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978-1-108-06566-5 - A History of Egypt: Volume 3: From the XIXth to the XXXth Dynasties

W. M. Flinders Petrie

Excerpt

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# A HISTORY OF EGYPT



## THE NINETEENTH DYNASTY

IN the two previous volumes we have traced through the history of Egypt the fluctuations of power and ability. Down to this point the strength of the civilisation though transiently fading, yet continually revived in various forms with almost equal vitality. But after the XVIIIth dynasty, however, the decay of the State was without remedy; each capable ruler fell short of the scope of his forerunners, and the only prosperous times were when some external power—Ethiopian, Libyan, or Greek—administered the country.

Though this dynasty marks a profound difference in the civilisation of Egypt, yet its rise is very obscure. The origin of the Ramesside family is unknown. The name of Rames appears at Thebes as that of a vizier at the end of Amenhotep III. and under his son, active therefore about 1380 B.C. (S.E.W. 378); this tomb was unfinished, and probably the same man carved a tomb at Tell el Amarna, in which he is named as general and major-domo of Amenhotep III. The name Suti, a form of the god Set, is also that of a high official of Amenhotep IV. (Rec. xv. 42). And the names of Suti and Rames appear together on one tablet of about this period (Munich. Lb. D. 640). Probably Ramessu I. and his son Sety were related to some, or all, of these people; and in any case the presence of these names in an ordinary Egyptian family of the

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time, shows that no foreign source need be supposed. The position of Ramessu was a strong one, as he had married a royal princess some twenty years before he took the throne.

The Greek lists are here so greatly confused, and have so many certain repetitions, that it will suffice to notice them afterwards. From the monuments we have the following results as probable:—

	MONUMENTS. years.	LISTS. years.	B.C. about
1 Ramessu I.	2	...	1328
2 Sety I.	9	...	1326
3 Ramessu II.	67	66	1300
4 Merenptah	8	20	1234
5 Sety II.	4	...	1214
6 Amenmeses	1	5	1209
7 Siptah + Tausert	6	7	1208
8 Setnekht	1	...	1203
			1202

The general length of this dynasty cannot well be more, as Bakenkhonsu was 16 years old, or more, in the reign of Sety, by 1300 B.C., and yet his statue was carved under Ramessu III., after 1202; hence he must have been at least 114 years old. On the other hand, the length cannot be less, as the row of ancestors of Ramessu III. at Medinet Habu shows Setnekht next after Sety II., and therefore probably his son: thus there were six generations between Ramessu I. and III., so giving five generations between Ramessu II. and VI.; and as their horoscope dates are 120 years apart, this averages 24 years to each generation, including a 13th (Merenptah) and two other younger sons. Hence this dynasty cannot well be shorter, especially as the reigns could scarcely be cut down.

To show how far the dates will agree to the probable ages of the kings, we may arrange them as follows:—

B.C.	o Ram. I. born	o Ram. II.	o Sety I.	o Sety II.	o Setnekht born (?)
1375	29 birth of	26 birth of	20 succeeds	22 birth of	22 birth of
1346	47 succeeds	18 succeeds	o Merenptah	o Tausert (?)	o Anenmeses and
1328	49 dies	46 dies	20 succeeds	22 birth of	24 Anenmeses and
1326			o Ram. I.	o Sety II.	o Setnekht born (?)
			28 birth of	22 birth of	22 birth of
			18 succeeds	58 succeeds	22 birth of
			1292	1270	1209
			1248	1246	1208
			1234	1224	1203
			84 dies	78 dies	
			56 succeeds	59 dies	
			1214	Amenmeses d.	
				Siptah d.	
				42 succeeds	
				1202	
				43 dies	
				22 succeeds	
				1202	
				22 birth of Ram. IV.	
				1198	
				26 birth of Ram. VI.	
				1170	
				53 dies	

The absolute dates taken here are the births of Ramessu II. and R. VI. by their horoscopes; and, as observed above, Bakenkhonsu's life prevents any considerable lengthening here. The assumptions of the actual ages of the kings are on the following grounds: Ram. I. married a princess, and therefore probably after he had won some position; the whole of the ages in this reign are probably more rather than less than here stated. Sety I. certainly shows a face not over middle age in his mummy; and though Ramessu II. was not the eldest son, he was not likely to be born later than the 28th year of Sety. Merenptah was the 13th son of R. II., who had 6 sons in his 23rd year of age. The 22 years allowed for the later generations is the average of eldest son generations in the Jewish kings. Though a few years of uncertainty exists throughout, this system shows that the necessities of the family genealogy fit quite reasonably with the chronology. On the succession see *Rev. Arch.* iii. ser. xix. 275.

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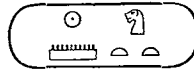
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MEN·PEHTI·RA

[DYN. XIX. 1.]

