Amenemhet III Encyclopedia Article

Amenemhet III

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Amenemhet III

1842-1797 B.C.

Pharaoh of Egypt during the twelfth dynasty (1818-1770 B.C.). Amenemhet developed the agricultural potential of the Faiyum area southwest of Cairo by completing the large irrigation project begun by his predecessors, reclaiming 153,600 acres (62,200 hectares) of land for cultivation. His water regulation system included draining marshes and constructing an overflow canal. Amenemhet also exploited the resources of the Sinai desert, especially its turquoise deposits. His reign was the last long and prosperous reign of the twelfth dynasty.