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978-1-108-06645-7 - Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians: Including their Private Life, Government, Laws, Art, Manufactures, Religion, and Early History: Volume 3
John Gardner Wilkinson

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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.

Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians

A pioneer of British Egyptology, Sir John Gardner Wilkinson (1797–1875) first travelled to Egypt in 1821, the year before Champollion published his breakthrough work on the Rosetta Stone. As public interest in Egypt grew, Wilkinson studied and sketched the country's major archaeological sites, most notably the tombs of Thebes. His *Topography of Thebes and General View of Egypt* (1835) and *Modern Egypt and Thebes* (1843) are also reissued in this series. This well-illustrated three-volume work, first published in 1837, remained for over a century a key text on the lives of ancient Egyptians. Writing in a popular genre that was normally focused on contemporary societies, Wilkinson covers areas ranging from daily life to funerary beliefs. His imaginative approach underpinned the book's considerable success. Volume 3 includes discussion of hunting techniques, decorative arts, the making of papyrus, ship construction, and the building and decoration of monuments.

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*Including Their Private Life, Government, Laws,
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VOLUME 3

JOHN GARDNER WILKINSON



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Plate XVII



CAPITALS of COLUMNS
and a Piece of coloured Glass (Fig^s 5.6.7.)

C. Humphreys del.

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OF
THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS,

INCLUDING
THEIR PRIVATE LIFE,
GOVERNMENT, LAWS, ARTS, MANUFACTURES,
RELIGION, AND EARLY HISTORY ;
DERIVED FROM A COMPARISON OF
THE PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, AND MONUMENTS STILL EXISTING
WITH THE ACCOUNTS OF ANCIENT AUTHORS.

Illustrated by Drawings of those Subjects.

By J. G. WILKINSON, F.R.S. M.R.S.L. &c.

AUTHOR OF "A GENERAL VIEW OF EGYPT, AND
TOPOGRAPHY OF THEBES," &c.

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* It is an opinion, among some persons in Egypt, that this plant was introduced from India: there is, however, evidence of its having been grown in Egypt at an ancient period, and seeds of it have been found with a mummy brought from Thebes.

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* Colonel Howard Vyse has discovered a piece of iron in the midst of the masonry of the Great Pyramid, which he thinks could only have been placed there when that monument was erected.

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