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About : [Art History](#)

Bust of a Queen (Ahmose-Nefertari?), Early 18th Dynasty



© The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Bust of a Queen (Ahmose-Nefertari?). Early 18th Dynasty, probably reign of Ahmose I. (r. 1550-1525 B.C.). (r. 1550-1525 B.C.). Western Thebes, Asasif. Indurated limestone with traces of paint. H. 28 cm , W. 17.8 cm, D. 10 cm. Rogers Fund, 1916.

This image was published in conjunction with the post [Special Exhibition Review: Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh](#) on April 2, 2006.

Its purpose here is to offer readers a glimpse of the works available in the "Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh" special exhibition review, detailed in the post.

Read the [full review](#).

View a [gallery of additional images](#) from the exhibition.

Exhibition dates: March 28 through July 9, 2006.

Venue website: [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#).

Image 2 of 7

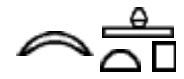
[< Prev.](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [Next >](#)

Ahhotep I

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ahhotep I (alternatively spelled *Ahhotpe* or *Aahhotep*), an Ancient Egyptian queen who lived circa 1560- 1530 BCE, during the early New Kingdom. A member of the Seventeenth dynasty of ancient Egypt, she was the daughter of Queen Tetisheri (Teti the Small) and Tao I, and likely the sister/wife of the pharaoh Tao II.

**Ahhotep
in hieroglyphs**



Contents

- 1 Life
- 2 Family
- 3 Military activity
- 4 Tomb
- 5 Sources

Life

She is considered by some historians to be the founder of the eighteenth dynasty, although this is debatable. Her husband, the pharaoh Tao II, had been the pharaoh of only Upper Egypt; at that time the invaders in the intermediate period, the Hyksos, controlled Lower Egypt. It is thought that after his death in battle against the Hyksos, Ahhotep played a crucial role in government and guidance of Upper Egypt. Ahhotep's sons, Ahmose and Kamose, managed to unite Upper and Lower Egypt by expelling the Hyksos. They assumed full power over the country, and when Kamose, like his father, died before they were able to defeat the Hyksos Ahmose assumed the throne. However, evidence suggests that this occurred when Ahmose I was too young to rule, and hence Aahotoep became regent. Ahhotep lived until she was about 90 years old and was buried beside Kamose at Thebes. Evidence suggests that she played an important role in politics during the unsettled second intermediate period and was influential in driving the Hyksos invaders out of Egypt, following the death of her husband. She was buried with, among other things, three "golden fly" medals (awarded in ancient Egypt for military service) and a ceremonial dagger. She was also presented with the Order of Valour, and a stela in the temple of Amun-Re praises her military accomplishments.



Sarcophagus of Queen Ah'hotep, 16th century B.C.E. Royal woman of Seventeenth Dynasty.



The jewels and ceremonial weaponry found in with the burial of Queen Ahhotep, including an axe whose blade depicts Ahmose I striking down a Hyksos soldier, and the golden flies awarded to the Queen for her supportive role against the Hyksos.

Family

Ahhotep I was the daughter of Tao I and Queen Tetisheri. She was the wife of the 17th Dynasty king Tao II; he is believed to have been her brother, following the ancient Egyptian tradition of royals marrying their siblings to keep royal blood within the family. Ahhotep is believed to be the mother of Kamose and Ahmose, who succeeded their father after he was killed in a battle against the Hyksos.

Military activity

It is possible that Ahhotep led troops into battle herself against the Hyksos. Evidence such as the weaponry and jewelry found in her tomb, along with an ambiguous sentence on a stela devoted to her, indicates that she may have rallied troops:

She is the one who has accomplished the rites and taken care of Egypt... She has looked after her soldiers, she has guarded her, she has brought back her fugitives and collected together her deserters she has pacified Upper Egypt and expelled her rebels.

Tomb

Ahhotep's tomb was discovered nearly intact in AD 1859 in Dra Abu el-Naga at Thebes.

