

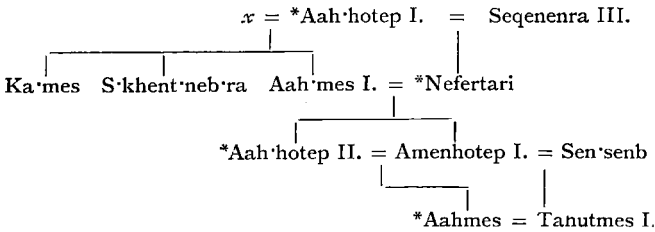
A HISTORY OF EGYPT



SEVENTEENTH DYNASTY

THE rise of this dynasty is wholly lost to sight under the Hyksos power. It is only with the later kings who began to assert their independence, or perhaps with the intermarriage of an invading and assertive family from the south, that any historical personages appear. The details of the relationships involve so many considerations, and so much acquaintance with the family, that it is better to study them after an outline of the period; they are therefore placed here at the end of this volume, and should be referred to for seeing the reasons for the arrangement adopted.

So far as the details are yet known, it appears that the royal family at the close of the XVIIth dynasty stands thus—



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Excerpt

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In order to see how far the ages and other data agree, it is best to tabulate the chronology; not as laying down what is certain, but only as proving that no hidden discordance lies in what is already supposed to be ascertained. The fixed points that we have to deal with are the lengths of the reigns of Aahmes and Amenhotep, — the ages of Seqenenra and Aahmes (about 40 and 55 respectively at death, see Ms. M. 528, 535), — the successive marriages of Aah-hotep, — the eight princes and princesses who were, some, or all, probably her children after the birth of those who came to the throne, — and the general presumption of the ages of marriage. We see in the following table that there will be nothing contradictory among these data; and, with the exception of the very uncertain length of the short reigns of Kames and S'khent-neb-ra (for which an assumption has been made, regulated by the age and family of their mother), there is probably not much uncertainty in these statements.

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SEVENTEENTH DYNASTY

[DYN. XVII.]

We may now approximately arrange the reigns and dates of the XVIIth dynasty—

		B.C. about
XVII. (Beginning of dynasty)	1738 1660
5. ? Se'qenen'ra (I.)	Ta'āā	1635
6. Se'qenen'ra (II.)	Ta'āā'āā	1610
7. Se'qenen'ra (III.)	Ta'āā'ken	1597
8. Uaz'kheper'ra	Ka'mes	1591
9. Se'khent'neb'ra	_____ . . .	1587
XVIII. Aahmes		1562

Of the earlier part of this dynasty we know nothing. The resemblance of Seqenenra III. to the Berber type points to these kings having come down from Ethiopia. A new dynasty beginning with Aahmes seems to have been due to the break in the family, he being descended of an Egyptian and not an Ethiopian father. This dynasty, then, would seem to have been descended from a part of the royal Egyptian line which had taken refuge in the far south to escape from the Hyksos oppression; and was there mingled with southern blood, and became of the dark Berber type. As the Hyksos power decayed, this southern family fought its way northward again, and so laid the foundation of the XVIIIth dynasty. For the date of the beginning of this dynasty we have only the statement of Manetho, which gives 151 years for the duration of it. Of the first eighty years, or so, we have no names remaining; perhaps they should be sought in Nubia rather than in Egypt, as there is no allusion to tombs of the predecessors of the Seqenenras at Thebes.

Rahotep, as we have noticed in vol. i., belongs to

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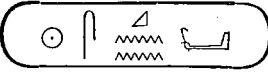
B.C. 1738-1587.]

SEVENTEENTH DYNASTY

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the XVIth rather than to the XVIIth dynasty, as he reigned at Koptos, and therefore quite under the Hyksos power. This points to his being a vassal under the great Hyksos kings, and not one of the fighting family who ejected them, as there is no place for him anywhere in the later part of this dynasty when it was becoming independent.

We will now notice the actual remains of these kings before proceeding to notice their great work of expelling the Hyksos.

