

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### **Egyptology**

The large-scale scientific investigation of Egyptian antiquities by Western scholars began as an unintended consequence of Napoleon's invasion of Egypt during which, in 1799, the Rosetta Stone was discovered. The military expedition was accompanied by French scholars, whose reports prompted a wave of enthusiasm that swept across Europe and North America resulting in the Egyptian Revival style in art and architecture. Increasing numbers of tourists visited Egypt, eager to see the marvels being revealed by archaeological excavation. Writers and booksellers responded to this growing interest with publications ranging from technical site reports to tourist guidebooks and from children's histories to theories identifying the pyramids as repositories of esoteric knowledge. This series reissues a wide selection of such books. They reveal the gradual change from the 'tomb-robbing' approach of early excavators to the highly organised and systematic approach of Flinders Petrie, the 'father of Egyptology', and include early accounts of the decipherment of the hieroglyphic script.

### **Seventy Years in Archaeology**

Among the leading Egyptologists of his day, Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) excavated over fifty sites and trained a generation of archaeologists. He is credited with bringing his subject to a much wider audience, and his talent for exposition is reflected in this accessible autobiography, first published in 1931 and illustrated throughout. It describes life on digs in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, providing rich insights into developing archaeological methods. Petrie's most important discoveries are recounted, including his unearthing of the Merneptah Stele, some of the earliest evidence of mummification, and elements of Greek and Roman cultural influence in Egypt. Furthermore, he reflects here on his innovative practice of recording and preserving every artefact, not just obvious museum pieces. Petrie wrote prolifically throughout his long career, and a great many of his other publications are also reissued in this series.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

# Seventy Years in Archaeology

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

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

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108065115](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108065115)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1931

This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06511-5 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.

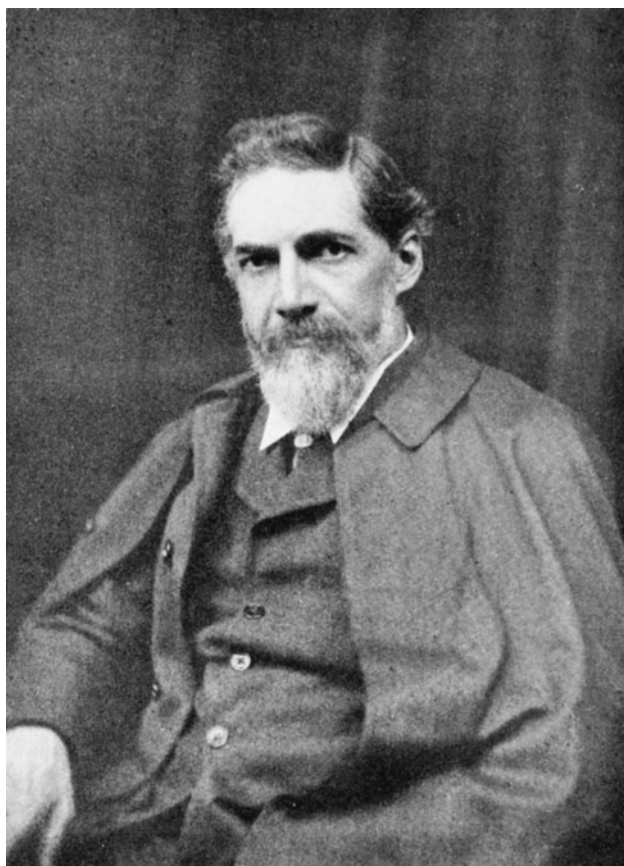
Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published  
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or  
with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

SEVENTY YEARS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)



*Flinders Petrie.*

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

SEVENTY YEARS  
IN  
ARCHAEOLOGY

BY  
FLINDERS PETRIE, Kt.  
D.C.L., LITT.D., LL.D., PH.D., F.R.S., F.B.A.

LONDON  
SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON & CO., LTD.

## ERRATA

- Page 87, line 26, “I” *should read* “It”.
- „ 125, line 24, “Nefermat” *should read* “Nefermaat”.
- „ 173, line 5, “*un bête puant*” *should read* “*une bête puante*”.
- „ 180, line 13, “to” *should read* “of”.
- „ 248, last line, “on” *should read* “from”.
- „ 261, line 9, “as” *should read* “and”.
- „ 265, 4 lines from bottom “with” *should read* “and”
- „ 266, line 11, “preparations” *should read* “preparation”.
- „ 275, *after* “Graffiti” *read* “Grant”—“Greek”.

