



Joseph and Jacob at Avaris

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Petrovich

West Houston Bible Church

Avaris: Home of Jacob

**Topic: Biblical Text
and Site Plan**

(Dynasty 12)

Patriarchal Tree, with Birthplace

Abram/Abraham

Ur (Mesopotamia)



Isaac

Negev (Canaan)



Jacob/Israel

Beer-lahai-roi (Canaan)



Joseph/Sobekemhat

Paddan-aram (Mesopotamia)



Manasseh

Lahun (Egypt)



Ephraim

Lahun (Egypt)

Jacob in Egypt – Genesis 47:11

47.11 וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹסֵף אֶת-אָבִיו וְאֶת-אֶחָיו וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם אֲחֻזָּה

47.11 “Now Joseph settled his father and his brothers, and he gave

בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּמִיטֵב הָאֲרֶץ בְּאֶרֶץ רַעַמְסֵס

them property in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, **in the**


כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה פַּרְעֹה

land of Ramesse, just as that which pharaoh had commanded.”

NOTE: Ramesses II (1290–1223 BC) built Per-Ramesse as his capital city. Does this require a 13th-century-BC exodus date?

Wikipedia Entry for Pr-Ramesse:

← → ↻ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qantir> ☆ LD ☰

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Qantir

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 30°48′N 31°50′E﻿ / ﻿


Qantir is a modern village in [Egypt](#).^[1] Qantir (Khatana-Qantir) is believed to mark what was probably the ancient site of the 19th dynasty Pharaoh [Ramesses II](#)'s great capital, [Pi-Ramesse](#) or Per-Ramesses ("House or Domain of Ramesses"). This city is situated around 9 kilometers (5.6 mi) north of [Faqous](#) in [Sharqiyah](#) province of the eastern [Nile Delta](#), about 60 miles north-east of [Cairo](#).^[2]

The ancient site of [Avaris](#) is located around 2 km south of Qantir. This was the older city in this area. Later on, Avaris was absorbed by Pi-Ramesses.

References

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ K. Kris Hirst - [A Glass Making Workshop for the Pharaoh Ramses II](#) - History of Glass Making in Egypt's New Kingdom - Archaeology - *About.com*. Retrieved 20 August 2011.
- ↑ Monroe Edgar - [Qantir, Ancient Pi-Ramesse](#) - *Tour Egypt* - Retrieved 20 August 2011.



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Categories: [Villages in Egypt](#) | [Egypt geography stubs](#)

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Map of Lower Egypt showing Avaris, near Qantir/Pi-Ramesses



Avaris (Tell El-Dab'a)

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

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

Avaris (Tell El-Dab'a)

An inscription on a shrine-door, dating to the **20th Dynasty** (1196–1069 BC), that is now in the Pushkin Museum mentions a *wab*-priest of (the god) Amun who was located **at the harbor of Avaris**.

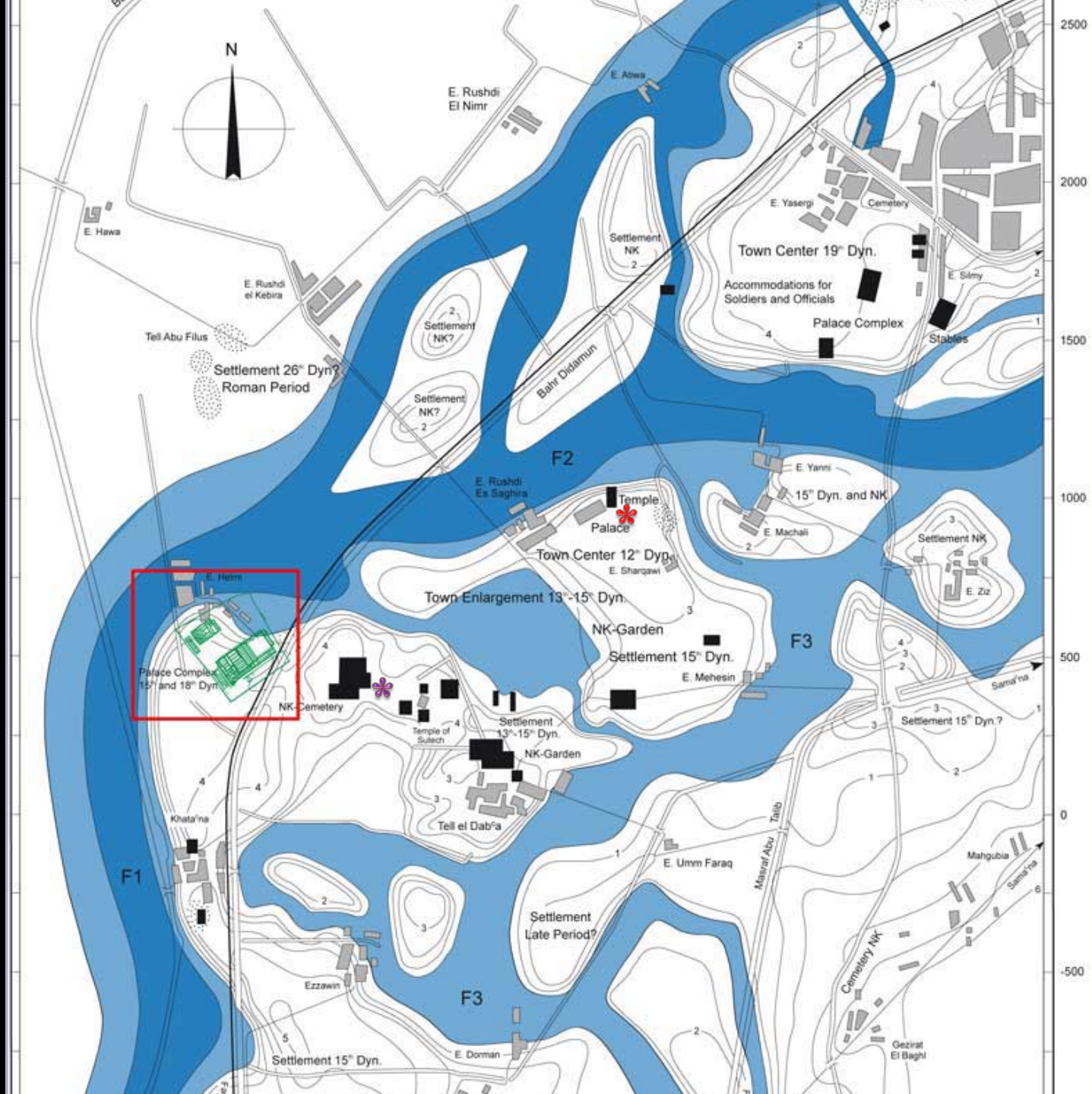
Michael Grisanti, “The Place of Textual Updating in an Inerrant View of Scripture” *JETS* 44 (2001).



