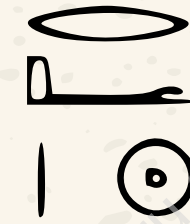


Literature 04:MFA5111



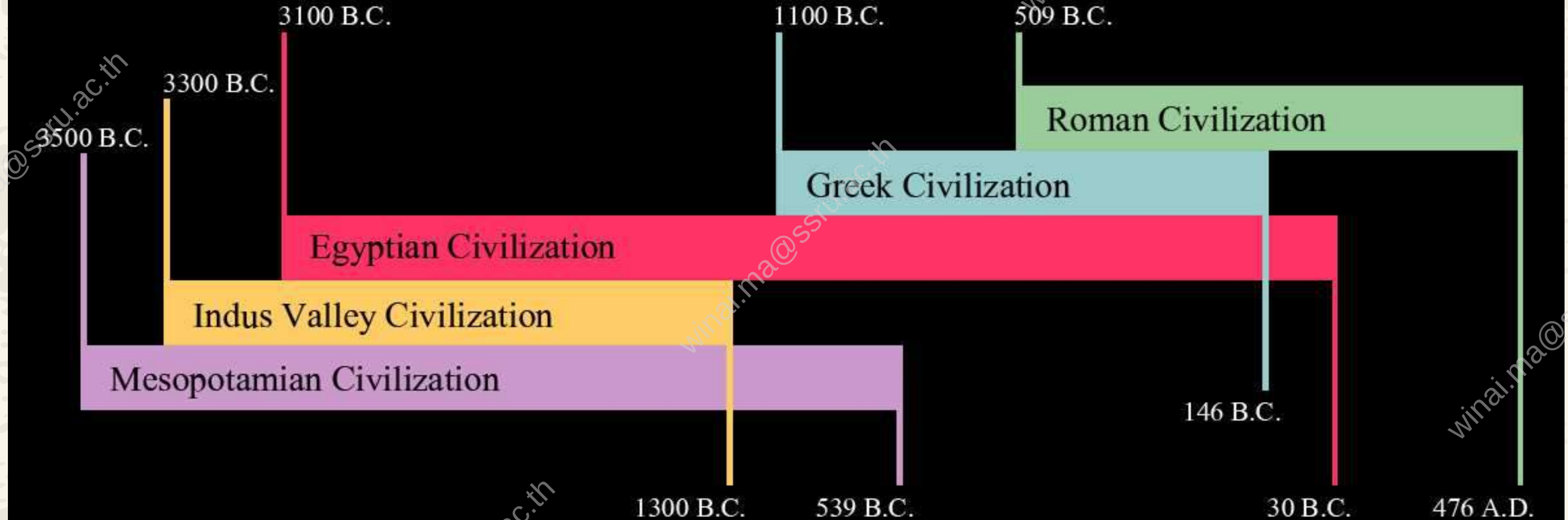
ANCIENT EGYPT

Assistant Professor Winai Mankhatitham
Faculty of Fine and Applied Art
Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University



