

Senusret I

Senusret I

Sesostris, Sesonchosis



Statue of Senusret I in the Cairo Museum, Egypt

Pharaoh

Reign 1971–1926 BC ; (1920–1875 BC) ([Twelfth Dynasty](#))

Predecessor [Amenemhat I](#)

Successor [Amenemhat II](#)

show

Royal titulary

Consort [Neferu III](#)

Children [Amenemhat II](#), Amenemhat-ankh, Itakayt, Sebat,
Neferusobek, Neferuptah

Father	Amenemhat I
Mother	Neferitatenen ^[1]
Died	1926 BC ; (1875 BC)
Burial	Pyramid at el-Lisht
Monuments	White Chapel , Pyramid of Senusret I

Senusret I ([Middle Egyptian](#): [z-n-wsrt](#); /si: ni ' was.ri? /) also anglicized as **Sesostris I** and **Senwosret I**, was the second [pharaoh](#) of the [Twelfth Dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#). He ruled from 1971 BC to 1926 BC (1920 BC to 1875 BC)^[2], and was one of the most powerful kings of this Dynasty. He was the son of [Amenemhat I](#). Senusret I was known by his prenomen, Kheperkare, which means "the Ka of Re is created."^[3]

He continued his father's aggressive expansionist policies against [Nubia](#) by initiating two expeditions into this region in his 10th and 18th years and established Egypt's formal southern border near the [second cataract](#) where he placed a garrison and a victory [stele](#).^[4] He also organized an expedition to a [Western Desert oasis](#). Senusret I established diplomatic relations with some rulers of towns in Syria and [Canaan](#). He also tried to centralize the country's political structure by supporting nomarchs who were loyal to him. His pyramid was constructed at [el-Lisht](#). Senusret I is mentioned in the [Story of Sinuhe](#) where he is reported to have rushed back to the royal palace in Memphis from a military campaign in Libya after hearing about the assassination of his father, [Amenemhat I](#).



Family

The family relations of the king are well known. Senusret I was the son of Amenemhat I. His mother was a certain queen with the name Neferitatenen. His main wife was [Neferu III](#) who was also his sister and mother of his successor Amenemhat II. The known children are Amenemhat II and the princesses Itakayt and [Sebat](#). The latter was most likely a daughter of Neferu III as she appears with the latter together in one inscription.

Building program

Senusret I dispatched several quarrying expeditions to the [Sinai](#) and [Wadi Hammamat](#) and built numerous shrines and temples throughout Egypt and Nubia during his long reign. He rebuilt the important temple of Re-Atum in Heliopolis which was the centre of the sun cult. He erected 2 red granite obelisks there to celebrate his Year 30 [Heb Sed Jubilee](#). One of the obelisks still remains and is the oldest standing obelisk in Egypt. It is now in the Al-Masalla (Obelisk in Arabic) area of [Al-Matariyyah](#) district near the [Ain Shams](#) district ([Heliopolis](#)). It is 67 feet tall and weighs 120 tons or 240,000 pounds.

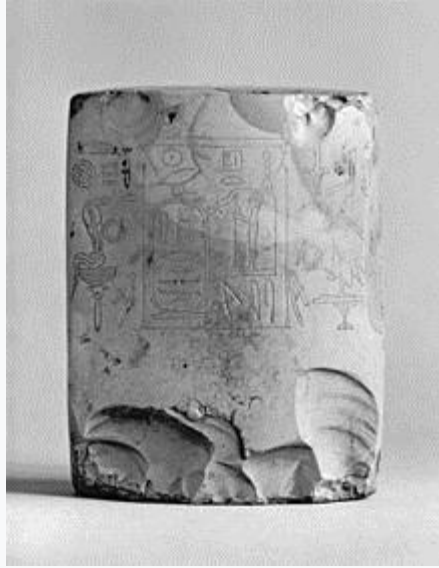
Senusret I is attested to be the builder of a number of major temples in Ancient Egypt, including the temple of Min at [Koptos](#), the [Temple of Satet](#) on [Elephantine](#), the Month-temple at [Armant](#) and the Month-temple at [El-Tod](#), where a long inscription of the king is preserved.^[5]



Heliopolis obelisk (Senusret I).



Osiride statue (Senusret I).



Stone weight with Senusret I's cartouche.

A shrine (known as the [White Chapel](#) or Jubilee Chapel) with fine, high quality reliefs of Senusret I, was built at Karnak to commemorate his Year 30 jubilee. It has subsequently been successfully reconstructed from various stone blocks discovered by Henri Chevrier in 1926. Finally, Senusret remodelled the Temple of Khenti-Amentiu Osiris at [Abydos](#), among his other major building projects.



The White Chapel of Senusret I at Karnak.

The royal court

Some of the key members of the court of Senusret I are known. The [vizier](#) at the beginning of his reign was [Intefiger](#), who is known from many inscriptions and from his tomb next to the pyramid of Amenemhat I. He seems to have held this office for a long period of time and was followed by a vizier named [Senusret](#). Two [treasurers](#) are known from the reign of the king: [Sobekhotep](#) (year 22) and [Mentuhotep](#). The latter had a huge tomb next to the pyramid of the king and he seems to have been the main architect of the Amun temple at Karnak. Several *high stewards* are attested. [Hor](#) is known from several stelae and from an inscription in the [Wadi el-Hudi](#) where he was evidently the leader of an expedition for [amethyst](#). One of the stelae is dated to year nine of the king. A certain Nakhr followed in office attested around year 12 of the king. He had a tomb at Lisht. A certain Antef, son of a woman called Zatamun is known again from several stelae, one dates to year 24 another one to year 25 of Senusret I. Another Antef was the son a woman called Zatuser and was most likely also *high steward* in the king's reign.^[6]

Succession

Base of a granite statue inscribed with the name of Senusret (Sesostris) I. Two feet of a female figure, at the right side of the right foot of the king. From Armant, Egypt

Senusret was crowned [coregent](#) with his father, Amenemhat I, in his father's 20th regnal year.^[7] Towards the end of his own life, he appointed his son [Amenemhat II](#) as his [coregent](#). The stele of Wepwawetō is dated to the 44th year of Senusret and to the 2nd year of Amenemhet, thus he would have appointed him some time in his 43rd year.^[8] Senusret is thought to have died during his 46th year on the throne since the [Turin Can](#)