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978-1-108-07820-7 - Essay on Dr Young's and M. Champollion's Phonetic System of Hieroglyphics: With Some Additional Discoveries, by which It May be Applied to Decipher the Names of the Ancient Kings of Egypt and Ethiopia

Henry Salt

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### **Essay on Dr Young's and M. Champollion's Phonetic System of Hieroglyphics**

Appointed Britain's consul-general in Egypt in 1815, Henry Salt (1780–1827) involved himself deeply in the excavation of several historic sites and the collection of numerous antiquities. The most notable of these, found at Thebes, was the colossal bust of Rameses II which was acquired by the British Museum and is believed to have inspired Shelley's 'Ozymandias'. This 1825 publication, featuring Salt's careful reproductions and explanations of various inscriptions, made a valuable contribution to the understanding of Egyptian hieroglyphics. Following the innovative work on the Rosetta Stone carried out by Thomas Young, and the celebrated decipherment presented in 1822 by Jean-François Champollion, Salt helped to further elucidate the hieroglyphic alphabet, although later research has disproved some of his conclusions. A postscript notes how Champollion's 1824 *Précis du système hiéroglyphique des anciens Égyptiens* (also reissued in this series) confirms several names of Egyptian gods and pharaohs which Salt had independently deciphered.

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ON

**THE PHONETIC SYSTEM**

OF

**HIEROGLYPHICS.**

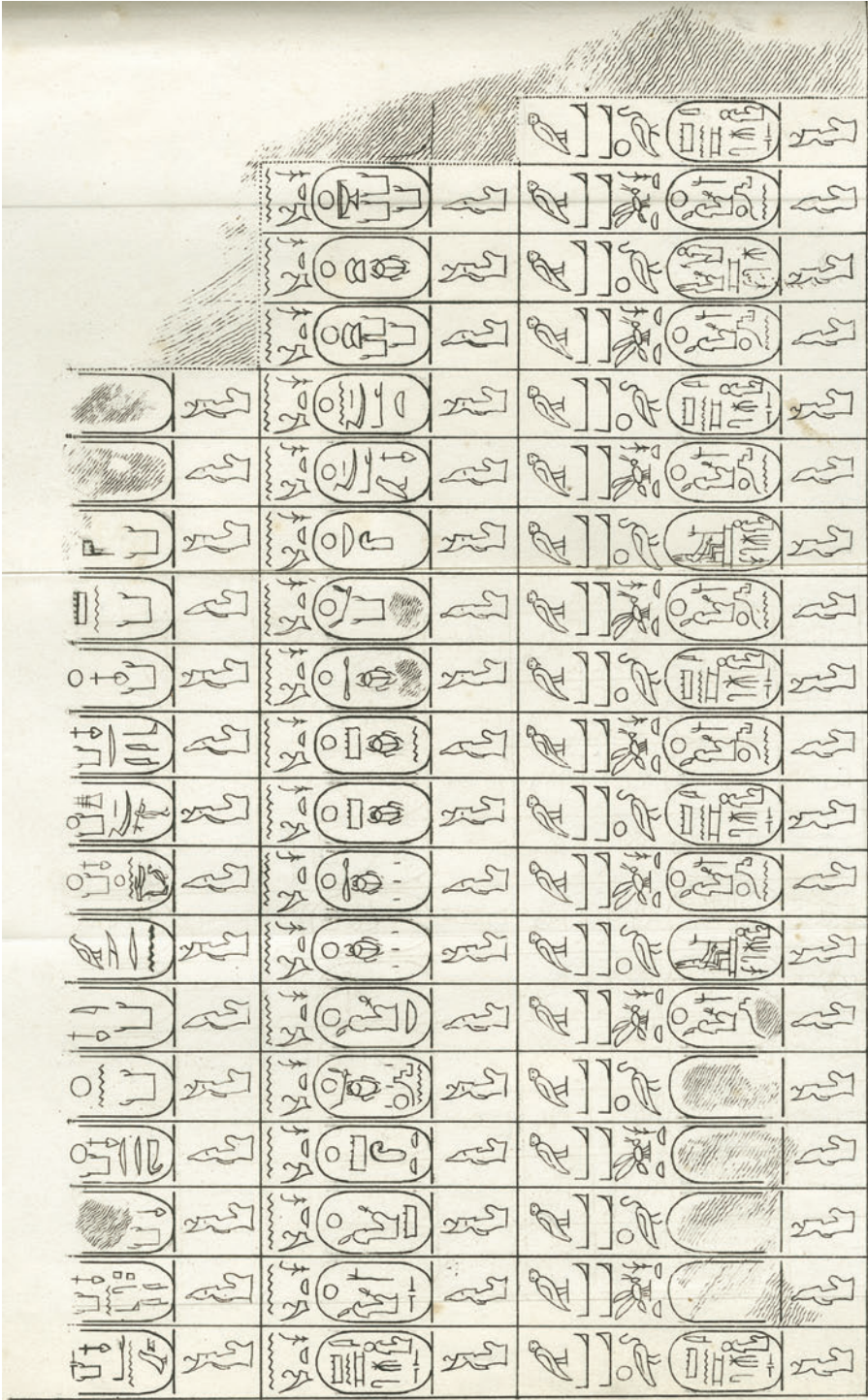
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*Printed by C. Millman*