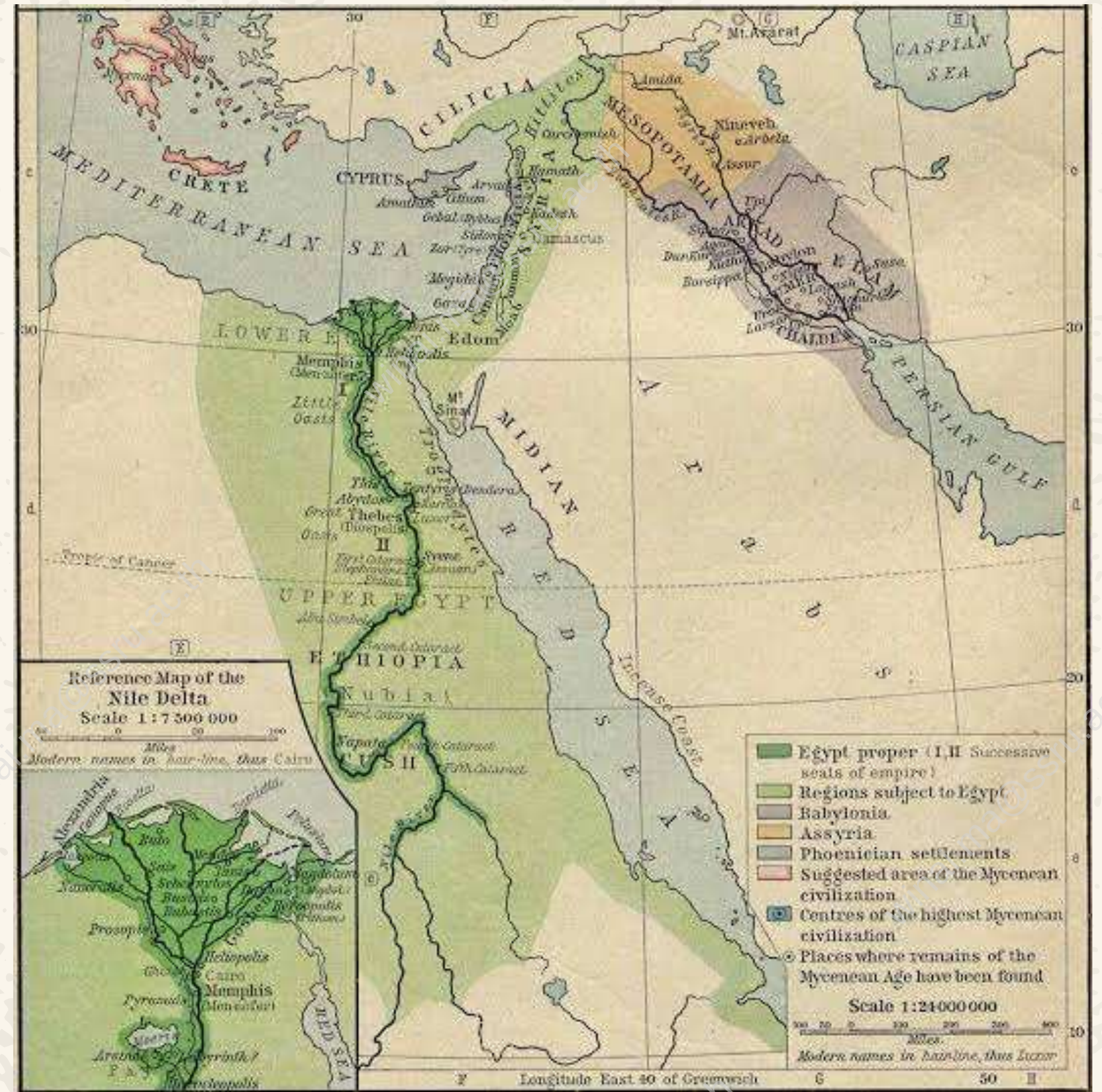
TIMELINE

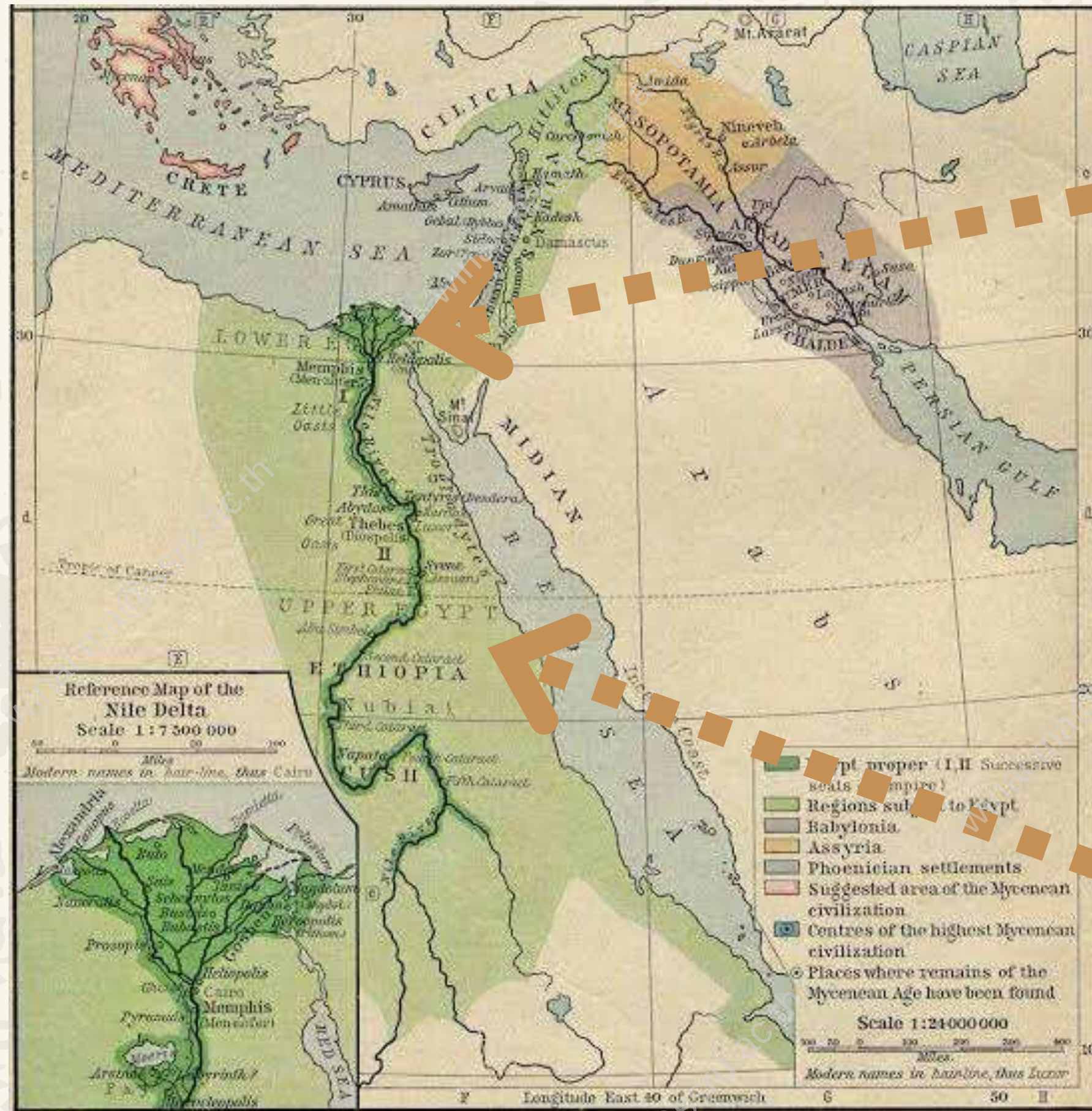
CIVILIZATIONS TIMELINE



Location

Egyptian civilization is the third oldest civilization in the world. Egyptian civilization was born before there was even Greek civilization and Roman civilization (Greek civilization: 1100 – 146 B.C., Roman civilization: 509 B.C. – 476 A.D.)





Lower Egypt is located on the plain at the mouth of the Nile. It is fan-shaped or delta-shaped, and the ancient civilization of Egypt flourished in this area.

EGYPT IS THE GIFT OF THE NILE

