

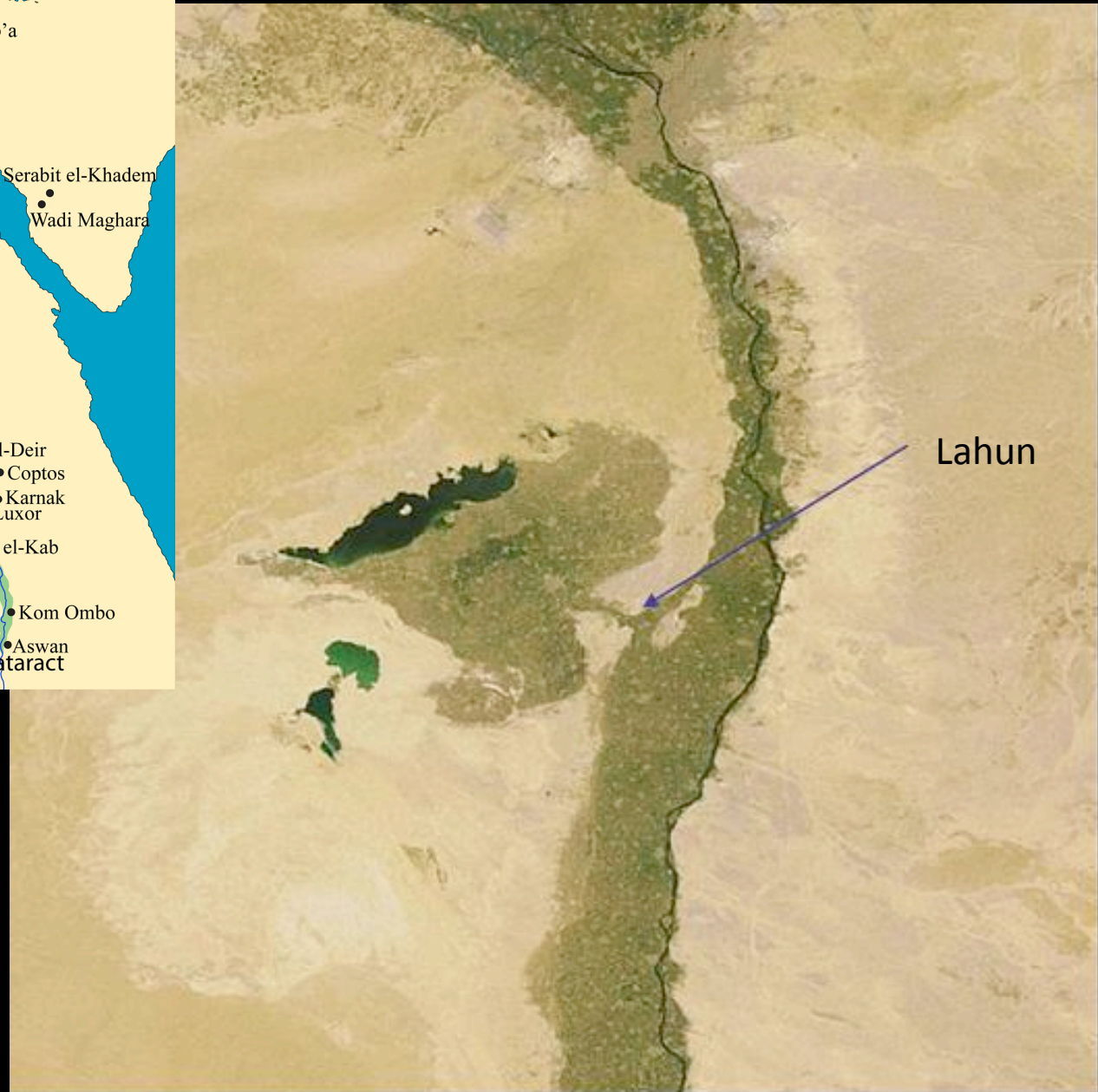
Life and Death in the Middle Kingdom I

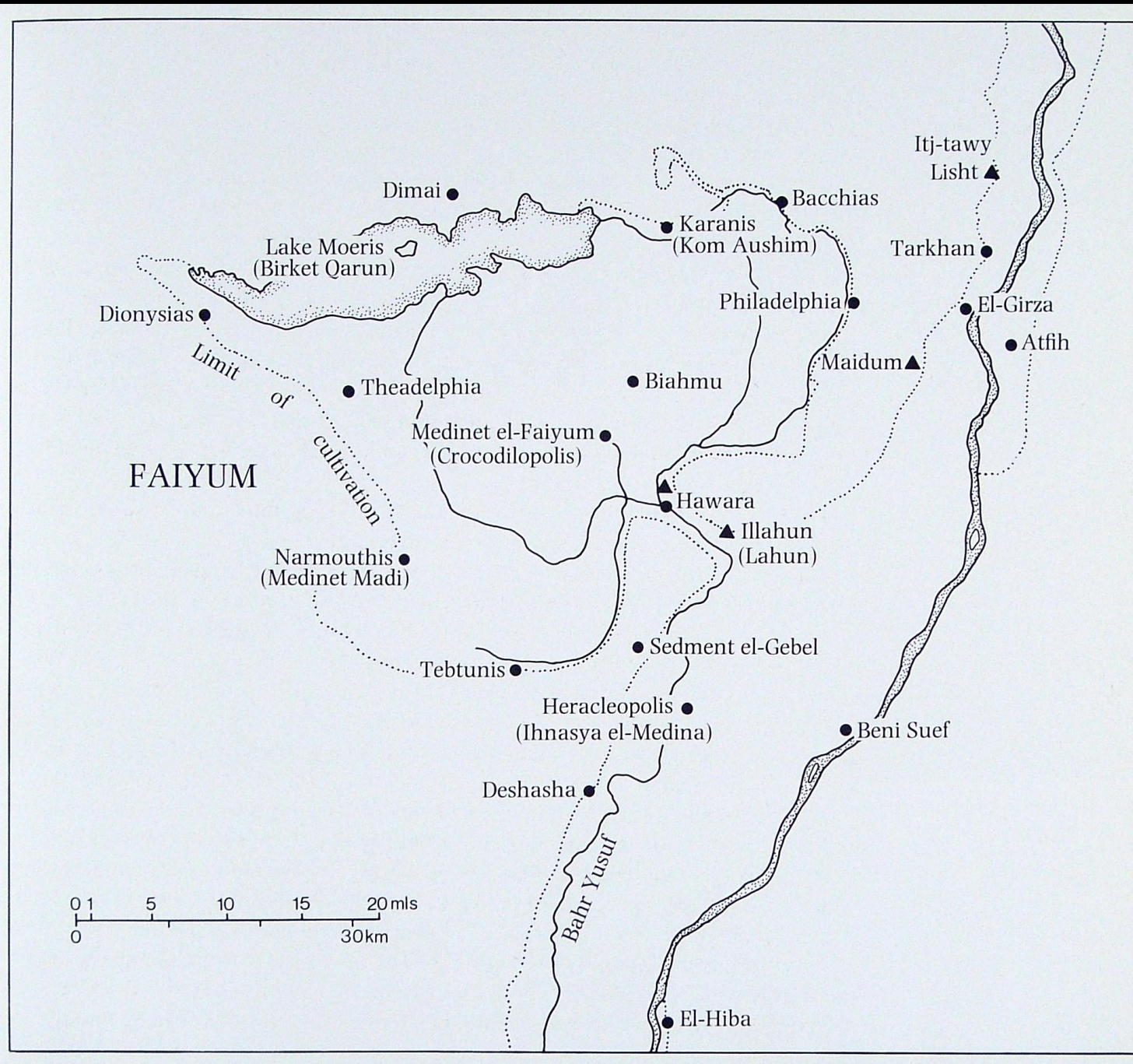
5 March 2010

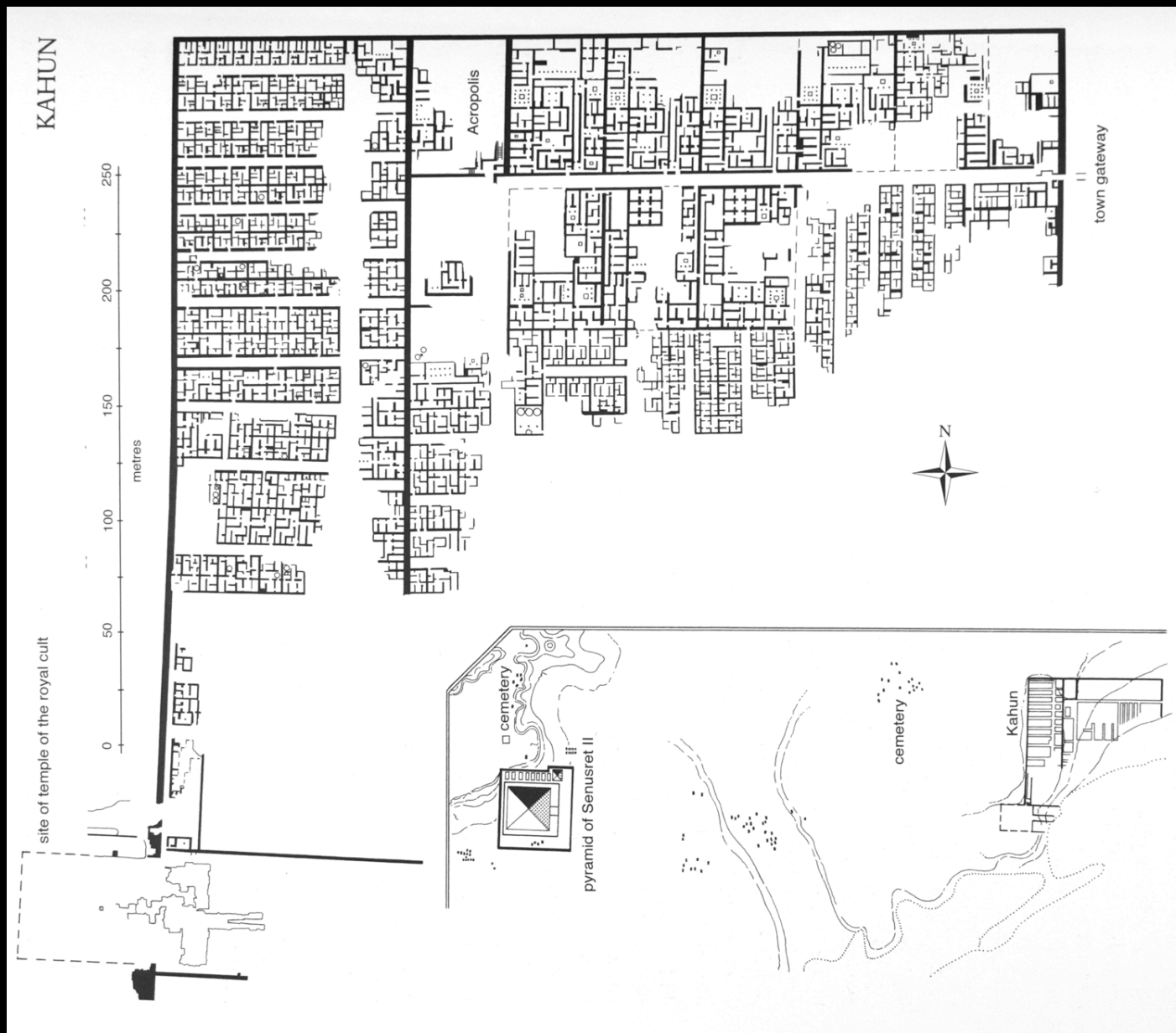


Writing Assignment 1

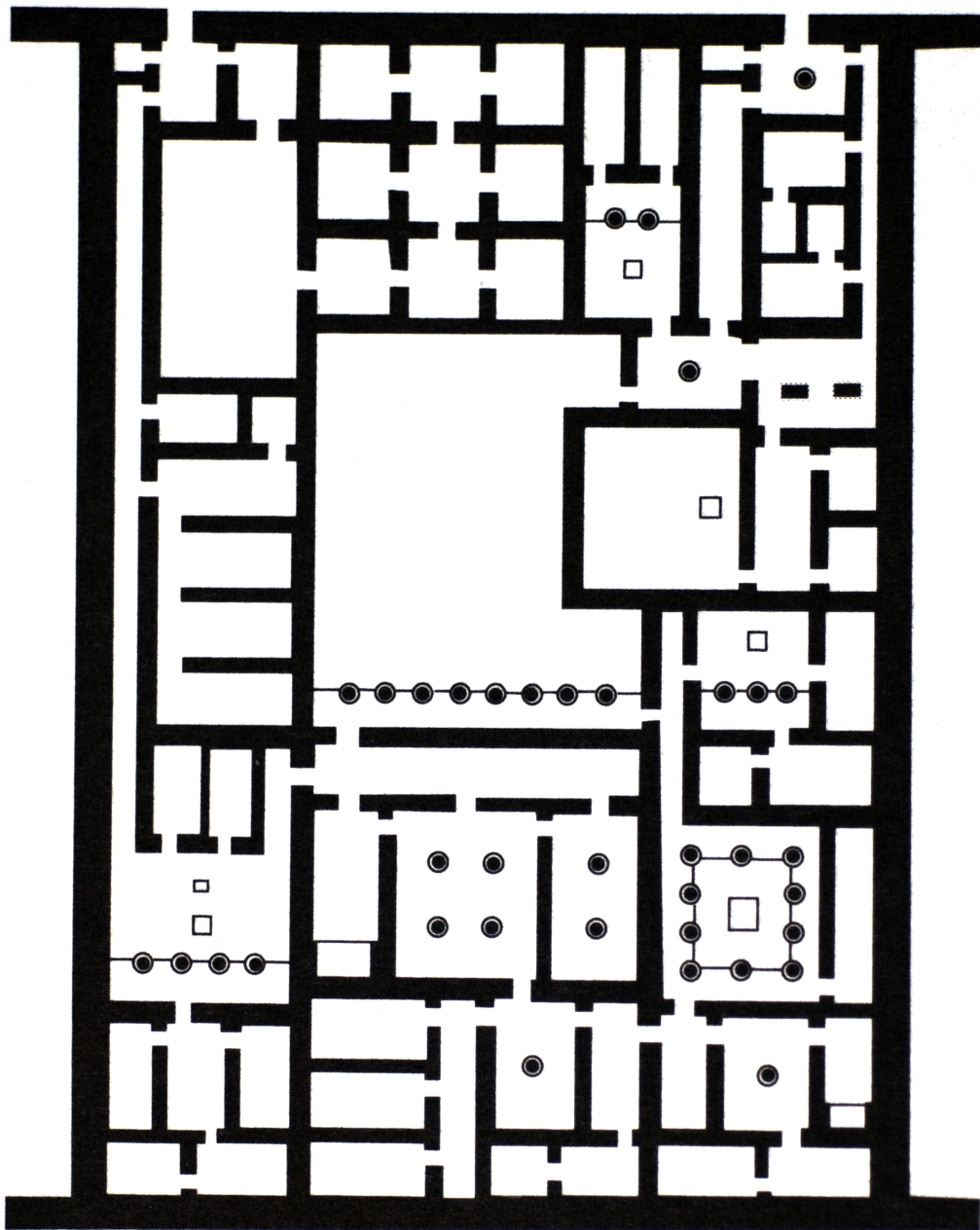
- Write a 800-1000 word paper based on an ancient Egyptian object in a museum that you have visited for the purpose of working on this paper. There is a fairly good selection at the RISD museum, and an excellent selection at the Boston MFA or in New York at the Met or the Brooklyn Museum. In your paper you should identify your object by its museum number and