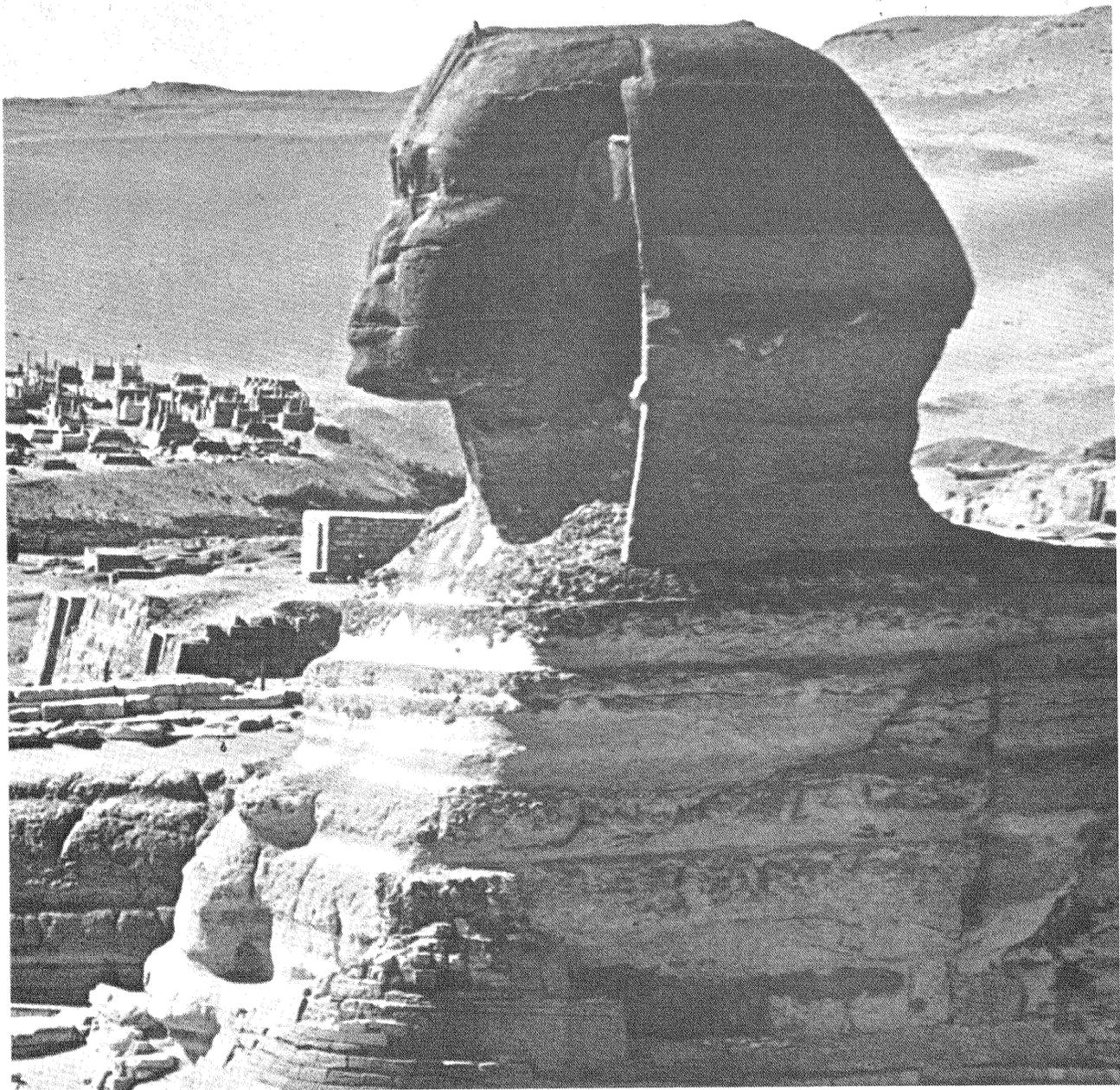


The Great Sphinx (c. 2565)



The facial features of the Great Sphinx, located at Gizeh, have traditionally been thought by Egyptologists to be those of Khafre, the Pharaoh of Egypt when the statue was carved. Recently, however, some scholars offer a different history. They argue that the Great Sphinx reveals a pattern of water erosion rather than wind and sand erosion, and that because water erodes substances more slowly, the statue is older than had been thought. They believe it to be over 9,000 years old. The prognathism of the Great Sphinx—the protrusion of its lower jaw—has long convinced many that its face is likely that of a black person.

**From *GREAT AGES OF MAN: ANCIENT EGYPT*. Photo by Eliot Elisofon, c. 1965
Time-Life Books, Inc.**