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978-1-108-08291-4 - A History of the Pharaohs: Volume 2:

The Twelfth to the Eighteenth Dynasties

Arthur Weigall

Excerpt

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CHAPTER I

AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY OF THE CHRONOLOGY

IN the first chapter of the previous volume of this History I put forward a new arrangement of the chronology of ancient Egypt which was based upon two primary considerations. Firstly, my reconstruction of the "Palermo Stone" Annals and study of the Turin Papyrus showed that the totals of 949 years for the first six dynasties, followed by 6 kingless years and then 181 years for the Seventh and Eighth Dynasties, as given in that Papyrus, were quite correct, and could be accepted without further question. Secondly, I showed that the Turin Papyrus' total of 160 years for the Eleventh Dynasty could likewise be accepted; and, by making it clear that the Ninth and Eleventh Dynasties were founded at the same time, and ruled contemporaneously at Heracleopolis and Thebes, I was able to arrive at an unbroken chronology from the First Dynasty down to the Twelfth Dynasty, the date of which, as will presently be seen, is astronomically fixed. Thus, the dead reckoning of the length of the reigns or dynasties in this unbroken sequence of recorded figures brought me to the year 3407 B.C. as the date of the accession of Menes, the first king of the First Dynasty. I then proved the correctness of this figure by a new study of the ancient Egyptian calendar; and as the subject of this calendar plays an important part in the chronological arrangement of the periods dealt with in the present volume, it will be as well to remind the reader of the conclusions arrived at, and to add one or two points to my previous argument.

In the first place I showed that the calendar was instituted by Menes some time after his accession; for the fraction of his last year, given in months and days on the Palermo Stone, clearly indicated that the calendar year of 365 days was in use at the end of his reign but had not been in use at its begin-

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ning. This is discussed at the foot of page 24 of the previous volume, and on page 21 of the present volume. Now, the Egyptian calendar, having no Leap-year's Day, lost roughly one day in every four years (or exactly $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day in each year), and thus dropped behind the actual seasons, and wandered round the solar year, only getting back into its original position after 1,508 years; and thus a very simple problem was presented, namely, that if my date for Menes was correct, then, somewhere about 3400 B.C., the calendar must have been in its original position, and the seasons it represented must have coincided with actuality. What, then, was the original nature of the calendar? It was divided into 12 months, each of 30 days, making a total of 360 days; and this was followed by 5 epagomenal or intercalary days, completing the 365 days of the year. The 360 days were divided again into 3 seasons, each of 4 months: the first season was called *Akhe*, "the Growing-season"; the second was called *Pero*, the meaning of which (Vol. I, p. 22) is not quite certain; and the third was called *Shom*, "the Flood-season." Now the first rise of the Nile, which is the beginning of the flood, takes place in the second half of June, and therefore this was obviously the original date for the beginning of *Shom*, "the Flood-season," i.e. the 3rd season of the calendar; and hence the 1st season must have begun in the second half of October, although Egyptologists had always thought that it began in July. What seasonal event, then, occurred in the second half of October which could be regarded as a fitting annual occasion for the opening of the new year? The answer is supplied by the Palermo Stone annals; for at the end or bottom of each year-space in the annals there is a separate small space, which might well be regarded as representing the intercalary period, and in this space the annual height of the year's flood is recorded. In other words the 360-days' year was seen to end at the reaching of the highest flood-level, which was then announced and recorded in the 5 days' intercalary period, and the new year began with the decline of the flood. But the *Knobel-Petrie Tables* show that in 3400 B.C. the last day of the last month of the calendar fell on October 15th-16th, and the new year began, 5 days later, on October 20th-21st. Is October 15th, then, the date of the completion of the highest period

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of the flood?—for, if so, the fact proves that the calendar was instituted in 3400 B.C.

