

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 First Dynasty

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 report of 1900 on the royal tombs at Abydos, capital of Upper Egypt, covers the first dynasty (c.3100–c.2900 BCE). Although Petrie acknowledges that it is only a preliminary report of ongoing work, he gives detailed descriptions of six 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 follow-up report, *The Royal Tombs of the Earliest Dynasties* (1901), 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 First Dynasty

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06613-6 - The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty
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/9781108066136

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1900
This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06613-6 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/9781108066136

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06613-6 - The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



ABYDOS. STELE OF KING MERNEIT. 1:8.

THE ROYAL TOMBS
 OF
 THE FIRST DYNASTY
 1900. PART I.

BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE,

HON.D.C.L., LITT.D., LL.D., PH.D.,

EDWARDS PROFESSOR OF EGYPTOLOGY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON;
 MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL GERMAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE;
 CORRESPONDING MEMBER SOCIETY OF ANTHROPOLOGY, BERLIN;
 MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

With Chapter by

F. LL. GRIFFITH, M.A., F.S.A.

EIGHTEENTH 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 AT 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.

—
 1900

LONDON :
PRINTED BY GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, LIMITED,
ST. JOHN'S HOUSE, CLERKENWELL.

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 REV. W. C. WINSLOW, D.D., D.C.L. (U.S.A.).
LT.-GENERAL SIR FRANCIS GRENFELL, G.C.M.G., G.C.B.	THE HON. CHAS. L. HUTCHINSON (U.S.A.).
THE REV. PROF. A. H. SAYOE, M.A., LL.D.	PROF. G. MASPERO, D.C.L. (France).
CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER, Esq., L.H.D., LL.D. (U.S.A.).	PROF. AD. ERMAN, Ph.D. (Germany).
	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., D.C.L. (Boston, U.S.A.)

Members of Committee.

T. H. BAYLIS, Esq., M.A., Q.C., V.D.	FRANCIS WM. PERCIVAL, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
MISS M. BRODRICK, Ph.D. (for Boston).	PROF. W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L., LL.D. (for Chicago).
SOMERS CLARKE, Esq., F.S.A.	F. G. HILTON PRICE, Esq., F.S.A.
W. E. CRUM, Esq., M.A.	MRS. CORNELIUS STEVENSON, Sc.D. (for Penn- sylvania).
ARTHUR JOHN EVANS, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.	MRS. TIRARD.
F. LL. GRIFFITH, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.	THE REV. H. G. TOMKINS, M.A.
MRS. F. LL. GRIFFITH.	EMANUEL M. UNDERDOWN, Esq., Q.C.
T. FARMER HALL, Esq.	SIR HERMANN WEBER, M.D.
JOHN HORNIMAN, Esq., M.P.	E. TOWRY WHYTE, Esq., F.S.A.
F. G. KENYON, Esq., M.A., Litt.D.	MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES W. WILSON, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S.
MRS. McCLORE.	
THE REV. W. MACGREGOR, M.A.	
A. S. MURRAY, Esq., LL.D., F.S.A.	
THE MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON.	

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06613-6 - The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

SECT.		PAGE	SECT.		PAGE
	INTRODUCTION.			CHAPTER III.	
1.	Details of publication	1		THE OBJECTS DISCOVERED.	
2.	Previous wreck of tombs	1	20.	The stone vases	18
	CHAPTER I.		21.	Inscriptions on stone vases	18
	THE SITE OF THE ROYAL TOMBS.		22.	The ivory tablets	21
3.	The views of the site	3	23.	The sealings	24
4.	The group of tombs	4	24.	The seal inscriptions	24
5.	The order of the tombs	5	25.	The steles	26
6.	Appearance of the tombs	6	26.	The small objects	27
7.	Later history of the tombs	6	27.	The pottery	28
	CHAPTER II.		28.	The marks on pottery	29
	DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMBS.		29.	The Signary	31
8.	The tomb of Zet	8	30.	Heqreshu hill	32
9.	„ „ Interior	8		CHAPTER IV.	
10.	„ Merneit	10		THE INSCRIPTIONS.	
11.	„ „ Interior	11		By F. Ll. Griffith, F.S.A.	
12.	„ Den—Setui	11	31.	Character of inscriptions	34
13.	„ Azab—Merpaba	12	32.	The royal titles	35
14.	„ „ Interior	12	33.	The vase inscriptions	37
15.	„ Mersekha—Semempses	13	34.	The tablet inscriptions	40
16.	„ „ Interior	13	35.	The jar sealings	43
17.	„ Qa—Sen	14	36.	The steles	44
18.	„ „ Interior	15		INDEX	47
19.	Principal measurements	16			

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06613-6 - The Royal Tombs of the First Dynasty
W. M. Flinders Petrie
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LIST OF PLATES

(WITH PAGES WHERE DESCRIBED).