general type, describe it in detail, discuss its medium/media and technique of manufacture, discuss its date or probable date (and how that date was arrived at), and discuss how objects of this type were used in ancient Egypt and what contexts they are known from. You should refer to at least two books other than your required texts (websites are not acceptable sources), and you should include citations in one of the styles described in the Chicago Manual of Style (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). If you have any questions about the propriety of a source (there are some pretty horrible books and articles out there about Egypt), please don't hesitate to ask. Improper citation style will result in a full grade deduction. A reserve shelf will be set up at the Rock with books that might be helpful on this assignment, but you are also encouraged to seek out references yourself. Late papers are not acceptable. Papers should be turned in by e-mail to the professor by 11:59pm on the due date.



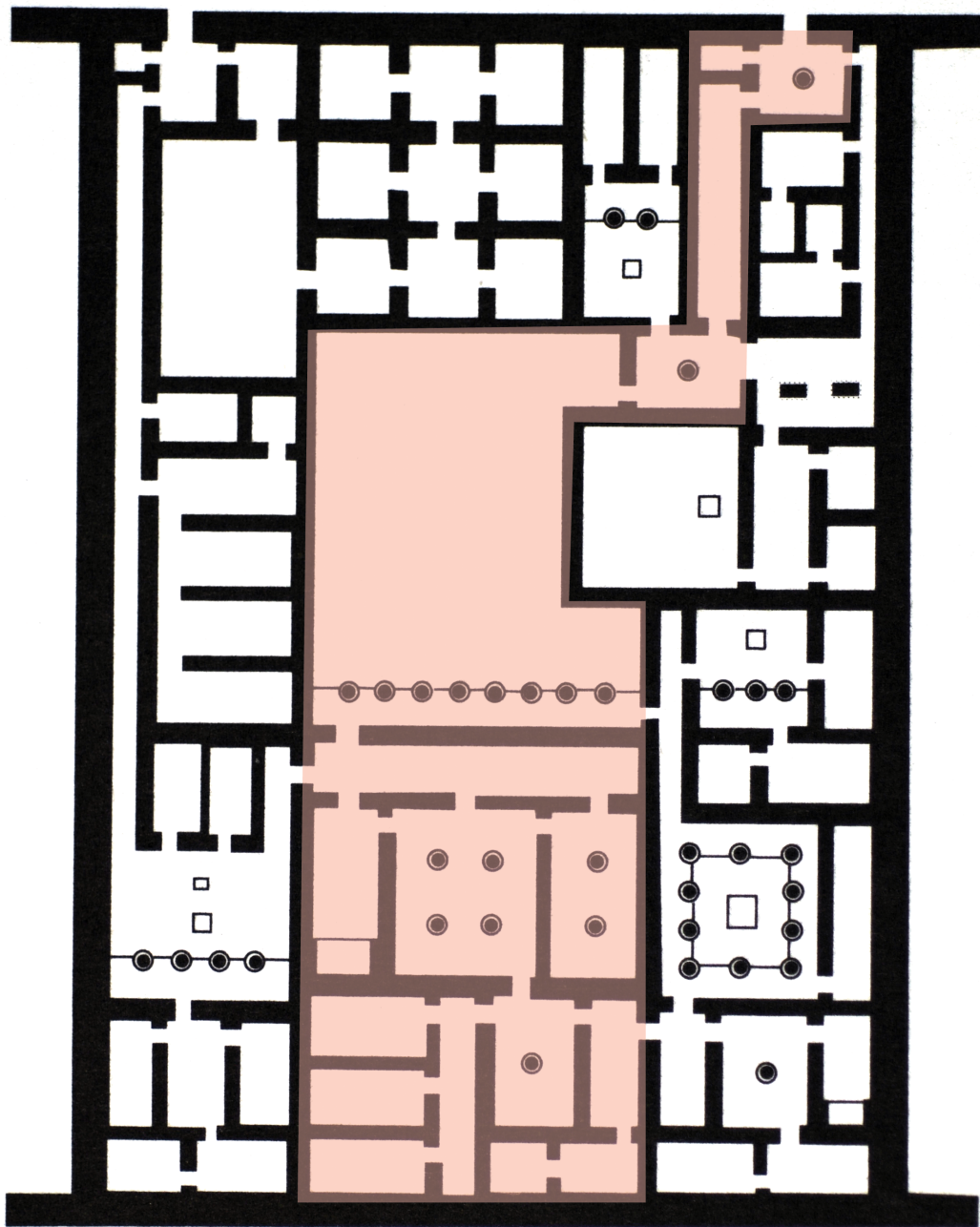




The townsite of Lahun (sometimes called Kahun) associated with Senwosret II's pyramid complex. Discovered by Flinders Petrie in 1889.