XIX. 1. MEN·PEHTI·RA



1328-

RAMESSU (I.)



1326 B.C.

Mummy (?) and coffin lid, Cairo (Ms. M. 551).  
Tomb, No. 16 in valley of Kings' Tombs (L.D. iii. 123; C.M. 236-7;  
M.A.F. iii. 157).

Sarabit	Two steles	
Qantara	Base of hawk	(Pr. M. xix.; P.N. 104).
El Merg	Inscription	(N.Y. 69).
Memphis?	Base of statue (Louvre)	(Rev. E. iii. 46).
Abydos	Name of <i>ka</i>	(P. Ab. lxxvi.).
Karnak	Pylon before hypostyle hall	(B.E. 243; C.N. ii. 45).
"	West side	(L.D. iii. 124 a-c).
Wady Halfa Stele, 2nd yr. (Louvre)		(C.M. i. 2; R.S. 45).
Scarabs, not rare.		
<i>Worshipped</i> —Temple of Qurneh,		
by Sety I.		(L.D. iii. 131 b; L.D.T. iii. 91, 99).
	by Ramessu II.	(L.D. iii. 151 a, b).
Abydos, ancestors by barque of Sety		(M.A. i. 32).
"	" in lists	(M.A. i. 43; Pr. M. ii.).
Ramesseum, statues of ancestors		(L.D. iii. 163).
Medinet Habu, "		(L.D. iii. 212).
In tomb of Anhurkhaui		(L.D. iii. 1 d).
" Penbuy		(L.D. iii. 173).
On stele of Hora, Abydos (Cairo)		(M.A. ii. 51).
<i>Queen</i> —SITRA		
Tomb in Bab el Harim		(C.N. i. 394; L.D.T. iii. 235).
With barque of Sety I.		(M.A. i. 32).
In tomb of Sety I.		(M.A.F. ii. pt. iii. pl. xi. 178-81).

The fragments of two coffins, one perhaps original, the other appropriated for Ramessu I., were found in the royal cavern at Deir el Bahri, lying with an unnamed and unwrapped mummy. It is supposed that Ramessu had been entirely plundered in the tomb of Anhapu, and the remains collected together and re-deposited (Ms. M. 552). The inscription records that

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B.C. 1328-1326.]

RA·MESSU I

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his body had been moved to the tomb of Sety I., and thence to the tomb of Anhapu. The rock-cut tomb in the Biban el Meluk contains the sarcophagus and carved scenes.

The only serious work of this brief reign was the beginning of the great hypostyle hall at Karnak, by building the western pylon in front of it (C.N. ii. 45).

That the beginning of a new dynasty was at once recognised, is seen by the king taking for his names an elaborate parody of the names of Aahmes I., the founder of the previous dynasty, thus :

*Uaz-kheperu Ra-neb-pehti Aah-mes.*

*Uaz-sutenyu Ra-men-pehti Ra-messu.*

The same is seen when Sheshenq I. parodies the names of Nesibanebdadu; thus the founder of the XXIIInd dynasty imitated the founder of the XXIst. It is clear, then, that the division in dynasties was recognised by the Egyptians at these four occasions.



FIG. 2.—Scarabs of Ramessu I. F.P. Coll.



FIG. 1.—Ramessu I., from his tomb. C.M. 236.

The king was generally adored in the list of kings, both official and private; and as he is often put in succession to Horemheb, it might be supposed that he was his son. Horemheb was probably in power as far back as 1350, though not actually reigning till 1330 B.C.

Hence his son might well be born about 1375, as suggested in the table above. There seems no impossibility in the case; and the main fact against his royal descent is the evident fact of his founding a new dynasty.

That he married the princess Sitra is practically

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certain. She is placed next behind him by Sety I. (M.A. i. 32); she appears in the tomb of Sety, and must therefore be either his wife or mother (see *Maspero*, S.B.A. xi. 190, for various opinions); and as Tuy, the mother of Ramessu II., is well known, and Sitra is called "royal mother" in her tomb, she must be the mother of Sety. (There is no ground for the title "royal wife" being honorary; for in the XXIst dynasty Mutemhat is really the second name of Makara.) Moreover, it is certain that Sety did not inherit his face from his father, but he is strikingly like Sitra. What was the descent of Sitra is unknown.



FIG. 3.—Sitra, from her tomb. R.S. v. 19.

From the age of her son, she was probably born about 1363 B.C. She can hardly have been a daughter of Akhenaten, or she would appear on his inscriptions; but she might have been the daughter of Mertaten and Ra-ser-khepru, as Mertaten was born about 1380, and would be 17 at the birth of Sitra. Sety I. is the only known child of Ramessu I.

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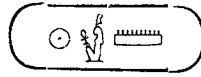
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[B.C. 1326-1300.]

