



Identifying Ephraim and Manasseh

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Ephraim and Manasseh

**Topic: Chronology and
Important Connections**

(Dynasty 12: after 1859 BC)

Chronology of Important Events

1885 BC Joseph, Pharaoh's Dream

1878 BC Sesostris II–III Transition;
Abundance–Famine

1876 BC Jacob Enters Egypt

**1859 BC Jacob Dies; Sesostris III
–Amenemhat III Trans.**

1842 BC Sinai 115 (PCH Letter)

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 (Ephraim & M.)

Ephraim and Manasseh

**Focus: Relevant
Biblical Passages**

(1859 BC)

Genesis 47:11, 27–28a; 48:1–2

So Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of **Rameses**, as pharaoh had ordered. . . . Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous. **Jacob** lived in the land of Egypt **17 years**; . . . Now it came about after these things that Joseph was told, “Take note: your father is sick.” **So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him.** When it was told to Jacob, “Look, your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel [i.e. Jacob] collected his strength and sat up in the bed.

Genesis 48:3–6

Then Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and he said to me, ‘You see, I will make you fruitful and numerous, and I will make you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.’ Now **your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. But your offspring that have been born after them will be yours; they will be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance.**”

Ephraim and Manasseh

**Focus: House Occupied
by Ephraim and Manasseh**

(after 1859 BC)



Avaris (Tell El-Dab'a)

Avaris is biblical Ram-
eses (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.’

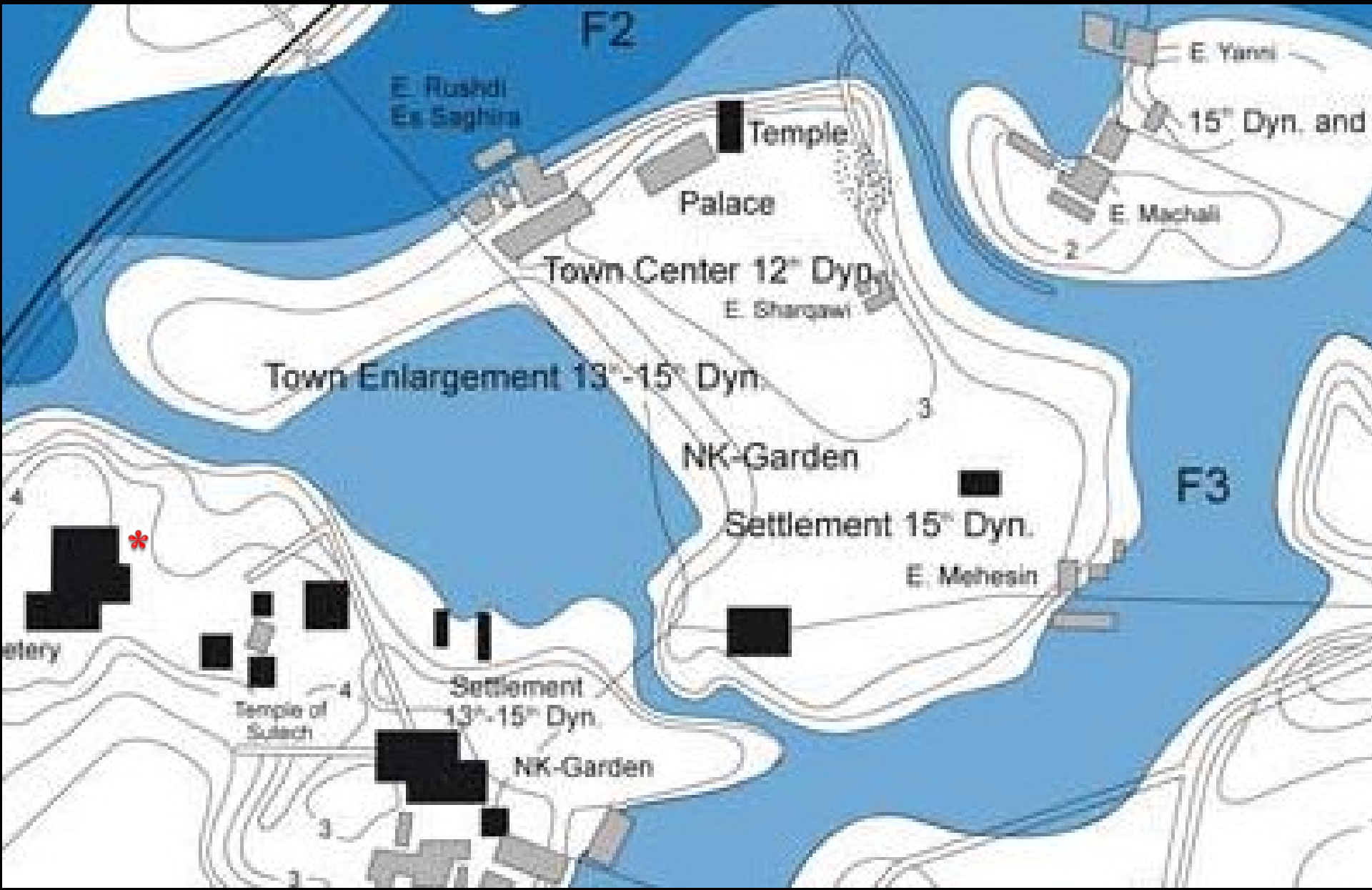
Avaris (Tell El-Dab'a)

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**.

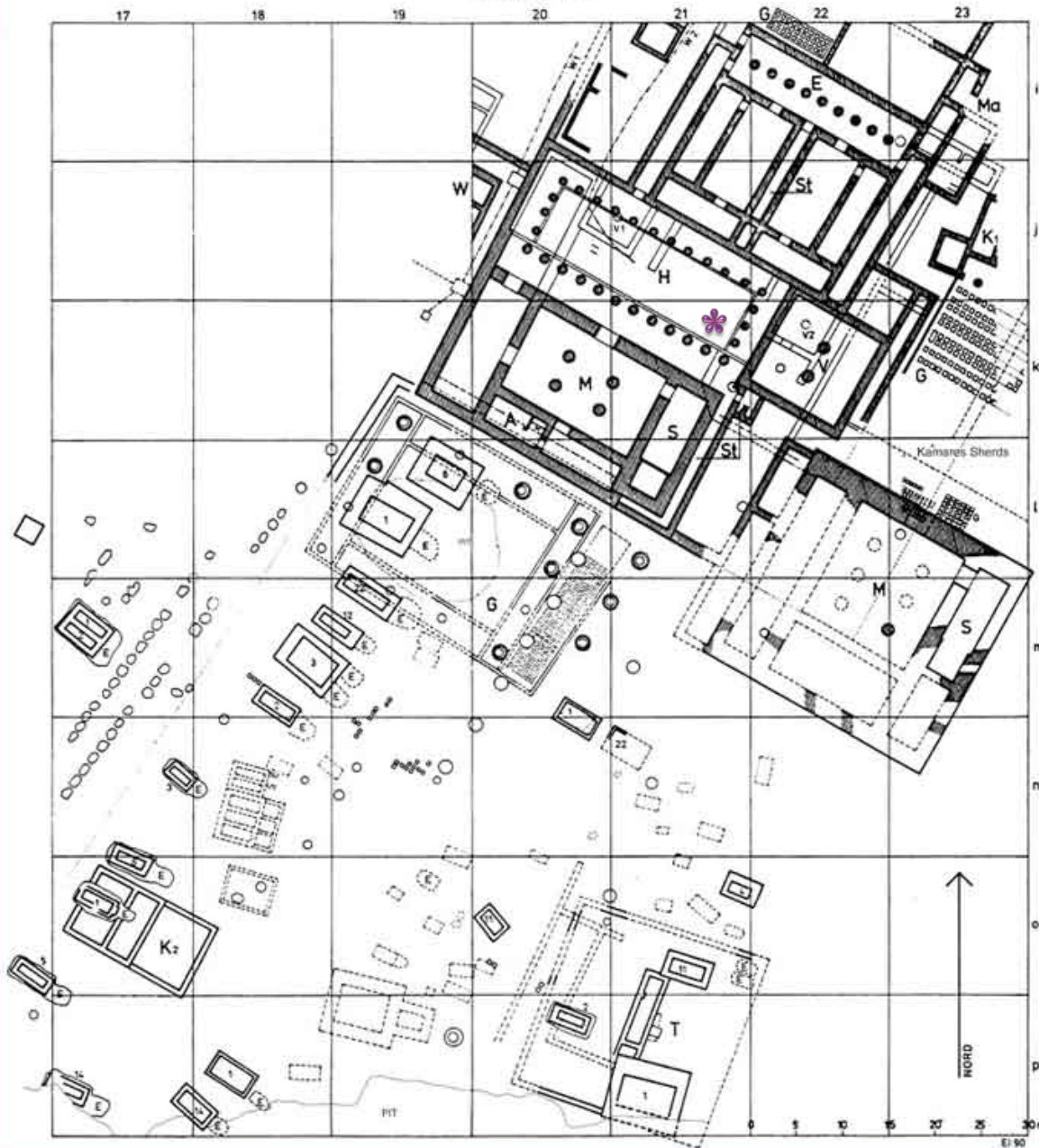
Michael Grisanti, “The Place of Textual Updating in an Inerrant View of Scripture” *JETS* 44 (2001).



