

THE JOURNAL  
OF  
EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

VOLUME XXIII

PUBLISHED BY  
THE EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY  
2 HINDE STREET, MANCHESTER SQUARE, W. 1  
LONDON

1937

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## NOTES AND NEWS

PROF. BLACKMAN being prevented by another engagement from leaving England, our Acting Field Director at Sesebi and El-Amāra this winter is Mr. H. W. Fairman, who is accompanied by Mr. I. E. S. Edwards, of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, British Museum, and Mr. David Bell, son of Dr. H. I. Bell.

Mr. O. H. Myers is again at Armant, directing the Sir Robert Mond Expedition; his staff includes Mr. John Grant MacDonald and four technical assistants recruited in Egypt. Dr. H. A. Winkler is continuing his photographic survey of the High Desert of Upper Egypt on behalf of Sir Robert.

Miss Calverley and Miss Broome have not gone out to Abydos this winter (see p. 119), but are actively engaged at home in the preparation of Vol. IV of *The Temple of King Sethos I.*

An exhibition of antiquities found recently at Armant by the Sir Robert Mond Expedition was held at the Institute of Archaeology, Regent's Park, London, from September 1 to 25. The objects on view were of all periods from Badarian to Arab, and came from the ancient city of Hermonthis and its temples, from cemeteries, from a mound called Kōm el-'Abd and from a Coptic hermitage. In addition was shown a very remarkable collection of photographs of rock drawings and inscriptions ranging in date from predynastic to modern times, taken by Dr. Winkler in the course of his desert survey.

Under the auspices of our Society, Dr. Dora Roberts is giving a lecture on January 17 at the Royal Institution on 'Coptic Art: Its Development and Influence'.

Ever desirous of effecting such improvements as are possible in the periodical committed to our charge, we introduce with this Part a new feature, 'Brief Communications'. A circular letter on the subject sent last summer to all contributors brought unanimous encouragement to create a section which, resembling the 'Miszellen', 'Notes', 'Kleinere Beiträge' and the like of similar journals, should offer hospitality to communications on the one hand too short to merit the full status of an article, and on the other not suitable to be incorporated in 'Notes and News'. Contributions should not exceed one page of the *Journal* in length (in the somewhat smaller type used for the new section), and should only in quite exceptional cases be accompanied by illustrations other than line figures in the text.

Of Indexes. This year there are additional ones, of the Egyptian, Coptic, and Greek words discussed. The first two are from the hand of Mr. A. N. Dakin, Fellow of University College, Oxford; the third is by Miss D. M. Vaughan, the able Indexer of this *Journal* for seven years past. These indexes will appear annually. Mr. Dakin, who is most kindly sharing the editorial load, has prepared an index of Egyptian and Coptic words discussed in volumes 1-20, which the world shall have shortly. It is our intention to publish with vol. 30 what we hope will be the first of a series of decennial indexes, similar in scope to those at the end of vol. 20, but including the philological indexes.

Mr. Alan W. Shorter has kindly undertaken to deal with reviews (except those on papyrological or other Graeco-Roman matters) for this *Journal* in future. Correspondence on this subject should be sent to Mr. Shorter at his home address, 7 Rotherfield Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

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The death of Nora Christina Cobban Griffith, widow of Prof. F. Ll. Griffith, on October 21, of peritonitis after an appendectomy, at the age of 64, is deeply felt by her many friends in this and

other countries. As some memorial to her in these pages, we cannot do better than transcribe a notice by Mr. N. de G. Davies, one of her closest friends, which appeared in *The Times* of October 25:

