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978-1-108-06568-9 - A History of Egypt: Volume 5: Under Roman Rule

Joseph Grafton Milne

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A History of Egypt

VOLUME 5:
UNDER ROMAN RULE

JOSEPH GRAFTON MILNE



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

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

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It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108065689

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1898
This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06568-9 Paperback

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A
HISTORY OF EGYPT
UNDER ROMAN RULE

BY

J. GRAFTON MILNE, M.A.

SOMETIME SCHOLAR OF C.C.C., OXFORD

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

METHUEN & CO.
36 ESSEX STREET, W.C.
LONDON
1898

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This History will comprise Six Volumes:

- Vol. I. Dynasties I.-XVI. By W. M. F. PETRIE
- Vol. II. , XVII.-XX. By W. M. F. PETRIE
- Vol. III. , XXI.-XXX. By W. M. F. PETRIE
- Vol. IV. Ptolemaic Dynasty. By J. P. MAHAFFY
- Vol. V. Roman Rule. By J. G. MILNE
- Vol. VI. Arabic Egypt. By STANLEY LANE POOLE

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PREFACE

It may seem somewhat premature to issue a History of Roman Egypt, when there are masses of papyri, belonging to the period under consideration, waiting for publication in half a dozen different museums. But the additions to our knowledge made by the documents already published are so considerable, that it will be of service to students to have them briefly summarised.

It must be recognised that the story of Egypt during the centuries of Roman rule is not, and probably never will be, anything like a connected narrative. From time to time a chance notice by some writer throws a momentary light on the state of the country; but, for the most part, events in Egypt were too monotonously uninteresting for the historians of the Roman Empire to pay any attention to them. Egypt supplied corn, not men, to Rome.

There is one point on which I should like to forestall criticism. In the spelling of proper names and titles, I have found it impossible to be consistent when dealing with the mixture of Egyptian, Greek, and Latin which prevailed during the period. And so I have used whatever form was most familiar to me, as it seemed better even to write the Latinized “drachmæ” beside the Greek “arourai,” than to fall into the pedantry of such a style as “Thebai”; the more so,

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PREFACE

when it is necessary to deal with such compound names as Ælius Eudæmon or Aurelius Didymus.

I have to thank Professor Petrie for continual help and advice throughout the time that I have been preparing this book, both in Egypt and in England. Mr. F. G. Kenyon and Mr. B. P. Grenfell have most kindly put at my disposal the proof-sheets of their publications of papyri, and the latter has also made a number of valuable suggestions; while Mr. F. Ll. Griffith has given me information on various points connected with Egyptian religion. I have tried to acknowledge in the references all facts and ideas which I have drawn from other writers, but I feel that I owe a special debt to Professor Mommsen and Professor J. B. Bury in a wider sense than can be stated there. And I must also thank Mr. D. S. Crichton for much careful work in preparing the index; and my wife, for constant clerical assistance.

LONDON, *13th September* 1898.

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- B.C.H. . . . Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique.
 B.G.U. . . . Griechische Urkunden aus den Kgl. Museen zu
 Berlin.
 B.M. . . . British Museum.
 C.I.G. . . . Corpus Inscriptionum Græcarum.
 C.I.L. . . . „ „ Latinarum.
 C.P.R. . . . „ Papyrorum Raineri.
 E.E.F. . . . Egypt Exploration Fund.
 G.G.P. i. . . Grenfell, an Alexandrian Erotic Fragment and
 other papyri.
 G.G.P. ii. . . Grenfell and Hunt, Greek Papyri ii.
 G.O.P. . . . „ „ Oxyrhynchus Papyri.
 M.A. . . . Musée d'Alexandrie.
 M.G. . . . Musée de Ghîzeh.
 N. et E. . . Notices et Extraits des MSS. du Louvre.
 Pap. Gen. . . Papyrus de Genève, ed. J. Nicole.
 P.S.B.A. . . Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archæology.
 R.A. . . . Revue Archéologique.
 R.E. . . . „ Egyptologique.
 R.E.G. . . . „ des Études Grecques.