When I was preparing the first volume of this History I was using figures obtained more or less from private observations, and I did not hesitate to state that October 15th *was* the average annual date of the beginning of the final decline of the water; but since then I have received from Dr. E. McKenzie Taylor of Cambridge some more exact figures. These show that the earliest recorded date for the height of the flood at the Roda Island Nilometer, near Cairo and Memphis, is October 1st, and that the latest date for that event is October 11th. At Assiout, about 250 miles further up stream, the highest point is reached about 10 days earlier; and, judging by this, the highest point would be reached in the regions round the mouths of the Nile, on the Egyptian sea-coast, about 5 days later than at Roda, namely October 16th. That is to say the flood has reached its limit at the end of its journey through Egypt by October 16th, which was exactly the last day of the last month of the calendar in 3400 B.C. Menes, it will be recalled, reigned at Memphis, close to Roda Island, and thus the final flood-levels for the whole country would have been reported and announced by the end of the 5 intercalary days, as the Palermo Stone indicates.

If, then, the last day of the last month was October 15th–16th in 3400 B.C., then the 1st day of the 3rd season, the “Flood-season,” would have fallen in that year on June 17th–18th. But we know that the first rise of the Nile was regarded as coinciding with the first observation of the heliacal rising of the dog-star Sirius after the annual period of its invisibility; and in 3400 B.C. this rising of Sirius occurred exactly on June 17th–18th, 120 days before the last day of the last month. Therefore, the inventors of the calendar saw that one more fixed point, falling on February 18th–19th, would divide the 12-months’ year exactly into three seasons; and this date coincided with the reaping of the first harvest. Thus, the original calendar is seen to have been a practical agricultural arrangement of the year: the 1st season, “the Growing-season,” beginning at the decline of the flood, when the seed could be sown; the 2nd season beginning with the completion of the harvesting; and the 3rd season, “the Flood-season,”

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beginning with the first rise of the Nile and the coinciding rising of Sirius. But since the calendar was in this position only in about 3400 B.C., after which it began to drop behind the actual seasons, the date of its institution must have been in about that year; and since we know that it must have been instituted a short time after the accession of Menes, therefore my date for the beginning of that king's reign, 3407 B.C., which was arrived at by the dead reckoning recorded above, is absolutely confirmed.

For the convenience of students, I give here a table of the detailed sequence of dates covering the first eleven dynasties which were dealt with in Volume I; but it is to be noted that the years B.C. only represent round numbers: "Year 8" of Menes, for instance, does not coincide exactly with 3400 B.C., but with the period from October 20th–21st, 3400 B.C., to October 19th–20th, 3399 B.C. In studying the chronology of the period covered in the present volume, the student will be able to remind himself, by reference to this table, that the dates which I give are based on this solid foundation, and are not able to be altered by more than a year or so.

A TABLE OF THE YEARS AND DATED EVENTS OF THE FIRST ELEVEN DYNASTIES

(N.B.—The page-references are to those of Vol. I of this history.)

Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date. B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
1	3407	Death of Narmer; accession of Ohe Meni (Menes) and establishment of First Dynasty	1	15	3393		15
				16	3392		16
				17	3391		17
				18	3390		18
				19	3389		19
				20	3388		20
2	3406	(Meni reigned 62 years according to the <i>Annals</i> , and <i>Manetho</i> : pp. 5, 7, 17, 61, 109.)	2	21	3387		21
3	3405		3	22	3386		22
4	3404		4	23	3385		23
5	3403		5	24	3384		24
6	3402		6	25	3383		25
7	3401		7	26	3382		26
8	3400	Institution of the calendar	8	27	3381		27
				28	3380		28
9	3399	(The calendar was instituted by Menes in about the 8th year of his reign, 3400 B.C., pp. 20–26.)	9	29	3379		29
10	3398		10	30	3378		30
11	3397		11	31	3377		31
12	3396		12	32	3376		32
13	3395		13	33	3375		33
14	3394		14	34	3374		34