E.A.R. of Ephraim and Manasseh at Avaris



Tell el-Dab'a, Area F/I
Stratum d/1



Courtesy of the Austrian Academy and the Austrian Archaeological Institute

***Egyptianized Asiatic
Residence = Home
of Ephraim and
Manasseh**

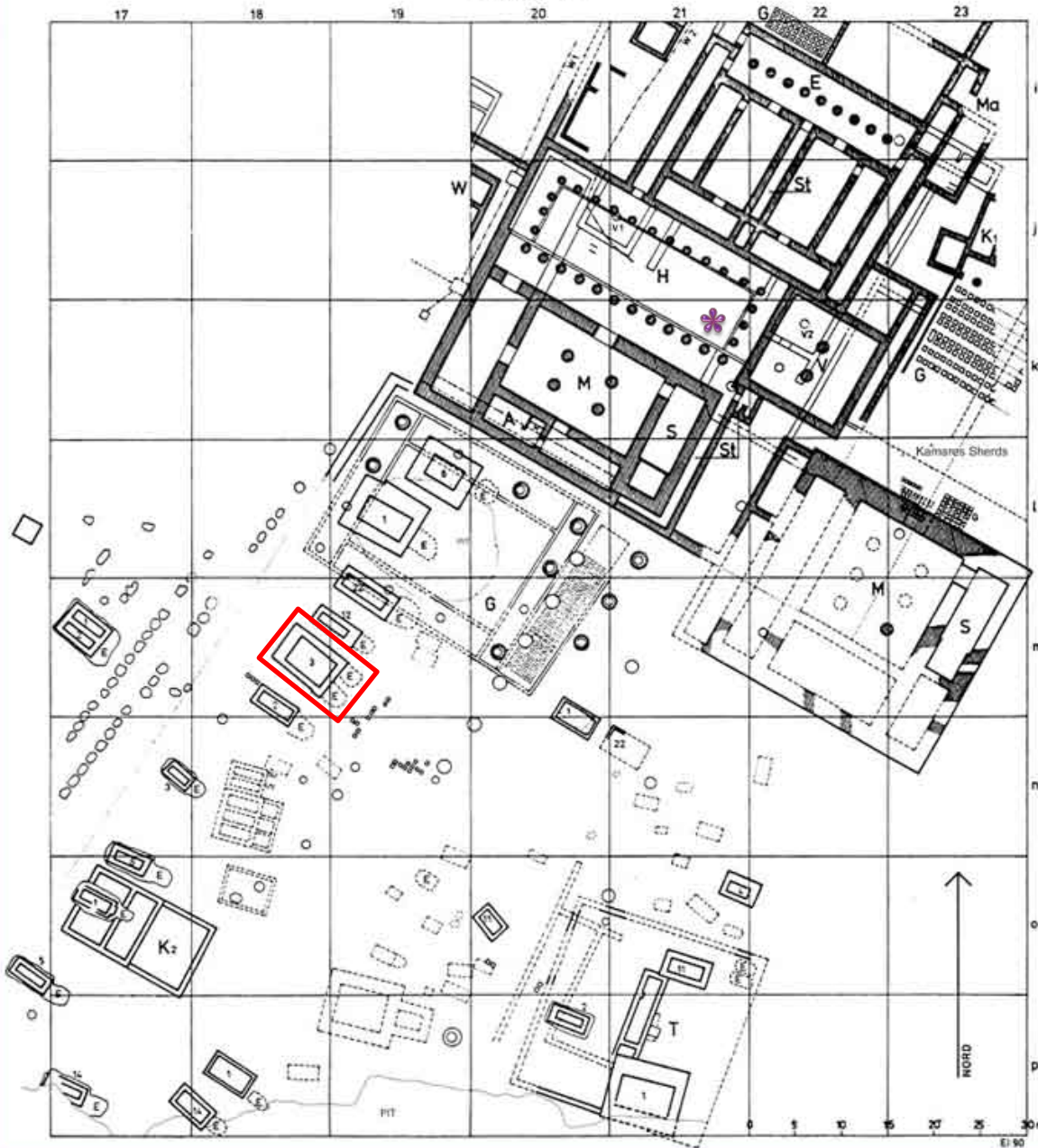
**Stratum d/1
(Phase G/4)**

Ephraim and Manasseh

**Focus: Tomb of
Di-Sobekemḥat (= Ephraim)**

(after 1859 BC)

Tell el-Dab'a, Area F/I
Stratum d/1



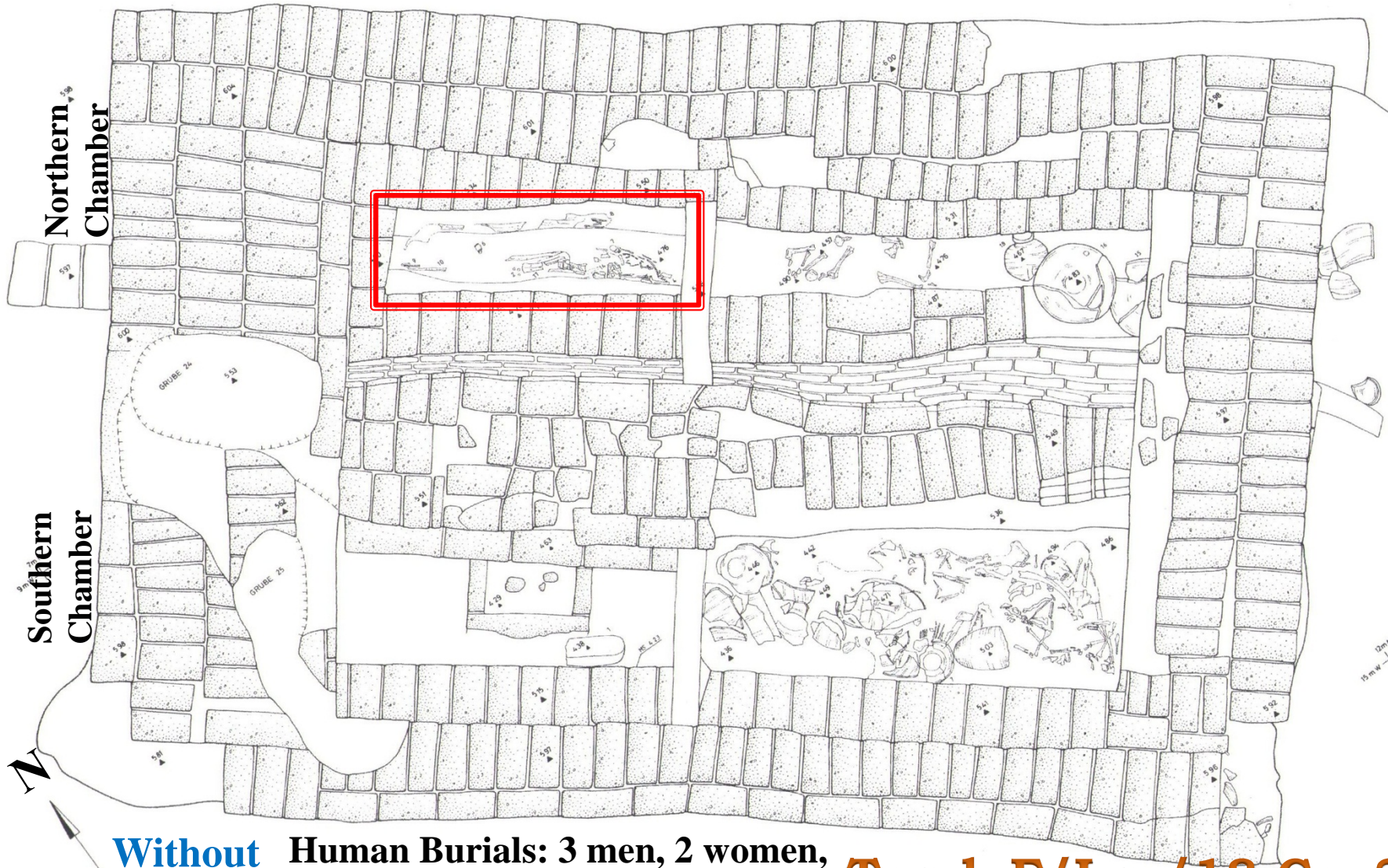
Courtesy of the Austrian Academy and the Austrian Archaeological Institute

***Egyptianized Asiatic
Residence = Home
of Ephraim and
Manasseh**

**Tomb of Di-
Sobekemhat**

**Stratum d/1
(Phase G/4)**

Tomb of the Ruler of Retjenu: Di-Sobekemḥat



Credit: Schiestl, *MBA in the Levant*, 345

Without Human Burials: 3 men, 2 women,
superstructure 1 juvenile, 1 infant
(removed)