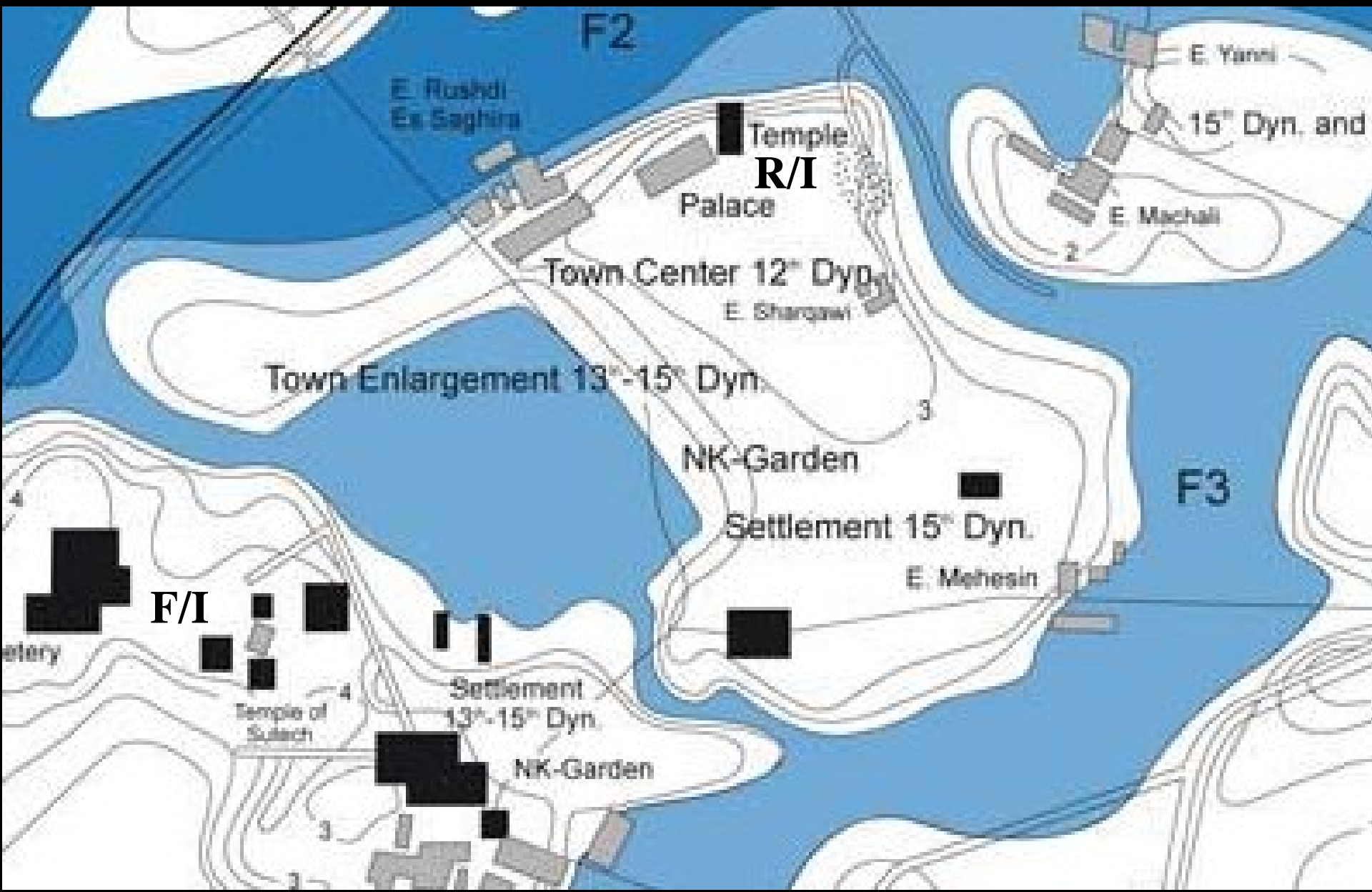
Avaris

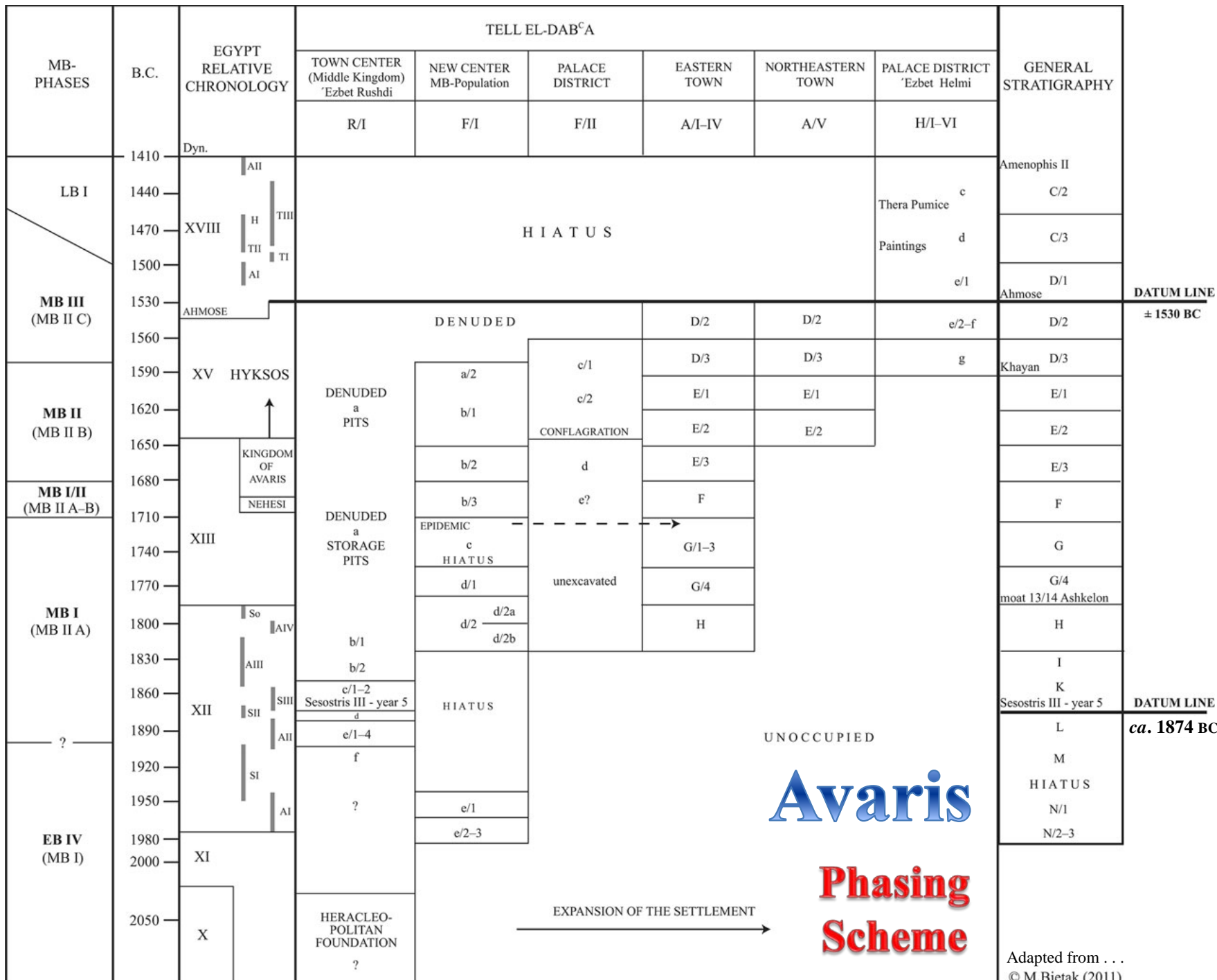
***Egyptian
Temple to
Amenemhat I**

***Central
Residence of
Asiatics for
Their First
Two Levels of
Occupation**



Dynasty 12's Occupational Areas





Adapted from . . .
© M.Bietak (2011)

Jacob and Joseph

**Topic: Chronology and
Important Connections**

(Dynasty 12: Before 1859 BC)

Chronology of Important Events

1885 BC Joseph, Pharaoh's Dream

**1878 BC Sesostris II–III Transit.
Abundance – Famine**

