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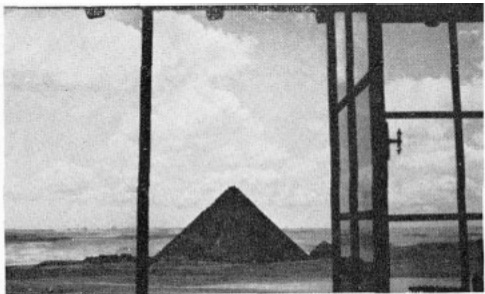




REISNER'S workrooms, with the Second Pyramid of Chephren behind.



Harvard Camp. The first camp was built in 1902.



Cloud shadows over the Third Pyramid of Mycerinus, as seen from the veranda windows.



Part of the daily water supply arriving at the Harvard Camp by camel.

HARVARD CAMP

THE EARLIEST AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER IN EGYPT

IN THE SPRING OF 1947 THE SITE AND BUILDINGS of Harvard Camp on the desert rock behind the Great Pyramid of Giza were turned over to the Egyptian Government's Department of Antiquities. This meant the end of nearly half a century of work under the direction of GEORGE ANDREW REISNER, whose vision, boundless energy, and courage in the face of ill health during his last years still seemed to permeate the old buildings after his death in 1942 and enabled Miss EVELYN PERKINS, FRANCIS OLCOTT ALLEN and the Egyptian staff to carry on during the difficulties of the war. The accompanying pictures, taken toward the end of this time, convey something of the cheerful, purposeful continuity which was part of the charm of this unique site, lying under the changing light of the desert sky but always presenting a view of the brilliant green of the cultivated valley spread out below.

Harvard Camp was established by REISNER in 1902 for the Hearst Expedition of the University of California. In 1905 it was taken over by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Harvard University, under whose joint auspices it continued for the following forty-three years, serving not only for the excavation of the royal cemeteries of the Giza Pyramid Field but as a base camp to

which the Expedition returned from working at other sites in Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Easily accessible from Cairo—no tourist would ever fail to visit the Pyramids—it was a hospitable meeting place for all who had an interest in Egypt ancient or modern.

The work of publication after the war necessitated the gathering together in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts of the mass of records which had accumulated at the camp during all these years. This entailed the closing of the old offices in which REISNER had prepared his first Sudan volume, *Kerma*, and a long line of preliminary field reports, clarifying for the first time the history of Kush, or Ethiopia as it is sometimes called. The material of the late period in the Sudan, which is of great interest for its contacts with the classical world, is now taking final form in DOWS DUNHAM's *Royal Cemeteries of Kush*, the first volume of which is at present ready for the press. REISNER also produced at camp the series on the Upper Egyptian provincial site of Naga-ed-Dêr and began the final publication of his Old Kingdom work with the *Development of the Egyptian Tomb* and the *History of the Giza Necropolis*, Vol. I. Also prepared there in the last years before the war was a *History of Egyptian Sculpture and Painting in the Old Kingdom*, by WILLIAM STEVENSON SMITH, who is continuing the publication of the Giza work.

REISNER's identity of interest with the modern Egyptians among whom he had lived so long was one of the basic values of Harvard Camp. It is this spirit which could so usefully be carried forward by an American Research Center in Egypt. Established upon the broad basis of study of the ancient and modern cultures of that country, it would provide a point of contact of vital importance today for creating mutual understanding.

—WILLIAM STEVENSON SMITH

Right, top to bottom:

REIS MOHAMMED SAID and his brother MAHMUD playing chess on the terrace above the Great Pyramid.

"Seega," a game like chess but played with stones in the sand.

MUBAREK, one of the diggers, doing extra service as a groom.

