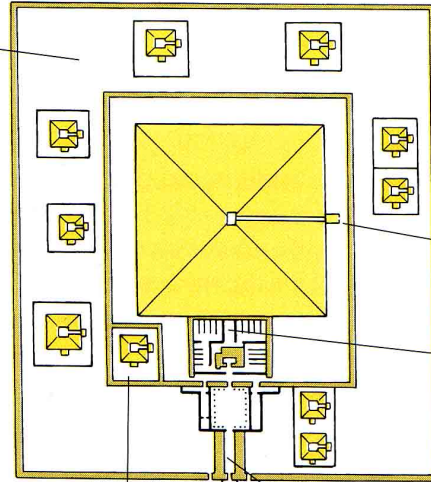
It was after supper when darkness had fallen, and I had decided to take an hour of relaxation. I was lying on my bed, for I was tired, and I started to drift off to sleep. Weapons (intended for) my protection were raised against me...

If I could have quickly taken weapons in my hand, I would have made the cowards retreat in turmoil. But no one is strong at night, and none can fight by himself; no successful result can come about without an ally. And so ruin occurred when I was without you, when the courtiers had not yet heard that I would hand over to you, when I had not yet sat down with you so as to confirm your succession.”

Outer enclosure with
9 queens' pyramids



0 100 m
0 300 ft



Satellite
pyramid

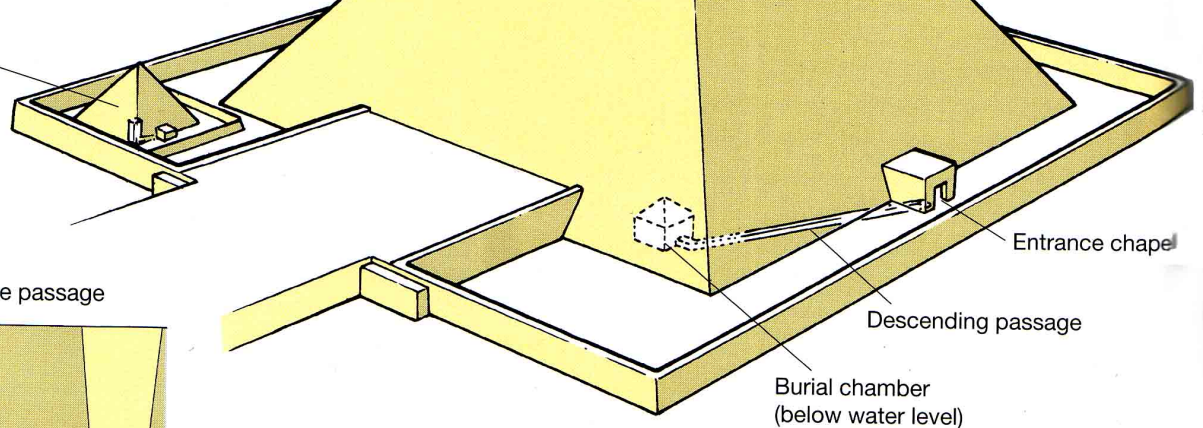
Entrance hall
Causeway

Entrance
chapel

Sanctuary

*(Below) The Entrance Cut
and sloping construction
passage used to bring in
materials for the burial
chamber were superseded by
the final, higher granite-lined
pyramid passage.*

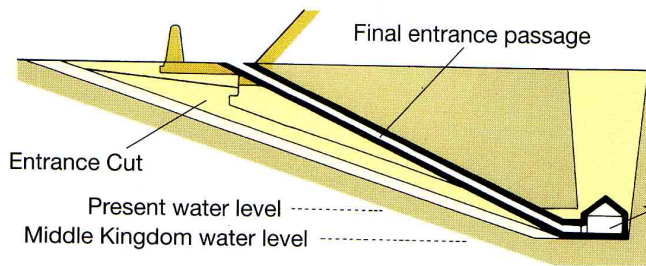
Satellite
pyramid



Entrance chapel

Descending passage

Burial chamber
(below water level)