1876 BC Jacob Enters Egypt

1859 BC Jacob Dies; Sesostris III
–Amenemhat III Transit.

1805 BC Joseph Dies

Important Connections

Sesostris II = Abundance Pharaoh

Sesostris III = Famine Pharaoh

Amenemhat III = Pharaoh whose rule began in the year of Jacob's death

d/2 = 1st Asiatic level at Avaris (Jacob)

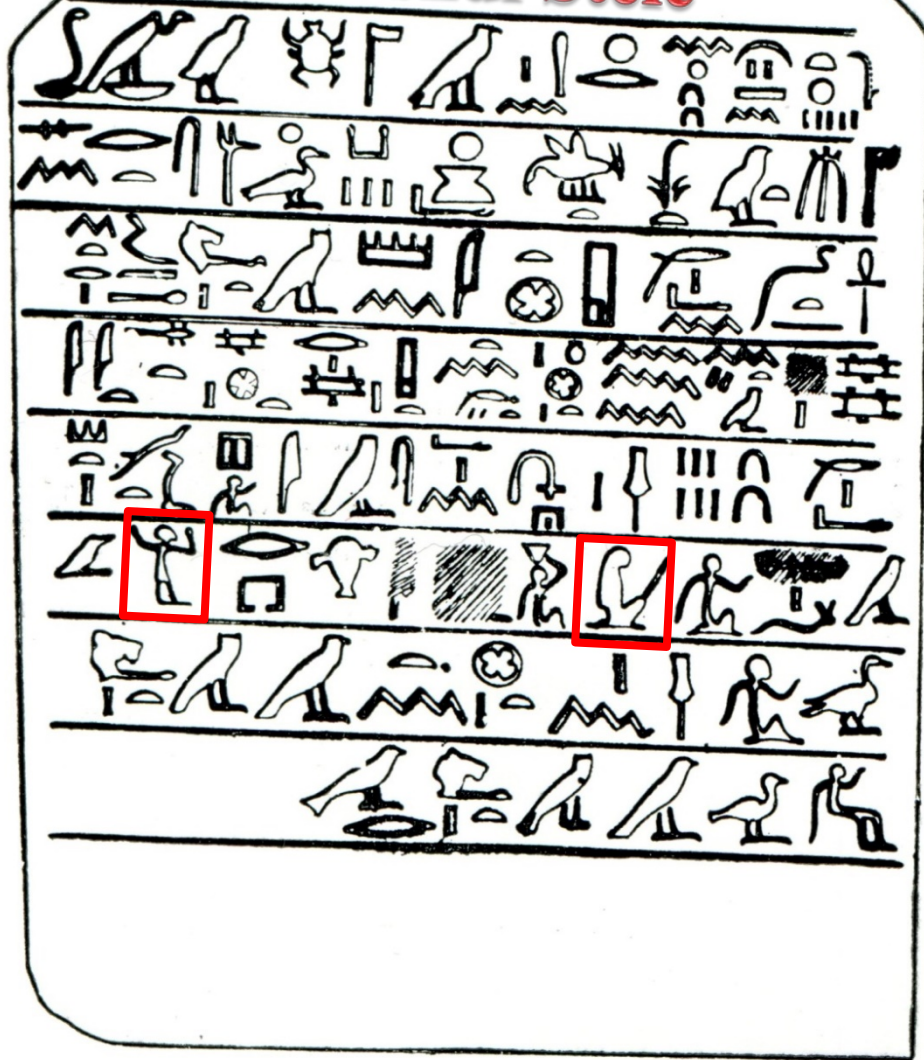
d/1 = 2nd Asiatic level at Avaris (E & M)

Avaris Two Years after Jacob's Arrival

**Topic: Secure
Dating of the Site**

(Dynasty 12: 1874 BC)

