


## Titles of Imhotep

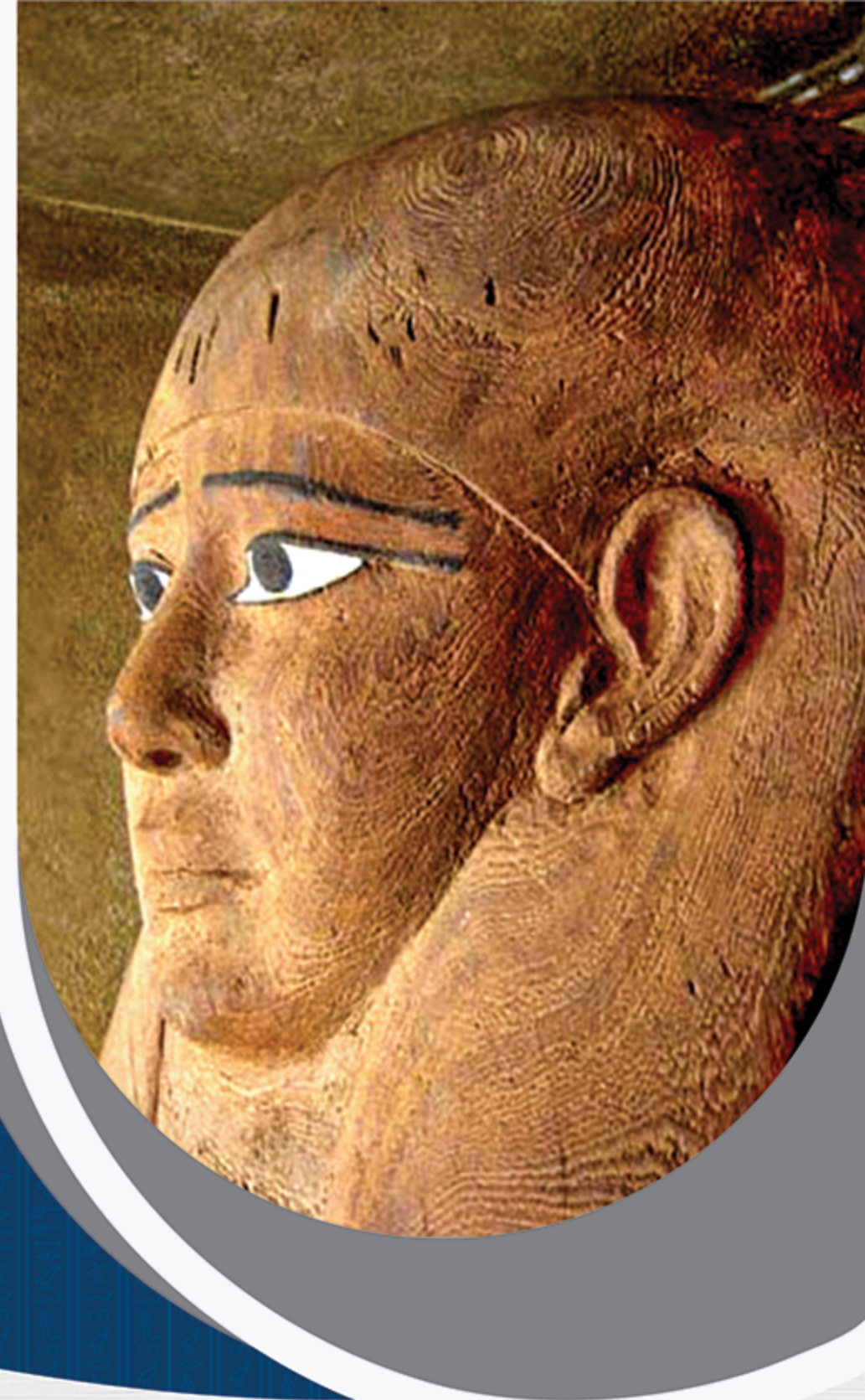
Imhotep, whose name  means "He Who Comes in Peace", was a high-ranking official in the court of King Djoser. His most prominent achievements include the construction of the funerary complex of the king; the Step Pyramid. He pioneered a great development in ancient Egyptian architecture. Imhotep was the first known Egyptian architect to use stone on a large scale in building a pyramid complex. He earned many titles, including "Sealer of the king of lower Egypt, First one after the king, high-priest of Heliopolis, and his name were inscribed on the base of the statue of the king. Although architecture is his most outstanding achievement, he was remembered for his medical treatises. He was deified long after his death, by merging him with Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine. Patients visited his shrines for healing.

## About the Museum

The Imhotep Museum is one of the most important sites museums in Egypt. Located in Saqqara, 20 km from the Giza plateau, the museum was initiated in 1997 and was officially opened in 2006 to honour the memory of the ancient Egyptian architect Imhotep, the creator of the pyramidal tomb design. The museum exhibits a unique collection of artefacts discovered in Saqqara, shedding light on the ancient Egyptian civilization. It also commemorates the French architect and Egyptologist Jean-Philippe Lauer, who dedicated his career to restoring and excavating the Saqqara site.

Extending over 3 acres (12 thousand square meters), the museum consists of one floor with six halls containing more than 280 unique artefacts from the discoveries of the Saqqara archaeological area.

In 2023, the Imhotep Museum was renovated by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The site was rehabilitated to welcome visitors. The museum's exhibition halls were upgraded. Special paths for the elderly and people of determination were created. The cafeteria, bazaars, and audiovisual room that displays films about the importance of the archaeological site of Saqqara were all redesigned.