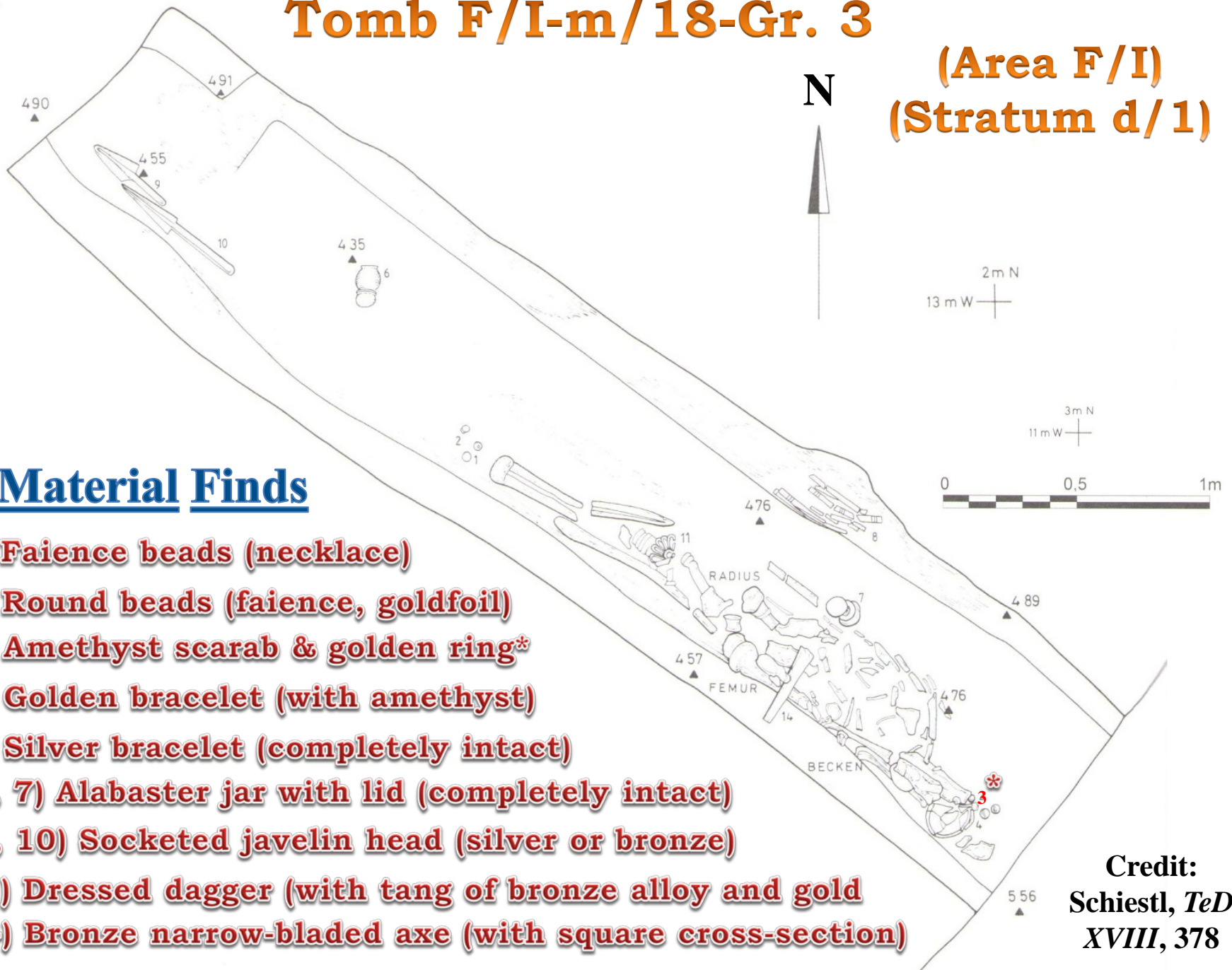
Tomb F/I-m/18-Gr. 3
(Area F/I, Stratum d/1)

F/I - m / 18 GRAB 3

4. SITUATION

Tomb F/I-m/18-Gr. 3

(Area F/I)
(Stratum d/1)



Material Finds

- 1) Faience beads (necklace)
- 2) Round beads (faience, goldfoil)
- 3) Amethyst scarab & golden ring*
- 4) Golden bracelet (with amethyst)
- 5) Silver bracelet (completely intact)
- 6), 7) Alabaster jar with lid (completely intact)
- 9), 10) Socketed javelin head (silver or bronze)
- 11) Dressed dagger (with tang of bronze alloy and gold)
- 14) Bronze narrow-bladed axe (with square cross-section)

Credit:
Schiestl, *TeD*
XVIII, 378

Cairo Museum
JdE 98565

Tell
el-Dab'a

Amethyst
Scarab &
Golden
Ring

Area: F/I

Tomb:

