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NOTES AND NEWS

The work of the Society's expedition party at Tell el-'Amarnah has been attended with considerable success. Mr. Frankfort reached the site about November 22nd, 1926, and was joined later by Mr. Glanville, whose knowledge of the site from previous experience proved of great assistance, and the Society was fortunate in once more securing the services of Mr. H. B. Clark, who worked there during the season 1924-25 as draftsman and architect under Mr. F. G. Newton. The excavations were chiefly devoted to the northern part of the site, where valuable archaeological and architectural evidence was obtained, especially in the precincts of the temple excavated in part by Professor Petrie in 1891. Several objects of great interest were discovered, among them a limestone altar-piece on which are incised figures of the King, the Queen and Meritaten, some bronze temple vessels, a beautiful head of one of the princesses in red quartzite, and a pottery rattle in the shape of a gazelle. Many of the most interesting objects are being retained by the Cairo Museum, but the head of the princess may possibly be on exhibition in London during the summer, though unfortunately it has to be returned to the Cairo collection after exhibition.

Mrs. N. de Garis Davies was in the camp for some weeks copying the beautiful frescoes in the northern palace before they were removed. Mrs. Frankfort undertook the most difficult part of the work of removal with complete success, and it is largely due to her delicate handling that they have been safely detached, and though, again, the Cairo Museum is retaining the best fragments, some will be on exhibition with the other objects this summer. Another special feature of the summer exhibition will be the facsimile copies of the original frescoes made by Mrs. Davies for the volume on Mural Decoration at Tell el-'Amarnah which is to be a memorial to the late Mr. F. G. Newton. Mr. Clark was fully occupied making plans and drawings for the final publication of the site generally. It is much to be regretted that the Society is to lose his expert services. Mr. Frankfort, after having attended to the final division of the antiquities and to their packing and despatch, went to Abydos to complete and prepare for publication the notes made last season on the Cenotaph of Seti I. Mr. Glanville, whose official leave was at an end, returned to the British Museum, while Mr. Clark went on to join Dr. Nelson.

At Abydos, though the photographic survey received sundry checks at the beginning of the season, work was in full swing early in January. The installation of an electric plant has greatly accelerated operations and Mr. Felton hopes to bring home some hundreds of negatives when the work is closed down in April. Mr. Faulkner has been very fully occupied in the recording of the photographs and on the philological and archaeological side of the work.

The lectures on "Cities of Egypt," so far as they have been delivered, have proved particularly attractive. The first of the series, given by Dr. H. R. Hall on October 20th, 1926, on Thebes, was supplemented with a wealth of excellent lantern slides. Dr. A. M. Blackman lectured on Herakleopolis on November 17th, laying special stress on the

religious development of the town. Owing to the fact that most of those who had promised lectures were in Egypt no other could be arranged till February 23rd, 1927, when Mr. H. I. Bell gave an extremely interesting one on Alexandria, followed on March 16th by Dr. D. G. Hogarth on Naukratis. The two last of the series, Memphis, by Mr. S. R. K. Glanville, and Sais, by Professor Newberry, at the time of going to press, have not yet been delivered.

Mr. Somers Clarke died on August 31st, 1926, aged 85 years. Born in Brighton on July 22nd, 1841, and trained as an architect, he was long in partnership with Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, a well-known authority on western architecture, and in 1897 was appointed surveyor of the fabric of St Paul's Cathedral, an office which he retained till 1922. In 1892 he made the acquaintance of the late Mr. S. S. Tylor, and visited Egypt with him, spending some time at El-Kâb, the place which was ultimately to become his home. The two friends thereafter cooperated to record the monuments of El-Kâb, publishing three tombs and the small temple of Amenophis III in large folio volumes. Somers Clarke took part in Quibell's excavations at the same place in 1897 and afterwards (1897-1899), with Quibell and Green, in the wonderful discoveries of very early royal monuments at Hieraconpolis on the opposite bank. He also made plans and restorations of the two temples at Dêr el-Baharî after their excavation by our Society, but unhappily was too late to preserve the plan of the old monastery from which the site derives its name. In 1912 appeared his most important work, *Christian Antiquities in the Nile Valley*, describing monastic buildings and churches which he had visited at various times in Egypt as well as in Nubia and the Sudan on an expedition with Professor Sayce in 1909-1910. He contributed a valuable paper on the famous town walls of El-Kâb to Volume VII of this *Journal*. Somers Clarke was interested also in Moorish and Arab architecture and served on the Comité de conservation des monuments de l'art arabe. His remarks on the injuries done in the name of archaeology to architectural history by excavators and restorers were many and pungent. It is satisfactory to learn that his observations concerning the methods of the ancient builders, which he began to put into shape in his old age, will appear before long in the work of a skilled collaborator. Over twenty years ago he built himself a beautiful house in the solitudes of Mehamîd, close to El-Kâb, where he lived hospitably with his excellent Nubian servant and interpreter, Daûd Ḥasan of Argin, latterly going no further in the summer than to his other Egyptian residence at Heliopolis. A few days before his death he was removed from Heliopolis to Mehamîd, desiring to be buried in a tomb constructed for himself long before in a cemetery which he gave to the inhabitants of the village. Plate ii, Fig. 4, for which we are indebted to Dr. H. R. Hall, shows him at the temple of Amenophis III, holding the measuring pole which was his invariable companion in his expeditions.