SETY I

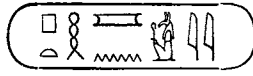
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XIX. 2. MEN'MAAT'RA



1326-

SETY (I.)  
MER'EN'PTAH.



1300 B.C.

Mummy and coffin, Cairo (Ms. M. 553).  
Tomb, No. 17 in valley of Kings' Tombs (L. D. iii. 133-137; M. A. F. ii.; N. L. S. i. -xvii.).  
,, sides of pillars in P. Mus., F. Mus.  
Alabaster coffin, London, Soane Mus. (Sharpe and Bonomi, *Sarcophagus of Oimeneptah I.*)

Tell esh Shibab	Stele, vase fragments	(P. E. F. Q. 1902, 211).
Sarabit el Khadem	Inscriptions, vases, etc.	(W. R. S. Nos. 110, 111; M. S. N. 374).
Alexandria	Inscription and figures	(B. Rs. 10).
,,	Door jamb	(A. S. v. 120).
Qantara	Base of hawk	(Pr. M. xix.; P. N. 104).
Tanis (?)	Altar, Vienna	(Rec. xii. 4).
Khataanah	Cartouches	(N. G. ix. d).
Tell el Yehudiyeh	Model of temple of Heliopolis	(G. O. xxxii.; Rec. viii. 8).
Heliopolis	Eight-sided pillar, Berlin	(W. G. 424).
,,	Slabs with gods and king, Brussels	(C. Rec. 39).
,,	Altar, granite, Cairo Mus.	(A. S. ii. 95).
,,	Flaminian obelisk, Rome	(G. O. 130).
,,	,, copied on Sallustian	(G. O. 135).
,,	Palace mentioned	(P. P. R. 3).
Memphis	Sanctuary named	(Posno tablet, No. 8).
,,	Name on block	(P. O. N. 272).
,,	Deposits of temple of Ptah	(B. T. 1223; F. P. Coll.).
Saqqara	Apis chapel	(M. S. 12).
,,	Granite weight (C. Mus.)	(Ms. G. 245).
Fayum	Stele, 2nd year	(Rec. xiv. 38).
Speos Artemidos	Inscriptions	(L. D. iii. 138 h-m).
,,	On inscrip., Tahutmes III.	(R. E. 149-152; L. D. T. ii. 109-10).
Girgeh (?)	Granite cramp	(Rec. ix. 89).
Abydos	Temple of the kings	(M. A. vol. i.; C. T. K.; Ms. Q. G. 157, 165).
,,	Temple of Osiris	(P. Ab. ii.).

8	MEN·MAAT·RA	[DYN. XIX. 2.]
Hammamat	Stele, offering to Amen.	(Pr. M. vi. 1).
Koptos	Sandstone sphinx	(P. Kop. 15).
Medamot	Blocks	(C.N. ii. 291).
Karnak	N. pillars, hypostyle hall	(M.K. ii. ; L.D. iii. 125 b-d).
„	E. face „ „	(M.K. ii.).
„	N. and S. sides, hypostyle hall	(M.K. ii. ; L.D. iii. 126-130 ; C.M. 290-302).
„	W. face, hypostyle hall	(L.D. 124 b-d).
„	Inscriptions edited	(Rec. xi. 52).
„	Alabaster stele	(Rec. xxvii. 70).
Luqsor	On pillars of colonnade	(W.G. 422).
Qurneh	Temple	(L.D. iii. 131, 132 ; C.M. 149-51).
Medinet Habu	Back of stat. Amenp. I.	(M.D. 101 ; Ms. Q.G. 268).
Redesieh	Temple	(L.D. i. 101, iii. 139-41 ; Rec. xiii. 76-9).
„	Rock steles	(L.D. iii. 138 n, o).
Gebeleyn	Inscrip. of Huy	(Rec. x. 134).
„	Building (?)	(S.B.A. xv. 499).
Silsileh	Rock chapel	(C.N. 248).
„	Stele	(R.E. 265-7).
„	Quarry inscription	(R.E. 263-5 ; L.D. iii. 141).
Elephantine	Stele, temple of Khnum	(C.N. 223-5).
Aswan	Amenemapt inscriptions	(P.S. 109, 110 ; L.D. iii. 141 i, h).
Kalabsheh	King with Horus and Set	(G.D. 13).
Dakkeh	Inscription	(P.O.N. 525).
Qobban	Well	(R.P. viii. 78).
Dosheh	Stele, offering to Triad	(L.D. iii. 141 k).
Ibrim	Stele by Amenemapt	(Rec. xvi. 170).
Wady Halfa	Stele, 1st year	(B. Mus. 1180).
Sesebi	Temple	(L.D. 141).
<i>Statues and portraits—</i>		
Statue	Vatican	(W.G. 425).
Statue, portion	Sorrento	(W.G. 425).
Statues, portions	Cairo (Abydos)	(M.A. 351, 352).
Statue, wooden	B. Mus. (Tomb)	(A.B. fig. 170).
Fragment	Florence	(S. Cat. F. 209).
Ushabtis, common		
Group : Amen and Mut	Karnak C. Mus.	(Ms. Q.G. 151).
„ Amen and king	Luqsor	(W.G. 425).
Portraits		(R.A. 84 ; L.D. iii. 133, 296, 53-54).



