



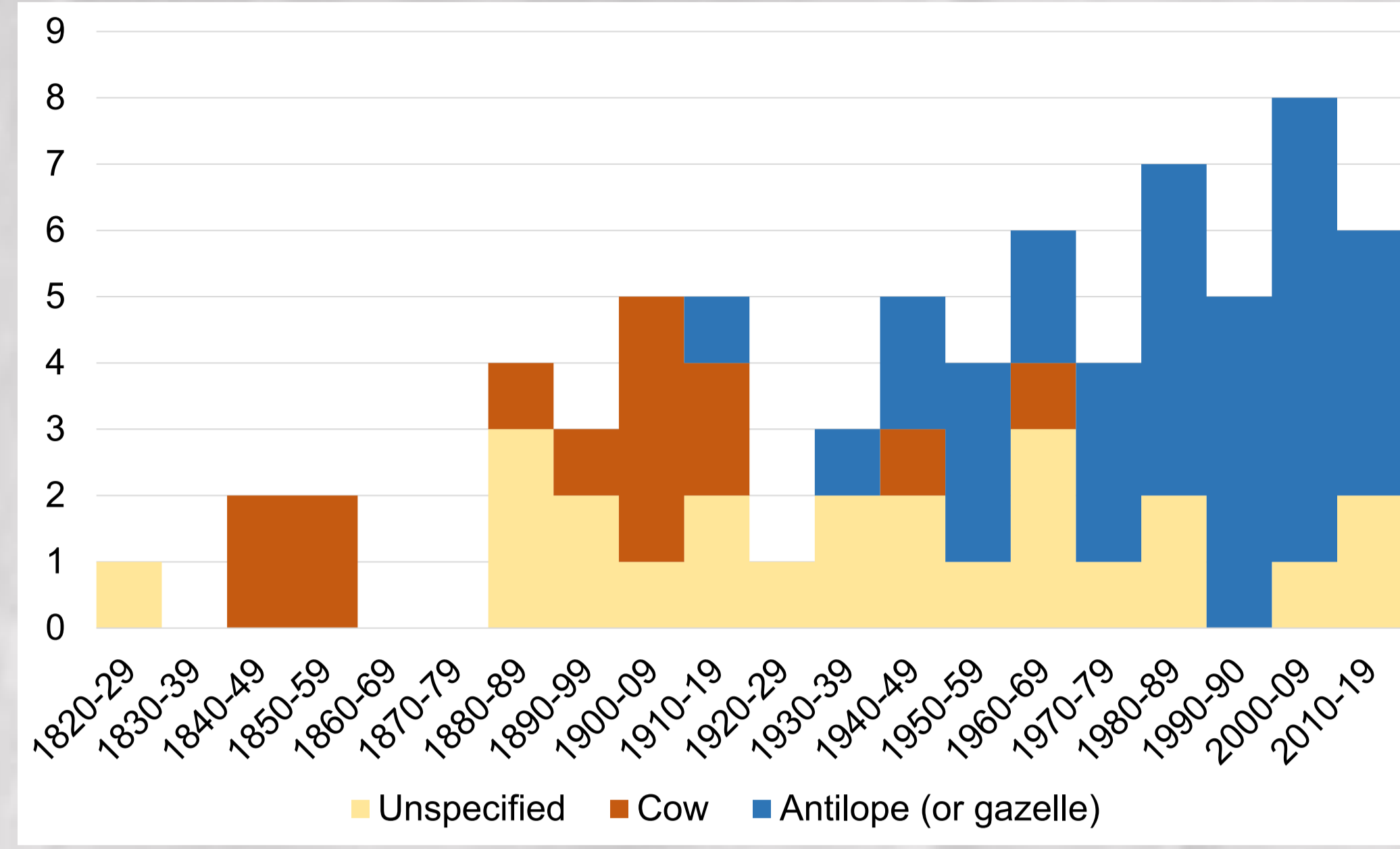
Antelope or cow

About the crown of the goddess Satet
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1- Bibliographic investigation

- Usually, saying Satet's crown shows antelope horns lacks references and remains unexplained
- In oldest descriptions, these horns are identified with those of a cow or with Hathor
- Most quoted G. Roeder's papers only describe them as "longer and closer together than usual cattle horns"
- Antelopes are first mentioned in K. Sethe's work, without any further comment
- It spread then in literature, quenching the former cow identification



