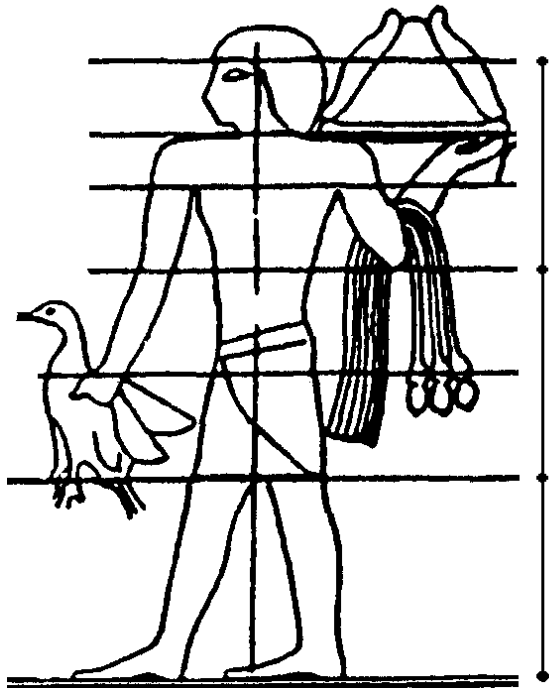


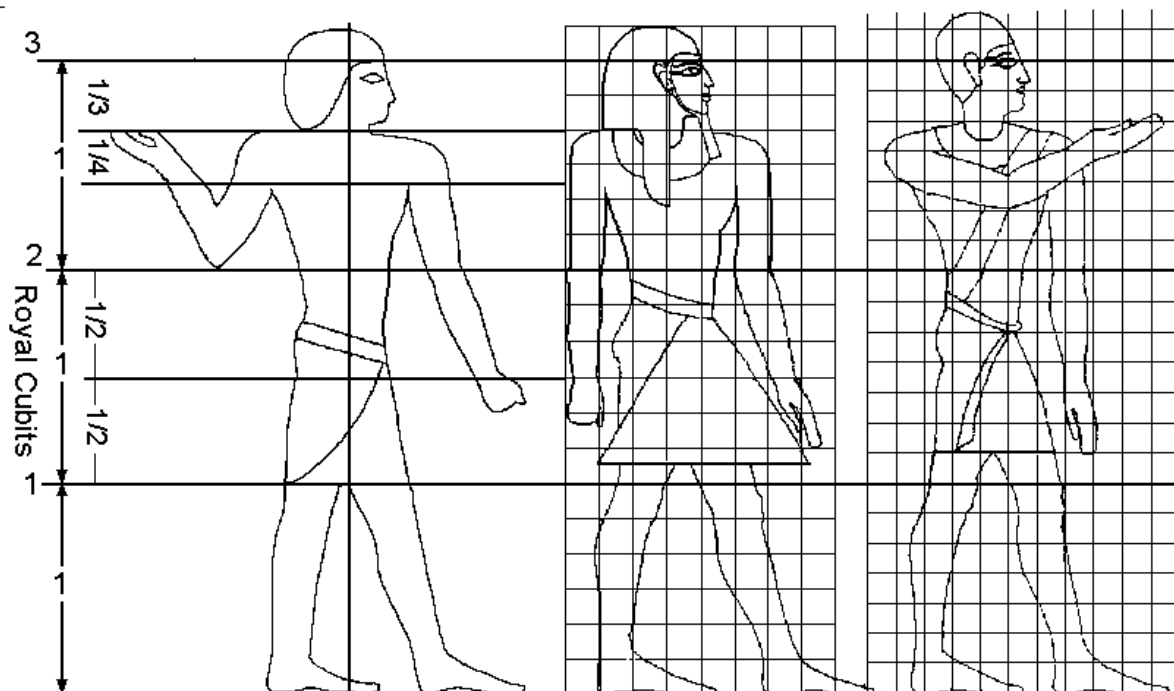
Proportion in Egyptian Art

“A German, Irwin Panofsky, looked at this similarity and with the aid of mathematical analysis, he found that the head of any Egyptian figure was always say one seventh the total height, the waist about one fifth the total height, the arms... and so on and so forth. In other words, he discovered that all the parts of the figure were created according to a specific and rarely altered system of proportions.”