Bronze statue of Imhotep



Jean-Philippe Lauer



## Jean-Philippe Lauer

Jean-Philippe Lauer is a French architect and Egyptologist born in Paris in 1902. In 1926, he travelled to Egypt to work for the Antiquities Service. Lauer devoted his career to restoring the funerary complex of King Djoser, including the crypt, and the enclosure wall of the complex. He also carried out archaeological excavation in the underground chambers of the Step Pyramid.

The museum has a library that contains a collection of his books and periodicals, as well as handwritten manuscripts by Lauer. In addition, the library exhibits Lauer's personal belongings, such as his compass and camera, besides some of his photos.

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# Imhotep Museum

## Architecture and Medicine

Ancient Egyptians mastered engineering and astronomical calculations since the dawn of history. Scribes drafted architectural designs by painting with red or black ink on ostraca (small discarded stones or pottery pieces). They used measuring cubits, equivalent to 52 cm or the size of a forearm, to measure surfaces and lengths.

Ancient Egyptians conceived medical prescriptions to treat diseases such as malaria, cataract, and stiff neck. They created surgical tools made of copper or bronze, which Egyptian physicians brilliantly used on victims of accidents or during childbirth.



Limestone ostraca



Medical sets made of bronze



Two cubits, one of schist and the other of wood



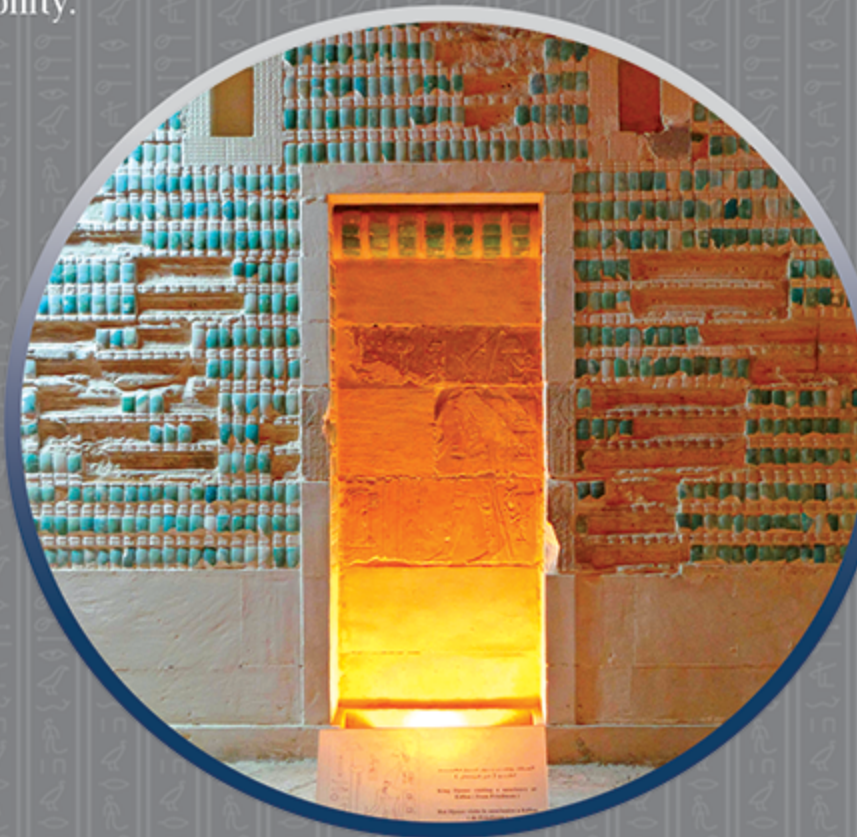
Base of a Djoser's statue  
Colored limestone wall

## King Djoser and funerary architecture

Djoser was a king of the Third Dynasty who launched military campaigns to enforce his control of the Egyptian lands and tighten his grip on the borders of Egypt. A rare base of a statue depicts the king stepping on the enemies of Egypt, represented by the nine bows, including an inscription mentioning the titles of the architect Imhotep.

The architecture of the royal tombs changed during the reign of King Djoser from a single mastaba to several mastabas on top of each other. This created the stepped pyramid shape, famously known as the step pyramid of King Djoser in Saqqara.

False doors were among the most important architectural elements in ancient Egyptian tombs due to their role in the afterlife. They enabled souls to cross to and from the other world, who then enjoyed the offerings left by the deceased's relatives. The false doors or niches were also inscribed with significant texts, including the record that King Djoser performed the rejuvenating ritual of Heb Sed. The Southern Tomb's false door is topped with the Geb column symbol for stability.



Djoser's Base of a Djoser's statue  
Colored lime stone faience wall

## Pyramid Texts

The Pyramid Texts are a collection of Egyptian mortuary prayers, hymns, and spells intended to protect a dead king or queen and ensure protection and a successful journey in the after world. The texts were first inscribed on the walls of the inner chambers of pyramids. The texts constitute the oldest surviving body of Egyptian religious and funerary writings. Later, the elite included these texts in their own tombs.

## Resurrection and immortality

Due to the ancient Egyptian belief in resurrection in the other world, the practice of embalming emerged to preserve the body of the deceased for his life in the afterlife. Bodies are embalmed after being cleaned and purified using linen rolls. The mummy of -perhaps- King Merenre, one of the kings of the Sixth Dynasty, who ruled from 2287 BC to 2278 BC, is considered the oldest royal mummy found in 1881. However, the mummy included later ornaments, suggesting a later date and another identity. Ancient Egyptians were careful to supply the deceased with all his needs after the resurrection, including funerary furniture, offerings, and vessels containing food and drink, as well as statues of servants (ushabti) to serve the deceased.



Remains of preserved cheese offerings in a ceramic vessel



Mummy believed to belong to King Merenra



A piece of coloured limestone topped with hieroglyphic carvings