F/I-m/18-Gr. 3

[ḥk3 n R]tnw Di-Sbk-m-ḥ3t = [the ruler of R]etjenu, Di-Sobek-em-ḥat



ḥk3 = ruler

n = of

Rtnw = Retjenu

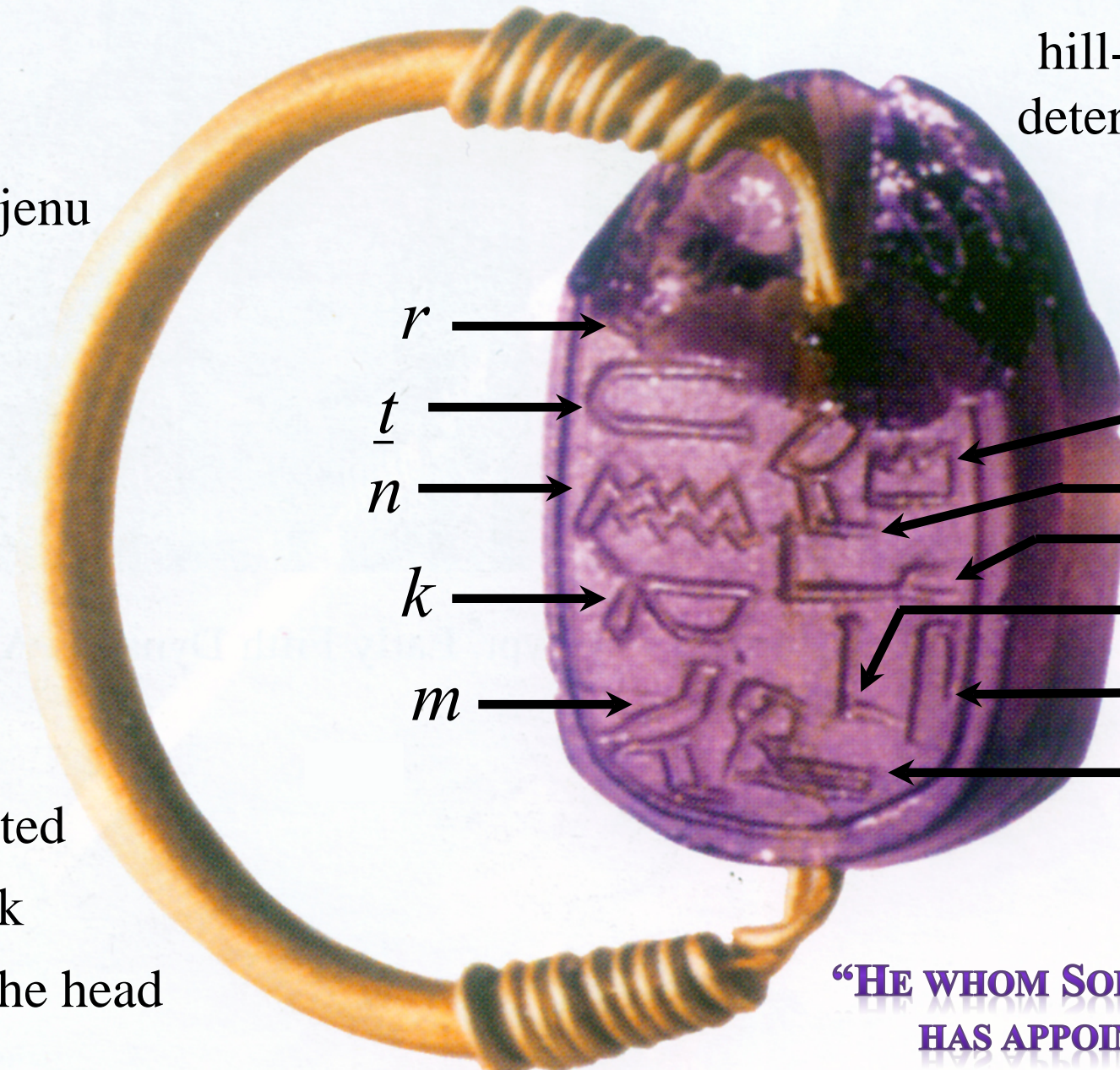
Signet Scarab

di = appointed

Sbk = Sobek

m-ḥ3t = at the head

hill-country
determinative



r →

t →

n →

k →

m →

→ *w*

→ *di*

→ *b*

→ *s*

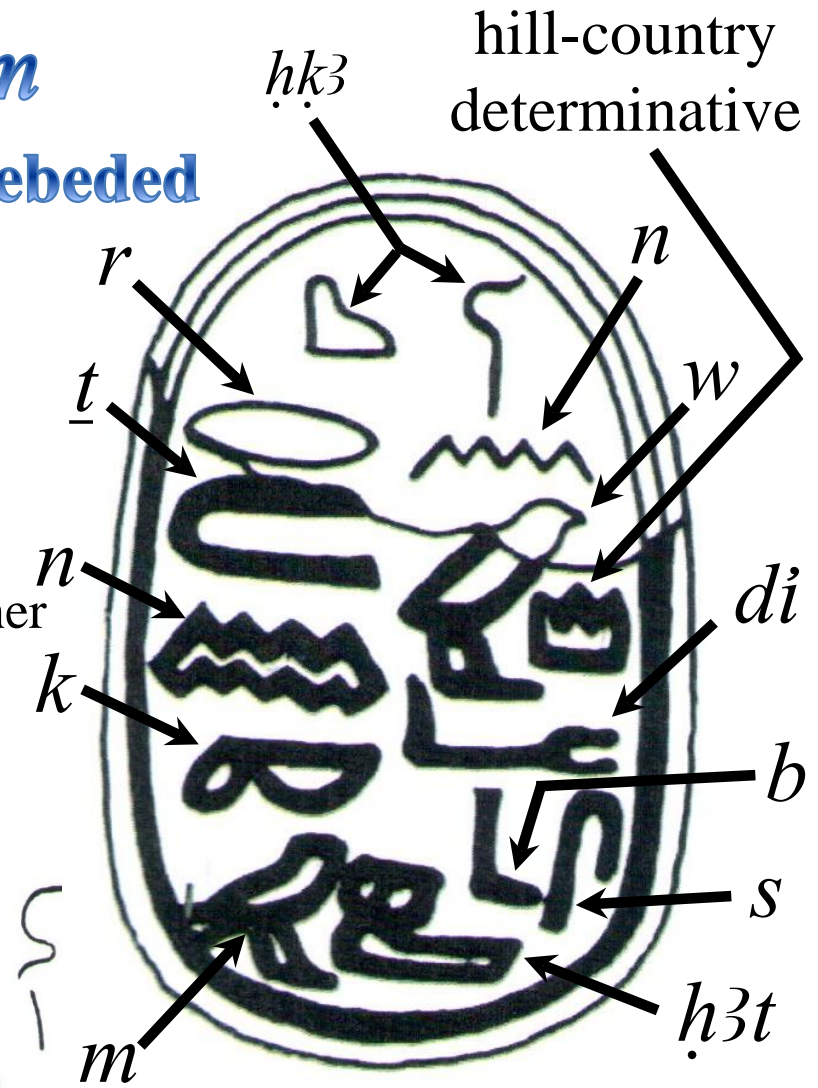
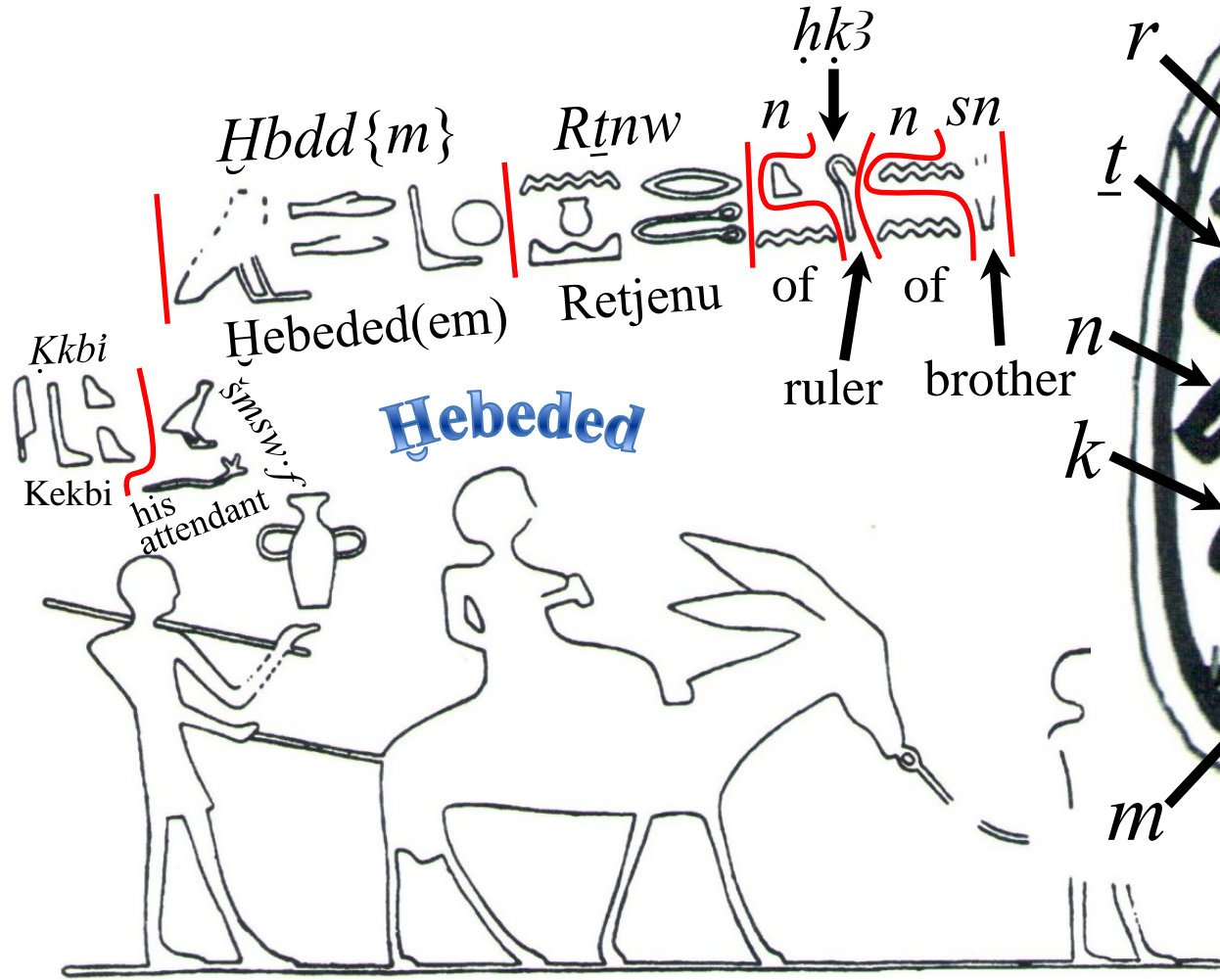
→ *ḥ3t*

**“HE WHOM SOBEKEMḤAT
HAS APPOINTED”**

[ḥk3 n R]tnw Di-Sbk-m-ḥ3t = [the ruler of R]etjenu, Di-Sobek-em-ḥat

sn n ḥk3 n Rtnw Ḥbddm

Brother of the Ruler of Retjenu, Ḥebeded



**Cairo Museum
JdE 98565**

Sinai Inscription 112

(G.T. Martin's reconstruction)



Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim

Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim is the site of turquoise mines that were exploited in antiquity by the Egyptians, who traveled there on mining expeditions.

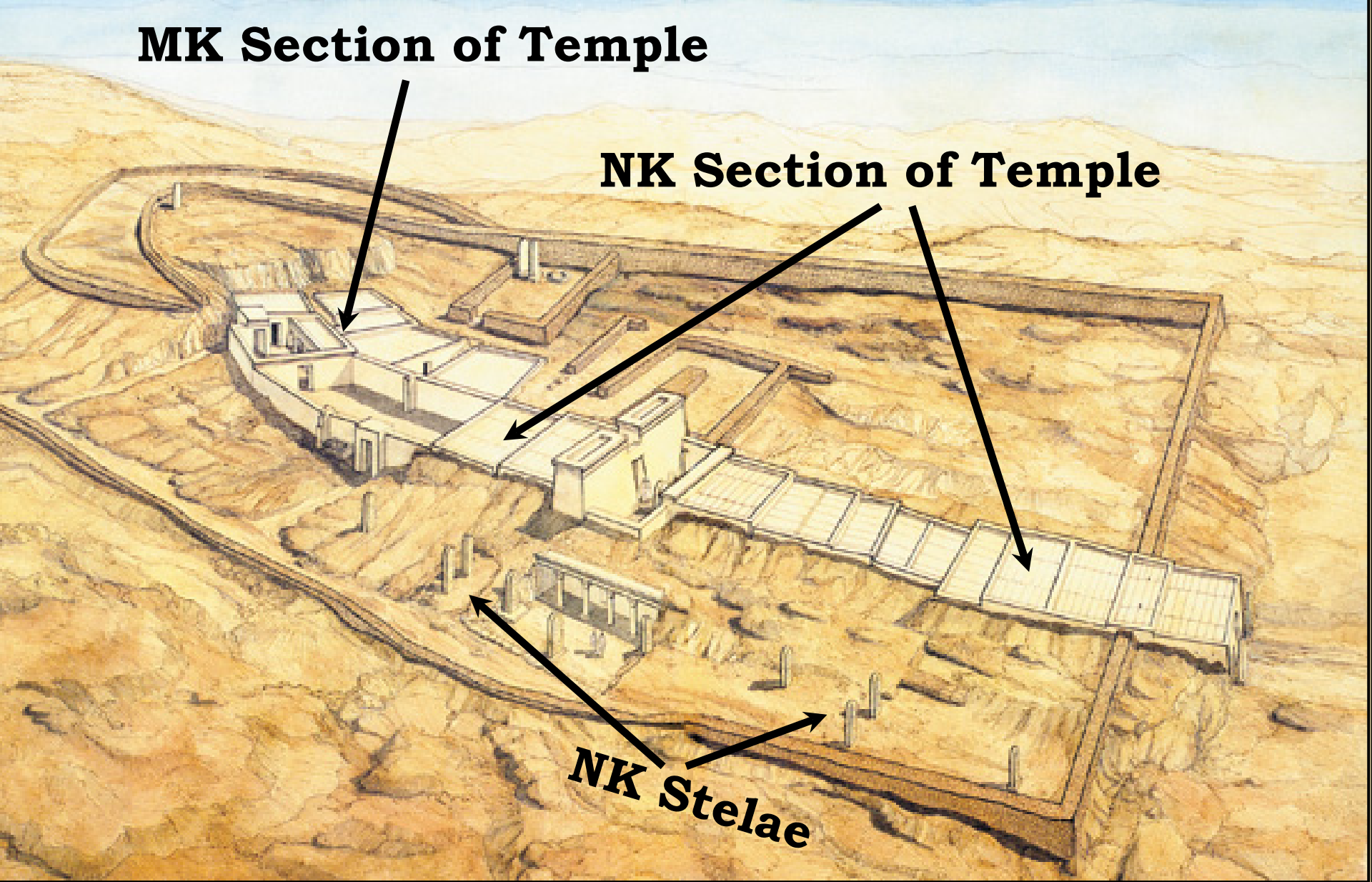
In addition to the featuring of donkeys, the common thread between the two sites is the ‘Ruler of Retjenu’ designation.

