

REPORT

ON THE INSPECTORATE OF UPPER EGYPT

FROM APRIL 1920 TO MARCH 1921

BY

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In this report I have endeavoured to give a general account of the work done, or in progress, since taking over the inspectorate, with a description of the objects found and bought during this period which are in any way out of the ordinary.

KARNAK.

At Nag' Es-Sabtieh, the village on the south-west corner of the temenos wall of the temples of Karnak, Hakîm eff. Abou Seif and I have cleared a block of houses, 18 in all, by simple exchange, the inhabitants having agreed to accept land in payment for their entire properties. The houses were valued by a commission of notables and the land was given to them at the rate of L. Eg. 120 per feddan. (Since these transactions took place the land has dropped in value considerably.) There remain some 25 houses still to be got rid of, including four big ones. We may be able to come to terms with some of the small fry but an expropriation will be necessary before we can obtain the large houses as the owners are demanding fabulous prices for them.

The infiltration in the temple of Karnak has been the worst for fifteen years, and the deposit of salt has been correspondingly bad. A delay in the arrival of the new hose-pipe has made the extraction of the salt very difficult, and now, even after repeated washings, the deposit has not been completely removed. An even more serious result of the infiltration has been that the obelisk of Thutmose I seems to be leaning, even more

than last year, towards the Hypostyle Hall. M. M. Pillet, who has lately taken over the work of M. Legrain, is examining this question.

The *sabâkh* work has lain in unproductive places and very few objects have come in; the only objects of interest being a statue of *Kha^c-nefer-Re^c*, *Sebek-hotep*, and a votive stele. These are described later.

THEBAN NECROPOLIS.

The most important work being done on this side is the making of a 1/1000 large-scale map of the entire necropolis by the Survey Department. This will, of course, be an official publication and will shew in detail the limits of each modern house and the position and number of all the tombs. The 1/500 maps done by M. Émile Baraize are now out of date, and do not in any case cover half the area of the necropolis. The encroachments have been very great in the last twelve years; a few stones casually laid on the ground become, in an amazingly short space of time, a low wall, then a high wall — and then a house, which will be sworn to by a hundred witnesses as having existed from time immemorial. It has been our work lately to clear up doubtful boundaries and this has succeeded better than I should have expected. My method is to persuade the inhabitants to accept a piece of land which seems of doubtful ownership, on the condition of their relinquishing all claim on a similar piece of land needed by the Service to make the boundaries of their property definite and compact. The result has been that the Service has gained a great deal of land, which would certainly have been lost if the matter had been taken to the Courts. The originals of these sheets will be done within two months.

The Survey Dept. is taking the best plans published of the ancient monuments and suitably reducing them for insertion on their map. The excavators at Thebes have also been giving all the assistance in their power for making this work as complete and accurate as possible.

A result of this limiting of the encroachments on the Theban necropolis will be a great crowding in the houses. In a very few years it will be necessary to start a new town site, if it be possible to find a piece of desert which we are tolerably certain is free from tombs. I am now studying this question.

The inscription appears to me not to be of the same date as the statue, as it is very roughly cut — almost scratched on the stone. Judging from the work of the statue, it might well be of the XIIth dynasty and usurped by the later king.

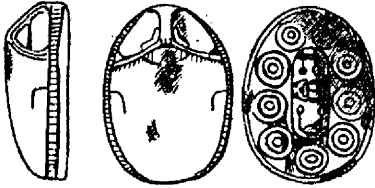


Fig. 1.

The left face of the throne is decidedly concave and appears to have been used as a mortar in late times.


Its height is now 0 m. 79 cent.

(2) A XIIth (?) DYNASTY SCARAB. — Figure 1 shews the front, back and side of an unglazed steatite scarab bought at a shop in Luxor. It is one of a curious series having the name of a XIIth king, in this case that of Senusert I, with two *nefers* substituted for the word *Re*, thus :

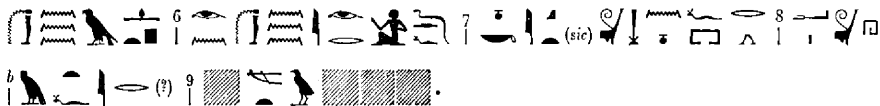


Several XIIth dynasty kings' names have been found written in this way, but that of Senusert I seems to be the most common.

