A2617-Afr-Egy-Scarab-Rope Pattern-Lily-Middle Kingdom-12th Dynasty-1991–1778 BCE

[](https://www.ebay.com/itm/EGYPTIAN-STEATITE-SCARAB-AMULET-WITH-HIEROGLYPHS-476E/153022927346?ssPageName=STRK:MEBIDX:IT&_trksid=p2057872.m2749.l2648)

H: 0.461 in; 11,74 mm

**Case no.: 2**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:**

**Display Description:**

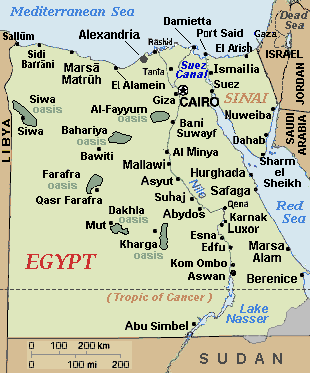
**A close parallel to this scarab is in Newberry 1906, Plate XIX, no. 14. Newberry identified this design as 12th dynasty. The lily motif under which is a marsh motif of curing branches and below which is the hieroglyph for water ties it to the reign of Amenemhat III, under whose reign the** the marshy Fayyum was first exploited. It is this event that ties it to the current scarab with its depiction of a lily which was one of the most prominent plants of the Fayyum. The symbol to the upper right may be an alternative hieroglyph for the pharaoh.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**



**https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Egypt-region-map-cities-2.gif**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

The chronology of the 12th dynasty is the most stable of any period before the [New Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Kingdom). The Ramses Papyrus canon (1290 BC) in Turin gives 213 years (1991–1778 BC). [Manetho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manetho) stated that it was based in [Thebes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thebes,_Egypt), but from contemporary records it is clear that the first king moved its capital to a new city named "Amenemhat-itj-tawy" ("Amenemhat the Seizer of the Two Lands"), more simply called [Itjtawy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itjtawy). The location of Itjtawy has not been found, but is thought to be near the [Fayyum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fayyum), probably near the royal graveyards at [el-Lisht](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El-Lisht). Egyptologists consider this dynasty to be the apex of the [Middle Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Kingdom_of_Egypt).

The order of its rulers is well known from several sources — two lists recorded at temples in [Abydos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abydos,_Egypt) and one at [Saqqara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saqqara), as well as [Manetho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manetho)'s work. A recorded date during the reign of [Senusret III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senusret_III) can be correlated to the [Sothic cycle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sothic_cycle),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelfth_Dynasty_of_Egypt#cite_note-2) consequently many events during this dynasty can be frequently assigned to a specific year.

**Amenemhat III**

Upper part of a statue of Amenemhat III. 12th Dynasty, c. 1800 BC. State Museum of Egyptian Art, Munich

Senusret's successor [Amenemhat III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenemhat_III) reaffirmed his predecessor's foreign policy. However, after Amenemhat, the energies of this dynasty were largely spent, and the growing troubles of government were left to the dynasty's last ruler, Queen [Sobekneferu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sobekneferu), to resolve. Amenemhat was remembered for the mortuary temple at [Hawara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawara) that he built, known to Herodotus, Diodorus, and [Strabo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strabo) as the "[Labyrinth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labyrinth)".

Also under his reign the marshy [Fayyum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fayyum) was first exploited. Iy is this event that ties it to the current scarab with its depiction of a lily which was one of the most prominent plants of the Fayyum/

The **Faiyum** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): الفيوم‎ *el-Fayyūm* pronounced [[elfæjˈjuːm]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Egyptian_Arabic), borrowed from [Coptic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coptic_language):  ̀Ⲫⲓⲟⲙ or Ⲫⲓⲱⲙ *Phiom or Phiōm* from [Ancient Egyptian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_language): *pꜣ ym* "the Sea, Lake") is a city in [Middle Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Egypt). Located 100 kilometres (62 miles) southwest of [Cairo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo), in the [Faiyum Oasis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faiyum_Oasis), it is the capital of the modern [Faiyum Governorate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faiyum_Governorate). Originally called **Shedet** in Egyptian, the Greeks called it [Koine Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koine_Greek): Κροκοδειλόπολις **Krokodilópolis**, the Romans **Arsinoë**.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faiyum#cite_note-Riggs-1) It is one of Egypt's oldest cities due to its strategic location near the faiyum Oasis

.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faiyum#cite_note-Riggs-1) pA A i G20 

The **Faiyum Oasis** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): واحة الفيوم‎ *Waḥet El Fayyum*) is a depression or basin in the desert immediately to the west of the Nile south of [Cairo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairo). The extent of the basin area is estimated at between 1,270 km² (490 mi²) and 1700 km² (656 mi²). The basin floor comprises fields watered by a channel of the [Nile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nile), the [Bahr Yussef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahr_Yussef), as it drains into a desert depression to the west of the [Nile Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nile_Valley). The Bahr Yussef veers west through a narrow neck of land north of [Ihnasya](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ihnasya&action=edit&redlink=1), between the archaeological sites of [El Lahun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Lahun) and [Gurob](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gurob&action=edit&redlink=1) near [Hawara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawara); it then branches out, providing rich agricultural land in the Faiyum basin. The lake was freshwater in prehistory.

**References:**

Newberry, Percy. 1906. Egyptian antiquities: scarabs; an introduction to the study of Egyptian seals and signet rings, with forty-four plates and one hundred and sixteen illustrations in the text. London: A. Constable and co., ltd