

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 Royal Tombs of the Earliest Dynasties

A pioneering Egyptologist, Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) excavated over fifty sites and trained a generation of archaeologists. His meticulous recording of artefacts and his sequence dating of pottery types found in Egypt and Palestine made Near Eastern archaeology a more rigorous and scientific discipline. This fully illustrated follow-up report of 1901 on the royal tombs at Abydos, capital of Upper Egypt, covers the early dynastic period (c.3100–c.2700 BCE). Petrie gives detailed descriptions of eight tombs and the associated finds. A chapter on the inscriptions is provided by Francis Llewellyn Griffith (1862–1934). Petrie wrote prolifically throughout his long career for both specialists and non-specialists. His preliminary report, *The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty* (1900), and the three-part *Abydos* (1902–4) are among those works also reissued in this series.

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.

The Royal Tombs  
of the  
Earliest Dynasties

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06612-9 - The Royal Tombs of the Earliest Dynasties  
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](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108066129](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108066129)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1901  
This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06612-9 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.

The original edition of this book contains a number of colour plates,  
which have been reproduced in black and white. Colour versions of these  
images can be found online at [www.cambridge.org/9781108066129](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108066129)

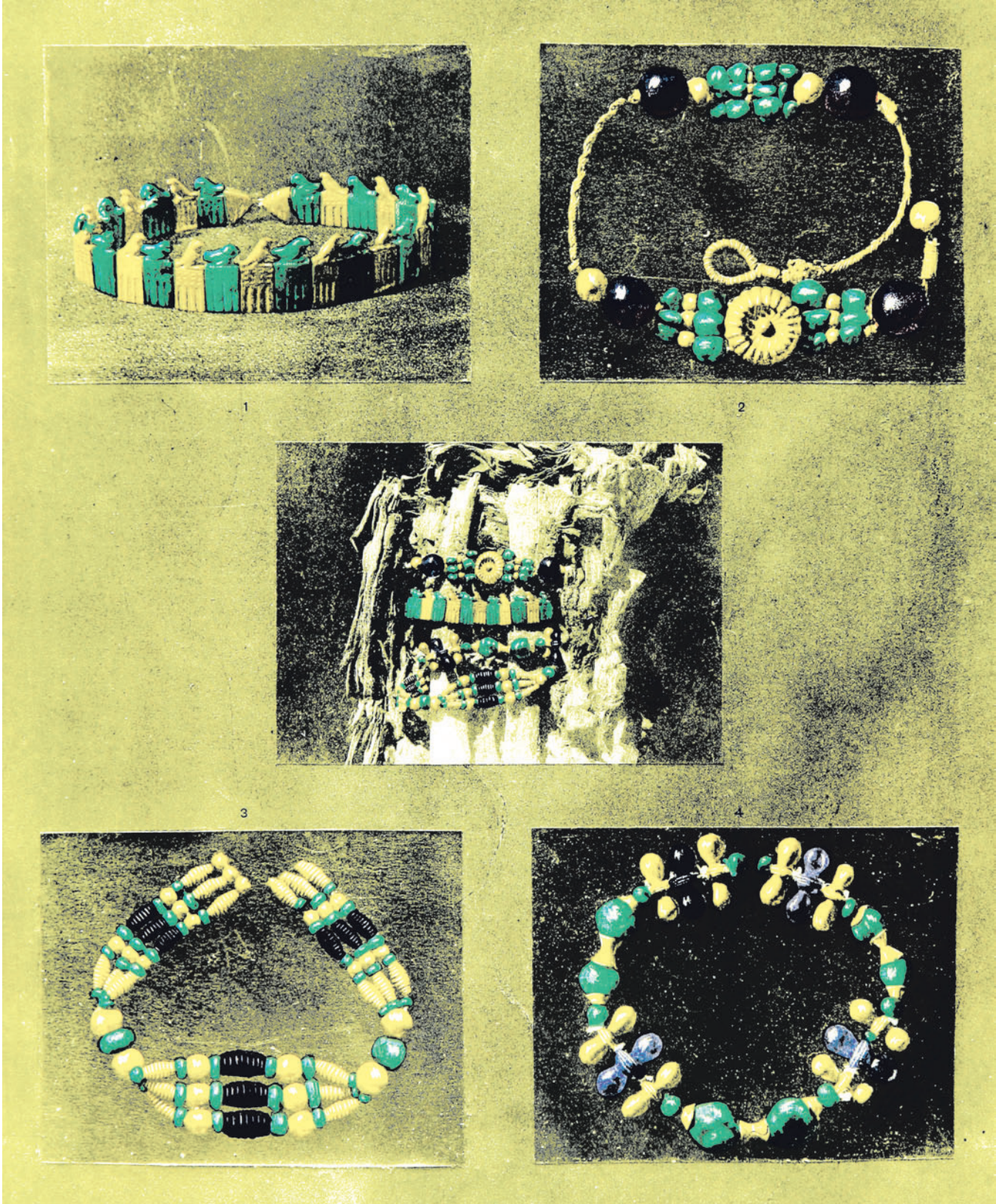
Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06612-9 - The Royal Tombs of the Earliest Dynasties  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)



4 : 3

ABYDOS. TOMB OF KING ZER. BRACELETS.