Upper Egypt is where the Nile River flows through the valley to the beginning of the river on the continent. The description is a narrow plain flanked by cliffs and deserts.

PATRONAGE AND ARTISTIC LIFE

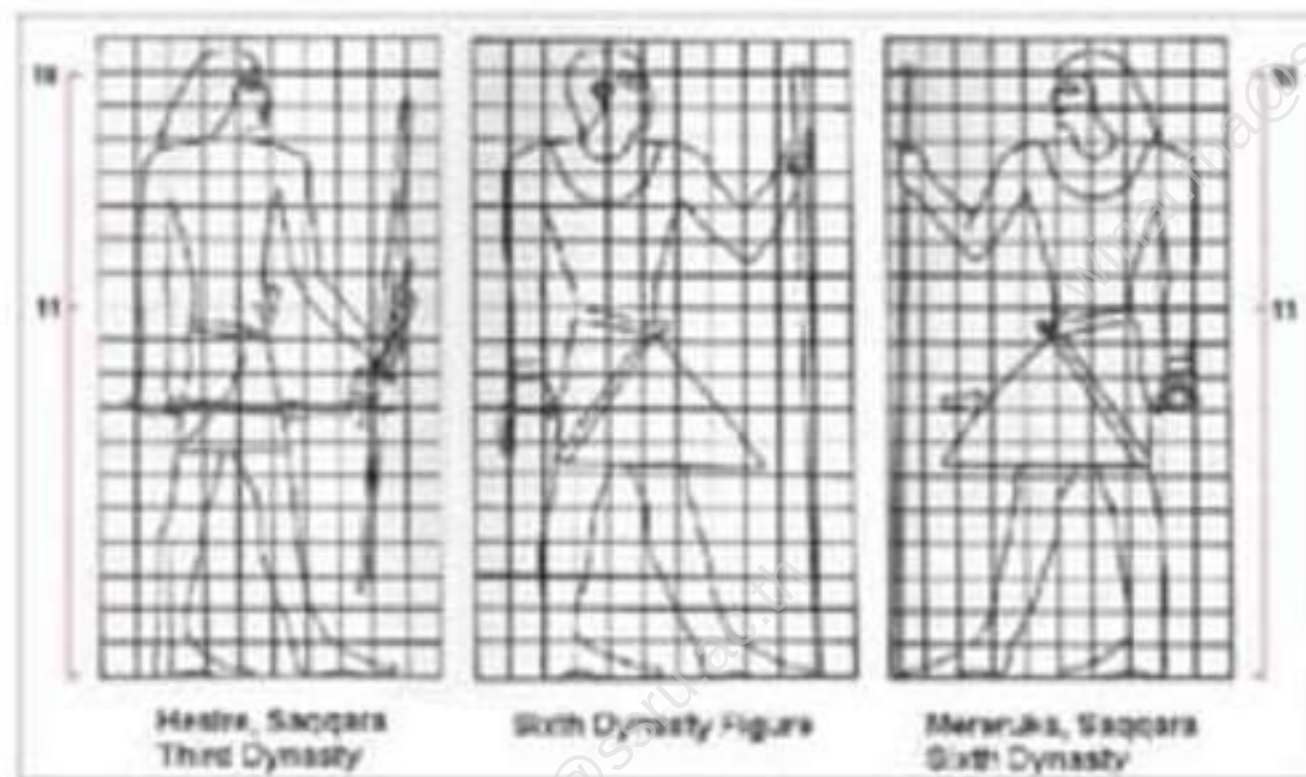
- ◉ Egyptian sculptors and painters were paid artisans and not as “artists” in the modern sense of being a creative individual. They were trained and worked as part of a team.
- ◉ Imhotep, the architect who built the *Stepped Pyramid* (2630 - 2611 BCE) for King Zoser was so highly revered in later times that he was deified.
- ◉ The credit for any work of art, however, was believed to belong to the patron who had commissioned it.