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B.C. 1326-1300.]

SETY I

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*Restorations by Sety, after erasure of Amen, etc.*

Karnak	Pylon IX.	(L.D. iii. 15, 61, 125a; C.N. ii. 191-2).
„	Pylon X.	(C.N. ii. 189).
„	Tahutmes III. temple, stele	(C.N. ii. 256; Ms. Q.G. 122, 127).
„	Stele of Amenhotep II.	(Rec. xiii. 160).
„	Obelisk of Hatshepsut	(L.D. iii. 23, 24).
Qurneh	Steles of Amenhotep III.	(P.S.T. x. xi.).
„	Deir el Bahri	(E. Ob. 237).
Medinet Habu	Tahutmes III. temple	(L.D. iii. 202 d).
El Kab	Amenhotep III. temple	(T.A. i. iii.).
Amada	Tahutmes III. temple	(C.M. 45, 5).

*Small objects.*

Plan of gold mines, papyrus		(L.A. 22; C.M. O.ii.).
Papyri of 2nd and 3rd years		(P.P.R. 3, 21, 22).
Weight, grey granite, Saqqara	C. Mus.	(Ms. Q.G. 328).
Stone and wood cramps	C. Mus., B. Mus.	(Ms. Q.G. 330).
Handle of a stick	P. Mus.	(P.L. pp. 156, 631).
Sa-amulet, wood	C. Mus.	
Heart amulet, green glaze	C. Mus.	(M.D. 48 a).
Granite altar	Carlsberg	(S.G.C. p. 144).
Altar	Miramar	
Base of altar	C. Mus.	(M.A. 1365).
Stele, Sety offering to Amenhotep I.	T. Mus.	(L. cat. T. 1466).
Scarabs, cylinder, and vases.		

*Queen—TUAA.*

Mother of Ramessu II.		(M.A. ii. 16).
Statue	Medinet Habu	(L.D. T. iii. 148).
Statue	Vatican	(Mon. Inst. ii. 40).
On colossus	Abu Simbel	(B.E. 373).
Portrait	„ „	(L.D. iii. 297, 55).
Head		(R.A. 127).
Name at Ramesseum		(Q.R. xxix.).
Name at Tanis		(Rec. ix. 18).
XII. statue reworked		(R.A. 128; P.T. 1. 6-7; pl. ii. 11-12; xiv. 1).
Statue reappropriated		(A.S. ii. 195).
With Ram. II. on stele	Miramar (1152)	
Granite paint palette	(B. Mus.)	

*Sons—Amen-nefer-neb-f.*

(M.D. 73, 68; Rec. xviii. 121).

Ramessu, see next reign.

*Daughter—Hentmara.*

On statue	Vatican	(Mon. Inst. ii. 40).
Group with Ramessu II.	Abukir	(Rec. xii. 211).
Burial (or reburial)		(Salt Pap. 124, verso i. 11).

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By Ramessu II.	Qurneh	(L.D. iii. 150 c).
„	Karnak hypostyle	(L.D. iii. 143 c).
„	Chapel, Abydos	(M.A. i. 32).
By Siptah	Qurneh	(L.D. iii. 201 c).
In procession of kings' statues		(L.D. iii. 163).

The length of the reign of Sety is not fixed; two monuments give the 9th year, but the abundance of his works suggest a longer reign. The supposed evidence of its shortness, from the figure of Ramessu II. in his first year, is untrue, as that figure was added later (A.Z. xxxvii. 130). On the other hand, the somewhat vague data by dead reckoning of the reigns would suggest about 26 years of reign; or 20 years if "Menofres" is Ramessu I. (see family table of dynasty, p. 3).



FIG. 4.—Mummy of Sety I.  
Cairo Museum.

The character of Sety is one of the best in the history. His zeal for upholding the power of Egypt is worthy of the previous dynasty; and his pious regard for his predecessors exceeds that of any other king. His temple at Qurneh was for the worship of his father; his temple at Abydos was in honour of the primitive kings, whose tombs had become known to him; while his sculptors were busily engaged throughout the land in carefully recarving the name of Amen wherever it had been erased during the dominance of the Aten. These restorations were exact, and carefully followed the traces of the original texts; the only insertion by Sety being in each case a single line, which never interferes with the original, stating that the restoration of the monuments was made by Sety. This work is in the strongest contrast to the mad piracies and destruction wrought by his son and grand-