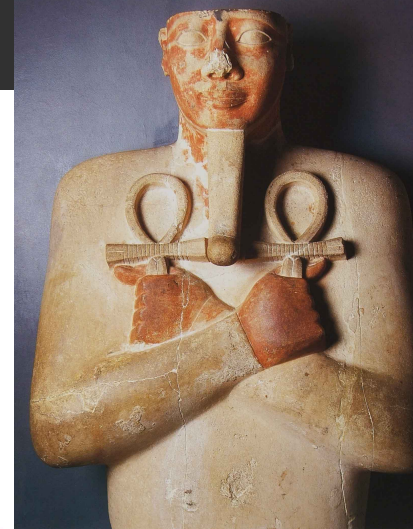
Final entrance passage

Entrance Cut

Present water level

Middle Kingdom water level

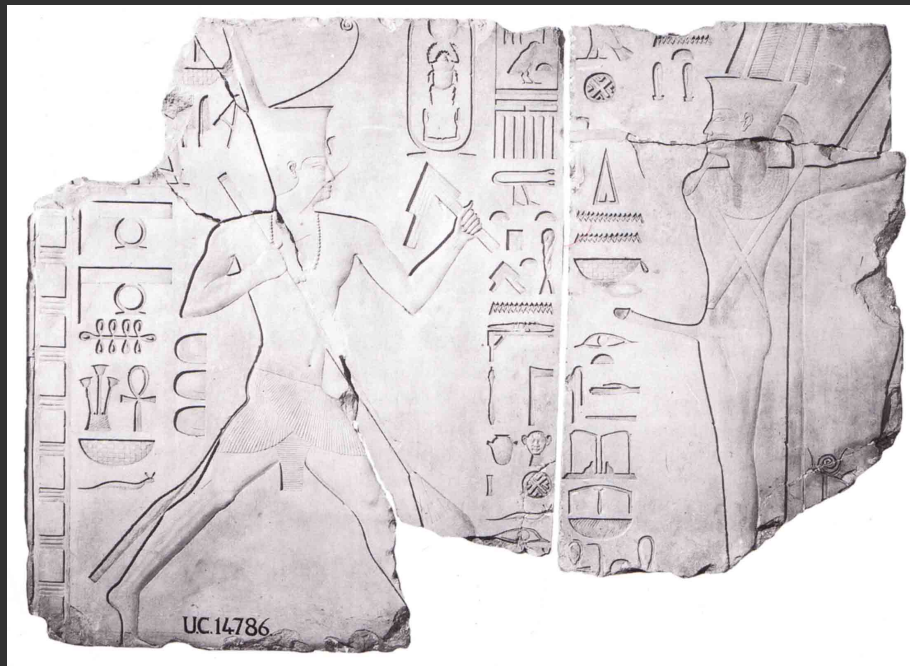
Burial
chamber



Senwosret I Pyramid Complex at Lisht



The White Chapel at Karnak



Senwosret I before Min at Coptos;
Senwosret I obelisk at Heliopolis



ALTES REICH
Dyn. XII.

Abth. II. Bl. 119.



Ansicht von Nordosten.

