

## ANCIENT EGYPT

In all times there has been a great fascination concerning the ancient Egyptian Civilization along the Holy River Nile, with its huge pyramids, sphinxes, temples, gods and pharaohs. Why did they build the pyramids and all the other stupendous monuments still so well preserved? What kind of gods did they adore? What was the role of the pharaohs and their beautiful wives? Let us discover this unique and splendid civilization which lasted for more than 3000 years, comprising 30 Dynasties and ending dramatically with the death of Queen Cleopatra in the year 30 B.C.

### Chronology

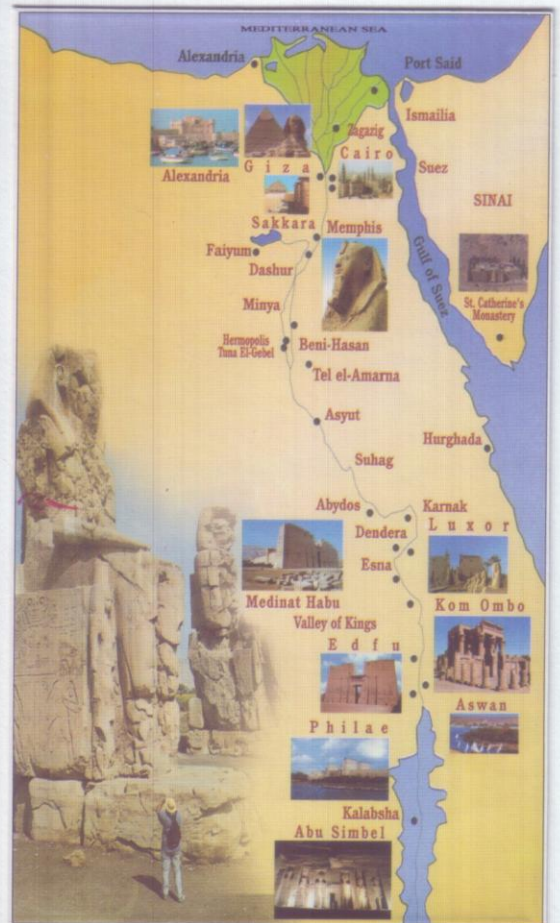
Archaic Period	3050-2705 BC	(1st-2nd Dyn)
Old Kingdom	2705-2213 BC	(3rd-8th Dyn.)
Middle Kingdom	2061-1668 BC	(11th-13th Dyn.)
New Kingdom	1560-1070 BC	(18th-20th Dyn.)
Greek Period	332 - 30 BC	( Ptolemaic Dyn)

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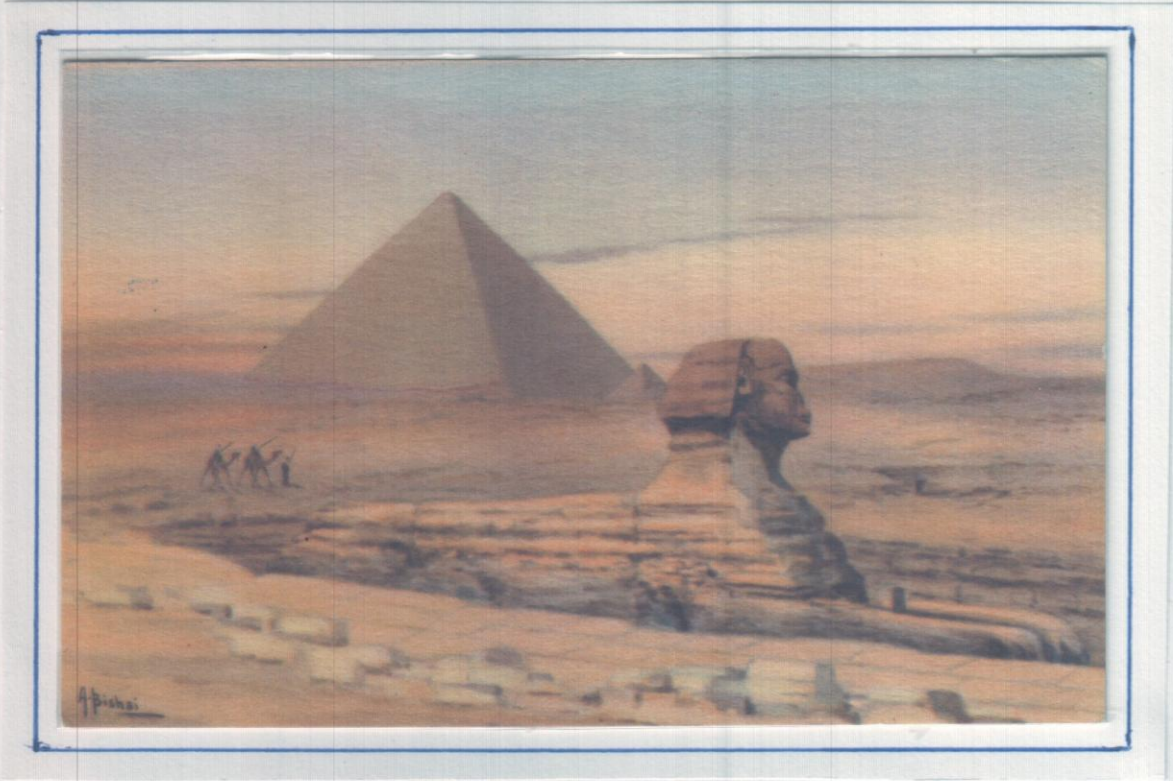
## The River Nile



In Ancient Egypt, all life emanated from the River Nile. All the historic remnants and touristic sights are to be found alongside or in the proximity of the life-giving river.

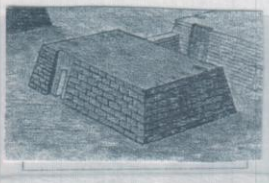


Monuments



There is a line of development in building Pyramids. Originally a king was buried in a so called mastaba tomb, a massiv building with a subterranean burial chamber.

To make a mastaba more impressive , several steps were built upon it. The first Step Pyramid was erected in Saqqara, some time after 2630 B.C.



