



EGYPTIAN ART NEW KINGDOM, LATE & PTOLEMAIC

DR. LAURENCE SHAFE
ART@SHAFE.UK
WWW.SHAFE.UK

- This talk follows on from my talk 02-01 Egyptian Art Old & Middle Kingdoms in which I introduced the culture and geography of ancient Egypt. If you are unfamiliar with Egyptian art it is best to start with the previous talk.

NOTES

- Egyptian Art can be divided into five periods (the dates vary between sources):
 - Early Dynastic period (c. 3150-2613 BCE)
 - Old Kingdom (c. 2613-2181 BCE)
 - First Intermediate Period (2181-2040 BCE)
 - Middle Kingdom (2040-1782 BCE)
 - Second Intermediate Period (c. 1782-1570 BCE)
 - **New Kingdom (c. 1570-1069 BCE)**
 - **Third Intermediate Period (c. 1069-525 BCE)**
 - **Late Period (525-332 BCE)**
 - **Ptolemaic Period (323-30 BCE).**

REFERENCES

- <https://www.louvre.fr/en/explore/the-palace/the-guardian-of-egyptian-art>
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/Egyptian-art/Sculpture>
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/Egyptian-art/Predynastic-period>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_of_ancient_Egypt
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/collection-areas/egyptian-art>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/ancient-mediterranean->

- [ap/ancient-egypt-ap/a/ancient-egypt-an-introduction](#)
- <https://smarthistory.org/ancient-egyptian-art/>
 - <https://www.worldhistory.org/article/1077/a-brief-history-of-egyptian-art/>
 - <https://artincontext.org/egyptian-art/>
 - <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/ancient-egyptian-art/>
 - <https://joyofmuseums.com/most-popular/egyptian-art/>
 - <https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/cavestocathedrals/part/egyptian/>
 - <https://artsandculture.google.com/usergallery/egyptian-art-and-the-afterlife/PwKCm8ZaUj0BLA>
 - <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn16421-gallery-advanced-painting-techniques-in-ancient-egypt/>
 - [Joann Fletcher, *Immortal Egypt*, BBC four-part TV series](#)

COPYRIGHT

- The talks are free and are provided to the public as a YouTube channel and on a website. The channel includes limited advertising which generates under \$500 a year which pays for the website.
- From June 2023 parts of the presentation are generated by ChatGPT which is used as an assistant researcher. The notes are also found and checked on public websites including Wikipedia, Tate, National Gallery, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Khan Academy and the Art Story.
- If a talk uses information from specific books, websites or articles these are referenced either at the beginning of each talk or in the 'References' section of the relevant page. The talks that are based on an exhibition use the booklets and book associated with the exhibition.
- Where possible images and information are taken from Wikipedia under an Attribution-Share Alike Creative Commons License.
- If I have forgotten to reference any work then please let me know and I will add a reference or delete the information.



Amenhotep III, 1391-1353 or 1388-1351 BCE
British Museum
Hatshepsut, 1479-1458 BCE
The Met
Akhenaten, 1353-1336 BCE
Egyptian Museum

Tutankhamun, 1332-1323 BCE
Egyptian Museum

Ramesses II, 1279-1213 BCE
British Museum

The New Kingdom's Best Known Pharaohs

The dates are their reign, and some are disputed

Ahmosé I (r. 1560-1555 BCE), limestone, Louvre

Hatshepsut (r. 1479–1458 BCE), limestone, paint, 195 × 49 × 114 cm, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Amenhotep III (r. 1391-1353 or 1388-1351 BCE), British Museum

Akhenaten (r. 1353/51-1336/34 BCE), Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Tutankhamun (r. 1332-1323 BCE), wood, Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Ramesses II (r. 1279-1213 BCE), British Museum

- **The New Kingdom** is **the golden age of ancient Egypt**, as it was at its most prosperous and mightiest.
- It followed the Second Intermediate Period and **lasted 500 years**, from the 18th to the 20th Dynasty – that is, from about 1500 BCE to about 1000 BCE. During this period Egypt expanded to **include the Levant** (modern day Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Cyprus) and **Nubia** (modern day southern Egypt and northern Sudan).
- The most famous and powerful pharaohs that ruled in the New Kingdom include:
 - **Ahmosis I** (pronounced 'ah-mosis'), defeated the Hyksos and **reunited the country** and became the founder of the New Kingdom.
 - **Hatshepsut**, the wife of **Thutmose II** (pronounced 'thut-mosis'), the **great grandson of Ahmosis I**. She ruled as king for over a decade after Thutmose died, and has been described as the **first well-recorded great woman in history**.
 - **Amenhotep III**, reigned during a period of **unprecedented prosperity and splendour**, when Egypt reached the **peak of its artistic and**

international power, and as such is considered one of ancient Egypt's greatest pharaohs. Succeeded by his son Amenhotep IV who **changed his name to Akhenaten**.

- **Akhenaten**, a **revolutionary pharaoh who overthrew existing religion and introduced one god**, who moved the capital to **Amarna**, a new city he created in the desert and who changed art.
- **Tutankhamun**, a boy king who died when he was 18 or 19, probably of sickle cell anaemia and only ruled for nine years. He was a ruler of little importance in his day but the **most famous pharaoh today** because of the discovery of his tomb by Howard Carter in 1922.
- **Ramesses II** who brought Egypt to **new heights of power and prosperity**. he is often regarded as the **greatest, most celebrated, and most powerful pharaoh** of the New Kingdom and is known as **Ramesses the Great**. He is also widely considered one of ancient Egypt's **most successful warrior pharaohs**, conducting fifteen military campaigns, all resulting in victories, excluding the Battle of Kadesh, generally considered a stalemate. In ancient Greek sources, he is called **Ozymandias**.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmose_I

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatshepsut>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenhotep_III

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhenaten>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutankhamun>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II



Pyramida Ahmosis I, Abydos



Limestone bust of the Egyptian king
Ahmosis I, c. 1550–25 BCE, The
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Limestone bust of the Egyptian king Ahmosis I, c. 1550–25 BCE, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Pyramida Ahmosis I, Abydos

