

Paintings of Ancient Egypt

<https://www.historyforkids.net/egyptian-painting.html>

31st century BC and the 4th century AD

Ancient Egyptian paintings were found in tombs and burial places.

Egyptian painting was used in a number of ways, including painting directly on the surface. Another method was to create a **‘relief’**, which is **a raised image** above the background and then carefully painting the details of the image.

There is a second type of **relief** which was carved out and is referred to as **‘sunk relief’**, and the images were painted with a raised background surrounding them. Although most of the Egyptian statues that we see today do not show any color, they were originally painted with bright colours.

The paint that the Egyptians used was **coloured or dyed using minerals** that were naturally found in their area and some that they imported.

They used: **red, blue, green, gold, and black; but they also used white, pink and grey.** Artists would grind the minerals into a fine dust and then mix them with a kind of ‘glue’ made from animals or plants.

- **Blue** represented the sky, water, the heavens, the ancient flood and both rebirth and creation.
- **Red** was the color of fire, anger, life, chaos, victory and hostility.
- **Yellow** represented eternal, imperishable, indestructible
- **Green** was the color of vegetation, growth, joy, fertility, new life and regeneration
- **White** is the color of cleanliness, power, purity, simplicity
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Hapi, the river god was always painted in blue to represent the water. Each of the gods had his or her own specific color and it included any clothing as well as their skin.

Even the god Anubis had his jackal head painted black, because he was the god of the dead.

Royalty was often painted with both blue and gold, which were the symbols of strength and power.

**vocabulary associated with the objects such as materials (e.g. plaster, pigment),
technical terms (e.g. painted, constructed), name of object (e.g. wall painting, fragment)**



http://www.egyptian-museum-berlin.com/c52.php#n_hausaltar_01.jpg

A **sunk-relief** depiction of Pharaoh **Akhenaten** with his wife **Nefertiti** and daughters. The main background has not been removed, merely that in the immediate vicinity of the sculpted form. Note how strong shadows are needed to define the image.