From its rather degraded form, shewn in the legs and the circles, it has been thought that this series belongs, in the most part, to the Hyksos period. I know of no published group containing one of these scarabs which could make the date certain. On the other hand, some of the scarabs of this series are of the same excellence as the best XIIth dynasty scarabs. Several examples of these «*neferui*» scarabs are given in PETRIE, *Scarabs and Cylinders*, pl. XII. The beetle, called *Hypselogenia*, which this specimen is supposed to represent, is common in, but not exclusive to this type (Scale, full size; entry number 46.919).

I have in my possession a very fine spiraled scarab, giving the name , which appears to be of the best XIIth dynasty work.

(3) STELE OF KHUWY (Entry n° 46.784). — This stele is of limestone with a slightly rounded top. Above are a pair of *uzat* eyes with a scar-ring between them. Seven lines of inscription follow. Below, on the left of the stele, are a male and female figure of crude design, the male being in front but quite clear of the female figure, except that she has her left hand on his shoulder. Both figures are seated on one chair. Between



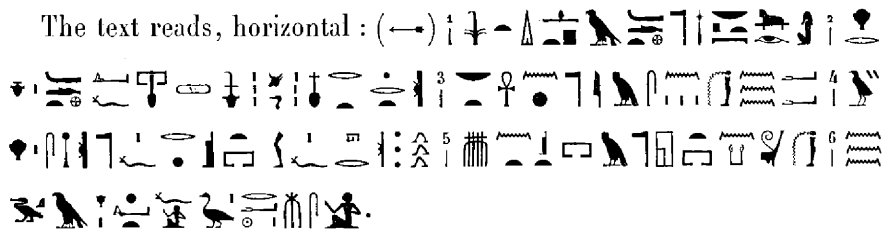
† «A royal offering by Horus of Edfû and Osiris, † Lord of Busiris, the Great God. . . † . . life. † May he give funeral offerings of bread (?), beer (?), oxen, ducks and clothing to the † Priest, the Enterer, Hor-Behedtï-mose, † begotten of the Priest Har-hotpe, † begotten of the Priest Irer. Saith he : † I am one perfect among his brethren and † gal-lant. . . † . . † . . »

a) The text here seems corrupt, but I have seen, in a dealer's shop at Edfû, a stele having the same group of signs after the *neter*.

b) With the reference books at my disposal here at Luxor I can give no translation of the word *hm-t*. If it means 'wife', I have never known it spelt in this way.

(5) STELE OF HOR-HER-KHUT-F (Entry n° 46.785). — This stele is of limestone, rounded at the top, and measuring 0 m. 49 cent. high by 0 m. 30 cent. wide. The work is very coarse indeed. The face of the stele is decidedly convex.

Below the seal-ring, between the *uzat* eyes, are six lines of text. At the bottom right hand corner is a female figure seated on the same chair as a male figure but not touching it at all. Each figure holds a lotus in the right hand. In front of the figures are two vertical lines of text.



Vertical, R : (←) .

Vertical, L : (←) .

† «A royal offering by Horus of Edfû, the Great God, Lord of Heaven, and Osiris, † who is in Edfû; may he give funeral offerings of bread,

wine, oxen, ducks and every fine thing $\frac{3}{1}$ on which a god lives (and may be) clean $\frac{4}{1}$ of hands according to the instruction (?) of his God; may he know the 'place of his legs', may he be serene in his comings (?), may he be $\frac{5}{1}$ at his place in the temple. To the *ka* of the $\frac{6}{1}$ Priest, the Enterer, Hor-her-khut-f, son of Ramose.»

R. column : «His beloved wife Iuf».

L. column : «The Priest, the Enterer, Hor-her-khut-f».

The provenance of these three steles n^{os} 3, 4 and 5 is Tell Edfû, where they were found by the *sabbâkhîn*.