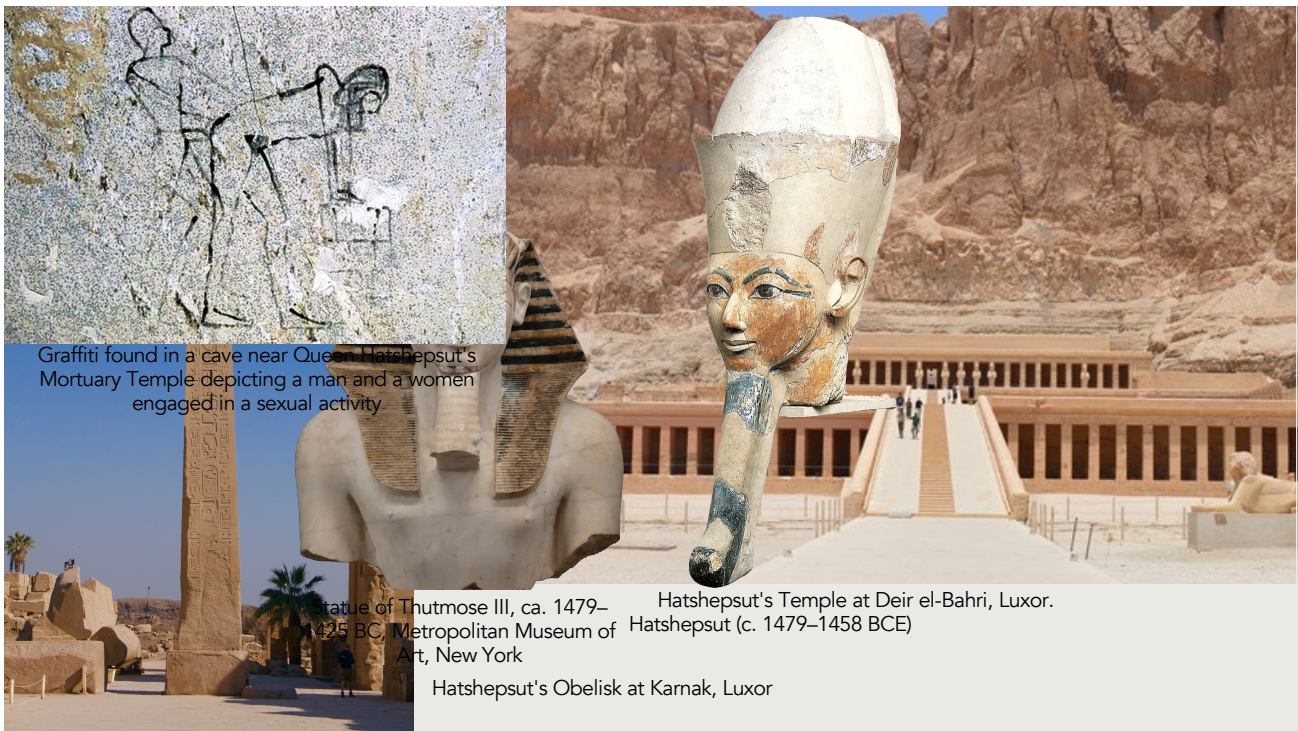
- **Ahmosis I is best known for defeating the Hyksos**, reuniting Egypt and founding the 18th Dynasty. He also **invaded modern day Palestine and northern Nubia. He re-established Thebes** (modern day Luxor) as the capital of Egypt **with Memphis in the north**. Memphis had been the largest city in the world but was overtaken by Thebes which continued to grow for the next 900 years.
- (CLICK) Ahmosis I is also known for his **monumental constructions including a pyramid at Abydos** built as a mortuary temple or cenotaph. A mortuary temple was built to celebrate the cult of the king after his death and is usually separate from his tomb. Mortuary temples are sometimes called cenotaphs as they do not contain the body although the word is sometimes reserved for a structure that cannot be entered.
- The pyramid was originally 40 m (130 ft) high but was built of sand and rubble clad in limestone blocks so all that remains today is a 10 m high pile of rubble.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmoose_I

<https://www.wondriumdaily.com/the-reign-of-ahmoose-the-first-king-of-the-xviiiith-dynasty/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyramid_of_Ahmoose



Hatshepsut (1479-1458 BCE) was "often portrayed in lion form sphinx when she ruled as king", as in this granite sculpture. This sculpture also shows her wearing the traditional false beard, a symbol of pharaonic power

Statue of Thutmose III, ca. 1479–1425 BC, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Hatshepsut's Obelisk at Karnak, Luxor is a monolithic 300 ton obelisk

Hatshepsut's Temple at Deir el-Bahri, Luxor

Graffiti found in a cave near Queen Hatshepsut's Mortuary Temple depicting a man and a woman engaged in a sexual activity

- The **great grandson of Ahmosis I was Thutmose II** (pronounced 'thut-mosis') and (CLICK) his wife **Hatshepsut**. When he died she ruled as king for over a decade. They did not have a word for a female ruler and this was the **first time the term Pharaoh** was used, the word **means temple** which may seem odd calling someone temple but it is similar to the way the British call the monarchy The Crown. A term which can mean the physical object, the monarch or even the State as a whole.
- In Egyptian art women are shown with a pale or white skin and men with a brownish-red skin. She was represented with **dark masculine skin and with a beard**. She was a powerful ruler and transformed Thebes into a glorious capital city.
- (CLICK) Her obelisk at Karnak, **Hatshepsut's Obelisk**, is a monolithic 300 ton obelisk, the highest in Egypt. The top was covered in gold leaf and so it would have shone in the sun. The inscription at the base talks about people of the future who will talk of what she has done. A signpost for posterity.
- (CLICK) Her crowning glory was on the 'super highway' north from Karnak— **Hatshepsut's Temple** at Deir el-Bahri, Luxor. It looks modern, ordered and clean. It looks like 1930s fascist architecture. Every aspect boasts of her brilliance and her

exploits.

- Inside there is an intimate chapel dedicated to the **mother goddess, the cow-god Hathor**, that she suckles from and there is **a small figure of Senemut**, her righthand man who was responsible for the temple.
- I apologise in advance but I felt I had to show you this well-known graffiti. In a cave near her temple a number of graffiti were found drawn on the wall including this (CLICK) representation of a man and a women engaged in a sexual activity. Some scholars claim it represents a relationship between Senemut and Hatshepsut. Although it is not labelled the woman appears to be wearing a royal headdress. It tell us something about what at least one of the workers thought about their relationship but little about their actual relationship.

REFERENCES

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatshepsut>
- <https://www.thecollector.com/hatshepsut-egyptian-queen-king/>
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/547553>



Colossi of Memnon, 18 metres (60 feet)

- The next great pharaoh was **Amenhotep III** (r. 1391-1353 or 1388-1351 BCE) and these are **two massive statues of him**. They were built about 1350 BCE and stand in front of his mortuary temple. He was a superb diplomat and **gave lavish gifts** to surrounding nations. As a result he received even more lavish gifts in return, **he avoided the cost of war and filled the royal treasury**. He was an **ardent supporter of the old religion** and spent extravagantly on the arts and on many building projects.
- These statues are now called the **Colossi of Memnon** thanks to the **ancient Greeks** who mistakenly thought they represented King Memnon. Memnon was a hero of the **Trojan War** (possibly c. 1300-950 BCE at Hisarlik), a King of Ethiopia who led his armies from Africa into Asia Minor to help defend the beleaguered city but was **ultimately slain by Achilles**. As a result the **Greeks and Romans carved inscriptions on the base** of the monuments (in 20-250 CE).
- There are two small figures by his legs representing his wife (Tiye) and mother (Mutemwiya) and the side panels show the Nile god Hapi. They are 18 metres high and each block weighs 720 tons and had to be transported 420 miles overland from a quarry near modern day Cairo to Thebes as they were too heavy to transport on the Nile.
- In the Roman period the statues were known to 'sing' or make a sound at dawn. As a result it became known as an oracle and was visited by several emperors. The last recorded date of the sound was 192 CE and today it is thought to have been caused by rapidly rising temperatures evaporating the dew from deep inside the porous sandstone rock and the sound was the water vapour escaping through a narrow gap. The sound stopped about the time the Romans reconstructed the top half of the northern statue.