Source: <http://library.thinkquest.org/23492/data/marble.htm>

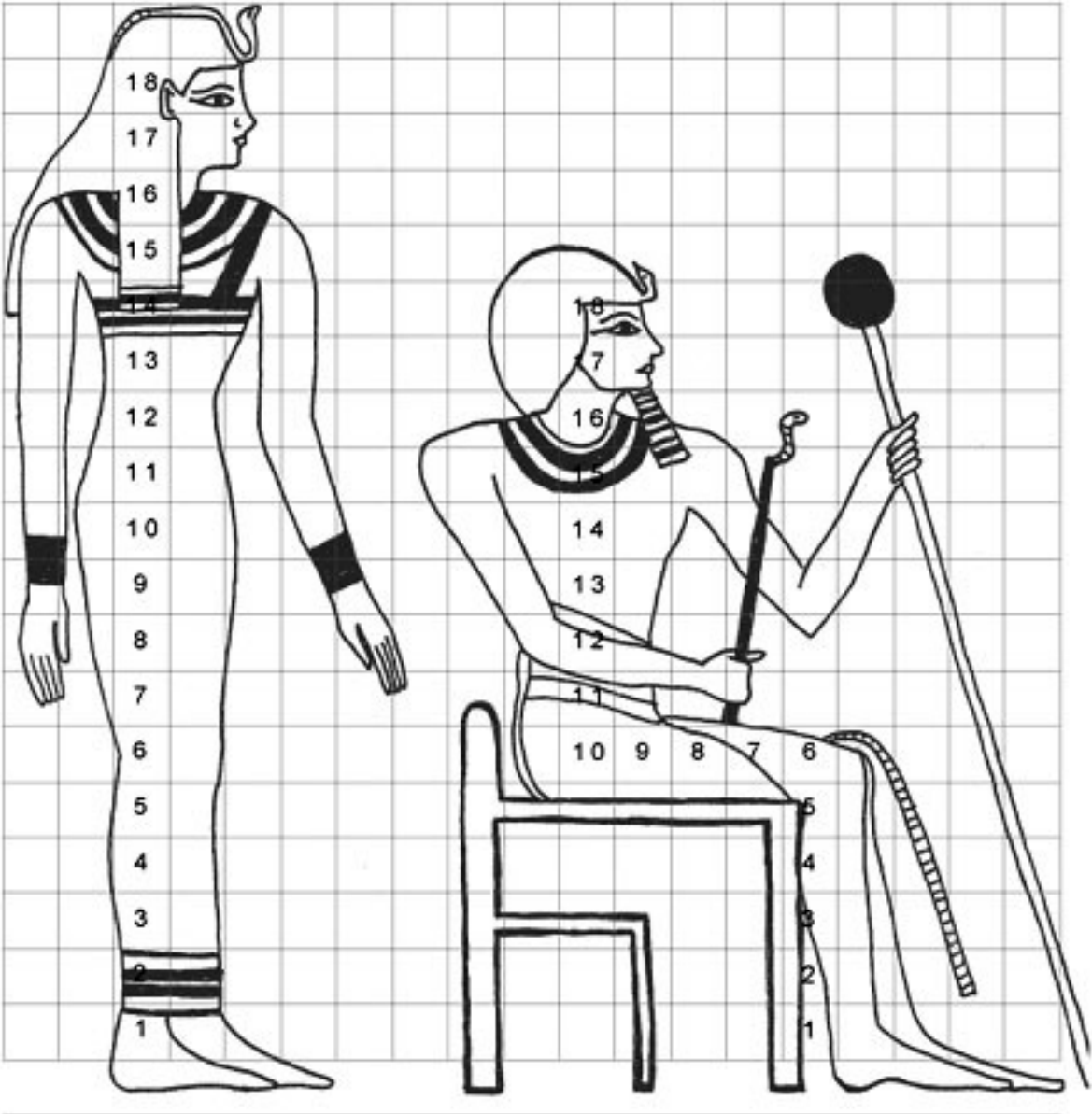


Source: <http://www.legon.demon.co.uk/images/perneb.gif>



The Development of the Egyptian Grid System and the Rules of Proportion
<http://www.legon.demon.co.uk/grid.htm>

Egyptian Proportions Span Thousands of Years



<http://www.civilization.ca/civil/egypt/egcw05e.html>

Rule of Proportion – 12th Dynasty

- **Standing** figures occupy 18 squares from soles to hairline [as illustrated by Iversen] with the old guideline system applied to the following key points:
 - Knee line at one third height comes at square 6
 - Lower buttock line at one half height comes at square 9
 - Elbow line at two thirds height comes at square 12
 - Neck-and-shoulders line comes at square 16
 - Calf line on lower leg between knee and sole comes at square 3
 - One vertical line of the grid ran through the ear and divided the figure.
 - The grid allowed the other points of the body to be aligned:
 - Line 17 between nose and lip
 - Line 14 through nipple
 - Line 11 through small of back for men (line 12 for women)
 - Length of hanging forearm = five squares from elbow to finger-tips.
 - In male figures the body measured 5 squares across the shoulders at line 15 and two and a half or less at line 11;
 - In female figures it is 5 across shoulders at line 15, and two at the small of the back line 12
 - Distance between armpits is usually 4 squares for male figures, 3 for female
- **Seated** figures occupied 14 squares between soles and hairline:
 - 9 squares from hairline to lower buttock, 5 from top of seat down to baseline
 - Lower leg occupies 6 squares as for standing figures (the knee top is 1 square above seat top)
- **Grids** were usually laid out in red paint and were often uneven, clearly a guide for drawing acceptably proportioned figures, not a mathematical straightjacket. They were not followed slavishly; on the same monument adjacent figures can have slightly different proportions.

Source: <http://www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk/art/artgrids.html>

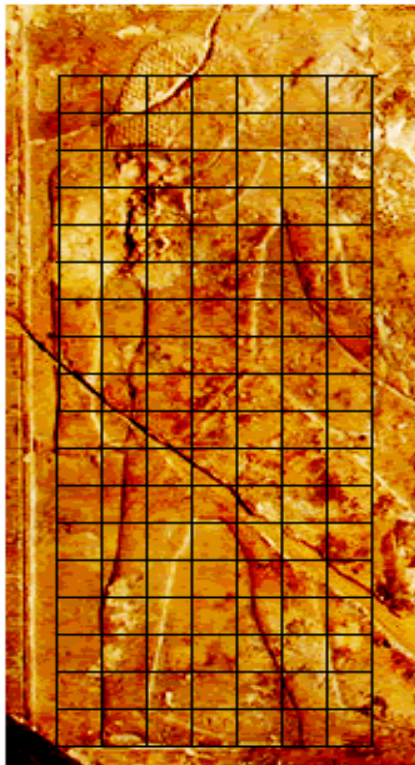


figure of Mentuhotep in hypothetical grid