

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.

The Revolutions of Civilisation

Among the leading Egyptologists of his day, Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) excavated over fifty sites and trained a generation of archaeologists. This short yet well-illustrated work, first published in 1911, sketches humankind's achievements over 10,000 years, establishing patterns in the rise and fall of civilisations. Drawing on his extensive knowledge of ancient Egypt, and looking also at Greece, Rome and beyond, Petrie defines each civilisation as having a summer of growth and a winter of decline, revealing his controversial eugenic view that while migration can initially reinvigorate a society, the mixing of peoples over time leads ultimately to that society's deterioration. Correlating developments in the production of art and material culture in different places, Petrie argues that civilisation is not a continuous state, but intermittent and recurrent. Many of his other publications – for both Egyptologists and non-specialists – are also reissued in this series.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
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
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

The Revolutions of Civilisation

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
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

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108065818

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1911
This digitally printed version 2013

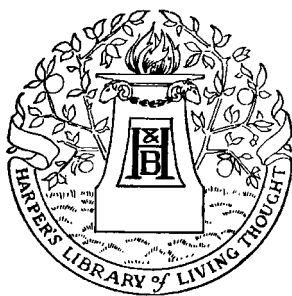
ISBN 978-1-108-06581-8 Paperback

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.

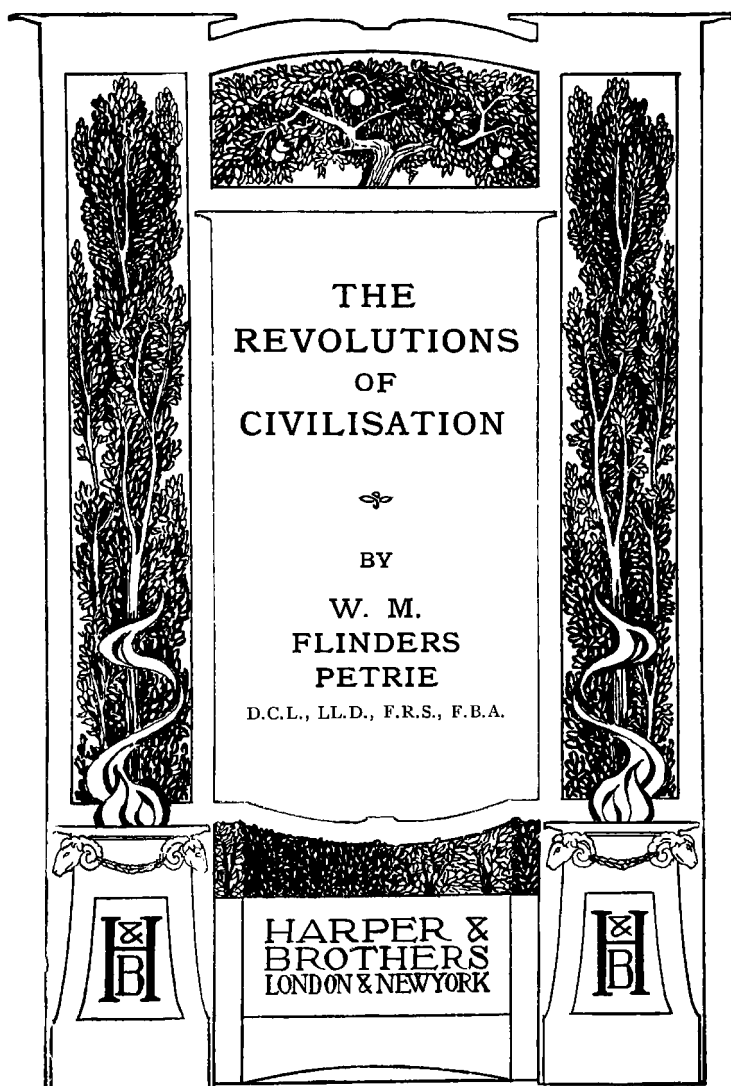
Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

HARPER'S LIBRARY *of* LIVING THOUGHT



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE REVOLUTIONS OF CIVILISATION

BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE

D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., F.B.A.

AUTHOR OF

“PERSONAL RELIGION IN EGYPT BEFORE CHRISTIANITY”

“EGYPT AND ISRAEL” “ARTS AND CRAFTS OF

ANCIENT EGYPT”

ETC.