'She was the daughter of Surgeon-Major James Macdonald, of Aberdeen, and sister of Sir Ronald Macdonald. A visit to Egypt in 1906 interested her in that country's past, and, having become a pupil of Griffith at Oxford for a short time, she married him in 1909. Thenceforward she spent her life in devoted co-operation with him in all his archaeological and linguistic enterprises and in his campaigns in Egypt, Nubia, and the Sudan in 1910-13, 1923, 1929, and 1930. Since his death in 1934 her life was consecrated with the utmost devotion to superintending and herself labouring at all the unfinished projects of her husband in the same spirit of exact scholarship that marked his work. Two volumes of *Demotic Graffiti of the Dodecaschoenus*, all the 70 plates of which are by her conscientious hand, appeared this year, and three other undertakings of considerable scope are well under way. She was indefatigable in spending time and money on this work, in supporting further excavations at Firka and Kawa in the Sudan in connexion with the Oxford University Excavations in Nubia (founded by Prof. Griffith in 1910), in assisting the Egypt Exploration Society, and in keeping up to date the splendid Egyptological library at Sandridge, Boars Hill, which now passes by trust-deed to the Ashmolean Museum.

'But if this activity was the admiration of her wide circle of friends at home and abroad, it was her hospitality and goodness, her wide sympathies, sense, humour, and courage that gained their love. She was working determinedly to the last and ignoring the remonstrances of her friends and of her mental and bodily forces. For the first time she is really at rest.'

Mrs. Griffith, by her will, has added her considerable fortune to her husband's as a bequest to the University of Oxford for the creation of an Archaeological Institute, attached to the Ashmolean Museum, which will contain the Griffith Library, and rooms for teaching and research in Egyptology, and also accommodation for other branches of the archaeology of the Near East. Building will begin very soon, and it is expected that the new Institute will be completed by the end of 1938. Meanwhile the library will remain at the Griffiths' house (which has also been bequeathed to the University), Sandridge, Boars Hill, Oxford, and will be open to accredited readers. It is earnestly hoped that those who have hitherto presented their works, whether books or offprints, to this, the finest private Egyptological library in existence, will continue to do so, and thus contribute to making Oxford an important centre of Egyptological activity.

Dr. H. I. Bell kindly sends us the following lines:

'The Fifth International Congress of Papyrology was held at Oxford from the 30th August to the 3rd September last, the head-quarters being at St. John's College. The absence of Professor Wilcken was a great disappointment to the Committee, as to all concerned, and it was much regretted also that Professors Schubart, Medea Norsa, and Calderini, and one or two others who had announced their intention of being present were prevented from attending; but there was a good attendance, 161 out of over 175 who had enrolled being present. The weather was for the most part favourable, and the Congress was much enjoyed by all who took part in it. Foreign members particularly appreciated the opportunity of staying in college and thus seeing English University life from the inside.

'The proceedings began on the Monday evening with a reception by the Warden of Wadham College, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, in the Ashmolean Museum, kindly thrown open for the occasion by the Keeper. This was followed on Tuesday evening by a Government reception in the Hall of The Queen's College. The guests were received by Sir Stephen Gaselee, K.C.M.G., representing the Foreign Office. For Wednesday afternoon an excursion by charabanc to the Cotswolds had been arranged, the Roman villa at Chedworth (where Miss M. V. Taylor kindly explained the topography of the site), and the town of Burford being visited; this was enjoyed by a large party. On Thursday The Queen's College generously entertained the Congress at a Garden Party; and on Wednesday evening the garden front of St. John's College was flood-lit, refreshments being provided in the cloisters.

'The Bodleian Library arranged a special exhibition of papyri and granted free admission to

members. Similar facilities were accorded by the libraries of Merton, Queen's, Corpus Christi, and St. John's Colleges, and an exhibition of papyri was also opened at the British Museum.

'Many interesting papers were read, and Mr. Colt on Thursday evening gave a lantern lecture, which was much appreciated, on his excavations in southern Palestine. At the final meeting, on Friday, it was decided that the next Congress should be held at Vienna in 1939. A generous offer by the Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth to publish the proceedings was accepted so far as was compatible with the facts that arrangements had already been made for the publication of several communications elsewhere and that some members did not wish to publish their papers, which were of a provisional and temporary nature only. The projected volume will contain the full text of such papers as are available with brief summaries of the others and notifications of the publications in which they are to appear.