A mastaba



Saqqara, the first Step Pyramid

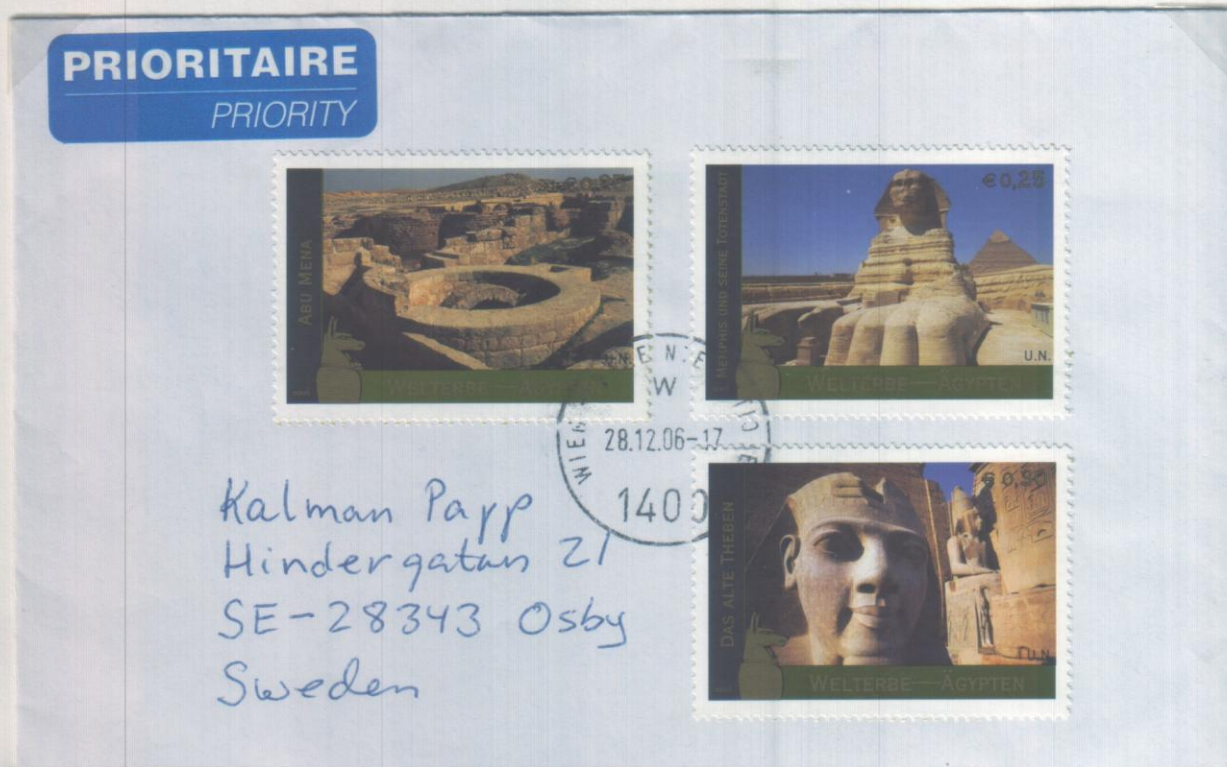


Maidum Step Pyramid. Two of its steps have collapsed.

Finally, the geometrically perfect pyramids were achieved.



Monuments



All monuments of Ancient Egypt make part of humanity's "World Heritage" as proclaimed by the UN, here Abu Mena, The Sphinx and Thebe (Luxor).



Imhotep was the architect of the first Step Pyramid. As the chancellor of king Djoser, he was later to be deified.



The subsidiary buildings near the Step Pyramid, used for the celebration of the Sed festival, represent the earliest Egyptian stone architecture.



Of the "Seven Wonders of the World" in the Antique World, the Pyramids at Giza is the only one still existing.

Monuments



The most famous Pyramids are those at Giza, named after the Pharaohs who were buried in them; Cheops(Khufu) to the right 146m high, Chefren(Khafre) 143,5m and the smallest one, Mykerinos(Menkaure) 65,5m.



The Sphinx, which stands in front of the Pyramids, was to protect the kings' tombs against harm and intruders.

Monuments



The Sphinx has a human face, representing wisdom and the body of a lion, which stands for strength. It is carved out of one single block of rock and measures 75,5m long and 20m high.

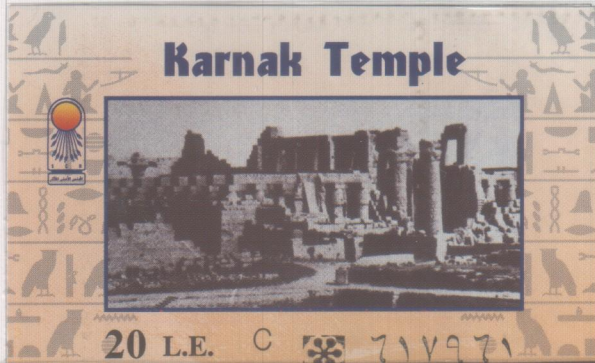


The portrait of the Sphinx is said to be that of Pharaoh Cheops. The face is turned against the rising sun, greeting it every morning. Cheops was also honored as a God.



Monuments

At the time of the Pyramid building, rulers of the Old Kingdom made their capital at Memphis in Lower Egypt. Later on, Thebes, in Upper Egypt, with the temples of Karnak and Luxor, gradually became the most important ceremonial and economical center, site of royal residences, temples and tombs.



One of the numerous gates inside Karnak temple.



The Karnak and Luxor temples were connected by a processional avenue, 3 km long, lined by ram-headed Sphinxes every 15 m. on both sides. Karnak was in fact a huge temple area, under construction for 2000 years, a conglomerate of walls, obelisks, columns, statues, stelae and decorated blocks.

Inner part of Luxor temple with statues.



The Luxor temple on the easter side of the river Nile, in Thebes.



Monuments

Opposite Karnak and Luxor, on the other side of the Nile, in Western Thebes, was the site of the mortuary temples in the New Kingdom, 1550-1070 B.C., with places like Valley of the Queens (Deir el-Bahri) and Valley of the Kings.



The Memnon Colossi, 20 high, today standing alone, but once placed in front of the entrance of the temple of Amenophis III, now completely gone. In the background the Valley of the Queens with Hatshepsut's temple.



The fully restored temple of Hatshepsut with its unique free-standing terraced structure.





MONUMENTS

Inside the Luxor Temple.



Thal der Königgräber in Theben.  
Vallon des tombes des rois à Thèbes.  
Street of the graves of the Kings in Thebes.

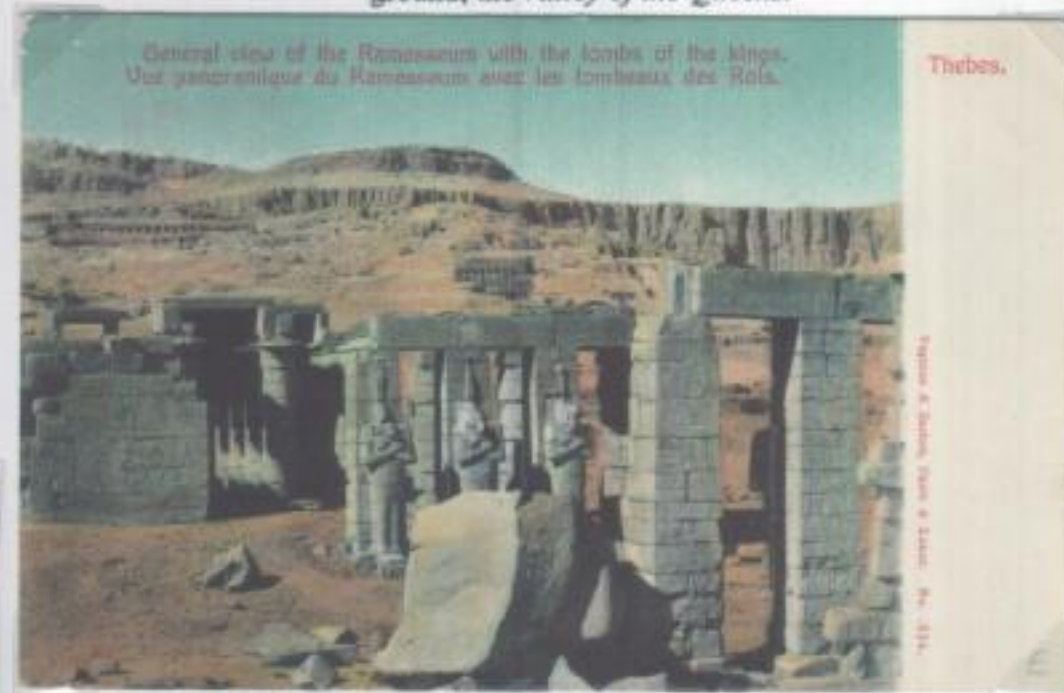
The Valley of the Kings is an arid, barren place. Everything of interest is to be found under the ground.