PLATE		PAGE	PLATE		PAGE
<i>Frontispiece.</i>	Stele of Merneit.		XXXIII.	Seals of Zet	27
I.	Views of cemetery	3	XXXIV.	Steles, Zet to Den	27
II.	Views of royal tombs	3	XXXV.	„ Mersekha	27
III.	Sketch map	3	XXXVI.	„ Mersekha and Qa	27
IV.	Stone vase inscriptions		XXXVII.	Carvings, wood and ivory	27
	to Merneit	18, 19	XXXVIII.	Stone vases, Haabra	28
V.	„ „ to Den	19	XXXIX.	Pottery, tall jars	28
VI.	„ „ Azab	19, 20	XL.	„ „ and stands	29
VII.	„ „ Mersekha	20	XLI.	„ medium jars	29
VIII.	„ „ Qa	20	XLII.	„ small jars	29
IX.	„ „ Qa	20	XLIII.	„ „	29
X.	Ink inscriptions, ivory, to Den	21	XLIV.	Marks on pottery, names	29
XI.	Ivory and ebony tablets, to Den	21	XLV.	„ „ „	30
XII.	„ to Qa, jar-seals, &c.	23, 24	XLVI.	„ „ <i>Hu sa</i>	30
XIII.	„ tablets of Zet	21	XLVII.	„ „ Ka arms	30
XIV.	„ „ Den	21	XLVIII.	„ „ „	30
XV.	Ebony „ Den	22	XLIX.	„ „ animals	31
XVI.	Ivory „ Den	23	L.	„ „ hieroglyphs	31
XVII.	„ „ Mersekha and		LI.	„ „ stars	31
	Qa	23	LII.	„ „ signs	31
XVIII.	Sealings of Zet	24	LIII.	„ „ „	31
XIX.	„ Zet	25	LIV.	„ „ „	31
XX.	„ Merneit	25	LV.	„ „ „	31
XXI.	„ Merneit	25	LVI.	„ „ „	31
XXII.	„ Merneit	25	LVII.	„ „ „	31
XXIII.	„ Merneit	25	LVIII.	„ „ „	31
XXIV.	„ Den	25	LIX.	Outline plan of tombs	5
XXV.	„ Den	25	LX.	Tombs of Mersekha and Qa	13, 15
XXVI.	„ Azab	25	LXI.	„ Zet to Azab	8–12
XXVII.	„ Azab	25	LXII.	Tomb of Zet	8
XXVIII.	„ Mersekha	26	LXIII.	„ „ walls	9
XXIX.	„ Qa and Perabsen	26	LXIV.	„ Zet and Merneit	9, 11
XXX.	Stele of Sabef	26	LXV.	„ Merneit and Azab	11, 12
XXXI.	Sketch key of steles	27	LXVI.	„ Azab to Qa	12–15
XXXII.	„ of steles. Seals.	27	LXVII.	„ Mersekha and Qa	13, 15

KINGS MENTIONED IN THIS VOLUME.

	<i>Inscriptions.</i>			
	D			} Order unknown ; probably before Mena.
	ZESER			
	NARMER			
1ST DYN. <i>Manetho.</i>	<i>Sety List.</i>	<i>Tombs.</i>		
1. Menes . . .	Mena	= AHA — MEN	} Probable order.	
2. Athothis . . .	Teta	ZER		
3. Kenkenes . . .	Ateth	ZET		
4. Uenefes . . .	Ata	MERNEIT		
5. Usafais . . .	Hesepti	= DEN — SETUI	} Order certain.	
6. Miebis . . .	Merbap	= AZAB — MERPABA		
7. Semempses . . .	Semenptah	= MERSEKHA — SAMENPTAH		
8. Bienekhes . . .	Kebh	= QA — SEN (p. 23)		
	2ND DYN.	{		
		PERABSEN		
		KHASEKHEMUI		