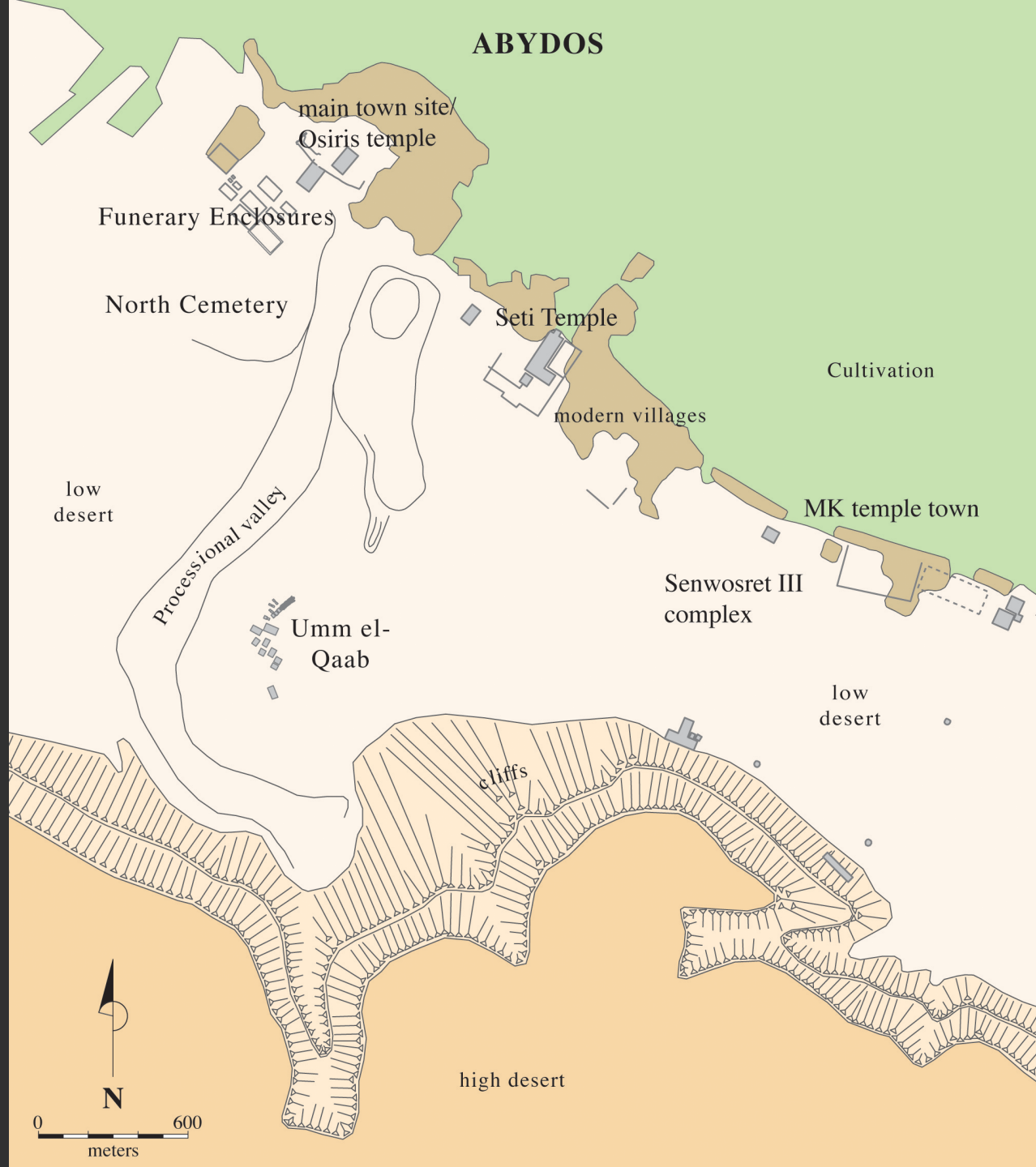
Medinet el Faiûm [Krokodilopolis]
Obelisk von Begig.