Characteristics of Egyptian Painting

- Most Egyptian Art is a picture of contentment and stability that shows successful man and woman in a calm and rational manner
- Made use of a Canon of Proportion (a precise measurement of a body) that allows little individuality

Shoulders are seen frontally, while the rest of the body, except the eye, is turned profile. Often heads face one direction while legs face another.



In the Amara Period (14 BCE) this rule has been laxer.

Characteristics of Egyptian Painting: Color

- Red, the color of power, symbolized life and victory, as well as anger and fire.
 - Green symbolized new life, growth, and fertility
 - Blue symbolized creation and rebirth
 - Yellow symbolized the eternal, such as the qualities of the sun and gold.
 - White was the color of purity, symbolizing all things sacred, and was typically used in religious objects and tools used by the priests.
 - Black was the color of death and represented the underworld and the night
- > Men are painted ruddy brown or red; Women painted lighter with yellowish tinge.
- > Shading is rare



Characteristics of Egyptian Sculpture

- ◉ Ranges from intimate jewelry to megalithic sculptures.
- ◉ Sculpted portraits of pharaohs are meant to impress and overwhelm
- ◉ Limestone is the primary stone used for sculpting aside from gypsum and sandstone.
- ◉ Wood sculptures are painted
- ◉ Copper and Iron are also used in sculpture.
- ◉ Megalith structure like the *Great Sphinx* are carved on site (in situ) from the local available rock



Kinds of Sculpture

Free Standing Sculpture
sculpture that is surrounded on all sides, except the base, by space. It is also known as sculpture "in the round", and is meant to be viewed from any angle.



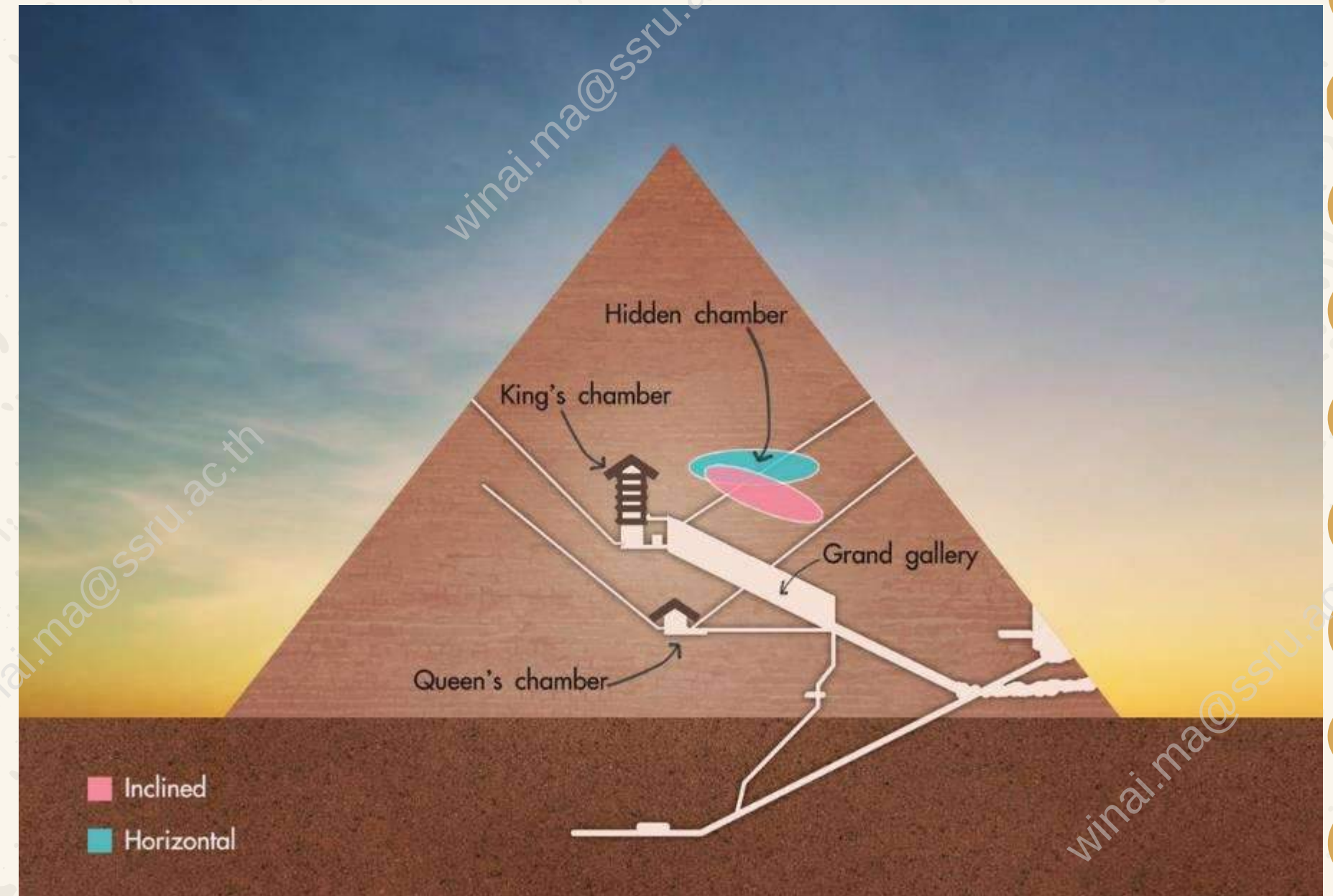
Statue - representationalist sculpture depicting a specific entity, usually a person, event, animal or object.