Ramesseum, the mortuary temple of Ramses II. In the background, the Valley of the Queens.



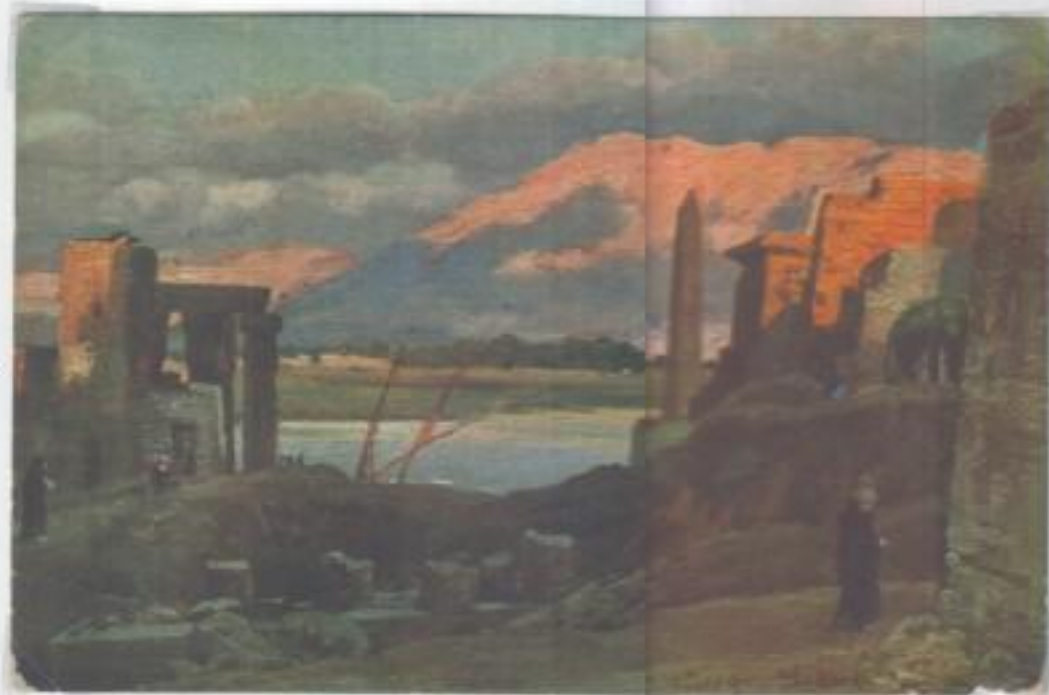
Geographical orientation around Thebes (today's Luxor), with the most important ceremonial places during the New Kingdom period.



General view of the Ramesseum with the tombs of the kings.  
Vue générale du Ramesseum avec les tombes des Rois.

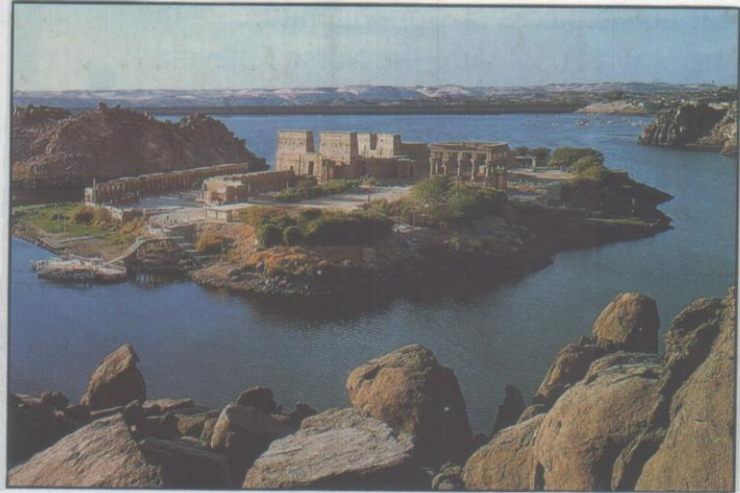
Thebes.

Behind the mountain in the background, you find the Valley of the Kings.



## Monuments

The Island of Philae, south of Aswan, is among the most romantic places in Egypt. It's the site of the latest survival of Ancient Egyptian religious practicing. Hieroglyphic writing was used here last time in 394 A.D. Demotic in 452.



As a result of the building of the High Dam at Aswan, the temples on the original Philae Island have been dismantled and reerected on the nearby island of Agilkia.



The entrance of the great temple.

The Trajan kiosk.



Besides the main temple, there are several minor temples too on the island.

Monuments



Reliefs on the walls of the temple of Philae.



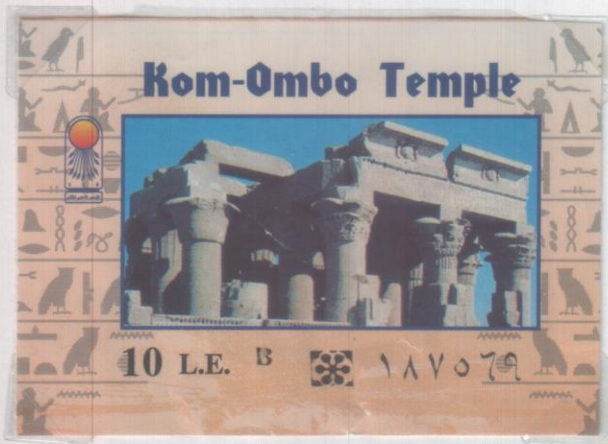
Originally the inner parts of the temple were colourfully decorated. Lithograph from 1838 by D. Roberts.



Today very little colour is left on the columns.

There are numerous important temples all along the river Nile, here three of them.

Kalabsha, the largest free-standing temple, 74 m long, 33 m wide, south of Aswan.



Kom-Ombo, north of Aswan



Ramesseum, the mortuary temple of Ramesses II, in Western Thebes.

## Monuments

Abu Simbel is located on the west bank of the Nile, in Upper Egypt, 270 km south of Aswan. It consists of two parts, The Great Temple and the Small Temple, making together an extraordinary artistic beauty, built under the great pharaoh (Ramesses) Ramses II, ab. 1250 BC.

### The Great Temple.



The Great Temple with the four colossal seated statues of Ramses.