1.





THE ROYAL TOMBS  
OF  
THE EARLIEST DYNASTIES  
1901. PART II.

BY  
W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE  
HON. D.C.L., LITT.D., LL.D., PH.D., HON. F.S.A. (Scot.)  
EDWARDS PROFESSOR OF EGYPTOLOGY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON;  
MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL GERMAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE;  
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF SOCIETY OF ANTHROPOLOGY, BERLIN;  
MEMBER OF THE ROMAN SOCIETY OF ANTHROPOLOGY;  
MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

*With Chapter by*  
F. LL. GRIFFITH, M.A., F.S.A.

TWENTY-FIRST MEMOIR OF  
THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND

*PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE*

LONDON  
SOLD AT  
THE OFFICES OF THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND, 37, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, W.C.  
AND 59, TEMPLE STREET, BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.  
AND BY KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.  
B. QUARITCH, 15, PICCADILLY, W.; ASHER & Co., 13, BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

—  
1901

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-06612-9 - The Royal Tombs of the Earliest Dynasties  
W. M. Flinders Petrie  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

LONDON:  
PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, LTD.,  
ST. JOHN'S HOUSE, OLDERKENWELL.



EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

President.

SIR JOHN EVANS, K.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S.

Vice-Presidents.

SIR E. MAUNDE THOMPSON, K.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D.	THE HON. CHAS. L. HUTCHINSON (U.S.A.).
LT. GENERAL SIR FRANCIS GRENFELL, G.C.M.G., G.C.B.	PROF. G. MASPERO, D.C.L. (France).
THE REV. PROF. A. H. SAYCE, M.A., LL.D.	PROF. AD. ERMAN, Ph.D. (Germany).
THE REV. W. C. WINSLOW, D.D., D.C.L. (U.S.A.).	JOSIAH MULLENS, Esq. (Australia).
	M. CHARLES HENTSCH (Switzerland).

Hon. Treasurers.

H. A. GRUEBER, Esq., F.S.A. F. C. FOSTER, Esq. (Boston, U.S.A.).

Hon. Secretaries.

J. S. COTTON, Esq., M.A. THE REV. W. C. WINSLOW, D.D. (Boston, U.S.A.).

Members of Committee.

T. H. BAYLIS, Esq., M.A., K.C., V.D.	THE REV. W. MACGREGOR, M.A.
MISS M. BRODRICK, Ph.D. (for Boston).	A. S. MURRAY, Esq., LL.D., F.S.A.
MAJOR E. B. CASSATT, B.A. (for Philadelphia).	THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON.
SOMERS CLARKE, Esq., F.S.A.	FRANCIS WM. PERCIVAL, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
W. E. CRUM, Esq., M.A.	F. G. HILTON PRICE, Esq., Dir.S.A.
LOUIS DYER, Esq., M.A. (for Chicago).	MRS. TIRARD.
ARTHUR JOHN EVANS, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.	THE REV. H. G. TOMKINS, M.A.
F. LL. GRIFFITH, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.	EMANUEL M. UNDERDOWN, Esq., K.C.
MRS. F. LL. GRIFFITH.	SIR HERMANN WEBER, M.D.
T. FARMER HALL, Esq.	E. TOWRY WHYTE, Esq., F.S.A.
F. G. KENYON, Esq., M.A., Litt.D.	MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES W. WILSON,
MRS. MCCLURE.	K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S.