Types

- Full statue
- Bust - representation of a person from the chest up
- Equestrian statue - typically showing a significant person on horseback

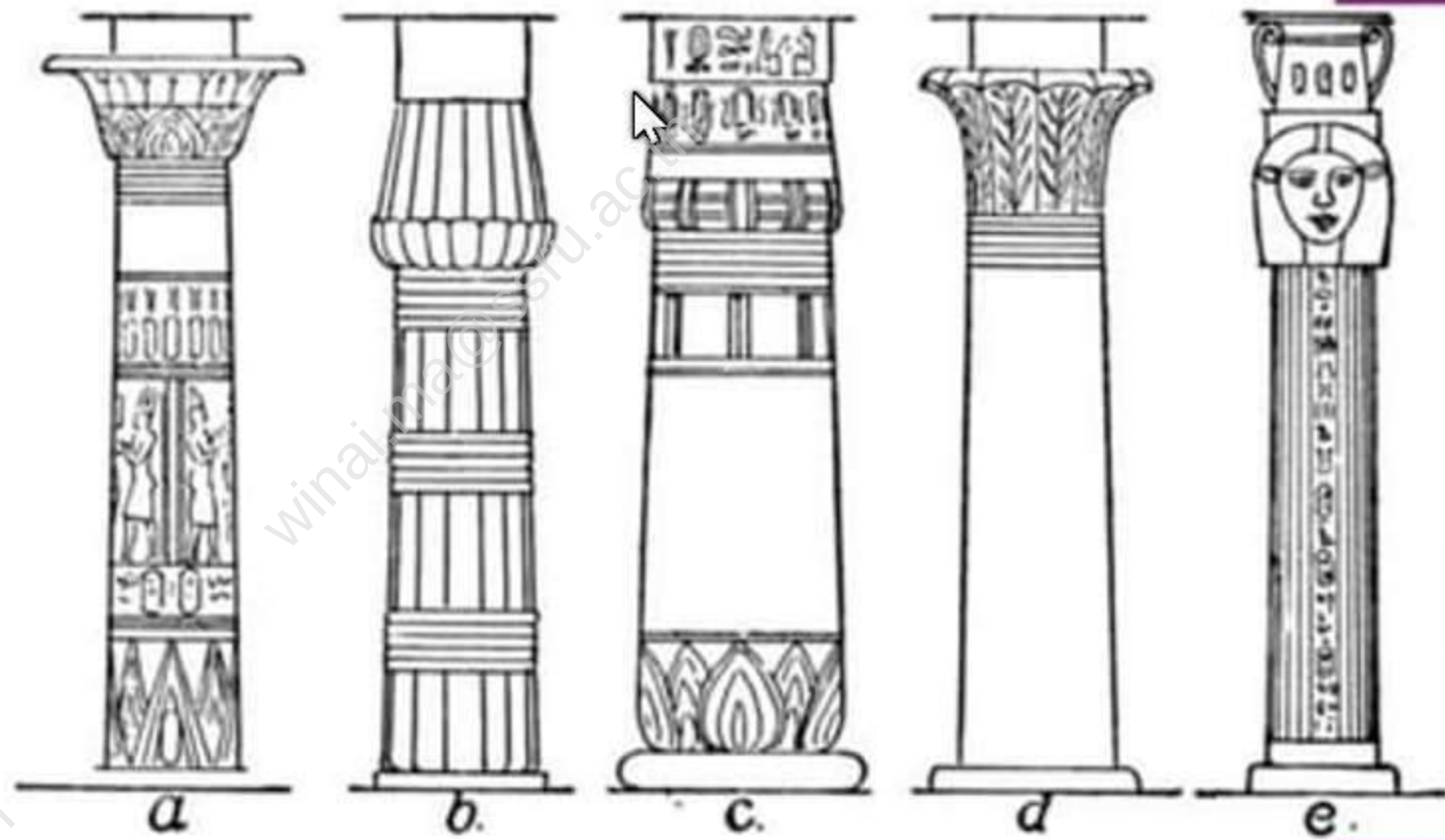
Characteristics of Egyptian Architecture

