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History of Egypt, Chaldea, Syria, Babylonia and Assyria

This 1906 work was written jointly by Leonard King (1869–1919) and Henry Hall (1873–1930), both members of the department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities at the British Museum. Their synthesis of what was currently known of the history of the Near East and Egypt came at a time when intensive excavation was bringing to light significant new material every year, and opinions and interpretations were in a constant state of revision. The two men had experience of excavation in Assyria and Egypt, and King had already edited several books of cuneiform texts: they were therefore ideally placed to produce an overarching history of the area for a popular audience. The highly illustrated work begins with 'the discovery of prehistory', describing recent finds of stone tools and other material in Egypt, and ends with the decline of the Babylonian and Egyptian empires.

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History of Egypt, Chaldea, Syria, Babylonia and Assyria

In the Light of Recent Discovery

L. W. KING

H. R. HALL



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Leonard William King, H. R. Hall
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Statue of Rui, High Priest in the Reign of Ramses II

Rui is represented as resting his arms upon the head of the goddess Hathor. From Karnak. XIXth Dynasty. British Museum. From the photograph by Messrs. Mansell & Co.

History of Egypt

CHALDEA, SYRIA, BABYLONIA, AND ASSYRIA

IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DISCOVERY

By L. W. KING, M. A., F. S. A., and H. R. HALL, M. A.

Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, British Museum.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

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It should be noted that many of the monuments and sites of excavations in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, and Kurdistan described in this volume have been visited by the authors in connection with their own work in those countries. The greater number of the photographs here published were taken by the authors themselves. Their thanks are due to M. Ernest Leroux, of Paris, for his kind permission to reproduce a certain number of plates from the works of M. de Morgan, illustrating his recent discoveries in Egypt and Persia, and to Messrs. W. A. Mansell & Co., of London, for kindly allowing them to make use of a number of photographs issued by them.

PREFACE

The present volume contains an account of the most important additions which have been made to our knowledge of the ancient history of Egypt and Western Asia during the few years which have elapsed since the publication of Prof. Maspero's *Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient Classique*, and includes short descriptions of the excavations from which these results have been obtained. It is in no sense a connected and continuous history of these countries, for that has already been written by Prof. Maspero, but is rather intended as an appendix or addendum to his work, briefly recapitulating and describing the discoveries made since its appearance. On this account we have followed a geographical rather than a chronological system of arrangement, but at the same time the attempt has been made to suggest to the mind of the reader the historical sequence of events.

At no period have excavations been pursued with more energy and activity, both in Egypt and Western Asia, than at the present time, and every season's work obliges us to modify former theories, and extends our

PREFACE

knowledge of periods of history which even ten years ago were unknown to the historian. For instance, a whole chapter has been added to Egyptian history by the discovery of the Neolithic culture of the primitive Egyptians, while the recent excavations at Susa are revealing a hitherto totally unsuspected epoch of proto-Elamite civilization. Further than this, we have discovered the relics of the oldest historical kings of Egypt, and we are now enabled to reconstitute from material as yet unpublished the inter-relations of the early dynasties of Babylon. Important discoveries have also been made with regard to isolated points in the later historical periods. We have therefore attempted to include the most important of these in our survey of recent excavations and their results. We would again remind the reader that Prof. Maspero's great work must be consulted for the complete history of the period, the present volume being, not a connected history of Egypt and Western Asia, but a description and discussion of the manner in which recent discovery and research have added to and modified our conceptions of ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilization.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE DISCOVERY OF PREHISTORIC EGYPT	1
II. ABYDOS AND THE FIRST THREE DYNASTIES	55
III. MEMPHIS AND THE PYRAMIDS	91
IV. RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN WESTERN ASIA AND THE DAWN OF CHALDEAN HISTORY	143
V. ELAM AND BABYLON, THE COUNTRY OF THE SEA AND THE KASSITES	221
VI. EARLY BABYLONIAN LIFE AND CUSTOMS	265
VII. TEMPLES AND TOMBS OF THEBES	317
VIII. THE ASSYRIAN AND NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRES IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RESEARCH	388
IX. THE LAST DAYS OF ANCIENT EGYPT	428

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Statue of Rui, High Priest in the Reign of Ramses II	<i>Frontispiece</i>
The bed of an ancient watercourse in the Wadiyên, Thebes	7
Palæolithic Implements of the Quaternary Period	8
Palæolithic Implements	9
Upper desert plateau, where Palæolithic Implements are found	12
Flint Knife mounted in a gold handle	15
Buff Ware Vase, predynastic period	17
Camp of the expedition of the University of California at Nag' ed-Dêr, 1901	27
Portion of the "Stele of Vultures" found at Telloh, representing the burial of the dead after a battle	38
Obverse of a slate relief representing the King of Upper Egypt in the form of a Bull	50
Reverse of a slate relief	51
Obverse of a slate relief with representations of the Egyptian nomes	52
Reverse of a slate relief representing animals	53
Professor Petrie's camp at Abydos, 1901	60
The Tomb of King Den at Abydos	65
Examples of conical vase-stoppers taken from Abydos	67
The Tomb of King Tjeser at Bêt Khallâf	82
False Door of the Tomb of Teta, an official of the IVth Dynasty	86
The Shûnet ez-Zebîb: the fortress-town of the IID Dynasty at Abydos	89
Statue No. 1 of the Cairo Museum	100
Exterior of the southern Brick Pyramid of Dashûr: XIIth Dynasty	109
The Pyramids of Gîza during the inundation	111
List of Archaic cuneiform signs	147
Fragment of a list of Archaic cuneiform signs	150
Obelisk of Manishtusu, King of the City of Kish	155
Babil, the most northern mound which marks the site of the ancient city of Babylon	160
"Stele of Victory," representing Narâm-Sin conquering his enemies	160