The death of Professor Valdemar Schmidt at the age of 90 has removed the *doyen* of Egyptologists in his time. He was born on January 7, 1836, in the village of Hammel in North Jutland. His was a familiar figure not only in Copenhagen, but also in Egypt and in London, as he had English connexions, and was often over here. Once a year even to the end of his days he paid a visit to London and was to be seen seated on a small camp-chair in the Egyptian Gallery of the British Museum, copying some funerary text, his chief interest being in the coffins and their inscriptions. His major work, *Leven og Døden i gamle Egypten*, with its supplement *Sarkofager, Mumienkister og -hylstre*, is a useful collection of illustrations of the styles of the different periods. He was for many

years keeper of the Ny-Carlsberg Egyptian collection, in which post he has been succeeded by Miss Maria Mogensen. The existing catalogue of the collection and the edition of its inscriptions are due to him. He was a constant traveller between Denmark and Egypt, and is once said (though we do not vouch for the authenticity of the tale) to have gone all the way back from Copenhagen to Cairo to recover a favourite umbrella, which on his arrival at home he found he had left behind. He was a good example of the *savant* of the old school. The photograph, Pl. ii, Fig. 3 (facing p. 6), which is excellent, shows him amid characteristic surroundings.

Yet another heavy misfortune has befallen Egyptology in the untimely death of Henri Sottas. Sottas was born in 1880. He chose the army as a career, and it was during his training at Saint-Cyr that he developed an interest in antiquity, more particularly in ancient Egypt. He began by taking a Diploma at the *École pratique des hautes études* with a thesis called *La préservation de la propriété funéraire en Égypte*. The reception accorded to this work encouraged him to fresh efforts and he determined to devote himself to the study of demotic. The war called him to his regiment and he was unfortunately very seriously wounded in its early months. Unfit for service in the field he was then drafted into the Intelligence Department where his time was appropriately spent in the study of codes and ciphers. His work in this department brought him several mentions in despatches, the *Légion d'honneur* and the *Croix de guerre*.

In 1919 he was elected Professor of Egyptian Philology at the *École des hautes études*. Here in addition to an *Introduction à l'étude des hiéroglyphes* written in collaboration with M. l'abbé Drioton he produced an important volume called *Les papyrus démotiques de Lille*. He had other important work in hand when he was struck down by influenza.

Those who knew him in these recent years cannot cease to admire the courage which enabled him, broken in the war, unable sometimes to work for days on end, saddened by the loss of his wife, to produce work of the highest scholarly type. He leaves a place which it will be hard to fill.

Dr. Alan Gardiner has spent the winter in Egypt and has visited the Society's excavations both at Tell el-'Amarnah and at Abydos. He has now settled down in Cairo with Dr. de Buck to work on the collection of Middle Kingdom Coffin Texts planned by Professor Breasted. This work is now well advanced and proves of unexpected value not only from the religious and mythological point of view but also from the philological. We do not know what Professor Breasted's arrangements are for the ultimate publication of this immense mass of material, but we have sufficient faith in his powers of organization to feel sure that it will not remain too long locked up in the form of a card catalogue in Chicago. May we further express the hope that the many duties which he has undertaken will not delay indefinitely his publication of the Edwin Smith papyrus, the appearance of which is awaited anxiously not only by Egyptologists but also by medical men, among whom an interest in ancient medicine and the history of their art is at present very widespread?

Mr. H. I. Bell, the Society's Honorary Secretary, whom we congratulate on his complete restoration to health, has also passed part of the winter in Egypt. His Bibliography of Graeco-Roman Egypt which appears in this number is longer and more detailed than

ever. He has been aided in his task this year by Messrs. A. D. Nock and H. J. M. Milne, to whom our thanks are due for this service, but in spite of this help he finds that owing to the ever increasing amount of publication the task of collecting and condensing the material is now literally beyond his powers in the time at his disposal. It would be a tragedy if this bibliography, one of the most valuable services rendered to Egyptology by our *Journal*, should have to cease, and the Editor hopes that by distributing the work between four or five volunteers it may still be possible to carry on. The main difficulty lies in the strange lack of scholars of the younger generation with the desire and the ability to deal with work of this important kind.

According to an article which recently appeared in *The Times*, and which is evidently to be regarded as official, Mr. Robert Mond finds himself forced by the demands made on his time by his business engagements in this country to discontinue his excavations in Egypt, which for the last two years have been carried on in the name of the University of Liverpool Institute of Archaeology, of which Mr. Mond has for many years been a generous friend. His retirement from the field of excavation is a serious blow to Egyptology, but we trust that this need not involve his renunciation of the equally important if less spectacular work of preservation of tombs. Not only every Egyptologist but every tourist who has visited Shêkh 'Abd el-Ḳurnah knows what the private tombs owe to Mr. Mond's enthusiasm and generosity.