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Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
35	3373		35	79	3329		17
36	3372		36	80	3328		18
37	3371		37	81	3327		19
38	3370		38	82	3326		20
39	3369		39	83	3325		21
40	3368		40	84	3324		22
41	3367		41	85	3323		23
42	3366		42	86	3322		24
43	3365		43	87	3321		25
44	3364		44	88	3320	Feast of Birth of Anubis	26
45	3363		45				
46	3362		46	89	3319		27
47	3361		47	90	3318		28
48	3360		48	91	3317	Feast of Sokar	29
49	3359		49	92	3316		30
50	3358		50	93	3315		31
51	3357		51	94	3314		32
52	3356		52	95	3313	Feast of Desher	33
53	3355		53	96	3312		34
54	3354		54	97	3311		35
55	3353		55	98	3310		36
56	3352		56	99	3309		37
57	3351		57	100	3308		38
58	3350		58	101	3307		39
59	3349		59	102	3306		40
60	3348		60	103	3305		41
61	3347		61	104	3304		42
62	3346	Feast of Birth of Anubis	62	105	3303		43
				106	3302		44
63	3345	Death of Ohe Meni and accession of Khenti Athuthi	1	107	3301		45
				108	3300		46
				109	3299		47
				110	3298		48
64	3344	Feast of Desher	2	111	3297		49
65	3343	Making of two statues	3	112	3296		50
				113	3295		51
66	3342		4	114	3294		52
67	3341	Feast of Sokar. Planning of the royal palace	5	115	3293		53
				116	3292		54
				117	3291		55
68	3340	Feast of the Birth of the goddess Yamet	6	118	3290		56
				119	3289		57
				120	3288	Death of Khenti Athuthi and accession of Utho Khenkhen Athuthi	1
69	3339	Feast of the Birth of Min	7				
70	3338	Feast of Birth of Anubis	8				
71	3337	Feast of Wathet	9	121	3287	(Utho reigned 29 years according to the Annals and Turin Papyrus : pp. 8, 17, 61.)	2
72	3336	(Athuthi reigned	10	122	3286		3
73	3335	57 years according to the Annals and Manetho :	11	123	3285		4
74	3334	pp. 5, 7, 17, 61, 112.)	12	124	3284		5
75	3333		13	125	3283		6
76	3332		14	126	3282		7
77	3331		15	127	3281		8
78	3330		16	128	3280		9

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Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
129	3279		10	178	3230	<i>to the Annals :</i>	4
130	3278		11	179	3229	<i>pp. 8, 17, 61,</i>	5
131	3277		12	180	3228	<i>116.)</i>	6
132	3276		13	181	3227		7
133	3275		14	182	3226		8
134	3274		15	183	3225		9
135	3273		16	184	3224		10
136	3272		17	185	3223		11
137	3271		18	186	3222		12
138	3270		19	187	3221		13
139	3269		20	188	3220		14
140	3268		21	189	3219		15
141	3267		22	190	3218		16
142	3266		23	191	3217		17
143	3265		24	192	3216		18
144	3264		25	193	3215		19
145	3263		26	194	3214		20
146	3262		27	195	3213	Ceremony in temple of Sau in Heka. . . .	21
147	3261		28				
148	3260		29				
149	3259	Death of Utho KhenkhenAthuthi and accession of Queen Henneit Ato	1	196	3212	War against the Bedouin tribes	22
				197	3211	Celebration of the Jubilee	23
150	3258		2	198	3210	Census of the people	24
151	3257		3	199	3209	Feast of Wathet	25
152	3256		4	200	3208	Planning of the royal palace.	26
153	3255		5			Feast of Sokar	
154	3254	<i>(Henneit reigned</i>	6			Building of the royal palace	27
155	3253	<i>26 years according to the Annals:</i>	7	201	3207		
156	3252	<i>pp. 8, 17, 61,</i>	8			Making of the palace lake.	28
157	3251	<i>115.)</i>	9	202	3206	Great hippopotamus hunt	
158	3250		10				
159	3249		11				
160	3248		12				
161	3247		13	203	3205	Ceremony at temple at Ehen- insi (Heracleopolis)	29
162	3246		14				
163	3245		15				
164	3244		16				
165	3243		17	204	3204	Destruction of the city of Urke	30
166	3242		18				
167	3241		19	205	3203	Feast of the god Sed	31
168	3240		20				
169	3239		21	206	3202	Search for a new Apis-bull	32
170	3238		22				
171	3237		23	207	3201	Feast of the Births of Seshat and Mefdet	33
172	3236		24				
173	3235		25				
174	3234		26	208	3200		34
175	3233	Death of Henneit and accession of Udi Hesapti	1	209	3199		35
				210	3198		36
176	3232	<i>(Udi reigned 40</i>	2	211	3197		37
177	3231	<i>years according</i>	3	212	3196		38
				213	3195		39