Ahhotep's mummy was found badly decayed in a gilded coffin, containing many weapons and pieces of jewelry. These artifacts consisted of bracelets, collars, pendants, a necklace, a ceremonial axe, and dagger, as well as two model barks of silver and gold.

Sources

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- Callender (1995) *The eye of Horus*
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Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahhotep_I"

Categories: Ancient Egyptians | Ancient Egypt stubs | Seventeenth dynasty of Egypt | Eighteenth dynasty of Egypt | Queens regnant | Regents | Women in ancient warfare

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Message-Id: <04FEB96.00896440.0036.MUSIC@NEMOMUS>
Date: Sun, 04 Feb 1996 00:49:47 CST
From: "OREL, SARA" <FA55%NEMOMUS.BITNET@uchimvs1.uchicago.edu>
To: <ane@MITHRA-ORINST.UCHICAGO.EDU> Ancient Near East List
Subject: Kamose and Ahmose, since you asked

Ahmose and Kamose and their familial relationship

From Sara E. Orel. 4 February, 1996.

I have had several requests to summarize the answers to my query regarding Ahmose and Kamose and their familial relationship, if there was one. So here is a brief summary. My thanks go to (in the order I received the responses) Al Berens, Gay Robins, Filip Coppens, Nigel Strudwick, Steve Harvey, David Lorton, and Ron Leprohon.

The problem is not limited to Kamose and Ahmose; it goes back to the question of who is Ahhotep and how many Ahhoteps she was (1? 2? even 3?); for this topic I was referred to Gay Robins' article in *_GM_ 56* (1982) 71-77.

Once you get to Ahmose and Kamose themselves, Gay Robins writes that the original reason for the identification of Kamose and Ahmose as brothers is a statue of a prince who is the son of King Tao and a s3t nsw wrt Ahhotep. "It is generally assumed that the king is Tao II and the queen is king Ahmose's mother Ahhotep who is well-attested elsewhere." The problem is that Kamose came between Tao and Ahmose, therefore it seems logical to assign Kamose as the older brother, but the problem with Ahhotep means that one cannot automatically assume this Ahhotep is the same Ahhotep as the mother of Ahmose... Anyway, the exact relationship of Kamose to the royal family is a bit problematic, by her reckoning.

Others referred me to the work of Claude Vandersleyen. Nigel Strudwick suggested his work in *_Egypt et la vallee du Nil_* volume II (recommended it as a textbook, actually, if my students read French. They are more likely to have Spanish, sadly enough for this field, or if I am lucky they have German. But that is a different debate). Filip Coppens checked the LA for me, and the article on Ahmose was by Vandersleyen, who suggests that Kamose might have been the Uncle rather than the brother of Ahmose. Ron Leprohon also recommended Vandersleyen's book on Ahmose, to which I do not have access yet (but the interlibrary loan librarian may choose to hide next time she sees me coming).

Other evidence comes from the cranio-facial studies by Wentz and Harris (references to the *_X-ray atlas of the Royal Mummies_* pp, 122-30 and in C.N. Reeves, *_After Tutankhamun: Research and Excavation in the Royal Necropolis at Thebes_*, p. 6). The craniofacial examinations show that Ahmose is not close enough to the skeletal forms of Sekenenre Tao or Amenhotep I to be the son of the one or the father of the other. [editor's note -- although if the mummies are misidentified does this still hold true?]. Filip Coppens notes that the remains of Kamose were destroyed upon its discovery in 1857, so it could not be included in the study.

One final reference was to the discussion on the Kamose relationship to Sekenenre Tao and Ahmose in Donald B. Redford's *_History and Chronology of the Eighteenth Dynasty_*, p. 37, where he notes that the tying of Kamose to the family was a ramesside development.

The last thing I will mention is that Steve Harvey is writing his dissertation on Ahmose, and he writes that

"some space" is devoted to the familial relationships. I am looking forward to what he has to say about the problem.

I think this covers at least the main points that people raised in their messages to me. Again, I was very happy with the useful and friendly responses. Thanks very much.

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