- **In its day the memorial temple of Amenhotep was the largest in Egypt,** even larger than the temple of Karnak at that time. Two earthquakes destroyed the temple and as it is in the flood plain of the Nile it was slowly washed away leaving these colossi and the ruins you can see today.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colossi_of_Memnon



Akhenaten (before c. 1363/1-1336/4 BCE), reigned 1353–1336 BCE or 1351–1334 BCE, Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Nefertiti, Egyptian Museum of Berlin, 1353–1336 BCE or 1351–1334 BCE

Akhenaten (before c. 1363/1-1336/4 BCE), reigned 1353–1336 BCE or 1351–1334 BCE, Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Nefertiti, (c. 1370-1330 BCE), reigned 1353–1336 BCE or 1351–1334 BCE, Egyptian Museum of Berlin,

- **As I said, Amenhotep III was an ardent supporter of the old religion** but his son Amenhotep IV was the **most radical of all the pharaohs**. He abandoned Egypt's extreme polytheism and introduced **the worship of one god, Aten** and he changed his name to **Akhenaten** (meaning 'effective for the Aten') and directed teams of workers to chisel out the names and images of all the other gods.
- He has been described as "enigmatic", "mysterious", "revolutionary", "the greatest idealist of the world", and "the first individual in history", but also as a "heretic", "fanatic", and "possibly insane". It is almost as if he was dropped into ancient Egypt from the future.
- I joke of course but his statues and his religious beliefs do show a fundamental break with the old art which by then had been established for 1,500 years. The idiosyncratic features of this statue suggest that it represents his particular face although other statues of him are more generalised.
- (CLICK) His wife **Nefertiti is known for this stunning bust** by a master craftsman. The long, thin neck with its strained tendons radiate beauty and power. She was made famous by this bust, now in the Museum of Berlin. The bust is one of the most copied works of art of ancient Egypt. It was attributed to the sculptor Thutmose, and it was found in his workshop. Her name literally means "**the beautiful one has come**". Her left eye is either unfinished or the glass fell out and was lost or the bust was planned to be placed next to a wall where the right side would not be seen. I am inclined to the former theory. There are other theories, that she had an eye condition and lost her left

eye although other statues show her with a left eye, and it has been suggested as it was found in a workshop that it was simply a working model to show students how to carve an eye. It seems unlikely that such a perfectly finished piece would have been necessary to demonstrate such a procedure.

REFERENCES

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhenaten>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nefertiti>

Stela or house altar showing Akhenaten, Nefertiti and three of their daughters, 32.5 × 39 cm, Egyptian Museum, Berlin



Stela or house altar of Akhenate, Nefertiti and three of their daughters, Egyptian Museum, Cairo

Stela or house altar showing Akhenaten, Nefertiti and three of their daughters, 32.5 × 39 cm, Egyptian Museum, Berlin

- This type of domestic scene is **unique in ancient Egyptian art**. It shows **Akhenaten and his wife Nefertiti with three of their daughters, playing**. The sun god Aten shines its rays down upon the happy family. Akhenaten is holding something in his left hand that his daughter is playing with while his wife hold two younger daughters on her lap. It has been claimed that this stela is a fake as it shows Akhenaten as left-handed which broke with Egyptian tradition, the word Maat (truth, justice) is written incorrectly in four places and the yellow weathering is possibly a forgery.
- (CLICK) However, this stela or house altar now in Berlin is another representation of the family again with three daughters playing and is believed to be genuine. By the way, the elongated heads of the daughters is an indication of the power of the sun god Aten and is purely stylistic and not an inherited or intentionally produced deformity.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stela_of_Akhenaten_and_his_family

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/house-altar-akhenaten-nefertiti-and-their-three-daughters-under-the-strahlenaton-artist-unknown/aAHTtvV7GG3L3Q?hl=en>

<https://recherche.smb.museum/detail/607132/hausaltar-echnaton-nofretete-und-drei-ihrer-töchter-unter-dem-strahlenaton>



Akhenaten and Nefertiti, c. 1352-1335 BCE, discovered at Amarna, 22.4 × 11.2 × 9.8 cm, Louvre

Akhenaten and Nefertiti, c. 1352-1335 BCE, discovered at Akhetaten (now Amarna), 22.4 × 11.2 × 9.8 cm, Louvre

Possibly Nefertiti, 1352-1330 BCE, 28.9 × 13.5 × 12.4 cm, Louvre

Bes amulet, c. 1070-712 BCE, The Met

- Akhenaten and Nefertiti **holding hands, a very unusual pose** in the New Kingdom, she is dressed in a **translucent dress** and he has an **exaggerated stomach**.
- The couple broke away from the ancient Egyptian religion and **the hierarchy of priests that were a powerful class**. In order to fully break with tradition **they moved the capital** to a new location in the desert and **built a new city called Amarna** in 1346 BCE which was abandoned after his death in 1332 BCE. The site is now largely desert and is about 300 kilometres south of Cairo and 400 kilometres north of Luxor, now Luxor.
- The city was **built in about five years** (1346-41 BC) and to speed up construction it was **built using mud bricks** which is one reason it has largely disappeared back into the desert.
- The **distinctive style** of this period has come to be **called Amarna**. Other sculptures of the king from the dismantled Karnak temples emphasise his bodily peculiarities—elongated facial features, almost feminine breasts, and swelling hips. **Nefertiti** is often shown in the **most remarkably sensual manner** (CLICK) such as this torso now in the the Louvre.
- I have mentioned the rejection of the thousands of Egyptian gods and goddesses and their replacement by a single god, Aten. It seems from excavation of Amarna that many gods and goddesses **continued to be worshipped** although we don't know if this was **officially approved** or simply personal preference. (CLICK) One of the **most popular**

gods was Bes (pronounced 'Bez'), a grotesque dwarf figure who warded off evil spirits. Bes was the god of motherhood and childbirth and later came to be regarded as the defender of everything good and the enemy of all that is bad.