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Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
214	3194		40	260	3148		24
215	3193	Death of Udi Hesapti and accession of Othib Merbi	1	261	3147		25
				262	3146		26
				263	3145		27
				264	3144		28
216	3192	(<i>Othib reigned 13 years according to the Annals:</i>	2	1	3143	Death of Behu Bineth; end of First Dynasty; accession of Butho and establishment of Second Dynasty	1
217	3191	<i>pp. 9, 17, 61, 121.)</i>	3				
218	3190		4				
219	3189		5				
220	3188		6				
221	3187		7				
222	3186		8				
223	3185		9				
224	3184		10	2	3142	(<i>The First Dynasty lasted 263 years according to Manetho, and</i>	2
225	3183		11	3	3141	<i>264 according to the Annals: pp. 9, 17, 61. Butho reigned 47 years according to Manetho adjusted, and the Annals: pp. 9, 17, 62, 127.)</i>	3
226	3182		12	4	3140		4
227	3181		13	5	3139		5
228	3180	Death of Othib Merbi and accession of Shememsu	1	6	3138		6
				7	3137		7
				8	3136		8
				9	3135		9
229	3179		2	10	3134		10
230	3178	Feast of Birth of Anubis	3	11	3133		11
				12	3132		12
231	3177	(<i>Shememsu reigned 9 years according to the Annals:</i>	4	13	3131		13
232	3176	<i>pp. 9, 17, 61, 122.)</i>	5	14	3130		14
233	3175		6	15	3129		15
234	3174		7	16	3128		16
235	3173		8	17	3127		17
236	3172		9	18	3126		18
237	3171	Death of Shememsu and accession of Behu Bineth	1	19	3125		19
				20	3124		20
				21	3123		21
238	3170	(<i>Behu reigned 28 years according to the Annals:</i>	2	22	3122		22
239	3169	<i>pp. 9, 17, 61, 123.)</i>	3	23	3121		23
240	3168		4	24	3120		24
241	3167		5	25	3119		25
242	3166		6	26	3118		26
243	3165		7	27	3117		27
244	3164		8	28	3116		28
245	3163		9	29	3115		29
246	3162		10	30	3114		30
247	3161		11	31	3113		31
248	3160		12	32	3112		32
249	3159		13	33	3111		33
250	3158		14	34	3110		34
251	3157		15	35	3109		35
252	3156		16	36	3108		36
253	3155		17	37	3107		37
254	3154		18	38	3106		38
255	3153		19	39	3105		39
256	3152		20	40	3104		40
257	3151		21	41	3103		41
258	3150		22	42	3102		42
259	3149		23	43	3101		43

