

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07773-6 - The Alabaster Sarcophagus of Oimeneptah I., King of Egypt: Now in Sir John Soane's Museum,
Lincoln's Inn Fields

Samuel Sharpe

Frontmatter

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The Alabaster Sarcophagus of Oimeneptah I., King of Egypt

Oimeneptah I, better known to us as Seti I, was regarded as a great pharaoh by his contemporaries, although his son Ramesses II would claim greater renown. Seti's tomb was discovered by Belzoni in 1817 and was the first to be found to have extensive decorations throughout. The huge alabaster coffin found in the tomb was sold to Sir John Soane, who held a three-day party upon its arrival at his London house, where it can still be seen. Written by the noted Egyptologist Samuel Sharpe (1799–1881), this illustrated description of the intricately decorated sarcophagus was published in 1864. By the time of his death, Sharpe was regarded in Britain as one of the most important figures in helping to popularise all things Egyptian. With the artist and sculptor Joseph Bonomi (1796–1878), who provided the drawings here, he collaborated in organising the Egyptian court at the Crystal Palace in 1854.

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University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108077736

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1864

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07773-6 Paperback

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THE ALABASTER SARCOPHAGUS

OF

OIMENEPHTAH I., KING OF EGYPT,

NOW IN

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

DRAWN BY JOSEPH BONOMI,

AND DESCRIBED BY SAMUEL SHARPE.



Heaven bestowing knowledge on a man and his soul.

L O N D O N :

LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, ROBERTS, AND GREEN.

1864.

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LONDON :
PRINTED BY WOODFALL AND KINDER,
MILFORD LANE, STRAND, W.C.

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TO THE MEMORY OF

GIOVANNI BATTISTA BELZONI,

WHO DISENTOMBED THIS SCULPTURED MONUMENT:

AND OF

SIR JOHN SOANE,

WHO BOUGHT IT AND GAVE IT TO

THE BRITISH NATION.

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