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION.		SECT.	PAGE
SECT.			
1.	Details of publication.		1
2.	Previous wreck of tombs		2
CHAPTER I.			
SITE OF THE ROYAL TOMBS.			
3.	The groups of tombs		3
4.	The order of tombs		3
5.	The kings before the Ist Dynasty		3
6.	The kings of the IInd Dynasty		5
CHAPTER II.			
DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMBS.			
7.	Tomb of Ka		7
8.	„ Narmer		7
9.	„ Sma		7
10.	„ Mena, &c.		7
11.	„ Zer, &c.		8
12.	„ Den, &c.		9
13.	„ Perabsen		11
14.	„ Khasekhemui		12
15.	Principal measurements		14
16.	Sizes of bricks		15
CHAPTER III.			
THE INSCRIBED TABLETS, &C., PLS. II.—XII.			
17.	Discovery of the jewellery of Zer		16
18.	Description of the jewellery, pl. i.		17
SECT.			
19.	Pre-Menite kings, pl. ii.		19
20.	Aha—Mena, pls. iii., iiiA., iv., x, xi.		20
21.	Zer—Ta, pls. v., vA., vi., viA.		22
22.	Den—Setui, pls. vii., viiA.		25
23.	Qa, and IInd Dynasty, pls. viii., viiiA.		26
24.	Khasekhemui, pls. ix., ixA.		27
25.	Zer—Ta, &c., pl. xii.		28
CHAPTER IV.			
THE SEALINGS AND STELES. PLS. XIII.—XXXI.			
26.	Sealings of Mena, and earlier. Nos. 89—104		30
27.	Sealings of Zer, &c., 105—163		30
28.	Sealings of the IInd Dynasty, 164—218		31
29.	Marks on bowls, pl. xxv.		32
30.	The steles, pls. xxvi.—xxxi.		32
CHAPTER V.			
THE INVENTORY PLATES, XXXII.—XLV.			
31.	The classes of ivory work		34
32.	The glazes and metals		36
33.	Objects of Mena and Zer		36
34.	„ Zet and later		38
35.	Analyses by Dr. Gladstone		39

CONTENTS.

v

CHAPTER VI.

THE VASES.

SECT.	PAGE
36. Condition of the material . . .	41
37. Method of classifying . . .	41
38. Restoration of forms . . .	42
39. Igneous rocks . . .	42
40. Sedimentary rocks . . .	43
41. Secondary examples . . .	44
42. The Aegean pottery . . .	46
43. The marks on pottery . . .	47

CHAPTER VII.

THE INSCRIPTIONS.

By F. Ll. Griffith, M.A., F.S.A.

SECT.	PAGE
44. Nature of material . . .	48
45. Mena and earlier. Pls. ii.—iv. . .	48
46. Zer. Pls. v.—viA. . .	49
47. Zet to Perabsen. Pls. vii.—viiiA. . .	49
48. The sealings of the Ist Dynasty. Pls. xiii.—xx. . .	51
49. The sealings of the IIInd Dynasty. Pls. xxi.—xxiv. . .	53
INDEX . . .	55

LIST OF PLATES

(WITH REFERENCES).

*The plates i.—lxiii., without letters, are given to all Subscribers.*  
*The plates for Students, iiiA.—lvIA., with letters, are issued in a Supplement, which can be ordered.*

PLATE		PAGE	PLATE		PAGE
I.	Frontispiece. Jewellery of Zer . . . .	17	XVII.	Sealings of Zer and Merneit 125—135	31, 32
II.	Inscriptions before Mena	19, 48	XVIII.	„ of Den—Setui 136—145	31, 52
III.	Tablets of Mena . . .	20, 49	XIX.	„ of Den—Setui, 146—155	31, 53
IIIA.	„ „ . . .	21, 49	XX.	„ of Den—Setui, 156—163	31, 52
IV.	Objects of Mena and earlier . . . .	21, 49	XXI.	„ of Perabsen 164—177	31, 53
V.	Inscriptions of Zer . .	22, 49	XXII.	„ of Perabsen 178—190	31, 53
VA.	„ „ . . .	23, 49	XXIII.	„ of Khasekhemui 191—201	31, 53
VI.	Objects of Zer . . .	23, 49	XXIV.	„ of Khasekhemui 202—216	31, 54
VIa.	„ . . . .	24, 49	XXV.	Signs on vases . . .	32
VII.	Inscriptions of Zet and Den . . . .	25, 49	XXVI.	Steles 49—94 Key . .	32, 54
VIIA.	Objects of Den . . .	25, 50	XXVII.	„ 95—146 Key . .	33, 54
VIII.	Inscriptions of Mersekha, Qa, and Perabsen . .	26, 50	XXVIII.	„ 49—60 Zer . .	
VIIIA.	Inscriptions of Merpaba, Qa, and Perabsen . .	27, 51	XXIX.	„ 61—71 Zer . .	
IX.	Objects of Khasekhemui	27	XXIXA.	„ 72—82 Zer . .	
IXA.	Copper objects „ . .	28	XXIXB.	„ 83—94 Zer . .	
X.	Tablets of Narmer and Mena . . . .	19, 51	XXX.	„ 120—132 Den . .	
XI.	Tablets of Mena . . .	20, 21, 51	XXXA.	„ 133—146 Den . .	
XII.	Painted inscriptions . .	28, 51	XXXI.	„ Perabsen . . .	
XIII.	Sealings of Ka and Nar- mer . . 89—96	30, 51	XXXII.	Inventory of Mena period . . . .	36
XIV.	„ of Aha—Mena 97—104	30, 52	XXXIII.	Inventory of Tomb M.I.	36
XV.	„ of Zer—Ta 105—113	30, 52	XXXIV.	„ of Zer, ivory	37
XVI.	„ of Zer—Ta 114—124	31, 52	XXXV.	„ of Zer, ivory	37
			XXXVI.	„ of Zer, wood . .	37