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Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
44	3100		44	94	3050	Census	8
45	3099		45	95	3049	Search for a new Apis-bull	9
46	3098		46				
47	3097		47	96	3048	Census	10
48	3096	Death of Butho and accession of Kekeu	1	97	3047	Feast of Sokar	11
		(Kekeu reigned 39 years according to the <i>Annals</i> and <i>Manetho</i> : pp. 9, 17, 62, 129.)		98	3046	Census	12
49	3095		2	99	3045	Great rebellion and its suppression in 363rd year since accession of Menes	13
50	3094		3				
51	3093		4	100	3044	Census	14
52	3092		5	101	3043	Search for a new Apis-bull	15
53	3091		6				
54	3090		7	102	3042	Census	16
55	3089		8	103	3041	Feast of Sokar	17
56	3088		9	104	3040	Census	18
57	3087		10	105	3039	Imprisonment (?) of the queen-mother. Feast of Wathet	19
58	3086		11				
59	3085		12	106	3038	Census	20
60	3084		13	107	3037	(Bineter reigned 38 years according to the <i>Annals</i> and <i>Manetho</i> adjusted: pp. 9, 17, 62, 134.)	21
61	3083		14	108	3036		22
62	3082		15	109	3035		23
63	3081		16	110	3034		24
64	3080		17	111	3033		25
65	3079		18	112	3032		26
66	3078		19	113	3031		27
67	3077		20	114	3030		28
68	3076		21	115	3029		29
69	3075		22	116	3028		30
70	3074		23	117	3027		31
71	3073		24	118	3026		32
72	3072		25	119	3025		33
73	3071		26	120	3024		34
74	3070		27	121	3023		35
75	3069		28	122	3022		36
76	3068		29	123	3021		37
77	3067		30	124	3020		38
78	3066		31	125	3019	Death of Bineter and accession of Uothnes	1
79	3065		32				
80	3064		33	126	3018	(Uothnes reigned 17 years according to <i>Manetho</i> and the <i>Annals</i> : pp. 10, 17, 62, 135.)	2
81	3063		34	127	3017		3
82	3062		35	128	3016		4
83	3061		36	129	3015		5
84	3060		37	130	3014		6
85	3059		38	131	3013		7
86	3058		39	132	3012		8
87	3057	Death of Kekeu and accession of Bineter	1	133	3011		9
		[Census]	2	134	3010		10
88	3056		3	135	3009		11
89	3055		4	136	3008		12
90	3054		5	137	3007		13
91	3053		6				
92	3052		7				
93	3051	Planning of the royal palace					

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Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
138	3006		14	189	2955		11
139	3005		15	190	2954		12
140	3004		16	191	2953		13
141	3003		17	192	2952		14
142	3002	Death of Uothnes and accession of Sendi	1	193	2951		15
				194	2950		16
				195	2949		17
143	3001	(Sendi reigned 37 years according to the Annals 1 pp. 10, 17, 62, 135.)	2	196	2948		18
144	3000		3	197	2947		19
145	2999		4	198	2946		20
146	2998		5	199	2945		21
147	2997		6	200	2944		22
148	2996		7	201	2943		23
149	2995		8	202	2942		24
150	2994		9	203	2941		25
151	2993		10	204	2940		26
152	2992		11	205	2939		27
153	2991		12	206	2938		28
154	2990		13	207	2937		29
155	2989		14	208	2936		30
156	2988		15	209	2935		31
157	2987		16	210	2934		32
158	2986		17	211	2933	Death of Neferkere and accession of Neferkesokar	1
159	2985		18				
160	2984		19				
161	2983		20				
162	2982		21	212	2932	(Neferkesokar reigned 8 years according to the Turin Papyrus and the Annals : pp. 4, 11, 17, 62, 137.)	2
163	2981		22	213	2931		3
164	2980		23	214	2930		4
165	2979		24	215	2929		5
166	2978		25	216	2928		6
167	2977		26	217	2927		7
168	2976		27	218	2926		8
169	2975		28	219	2925	Death of Neferkesokar and accession of Huthefi Kere	1
170	2974		29				
171	2973		30				
172	2972		31				
173	2971		32	220	2924	(Huihefi reigned 11 years according to the Turin Papyrus and the Annals : pp. 4, 11, 17, 62, 138.)	2
174	2970		33	221	2923		3
175	2969		34	222	2922		4
176	2968		35	223	2921		5
177	2967		36	224	2920		6
178	2966		37				
179	2965	Death of Sendi and accession of Neferkere	1	225	2919		7
				226	2918		8
180	2964	(Neferkere reigned 32 years, according to the Annals : pp. 11, 17, 62, 136.)	2	227	2917		9
181	2963		3	228	2916		10
182	2962		4	229	2915		11
183	2961		5	230	2914	Thethi Kheneri proclaimed Pharaoh in south, and Huthefi Kere restricted to north	1 12
184	2960		6				
185	2959		7				
186	2958		8				
187	2957		9				
188	2956		10				

