

THE JOURNAL
OF
EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

VOLUME II

PUBLISHED BY
THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND
37, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, W.C.

LONDON

1915

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NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR WHITEMORE writes from Ballabish that he has found there a number of pan-graves, which have been excavated, and a huge quantity of pottery, mostly of the XXVIth Dynasty or of later date. The weather had been terribly hot (the thermometer ranging up to 115° in the tents), and a bad Khamsîn had not added to the amenities of the work. Professor Whitemore was to leave for Alexandria on April 17, and was proceeding thence to Bulgaria. Mr Wainwright remained working on the site till late in May. He reports that the pan-graves are very interesting.

Part XI of the *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, which is now in an advanced state of preparation, is to be confined to texts of a literary or semi-literary character. In the theological section, besides fragments from the LXX and N.T. and some pages from lost treatises of Philo, there is an interesting novelty in the shape of a calendar of church services held at Oxyrhynchus during the winter months of A.D. 535-6. This is much the most ancient calendar referring to the Egyptian Church. New classical texts include important fragments of Hesiod, Bacchylides, Callimachus, the fifth-century B.C. Sophist Antiphon, a historical author (? Ephorus) who deals with the rise of the tyranny at Sicyon, and the epitomator Heraclides Lembus. Extant classics are represented by lengthy pieces of Aristophanes and Thucydides, with minor fragments of Herodotus, Sophocles, Euripides, Demosthenes and Livy. An elaborate invocation of Isis, giving the titles under which the goddess was worshipped at different places in Egypt and elsewhere, is a valuable source of evidence concerning local cults. The volume will be issued to subscribers to the Graeco-Roman Branch of the Fund probably early in September, and Part XII, it is hoped, will follow at a comparatively short interval.

A. S. H.

Among the numerous papyri found by Professors Grenfell and Hunt during their excavations at Oxyrhynchus, and described by Professor Hunt in his article "Papyri and Papyrology" (*Journ. Egypt. Arch.*, Vol. I, p. 81), were some written in Hebrew. These have been presented by the Committee of the Fund to the Bodleian Library. Dr A. E. Cowley considers these Hebrew fragments to be of considerable interest palaeographically, and has kindly undertaken to write a short paper describing them. His article, illustrated with facsimiles, will appear in the October number of this Journal.

The following is the complete list of lectures delivered in London this season at the Royal Society's Rooms, Burlington House:

1914. Nov. 20. T. ERIC PEET, B.A. "The Art of Predynastic Egypt."
 Dec. 8. D. G. HOGARTH, M.A., F.B.A., F.S.A. "Alexander in Egypt and some consequences."
 1915. Jan. 12. A. M. BLACKMAN, M.A. "Ancient Egyptian Literature."
 Feb. 16. H. R. HALL, M.A., F.S.A. "The work of the Fund in Egypt during the last twenty years."
 March 16. L. W. KING, Litt.D., F.S.A. "Burial customs in Mesopotamia and Egypt: a comparison suggested by recent discoveries."
 April 20. A. E. P. WEIGALL, Esq. "Discoveries of the Royal Tombs in the Valley of the Kings."
 May 18. Professor C. G. SELIGMAN, M.D. "The earliest Egyptians and their modern representatives."
 June 22. T. E. PEET, B.A. "The Shepherd Kings in Egypt."

Owing to the exigencies of the war the lectures in the provinces have been much curtailed this year; Mr Peet lectured at Sidcup on March 16, and Mr Blackman gave a course of lectures at Norwich, which were well attended.

The first and introductory memoir of *The Theban Tombs Series*, published under the auspices of the Fund, by Dr Alan H. Gardiner, and edited by him and Mr N. de Garis Davies, has now appeared as "The Tomb of Amenemhêt (No. 82)." The plates in line and colour are from the hand of Mrs de Garis Davies, and the explanatory text is by Dr Gardiner. Mrs Davies's beautiful drawings need no introduction to our readers, and the hundred and twenty pages of letterpress, which their author calls merely "explanatory text," are of the learned and exhaustive character which we always associate with Dr Gardiner's work. The colour plates are perhaps the best reproductions of Egyptian paintings that we have yet seen, and the fidelity of Mrs Davies's drawings to the tints of the originals has lost nothing in the colour-printing, which is admirable. We need say nothing more to recommend the book, and the series which it inaugurates, to our readers and subscribers. The price of the volume is 30s.