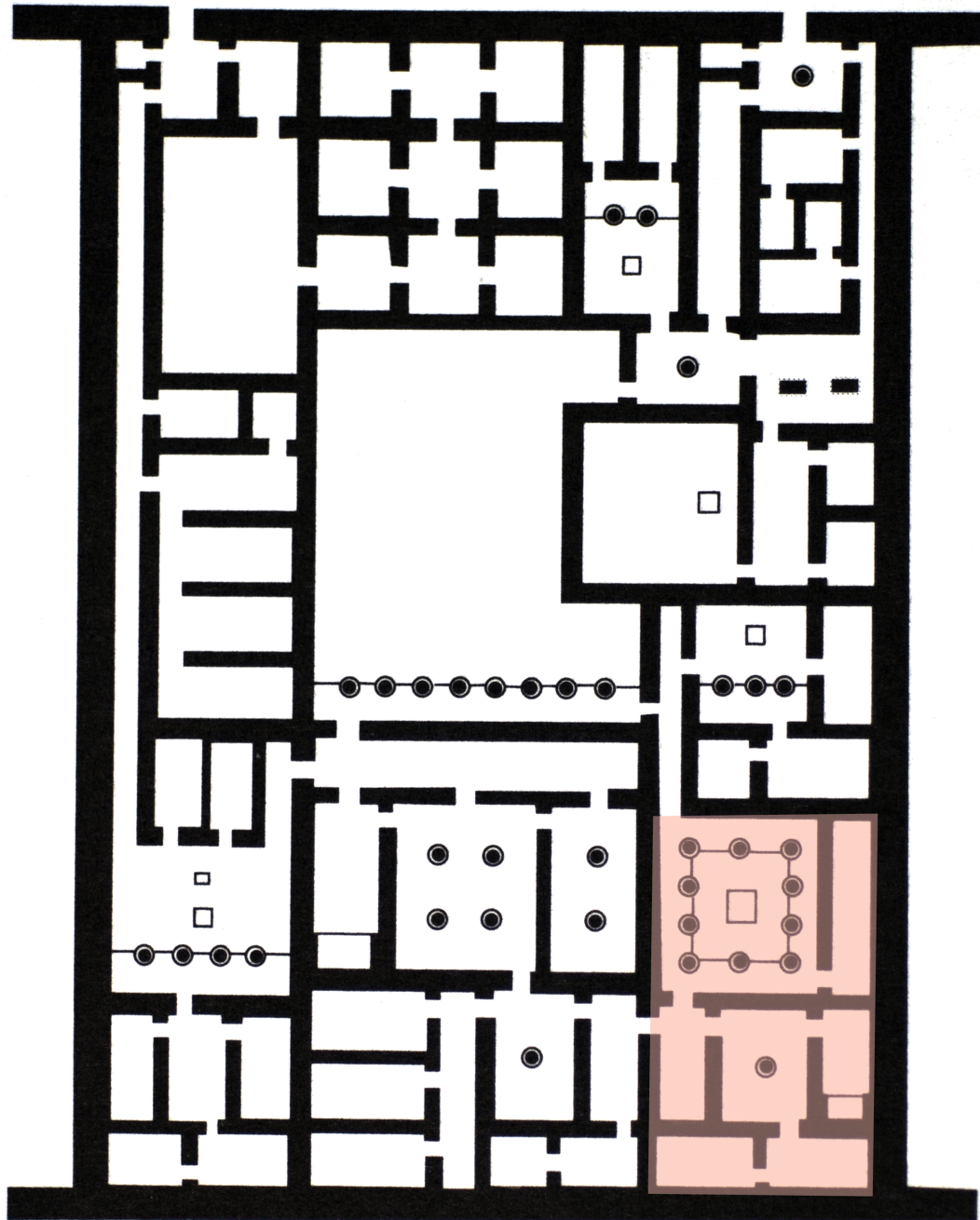
Elite Kahun House
(entered from North)



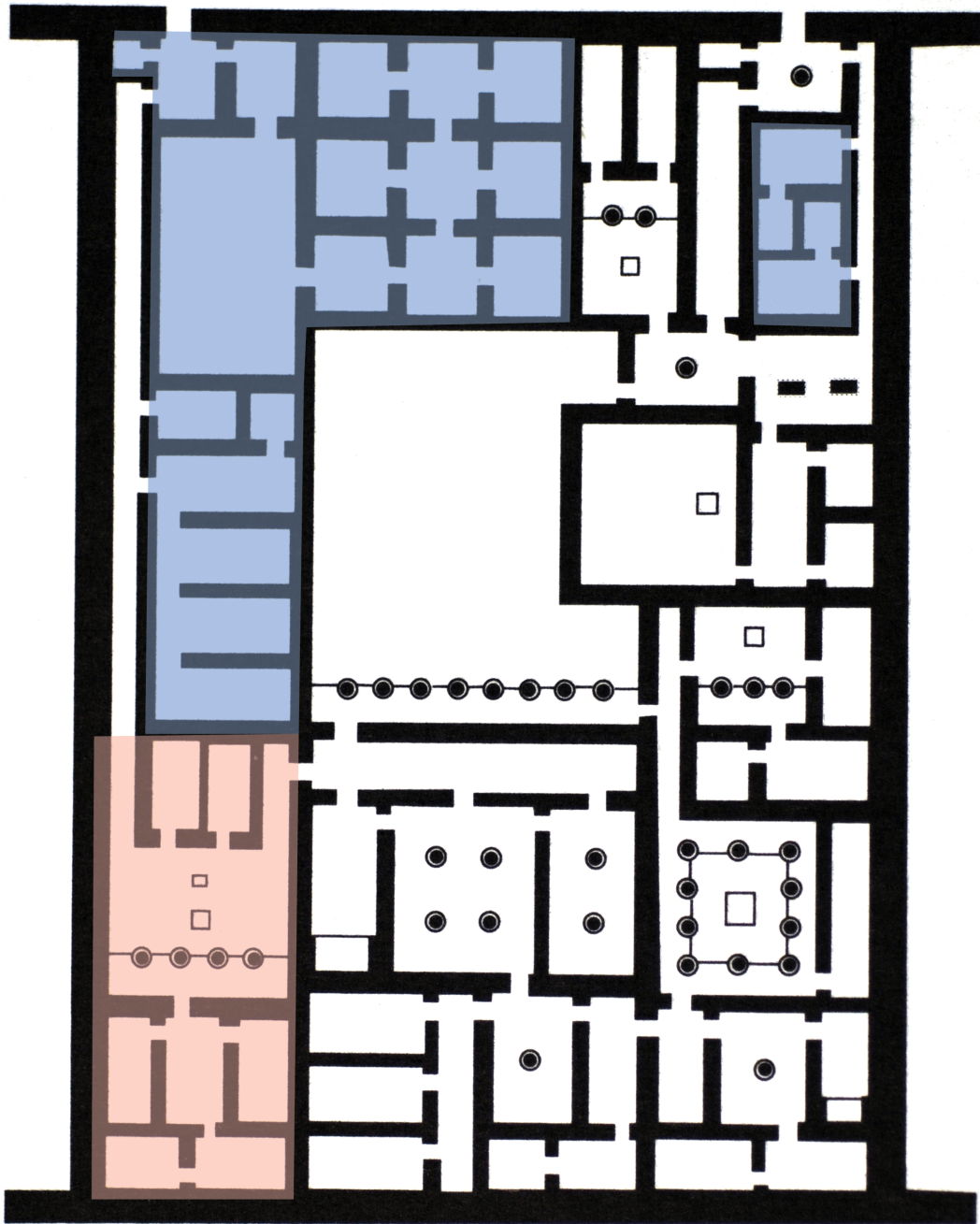
Entrance, reception hall,
“master suite”