Senwosret I stela from
Crocodilopolis, Faiyum

Shows the king before
various gods





ABYDOS

main town site/
Osiris temple

Funerary Enclosures

North Cemetery

Seti Temple

modern villages

Cultivation

MK temple town

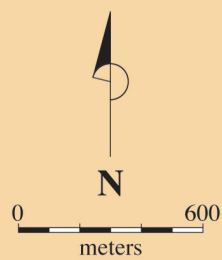
Senwosret III
complex

Umm el-
Qaab

low
desert

cliffs

high desert







Stela of Mentuwoser from Abydos Year 17 Senwosret I



[4] I am a caretaker of the afflicted, a burier of the dead, who gives things to him who has nothing. [5] I am a diligent subordinate in the king's house, who is sent on missions because of decisive character. I have acted as granary overseer during the counting of [6] barley; I have acted as overseer of more than 3,000 people; I have acted as overseer of cattle, overseer of [7] goats, overseer of donkeys, overseer of sheep, overseer of pigs; I have directed clothing to the treasury; [8] account has been taken by me in the king's house, and I have been acclaimed and thanked. I am generous with surplus [9] of food: there is no lack for one to whom I give. I share the greater portion of meat with those who sit [10] next to me. I am one beloved of his kindred, to whom his family is attached.

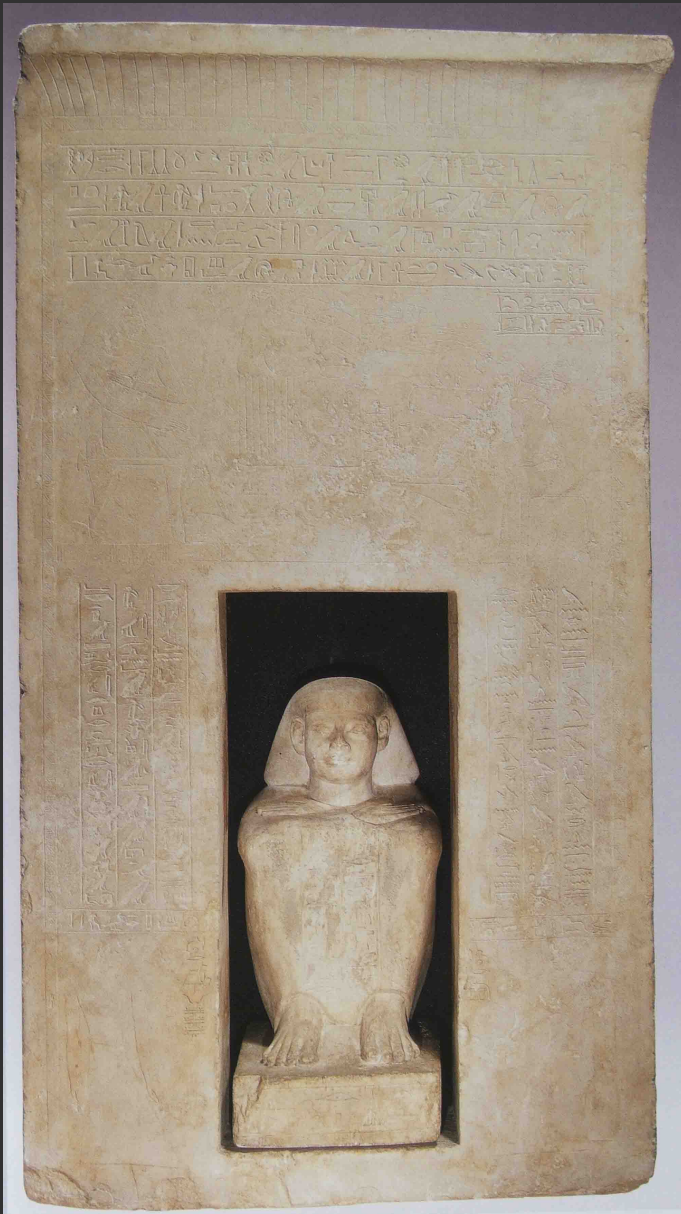
Now as for any people [17] among the living who hear this stela, they will have to say, "It is true," and their children will have to say to [18] their children, "It is true; there is no lie in it." And as for any scribe who shall read this stela and any people who shall approach it: as you love life and hate death, [19] as you want Foremost of Westerners to bless you at his terrace, you should say, "Bread and beer, meat and poultry, offerings and provisions for the owner of this stela!" Mentuwoser: The honored steward, Mentuwoser

Stela of Sahathor from Abydos:

An offering which the king gives to Osiris, lord of Busiris, the great god, lord of Abydos: an invocation offering of bread and beer, flesh and fowl, alabaster and linen, incense and unguent, at the Wag festival, at the festival of Thoth, at the procession of Min, at the Burnt Offerings....