- ◉ Egyptian Pyramids are sleek solid surfaces and monumental scale. Made of stone blocks without mortar (*mortar* a mixture of lime, sand and water used in building for holding bricks or stones together)
- ◉ The sides of the pyramids are oriented to the four cardinal points of the compass
- ◉ Egyptian temples have astronomical orientation. (Temple of Ramses II admits light into the deepest recesses at dawn on Ramses' birthday)
- ◉ Columns used in New Kingdom temples are based on plant shapes: lotus, palm and papyrus.



Egyptian Columns Types

- a) campaniform
- b) clustered lotus column
- c) simple lotus column
- d) palm column
- e) Hathor-headed column



Major Art Works of Pre-Dynastic and Old Kingdom

Narmer Palette, 3000 - 2920 BCE

Relief sculpture depicting King Narmer uniting upper and lower Egypt

Hathor, a god as a cow with a woman's face, depicted four times

Narmer is the largest figure in front while Horus, a god of Egypt (Hierarchy of Scale)

Schematic lines delineate Narmer's muscle structure.

Hieroglyphics explain and add meaning to the Narrative

A palette is used to prepare make-up

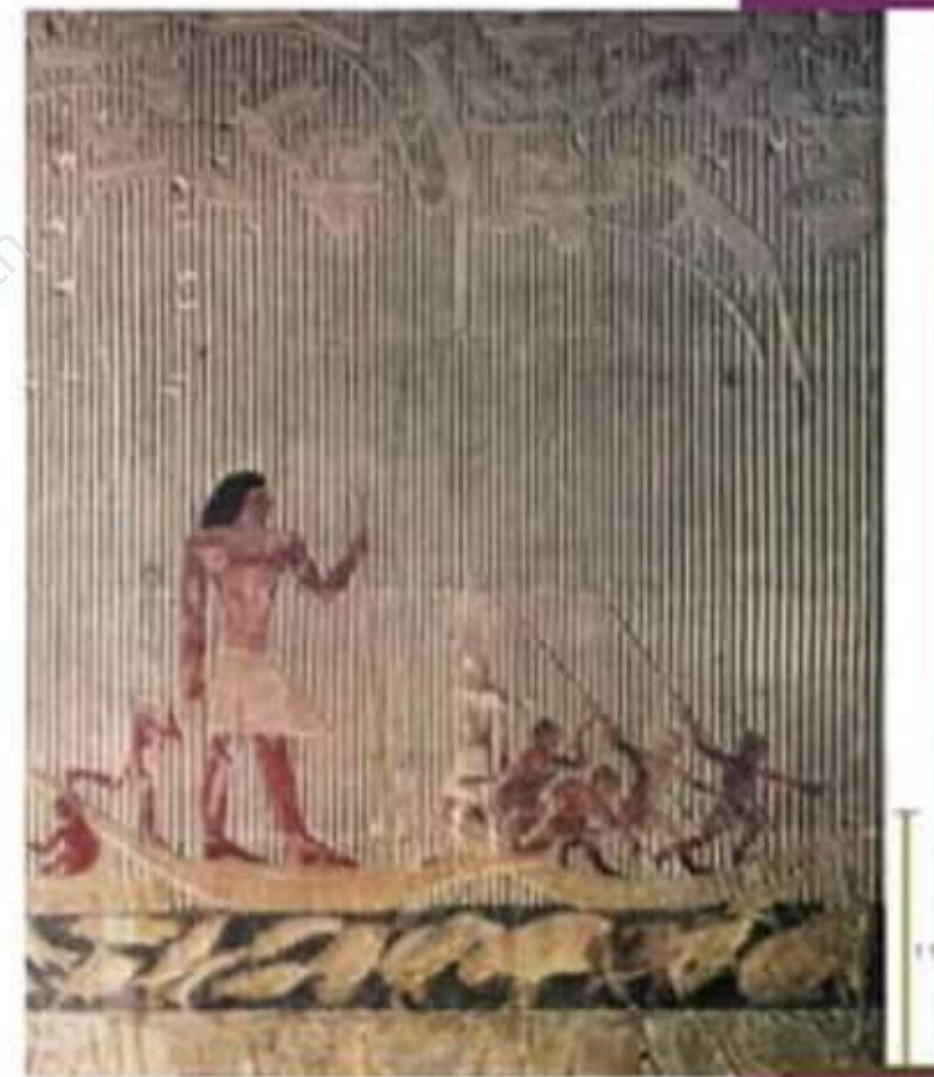


Old Kingdom Painting

Ti Watching the Hippopotamus Hunt, c 2400 BCE, painted on limestone, Tomb of Ti, Saqqara, Egypt

