

## CHAPTER 2. EVOLUTION OF FEATURES

This chapter contains a summary of the literature survey, rearranged to show the features and characteristics of stelae of different periods. It was used as the basis of the four databases described in Chapter 3 which were used to classify the characteristics of the stelae for analysis. The databases were modified and extended in the course of the examination of the stelae as more details came to light. For simplicity of presentation, the characteristics have been grouped here under subheadings corresponding to the database names (or headings in the databases) that will be encountered in later chapters.

### Late Dynasty 11

- Pattern: Rectangular or semi-circular top. (Evers)  
 Portrait or landscape rectangle, the former with round top. (Pflüger)  
 Text continuous from lunette into rectangle. (Müller)  
 Top half text (horizontal lines), bottom half tableau(x). Carries into early MK. (Müller)
- Text:  at start of offering formula. Carries into Dynasty 13. (Smither)  
 Gift list without *di=f*. (Bennett)  
 No purely religious material. (Pflüger)  
 Book-roll determinative with mud seal only. (Spanel), (Simpson)
- Gods: Osiris and Anubis usually follow *hṯp-di-nswt*. (Bennett)  
 Osiris “in all his places”, which disappears in Dynasty 12. (Bennett)
- Figures: Owner’s ‘old’ family members do not appear. (Pflüger)  
 Wife and children appear frequently. (Pflüger)
- Tableau: Domestic items common. Diminish in Dynasty 12. (Pflüger)  
 Dogs appear under seat and table. (Pflüger)  
 Sceptre and staff present. Disappear later. (Pflüger)  
 Bracelets and anklets. Disappear later. (Pflüger)  
 Offering scenes common. Disappear later. (Pflüger)

### General Dynasty 12

- Pattern: Decorations usually *wꜣbt*-eyes, winged sun-disk, jackal figures. (Hözl)
- Text: *di=f* commonly used in offering formula. (Barta)  
 used almost exclusively at beginning of offering formula. (Barta), (Lapp)
- Gods: Osiris and Anubis gods most commonly named. (Barta)  
 Wepwawet usually replaces Anubis throughout Dynasty 12. (Bennett)  
 New series of prayers numbered from 51 to 114. (Barta)  
 Lines of text in top half of stela, tableaux in bottom half. (Hözl)

### Early Dynasty 12

- Pattern: Detailed moulding, low relief figures, double line between lines of horizontal text. (Evers)  
 Text continuous from lunette into rectangle (as in Dynasty 11). (Müller)  
 Semicircular top. (Hözl)
- Text: Formulae (including Abydos formula) common; not good for dating. (Müller)  
 Gift list tends to follow *di=f*. Continues throughout. (Bennett)  
 Osiris name with determinative. Changes as dynasty progresses. (Bennett)  
*hnty imntyw* common. Becomes less frequent as dynasty progresses. (Bennett)  
 Busiris written as . Changes as dynasty progresses. (Bennett)

## Characteristics

Book-roll determinative shows one or two ties. Two ties standard later.  
(Spanel)  
Writing includes expletive and plural strokes increasingly during Dynasty 12.  
(Spanel)

### Amenemhat I

Pattern: False door form. (Evers)  
Text: *di=f* added to offering formula. (Spanel)  
Little text apart from the tableaux. (Freed)  
Gifts: Incense, oil, alabaster, linen, *ḥt nbt nfrt wꜣbt ꜥnḥt ntr im* added to gift list.  
(Spanel)  
Figures: Small number of standing figures in tableau. (Freed)  
Compact grouping of offerings. (Freed)  
Wife and children important. (Pflüger)  
Single large male. (Freed)