LONDON AND NEW YORK
HARPER & BROTHERS
45 ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1911

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Published April, 1911

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE NATURE OF CIVILISATION.	
1. The Meaning of Life	1
2. Intermittent Civilisation	5
3. Sculpture the Definite Test	6
4. The Great Year	9
II. THE PERIODS OF CIVILISATION IN EGYPT.	
5. The Ist Period : Prehistoric	11
6. The IInd Period : Prehistoric	13
7. The IIIrd Period : O-IInd Dynasties	14
8. The IVth Period : IIIrd-VIth Dynasties	21
9. The Vth Period : VIIth-XIVth Dynasties	27
10. The VIth Period : XVth-XXth Dynasties	28
11. The VIIth Period : XXIst-XXXIIIrd Dynasties	37
12. The VIIIth Period : Mediaeval	37
III. THE PERIODS IN EUROPE.	
13. The IVth Period : The Early Cretan	48
14. The Vth Period : The Middle Cretan	53
15. The VIth Period : The Late Cretan	54
16. The VIIth Period : The Classical	59
17. The VIIIth Period : Mediaeval	60

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
IV. THE FLUCTUATIONS.	
18. Egypt and Europe contemporary	81
19. Length of Period	83
20. Curves of Egyptian and European Art	85
V. RELATIONS OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES.	
21. Subjects in VIIIth Period	94
22. Subjects in VIIth Period	97
23. Subjects in VIth Period	101
24. Subjects in Vth Period	103
25. Subjects in IVth Period	104
VI. THE NATIONAL VIEW OF CIVILISATION.	
26. The Highest and Lowest Conditions	106
27. Period in other Continents	107
28. Phase belonging to Folk and not to Land	110
29. Breaks between Periods	114
30. Diagram of Periods	118
31. Stages of Government	122
VII. CONDITIONS OF CIVILISATION.	
32. Advance through Strife	125
33. Causes of Period	126
34. The Future	129
 INDEX	 133

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-06581-8 - The Revolutions of Civilisation
 W. M. Flinders Petrie
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIG.	PAGE
1. The Grave Stele of Hegeso. Athens . . .	3
2. The Grave Stele of Bellicia. Rome . . .	6
3. San Giorgio, by Donatello. Florence . . .	7
4. Growth and Decay of Patterns on White Slip Bowls	13
5. Growth and Decay of Flintwork and Slate Animal Figures	15
6. Prehistoric Warrior. Slate Palette. Archaic . . .	17
7. Study in Limestone of Early King. Best Period . . .	17
8. Granite Figure. Decadent. IInd Dynasty . . .	17
9. Growth and Decay of Hawk Figures	19
10. Queen Mertitefs. Cairo	23
11. Princess Nefert. Cairo	23
12. Fight of Boatmen. Vth Dynasty. Cairo	25
13. Antefa. XIth Dynasty. Denderah	25
14. Head of Hoteptu. Marseille	29
15. Head of Min. Univ. Coll., London.	29
16. Amenemhat III. Cairo	31
17. Neferhotep III. Bologna	31
18. Fresco of Dancers. XVIIth Dynasty. Oxford . . .	33
19. Head of Statuette. Turin	33
20. Tahutmes III. Basalt. Cairo.	35
21. Ramessu II. Red Granite. Luqsor	35
22. Head of Amenardys. Cairo	39
23. Basalt Head. Louvre	39
24. Youth and Maids with Offerings. Cairo	41
25. Roman Statue. Berlin	41

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIG.	PAGE
26. Early Coptic Head. Univ. Coll., London . . .	43
27. Bab-el-Futuh. A.D. 1087. Cairo . . .	43
28. Porch of Sultan Hasan. A.D. 1358. Cairo . . .	45
29. Porch of Kait Bey. A.D. 1480. Cairo . . .	45
30. Objects from Tholos of Hagia Triada . . .	49
31. Polychrome Vase. Knossos . . .	51
32. Faience, Goat and Kids. Knossos . . .	51
33. Fisherman. Phylakopi . . .	55
34. Vase Bearer. Knossos . . .	55
35. Bulls on Gold Cup. Vapheio . . .	57
36. Grave Stele. Mykenae . . .	57
37. Chariot on Vase. Cyprus . . .	57
38. Head of Athena, Selinus. Palermo . . .	61
39. Head of Maiden. Athens . . .	61
40. Piping Maiden, Ludovisi throne . . .	63
41. Triumph of Constantine. Rome . . .	63
42. Scene of Exorcism. S. Zeno, Verona . . .	65
43. Ecclesia. A.D. 1245. Bamberg . . .	67
44. Kaiser Heinrich VI. A.D. 1245. Bamberg . . .	69
45. Robert Dudley. Warwick . . .	71
46. Eleanor Queen of Henry II. Fontevrault. 1190 . . .	75
47. Eleanor of Castile. Edward I. Westminster. 1290 . . .	75
48. Joan of Navarre. Henry IV. Westminster. 1415 . . .	75
49. Joan de Cobham. 1320 . . .	78
50. Lady Bagot. 1407 . . .	78
51. Anne Astley. 1512 . . .	79
52. Aphra Hawkins. 1605 . . .	79
53. Waves of Art, in Egypt and Europe . . .	85
54. Nike tying Sandal. Athens . . .	90
55. S. Philip. Early XII Cent. Halberstadt . . .	90
56. Death of the Virgin. Mid. XIII Cent. Strassburg . . .	91
57. Periods of Mediterranean Civilisation . . .	End