MADE AND PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY PURNELL AND SONS  
PAULTON (SOMERSET) AND LONDON



## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. PREPARATION, 1853-1880 . . . . .	3
II. THE PYRAMIDS, 1880-1882 . . . . .	20
III. IN THE DELTA, 1883-1886 . . . . .	37
IV. UP THE NILE, 1886-1887 . . . . .	74
V. IN THE FAYUM, 1887-1890 . . . . .	81
VI. PALESTINE AND MEYDUM, 1890-1891 . . . . .	113
VII. AMARNA, 1891-1892 . . . . .	134
VIII. KOPTOS, NAQADA, AND THEBES, 1893-1897 . . . . .	146
IX. DESHASHEH, DENDEREH, HU, ABYDOS, 1897-1902. . . . .	163
X. EHNASYA, SINAI, YEHUDIYEH, 1902-1906 . . . . .	188
XI. RIFEH, MEMPHIS, QURNEH, HAWARA, 1906-1911 . . . . .	205
XII. TARKHAN, LAHUN, THE WAR, 1911-1914 . . . . .	223
XIII. LAHUN, SEDMENT, OXYRHYNKHOS, QAU, 1919-1926. . . . .	240
XIV. EGYPT OVER THE BORDER, IN THE NEGEB, 1926-1931 . . . . .	256

The device on the cover is the motto of King Akhenaten—  
 LIVING IN TRUTH

## ILLUSTRATIONS

FLINDERS PETRIE, 1900 . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	FACE PAGE
AT THE PYRAMIDS . . . . .	20
FINDING NAUKRATIS . . . . .	38
THE EARLY GREEKS . . . . .	54
TAHPANHES AND GREEKS . . . . .	68
CLASSICAL PORTRAITS . . . . .	84
EGYPTIAN STATUETTES . . . . .	102
ART OF AMARNA . . . . .	138
EARLIEST SCULPTURE . . . . .	152
PREHISTORIC FLINTS . . . . .	156
MERENPTAH AND ISRAEL . . . . .	160
OLDEST SIEGE SCENE . . . . .	166
1ST DYNASTY ART . . . . .	180
KHUFU . . . . .	182
SOUL HOUSES . . . . .	206
FOREIGN JEWELLERY . . . . .	210
SUMERIAN, INDIANS AND SPANIARD . . . . .	212
FOREIGN RACES . . . . .	214
GOLD PECTORALS . . . . .	230
SILVER MIRROR . . . . .	232
GOLD CROWN . . . . .	234
GOLD URAEUS . . . . .	240
THE FINEST STATUETTE . . . . .	242
THE FLYING SUNBOAT . . . . .	246
SYRIAN ART . . . . .	264
FLINDERS PETRIE, 1930 . . . . .	266

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

To  
MY WIFE  
ON WHOSE TOIL MOST OF  
MY WORK HAS DEPENDED

“It behoves all Men that labour to excel all other Creatures, to make it their chief Endeavour not to waste their lives in silence like the Brute Beasts. . . . We make more use of the command of the Mind than of the service of the Body. The one we share with the Gods, the other is common to us with the Beasts. For the Captain and Commander of human life is the Soul. If Men were but as sedulous in laudable Professions as they are eager in pursuit of things unprofitable they would rather govern than be governed by Fortune.”

*To the mundane, by Sallustius the splendid.*

“Dare to look up to God, and say, Deal with me henceforth as thou wilt; I am of one mind with thee; I am thine. I reject nothing that seems good to thee; lead me whithersoever thou wilt, clothe me in what dress thou wilt. . . . If Death shall find me in the midst of these studies, it shall suffice me if I can lift up my hands to God and say, The means which thou gavest me, for the perceiving of thy government, and for the following of the same, have I not neglected. . . . I am content that I have used thy gifts so long. Take them again, and set them in what place thou wilt, for thine were all things, and thou gavest them me.”

*To all men, by Epictetus the slave.*

## FOREWORD

THE AFFAIRS of a private person are seldom pertinent to the interests of others, yet the rise of a great branch of knowledge in the archaeological discovery of man's development should be worth some record. The tracing of the various steps, moreover, which have led to results from small beginnings, may encourage others whose prospects would seem very insufficient for their aims in life. As a record of how we have learned the past, and how much may be done without influence or means to start with, it may not be amiss to put down an outline of what I have been permitted to do. All work is but an incompleting intention, so it is not irrelevant to state sometimes the aims, as well as the methods, which led to results.

From the mass of recollections, those have been chosen which influenced my life and work and which helped or hindered the final outcome of each endeavour. It is often the slight details which lead us on, the trifles which show character most truly, the close fitting of the patchwork of life which guides us at last to see the pattern of the whole. As memories of fifty years ago may lose precision, it is as well to say that full journals and letters have been read over, and often it has seemed best to put (in quotation marks) what was written at the time, with some abbreviation. This is only a record of the work, and of what led me up to it, and has nothing otherwise to do with the inner life.

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-06511-5 - Seventy Years in Archaeology  
 W. M. Flinders Petrie  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

For what end came I here? I could not say,  
 But stèp by step I have been taught to stay  
 And try to find the truest path I may;  
 The end I see not, and know not the way,  
 But take my marching orders day by day.

Born . . . . .	1853
Began collecting coins . . . . .	1861
End of tuition. . . . .	1863
Began British Surveys . . . . .	1875
First Publication . . . . .	1877
Began work in Egypt . . . . .	1880
Work in Upper Egypt . . . . .	1891
D.C.L., Oxon . . . . .	1892
Professor, London University . . . . .	1892
LL.D., Edin. . . . .	1896
Marriage. . . . .	1897
Ph.D., Strass. . . . .	1897
Litt.D., Cantab. . . . .	1900
F.R.S. . . . .	1902
F.B.A. . . . .	1904
LL.D., Aberdeen . . . . .	1906
War Years . . . . .	1914–1919
In Egypt again . . . . .	1919
Kt. . . . .	1923
Work in Palestine . . . . .	1926–