Animal qualification of Satet's horns in 78 papers



Günther Roeder (1881-1966)

1908
"Sothis und Satis",
ZÄS 75, p.24

1912
Zur altägyptischen Sage
vom Sonnenauge das in der
Fremde war, UGAÄ 5, p.9

1921
"Satis", in Paulys
Realencyclopädie 2.3,
col.71

1930
Urgeschichte und älteste
Religion der Ägypter,
AKM 18, p.26, §32



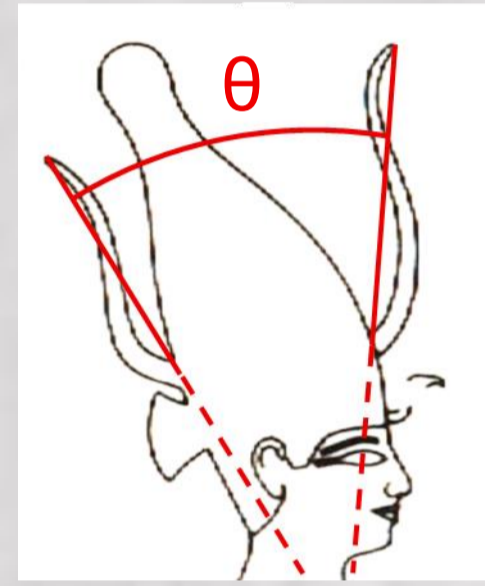
Kurt Sethe (1869-1934)

2- Illusion of narrowness

Examples of narrow-angle display



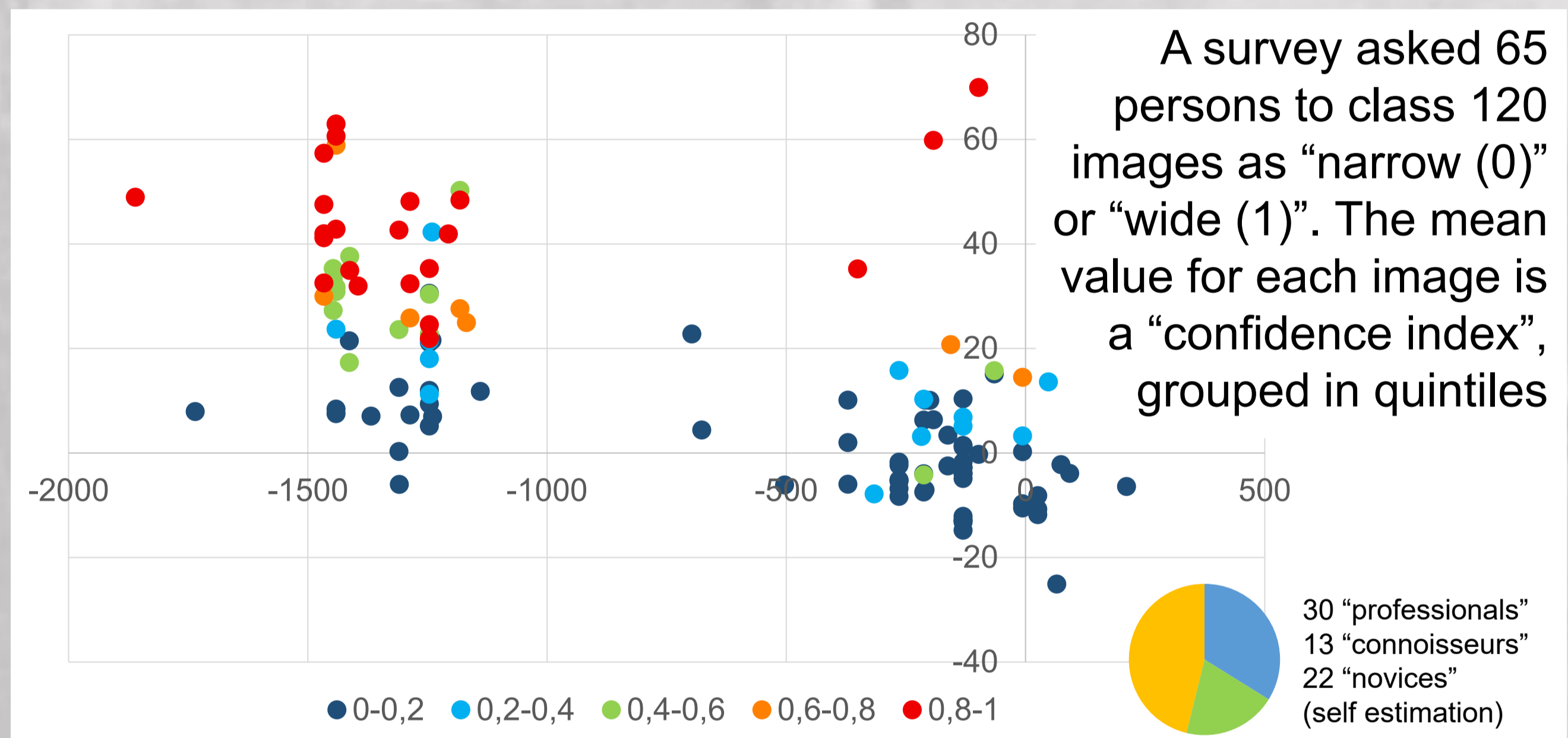
According to Roeder, Satet's horns are longer and form a narrower angle than cattle horns