In the *sabâkh* work here a very considerable quantity of antiquities have been found. In my opinion the site is too valuable to allow *sabâkh* work without skilled — and honest — supervision during the whole time that digging is taking place. I realize that the inhabitants must have *sabâkh* for their crops, so I suggest that the excavation of the *tell* be taken up by the Service, or that a concession be given to some recognized excavating party as soon as possible, and the *sabbâkhîn* be put under the control of the digger as regards the place where the *sabâkh* may be taken.

As to the date of these steles, they are almost certainly of the Middle Kingdom.

(6) UŠABTĪ-BOX OF PA-NEF-EM-DYT-AMEN. — This box, the end of which is shewn in fig. 2, and the side in fig. 3, was seized by the Service għafirs from an unlicensed dealer at Luxor. The case was taken before the tribunal and resulted in a fine of P. T. 50 and the confiscation of the box.

The box measured 0 m. 40 cent. by 0 m. 16 cent., the sides being 0 m. 23 cent. high and the ends 0 m. 33 cent. high. Only the bottom, one side, and parts of the ends now remain. It was divided by a partition at the point A in the figure, and all the joints had been filled in with plaster. The ground colour is yellow, inside and out, and the scenes are outlined in red and coloured white, red, blue, green, and black. I have indicated the colours by letters on the drawing.

The scene on the side represents the deceased and his wife offering four statuettes of the Children of Horus to the God Harakhtî and the Goddess Maat, the former being styled 'The Particoloured'.