*WJ.Banks del 1818*

*G. Schaeff lithog*

THE GENEOLOGICAL TABLE OF ABYDOS,

First discovered there in 1818, by WJ.Banks Esq. and cleared from the Sand in which it had been buried for Ages.

The material originally positioned here is too large for reproduction in this reissue. A PDF can be downloaded from the web address given on page iv of this book, by clicking on 'Resources Available'.

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**E S S A Y**

ON

**DR. YOUNG'S AND M. CHAMPOLLION'S**

**PHONETIC SYSTEM**

OF

**HIEROGLYPHICS;**

WITH SOME ADDITIONAL DISCOVERIES, BY WHICH IT MAY  
BE APPLIED TO DECIPHER THE NAMES OF THE  
ANCIENT KINGS OF EGYPT AND ETHIOPIA.

**BY HENRY SALT, Esq., F.R.S.**

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S CONSUL-GENERAL IN EGYPT,  
&c. &c. &c.

ADDRESSED TO

**THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES YORKE,**

&c. &c. &c.

**LONDON :**

PRINTED BY A. J. VALPY, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

SOLD BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, BROWN, AND  
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1825.

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TO THE

**RIGHT HON. CHARLES YORKE.**

**MY DEAR SIR,**

**THE interesting Record, which forms the frontispiece of the present volume, and which is supposed to be absolutely unique, I had the good fortune first to bring to light, in an excavation undertaken for the purpose of obtaining an accurate ground-plan of the extensive ruins at Abydos. It exists there in a lesser building, quite distinct from the principal pile, which**

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doubtless was the Memnonium, and occupies all that remains of a side-wall in one of the innermost adyta: no portion of this side-wall retains its original height, and it is otherwise so much mutilated, that the table is incomplete, both in the upper part and at one of its extremities. The other extremity is brought close up to the extreme angle of the chamber, and the lowest line is carried almost down to the pavement, so that in those two directions it is quite entire. The lithographic engraving of it here given was executed very soon after my return to England, with a view to immediate publication. Some copies were distributed, and much has been already said and written upon this table; but the publication of it has been hitherto delayed; and I feel some degree of satisfaction that its first appearance, in all its details, should have been reserved to be thus associated with your name, and with the ingenious labours of

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DEDICATION.

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our common friend, Mr. Salt ; its insertion will,  
I trust, be received as a testimony of the sincere  
regard and esteem which I bear to you both,

who am very truly yours,

WM. JOHN BANKES.

1825.

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Και το εν Αβυδω απορητων δεξει.

*Iamblichus de Myst.*

The above sentence cited from Iamblichus (which may be translated, “and he will publish what is hidden at Abydus,”) would, I have often been inclined to suspect, have no reference at all to that place if the text were properly emended, Αβατω being the reading which I would propose to substitute for Αβυδω. Abatus was, we know, forbidden to the eyes and the feet of the profane; no such circumstance is, I believe, any where recorded of Abydus.—LONDON, 1825.