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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.

### **Tell el Amarna**

A pioneering Egyptologist, Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) excavated over fifty sites and trained a generation of archaeologists. He also played a notable part in the preservation of a number of cuneiform tablets that became known collectively as the Tell el-Amarna letters. Petrie's *Syria and Egypt* (1898), containing summaries, is also reissued in this series, along with many of his other publications. The present work, first published in 1894 and richly illustrated, gives an account of the work that Petrie carried out in 1891–2. It contains detailed information about both the technical aspects of the dig and the array of artefacts found, including the tablet fragments of diplomatic correspondence from the fourteenth century BCE. The chapter on the tablets is provided by Archibald Sayce, Francis Llewellyn Griffith discusses ceramic inscriptions, and the flint tools are examined by F.C.J. Spurrell.

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# Tell el Amarna

W.M. FLINDERS PETRIE



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AKHENATEN

*From his death-mask.*

Swan Electric Engraving Co.

# TELL EL AMARNA.

BY

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L.

WITH CHAPTERS BY

PROF. A. H. SAYCE, D.D., F. LL. GRIFFITH, F.S.A.,  
AND F. C. J. SPURRELL, F.G.S.

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I am indebted for several negatives used in Pl. I, to my friend Mr. Frank Haes, who has kindly placed them at my service. The outline of Amenhotep IV is drawn from a photograph by Mr. Backhouse, and a squeeze by Mr. F. F. Tuckett, whom I have to thank for the use of these materials.