LIST OF PLATES.

vii

PLATE		PAGE	PLATE		PAGE
XXXVII.	Inventory of Zet . . .	38	LIIH.	Vases of Alabaster 329---344	44
XXXVIII.	„ of Cemetery W . . .	38	LII.	„ „ 345—360	44
XXXIX.	„ of Merneit . . .	38	LIII.	„ „ 361—377	44
XL.	„ of Den . . .	38	LIIIA.	„ „ 378—398	44
XLI.	„ of Den . . .	39	LIIB.	„ coloured limestone	
XLII.	„ of Azab . . .	39		399—425	44
XLIII.	„ of Mersekha . . .	39	LIIC.	„ „ 426—445	44
XLIV.	„ of Mersekha and		LIID.	„ „ 446—458	44
	Qa	39	LIIE.	Vases of grey limestone	
XLV.	„ of Perabsen and			459—474	44
	Khasekhemui	39	LIIF.	„ „ 475—484	44
XLVI.	Vases of Quartz Crystal		LIIG.	„ white limestone	
	1—26	42		485—502	44
XLVII.	„ „ 27—50	42	LIV.	Aegean pottery . . .	46
XLVIIA.	„ Basalt, 51—68	43	LV.	Marks on pottery, 1—62	47
XLVIIB.	„ „ 69—83	43	LVA.	„ „ 63—160	47
XLVIII.	„ Porphyry, 84—106	43	LVB.	„ „ 161—258	47
XLVIII A.	„ „ 107—121	43	LV C.	„ „ 259—354	47
XLVIII B.	„ „ 122—128	43	LV D.	„ „ 355—491	47
XLIX.	„ „ 129—136	43	LVI.	Views of Tombs, Mena to	
XLIX A.	„ Volcanic, 137—150	43		Den 7—9	
L.	„ „ 151—160	43	LVI A.	Views of Tombs, Den to	
LA.	„ „ 161—175	43		Perabsen 9—11	
LI.	„ „ 176—190	43	LVII.	Views of Tombs, Perabsen	
LIA.	„ Serpentine, 191—206	43		and Khasekhemui 11—12	
LIB.	„ Slate, 207—230	43	LVIII.	General Plan . . .	3
LIC.	„ Dolomite marble		LIX.	Plan of B tombs . . .	3—7
	231—252	44	LX.	Plan of Zer tombs . . .	3—8
LID.	„ „ 253—266	44	LXI.	Plan of Zer and Perabsen . . .	11
LI E.	„ „ 267—288	44	LXII.	Plan of Den tomb . . .	9
LIF.	„ Alabaster 289—311	44	LXIII.	Plan of Khasekhemui tomb . . .	12
LIG.	„ „ 312—328	44			



KINGS MENTIONED IN THIS VOLUME.

				<i>Tombs.</i>
				KA
				ZESER
				NARMER
				SMA
1ST DYN.	<i>Manetho.</i>	<i>Sety List.</i>		
1.	Menes . .	Mena	=	AHA — MEN
2.	Athothis . .	Teta	=	ZER — TA
3.	Kenkenes . .	Ateth	=	ZET — ATH
4.	Uenefes . .	Ata		DEN — MERNEIT
5.	Usafais . .	Hesepti	=	DEN — SETUI
6.	Miebis . .	Merbap	=	AZAB — MERPABA
7.	Semempses .	Semenptah	=	MERSEKHA — SHEMSU
8.	Bienekhes .	Qebh	=	QA — SEN
2ND DYN.				<i>Remains.</i>
1.	Bokhos . .	Bazau		HOTEP AHAUI
2.	Kaiekhos . .	Kakau		RANEB
3.	Binothris . .	Baneteren	=	NETEREN
4.	Tlas . .	Uaznes		SEKHEMAB, PERABSEN
5.	Sethenes . .	Senda		KHA SEKHEM
6.	Khaires . .	. .		KA RA
7.	Neferkheres .	Zaza		KHA SEKHEMUI