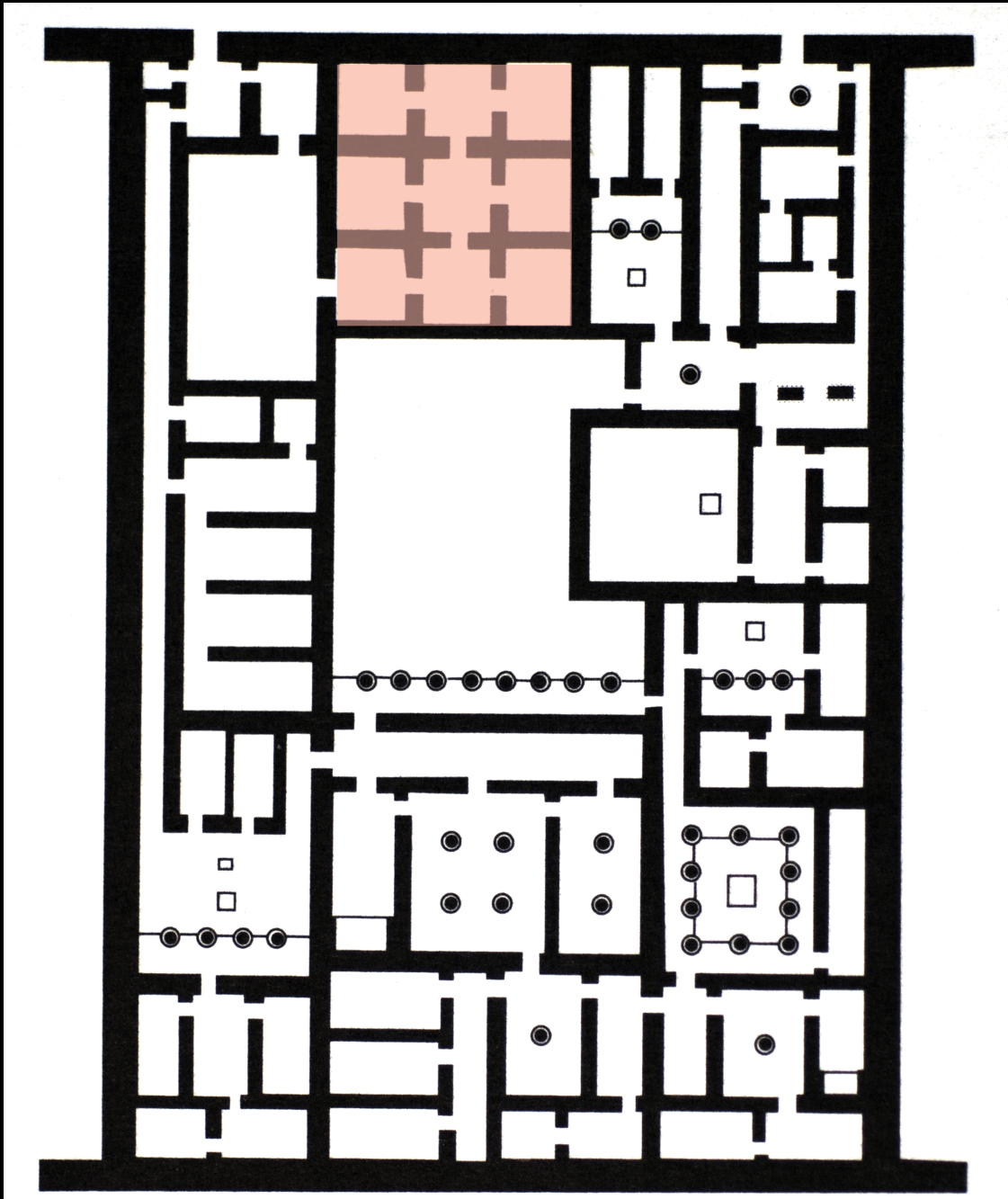
Wooden model from the tomb of Meketre at Thebes, showing part of a house similar to the Lahun elite houses



Secondary living suite:
Wife and children?