The needs of the war have claimed Professor A. S. Hunt, D.Litt., who is so closely connected with the Fund's work. He has received a commission as lieutenant in the 4th (Territorial) Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Mr H. R. Hall, the Honorary Secretary of the Fund, and Mr A. W. A. Leeper are no longer to be found in the Egyptian Department of the British Museum, but are at the Official Press Bureau in Whitehall. Mr Hall is doing military work for the War Office, and Mr Leeper is working for the Bureau.

It is with much pleasure that we congratulate Dr L. W. King, F.S.A., Assistant Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum, on his appointment as Professor of Assyrian and Babylonian Archaeology in the University of London, the more so in that his Professorship does not necessitate his relinquishing his post at the British Museum, where he has done so much to increase our knowledge of the history and antiquities of Mesopotamia. Readers of the *Journal* will notice an article by him in this quarterly part.

Professor Reisner has been excavating this season at Gîzah in spite of war's alarms. One thinks of Hegel working away within sound of the guns of Jena, but as a matter of fact no Turks ever got near enough to Egypt for their guns to be heard there, or were ever likely to do so. A certain ditch was quite enough to stop them, and excavating in Egypt this year has been as peaceful as in England: Gîzah has been no more dangerous than Old Sarum. Rumour has it, however, that Professor Reisner has had once or twice to explain with some emphasis to marvelling colonial centurions (who had never heard of such things before) the nature of a mastaba, and the fact that it is sacred to a good many people, though not to a sapper. After all, the desert is big enough to manœuvre in without getting in the way of the archaeologists, who in Egypt, the soldiers should remember, are rather important people, whatever they may be elsewhere.

The April number of the *Boston Bulletin* records the work of Professor Reisner at Gîzah during the season of 1913-14. The royal cemetery of Chephren (Khafra) has been identified, and the custom of placing magical "reserve heads" of the deceased (like those published by Dr Junker in the October number of this *Journal*, Pl. XL) in the tombs is definitely dated to his age. Some of the heads found by Professor Reisner and illustrated in the *Bulletin* are very fine indeed, and are splendid examples of portraiture, especially one of a princess (fig. 11), and one of the prince Sneferu-senb (fig. 12). The history of the discovery of the latter is a warning to excavators to supervise everything themselves. The tomb had previously been cleared, but Professor Reisner, knowing the bad habits of the previous explorer's workmen in making superficial examinations of tombs and then reporting to their employer that they could find nothing, examined it again, and was rewarded with this splendid head. After all, if one wants to do a thing well, it is better to do it one's self.

Among the heads are two, apparently, of foreigners, though one would like to see the faces in profile before regarding them definitely as non-Egyptian. In connexion with the foreign racial influence which Professor Reisner thinks they indicate, and brings into relation with Dr Elliot Smith's views as to an early infiltration of foreign ethnic elements from Syria, may be noted the Boston professor's discovery in these tombs of more of the strange vases of hard reddish ware which were found by Professor Petrie in tombs of the First Dynasty at Abydos. As Professor Reisner notes, Professor Petrie has always held this pottery to be of Aegean origin, although, as all Aegean archaeologists know, nothing whatever like it has ever been found within the Aegean area. Professor Petrie may be right; we may yet discover its like in Greece: but

meanwhile Professor Reisner's view, which he here expresses, that this ware is much more probably of Syrian origin, is likely to be generally accepted. It seems a much more probable view than Professor Petrie's, and we all know that regular relations existed between Egypt and Palestine under the Old Kingdom.

H. H.

Apropos of the deeply interesting question of primitive connexions between Egypt and the Aegean lands, we may record a new piece of evidence in the shape of two objects from a tholos-like tomb of the Early Minoan Period, lately discovered by Dr Stephanos Xanthoudides, of the Museum of Herákleion (Candia), at a place called Platanos in the Messará, the south-central plain of Crete. This plain seems to have been the spot where the Minoan civilization of Crete first developed. The tomb at Platanos contained a rich treasure of funerary objects of a period corresponding in time to that of the Old Kingdom in Egypt. Among them were diadems, necklaces, rings, and other ornaments of gold, seventy bronze daggers (of which ten are of the primitive triangular shape), two bronze votive double-axes, ten seals of ivory and stone, and three hundred and seventy variegated stone vases, like those discovered by Mr R. B. Seager at Mochlos on the north coast of the island. The two objects which specially interest us are a small stone idol of the same type as those of the Egyptian predynastic period and an ivory seal on which is a design of two apes. This is the first appearance of such a design on a Minoan seal. The apes, at once, show relations with Egypt, and the similarity of some early Cretan stone figures to those of wood or ivory that have been found in Egyptian cemeteries of the predynastic period is undeniable, as we see in the case of one of the Koumása figurines (*Journ. Eg. Arch.* Vol. I, pl. xvii).

