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Amelia Edwards' English translation of the *Manual of Egyptian Archaeology* by the renowned French Egyptologist Gaston Camille Charles Maspero (1846–1916) was originally published in 1887. The fifth edition reissued here appeared in 1902, ten years after Edwards' death, under the auspices of Maspero. Edwards' translation was important for generating public interest in Egyptology in Britain. It is a classic work of popular Egyptology that has served for years as an indispensable guide for students, amateur enthusiasts and professionals, and was long relied upon by British tourists visiting Egypt's ancient sites. The book contains chapters on civil and military architecture, religious architecture, ancient tombs, Egyptian painting and sculpture, and industrial art. There are detailed sections on the various materials used including stone, clay, glass, wood, ivory, leather, textile fabrics, iron, lead, and bronze. The volume is beautifully illustrated with over 300 engravings.

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GASTON MASPERO



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108017633](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108017633)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1902

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01763-3 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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MANUAL  
OF  
EGYPTIAN ARCHÆOLOGY  
AND  
*Guide to the Study of Antiquities in Egypt.*

*FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS AND TRAVELLERS.*

BY  
G. MASPERO, D.C.L., OXON.

MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE; PROFESSOR AT THE COLLEGE DE FRANCE;  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SERVICE OF ANTIQUITIES IN EGYPT.

TRANSLATED BY  
AMELIA B. EDWARDS.

*FIFTH EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED BY THE AUTHOR.  
WITH SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTER BY THE ENGLISH EDITOR.*

With Three Hundred and Thirty-six Illustrations.

LONDON:  
H. GREVEL AND CO.  
33, KING STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.  
1902.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-01763-3 - Manual of Egyptian Archaeology and Guide to the  
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PRINTED BY  
HAZELL, WATSON, AND VINEY, LD.,  
LONDON AND AYLESBURY.

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P R E F A C E  
TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

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THE interpretation of the architecture, decoration, and furnishing of the Egyptian tomb, as given in this manual, was drawn by M. Maspero from his study of the Fourth to Sixth Dynasties remains in the cemeteries of Memphis, later developments being traced through the great Theban periods of the Middle and New Kingdoms and the renaissance of the Twenty-sixth Dynasty. The account of the civil and domestic life and the industrial arts is less historical in plan, and deals rather with conditions and objects typical of Egyptian civilization as a whole.

Since the last edition of the handbook was published, a series of excavations, chiefly on

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the west bank of the Nile and in the district between Abydos and Hierakonpolis (opposite El Kab), have yielded results which promise an indefinite extension of remote perspective to Egyptian Archaeology, and so to Egyptian history. Certain erratic Egyptian antiquities in the way of flint implements, stone vases, well marked varieties of pottery, carved ivories and slate "palettes" have now been traced to their source in cemeteries where the style of sepulture was wholly different from, and far more primitive than, any formerly regarded as Egyptian. The preponderance of stone and bone implements, and the evidence of the contemporary use of copper, point to the late neolithic or early metal culture ("Chalcolithic," it has been called) as that of the people so buried. Closer dating for the earlier examples of these remains there is none, but their sequence is gradually being ascertained by further excavation and comparison. Excavations in the royal cemetery at Abydos are



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PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION. vii

now linking the archæology of the pre-dynastic period to that of the Old Kingdom; for here were buried kings and courtiers of the First and Second Dynasties, perhaps also some of their immediate predecessors. Notwithstanding the most ruthless ancient and modern plundering of these graves, they have finally yielded not only objects of intrinsic value, but also much evidence of the historical identity of great names in tradition with men who lived and ruled in the flesh, and they supply many missing links in our knowledge of the progress of Egyptian civilization.

It was felt that a new edition of this manual ought to contain some account of these results, although it would be inexpedient to introduce it into the body of the book. The claims on M. Maspero as Director-General of the Service of Antiquities in Egypt forbade any idea of asking him to supply the additional matter, though his consent to its inclusion was at once granted. M. Maspero, therefore, is

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not responsible for the contents of the supplementary chapter.

Certain modifications in the text of 1895 had also been made desirable by the progress of research. These have been supplied, and in all cases they have been submitted to M. Maspero, and sanctioned or altered by him with his unfailing courtesy and care.