Ezbet Rushdi Stele

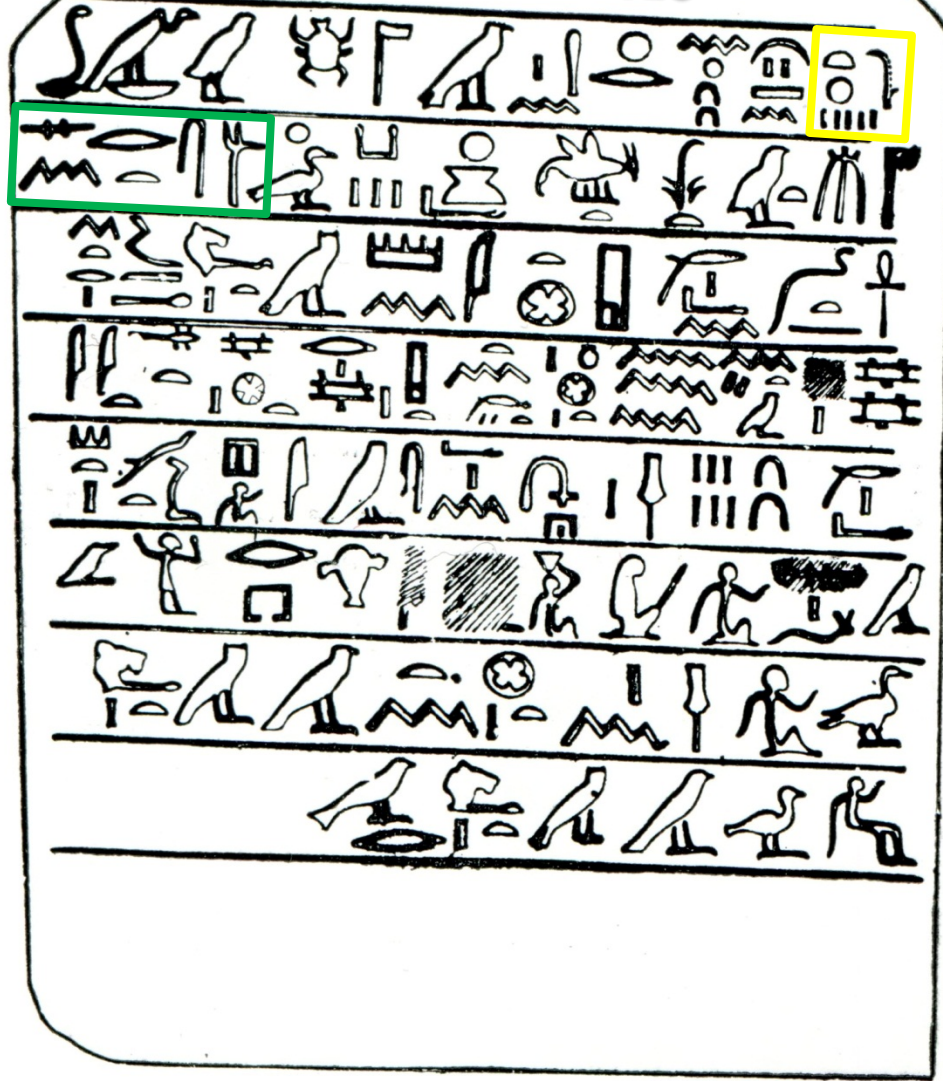


M.A.Y.



From the Temple of Amenemhat I at Avaris

Ezbet Rushdi Stele



Ezbet Rushdi Stele

Findspot: Discovered in the Temple of Amenemhat I

Date: Regnal Year 5 of Sesostris III (Famine Phar.)

Value: Served as a Sealed Contract between Asiatics & Egyptian Priests

(1874 BC)



Translation of Ezbet Rushdi Stele

(1) Regnal Year 5, Month 2 of summer, Day 20 under the majesty of Horus: Divine-of-manifestations. Two-Ladies: (2) Divine-of-rebirths. King of Upper and Lower Egypt: The-(very)-appearance-of-the-essences-of-Re. Son of Re: The-man-belonging-to-*the-goddess*-Wosret (Sesostris III). (3) May he live forever. The digging of a dike for the temple estate of Amenemhat (I), the justified, at the mouth (4) of the path that is alongside the waters of this city, north of *the* temple. The *length of the* mouth of the path that was uprooted: (5) 26* cubits. The stele was sealed by the hand of the *sem*-priest: Ip, and the Overseer of the Administrative Division of Foreign Land: (6) Horus-is-[in-]his-[son], *the Levantine*; the workmanship is of my hand: Head of the Household, Son-of-Sobek, (7) the controller of this city, Horus-is-at-the-forefront Jr., (8) son of Horus-is-at-the-forefront, Sr.

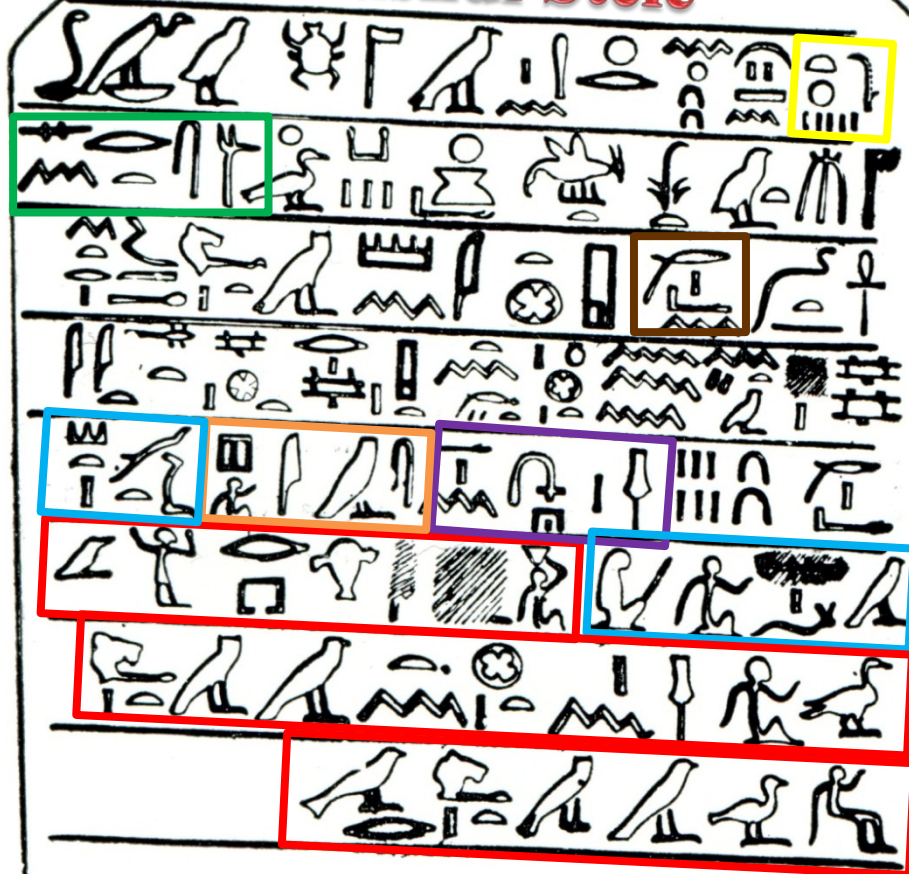
*(26 royal cubits = 13.6 meters)