The text of this scene reads : «Praising Re^s; may he give floral-offer-

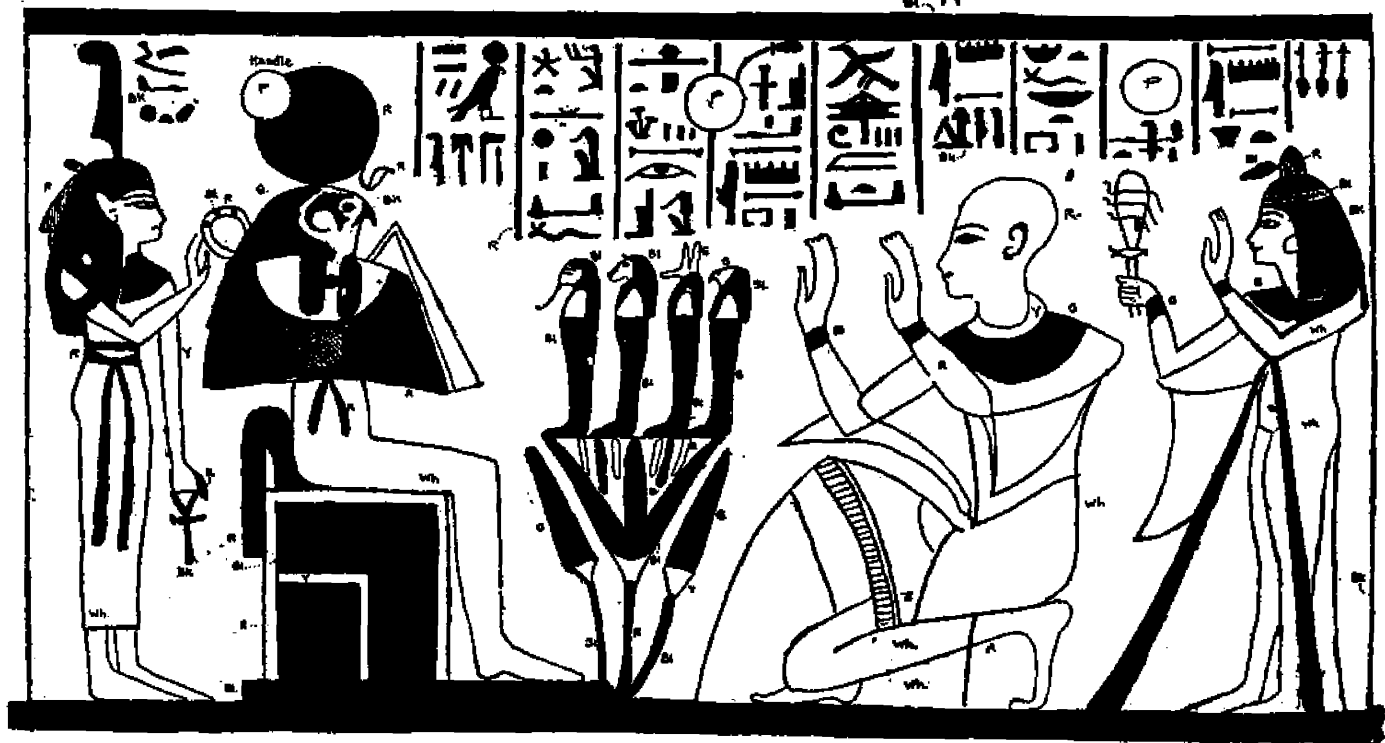


Fig. 3.

The dealer tells me that the amulet comes from the *sabákh* work at Karnak, which is possible.

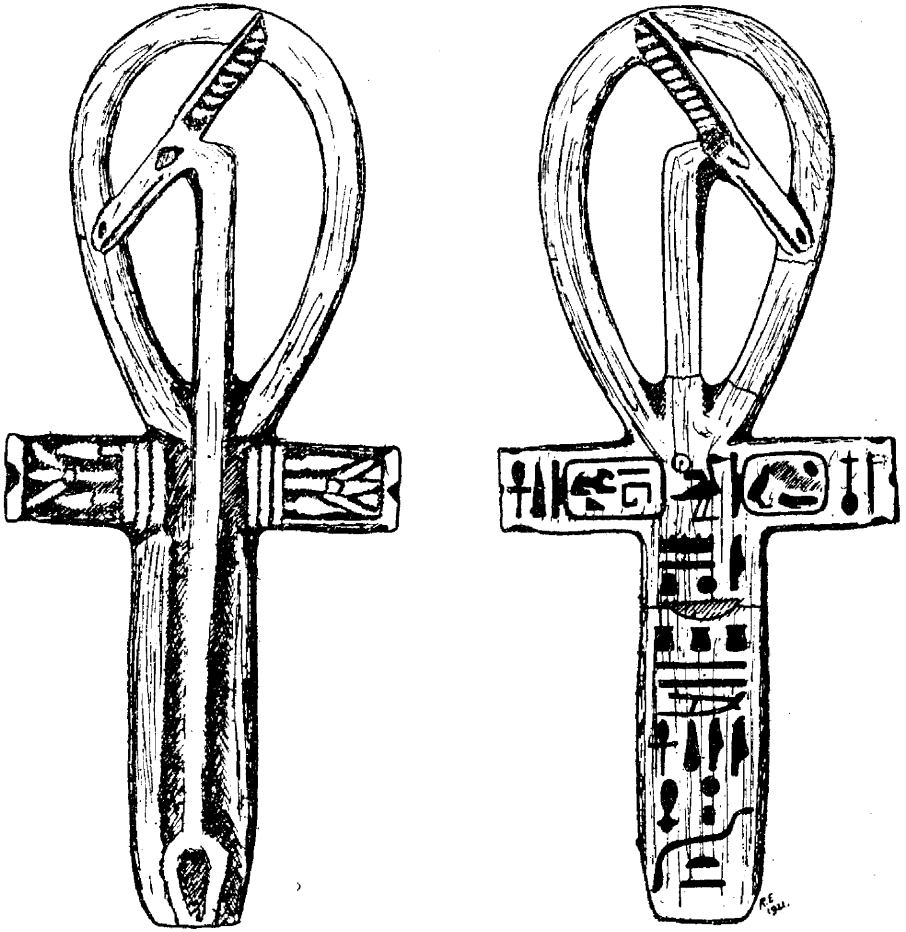


Fig. 4.

(9) LIMESTONE VOTIVE STELE OF THE GOD KHONSU from the *sabákh* work west of the temple of Khonsu at Karnak, about 20 metres north of the temple of Apet. The stele (fig. 5) measures 0 m. 235 mill. high and 0 m. 112 mill. wide, and is of coarse work in bas-relief and appears never to have been coloured. It is of the XXVIth dynasty or later (found June 1920).