'The Committee is much indebted to all who helped, in particular to the authorities of St. John's College, The Queen's College, the Ashmolean Museum, and the Bodleian Library.'

The Chair of Egyptology in the University of Berlin, vacant since the death of Kurt Sethe in July 1934, has at last been filled. Prof. Hermann Grapow, to whom we offer our congratulations, was appointed to this position last October.

Other news from Germany will be received with mixed feelings. On December 1 Prof. Hermann Ranke vacated the Chair of Egyptology at Heidelberg. He is succeeded by Prof. Siegfried Schott. We are informed that Prof. Ranke will carry on his private work at Munich, on his return from Madison, Wis., where he is to teach and lecture for a semester as Visiting Professor in Archaeology to the University of Wisconsin. Professor Georg Steindorff, who has most ably edited the *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* for forty-three years past (with Erman, 1895-1906, since then as full editor), has recently found it necessary to resign his direction of that journal. The new editor will be Prof. Walther Wolf, whose name has appeared on the title-page as assistant since 1935.

At the end of October the following were dismissed from the Antiquities Department of the Egyptian Government: Mr. Walter B. Emery, who replaced the late C. M. Firth at Şakḳārah, and has been excavating a very important First-Dynasty cemetery there; M. J.-P. Lauer, whose admirable work, during the last ten years, in the restoration and technical study of the buildings forming the Step Pyramid complex is well known; Prof. Gustave Jéquier, who since 1924 has been excavating and publishing with notable success the pyramids and tombs of South Şakḳārah; and M. Henri Gauthier, formerly Secretary General of the Department, the scholar to whom we owe the *Livre des rois d'Égypte*, the *Dictionnaire des noms géographiques*, and many other valuable works. We understand that, after representations made to the Egyptian Government by the British and French Embassies, Messrs. Emery and Lauer have been reinstated temporarily; we earnestly hope that their contracts will be renewed, and that M. Jéquier will also be able to resume his work, for otherwise the result can only be a deplorable diminution of the archaeological activity of the Egyptian Government.

Dr. Heinrich Balcz, Haizingergasse 19, Vienna 18, and Dr. Egon Ritter v. Komorzynski, Währingerstrasse 160, Vienna 18, announce that in the beginning of 1938 they will bring out the first number of a new monthly periodical, *Archiv für ägyptische Archäologie*, which will contain short articles, communications regarding field activities, reports from museums, societies and other institutions, and also personal and literary news. Contributions, which should if possible not exceed ten typewritten sheets, may be in German, English, French, or Italian; authors will receive ten off-prints. Each part will contain about 25 pages; the annual subscription will be 30 Austrian schillings, the price of a single part 3 schillings. We wish the new venture all success, and shall watch with interest the progress of an Egyptological monthly.

The Roman periodical *Orientalia*, having acquired a fount of Dr. Gardiner's hieroglyphic type, is now in a greatly improved position to publish articles on Egyptian matters.

We have pleasure in publishing the following announcement by the Bavarian Academy of Sciences:

'Die Friedrich Marxstiftung bei der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, München, Neuhauserstrasse 51 setzt einen Preis von 1.500 RM aus für die beste Bearbeitung des Gegenstandes: 'Die Stellung der Eingeborenenbevölkerung im staatlichen Leben Aegyptens zur Ptolemäerzeit.'  
'Frist bis zum 1. April 1940.'

We offer our congratulations to Prof. G. A. Reisner, who attained his seventieth birthday on November 5. We learn that the occasion was celebrated with fitting ceremony at Harvard Camp, Gīzah Pyramids, by the entire personnel, native and other, of the Harvard-Boston Expedition, who presented the 'Mudir' with a gold repeater watch.

'And these Danish sentences have the solemn beauty of Assyrian prose at its best.' From a recent review in *Zeitschr. f. Orientforschung*. Fortunate Assyriologists, to be able to make such a statement!