MK Section of Temple

NK Section of Temple

NK Stelae

Reconstruction of Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim



Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim



Serâbîṭ el- Khâdim

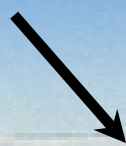
Turquoise Mine N, of the New Kingdom

Credit: Valbelle and Bonnet, *Le sanctuaire d'Hathor, maîtresse del la turquoise* (Paris: Picard, 1996), 4



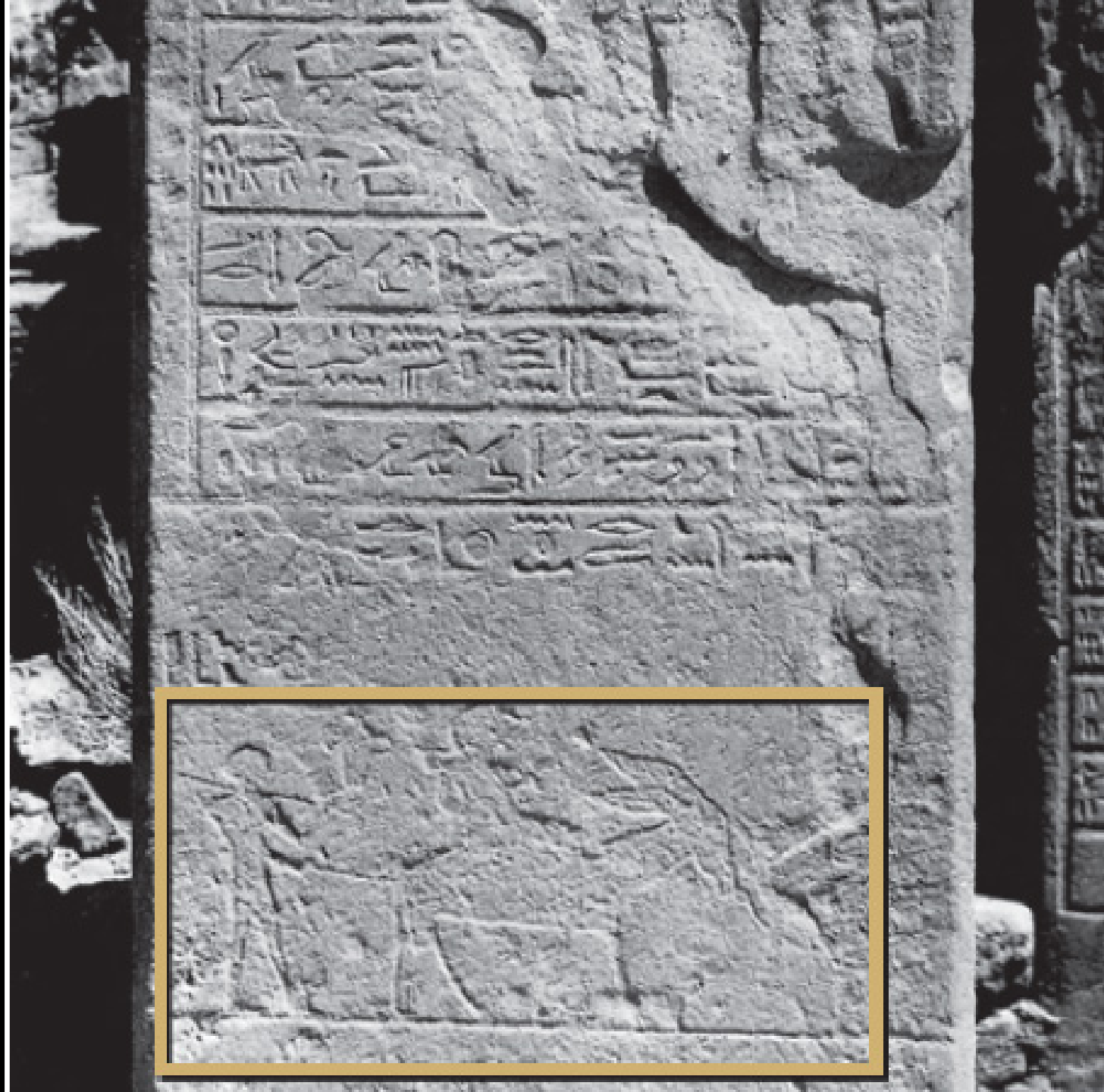
Inscribed Stelae at Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim

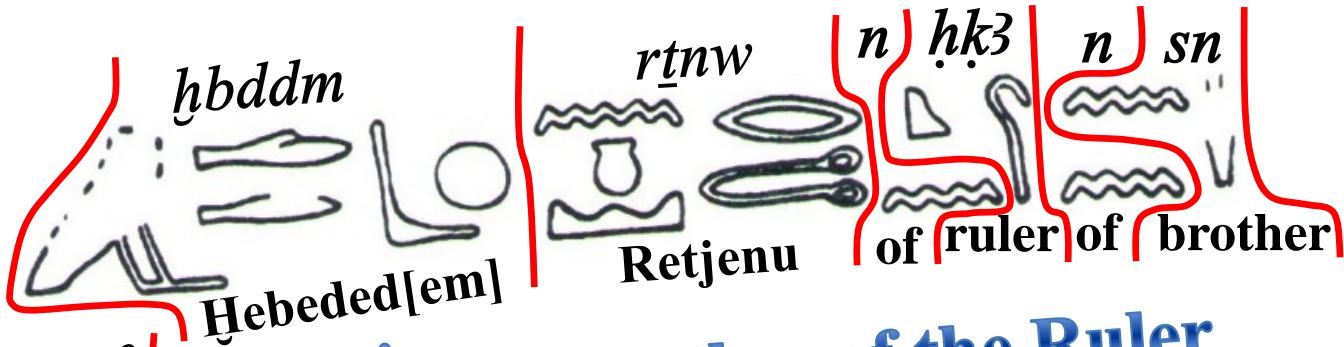
Sinai 115



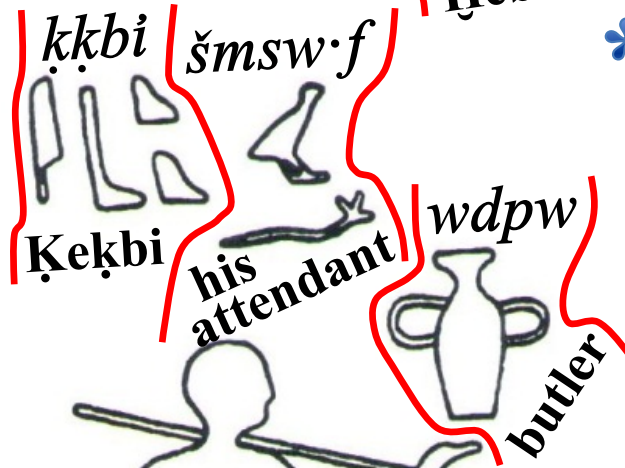
**Stele
Sinai 112**

**“Hebeded,
brother of
the Ruler of
Retjenu”**

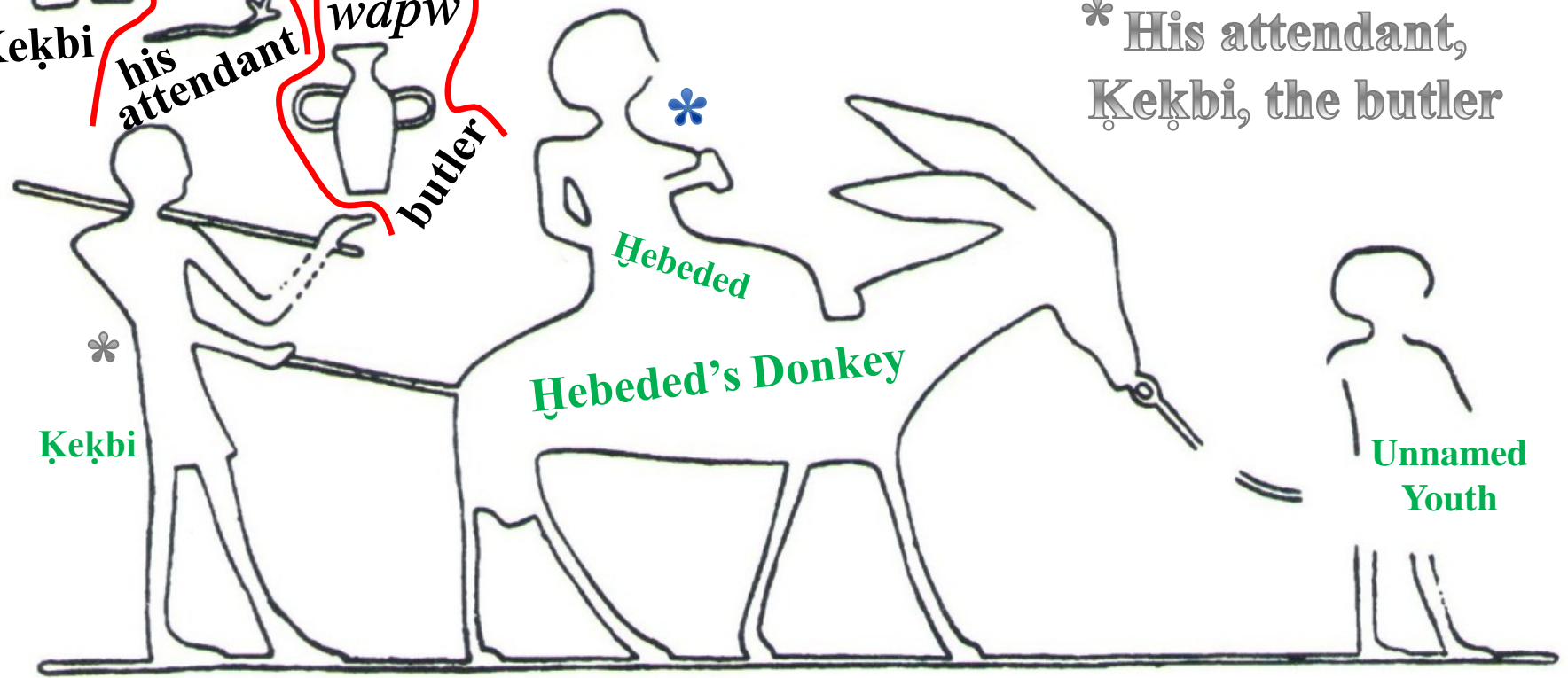




*** The Brother of the Ruler of Retjenu: Hebeded**

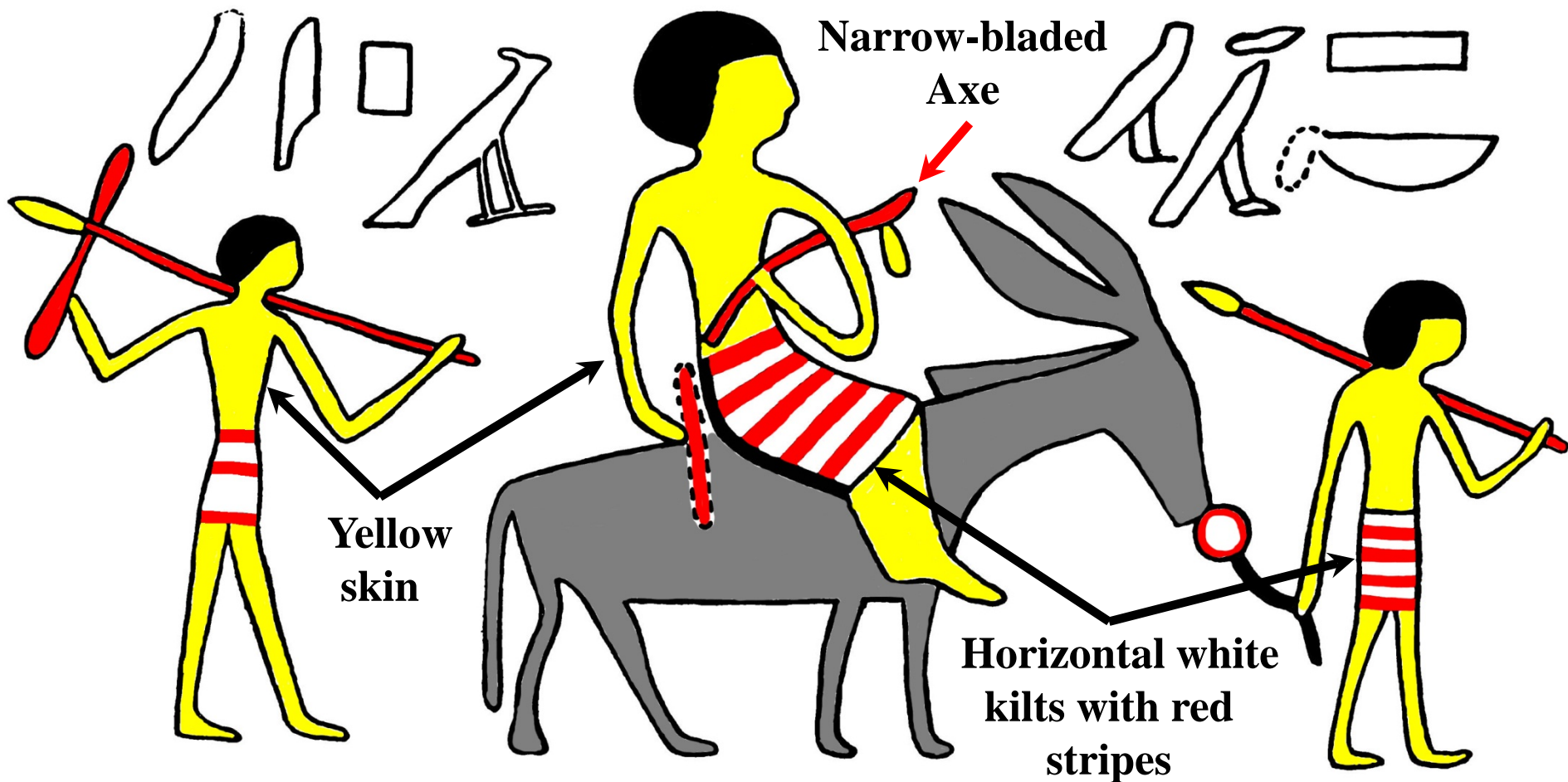


* His attendant, Keqbi, the butler



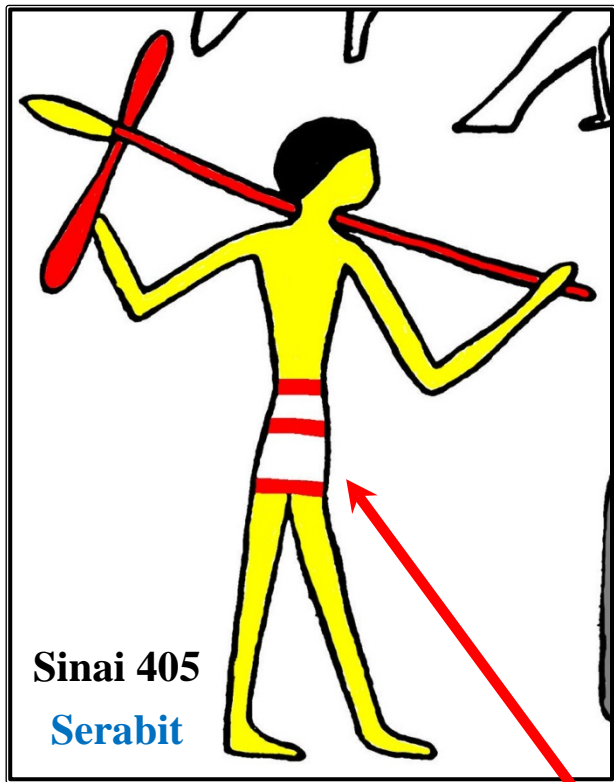
Sinai 112, Serâbîṭ el-Khâdim (Amenemḥat III)

This stele was built into the south wall of the temple of Hathor during the reign of Amenemhat IV, fortuitously preserving the colored details on the clothing. Hebeded and both young men are depicted wearing striped kilts that alternate horizontally between red and white.

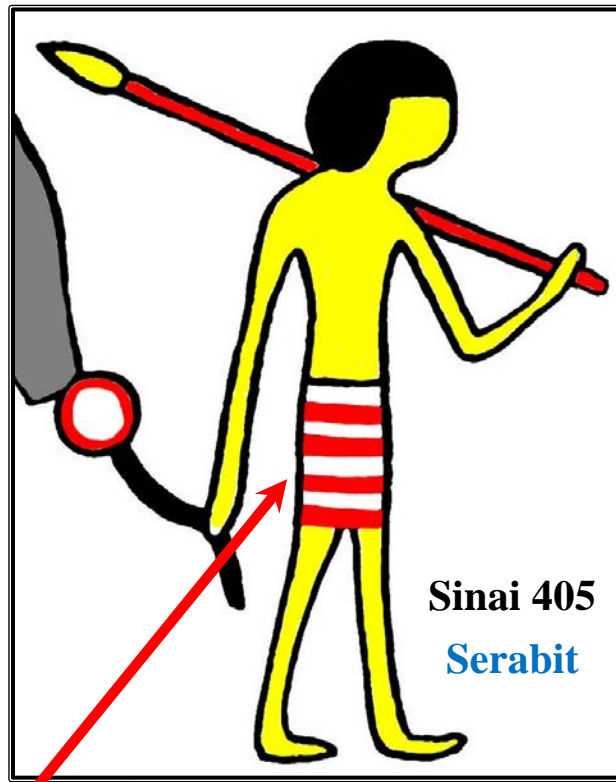


Hebeded Riding atop a Donkey

Sinai 405 from Serâbîṭ (Amenemhat III)



Apim

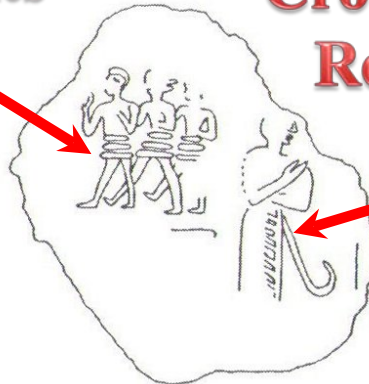


Shekam

Apim:
Egyptian butler
Shekam:
Son of Manasseh

Striped Kilts

Crook & Robe



Sealing 8314
Tell el-Dab'a

"around 1750 BC or ... earlier"

- Collon, in *Timelines*

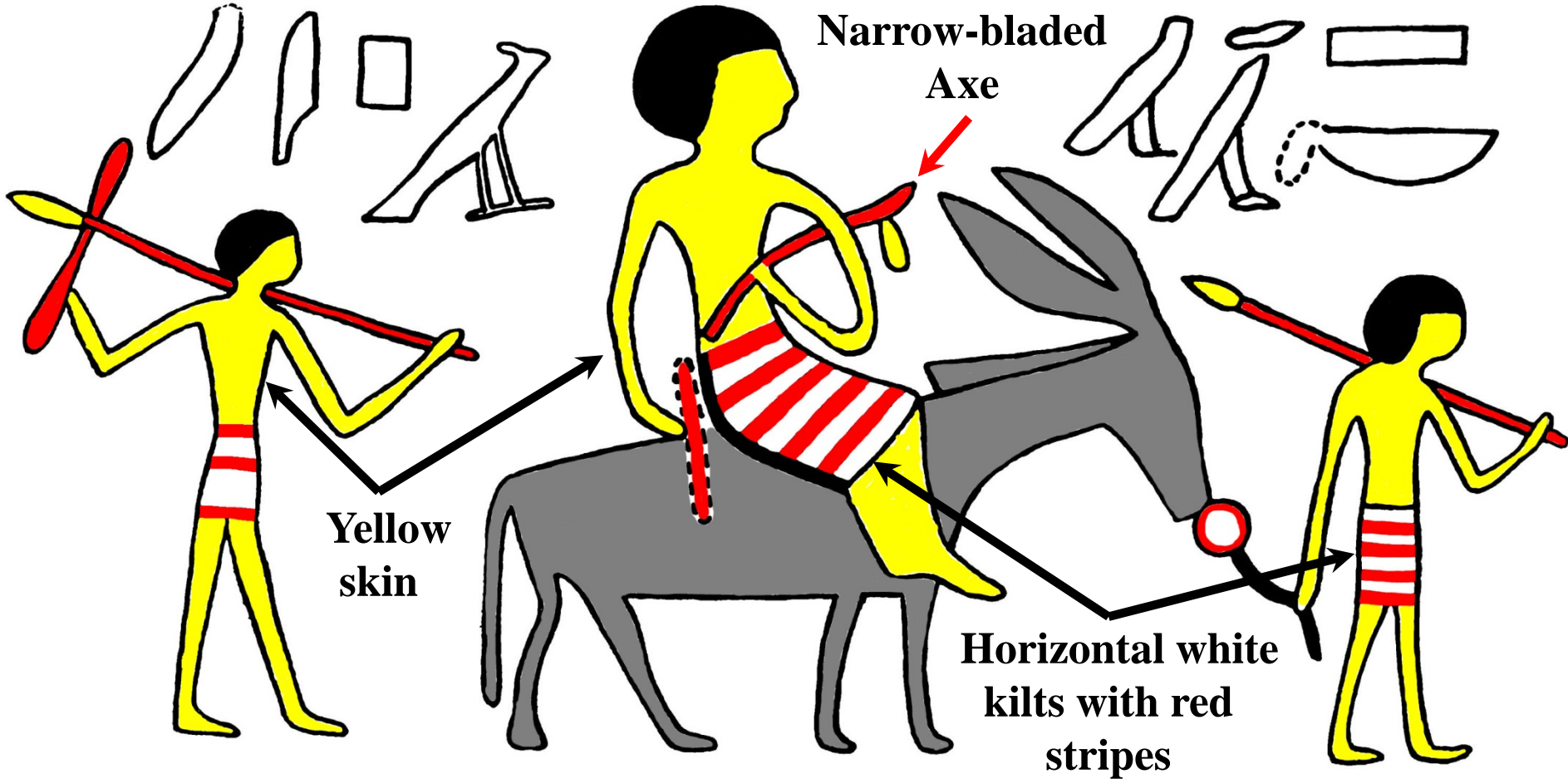
Unknown Person

ʔpim = Apim

Shekem, son of Manasseh (Josh. 17:2)