Cat of Heliopolis. Thou art distinguished among the Horizon-dwellers; thou becomest a follower of his boat. »

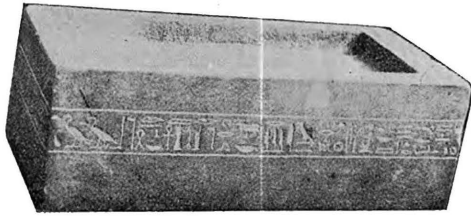


Fig. 6.

The reference to the Cat is taken from the xviiith chapter of the *Book of the Dead* (see BUDGE, *Book of the Dead*, trans. p. 54), where he translates the passage : « I am the Cat who fought hard (?) by the Persea-tree in Heliopolis on the night when the foes of Neb-er-tcher were destroyed. . . . »

The base of the statuette measures 0 m. 30 cent. by 0 m. 12 cent. by 0 m. 08 cent. (Entry no. 46.918).

(11) and (12) BRONZES. Fig. 7 shows one of a set of seven objects of a use unknown to me. Each example varies slightly in shape, but are all of nearly the same height, i. e. of about 0 m. 28 cent. They are hollow throughout their length (Entry nos. 46.753-46.759). Fig. 8 is one of a set of three crucibles found with the objects mentioned above. These vary in size and capacity. Two have extending handles like the one shewn, while the remaining one has a simple handle. Each of the handles is decorated at the end with a duck's head (Entry nos. 46.750-46.752).



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

(13) STELE OF LIMESTONE OF A MAN CALLED HAT-JAY, who is entitled 'the Standard-bearer', found with the bronzes mentioned above (Entry no. 46.749). This is shewn in fig. 9.

Nos. 11 to 13 were all found on August 6th in the *sabākh* work at Tell Edfū. With them were found an iron *fas*-head and a small iron anvil of square section, tapering from the bottom upwards. The remainder of the find included some dishes of Ptolemaic date and a large number of Ptolemaic copper coins of various denominations.



Fig. 9.

(14) Coptic ostrakon from the *sabākh* work in the *birbeh* at Medinet Habu, in the Sahidic dialect (Entry no. 46.740). It measures 0 m. 22 cent. long and has been rather badly broken. It contains 24 lines of well-formed writing with very few ligatures. The characteristic letters are shewn below (fig. 10).

α β ε κ λ μ ν ο π ρ τ ω υ ζ η

Fig. 10.

The text reads :

- 1 ⲥⲧⲤ ⲱⲐⲣⲓ ⲙⲓⲚ ⲧⲱⲓⲛⲉ ⲓⲛⲧⲉⲕ
- 2 ⲙⲛⲧⲥⲐⲛ ⲡⲭⲐⲉⲓⲥ ⲓⲛⲥⲱⲙⲟⲩ ⲉⲣⲐⲕ
- 3 ⲙⲛⲛ ⲛⲉⲕⲣⲱⲙⲉ ⲧⲏⲣⲟⲩ ⲙⲛⲛ ⲛⲉⲕⲧⲃ̄
- 4 ⲛⲟⲟⲩⲉ ⲙⲛⲛ ⲛ̄ⲕⲁ ⲏ̄ⲓⲙ ⲉⲧⲱⲟⲟⲛ ⲛⲁⲕ
- 5 ⲛ̄ⲟⲉ ⲉⲛⲧⲁⲩⲥⲱⲙⲟⲩ ⲉⲛⲉⲛⲉⲓⲟⲧⲉ ⲉⲧⲟⲩⲁ
- 6 ⲓⲛⲧⲱⲓⲛⲉ ⲁⲃⲣⲁⲗⲁⲙ ⲙⲛⲛ ⲓⲥⲁⲗⲕ ⲙⲛⲛ
- 7 ⲓⲗⲕⲱⲃ̄ · ⲧⲡⲁⲣⲁⲕⲁⲗⲉⲓ ⲛⲧⲉⲕⲙⲛⲧ
- 8 ⲥⲐⲛ ⲭⲉⲕⲁⲥ ⲉⲕⲛⲁⲩⲡⲣⲟⲟⲩⲱ ⲛ̄ⲡⲕⲟⲩⲱⲓ
- 9 ⲙⲙⲁⲗⲉ ⲛ̄ⲧⲣⲉⲩⲱⲗⲉⲩ ⲭⲉ ⲙⲡⲉ ⲟⲟ
- 10 ⲧⲉ ⲛ̄ⲣⲱⲙⲉ ⲉⲓ ⲉⲙⲗⲏⲧ · ⲁⲣⲓ ⲛⲏⲁ
- 11 ⲙⲡⲣⲉⲱ ⲙⲏⲡⲱⲥ ⲛ̄ⲧⲁⲕⲟ ⲁⲩⲱ
- 12 ⲛ̄ⲧⲭⲟⲟⲩⲱⲗⲉ ⲉⲱⲟⲗ ⲕⲁⲗⲱⲥ · ⲡⲉⲧⲉ
- 13 ⲱⲗⲁⲧⲁⲗⲟⲩ ⲧⲏⲣⲓ ⲧⲡⲁⲧⲁⲗⲁⲩ