REFERENCES

<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/6919/akhenaten--nefertiti/>

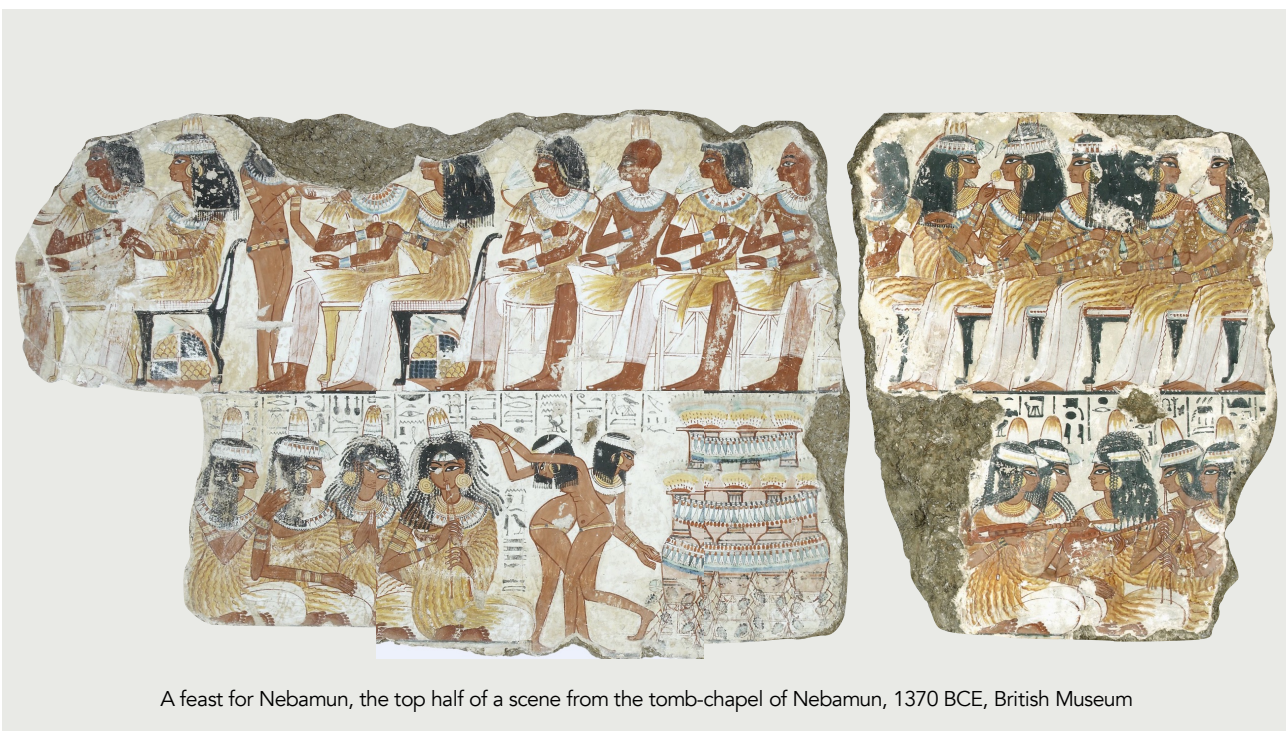
<https://collections.louvre.fr/ark:/53355/cl010008248>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna>

<https://collections.louvre.fr/en/ark:/53355/cl010011420>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bes>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/548301>



A feast for Nebamun, the top half of a scene from the tomb-chapel of Nebamun, 1370 BCE, British Museum

- I have been showing you the **statues, tombs and temples of the pharaohs** but we also have tomb art and statues produced for the **middle-ranking officials such as Nebamun**, a scribe and grain accountant.
- He worked in a temple complex near Thebes and his name means 'My Lord is Amun'.
- **In 1820 his lavishly decorated tomb was discovered** and this is one of the wall paintings. Unbelievably, **the location of the tomb is now lost** but luckily the British Museum acquired a number of the wall paintings which are now amongst its greatest treasures.
- The paintings are unusual in that they **show some faces full on**. The **officials and their wives at the top** are shown in the traditional profile view but the **musicians at the bottom left** are shown full face. So artists were able to show faces and bodies in any configuration but they followed the conventions of funeral practice because of the artistic conventions.
- There is a feast taking place above with **a naked serving girl holding out a dish, top left**.
- (CLICK) Below the feast is accompanied by musicians and **dancing girls and there is a large supply of wine** available. The artist has captured the sinuous and lively movement of the young dancers who are naked apart from their jewellery.
- Note that like all tomb art it was **not meant to be seen except in the afterlife**. Although, they would be seen by friends and relatives who visited the chapel to pay their respects and so they may also have been **intended to impress as well as ensure his place in the afterlife and the type of life he wished to lead**.

- We know from many wall paintings that dance was a fundamental part of their culture going back to the predynastic period (4000 to 3200 BCE). Men, women and children are shown dancing accompanied by a wide range of musical instruments. And dancing was performed at a wide range of ceremonies and events both secular and religious. Professional dancers might perform naked or wearing flowing loincloths or transparent robes or skirts, particularly during the New Kingdom, but most dancers shown in Egyptian art are clothed.

NOTES

- The artist added beeswax to the women's hair and clothes to make them shimmer.
- The head cones were hollow shells padded with fabric and reinforced with beeswax. Their function is unknown but they seem to be associated with dancers and musicians and were worn in the presence of their gods.

REFERENCES

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebamun>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_Nebamun

<https://www.newscientist.com/gallery/dn16421-nebamun-tomb-paintings/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/a-feast-for-nebamun-the-top-half-of-a-scene-from-the-tomb-chapel-of-nebamun/MgGAnWLJymZxMA?hl=en>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2019/12/ancient-egyptian-head-cone-mystery-solved-by-archaeologists>

[https://www.scvths.org/cms/lib/NJ02210742/Centricity/Domain/107/Egyptian Dance.pdf](https://www.scvths.org/cms/lib/NJ02210742/Centricity/Domain/107/EgyptianDance.pdf)

<http://www.shira.net/about/naked-egypt2-deagon.htm>



Nebamun hunting in the marshes, fragment of a scene from the tomb-chapel of Nebamun, 1350 BCE, British Museum

Nebamun hunting in the marshes, fragment of a scene from the tomb-chapel of Nebamun, 1350 BCE, British Museum

- **Another wall painting from Nebamun's tomb** with his portrait. He is out hunting and we see the **marshes are bursting with animal life**, including easily identifiable **birds** (egrets, Egyptian goose and a pied wagtail among others), **fish** (tilapia), **lotus flowers**, Plain Tiger **butterflies** and (CLICK) a **tabby cat catching a bird**. During the project, the cat was discovered to have a gilded eye. A tawny cat catches birds and cats were family pets but also represented the Sun-god.
- He is standing in a small boat **with his wife behind and his young daughter below him**. Fertile marshes were seen as a place of rebirth and eroticism so there are multiple layers of meaning to the painting. He is **triumphing over nature** as he is reborn in the afterlife, forever happy and forever young.
- The hieroglyphics saw something like Nebamun 'enjoying himself and seeing beauty'.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_Nebamun