Examples of wide-angle display



However, some examples do have a wide disposition



Chronological distribution of horns angle values, coloured according to the confidence index

Measures fit the survey results: the "narrow" disposition is not inherent
Its overrepresentation is progressive during the NK

3- Comparison with Bovidae horns

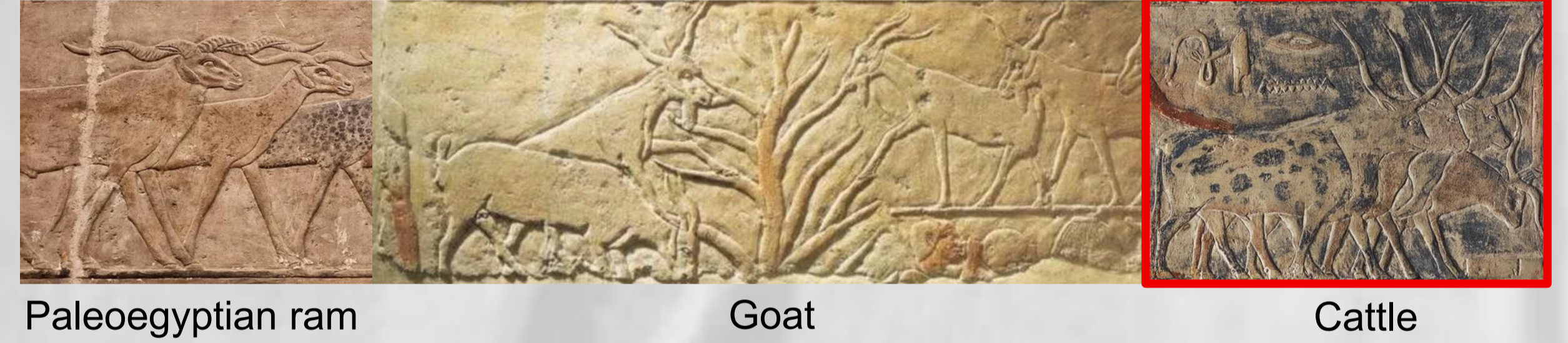
"Antelope" is an unprecise word
Satet's horns are closer in shape to cattle or hartebeest, but growing from the temples is characteristic of the former



Hartebeest « Amun's » ram Soemmerring's and Dorcas gazelles



Oryx Ibex Addax



Paleoegyptian ram Goat Cattle

Furthermore, unlike the hartebeest, Satet never shows the ringed aspect of broader-sense antelope horns



Flat representations combine a lateral view of the white crown and a front view of the horn pair

Satet's horns share more characteristics with cattle than antelopes

4- Three-dimensional perspective as a solution

A dozen depictions of Satet's crown represent the horns and the central cap overlapping one another in a sort of "pseudo-perspective"

Salt dough model of Satet's headgear taken with different views
The horns are in a vertical plane and form an angle of 81°



Front view (0°)

Oblique view (60°)

Lateral view (90°)

An oblique view shows the same pattern as the "pseudo-perspective" images

5- Conclusion

- Identification of Satet's horns as antelope's lies on no biological or iconographical comparison;
- The impression of "narrowness" results from a combination of two points of view and a pseudo-perspective effect;
- In the absence of any links with antelopes but with arguments in favour of the cow, we must abandon the antelope identification of K. Sethe and describe Satet's horns as cow horns;
- Therefore, the nature of her headgear can no longer sustain her supposedly Nubian origin.