The internal part of the temple is carved out of the rock. Inside, in the great pillared hall, there are eight colossal statues of Ramses, four on each side.



The Abu Simbel complex.

### The Small Temple.



The Small Temple is consecrated to the goddess Hathor and Ramses' wife, Queen Nefertari, but four of the statues represent Ramses as a boy.



The central part of the Small Temple.

In the innermost part of the Great Temple, in the sanctuary, there are four seated statues, representing the three most important state gods of the period. The fourth is Ramses himself. Twice a year, the first sunrays illuminate the face of the pharaoh.

Gods and Goddesses

Egyptian culture was pervaded by religion. Society consisted of the gods, the king and mankind. The king was a kind of half-god, a mediator between god and man, a living example of the creator god on earth.

Most of the gods were personified by animals, having a human body with the face of an animal.



Thoth, ibis-headed god of writing and wisdom.



Sakhmet, lioness-headed goddess of war and diseases.



Bes, dwarflike god of domestic security, fertility and children.



Harsaphes, ram-headed god, closely connected with other gods, Re', Amon and Osiris.



A great number of the wall paintings and reliefs in temples and tombs represent offering scenes, pharaohs making offerings to different gods.



Gods and Goddesses

According to Egyptian creation myth, in the primeval age on earth there was the sun-god Rê (also called Rê-Harakty or Rê-Atoum), appearing on a mound from a watery chaos. Soon thereafter Geb, the earth, and Nut, the sky, were created. Geb and Nut had four children, Osiris, Isis, Seth and Nephthys.

Geb



Nut



Isis and Osiris

Osiris became king and took sister Isis as his queen. Osiris was murdered by Seth but was given new life by Isis. Being the first man to survive death, Osiris became the god of rebirth. (see also p. 21)



Goddess Hathor,  
the daughter of Rê.

Hathor had different roles such as goddess of fertility and death in Thebes but in the Delta, that of love, music and dance.

Atoum, the primeval creator  
god, identified with Rê.



Gods and Goddesses

Isis, wife of Osiris, one of the most beloved of the deities, goddess of creation, love and healing. She personifies the virtues of the wife and mother.



The solar disc symbolizes her connection with the sun god Ré.  
The wings stand for protection.

Gods and Goddesses

Goddess Isis extending her protecting wings.



Holding the infant Horus in her arms, Isis also represents the mother-goddess. Compare the similar symbolism in Christian iconography of the Virgin Mary.



Virgin Mary with the child.



Isis leading Queen Nefertari, wife of Rameses II.



Isis together with the bull-headed god Apis, closely connected with Osiris and Ptah.

The Philea temple was the central cult place of Isis, but she was also worshipped in great parts of the Roman Empire, as far away as in Britain.





Gods and Goddesses

There were some two thousand different gods in Ancient Egypt. Every region having its own local deities. Some of them became "universal", so called "state gods", worshipped all over the country.



Horus with different royal symbols on his head.



Horus in front of Abu Simbel tempel.

Rè- Harakhty with the solar disk.



Horus, the falcon god, became the first supreme god of a united kingdom ab. 3000 B.C. Later he became identified with the solar deity Rè, worshipped by pharaohs as their heavenly father.

The Eye of Horus or wadjet eye, symbol of protection.



The two gods together are known as Rè - Horus (Horus - Rè), or Rè - Harakhty, portrayed with the head of a falcon beneath a solar disk.

Gods and Goddesses



Amon, state god of the New Kingdom, worshipped mainly in Luxor-Karnak, closely connected with the sun-god Rè, as Amon-Rè, here holding Pharaoh Horemheb.



Amon, in the middle, ram-headed, together with two creator gods, Shu (air) and Tefnut (moisture).



Bastet, cat-headed goddess of war, closely connected with lioness-headed Sakhmet.

Cats were regarded as holy animals, therefore often mummified. The reason for that was that cats could keep the light of the sun in their eyes even by night.

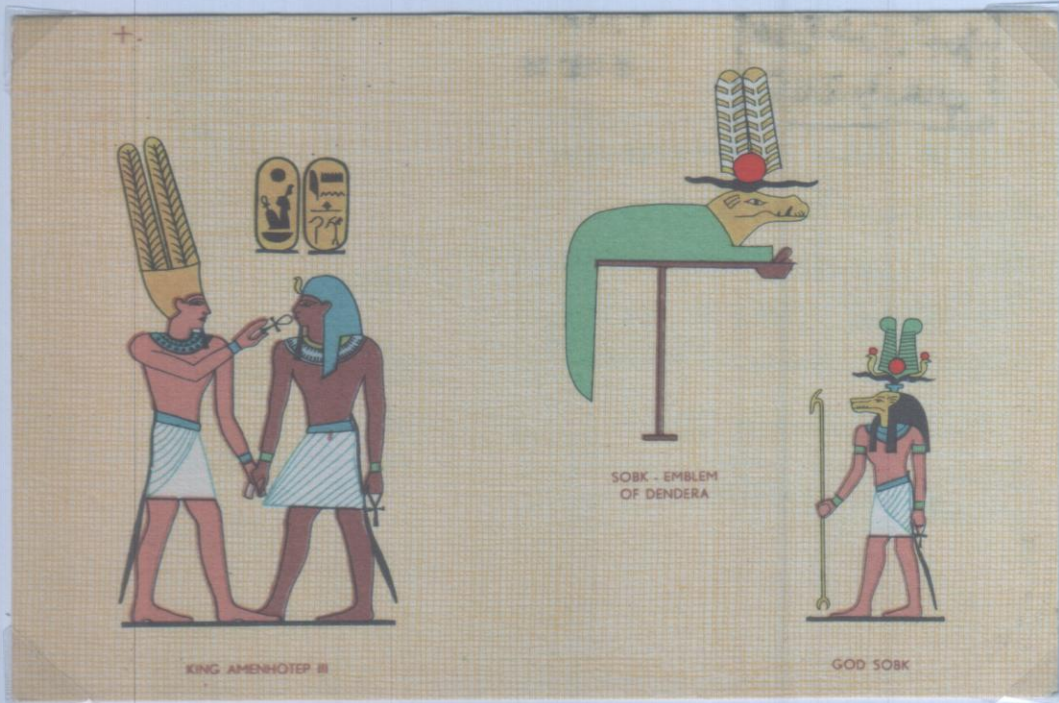


Silakht, a local goddess.



Maat, in front of an ibis, Thoth, god of writing and wisdom. Maat was the goddess of the universal justice, truth and order. She wore the feather of truth on her head. This feather was weighed on a scale against the deceased's heart when undergoing the death ritual (see last page).