During the past season he and his assistants, Messrs. Emery and Callender, have been excavating a site at Erment which appears to be that of the burial ground of the mothers of the sacred Buchis bull. Very little news has as yet come to hand about the site but it is clearly one of considerable importance, if not on the magnificent scale of the Serapeum at Memphis, and will doubtless repay at least one more season's excavation.

The official reports of Mr. Mond's excavations are being published in the *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*, issued by the University of Liverpool Institute of Archaeology. The work of the season 1924-25 appears in Vol. XIII, and that of the following season is just about to appear in Vol. XIV. This latter report deals with a number of the private tombs and is very fully illustrated, the plates including twelve full page photographs of scenes in the tomb of Paheqmen.

Dr. Gardiner's *Egyptian Grammar* has at length appeared, and no one who has seen and used the book will regret the long delays on which Dr. Gardiner has insisted in the interests of completion and perfection, in so far as either is possible. Professor Griffith has undertaken the arduous task of reviewing it in our next number.

Dr. Gardiner may be interested to know from one who has already used the book in class that it has revolutionized the teaching of Egyptian, and that two pupils who have been using it have in the short time since its appearance made quite remarkable progress.

The Times newspaper has recently published articles by Dr. Reisner on the tomb of H̄etep̄hers, wife of Sneferu and mother of Khufu, which he has found not far from the Great Pyramid at Gîzah. The condition of the objects, especially those of wood, in this tomb is such that we can only be thankful that it has fallen into the hands of so consummate an excavator as Dr. Reisner, whose methods of excavation and restoration will, we may rest assured, reconstruct as nearly as possible in its pristine form this mass of metal and timber which thirty years ago would have been deemed fit only for the Museum scrap heap.

The double statue of Wersu and his wife described by Professor Griffith in *Journal*, II, 5 ff., has now found its way into the Folkwang Museum at Essen. We mention this because isolated monuments of this kind have a habit of disappearing, and it is most important that their movements should be traced in case re-study should ever become necessary. Readers may remember that the highly important statue of Prince Ahmose, son of King Sekenenrē^c Ta^co II of the Seventeenth Dynasty, published by Mr. Winlock in *Journal*, x, Plates xii and xviii-xx, is for the present a lost monument. The faded and not too satisfactory prints from which our plates were made are the sole remaining record of its existence.

The following is from a letter which we have received from Sir Herbert Thompson.

"May I ask to be allowed to correct an erroneous reading in the papyrus of St. John's Gospel which I edited for the British School of Archaeology in Egypt in 1924 ?

In Ch. ix, 39 I read the last words as $\pi\tau\alpha\gamma$ $\epsilon\epsilon$, and I called attention to it as a unique phrase on p. xviii. At the instance of Professor Spiegelberg I made a re-examination of the original papyrus recently and the result is that the ϵ can be, and therefore should be read as having been originally a π , and the abnormal reading abandoned in favour of the normal $\pi\epsilon$.

The following corrections are therefore called for, viz.:

p. 19, col. ii, fourth line from bottom, for ϵ read π .

p. 47, mid. col., s.v. $\epsilon\epsilon$ pronom. suffix, *dele* '3 sg...9/37.'

Intro. p. xviii, col. i, ll. 21-22, *dele* 'An interesting...ix. 37.'"

The Cambridge University Press, which prints the *Journal* for the Society, has acquired a fount of the new pica hieroglyphic type made by Dr. Gardiner for the printing of his *Grammar*. The advantages of this type are twofold. In the first place it is so designed as to be capable of incorporation in the ordinary letterpress without the introduction of extra space between the lines: anyone who will compare p. 51 of this number with p. 214 of Vol. XI will realize the improvement which has been effected. In the second place the new types instead of being copied from the debased forms of the Twenty-sixth Dynasty are all taken from originals of the Eighteenth Dynasty in the Theban tombs. The drawings for the matrices are the work of Mr. and Mrs. de Garis Davies, and they have been modified only so far as was required by the process of reduction to small size. The type has a charm which is altogether wanting in earlier founts, and there is not the slightest doubt that it will set the standard for the future in all scientific Egyptian publications. The use of this fount has necessitated a slight change in the make up of the *Journal* page. It is so slight, however, that few will notice it, and those who do will at least admit that it is not a change for the worse.

Dr. Gardiner's fount has also been cut in the size technically known as 3-line nonpareil, used on p. 38 continuous. This is a larger size designed for use in the publication of texts where the smaller forms of the pica fount might in the long run become trying to the eyes.

The long delay in the issuing of the present number is due to our desire to make use in it of the new fount, portions of which have only just been delivered to us.