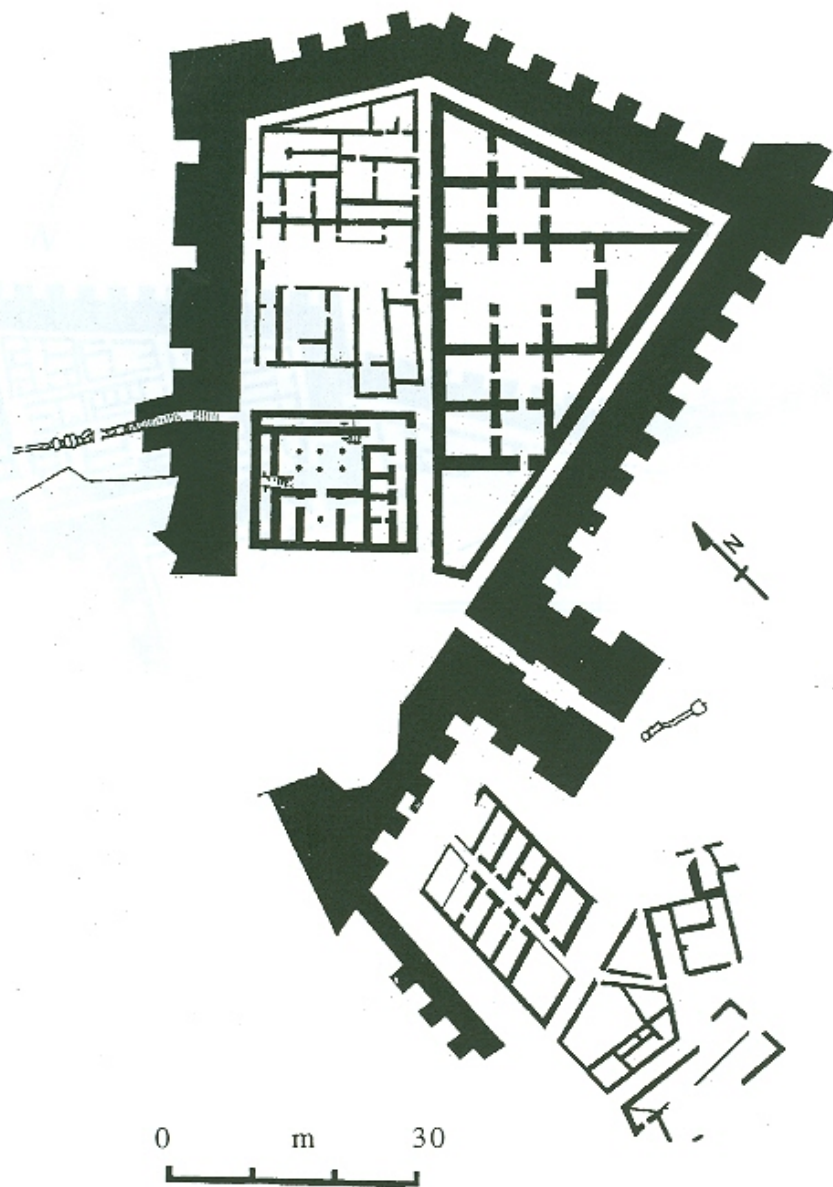


Administrator and servants



Granary

ASKUT





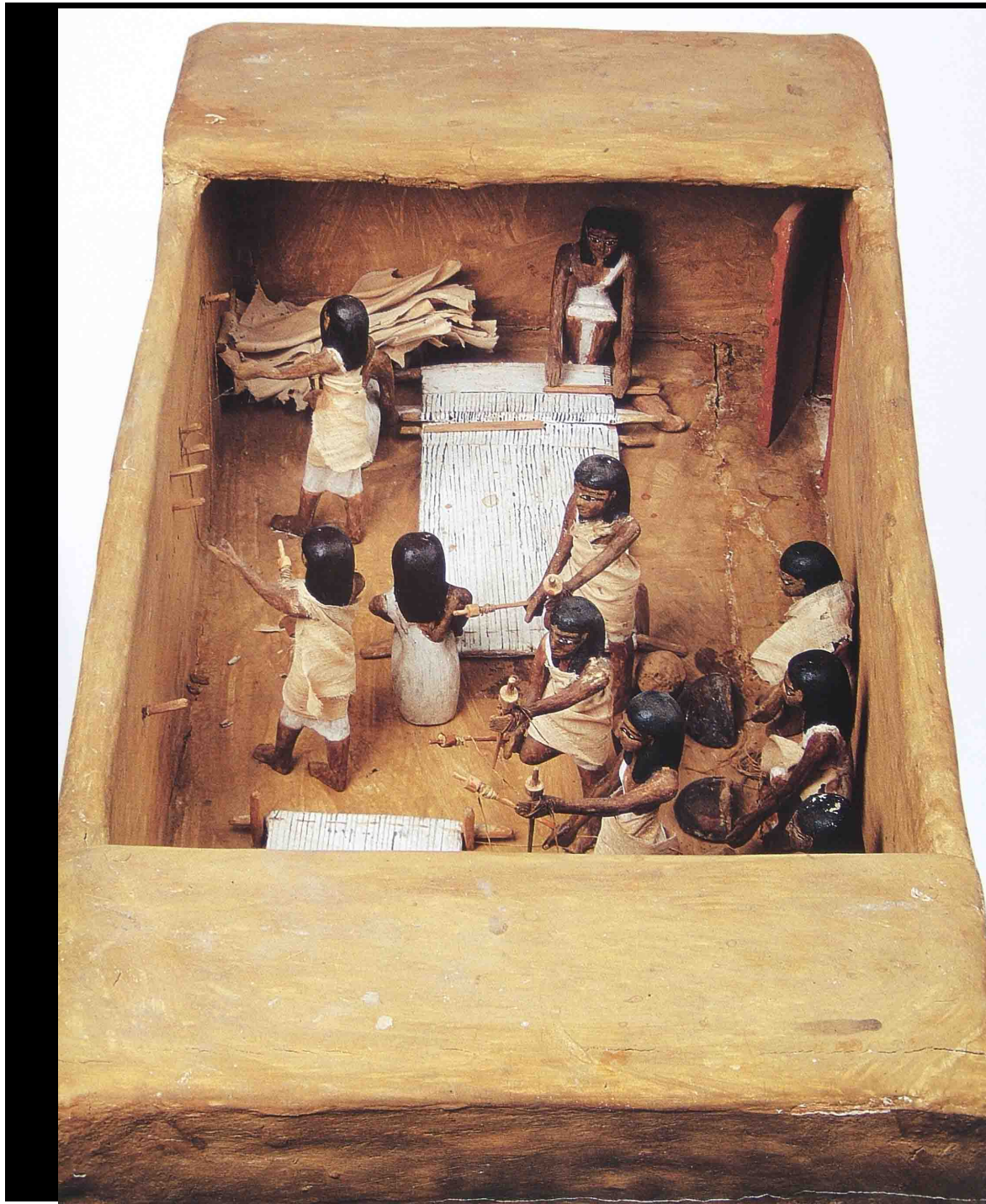
Granary models from
private tombs

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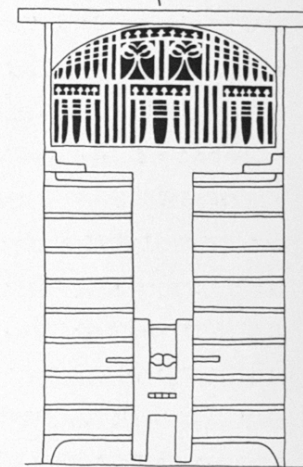