### Senusret I

Pattern: False door form. (Evers)  
Incised false door at bottom. (Freed)  
Portrait rectangle with semicircular or low arcuate top. (Pflüger)  
Fixed registers of figures; only two registers by end of reign. (Evers)  
Two-field format at its artistic peak. (Müller)  
Text: About half of stelae contain only religious material. (Pflüger)  
Autobiographical notes in epithet form popular. (Doxey)  
Gifts: Ascription *n imꜥḥ(w)(name)*. (Bennett)  
Appearance of *ꜥnḥt ntr im*. Rest of Prayer 108 added later. (Bennett),  
(Disagrees with Spanel.)  
Figures: Wife and children appear often. (Pflüger)  
Mother frequently present. (Pflüger)  
Rolls of fat apparent on figures. (Pflüger), (Freed)  
Attenuated figures. Continues later. (Freed)  
Single large male. (Freed)  
Elongated skull on men. Continues later. (Freed)  
Tableau: Dogs appear under seat and table. Disappear after this reign. (Pflüger)  
Women smelling lotus flowers. (Pflüger)  
Women carrying lotus flowers on short stems. (Freed)

### Amenemhat II

Pattern: Low arcuate top, raised edge as frame. (Evers)  
False door appears. (Pflüger), (Disagrees with Evers)  
Delicate modelling. (Evers)  
Two registers of figures. (Evers)  
Vertical text. (Evers)  
Strongly symmetrical. Continues into later reigns. (Müller)  
Text: Vertical text. Continues into later reigns. (Müller)  
Gifts: Ascription *n kꜣ n imꜥḥw(name)*. (Bennett)  
Tableau: Men and women smelling lotus flowers. Fades out after this reign. (Pflüger)  
Elongated skull on men. (Freed)  
Attenuated figures. (Freed)

## Characteristics

### Senusret II

- Pattern: Winged disk on private stelae. (Evers)  
Figures in middle; text at sides. (Evers)
- Figures: Wife and children important. (Pflüger)

### Senusret III

- Pattern: Winged disk on private stelae. Fades out by Amenemhat III. (Evers)  
Figures in middle; text at sides. (Evers)  
Lunette with central vertical cartouche and flanking gods. Continues into later reigns. (Müller)  
First appearance of  as Osiris name. (Bennett)
- Figures: Wife and children often present. Importance wanes after this reign. (Pflüger)
- Tableau: Oil jars reappear. (Pflüger)

### Second half of Dynasty 12

- Pattern: Central text flanked by figures. (Müller)  
Low arcuate top. (Hözl)
- Text: Osiris *wsir* without determinative. (Bennett)
- Gifts: Include incense and oil. (Bennett)

### Amenemhat III

- Shape: Beginning of tableau(x) top half and text bottom half. Continues into New Kingdom. (Evers)  
Typically low arcuate top. (Evers).  
By middle of reign, text and figures intermingled. (Evers)  
Figure and vertical text together; chessboard pattern. (Evers)
- Gods: Figures in top area. (Evers)
- Text: Busiris written as . (Bennett)  
About 75% of stelae contain only religious material. (Pflüger)  
Autobiographical notes in epithet form revived. (Doxey)
- Gifts: Ascription *n k3 n (name)*. (Bennett)
- Tableau: Sceptre and staff reappear. (Pflüger)  
Offering scenes reappear. (Pflüger)

### Amenemhat IV

Nothing new.

### Sobekneferu

Nothing new

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### End of Dynasty 12

- Pattern: “Democratisation”; secondary figures of about same size as owner. (Müller)  
Deteriorating quality of execution. (Evers).
- Text:  start of offering formula. (Leprohon)  
Osiris name without determinative. (Leprohon)  
*wḥm ḥnh* (living again) applied to owner. (Leprohon)
- Tableau: Owner’s ears exposed by wig. (Leprohon)  
Man smelling lotus blossom. (Leprohon)  
Woman kneeling on one knee. (Leprohon) .

## Characteristics

### **Dynasties 14 to 17**

Pattern: Top half tableau, bottom half text. (Evers)

Text:  start of offering formula. (Smither)

### **Dynasty 17**

Pattern: Quality of execution recovered. (Evers)

Horus eyes a common decoration. (Evers)