

= Amenemhat IV =

See Amenemhat , for other individuals with this name .

Amenemhat IV (also Amenemhet IV) was the seventh and penultimate pharaoh of the 12th Dynasty of Egypt (c . 1990 ? 1800 BC) during the late Middle Kingdom period (c . 2050 ? 1710 BC) , ruling for over nine years in the late 19th century BC or the early 18th century BC .

Amenemhat IV may have been the son , grandson or step @-@ son of his predecessor , the powerful Amenemhat III . His reign started with a two @-@ year coregency with Amenemhat III and was seemingly peaceful . He undertook expeditions in the Sinai for turquoise , in Upper Egypt for amethyst and to the Land of Punt . He also maintained trade relations with Byblos as well as the Egyptian presence in Nubia . Amenemhat IV built some parts of the temple of Hathor at Serabit el @-@ Khadim in the Sinai and constructed the well @-@ preserved temple of Renenutet in Medinet Madi .

Amenemhat IV 's tomb has not been identified , although the Southern Mazghuna pyramid is a possibility . He was succeeded by Sobekneferu , possibly his sister or step @-@ sister , whose short reign marked the end of the 12th Dynasty and the beginning of the Middle Kingdom 's decline into the Second Intermediate Period .

= = Family = =

Amenemhat IV was the son of a woman named Hetepi . Hetepi 's only known attestation is an inscription on the wall of the temple of Renenutet at Medinet Madi where she is given the title of " King 's Mother " but not those of " King 's Wife " , " King 's Daughter " or " King 's Sister " . Consequently , her relation to Amenemhat III is unknown and she may have been non @-@ royal . The relation of Amenemhat IV to Amenemhat III is similarly uncertain ; the former could have been the son or grandson of the latter . Similarly , while Manetho states that he married his half @-@ sister Sobekneferu , this claim is not yet supported by archaeological evidence . In particular , Sobekneferu is not known to have borne the title of " King 's Wife " . Instead , the egyptologist Kim Ryholt proposes that Amenemhat IV was adopted by Amenemhat III and thus became Sobekneferu 's step @-@ brother , thereby explaining the Manethonian tradition .

Amenemhat may have died without a male heir , which could explain why he was succeeded by Sobekneferu . However , some egyptologists , such as Aidan Dodson and Kim Ryholt , have proposed that the first two rulers of the 13th Dynasty , Sobekhotep I and Amenemhat Sonbef , were his sons . Amenemhat IV may have been Sobekneferu 's spouse , but no evidence currently substantiates this hypothesis .

= = Reign = =

Amenemhat IV first came to power as a junior coregent of his predecessor Amenemhat III , whose reign marks the apex of the Middle Kingdom period . The coregency is well attested by numerous monuments and artefacts where the names of the two kings parallel each other . The length of this coregency is uncertain ; it could have lasted from one to seven years , although most scholars believe it was only two years long . The Turin Canon , a king list redacted during the early Ramesside period , records Amenemhat IV on Column 6 , Row 1 , and credits him with a reign of 9 years , 3 months and 27 days . Amenemhat IV is also recorded on Entry 65 of the Abydos King List and Entry 38 of the Saqqara Tablet , both of which date to the New Kingdom .

In spite of the Turin canon , the duration of Amenemhat 's reign is uncertain . It was given as eight years under the name Ammenemes in Manetho 's Aegyptiaca . In any case , Amenemhat 's rule seems to have been peaceful and uneventful . Amenemhat IV is well attested by contemporary artefacts , including a number of scarab- and cylinder @-@ seals .

= = = Expeditions and foreign relations = = =

Four expeditions to the turquoise mines of Serabit el Khadim in the Sinai are dated to his reign by in situ inscriptions . The latest took place in his ninth year on the throne and could be the last expedition of the Middle Kingdom , since the next inscription dates to Ahmose I 's reign , some 200 years later . In his Year 2 , Amenemhat IV sent another expedition to mine amethyst in the Wadi el Hudi in the south of Egypt . The leader of the expedition was the assistant treasurer Sahathor . Farther south , three Nile records are known from Kumna in Nubia that are explicitly dated to his Years 5 , 6 and 7 on the throne , showing that the Egyptian presence in the region was maintained during his lifetime .

Important trade relations must have existed during his reign with the city of Byblos , on the coast of modern day Lebanon , where an obsidian and gold chest as well as a jar lid bearing Amenemhat IV 's name have been found . A gold plaque showing Amenemhat IV offering to a god may also originate there .

Recently , continuing excavations at Wadi Gawasis on the Red Sea coast have produced two wooden chests and an ostrakon inscribed with a hieratic text mentioning an expedition to the fabled Land of Punt in Year 8 of Amenemhat IV , under the direction of the royal scribe Djedy . Two fragments of a stela depicting him and dating to his Year 7 were found at Berenice on the Red Sea .

== Building activities ==

Amenemhat IV completed the temple of Renenutet and Sobek at Medinet Madi started by Amenemhat III , which is " the only intact temple still existing from the Middle Kingdom " according to Zahi Hawass , a former Secretary General of Egypt 's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) . The foundations of the temple , administrative buildings , granaries and residences were uncovered by an Egyptian archaeological expedition in early 2006 . Amenemhat IV possibly also built a temple in the northeastern Fayum at Qasr el Sagha .

Amenemhat IV is responsible for the completion of a shrine at the temple of Hathor in the Sinai and may also have undertaken works in Karnak where a pedestal for a sacred barque inscribed with Amenemhat III and IV names was found in 1924 .

== Legacy ==

Less than 10 years after Amenemhat IV 's death , the 12th Dynasty came to an end and was replaced by the much weaker 13th Dynasty . Although the first two rulers of this dynasty may have been sons of Amenemhat IV , political instability quickly became prevalent and kings rarely ruled beyond a couple of years . The influx of Asiatic immigrants in the Nile Delta which had started during the reigns of Amenemhat IV 's predecessor accelerated under his own reign , becoming completely unchecked . Under the 13th Dynasty , the Asiatic population of the Delta founded an independent kingdom ruled by kings of Canaanite descent forming the 14th Dynasty and reigning from Avaris . Around 80 years after the reign of Amenemhat IV , " the administration [of the Egyptian state] seems to have completely collapsed " , marking the start of the Second Intermediate Period .

== Tomb ==

The tomb of Amenemhat IV has not been identified . He is nonetheless often associated with the ruined Southern Mazghuna pyramid . No inscriptions have been found within the pyramid to ascertain the identity of its owner , but its architectural similarity with the second pyramid of Amenemhat III at Hawara led egyptologists to date the pyramid to the late 12th or early 13th Dynasty . Less likely , Amenemhat IV could have been interred in Amenemhat III 's first pyramid in Dashur , since his name has been found on an inscription in the mortuary temple .

At Dahshur , next to the pyramid of Amenemhat II , the remains of another pyramid dating to the Middle Kingdom were discovered during building works . The pyramid has not yet been excavated , but a fragment inscribed with the royal name " Amenemhat " has been unearthed . It is therefore

possible that this pyramid belongs to Amenemhat IV , although there are also kings of the 13th Dynasty who bore the name Amenemhat and who could have built the pyramid . Alternatively , the relief fragment may originate (come) from the nearby pyramid of Amenemhat II .