I went on a mining expedition in my youth; I suppressed the local chiefs so that gold should be washed; I brought back turquoise; I reached the land of Nubia, and the Nubians came bowing down, for fear of the Lord of the Two Lands. I went west, and I travelled through its lands, and I brought back lily-plants (?). As the lord lives, I speak truth! One blessed before Anubis. One whom his lord truly loves, a favorite of his; one who says what is perfect, repeats what is loved, and does what the Lord of the Two Lands favors...

The assistant treasurer, Sahathor, true of voice, one blessed before Wepwawet.



From the Abydos stela of Ikhnofret (dated Senwosret III)

Live the Horus Divine of Transformations, He of the Two Ladies Divine of Manifestations, Falcon of Gold Transformations, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Khakaure, Son of Ra Senwosret (III), granted life like Ra forever.

Royal decree to the hereditary lord, governor..., king's sealbearer, sole companion, overseer of the double house of gold, overseer of the double house of silver, overseer of sealbearers, Ikhnofret, possessor of an honored state.

Now my Majesty has decreed that you proceed south to Abydos in the Thinite Nome to make a monument for my father, Osiris-foremost of the westerners, and to make effective his mysterious image of the fine gold which he had my Majesty bring back from Nubia in victory and in triumph...

I acted according to everything His Majesty commanded... For him I made the transport sled, which carries the beauty of Foremost-of-Westerners, of gold, silver, lapis, copper, sesnedjem-wood, and cedar. The gods who were in his Ennead were fashioned, and their shrines were made anew. I assigned the hourly priests of the temples to carry out their duties, and I had them know the rituals of each day and the festivals of the beginnings of the year. I directed the work on the neshmet-barque. I fashioned the barque-shrine...

I conducted the procession of Wep-wawet when he proceeds to avenge his father. I repelled the rebels from the neshmet barque and I felled the enemies of Osiris. I conducted the great procession following the god at his footsteps. I caused the god's barque to sail on, with Thoth leading the voyage. I equipped the barque "The lord of Abydos arises in Maat" with a shrine, his fine regalia being set in place as he proceeded to Poqer in the Thinite nome. I cleared the god's paths to his cenotaph tomb in front of Poqer. I avenged Wen-nofer on that day of great fighting, and I felled all his enemies on the sandbanks of Nedjet.

And I had him proceed within the Great Barque and it carried his beauty, gladdening the eastern deserts and creating joy in the heart of the western deserts when they saw the beauties of the neshmet-barque as it put to land at Abydos and as it brought back Osiris Foremost-of-the-Westerners, lord of Abydos to his place.

And I followed the god into his temple, his purification done, his throne widened.

Expeditions under Senwosret I

From the autobiography of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan

“I followed my lord when he sailed south to overthrow his enemies among the foreigners, for it was as the son of the count, royal sealbearer, great overseer of the army of the Oryx Nome, as a man replacing my aged father, that I sailed south, through the favors of the royal house and the love of him in the palace...

Then his Majesty proceeded in peace, having overthorwn his enemies in miserable Kush, and it was as one having gained experience that I returned in his following, no loss having taken place in my army. I had sailed south to bring back gold ore for the Majesty of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt Kheper-ka-ra (Senwosret I), living forever and ever. It was with the hereditary prince, count, king's eldest son Ameny, lph, that I sailed south, having sailed with 400 enlisted men from all the best of my army, returning safely without any loss to them, I having brought back the gold assigbned to me. I was praised for it in the royal house, and the king's son thanked god for me.





Fortress at Buhen