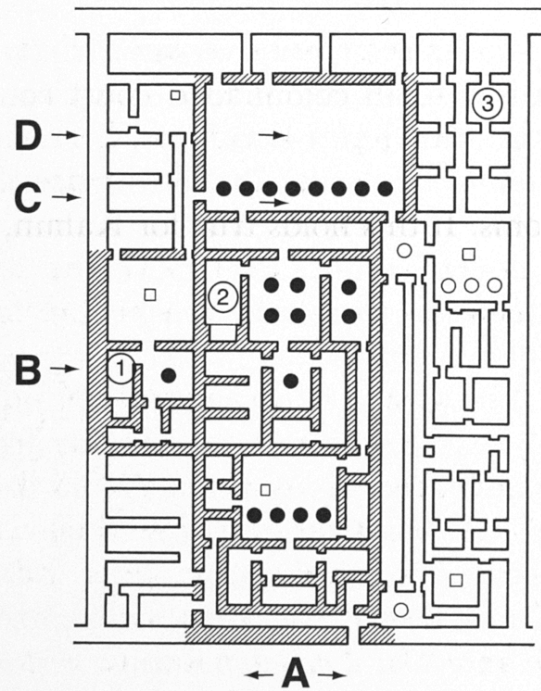
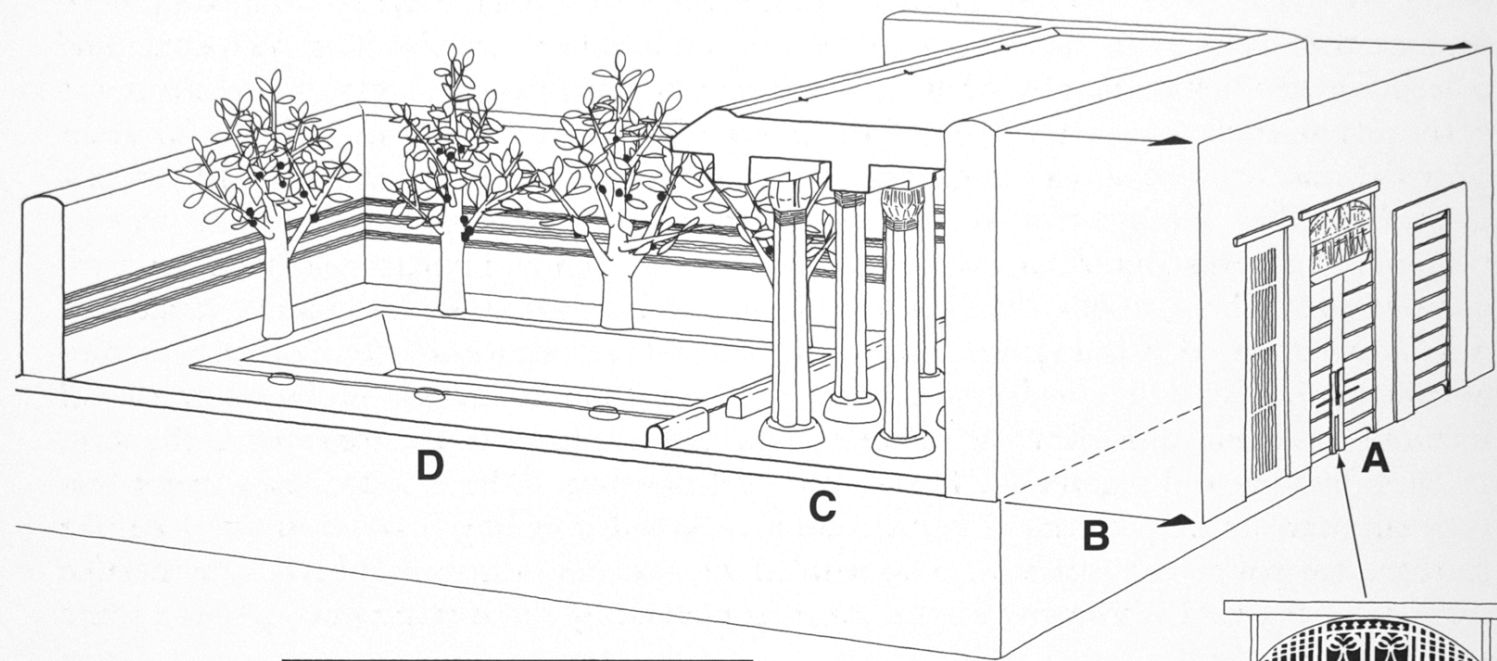




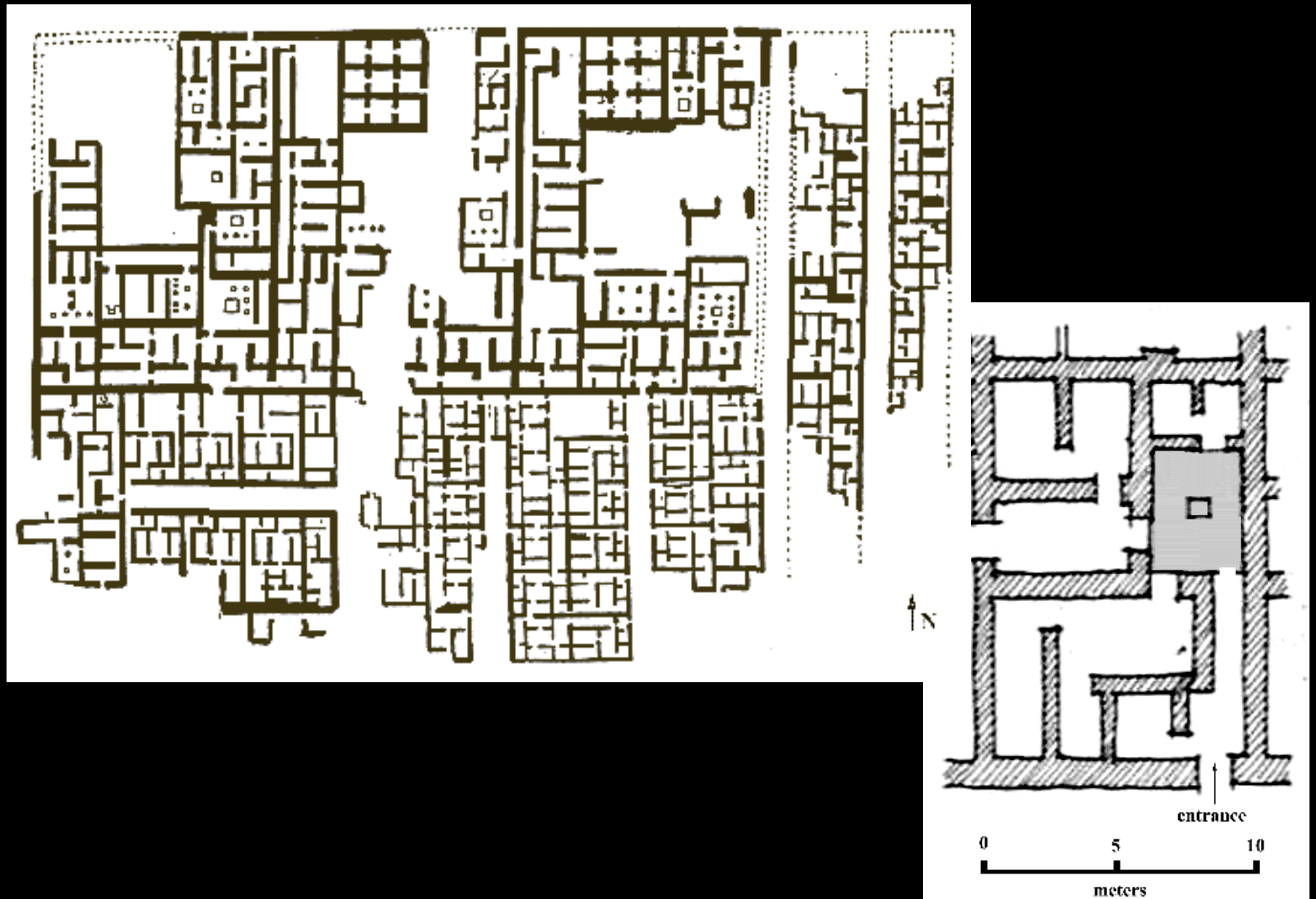
What else might have taken place in Lahun elite houses? Comparisons to the Meketre models.