Joseph and Jacob in the Ezbet Rushdi Stele

**Topic: The Identity of
Sa-Sobek and Ḥor-em-ḥat Jr.**

(Dynasty 12)

Ezbet Rushdi Stele



(Year 5, Sesostri III)

M.A.Y.



VITAL COMPONENTS

h3t-sp 5 = Regnal Year 5

S-n-Wsrt = Sesostri (III)

THE EVENT

mḥ n = The digging of a dike for temple estate

ḥꜥ ḥtm(·w) = The stele was sealed *by the hand*

sm Ip = the priest: Ip (and the)

imy-r wꜥrt ḥ3st Hr-[m-s3]·f = Overseer of the Administrative Division of Foreign Land: Horus-is-[in-]his-son, *the Levantine*

k3t ꜥ[wy]·i ḥry-pr s3-Sbk ḥrp n niwt tn Hr-m-ḥ3t s3 Hr-m-ḥ3t wr = The craftsmanship *is of my hand*: Head of the Household, Son-of-Sobek, the controller of this city, Horus-is-at-the-forefront, son of Horus-is-at-the-forefront, Senior.

Ezbet Rushdi Stele



Line 6 in Shehata Adam (1959)



custodian of works



Suggested Reconstruction of Line 6 (2014)

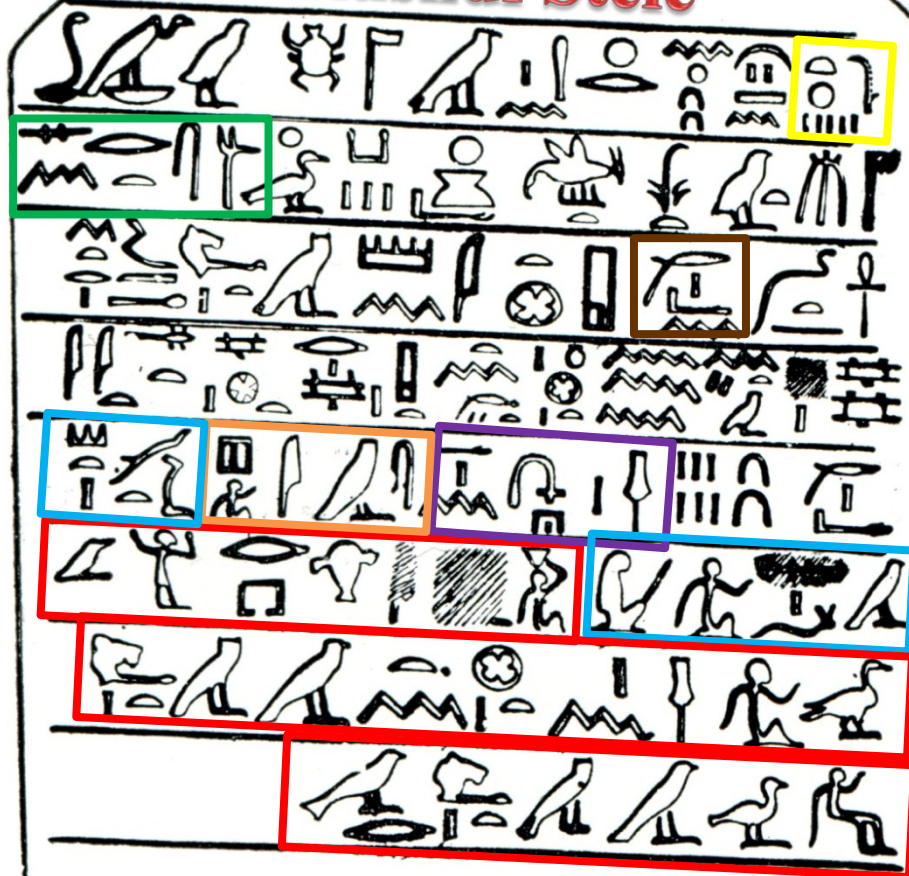
$k3t$ ϵ [wy]·i = The workmanship
was under my supervision:
 OR . . . *is of my hand:*

work,
 construction
 (Urk. IV, 1795, 18)

under
 my supervision
 (LRL 37V2)

by my hand
 (2nd Semna Stele)

Ezbet Rushdi Stele



(Year 5, Sesostris III)

VITAL COMPONENTS

h3t-sp 5 = Regnal Year 5

S-n-Wsrt = Sesostris (III)

THE EVENT

mḥ n = The digging of a dike for temple estate

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imy-r wꜥrt ḥ3st Hr-[m-s3]·f = Overseer of the Administrative Division of Foreign Land: Horus-is-[in-]his-son, *the Levantine*

k3t ꜥ[wy]·i ḥry-pr s3-Sbk ḥrp n niwt tn Hr-m-ḥ3t s3 Hr-m-ḥ3t wr = The craftsmanship is of my hand: **Head of the Household**, Son-of-Sobek, the controller of this city, Horus-is-at-the-forefront, son of Horus-is-at-the-forefront, Senior.