Gods and Goddesses



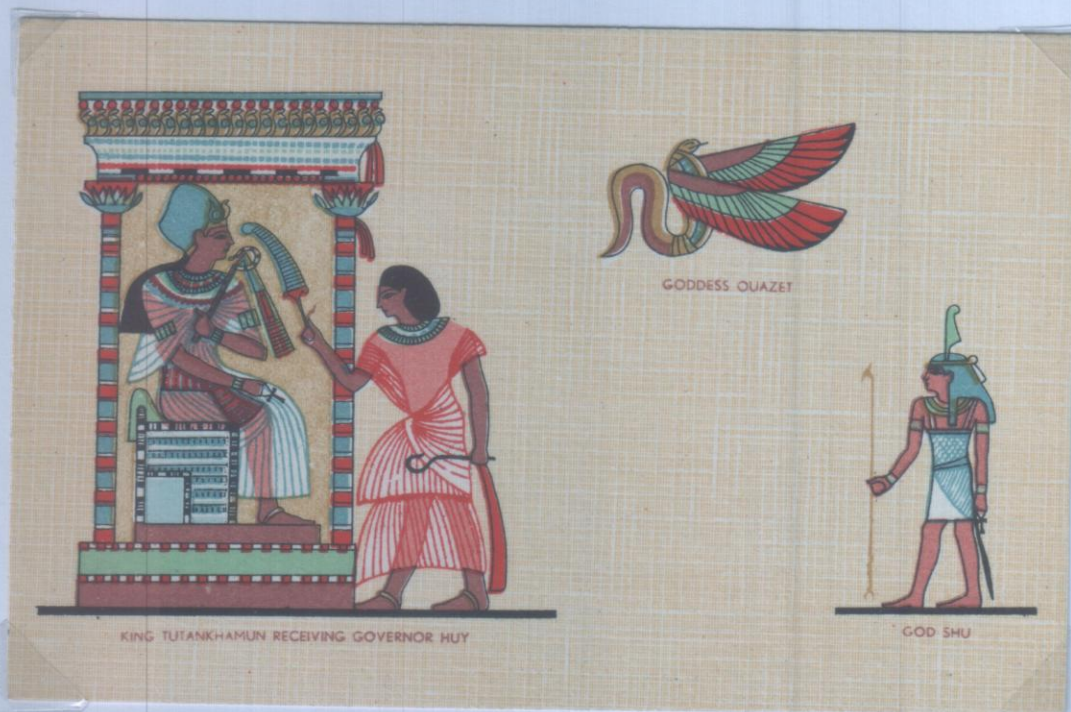
God Sobek, with the head of a crocodile and a human body, associated with water and fertility, worshipped mainly in Kom-Ombo and Fayoum.



God Hah (or Heh, Huh) personified eternity or infinity in the mythology, referring to the endless watery chaos that reigned before the creation of the finite existing world.



In Ancient Egyptian numerology the hieroglyph of Hah represented one million, which was essentially considered equivalent to infinity.



Goddess Ouazet (Wadjet), winged cobra, deity of Lower Egypt, worn on king's forehead for protection.

God Shu, in the form of a man, primeval god of air and sunlight, who fathered the sky (Nut) and the Earth (Geb) and set them apart.

Gods and Goddesses

After death, the deceased had to make a journey by boat, full of dangers, to the Realm of the Dead. There, everybody could expect a judgment before Osiris, leading a council of gods.

Osiris, ruler of the Underworld.



Anubis



Anubis, protector of the dead. At the long mummification process the chief embalmer always had to wear the mask of Anubis.

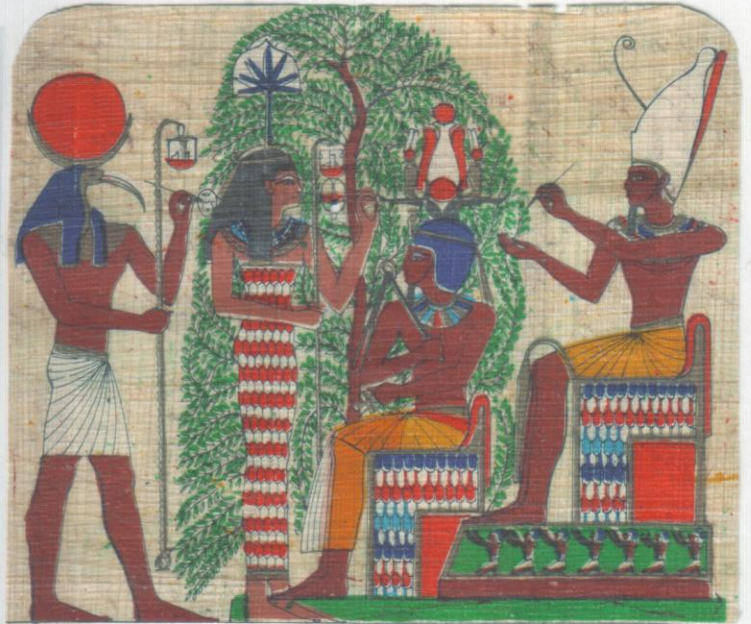


The deceased meets different gods on his way in the Underworld.



Well-defined funeral rituals must be done before appearing in front of Osiris.

The name of the deceased pharaoh is registered on the sacred tree, supervised by the gods Thoth, Atum and goddess Seshat, keeper of the royal annals.



As the spirit lived on after death, it was important to preserve the body, which was done by mummification.



GODS AND GODDESSES (Death ceremony)

After death the deceased, accompanied by Anubis, must cross a river by boat to come to the Nether-world, where the weighing ceremony takes place, which means that the heart of the deceased is balanced on a scale against a feather from the goddess Maat, which represents truth. If the heart passes the test, the deceased can continue and meet Osiris, if not, he is devoured by monster Ammit.



Jackal-headed Anubis represents the Underworld



Crossing the river

A married couple



Egyptians were mostly monogamous, with a life expectancy probably around 20.



Goddess Maat with the feather of truth.



Osiris, ruler of the Underworld.



Different gods, making up the Judiciary.



- ↑  
Anubis
- ↑  
Heart of the deceased.
- ↑  
Ammit
- ↑  
Feather of truth.
- ↑  
Thoth, god of wisdom, records the result.
- ↑  
Horus, god of the sky.
- ↑  
Osiris, the judge,
- ↑  
Isis and sister Nephthys.

## Rulers (Old Kingdom)

The Egyptians believed their Pharaoh was a living god. He alone could unite the country and maintain the cosmic order, or Maat. They believed that, when he died, he would achieve eternal life, not only for himself, but also for his people. The Pharaoh's power was absolute. He led the country, set taxes, judged criminals and controlled the temples.



Narmer was one of the earliest rulers of the country. His conquests helped to unite Upper Egypt with Lower Egypt ab. 3100 BC. The falcon god Horus became the symbol of the united country.



Djoser, 2667-2648 BC, erected the first Step Pyramid at Saqqara, therefore called the "Father of the Pyramid."

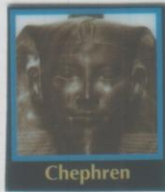


Mykerinos, in the middle, flanked by two goddesses.

The great pyramid builders of the Old Kingdom, 4th Dynasty, 2625-2500 BC.