שָׁכֶם

Šk3m = Shekam



Hebeded Riding atop Donkey

Sinai 405 from Serâbîṭ (Amenemḥat III)

Joshua 17:2

So *the lot* was cast for the rest of the sons of Manasseh according to their families: for the sons of Abiezer, and for the sons of Helek, and for the sons of Asriel, and for **the sons of Shechem**, and for the sons of Hopher, and for the sons of Shemida. These were the male descendants of Manasseh, the son of Joseph, according to their families.

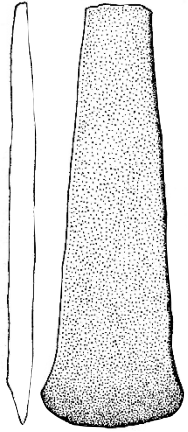
Joseph → Manasseh → Shechem
(father) (son) (grandson)

Sinai 115 and the World's Oldest Alphabet

**Topic: Narrow-bladed
Axe of Hebeded**

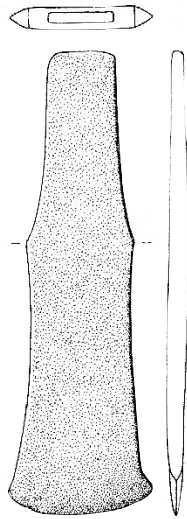
(1842 BC)

Typology of Axes from Canaan



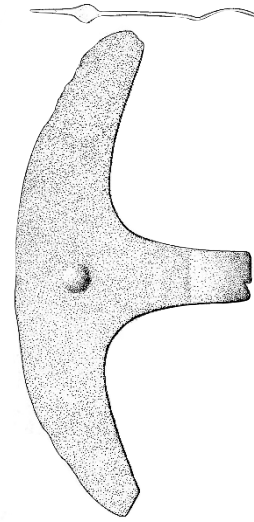
Simple Blade

2700 – 1000 BC



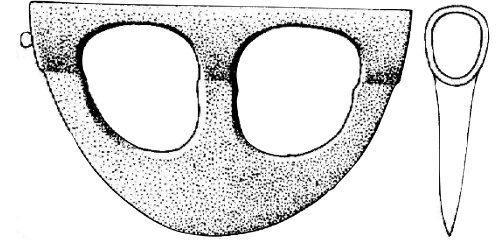
Lugged Blade

1850 – 1000 BC



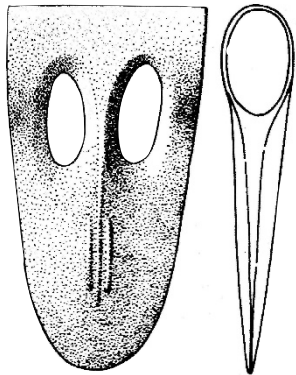
Crescent Axe

2450 – 2100 BC



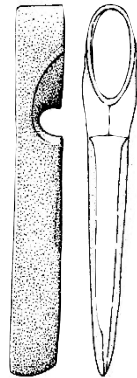
Eye Axe

2050 – 1950 BC



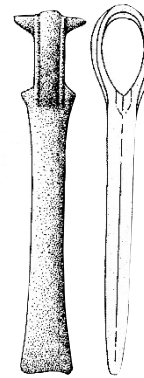
Duckbill Axe

1960 – 1800 BC



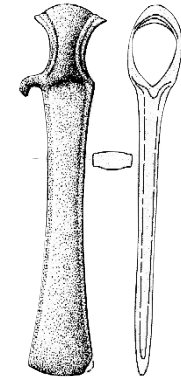
**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 1)**

1875 – 1750 BC



**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 2)**

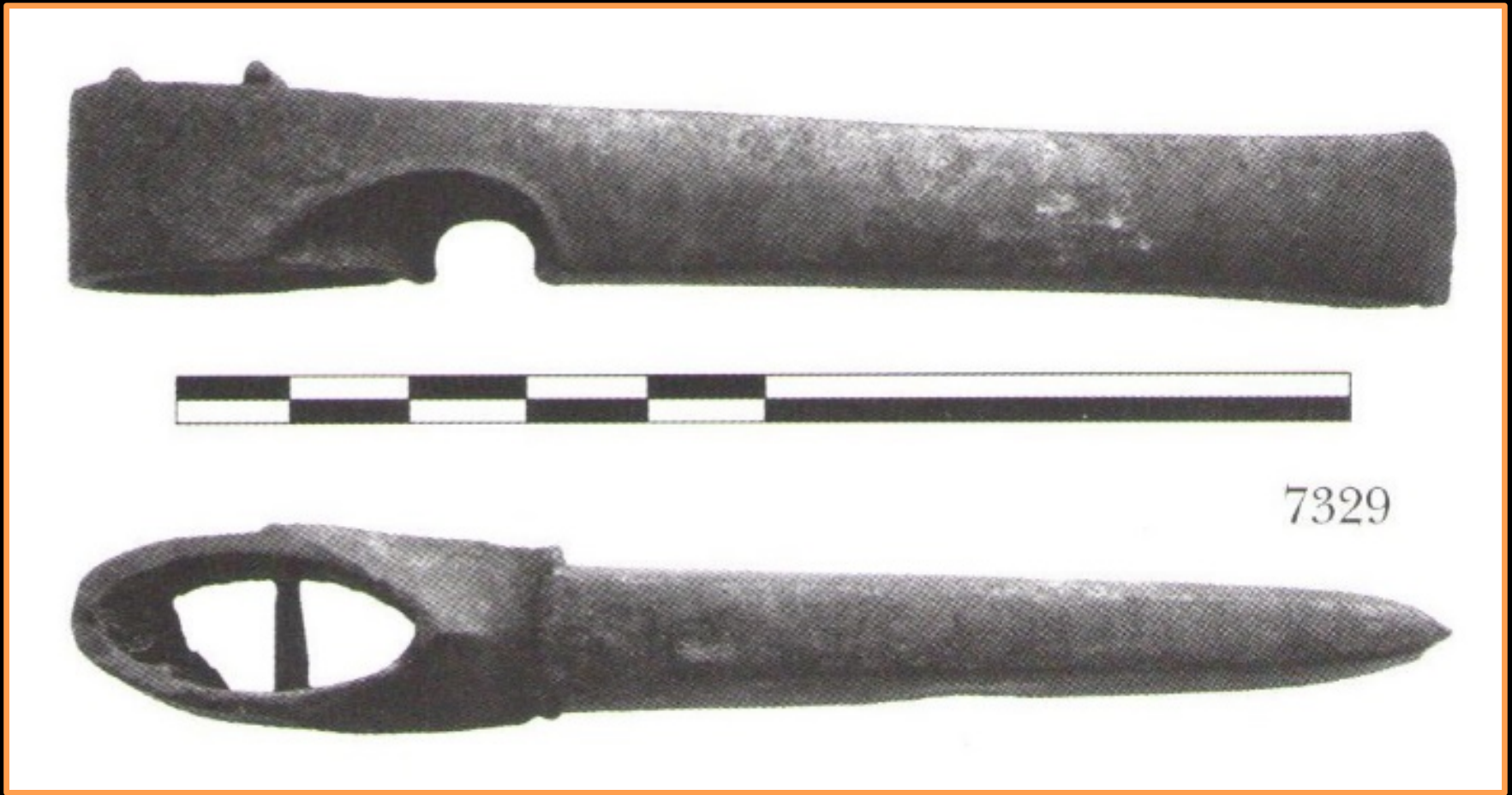
1755 – 1650 BC



**Narrow-Bladed
Axe (Type 3)**

1710 – 160 BC

Narrow-Bladed Axe of Di-Sobekemhat (Stratum d/1, Area F/I, Tomb F/I-m/18-Gr. 3)