XVII. 5 ? SE'QENEN'RA  about
1660-
1635 B.C.

TA'ĀĀ



Palette	(Louvre)	(C.M. 191 bis, 3).
Throw-stick	Draa-abul-nega	(M.D. 51).
Abbott papyrus		(Ms. E. 230).
<i>Queen, Aah'hotep.</i>		
<i>Eldes't son, Aahmes (died young)</i>		(Rec. xi. 159).
<i>Son, Thuau.</i>		(M.D. 51, b 1).
<i>Daughter, Aahmes.</i>		

The existence of this king, as separate from his successors, is shown by the Abbott papyrus containing the Ramesside inspection of the royal tombs. His tomb is there named; and it is followed by that of Sekenenra Ta'āā'āā, or the great Ta'āā, whose name we might otherwise have supposed to be a variant of Ta'āā, remembering the confusion of the Antef names. This king's tomb is named next after that of Sebek'em'sauf, and is described thus: "The tomb of king (Seqenenra), son of the sun (Ta'āā), examined this day by the masons, was found intact." The only contemporary objects bearing the king's name are a palette in the Louvre, on which he is said to be beloved

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of Amen·ra and of Safekh; a throw-stick found in the tomb of Aqi·hor at Draa-abul-nega, which bears the cartouche Ta·aā, and the name of the king's son Thuau; and an important statue of the king's eldest

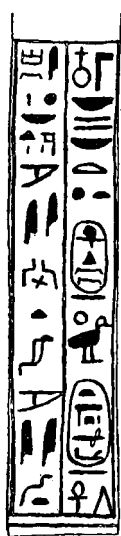


FIG. 1.—Palette of Ta'aa.
1:2. Louvre.

son Aahmes, deceased, made by his father Ta'aa a, his mother the king's daughter and queen Aah·hotep, and his sister Aahmes (Rec. xi. 159). Though at first sight these names Aahmes and Aahhotep would seem to point to this being of Ta'aa'qen, yet we have to balance the probability of the Aah names having been earlier in use in the family, against the improbability of Ta'aa'qen being written without his



FIG. 2.—Throw-stick
of Thuau. 1:12.
Ghizeh.

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B.C. 1660-1635.]

SE·QENEN·RA I

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distinctive title *gen*, and being thus confused with his ancestors. This monument seems, then, rather to belong to Ta'aa, whose name is on it, than to either of the following kings.

XVII. 6?

SE·QENEN·RA



about 1635-1610 B.C.

TA·ĀĀ·ĀĀ



Of this king nothing is known except the mention of his tomb in the Abbott papyrus. Following the account of his predecessor's tomb, we read: "The tomb of the king (Se·qenen·ra), son of the sun (Taāā·āā), who is the second king (Ta·āā), examined on this day by the masons, was found intact."

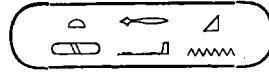
XVII. 7?

SE·QENEN·RA



about 1610-1597 B.C.

TA·ĀĀ·QEN



Coffin and mummy	Deir el Bahri	(Ms. M. 526).
Queen, Aah·hotep.		
Coffin	Draa-abul-nega } Ghizeh Mus. } Louvre	Ms. G. 77-84. M.B. 810-839. P. Sc. 760.
Canopic jars		
Jewellery		
Gold ring		

Children—Nefert'ari.

And by the sequence in the tomb of Khabeht probably also Binpu, Uazmes, Rames, Kenaru, Aahmes, *Ka'mes, *Sat'ir'bau, *Ta'khred'qa. (of Aah'hotep by previous husband, Kames, Se'khent'ne'ra, Aahmes).

The coffin and mummy of this king were found in the great deposit of royal mummies in the tomb at Deir el Bahri or "the northern convent" at Thebes. The out-

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line of this discovery is given at the close of this volume. The body of Seqenenra had probably been shifted from one hiding-place to another, like the bodies and coffins of the other kings whose removals are inscribed upon them. Lastly, it was laid in the tomb of the priest-kings until removed to the museum at Cairo.