<https://www.newscientist.com/gallery/dn16421-nebamun-tomb-paintings/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/nebamun-hunting-in-the-marshes-fragment-of-a-scene-from-the-tomb-chapel-of-nebamun/WwExBtEI3-WDgg>



Tutankhamun's tomb, New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, c. 1323 BCE

Tutankhamun's tomb, New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, c. 1323 BCE

- We have now reached the reign of the **most famous pharaoh Tutankhamun**. He became pharaoh when he was nine and died when he was nineteen so had a short reign. He undid all the work of his father and restored the old religion and **moved the royal court away from Amarna**. To signify the change he changed his name from Tutankhamen to Tutankhamun. He is one of the **few pharaohs to rule as a god during his lifetime**.
- His tomb art suggests he was **trained in weaponry** and he may have taken part in battles. During his reign no battles were lost as far as we know. The cause of his death is disputed but he may have **died of complication around a broken leg compounded by gangrene**.
- His tomb was **discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter** and the news was reported worldwide. **Over 5,000 artefacts** were found in the tomb which is small for his status. It is possible he **died unexpectedly** and was buried in a tomb built for someone else in order to comply with the Egyptian custom of the **burial taking place 70 days** after the death.
- The tomb was **preserved mostly intact as it was buried 150 years after his death** during the construction of another tomb.
- It is worth mentioning that the so-called '**curse of the pharaohs**' was fuelled by newspapers and has **no basis in fact**. Fifty eight people entered the tomb when it was unsealed. Of these, the **Earl of Carnarvon did die five months later** but he was very frail following an car accident and died of pneumonia. Only seven others died over the next twelve years and his daughter who also entered the

tomb lived another 57 years and died aged 78.

REFERENCES

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutankhamun>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-howard-carter-discovered-king-tuts-golden-tomb-180981052/>



Tutankhamun's Funerary Mask, c. 1323 BCE, gold, lapis lazuli, carnelian, obsidian, turquoise and glass paste, 54 × 39.3 × 49 cm, discovered 28 October 1925, Egyptian Museum, Cairo

- This is the **famous solid gold funerary mask of Tutankhamun**, perhaps the most best known of all Egyptian artworks. It is exquisite workmanship, there are two slightly different alloys of gold plating the surface so that the face is lighter than the rest of the mask. The mask is covered with precious stones.
- When it was discovered in the tomb **the beard had become separated** from the mask and was reattached with a **wooden dowel**. In **2014** when the mask was removed for cleaning the **beard fell off and the museum staff quickly stuck it back using epoxy resin** but it was **crooked**. This was noticed and **eight museum employees were fined** for ignoring scientific methods of restoration. A German-Egyptian team has since **removed the epoxy and reattached the beard using beeswax**, the material used by the ancient Egyptians.
- (CLICK) **A protective spell from the Book of the Dead** is inscribed in hieroglyphs on the mask's shoulders. It describes the appearance of the face as being that of the god of the afterlife Osiris. It was believed that **kings preserved in the likeness of Osiris would rule the Kingdom of the dead**. Confusingly, the older Egyptian belief was that dead kings would be **reanimated as the sun-god Ra** whose body was made of gold. So the tomb contains a mixture of both gods, just in case.
- As Tutankhamun died so young his death preparation had not been completed and several of the objects including this mask are thought to have been **reappropriated from the two pharaohs** whose short reigns preceded his.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mask_of_Tutankhamun



Ramesses II (c. 1250 BC), Ramesseum, Thebes



The Inner Sanctuary, depicting Ptah, Amun, Ramesses II and Ra, inside the Great Temple of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel

The Younger Memnon (c. 1250 BC), a statue depicting Ramesses II, from the Ramesseum in Thebes

The Great Temple at Abu Simbel

The Inner Sanctuary, depicting Ptah, Amun, Ramesses II and Ra, inside the Great Temple of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel

- We now come to **Ramesses II, known as Ramesses the Great** (1279-1213 BCE), the **most celebrated and powerful pharaoh** during the height of the power of ancient Egypt. He led many military campaigns and lived until he was 90 or 91.
- He built the **Great Temple at Abu Simbel**. Flanking the entrance are four seated colossal figures, each a towering 20 meters (65 feet) tall. Each of these large figures is a depiction of Ramses II, seated on his throne, wearing his double crown. Around the figure's knees there are small carvings of some of his wives and children. Beneath the colossi there are smaller figures that depict his conquered enemies including the Libyans, the Nubians and the Hittites.
- Inside is Ramesses II disguised as the god Osiris and a depiction of the king's victory at the battle of Kadesh. There is a second atrium with Ramesses II embracing various gods.
- (CLICK) Finally, in the inner sanctuary there are statues of **Ptah** (pronounced 'puh-TAH'), **Amun, Ramesses II and Ra** all seated. On February 21 and October 21 the sun penetrates to this inner sanctum and illuminates all the figures except for Ptah, the god of the underworld.

REFERENCES

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ozymandias>

Ramesseum and surroundings



Ramesseum and surroundings

- Part of the **mortuary temple of Rameses II called the Ramesseum** situated in the necropolis at Thebes. It was originally called the **House of Millions of Years of Rameses II**.
- **Rameses II statue is in pieces but is believed to have originally weighed over 1000 tones**. It is about a **kilometre away from** the earlier ruined temple of Amenhotep III with its **Colossi of Memnon**. Clearly the pharaohs were each **trying to outdo each other** in size and magnificence. This "temple of a million years" reminds me of the poem **Ozymandias, the Greek name for Rameses II**, by the Romantic poet **Percy Byshe Shelley** (1792–1822). Part of it goes:

*"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.*

—Percy Shelley, "Ozymandias", 1819 edition

- On the site the **famous archeologist Flinders petrie discovered what is known as the Ramasseum magician's box**. This contains the most complete collection of items relating to Egyptian magic ever found.

NOTES

- On the site the famous archeologist Flinders petrie discovered what is known as the Ramasseum magician's box. This contains the most complete collection of items relating to Egyptian magic ever found. These include ivory wands, a wooden female

figure, an ivory figure of a boy carrying a calf, a bronze Uraeus wand entangled in hair, tiny beads, and seeds. About one-third of the papyri was not preserved, but some of the remaining texts have been translated and a large portion pertains to childbirth. The person buried here may have specialized in aiding both pregnant women and children, as many items pertain to birth magic practices.

- Inside there are scenes of war and the alleged rout of the Hittites at Kadesh on the walls. In the upper registers, feast and honour of the **phallic deity Min, god of fertility**. Min was a widely venerated god of fertility who was always shown with an erect penis. The then ancient festival of Min dates back to pre-dynastic Egypt.