“You shall be **over my household**” (Gen 41:40)



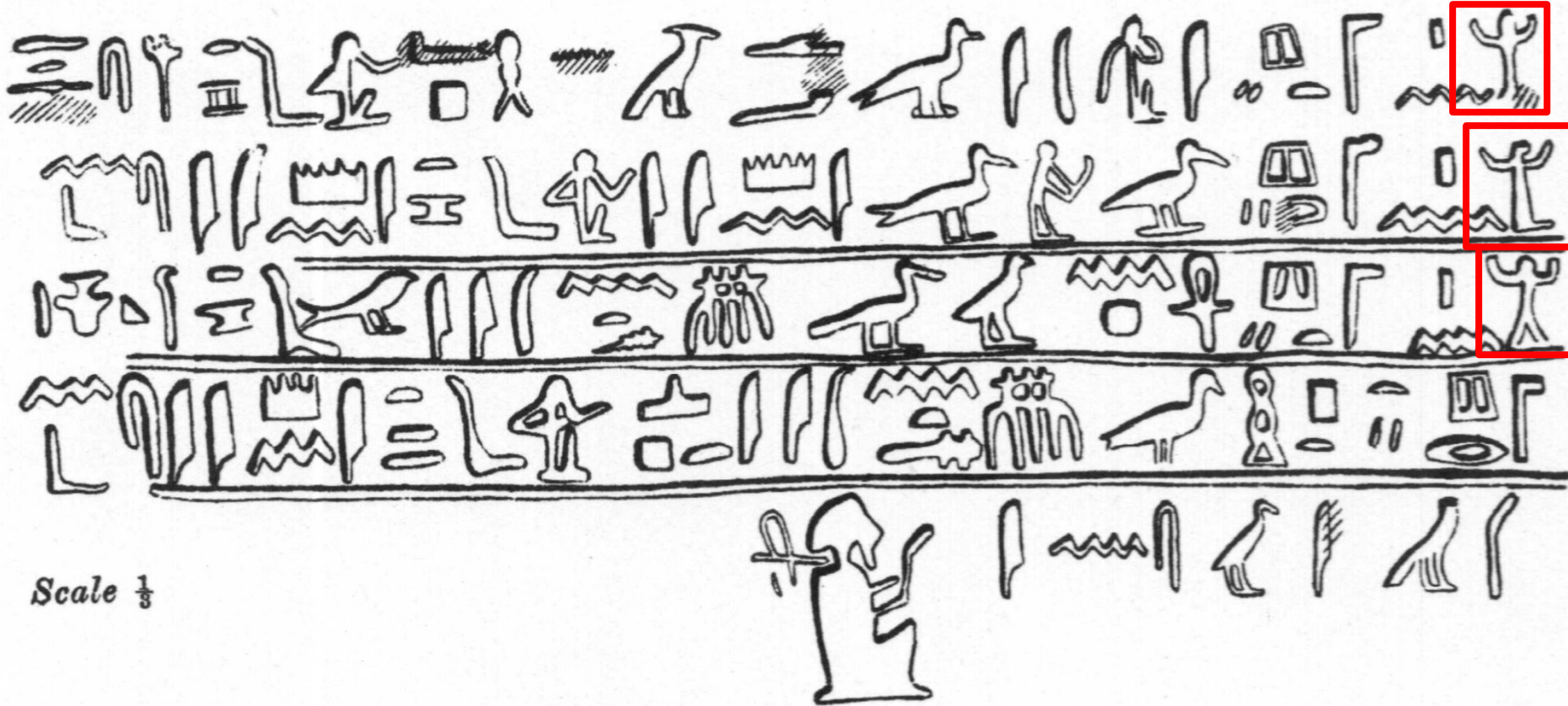


Maghara (in Sinai)

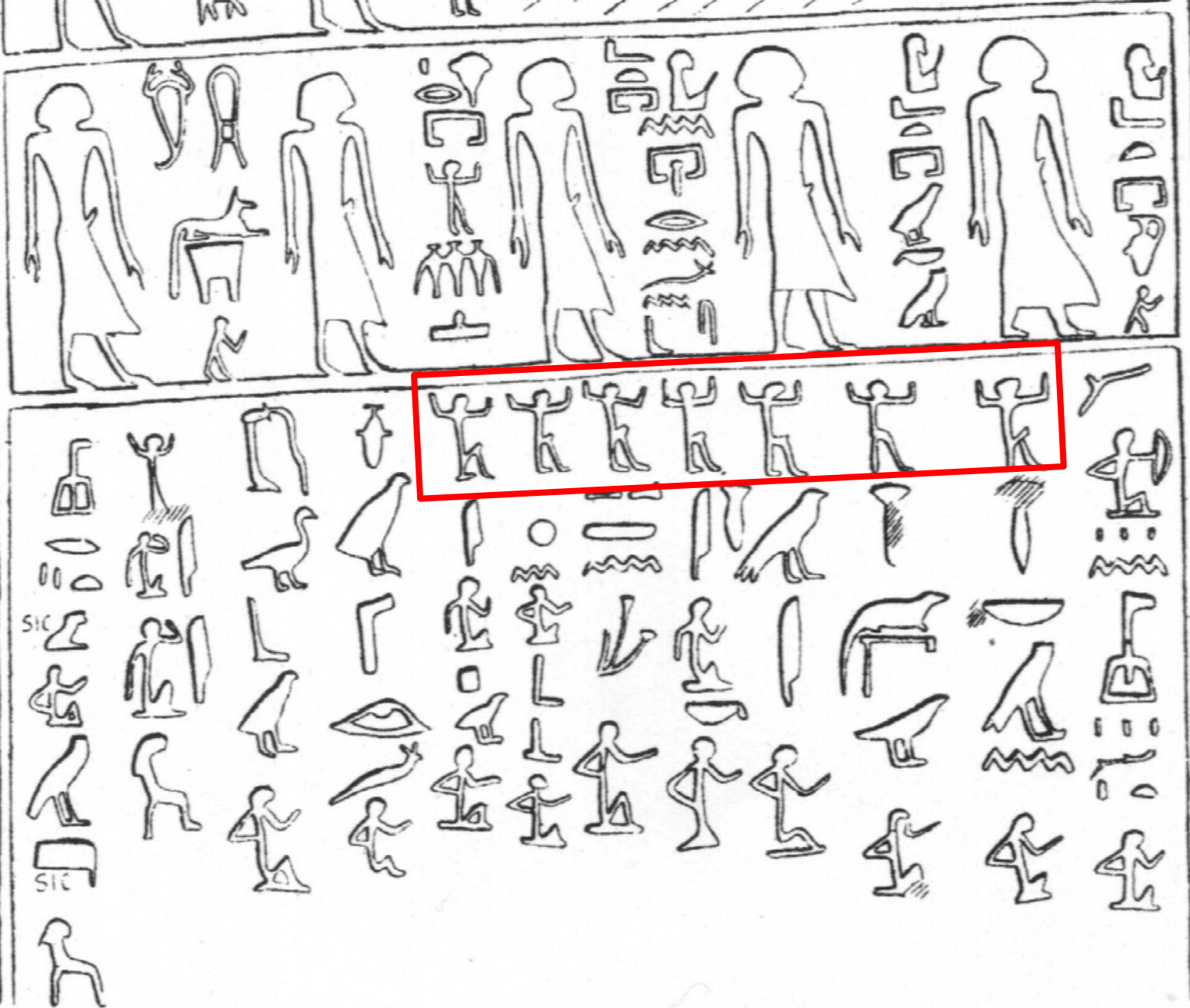
Maghara is the older of the two mining sites in Sinai, having been exploited as early as Dynasty 3. Maghara was located near #2: Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim.