Painted on relief in the mastaba of Ti, a government official

Hunt takes place as a memorial to the deceased; success in the hunt is a parallel with the fight against evil



Middle Kingdom Bust

◉ Senusret III, c 1860
BCE, stone, Cairo

Moody look in the eyes
and mouth: depressed
rather than heroic
figures of the Old
Kingdom

Figure reflects the
period of civil unrest



Middle Kingdom Architecture

- Rock Cut Tombs of Beni Hasan, c 1950 - 1900 BCE

Cliff walls hollowed out to reveal small burial chambers

Reserve columns cut away from the interior chamber to create the look of conventional columns

Columns are not round but fluted

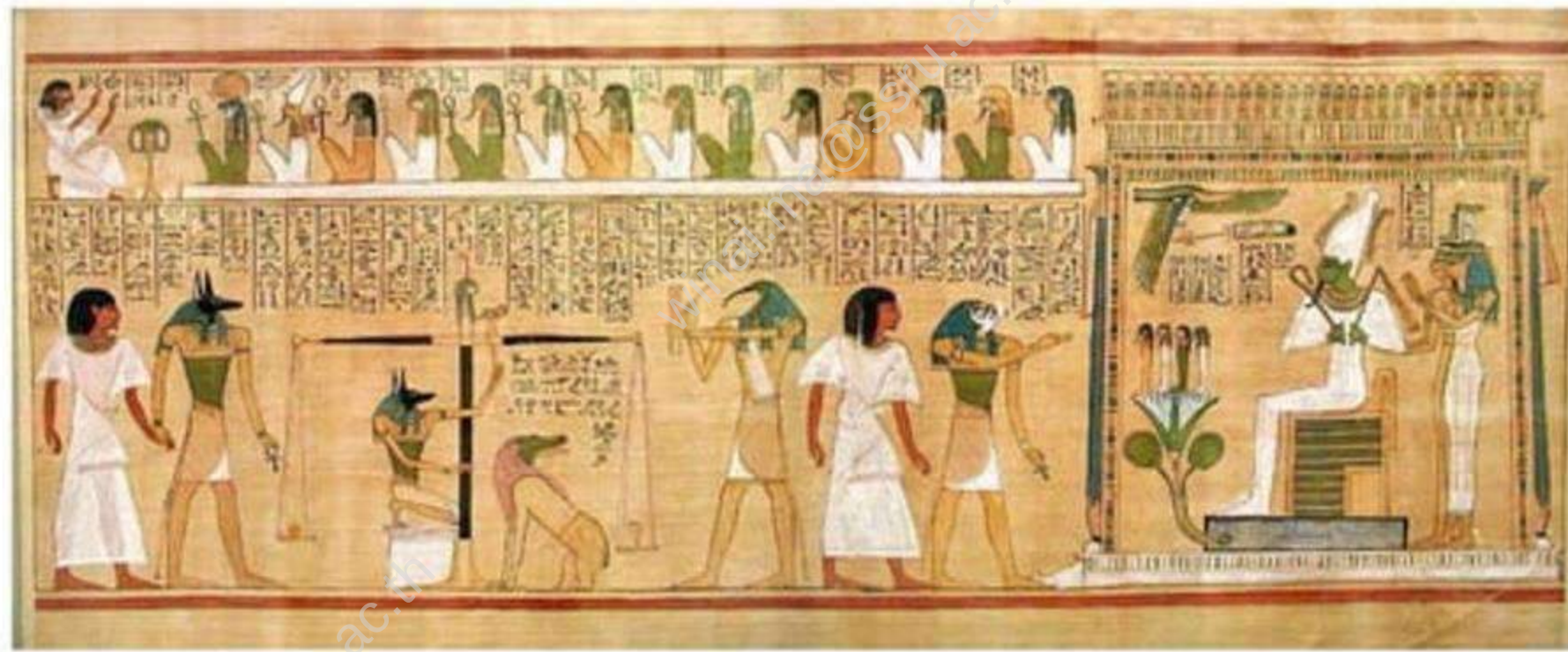


New Kingdom

● Judgement before Osiris, c 1290 - 1280 BCE,
papyrus

Illustration of the Book of the Dead, an Egyptian
book of spell and charm

Anubis, god of embalming, Thoth, a god who
invented hieroglyphics and Osiris, god of the
underworld seated on the throne