REFERENCES

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesseum>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesseum_magician's_box



Page from the Book of the Dead of Hunefer, c. 1275 BCE., 45.7 x 83.4 cm, Thebes, Egypt, British Museum

Page from the Book of the Dead of Hunefer, c. 1275 BCE., 45.7 x 83.4 cm, Thebes, Egypt, British Museum

- I mentioned the magician's box and **spells**. These were very important in the lives of the ancient Egyptians and the most important for the pharaohs were the procedures and spells associated with **entering the afterlife correctly and living with the gods**.
- This was described in the "**Book of Coming Forth by Day**" which we call the **Book of the Dead** and many versions have been found. This one in the tomb of **Hunefer** is the best preserved. It is nearly eight metres (23 feet) long and 25 centimetres (10 inches) wide and contains 190 chapters of spells or prayers that enable the dead to pass through stages of the afterlife.
- **Hunefer and his wife Nasha lived during the 19th Dynasty**, in around 1310 BCE. He was a **Royal Scribe, Overseer of Royal Cattle, and the steward of King Sety I** (r. c. 1294-1279 BCE), **father of Rameses II**. These titles indicate that he held prominent administrative offices and would have been close to the king.
- In this section we see his wife and daughter mourning while three priests perform rituals. The two with white sashes are performing the **Opening of the Mouth ritual**. The white building on the right is his tomb with a stele (pronounced 'stee-lee') outside shown larger than life so we can read the inscription. Below on the table are the implements needed for the Opening of the Mouth ritual. To the left the **foreleg of a calf is being offered, a traditional offering**. The calf is shown on the left with its mother who is showing signs of distress.

NOTES

- **Seti I is considered to be one of the greatest pharaohs of the New Kingdom**. He was a skilled military leader and a successful builder. He led a number of military

campaigns in Asia and Libya, and he expanded the Egyptian empire. He also built a number of temples and monuments, including the Temple of Seti I at Abydos and the Temple of Amun at Karnak.

- The Pyramid texts are the oldest Egyptian funerary texts dating back to the Old Kingdom. They were carved onto the subterranean walls and sarcophagi of pyramids at Saqqara from the end of the Fifth Dynasty around 2315 BCE. The oldest texts are dated to c. 2400-2300 BCE. Unlike the later Coffin Texts and Book of the Dead, the Pyramid Texts were reserved only for the pharaoh and were not illustrated. The purpose of all three was to transform the deceased into an Akh (pronounced 'ark') that could mix with the gods. The Akh was the sum of eight parts or spirits of the dead person. The two key ones were the Ka and the Ba.
 - The Ka was the person's vital force and it came into being before birth. It was created by the god Khnum a type of potter who formed the Ka before birth. It allowed the person to sense the world. It was separated at death but stayed near the body after death which was one reason for mummification. The tomb was known as the house of the Ka. The Ka needed food and drink after death which is why relations brought food offerings to the tomb. It lived off the nourishment in the food rather than consuming it. Models and pictures of food and drink could stand in for the real thing. The opening of the mouth ceremony was vital to allow the Ka to function after death.
 - The Ba was a mobile spirit that was released after death by the ceremony of the opening of the mouth leaving it free to travel to the underworld to be judged. It had the form of a human-headed bird and was the personality of the person. Judgement involved the weighing of the heart against maat. The Ba could change into other forms to escape dangers in the underworld. The Ba could return to the body and this was essential to become an Akh.

REFERENCES

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/ancient-mediterranean-ap/ancient-egypt-ap/a/hunefer-book-of-the-dead>



Page from the Book of the Dead of Ani, c. 1275 BCE., 45.7 x 83.4 cm, Thebes, Egypt, British Museum

Page from the Book of the Dead of Hunefer, c. 1275 BCE., 45.7 x 83.4 cm, Thebes, Egypt, British Museum

- This is another page **from the Book of the Dead**. Hunefer was also the overseer of the granaries of the temple of Amun in Thebes and was a wealthy and powerful man, and his Book of the Dead reflects his **high status**.
- **This page shows a key moment.**
- At the top Hunefer is shown worshipping a row of gods and goddesses who are supervising his judgement.
- Below, on the left we see **Anubis, god of funerary rites**, with a jackal's head, bringing Hunefer to be judged. To the right, **Anubis is weighing Hunefer's heart** (in a pot) against an **ostrich feather, the symbol of Maat**, goddess of truth and justice. They believed the heart was the seat of the emotions, the intellect and the character of the person. The scales represent the judgement and if the heart is heavy then the dead were devoured by the creature that is part-crocodile, part lion and part hippopotamus.
- However, Hunefer passes the test and is **being brought into the presence of Osiris** by his son Horus while in the middle Thoth, God of Knowledge, notes down the result of the judgement. Osiris sits under a canopy with **his wife and sister Isis** (on the left, Goddess of Good Fortune and Protector of the Dead) and her sister **Nephthys** (on the right, Goddess of Mourning). Note that the gods and goddesses had multiple roles depending on the context, so Nephthys was also goddess of the night, temples, childbirth, the dead, protection, magic, health, embalming and, to top all that, beer. It is very difficult to place the gods in a hierarchy, Isis, for example had magical powers that exceeded those of all the other gods. She protected the kingdom from its enemies, governed the skies and the natural world, and wielded power over fate itself.

REFERENCES

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/ancient-mediterranean-ap/ancient-egypt-ap/a/hunefer-book-of-the-dead>



Coffin Set of the Chantress of Amun, Third Intermediate Period, c. c. 1069-525 BCE
 Book of the Dead for the Nauny, Chantress of Amun, c. 1050 BCE, The Met

- **We now enter another period of conflict and chaos, called the Third Intermediate Period** (c. 1069-525 BCE). It began when Ramesses XI died in 1077 BC, which ended the New Kingdom.
- This is the coffin set on the left of **Nauny, a royal princess who had the title Chantress of Amun** being she was responsible for singing and performing rituals in the temple of Amun, a highly respected position. She died in her seventies and is buried in the Valley of the Queens at the start of the Third Intermediate Period.
- In part of the **Book of the Dead on the right** we see her being judged by Anubis who is weighing her heart (in a pot) against a feather representing Maat, goddess of truth and justice. Watching over the proceeding is Osiris and at the top she is entering her tomb, gateway to the afterlife and **meeting Horus god of protection**.