The site featured three mining camps in antiquity, and it was mined during Dynasty 12, during the lifetime of Joseph and his children.

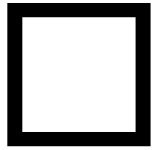
Sinai 24A (Year 2, Amenemhat III) Magharah



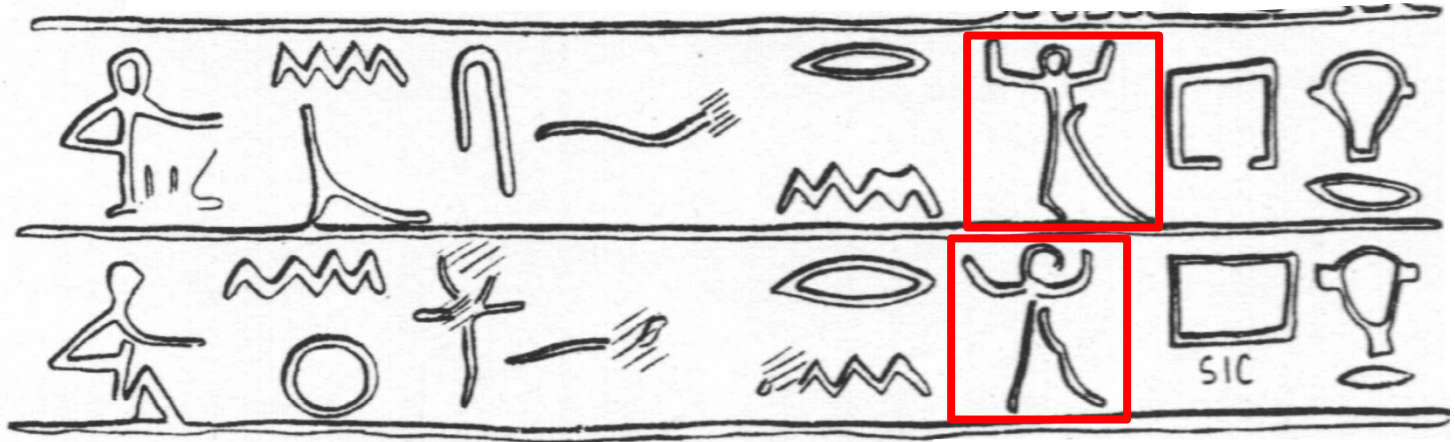
Determinative from “Head of Household” on Ezbet Rushdi Stele



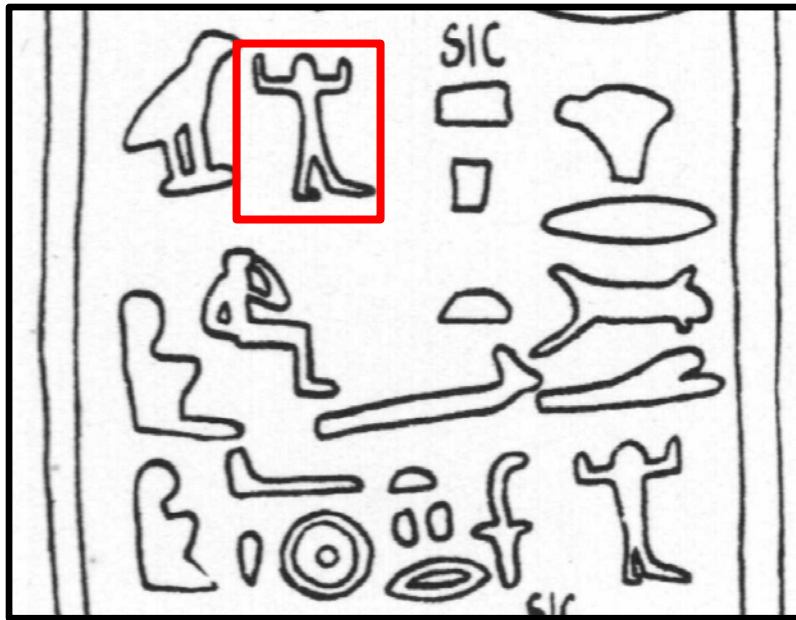
Sinai 90 (Year 6, Amenemhat III) Serabit



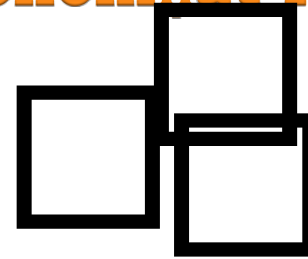
Man-with-arms-raised hieroglyph



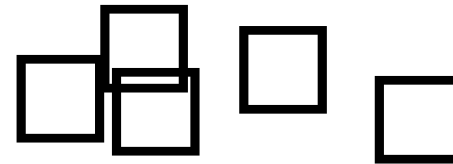
Sinai 92 (Year 13, Amenemhat III) Serâbîṭ