EDITOR OF ENGLISH EDITIONS.

*October, 1901.*

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## P R E F A C E

TO THE FOURTH AND REVISED EDITION.

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**N**OTWITHSTANDING the fact that Egyptology is now recognised as a science, an exact and communicable knowledge of whose existence and scope it behoves all modern culture to take cognisance, this work of M. Maspero still remains the Handbook of Egyptian Archæology. But Egyptology is as yet in its infancy ; whatever their age, Egyptologists will long die young. Every year, almost every month, fresh material for the study is found, fresh light is thrown upon it by the progress of excavation, exploration, and research. Hence it follows that, in the course of a few years, the standard text-books require considerable addition and modification if they are to be

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## PREFACE TO THE

of the greatest value to students, who must always start from the foremost vantage-ground.

The increasing demand for the *Egyptian Archaeology* by English and American tourists, as well as students, decided the English publishers to issue a new edition in as light and portable a form as possible. This edition is carefully corrected, and contains the enlarged letterpress and many fresh illustrations necessary for incorporating within the book adequate accounts of the main archaeological results of recent Egyptian excavations. M. Maspero has himself revised the work, indicated all the numerous additions, and qualified the expression of any views which he has seen reason to modify in the course of his researches during the past eight years. By the headings of the pages, the descriptive titles of the illustrations, and a minute revision of the index, much has been done to facilitate the use of the volume as a book of reference. In that capacity it

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FOURTH AND REVISED EDITION. xi

will be needed by the student long after he first makes acquaintance with its instructive and abundant illustrations and its luminous condensation of the archæological facts and conclusions which have been elucidated by Egyptology through the devotion of many an arduous lifetime during the present century, and, not least, by the unremitting labours of M. Maspero.

*April, 1895.*

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P R E F A C E  
TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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TO put this book into English, and thus to hand it on to thousands who might not otherwise have enjoyed it, has been to me a very congenial and interesting task. It would be difficult, I imagine, to point to any work of its scope and character which is better calculated to give lasting delight to all classes of readers. For the skilled archæologist, its pages contain not only new facts, but new views and new interpretations; while to those who know little, or perhaps nothing, of the subjects under discussion, it will open a fresh and fascinating field of study. It is not enough to say that a handbook of Egyptian Archæology was much needed, and that Professor Maspero has given us exactly

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xiv      PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

what we required. He has done much more than this. He has given us a picturesque, vivacious, and highly original volume, as delightful as if it were not learned, and as instructive as if it were dull.

As regards the practical side of Archæology, it ought to be unnecessary to point out that its usefulness is strictly parallel with the usefulness of public museums. To collect and exhibit objects of ancient art and industry is worse than idle if we do not also endeavour to disseminate some knowledge of the history of those arts and industries, and of the processes employed by the artists and craftsmen of the past. Archæology, no less than love, “adds a precious seeing to the eye”; and without that gain of mental sight, the treasures of our public collections are regarded by the general visitor as mere “curiosities”—flat and stale for the most part, and wholly unprofitable.

I am much indebted to Mr. W. M. Flinders Petrie, author of *The Pyramids and Temples*

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of *Gizeh*, for kindly translating the section on "Pyramids," which is entirely from his pen. I have also to thank him for many valuable notes on subjects dealt with in the first three chapters. To avoid confusion, I have numbered these notes, and placed them at the end of the volume.

My acknowledgments are likewise due to Professor Maspero for the care with which he has read the proof-sheets of this version of his work. In departing from his system of orthography (and that of Mr. Petrie) I have been solely guided by the necessities of English readers. I foresee that *Egyptian Archaeology* will henceforth be the inseparable companion of all English-speaking travellers who visit the Valley of the Nile; hence I have for the most part adopted the spelling of Egyptian proper names as given by the author of "Murray's Handbook for Egypt."

Touching my own share in the present volume, I will only say that I have tried to



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present Professor Maspero's inimitable French in the form of readable English, rather than in a strictly word-for-word translation; and that with the hope of still further extending the usefulness of the book, I have added some foot-note references.

AMELIA B. EDWARDS.

WESTBURY-ON-TRYM,  
*August, 1887.*

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