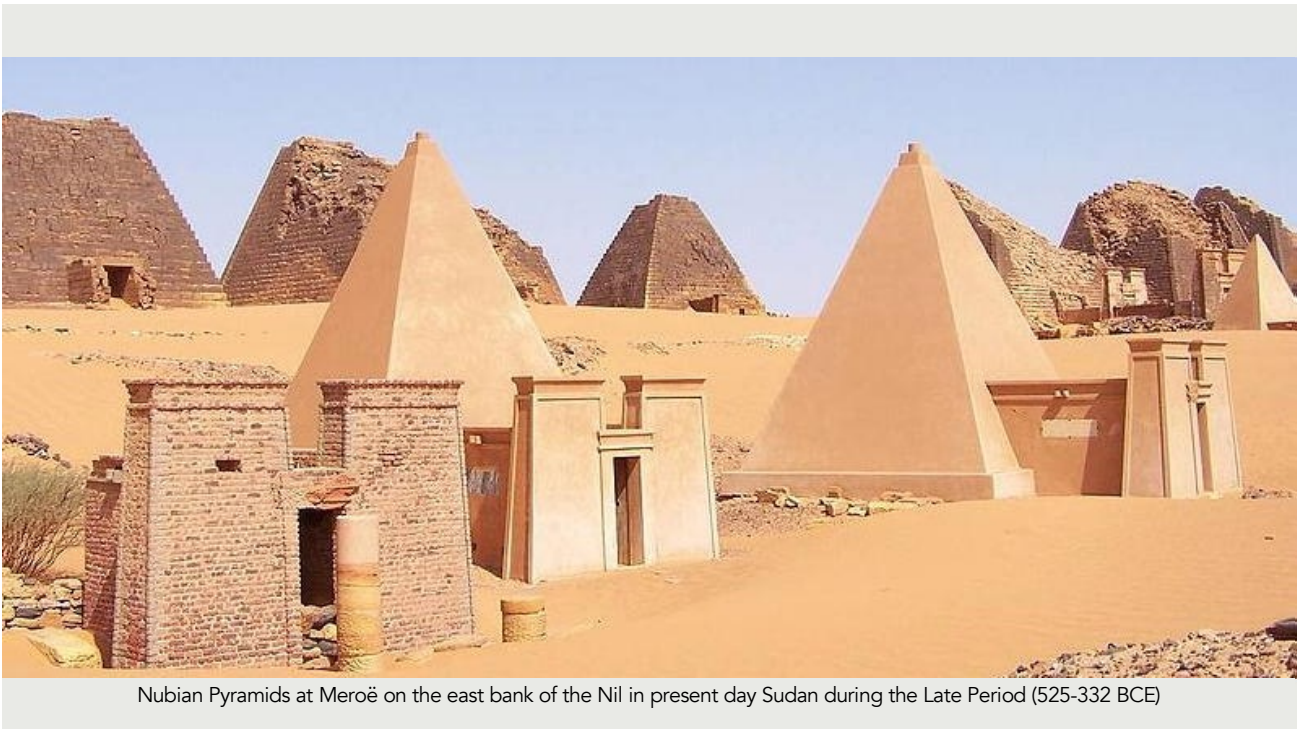
REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Intermediate_Period_of_Egypt

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/tipd/hd_tipd.htm

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/590951>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/548344>



Nubian Pyramids at Meroë on the east bank of the Nil in present day Sudan during the Late Period (525-332 BCE)

Nubian Pyramids at Meroë on the east bank of the Nil in present day Sudan during the Late Period (525-332 BCE)

- **After the fall of the 24th Egyptian dynasty in around 1,000 BCE, the Nubian Kingdom of Kush** (today Sudan) became a leading power in the region. For over fifty years (between 712 and 657 BCE) **Nubian kings ruled over much of Egypt.**
- The Nubian pyramids are made out of granite and sandstone and were **built around 800 years after the Egyptians stopped building their pyramids.** There are twice as many Nubian pyramids as Egyptian pyramids still standing although they are much smaller.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubian_pyramids

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Period_of_ancient_Egypt



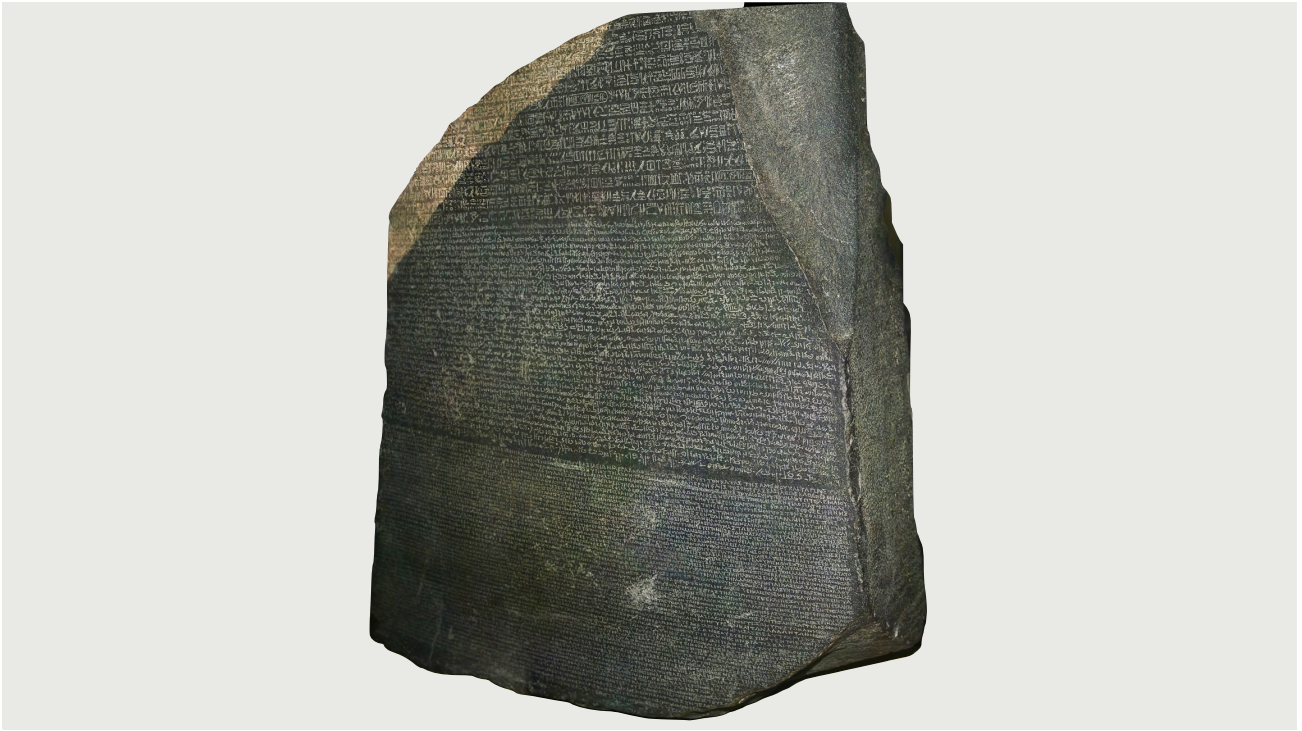
Animal mummification

- **Animal mummification became a major industry during the Late and Ptolemaic Periods.** It is estimated that some **70 million** of these mummies were produced over a **thousand years**, from about **800 BCE to 400 CE**.
- **Animals had always been an important** part of Egyptian culture which is why many of the gods have animal heads.
- Many different types of animals were mummified, typically:
 - to honour particular gods or goddesses, for example, Bastet, the cat goddess, is an example of one such deity and others include cows, falcons, frog, baboons and vultures;
 - as an offering to the gods;
 - to provide a proper burial for a beloved pet;
 - as a symbolic representation of the journey to the afterlife;
 - as part of a particular religious ceremony or ritual.
- Perhaps the main reason was that selling mummified animals became a significant industry and provided a good income for the priests.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_mummy