<http://www.egyptian-museum-berlin.com/c53.php>

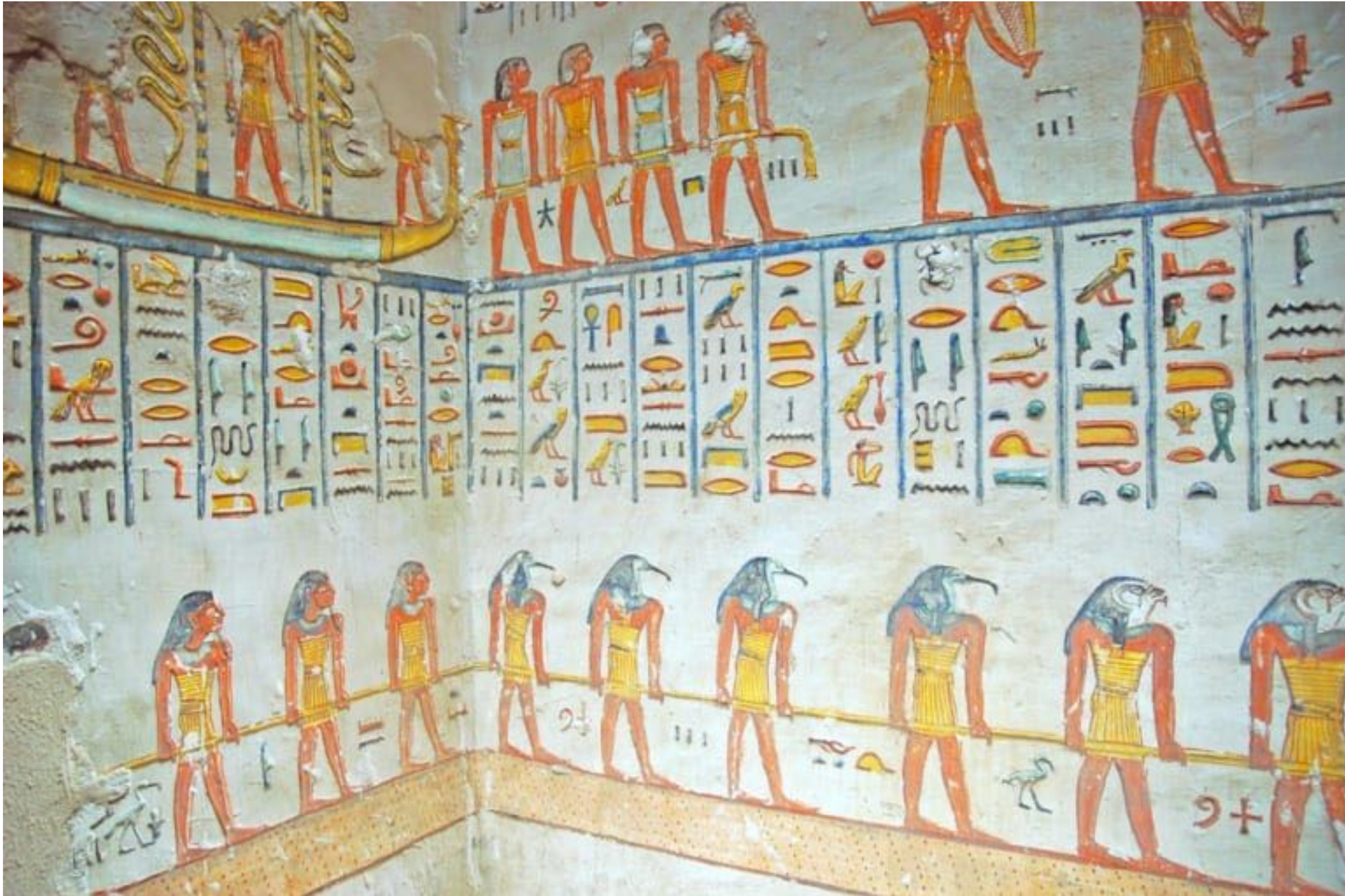


 Nefertiti

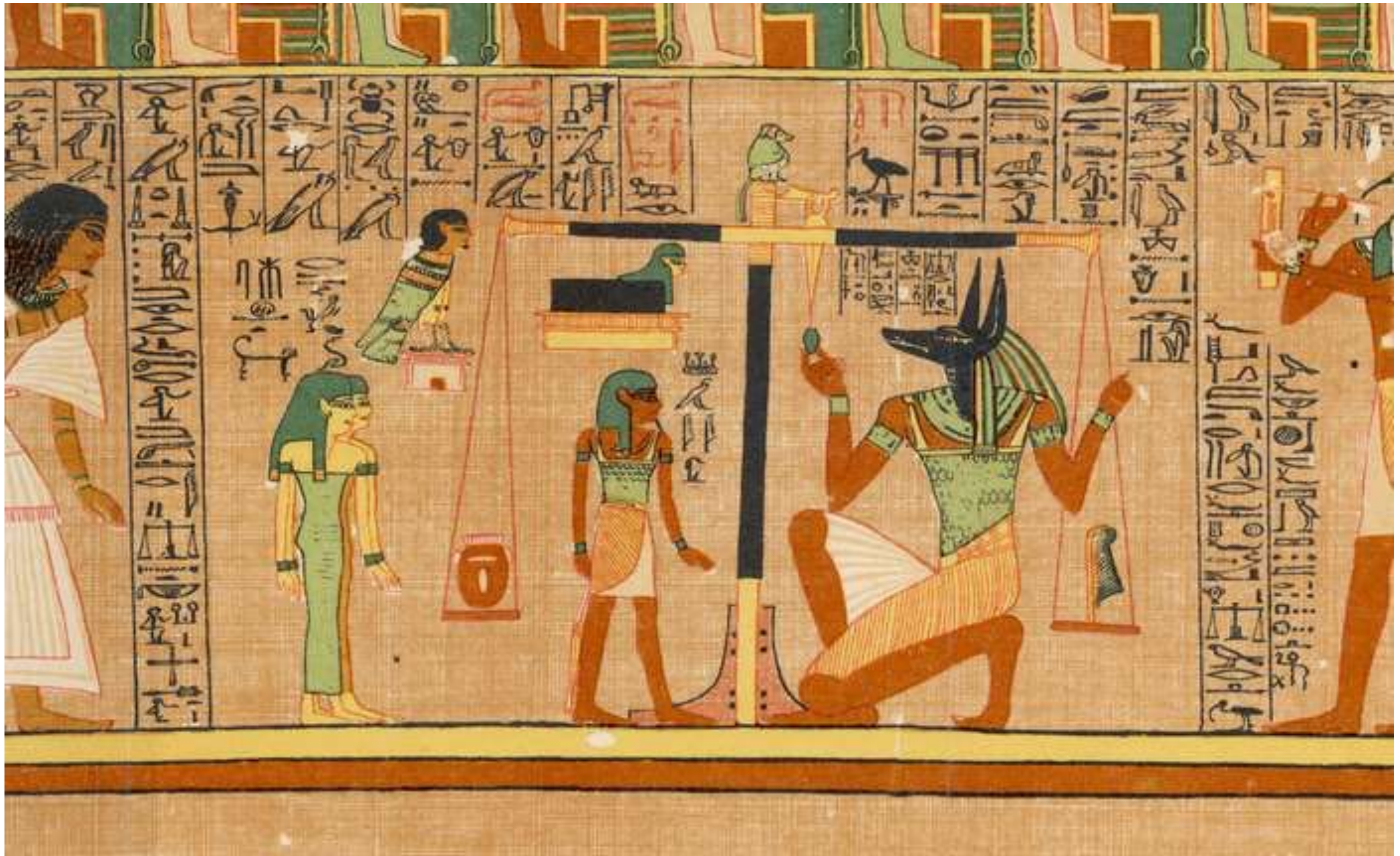


Lotus chalice, from Egypt, about 1350 BC

Lotus chalice is a typical example for these kind of cups, which were only common during the New Kingdom. The lotus is a symbol for creation and rebirth in ancient Egypt. Therefore, it's widely featured in the banquet scene of Nebamun's tomb chapel, where the guests smell lotus flowers and buds. [Collection online](#)



Tomb of Pharaoh Rameses VI. Egyptians painted scenes on tomb walls so the gods could see how they wanted to be treated in the next world.(Image: LunaseeStudios/Shutterstock)



Anubis weighing the soul of the scribe Ani, from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, c. 1275 BCE.



"Book of the Dead" was a guidebook with illustrations on how to get to the next world. They were written on long rolls of papyrus paper (Image: francesco de marco/Shutterstock)



<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/id/ps1350>
death#&gid=1&pid=2

The banquet: fragments of wall painting from the tomb of Nebamun. From Thebes, Egypt, 1350 BC

These fragments are part of at least four horizontal registers showing a banquet scene typical of