New Kingdom Art

- Mask of King Tutankhamen, c 1323 BCE, gold enamel, semi-precious stones, Cairo

Death mask

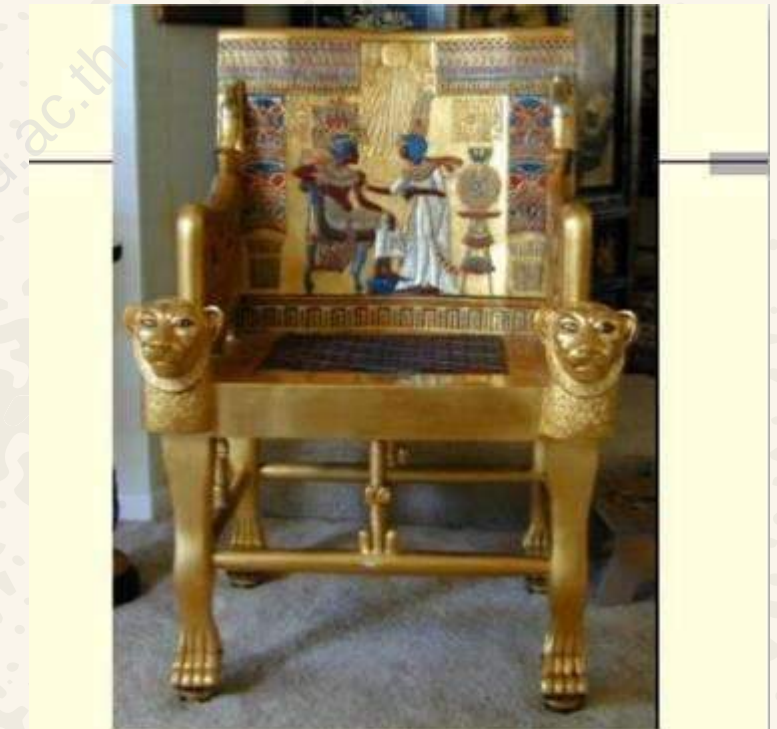
Mummified body of King Tutankhamen buried with 143 objects on his head, neck, abdomen and limbs

Gold coffin that is 6'7" long

Smoothly idealized features of the boy-king



Death Mask of Tutankhamen
from Thebes, Egypt
ca. 1,323 B.C.E.
gold with semiprecious stones
21 1/4 in. high



Golden throne of King Tutankhamun, c.1380 BCE.
inlays of glass paste, approx. 12" x 12."



Innermost coffin of Tutankhamen, from his tomb at Thebes, Egypt
Post-Amarna Period, c. 1323 BCE.
6'1" long, gold with inlay [Egyptian Museum, Cairo].

New Kingdom Architecture



Temple of Ramses II (Abu Simbel)

New Kingdom Architecture



Temple of Karnak

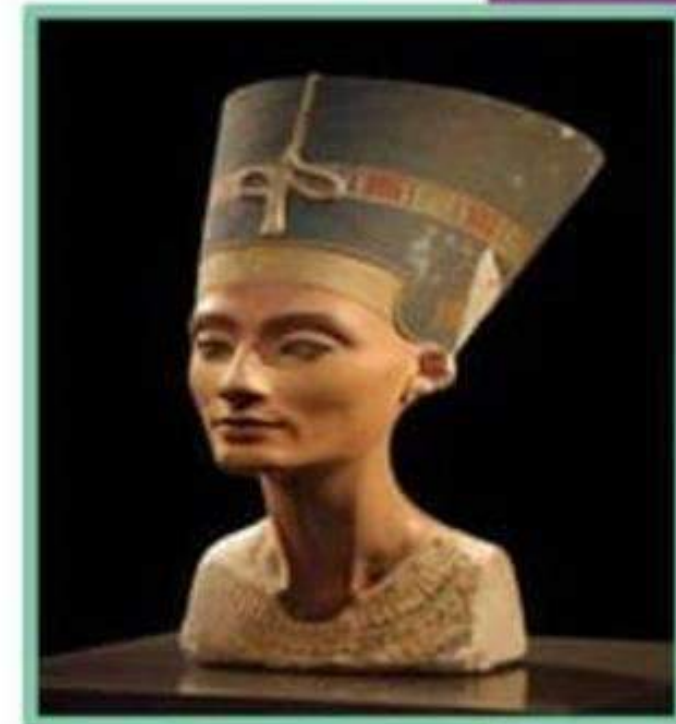
New Kingdom Statue and bust



- Akhenaton, c. 1353-1335 BCE, Sandstone
Amarna style of sculpture

- Nefertiti, 1353 - 1335 BCE, Limestone
Wife of Akhenaton

- Queen Hatshepsut, c 1473 -1458 BCE, granite
Queen dressed in male costume
Often portrayed as a sphinx



Movies

