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at the Royal Institution
W. M. Flinders Petrie
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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.

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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 published these carefully illustrated lectures in 1895. Exploring the ancient Egyptians' passion for decoration, he demonstrates his view that the elaborate use of hieroglyphs and design 'made the Egyptian the father of the world's ornament'. Petrie describes and illustrates the four main areas of decoration: the geometrical use of lines, spirals and curves; the representation of natural images such as feathers and flowers; the existence of structural patterns resulting from ancient techniques of building or manufacture; and the use of symbolic emblems such as the vulture, scarab and lion. Much modern-day design, Petrie argues, is influenced by ancient Egyptian aesthetics. Many of his other publications – for both Egyptologists and non-specialists – are also reissued in this series.

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EGYPTIAN DECORATIVE ART

A COURSE OF LECTURES

DELIVERED AT

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- C. M. Champollion, Monuments.
 Duem. Duemichen Hist. Inschr.
 F. P. coll. Flinders Petrie collection.
 Goodyear. Grammar of the lotus.
 H. S. Historical Scarabs (Petrie).
 I. Illahun (Petrie).
 K. Kahun (Petrie).
 L. D. Lepsius Denkmaler.
 P. and C. Perrot and Chipiez, Egypt.
 P. and C. Ass. Perrot and Chipiez, Assyria.
 P. I. Petrie, Illahun.
 P. M. Petrie, Medum.
 P. { Prisse, Art ; numbers refer to numbering in Edwards
 Prisse. \ Library copy, plates being issued unnumbered.
 P. Mon. Prisse, Monuments.
 R. C. Rosellini, Mon. Civili.
 R. S. Rosellini, Mon. Storici.
 Schuck. Schuckhardt's, Schliemann.
 T. A. Tell el Amarna (Petrie).
 Tanis. Tanis (Petrie).
 W. M. C. Wilkinson, Manners and Customs.
 The shading of the figures is according to heraldic colours :
 || red, = blue, \ green, / purple,  yellow.