Sinai 32 (Year 20 + x, Amenemhat III) Serâbîṭ



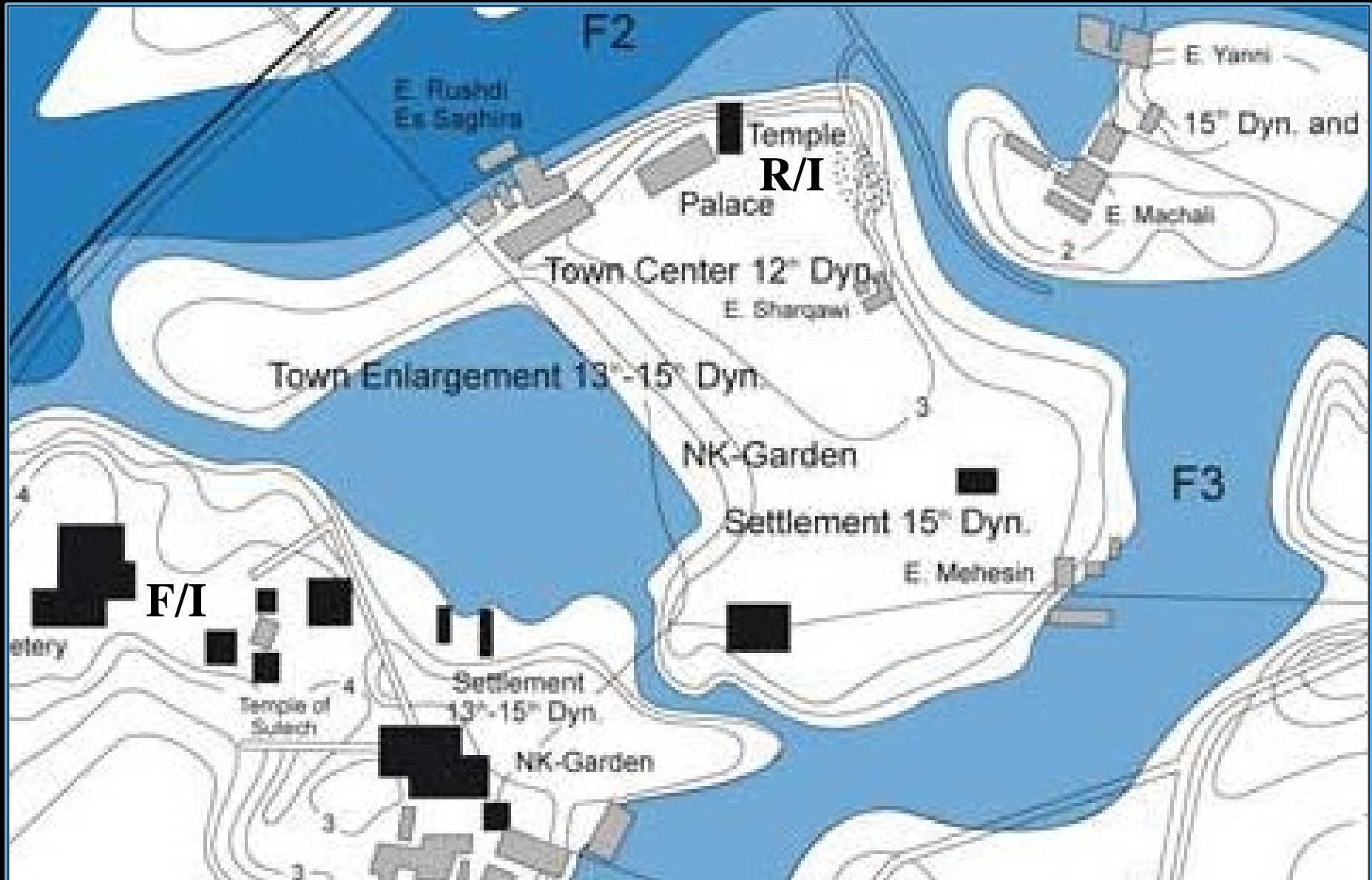
Standard Writing of *hry-pr* 'Head of the Household'



hry-pr n ḥ 'Domestic Servant of the Palace'

“The ‘domestic servant [of the palace]’ carried out tasks within the living-quarters of the palace, both private and reception” (Stephen Quirke, *Titles and bureau of Egypt 1850–1700 BC* [London: 2004]: 46).

Dynasty 12's Occupational Areas



Translation of Ezbet Rushdi Stele

Regnal Year 5, Month 2 of summer, Day 20 under the majesty of Horus: Divine-of-manifestations. Two-Ladies: Divine-of-rebirths. King of Upper and Lower Egypt: The-(very)-appearance-of-the-essences-of-Re. Son of Re: The-man-belonging-to-*the-goddess*-Wosret (Sesostris III). May he live forever. The digging of a dike for the temple estate of Amenemhat (I), the justified, at the mouth of the path that is alongside the waters of this city, north of *the* temple. The *length of the* mouth of the path that was uprooted: 26* cubits. The stele was sealed by the hand of the *sem*-priest: Ip, and the Overseer of the Administrative Division of Foreign Land: Horus-is-[in-]his-[son], *the Levantine*. The workmanship is of my hand: **Head of the Household**, **Son-of-Sobek**, the controller of this city, Horus-is-at-the-forefront, son of Horus-is-at-the-forefront, Senior.

*(26 royal cubits = 13.6 meters)

Who is Sa-Sobek?

1. On Seal §1331, Sa-Sobek is called *iry wpt* ('He who is at the top').
2. On Seal §1340, one reads *t3ty n hft hr* ('Vizier who is in the front, Sa-Sobek').
3. On Seal §1335, one reads *rh nsw whm nḥ nb im3h* ('The king's wise man, Sa-Sobek: the lord, the revered. May he live again.').
4. On Seal §1332, Sa-Sobek is called *w^crtw 3(t) n niwt* ('Great controller of the city').

Vizierial Involvement in the Ezbet Rushi Stele

The Ezbet Rushdi Stele expressly states that “a dike [was dug] for the **temple estate** of Amenemhat I,” as stated in an agreement between the priestly group that owned the land and the Asiatics who were led by the Overseer of the Administrative Division of Foreign Land. The agreement was ratified by both parties’ sealing of the stele. How does this pact that was overseen by the vizier—in this case Sa-Sobek—relate to the vizier’s duties?

The *Duties of the Vizier* is a New Kingdom composition that is a copy of an original dating to the late Middle Kingdom. Here is how it relates to the Ezbet Rushdi Stele: “It is he [the vizier] who **applies the neighbouring-land for every plot of land**. . . . It is he who makes the boundaries for every district, every marshland, every **temple estate**, and every sealed land” (Stephen Quirke, *Titles and bureau of Egypt 1850–1700 BC* [London: 2004]: 21).