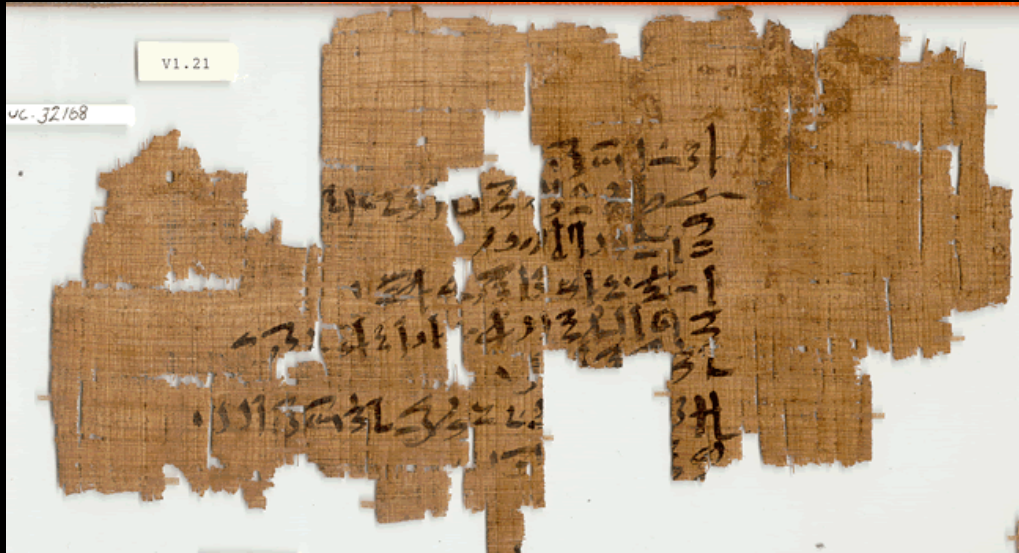


Meketre model: weaving



Smaller houses from Lahun





The artifacts from Lahun: the Lahun papyri

Two basic categories:

Business papers from the cult of Senwosret II (all 12th Dynasty)

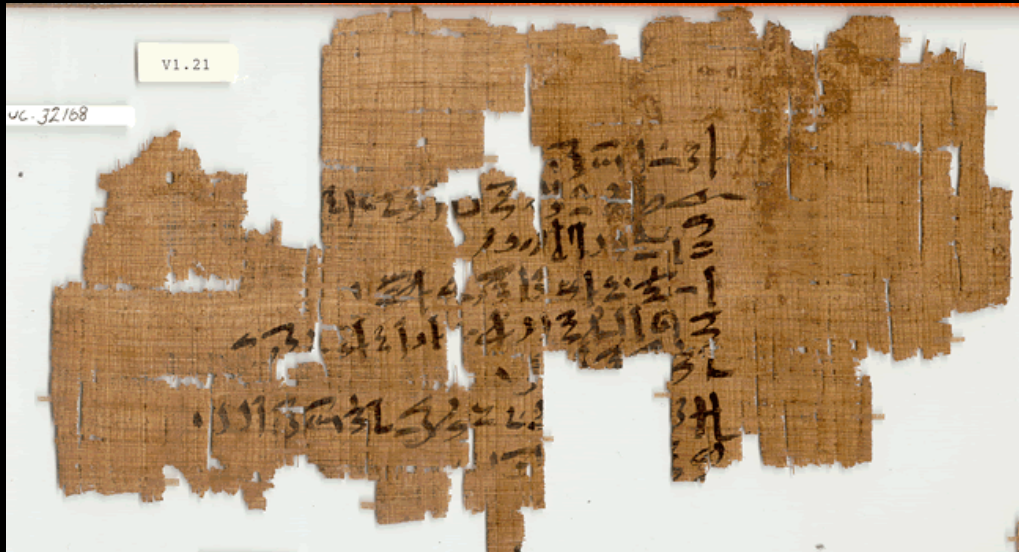
Administrative and random papyri from the town (12th and 13th Dynasties)



Papyrus as a medium



A 12th Dynasty scribal palette



Administrative papyri

Name list for a work project:

Year 41 month 3 of flood season, day [...]

Drawn up, the bureau of the district of Hetep-Senusret
beside the deputy Sneferu's son Sneferu

by the calculator of manpower Ipferkhenet's son Ipneb

Mustering the labour force of stone haulers who are for
the section of month 4 of flood and month 1 of spring

Name list [of labourers] allotted against the stipulations of the section of month 4
of flood, month 1 of spring

Director [...'s son] Khety

[...]

[...]



Year 3, month 1 of flood, day 6
Sailing to the Residence
to hand over the first (dues) of the year [...] on
month 1 of flood day 6
Brought by the man of the fleet Seneb
and the fisherman Nenkhemsen
....

Kahun Gynecological Papyrus



Examination of a woman all of whose limbs are ill, aching in the socket of her eyes

You should say of it 'it is deprivation of the womb; no beer-drinking (?) has been allowed it for the condition of a fresh birth (?)'.

You should treat it with 1 portion (?) of dough (?) and water
Drink 1[+x] mornings

Examination of a woman aching in her legs and her calves after walking

You should say of it 'it is discharges of the womb'.

You should treat it with a massage of her legs and calves with mud until she is well

Determining a woman who will conceive from one who will not

You should [make] fresh oil and [...] You should [...] it

If the vessels of her innards are found distended, you should say of it 'it is the birth'

If you find it limp, you should say of it 'she will give birth late',

but if you find her like ..[...]

“what is in the estate” of Wah: a 12th Dynasty will from Lahun

“I am making my *imet-per* for my wife the woman of Gesiab Satsopdu’s daughter Sheftu called Teti, consisting of everything my brother the Trusty Sealer of the Director of Works Ankhren gave me, with everything in its place, being everything he gave me. May she give to which ever of her children she wishes of those she bears to me.

I am giving her the Asiatics, four individuals, whom my brother the Trusty Sealer of the Director of Works Ankhren gave me. May she give to whichever of her children she wishes.

As for my tomb in which I am to be buried with my wife, let no one infringe upon it. Then, as for those chambers which my brother the Trusty Sealer of the Director of Works Ankhren built for me, my wife is to dwell there, never to be expelled from there by anyone.

(added later in slightly different handwriting) The deputy Gebu is to act as infant tutor to my son.”



Fertility figurines from Lahun



Infant coffin and feeding cup
from Kahun