14 ΧΕΚΑΣ ΕΡΕ ΠΕΝΧΟΕΪC IC Π
 15 ΧC ΝΑΤῆΝΟΟΥ ΜΠΕΡCΜΟΥ
 16 ΕΞΡΑΪ ΕΧῆ ΝΕΚΧῆΝΟΟΥ Μῆ
 17 ΝΕΚΞΡΩΤ Μῆ ΝΕΚΞΗ[ΥΕ]
 18 ΤΗΡΟΥ ΛΥΩ ΝῆΝΑΣΜΟΥ
 19 Μῆ ΝΕΚΡΩΜΕ ΤΗΡΟΥ
 20 Ε ΝΕΪΞΙCΕ^(a) ΟΥΧΑΪ Ξῆ
 21 ΠΧΟΕΪC· ΤΑΛC ῆ
 22 ΠΕΝCΟΝ ΞΗΜΑΪ Ξῆ
 23 Τῆ ΕΠ[ΙΦ]
 24 [Λ]ῆ[ΟC]

«(1) First I enquire about (2) thy Brotherhood. The Lord shall bless thee (3) with all thy men and thy cat(4)tle and everything which belongs to thee (5) in the manner which He blessed our Holy Fathers (6) of old, Abraham and Isaac and (7) Jacob. I request of thy brother-(8)hood that thou take charge of the small (crop of?) (9) flax so that it be plucked; for the fear (10) of man has not come Northwards. Do the favour and (11) delay not lest it perish; and (12) do thou. . . . it well. Whatever (13) befalls I will pay for it (lit. give it) (14) so that our Lord Jesus the (15) Christ shall send His blessing (16) on thy threshing floors and (17) thy vats and all thy affairs (18) and He shall save them (19) together with all thy men (20) from these troublous (times). Health in (21) the Lord. To give it to (22) our brother Hêmai from (23) Epiph-(24)anios.»

(a) The π is written above the line between the ι and the ρ.

(b) This rare form is from the verb ΞΩΩΛΕ «to pluck» (cf. *Crum, Rylands Catalogue*, no. 160, note 1).

(c) 'The fear of man, etc.' may have something to do with some inroad, but hardly that of the Persians in 619, referred to in other ostraka, which refer to the troubles coming Southward.

(d) A hitherto unknown verb in the pronominal form which may refer to some process in treating the flax.

(e) This may mean 'these troubles' referring to some previous letter, but more probably means 'these hard times' which may be those of the early 7th cent. when there were severe political disturbances.

I have to thank Dr. W. E. Crum for most of the notes given above. I submitted my transcription and translation to him and he was kind enough to comment on it without seeing the original ostrakon, correcting my translation in several particulars.

The writing is now hardly legible and it was only by very careful wetting that I could recover the text (Entry no. 46.740).

R. ENGELBACH.