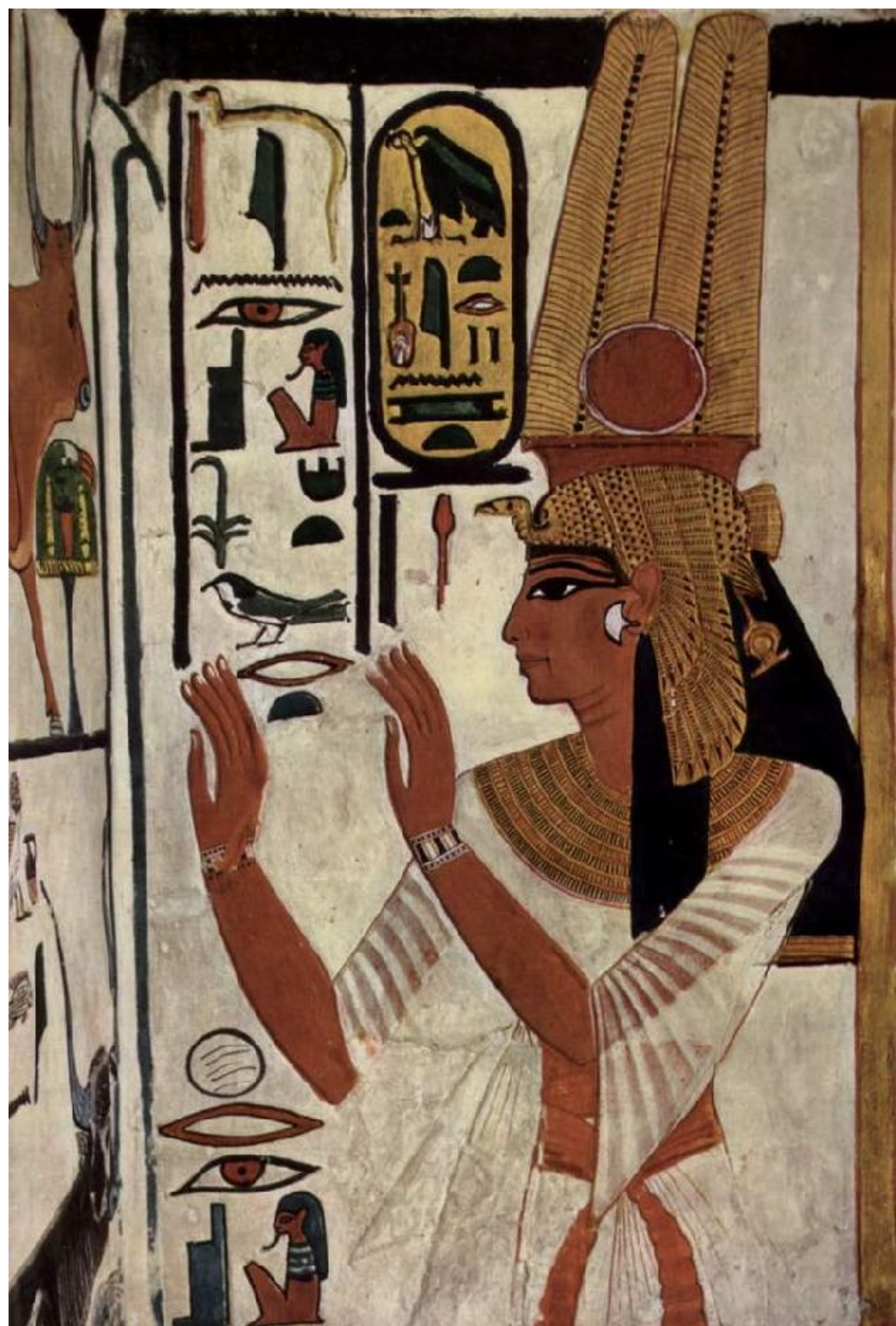
Fresco which depicts [Nebamun](#) hunting birds; 1350 BC; paint on [plaster](#); 98 × 83 cm (3 ft 2.5 in × 2 ft 8.7 in); [British Museum](#) (London)



Fresco which depicts the pool in [Nebamun's estate garden](#); c. 1350 BC; painted [plaster](#); height: 64 cm; British Museum



Osiris: The gods Osiris, [Anubis](#), and Horus, from a tomb painting.



Wall painting of Nefertari: Egyptian paintings are painted in such a way to show a profile view and a side view of the animal or person. This painting, for example, shows the head from a profile view and the body from a frontal view. The main colors used were red, blue, black, gold, and green.