

Glossary of Place Names and Terms

Avaris (Greek, from Egyptian *Hwt-w^crt*) Capital of the Hyksos Kingdom located on the Pelusiac branch of the Nile in the northeastern Nile Delta.

Coffin Texts (abbr. CT) Corpus of Egyptian funerary texts that emerge in the late Old Kingdom ca. 2300 BCE and develop into the Second Intermediate Period when their use declines.

Deir el-Bahri (Arabic) Modern name for the desert bay on the west bank of Thebes forming part of the Theban necropolis. Location of cemeteries of the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period.

Dra Abu el-Naga (Arabic) Modern name for area of the Theban necropolis that includes many of the royal tombs of the late Second Intermediate Period.

el-Kab (Arabic, Egyptian *Nḥb*) Modern name for the settlement and temple site of the goddess Nekhbet in the 3rd nome (province) of Upper Egypt. Location of cemeteries and rock-cut chapels of the Second Intermediate Period.

gebel (Arabic) “Mountain” refers to the high desert cliffs that flank the Nile Valley in Upper Egypt.

Head of the South (Egyptian, *tp-rsy*) Ancient Egyptian geographical and administrative term for the southern eight nomes (provinces) of Upper Egypt stretching from Elephantine to Abydos.

hetep-di-nisut formula (Egyptian, *ḥtp-dī-nswt*) Standardized offering formula used on mortuary equipment including stelae, statuary, false doors and funerary architecture.

Hyksos (Greek, from Egyptian, *ḥkꜣw-ḥꜣswt*) Greek term for the “rulers of foreign lands” used in Egyptian texts to refer to the kings of the 15th Dynasty who ruled Lower Egypt during the late Second Intermediate Period.

Itj-Tawy (Egyptian, *It-bꜣwy*) Royal residence city founded by Amenemhat I (ca. 2000 BCE) and used as the capital during the 12th and 13th Dynasties (ca. 2000–1650 BCE).

Kerma Modern name for the town in Upper Nubia which formed the political center of the Nubian Kerma Kingdom during the Second Intermediate Period.

khat (Egyptian, *ḥꜥt*) Form of royal headdress characterized by a bag-shaped profile.

khekher (Egyptian, *ḥkr*) Decorative frieze showing rows of bundled plants frequently used for the tops of walls in Egyptian funerary and religious architecture.

Kom es-Sultan (Arabic) The “mound of the ruler” refers to the walled area that encompasses the main town and temple of Osiris at North Abydos.

Lisht Location of the pyramids of Kings Amenemhat I and Senwosret I near the residence city of Itj-Tawy, location of private cemeteries of the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period.

mahat (Egyptian, *mꜥḥꜥt*) Egyptian term denoting a mortuary building with a primarily commemorative function that was devoid of an actual burial, sometimes translated as “cenotaph.”

mastaba (Arabic) Modern word commonly used for the rectangular, flat-topped mortuary superstructures that predominate in early Egyptian cemeteries.

Medamud (Egyptian *M3dw*) Settlement and temple site dedicated to the god Montu in the Theban nome, ten kilometers north east of the temple of Karnak.

Mirgissa (Egyptian *ʾlkn*) Modern toponym for the Egyptian fortress and community near the Second Cataract in Lower Nubia, location of cemeteries of the late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period.

nemes (Egyptian, *nms*) Royal crown characterized by lappets that extend down over the shoulders and a decorative treatment of stripes of alternating colors.

per-nu (Egyptian, *pr-nw*) Term for the symbolic shrine of Lower Egypt that is adapted into funerary equipment such as coffins and canopic boxes.

rishi (Arabic) “Feathered,” refers to the style of sarcophagus decorated with bird wings. The style is particularly diagnostic of the Second Intermediate Period and early New Kingdom.

serekh (Egyptian, *srh*) Paneled architectural design derived from royal palace architecture and adapted

for symbolic use on coffins and funerary art.

tafla (Arabic) Compact clay-like material encountered in the desert subsurface.

Thebes (Greek, Egyptian *W3st*) Capital of the 4th nome (province) of Upper Egypt; during the Second Intermediate Period political center of the Theban Kingdom (the 16th and 17th Dynasties).

Thinis (Greek, from Egyptian *Tni*) Capital of the 8th nome (province) of Upper Egypt. Located northeast of Abydos but not archaeologically identified.

Umm el-Qa’ab (Arabic) Modern name for the Predynastic and Early Dynastic royal cemetery at Abydos, necropolis of the earliest Egyptian pharaohs and symbolic burial place of Osiris.

uraeus (Greek, from Egyptian *iʿrt*) Hooded cobra, symbol of royalty and dominion associated with Wadjet of Buto, the symbolic goddess of Lower Egypt.

wedjat (Egyptian, *w3dt*) The eye of Horus or “sound eye” commonly used as symbol of bodily well-being in Egyptian funerary iconography.

wesekh (Egyptian, *wsh*) Beaded broad-collar which forms part of the assemblage of jewelry and amulets included in Egyptian funerary practices.