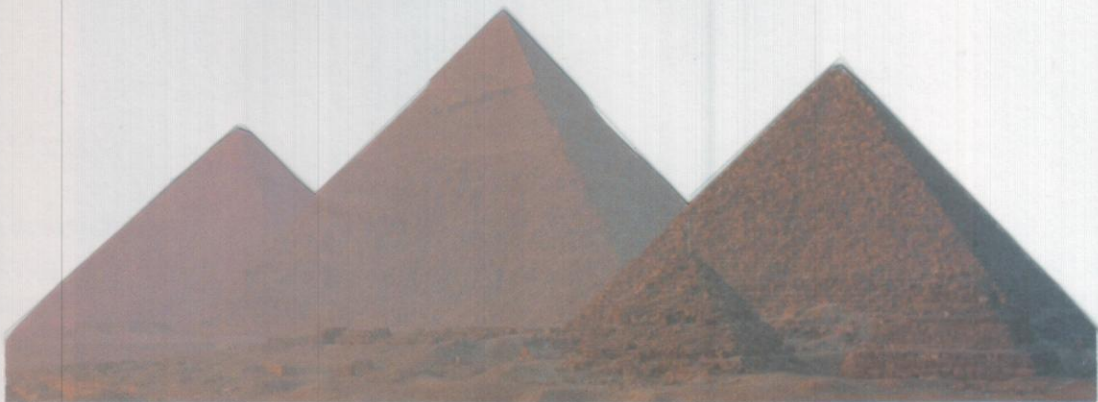
Cheops  
father



Khufu  
son



Mykerinos  
grand-son



Rulers (Middle Kingdom)



Big-size stamp on the left; Userkaf, first pharaoh of the 5th Dynasty. Small green stamp in the middle; the Sphinx, with the face of Pharaoh Cheops. Dark stamp on the right; a statue from the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Middle Kingdom rulers, 12th and 13th Dynasty.



Mentuhotep

Senusret

Amenemhot III

Hur I

Rulers (New Kingdom)



Hatchepsut was the first woman pharaoh, 1479-1457 BC, serving first as regent for her stepson Thutmose III, later on as pharaoh.



Thutmose III, whose regency was delayed by his stepmother and wife(!) Hatchepsut. Through his brilliant military campaigns, he strengthened Egypt's power and influence in the area.



Thotmes IV



Amenhotep III ruled a huge empire at the height of its wealth and prosperity, bordering in the north to the river Euphrates.



He built the Luxor temple and added to Karnak. The Memnon Colossi represent him.



Akhenaten was the son of Amenhotep III. He revolutionized the religious life of Egypt by introducing a new monotheistic solar cult, dedicated to the sun disk Aten (Aton), rejecting Amon, state god of the New Kingdom. He also moved the capital from Thebes to Tell-Amarna.





Rulers (New Kingdom)



Akhenaten's wife  
Nefertiti.



Family scene:  
Akhenaten with  
his wife and  
their daughters.

Tutankhamon,  
the boy king.



Akhenaten, Nefertiti and one of their daughters pay homage to their god, the sun disk Aten, whose rays reach out to accept the offerings and bless the worshippers. After his death, Akhenaten was declared a heretic.

Little was known about Tutankhamon, youngest brother of Akhenaten, until the discovery of his tomb in the Valley of the Kings in 1922. He ascended to his throne at the early age of eight (or nine) and reigned for nine years.



Rulers (New Kingdom)

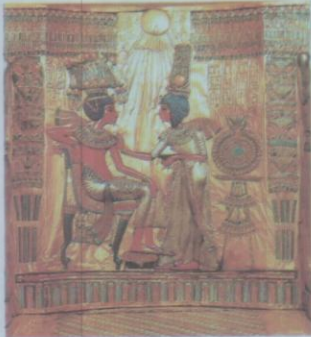
Tutankhamon with wife.



EGYPT  
1997  
AIR MAIL

يوم البريد  
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١٩٩٧  
بريد جوي



الذكرى ٧٥ لاكتشاف مقبرة توت عنخ آمون

75<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. OF DISCOVERY OF  
TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB.

1

اجنيه

مطابع البريد - القاهرة

Queen Ankhesenamun  
anoints her husband  
Tutankhamon with  
perfume. Scene from  
the back panel of the  
Golden Throne, one of  
the many gilded  
objects found in the  
king's tomb.

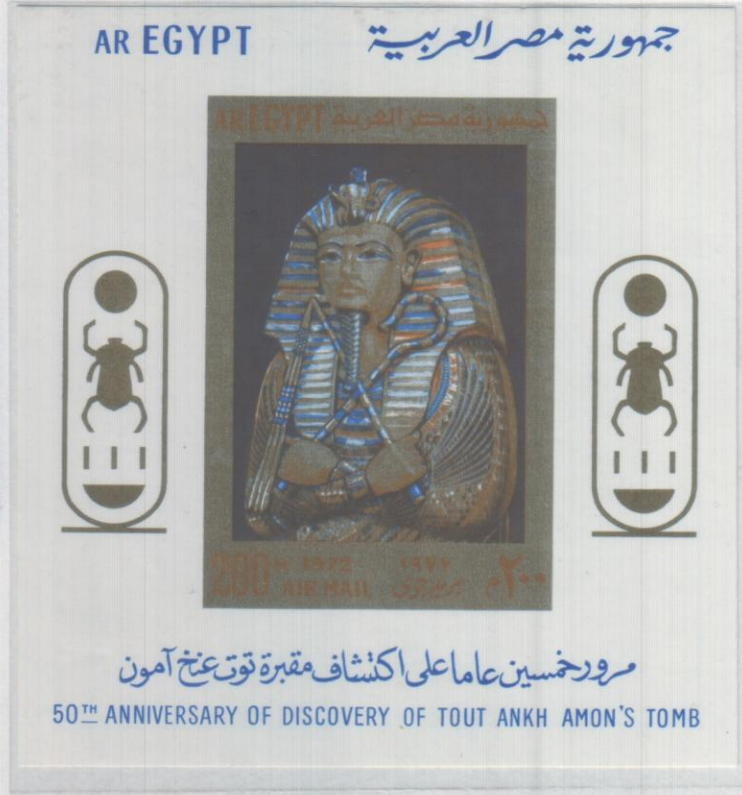


Rulers (New Kingdom)

Tutankhamon`s tomb. The sarcophagus of the king contained three mummy-formed coffins laid into each other. The innermost of them is made of 1.100 kg of pure gold.



The burial chamber was guarded by two black guardians, representing the king himself.



On the second of the three coffins, the king holds the attributes of pharaonic power; crook and whip



The golden mask that covered the face of the king.

Exquisite animal sculptures from the tomb of Tutankhamon.



Rulers (New Kingdom)

Tutankhamon's burial chamber contained a fabulous hoard of riches, gilded regalia and other furnishings, objects like clothes, sandals, jars, vessels, shrines, boxes, 2 beds, 6 chairs, 6 chariots, jewellery etc.. all necessary items for a comfortable life in the afterworld.



The gilded panel from the back of a cedar-wood chair.



An alabaster lamp.



There were more than 400 shawabti(ushabti) figures in the tomb. These small figures, ab. 10 cm high, would make services for the king in the afterworld.

In Egyptian Museum in Cairo all the items of the tomb are at display. However, the mummy of the king has been brought back to the Valley of the Kings, its place of origin.