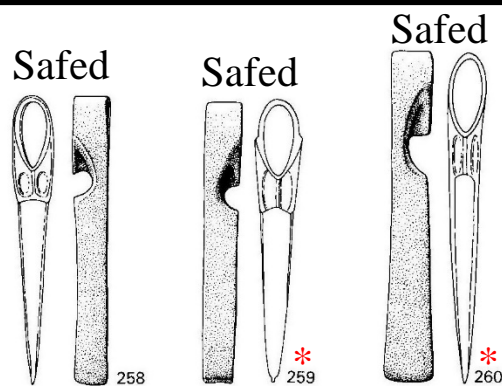
Narrow-Bladed (Type-1) Axe

Replicated
Handle



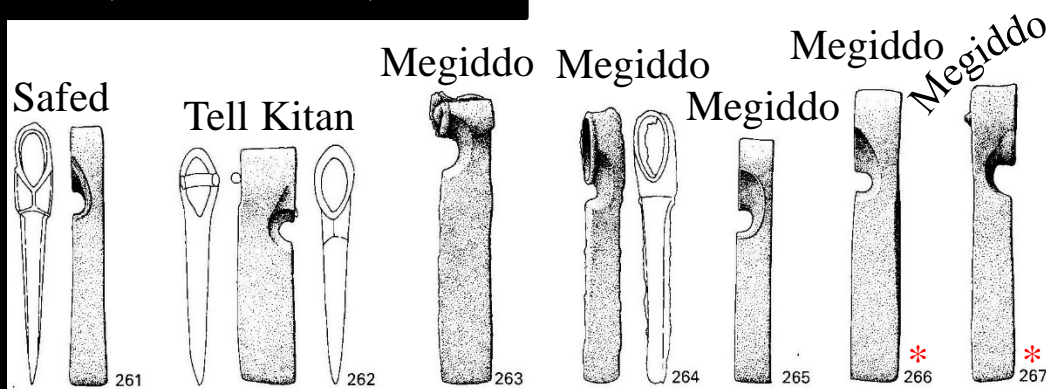
Authentic
Blade

Miron, *Axes and Adzes*, Plate 16



Narrow-Bladed Axes from Canaan

Parallels: Safed (259, 260),
Megiddo (266, 267)



Narrow-Bladed Axe from
Stratum d/1 at Avaris



Narrow-Bladed Axe of
Hebeded on Sinai 115

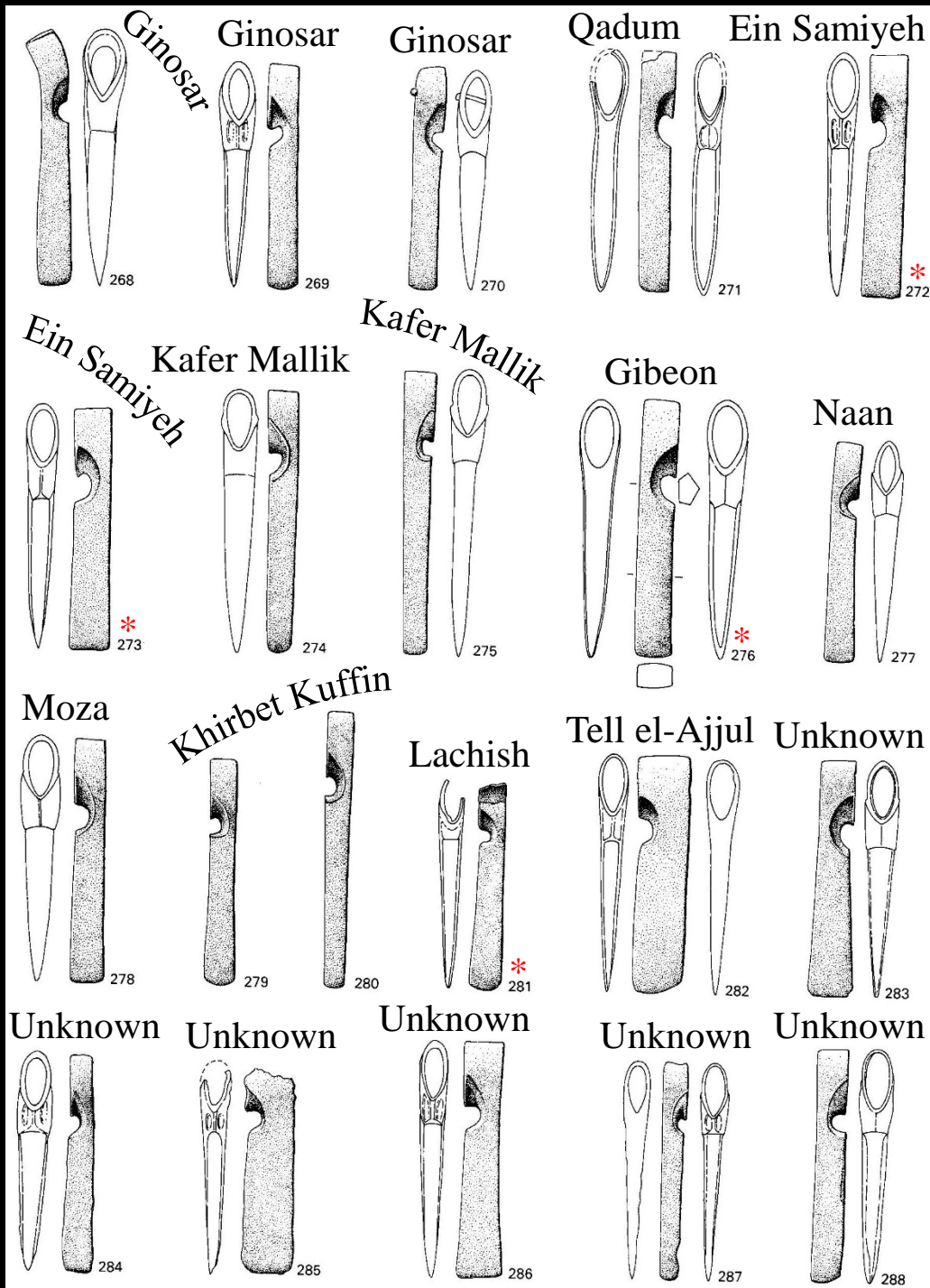
Narrow-Bladed Axes from Canaan

Narrow-Bladed Axe from Stratum d/1 at Avaris



Miron, Axes and Adzes, Plate 17

Parallels: Gibeon (276), Lachish (281), Ein Samiyeh (272, 273)

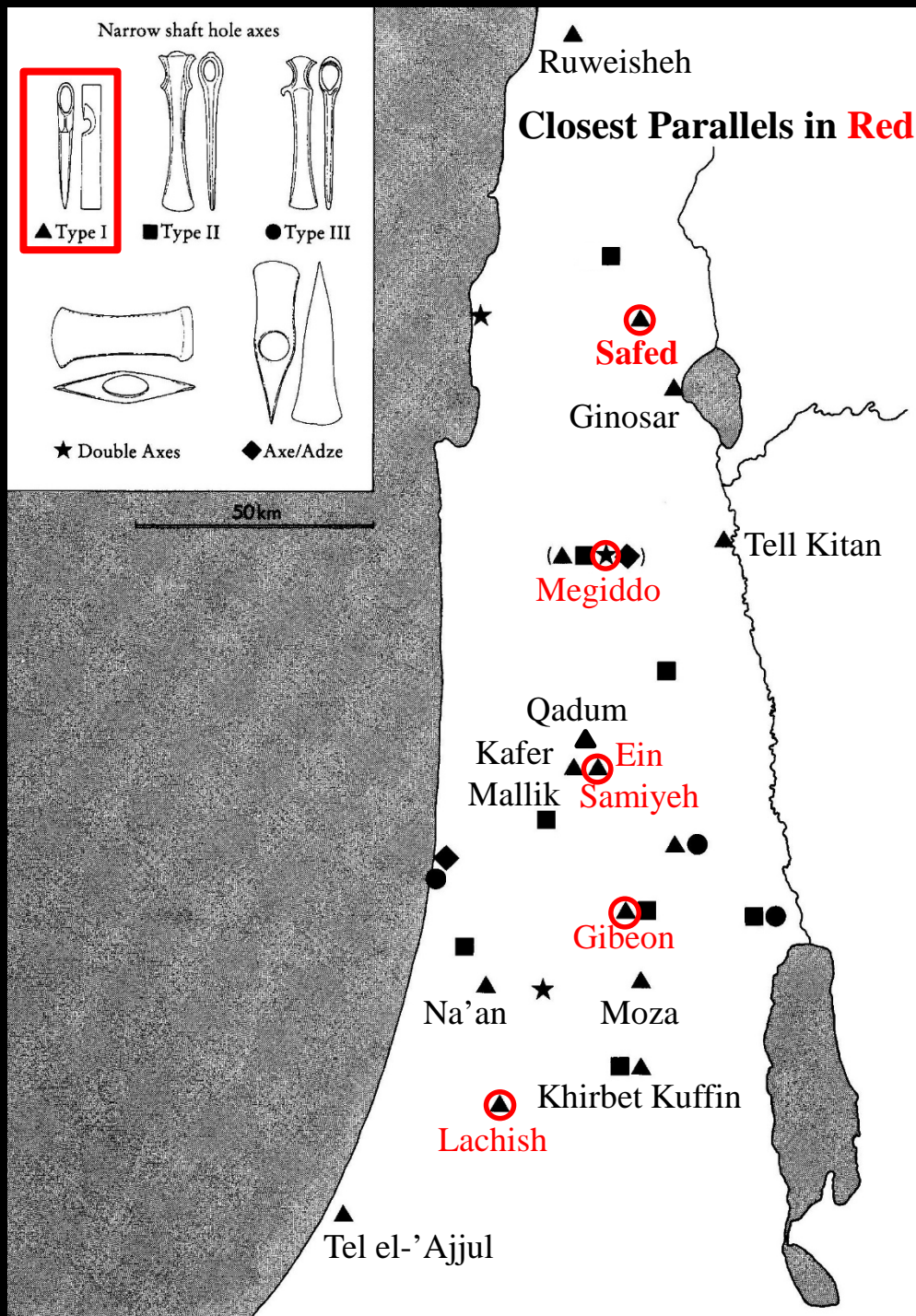


Distribution of Narrow-Bladed Axes from Canaan (Type 1)

Narrow-Bladed Axe from Stratum d/1 at Avaris



Miron, Axes and Adzes, Plate 24



ḥk3 = ruler

n = of

Rtnw = Retjenu

Signet Scarab

Who is
Sobek-em-ḥat?

di = appointed

Sbk = Sobek

m-ḥ3t = at the head

**“HE WHOM SOBEKEMḤAT
HAS APPOINTED”**

[ḥk3 n R]tnw Di-Sbk-m-ḥ3t = [the ruler of R]etjenu, Di-Sobek-em-ḥat

