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# Methods and Aims in Archaeology

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



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Fig. 1. CHAIN OF BOYS CLEARING THE OSIREION AT ABYDOS.  
41 feet deep.



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METHODS & AIMS  
IN  
ARCHAEOLOGY

BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE

HON. D.C.L., LL.D., LIT.D., PH.D. : F.R.S. ; HON. F.S.A.(SCOT.):

Member of the Imperial German Archaeological Institute ;  
Member of the Society of Northern Antiquaries ;  
Member of the Roman Society of Anthropology ;  
Edwards Professor of Egyptology, University College, London.

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## TO MY FRIENDS

F. LL. GRIFFITH,  
E. A. GARDNER,  
F. J. BLISS,  
H. CARTER,  
B. P. GRENFELL,  
J. E. QUIBELL,  
J. DUNCAN,  
H. F. PETRIE,  
N. DE O. DAVIES,  
A. C. MACE,  
D. RANDALL-MACIVER,  
B. ORME,  
A. E. WEIGALL,  
M. A. MURRAY,  
L. ECKENSTEIN,  
H. STANNUS,  
C. T. CURRELLY,  
E. R. AYRTON,

WHO HAVE JOINED IN VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE WORK HERE  
DESCRIBED, 1884-1903.

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## PREFACE

ARCHAEOLOGY is the latest born of the sciences. It has but scarcely struggled into freedom, out of the swaddling clothes of dilettante speculations. It is still attracted by pretty things, rather than by real knowledge. It has to find shelter with the Fine Arts or with History, and not a single home has yet been provided for its real growth.

All other sciences deal with the things around us ; with subjects which may, or may not, affect us. Even medical sciences are concerned with the mechanical structure of the body, rather than with the nature and abilities of the mind. But the science which enquires into all the products and works of our own species, which shows what man has been doing in all ages and under all conditions, which reveals his mind, his thoughts, his tastes, his feelings,—such a science touches us more closely than any other.

By this science, of which History forms a part, we trace the nature of man, age after age,—his

capacities, his abilities ; we learn where he succeeds, where he fails, and what his possibilities may be.

From another point of view the subject should be considered ; it gives a more truly “ liberal education ” than any other subject, as at present taught. A complete archaeological training would require a full knowledge of history and art, a fair use of languages, and a working familiarity with many sciences. The one-sided growth of modern training, which produces a B.A. who knows nothing of natural science, or else a B.Sc. who knows nothing of human nature, is assuredly not the ideal for a reasonable man. Archaeology,—the knowledge of how man has acquired his present position and powers—is one of the widest studies, best fitted to open the mind, and to produce that type of wide interests and toleration which is the highest result of education.

Though this volume is a book of reference for those engaged in actual work, yet it will also serve to give the public a view of the way in which this work is done, the mode in which results are obtained, the ends which are pursued, and the important questions which must be considered. We have nothing here to do with the details of the facts discovered ; but deal only with the methods and aims, which have been slowly learned in a quarter of a century. Yet every year there are fresh methods to add, and more clear views of the aims ; and far more

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might easily have been said about each of the subjects here discussed.

If in this outline there is much more reference to Egypt than to other countries, it is for the reason that most of my own work has lain there ; and there is the more need to deal with that land, as more exploration is going on there than elsewhere.

I have to thank my friends for six of the photographs here used.

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

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