Horemheb was the last ruler of the glorious 18th Dynasty. Having no heir, he left power to his vizier Ramses I.



Ramses II

Ramses II (the Great) reigned for 67 years. He outdid his predecessors in many ways. No one erected more monuments and statues of himself than he did. No one fathered more children than he, about 50 sons and dozens of daughters.



Queen Nefertare, principal wife of Ramses II.

Rulers (New Kingdom)



All the four colossal sitting statues of the Great Temple at Abu Simbel, each measuring 20 m high, represent Ramses the Great.



Ramses moves into battle against the Hittites at Kadesh. The battle of Kadesh, 1275 BC., is the oldest recorded battle in history.

Rulers (New Kingdom and Greek Period)

Sethos I (brown stamps), ruler of the 19th Dynasty, together with 4th. Dyn. rulers Mykerinos and Cheops and goddess Hathor (blue stamp).

Around the cover: royalties and gods as printed setting.

Tutankhamon

Queen Nefertiti



Isis

Queen  
Cleopatra

Princess Nofret

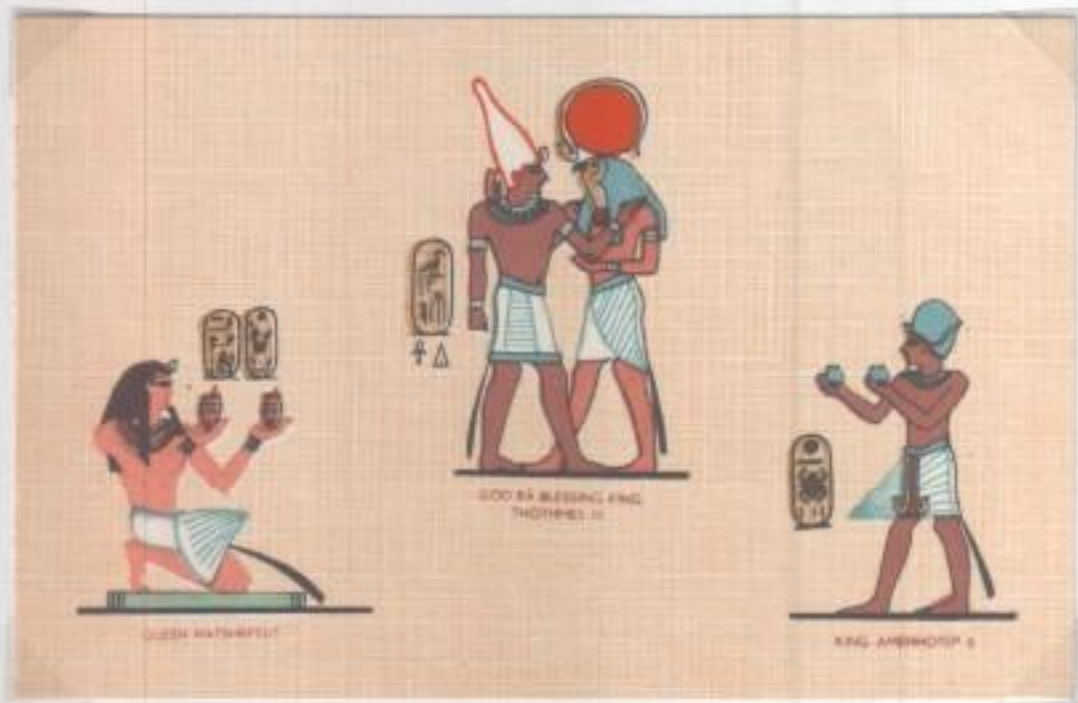
Greek Period

In the centuries to come after the Ramsesses, there were eleven of them, the might of the pharaohs slowly began to decline. Egypt was invaded by different foreign powers, Nubians, Assyrians, Persians and finally Macedonians under Alexander the Great.



Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 332 B.C. and inaugurated the last line of the pharaohs, the Ptolemaic Dynasty, which ended in 30 B.C. with the death of Cleopatra VII.





Queen Hatchepsut 1505-1484 BC, who reigned conjointly with Thothmes I, II, III, under the name of king Makara

Thothmes III

Amenhotep II



An array of Egyptian rulers and royal personages.

Queen Nefertari

Userkaf, 5th Dynasty

New Kingdom Rulers



Ramses III



Amenherkhepshef, son of Ramses III



Thotmes III



Amenhotep II



Cleopatra VII, the last of the Egyptian pharaohs. After her death Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.

Famous Women

In Ancient Egypt women were more independent and enjoyed higher status than elsewhere. Ruling class women were treated with dignity and emotional equality. They could own property and become politically influential, even assume the role of pharaoh.



Nefertiti, principal wife of Akhenaton, one of the most famous Egyptian women.

Her charming appearance has made her the symbol of timeless feminine beauty.



Nefertiti with husband Akhenaton.

The graceful Nefertiti has made justice to her name which means "the beautiful woman has come".





Famous Women

Queen Nefertari was the principal wife of Ramses II. There is a plentitude of pictures representing her, wearing royal insignia symbols: pharaohnic headdress, sun-disk and dubble-plumes.



Nefertari, crowned by the goddesses Isis and Hathor.

Nefertari with vulture headdress, a symbol of protection.

Nefertari making offerings.

Queen Ti (Tey).



Princess Nofret, 4th Dyn. ab 2600 B.C.



Queen Ankhnesenamun (to the right) Tutankhamon's wife.



Queen Tey (Ti), influential wife of Pharaoh Amenhotep III, mother of Akhenaton.

Famous Women



An artist's glamorous view of Cleopatra today.

Cleopatra VII was the last of the Ptolemaic (Greek) rulers. She lived a dramatic life, first in alliance with Julius Caesar, with whom she had a son, then with his rival Marc Anthony. After her suicidal death in 30 B.C., Egypt became a Roman province.

A naturalistic picture of Cleopatra on a Greek coin. She is said to have been highly intelligent with a seductive charisma.



Cleopatra portrayed as the goddess Isis, whose cult she followed.



A Roman-style head of Cleopatra



Hatchepsut, the first woman pharaoh. Arts, trade and economy flourished under her peaceful reign.

Like other pharaohs she had herself portrayed as a man with beard and other royal symbols.



**Agriculture  
Working**



Farmer plowing the field.

The Egyptian diet depended largely on bread, made of wheat or barley. Fish, fruit and vegetables were also of vital importance for food supply.



On the way to the market place.

Brickmaking. Clay was taken from the river Nile



Building pyramids and monuments required a great number of workers and craftsmen with different kinds of skills.



Craftsmen at work.

**Hunting**

The contribution of the hunting to the Egyptian economy was limited and the activity became more or less the sport of the rich and wealthy.

**Fowling**



Ramses II hunting the wild beast.

**Hunting birds.**



Tutankhamon on lion hunt.



The wheel and the plow were not invented in Egypt.



Festivities

Rich Egyptians liked to surround themselves with beautiful objects, jewelry, fine clothes and elegant furniture. All this was at display at the lavish banquets, accompanied by musicians, dancers, acrobats and good food and drink

Servant carrying offerings.