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08291-4 - A History of the Pharaohs: Volume 2:

The Twelfth to the Eighteenth Dynasties

Arthur Weigall

Excerpt

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10

A HISTORY OF THE PHARAOHS

Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.	Year of Dynasty.	Date B.C.	DATED EVENTS.	Year of Reign.
231	2913	<i>(Theithi reigned 27 years according to the Turin Papyrus and the Annals : pp. 4, 11, 17, 62, 142.)</i>	2 13	8	2880	<i>Papyrus and the Annals : pp. 4, 11, 17, 62, 146.)</i>	8
232	2912		3 14	9	2879		9
233	2911		4 15	10	2878		10
234	2910		5 16	11	2877		11
235	2909		6 17	12	2876		12
236	2908		7 18	13	2875		13
237	2907		8 19	14	2874		14
238	2906		9 20	15	2873		15
239	2905		10 21	16	2872		16
240	2904		War between Theithi Kheneri and Huthefi Kere and death of latter	11	17		2871
241	2903	[First census, i.e. after the war]	12	18	2870	18	
242	2902		13	19	2869	19	
243	2901	[Census]	14	20	2868	Death of Nebkere Beby and accession of Thoser Retho	1
244	2900		15	21	2867	<i>(Thoser reigned 19 years according to the Turin Papyrus and the Annals : pp. 4, 11, 17, 62, 147.)</i>	2
245	2899	[Census]	16	22	2866		3
246	2898		17	23	2865		4
247	2897	[Census]	18	24	2864		5
248	2896		19	25	2863		6
249	2895	[Census]	20	26	2862		7
250	2894		21	27	2861		8
251	2893	Census	22	28	2860		9
252	2892	Building of a temple of stone	23	29	2859		10
253	2891	Census	24	30	2858		11
254	2890	Making of a metal statue of the King	25	31	2857		12
255	2889	Census	26	32	2856		13
256	2888	Feast of Desher. Building of ships	27	33	2855		14
I	2887	Death of Thethi Kheneri; end of Second Dynasty; accession of Nebkere Beby and establishment of Third Dynasty	I	34	2854		15
2	2886	Entrance of the King between the pylons of the temple	2	35	2853		16
3	2885	Feast of the Birth of Min	3	36	2852		17
4	2884	Beginning of building of the royal palace	4	37	2851	Great famine, and visit of the King to Elephantine	18
5	2883	<i>(Nebkere reigned 19 years according to the Turin</i>	5	38	2850		19
6	2882		6	39	2849	Death of Thoser Retho and accession of Thosertati	I
7	2881		7	40	2848	<i>(Thosertati reigned 6 years according to the Turin Papyrus and the Annals : pp. 4, 11, 17, 62, 152.)</i>	2
				41	2847		3
				42	2846		4
				43	2845		5
				44	2844		6
				45	2843	Death of Thosertati and accession of Nebkere Sethes Eke	I
				46	2842	<i>(Nebkere reigned 6 years according to the Turin Papyrus and the</i>	2
				47	2841		3
				48	2840		4
				49	2839		5