The coffin is heavy in style, like those of the Antefs, with a single line of inscription down the front. The mummy shows that the king died on the field of battle. From the position of the wounds, it appears that he was



FIG. 3.—Coffin of Seqenenra. Ghizeh.

first struck down by an enemy on his left hand, who attacked him by a violent blow on the side of the head in front of the ear, and the tongue was bitten between the teeth in the agony of the conflict; the next stroke was mortal, an axe crashed through the left side of the head, leaving an opening two inches long; and a dagger-cut above the right eyebrow completed the attack. The body was recovered by his subjects, and reverently preserved for embalming and burial. Closely wrapped up, so that the soft parts putrefied instead of drying in the open air, it was carried for many days to Thebes, where it was as fully preserved as the condition of it allowed; but the bones of the body and the left arm were entirely bared of flesh. The king appears to have been of the Berber type, tall, slender, and vigorous, with a small, long

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B.C. 1610-1597.]

SE·QENEN·RA III

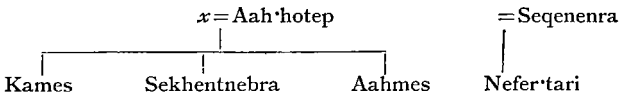
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head, and fine black hair. The beard was shaved, but not the hair of the head (Ms. M. 527, 771, 776; pl. iii.). A rude stone seal found at Thebes may belong to this, or to a previous king Seqenenra.

His wife Aah·hotep was one of the great queens of Egyptian history, important as the historic link of the dynasties, and revered along with her still more celebrated and honoured daughter Nefertari. We have already noticed how her son Aahmes (so described on Edfu stele, Rec. ix. 93, Ms. M. 626) was of the ordinary Egyptian complexion, while her daughter Nefertari (so placed in the series of Khabekht, L.D. iii. 2a, and called royal daughter) was black. As Seqenenra was Berber, Nefertari might be three-quarters black; while Aahmes, if son of an Egyptian husband, might be three-quarters Egyptian, thus accounting for the difference. The age of Aahmes at his accession, after the insignificant reigns of his brothers, shows that he was the son of a first husband, implying that Aah·hotep first married an Egyptian, and secondly, Seqenenra. The importance of Nefertari as heiress shows that the queen had no daughter by her first husband. The reign of Kames before Aahmes shows that he was the elder brother. And the presence of Se·khent·neb·ra between Aahmes and Kames (tomb of Khabekht, L.D. iii. 2a) shows that he was another brother, who probably reigned briefly between them. Thus we reach the relationships.



FIG. 4.—Gold ring of Aah·hotep. Louvre.



Though the reasons for this arrangement are not very strong, yet there are no objections to it so far known, and the resulting chronology is not discordant.

Two documents serve to show the long life of the queen. A Theban stele of Kames (Rec. ix. 94) states, in the tenth year of Amenhotep I., that Aah·hotep I., the royal mother, was still acting. According to the dates, she would then be eighty-eight years old; and this cannot be abbreviated, as it is made up of fixed amounts, the birth of Aahmes (second or third son) about her twentieth year, his fifty-five years of life (Ms. M. 535), and the ten years of reign of Amenhotep. The other stele, of Iufi (Rec. ix. 92), appears to show that Aah·hotep was still alive under Tahutmes I., when she must have been about a hundred years old. She must certainly have had, therefore, a long life, and have seen the whole revolution of the rise of Egypt,—born under Hyksos rule, and dying with the wealth of Asia around her, won by her son, grandson, and great-grandson.

The name of Aah·hotep is familiar in connection with the beauty of her jewellery, which, till the discoveries at Dahshur, has been a unique treasure. The coffin containing the mummy and jewellery was found slightly buried in the ground at Draa-abul-Nega, the northern and most ancient end of the cemetery of Thebes, where lie the tombs of the XIth dynasty. It is certain that such was not its original site, and that it must have been taken from a royal tomb. By whom? Not by the Arab plunderers of the Deir el Bahri tomb, as has been suggested; nor by any regular tomb thieves, such as plundered the tombs in the Ramesside age. Neither of such parties would encumber themselves with moving a great coffin and a mummy, when all the valuables might be gathered up in a few minutes and put into a bag. Such a reburial of an intact mummy in its heavy case, shows a care and respect for it such as no plunderer would have had. Rather must it have been taken out of the tomb by pious hands, when the disorganisation of government could no longer protect the tombs from thieves or foes, and have been committed unmarked and unseen to the safe keeping of the earth, for fear of the fate which awaited it if left in the well-known tomb. It was a part of that care for