Religious festivals with great processions and offering ceremonies were held annually to honor the gods.



Female musicians and dancers at a banquet.



For the wealthy there were several games played on beautiful boards, crafted on ebony, ivory and other rare materials.



Children in Ancient Egypt played much the same games and amused themselves in similar ways to Egyptian children of today. Toys were almost non-existent.



Senet, a board game, from the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Egyptian scribe.



Few people, mostly high officials or priests, could master the art of writing and a scribe could attain a high social ranking.

Artist's view from inside the library.



The famous library in Alexandria, opened 280 BC, was of no importance for Egyptian culture. It became the centerpiece of Hellenistic learning.

Writing

Hieroglyphic tomb-painting, 13th cent.



Queen Nefertari presents offerings to the goddess Isis.

## Writing

The hieroglyphic or pictographic writing of Ancient Egypt is one of the oldest writing systems in the world. It's a very complicated script, mostly ideographic, one symbol means one word (or idea), but a symbol can also stand for one or more sounds. There are also signs without phonetic value, so called determinatives. The script arose around 3100 BC.



Napoleon's military expedition to Egypt in 1799, including a great number of scientists, is the starting point of modern Egyptian studies, leading eventually to the deciphering of the Hieroglyphs.

### Jean-François Champollion



According to Egyptian mythology, writing was invented by the god Thot who gave it to man.



The famous Rosetta stone was found by a French soldier northwest of Cairo. Its trilingual message in Hieroglyphic, Demotic and Greek was of great help for the deciphering of the mysterious script, by Jean-François Champollion, a French linguist and prodigy.



Names of royal-divine persons are always surrounded by a cartouche O.

Ibis-headed Thot, god of writing and wisdom.

## Writing

The pictographic writing system was a very laborious one, carved in stone on columns, temples and monuments or painted on walls of underground tomb chambers. Very soon, ab. 2900 BC. a much more simplified cursive style, *Hieratic*, was invented by the priests. In its latest stage an even more cursive style developed, called *Demotic* ("popular"). By now the script had no resemblance with the original hieroglyphs which were still in use in temples and tombs.

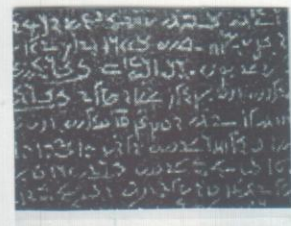
The vulture is the hieroglyphic "A".



Hieroglyphs Hieratic



Demotic

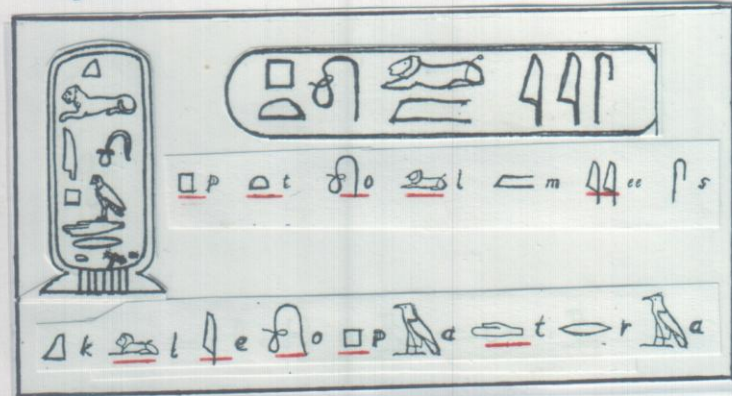


By comparing the royal cartouches of Ptolemees and Cleopatra, Champolion could establish the phonetic value of five hieroglyphic signs, occurring in both names. This knowledge was a breakthrough in the process of deciphering.

HIROGLYPHIC ALPHABET

A	E	Y	A
B	P	F	
N	R	H	
KH	L	Z	
CH	Q	K	
T	TH	D	
W	M	H	
S	G	J	

The hieroglyphic alphabet was no "real" alphabet in our sense. Most signs could express more than one sound (sometimes two or even three) and also a word or an idea.



In Egypt of today the Arabic alphabet is in use. Hieroglyphic writing was used last time in 394 AD. on the island of Philae, south of Aswan.

### Symbols

Life in Ancient Egypt was characterized by a multitude of symbolic expressions. Aspects of religion, divinity, pharaohic power and life and death in general were expressed by pictorial symbols.



Eye of Horus or Wadjet Eye. The eye lost by the god Horus during his battle with his evil brother Seth and later restored to him: symbol of *health* and of *victory over evil*.



The scarab, resembling a dung beetle, was associated with *regeneration*. Placed within a mummy's bandages as an amulet it had magical powers and could ensure *resurrection* in the afterlife.



It helped the solar disc through the darkness of the night to reappear every morning on the horizon.



Symbols (Egypt, Pharaoh, Life)

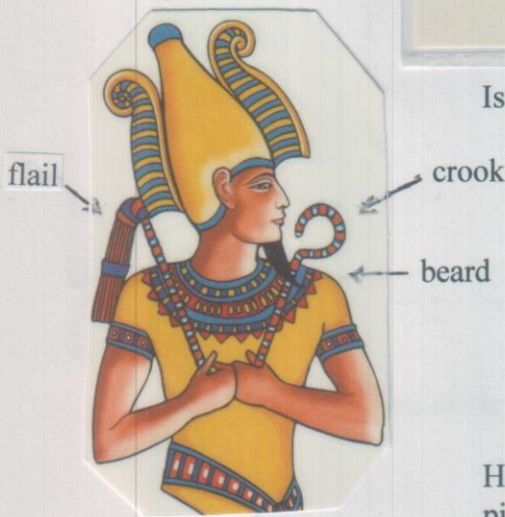
On both sides: symbols of Egypt.

Lower Egypt: Papyrus plant ("umbrella").

Upper Egypt: Lotus flower (buds).



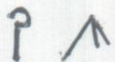
Isis, protected by the vulture goddess Nekhbet's wings, part of the royal insignia.



The rulers of Egypt are recognizable by their pharaonic insignia; crook, flail and beard, originally the attributes of the deity Osiris. Held in both hands, crossed on the chest, they symbolize divine authority. (see also Tuthankhamon, p. 29).

Hatchepsut too, the woman pharaoh, is depicted with a beard (page 37).

Crook and flail are also used as hieroglyphic signs for rule and authority;



Ba=soul



Ka  
physical force



Ankh=life



There were different aspects of life. Ba, the human-headed bird, was the essence (soul) of an individual's personality. It could leave and return to the body. Ka meant the physical force of a person or god. After dead it had to be fed and sheltered by a Ka priest.

Ankh, hieroglyphic ♀ symbolized the eternal life of the gods and kings.

Symbols

The Ankh-sign, with a scarab in its case, from the tomb of Tutankhamon



In a way the Ankh-sign summarized the existence of a pharaoh;  
a lifelong quest for *immortality*.

**Egypt** and **China**

the two longest ever existing civilizations on earth,  
more than 3000 years.

Joint issue, China-Egypt 2001.

