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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.

Tanis

Once the political centre of Lower Egypt, the city of Tanis was in ruins by the time pioneering archaeologist W.M. Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) arrived in the late nineteenth century. He recruited more than a hundred workers from nearby settlements to help with his excavations there. Now reissued together, these two reports of Petrie's discoveries were originally published separately in 1885 and 1888. His colleague Francis Llewellyn Griffith (1862–1934) contributes epigraphic analysis and translations. Each report contains much illustrative content, such as maps and photographs of the sites as well as drawings of the finds and hieroglyphic inscriptions. The 1888 publication also covers work carried out at Nebesheh and Defenneh, neither of which had been previously studied by archaeologists. Alexander Stuart Murray (1841–1904) discusses the important discoveries of painted vases at the latter site. Many of Petrie's other Egyptological publications are also reissued in this series.

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Tanis

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06585-6 - Tanis
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108065856

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1885 and 1888

This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06585-6 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
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TANIS.

PART I., 1883-4.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06585-6 - Tanis
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LONDON: PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, LIMITED,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE, CLERKENWELL ROAD.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06585-6 - Tanis
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Scale one-third.

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BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.

SECOND MEMOIR OF

THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE.

LONDON:

MESSRS. TRÜBNER & CO., 57 & 59, LUDGATE HILL, E.C.

1885.

... "Copy fair what Time hath blurred;
Redeem truth from his jaws" ...

HEBBERT.

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P R E F A C E.

THE present work is half taken up with an account of the monuments of San, which had been nearly all discovered by Mariette, but of which no connected or detailed account has hitherto been written. Such a publication of the remains of a city which was only inferior to the other capitals—Thebes and Memphis—in the splendour of its sculptures, needs no comment. The other half of the account is occupied with the results of the various excavations which I carried on, and which yielded us much information on the age of many classes of objects, besides furnishing the British Museum with several antiquities of types unknown before.

In laying this memoir before the subscribers, I have endeavoured to hit the mean between the lavish style of Government publications, such as seems to have become associated with work in Egypt, and on the other hand the unpleasantly rough manner which sometimes appears in foreign works. If anything more elaborate is wished for in the matter of plates, the only reply must be that the money which would be thus spent is really wanted for actual work; the only reason that I regret the need of doing these plates myself is that it is impossible, with the many other matters that must be attended to, to issue more than a moiety of the inscriptions of San this season.

The photographs taken during the season 1883-4 are now all in England; some of the most important are reproduced in this volume, and many were exhibited at the General Meeting at the Royal Institution. Subscribers wishing to see the series are requested to communicate with Mr. Murray, 113, Pentonville Road, London, N., from whom a set can be obtained for inspection. Copies of any of them may be had at cost price from him.

I am sorry that nearly a year should have elapsed between the writing and publication of this volume, partly due to my absence at Naukratis; but

I have thereby had the benefit of the kind revision of the text by Miss A. B. Edwards and Mr. Poole, and of M. Naville's careful verification of the plates of inscriptions from the monuments themselves. In thanking my friends, I must also say how much indebted the present exploration is to the goodwill and co-operation of Professor Maspero.

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.

BROMLEY, KENT,
August 3, 1885.