<https://www.history.com/news/scientists-reveal-inside-story-of-ancient-egyptian-animal-mummies>



Rosetta Stone, British Museum

- This is the **Rosetta Stone**. It was **discovered in 1799 by French soldiers** near the town of Rosetta in Egypt. It was taken back to Paris to be studied and in 1801 was handed to the British as part of the Treaty of Amiens. The stone played a key role in the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs.
- It contains a **decree issued by Ptolemy I in 196 BCE and is written in three different languages, Egyptian hieroglyphics at the top, Demotic script and Ancient Greek. As Greek was known it could be used to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics and Demotic script, a cursive form of ancient Egyptian writing (c. 747-332 BCE).**
- The Rosetta Stone is one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever made as it enabled us to translate the language and so understand the culture of ancient Egypt.

REFERENCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosetta_Stone



Alexander the Great

- **The Late Period was the last flowering of native Egyptian art after the Third Intermediate Period.** It includes rule by Persia, the Nubians and for a short time the Assyrians. It ended with the **conquest of the Persians by Alexander the Great and the establishment of the Ptolemaic Period.**
- This mosaic was found in **Pompeii** and is thought to represent the **defeat of the Persian ruler Darius III by Alexander the Great** shown on the left. **Darius was pharaoh of Egypt from 336-332 BCE** until his defeat by Alexander.
- Alexander succeeded his father, king of Macedon, when he was 20 and by the time he was 30 he had he had created **one of the largest empires in history**, stretching from Greece to northwestern India. He was **undefeated in battle** and is widely considered to be one of history's greatest and most successful military commanders.
- **Although he only spent a few months in Egypt, he was crowned in the temple of Ptah in Memphis, immediately began the restoration of Egyptian temples that had been neglected by the Persians, consulted the oracle at Amun-Ra and was pronounced the son of the god Amun, founded the city of Alexandria, reformed the taxation system, and reorganised the military.**
- After Alexander's death control of Egypt passed to one of his generals Ptolemy, who found the Ptolemaic Dynasty (305-30 BCE).

REFERENCES

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great



The Berlin Cleopatra, Roman sculpture of Cleopatra, c. 40-30 BCE, found in an Italian villa on the Via Appia, Altes Museum, Berlin



A restructured Roman marble statue of Cleopatra VII, found near the Tomb of Nerone, Rome, Museo Pio-Clementino



Cleopatra, carving from the temple of Horus at Idfu, Egypt

The Berlin Cleopatra, a Roman sculpture of Cleopatra wearing a royal diadem, mid-1st century BC (around the time of her visits to Rome in 46–44 BC), discovered in an Italian villa along the Via Appia and now located in the Altes Museum in Germany

A restructured Roman marble statue of Cleopatra VII wearing a diadem and 'melon' hairstyle similar to coinage portraits, found near the Tomba di Nerone, Rome along the Via Cassia, Museo Pio-Clementino.

Cleopatra, carving from the temple of Horus at Idfu, Egypt.

- The Ptolemaic period began in 305 BCE and **ended with the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE, the last pharaoh of Egypt**. It was a **time of prosperity and great cultural patronage of the arts and the sciences**. They also promoted trade and commerce, and they made **Egypt one of the richest and most powerful kingdoms** in the Mediterranean world. The Ptolemaic period came to an end when Egypt was **conquered by the Roman Empire in 30 BCE** and after Cleopatra's death, Egypt became a Roman province.
- We do not know what Cleopatra VII (r. 51-30 BCE) looked like but this is a **Roman marble bust from the time she visited Rome**, a statue with a hairstyle similar to the one found on coinage and an Egyptian carving.
- **Cleopatra was known for her intelligence, beauty, and political acumen**. She spoke several languages and was well-educated in mathematics, philosophy, and astronomy. She was also known for her romantic relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, two of the most powerful men in Rome at the time.
- **Cleopatra's reign was marked by political turmoil and conflict with Rome**. She aligned herself with Julius Caesar during his civil war against Pompey and later became his lover. After Caesar's assassination in 44 BC, she formed a political alliance with Mark

Antony and became his lover as well. **It is possible her alleged beauty was invented** by those in Rome who wished to denigrate her by claiming she used her beauty to seduce Mark Anthony.

- In 31 BC, **Cleopatra and Mark Antony were defeated by Octavian** (later known as **Augustus**) in the Battle of Actium. Cleopatra fled to Alexandria, where she committed suicide by allowing an asp to bite her.

REFERENCES

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reign_of_Cleopatra

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cleopatra-queen-of-Egypt>



Mummy Portrait of a Bearded Man, 220–250 CE, J. Paul Getty Museum

Mummy portrait of a young woman known as "L'Européenne", 2nd century, cedar wood, wax paint and gold, 42 × 24 cm, Louvre, Paris.

Mummy portrait of a man, c. 120-130 CE, 43.8 × 19.7 cm, Brooklyn Museum

Portrait of the Boy Eutyches, 100–150 CE, 38 × 19 cm, The Met, New York

- Finally, during the **Roman period we find that sarcophagi are surmounted by portraits like these**. They reflect **the art of Greece and Rome** combined with the tomb rites of ancient Egypt. This **new realism reflects the Roman culture** and signifies the end of ancient Egyptian culture and art.
- These images are **from the Coptic period** (derived from the Greek word for Egyptian, 'Aigyptos') which is roughly equivalent to the Byzantine period elsewhere in the Mediterranean world. It **began with the introduction of Christianity in Egypt in the 1st century AD** during the Roman period and covers the history of the Copts to the present day.
- **The Coptic language, which is still used by Coptic Christians today, is a direct descendant of the ancient Egyptian language so vestiges of ancient Egypt still survive.**

REFERENCES

<https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/object/103SYR>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fayum_mummy_portraits

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/50303>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/547951>



EGYPTIAN ART NEW KINGDOM, LATE & PTOLEMAIC

DR. LAURENCE SHAFE
ART@SHAFE.UK
WWW.SHAFE.UK

- That brings us to the end of over 3,000 years of Egyptian art during which vast period the religion and artistic expression follow established conventions with a few exceptions.
- I end with the bust of Nefertiti which represents the one short break in the 3,000 years of traditional Egyptian art. She and her husband Akhenaten remain as **a mystery inside the enigma of ancient Egypt.**
- Thank you.