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Roughly hewn sculpture of a lion standing over a fallen man, found at Babylon	161
General view of the excavations on the Kasr at Babylon	163
View within the palace of Nebuchadnezzar II	165
Excavations in the temple of Ninib at Babylon	166
The principal mound of Birs Nimrud, which marks the site of the ancient city of Borsippa	167
The principal mound at Sherghat, which marks the site of Ashur, the ancient capital of the Assyrians	168
The mound of Kuyunjik, one of the palace mounds of the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh	169
Winged bull in the palace of Sennacherib on Kuyunjik, the principal mound marking the site of Nineveh	170
Clay memorial-tablet of Eannadu, viceroy of Shirpurla	173
Marble gate-socket bearing an inscription of Entemena, a powerful Patesi of Shirpurla	175
Stone gate-socket bearing an inscription of Ur-Engur, an early king of the city of Ur	188
Statue of Gudea, viceroy of Shirpurla	191
Tablet inscribed in Sumerian with details of a survey of certain property .	192
Clay tablet, found at Susa, bearing an inscription in the early proto- Elamite character	230
Clay tablet, found at Susa, bearing an inscription in the early proto- Elamite character	231
Block of limestone, found at Susa, bearing inscriptions of Karibu-sha- Shushinak	233
Brick stamped with an inscription of Kudur-mabug	241
Semitic Babylonian contract-tablet, inscribed in the reign of Hammurabi with a deed recording the division of property	245
A Kudurru, or Boundary-stone, inscribed with a text of Nazimaruttash .	256
A Kudurru, or Boundary-stone, inscribed with a text of Melishikhu .	260
Upper part of the Stele of Hammurabi, King of Babylon	265
Clay contract-tablet and its outer case, First Dynasty	280
A track in the desert	282
A camping-ground in the desert, between Birejik and Urfa	283
Approach to the city of Samarra, situated on the left bank of the Tigris .	284
A small caravan in the mountains of Kurdistan	285
The city of Mosul	286
The village of Nebi Yunus	287
Portrait-sculpture of Hammurabi, King of Babylon	289
A modern machine for irrigation on the Euphrates	293
Kaiks, or native boats, on the Euphrates at Birejik	297
The modern bridge of boats across the Tigris opposite Mosul	298

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
A small Kelek, or raft, upon the Tigris at Baghdad	299
Statue of Mera, Chief Steward, IXth Dynasty	320
Wall of XIth Dynasty: Dêr el-Bahari	324
Wall of XVIIIth Dynasty: Dêr el-Bahari	325
Excavation of the north lower colonnade of the XIth dynasty temple, Dêr el-Bahari, 1904	326
The granite threshold and sandstone pillars of the XIth dynasty temple, at Dêr el-Bahari	327
Excavation of the tomb of a priestess, on the platform of the XIth Dynasty temple, Dêr el-Bahari, 1904	328
Cases of antiquities leaving Dêr el-Bahari for transport to Cairo	330
Shipping cases of antiquities on board the Nile steamer at Luxor, for the Egypt Exploration Fund	331
Statue of Queen Teta-she-ra	339
The two temples of Dêr el-Bahari	344
The upper court and trilithon gate of the XVIIIth Dynasty temple at Dêr el-Bahari	346
The tomb-mountain of Amenhetep III in the western valley, Thebes	350
The tomb-hill of Shêkh 'Abd el-Kûrna, Thebes	356
Wall painting from a Tomb at Shêkh 'Abd el-Kûrna, Western Thebes	358
Fresco in the tomb of Senmut, at Thebes	360
The valley of the Tombs of the Queens at Thebes	372
The Nile-Bank at Luxor	374
The Great Temple at Karnak	376
M. Legrain's excavation of the Karnak statues	379
Portrait-group of a great noble and his wife, of the time of the XVIIIth Dynasty	381
A tomb fitted up as an Explorer's Residence	382
Stone Object Bearing a Votive Inscription of Arik-dên-ilu	396
Entrance into one of the Galleries or Tunnels of the principal mound at Sherghat	397
Stone tablet of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria	408
The Ziggurat, or Temple Tower, of the Assyrian city of Calah	409
Work on one of the Rock-Inscriptions of Sennacherib, near Bavian in Assyria	413
The Principal Rock Sculptures in the Gorge of the Gomel near Bavian	414
The rock and citadel of Van	415
Ancient Flight of steps and gallery on the face of the Rock-citadel of Van	417
Part of the ancient fortifications of the city of Van	419
Within the Shrine of E-makh, Temple of the Goddess Nin-makh	425
Trench in the Babylonian Plain, between the mound of the Kasr and Tell Amran ibn-Ali, showing a section of the paved sacred way	426
The Great Dam of Aswân, showing water rushing through the sluices	447

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
The Kiosk at Philæ in process of underpinning and restoration, January, 1902	449
The Ancient Quay of Philæ, November, 1904	450
The Rock of Konosso in January, 1902, before the building of the Dam .	452
The Isle of the Konosso, with its inscriptions, November, 1904	454