H. H.

In connexion with the well-known faïence figures of snake-goddesses from Knossos, a photograph of one of which was republished in the *Journal* of October last, side by side with the wooden Egyptian masked snake-charmer from Thebes in the Manchester Museum (Pl. XXXIV), we wish to record the acquisition by the Boston Museum of Fine Art of a chryselephantine figure of the same kind which is supposed to have been found at Knossos. We leave the full enquiry into this remarkable figure to the journals dealing with Greek archaeology (in which probably it will be discussed considerably), merely noting here that if this figure is wholly genuine, it forms a most astonishing addition to our knowledge of Minoan art. It must be said at once that the cut of the lady's jib, to use a nautical phrase, does not inspire confidence. We have only to look at the photographs published in the December number of the Museum's *Bulletin* to see that the style of the whole figure and of the head in particular is so modern that if it is certainly genuine we are face to face with one of the most amazing and surprising appearances in an art which, it is true, is always surprising us with new and amazing phenomena. The modernness of some of the works of Minoan art has always invited comment; but modern as the impression they give may be, one can see that they are really ancient all the time. The faces for one thing are ancient, obviously. But the face of this figure is absolutely modern in style and in treatment. The Minoan carver

has anticipated in this example of his work the whole later development of art in the treatment of the head, face, and hair. One archaeologist, on seeing the photographs, declared that if this figure be genuine we must revise the whole of our knowledge of the history of art. However, we are assured upon very competent authority, both British and American, that it undoubtedly *is* genuine, and without autopsy one would not dare to condemn it. We can, therefore, only record its appearance as one of the most surprising of all the surprises of Crete, and congratulate the Boston Museum on the acquisition of a very remarkable object.

The writer of the description in the *Bulletin* is, by the way, probably in error in regarding the curious coils on the head and back of the bronze Minoan figure of a woman at Berlin (HALL, *Aegean Archaeology*, Pl. XIX) as representing snakes, and so bringing her into connexion with the "snake-goddesses." The coils in question are, it is obvious, simply her hair, and she is raising her arm in the attitude of praying to or saluting a god. She is merely a votive figure of a female *orant*.

The March number of the *Bulletin* of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, contains a note and illustration of a scarab of Thothmes III in the Museum, commemorating the erection of a pair of obelisks in the temple of Amou (at Karnak),



Another such scarab, of Amenhetep III, is in the British Museum (HALL, *Catalogue of Scarabs*, i. No. 1634). The type is interesting, and, as the writer of the note in the *Bulletin*, C. L. R., points out, anticipates the well-known large commemorative type of Amenhetep III.

Monsieur E. Amélineau, Professor of the study of Egyptian Religion at the Paris École des Hautes-Études, died early in this year, and in him has passed away a writer and lecturer who did much in France to popularise Egyptology. As long ago as 1882 he was attached to the French Institute in Cairo, where he remained for four years. He returned to Egypt in 1894 and conducted excavations at Abydos (the first at Umm-el-Ga'ab) until 1898. Though some valuable antiquities were obtained, these excavations hardly came up to the standard of modern scientific investigation and were renewed and scientifically carried out by Professor Petrie for the Fund. His earlier publications were chiefly concerning Coptic manuscripts, and primitive Christianity in Egypt: he was well acquainted with most of the Coptic records in Europe and Cairo. He was more successful in what his compatriots term *œuvres de vulgarisation* than in the scientific publication of material, though his large work on the geography of Coptic Egypt is useful. In later years he wrote upon ancient Egypt as well as upon biblical and patristic Coptic texts and records of monks and cœnobites. These communications appeared mostly in the *Journal Asiatique* and in the *Revue de l'Histoire des Religions*, of which Journal he was one of the official collaborators. His proofs of the close connexion between many of the peculiar doctrines of the Gnostics and the ancient pagan religion of Egypt were of importance, and many of his writings will prove valuable to further workers in the same fields.