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and 𐤊𐤍 *knd* 'baboon', which so far have not been found in Egyptian texts, but which must once have existed in an early period of the language, and which still occur in related Semitic tongues, as in Arabic 'udn 'ear', 'ain 'eye', yad or id 'hand', and kird 'monkey'.

W. VYCIHL

### Air channels in the Great Pyramid

IN his review of Edwards' *The Pyramids of Egypt*, Chatley mistakenly states (*JEA* 34, 127) that the southern air tunnel of the King's Chamber, Great Pyramid, 'enters the chamber at floor-level'. Both northern and southern tunnels actually enter 3 feet above floor-level (Perring, *The Pyramids of Gizeh*, Pt. I, p. 4), a distance readily seen within the room itself, of course. As Chatley notes, Sirius could never have been observed through the southern channel, but it will perhaps be of interest to review the reasons more specifically than he does. Both channels enter the walls of the King's Chamber horizontally and continue this direction for about 5 feet before turning upward (Perring, *op. cit.*, pl. 3, fig. 2); the diagonal of neither channel is a straight line, the southern 'curving more than its own width to the east' (Petrie, *Pyramids and Temples of Gizeh*, 1st ed., p. 84), the northern cutting even farther toward the west (Perring, *op. cit.*, pl. 3, figs. 1-2); as Chatley observes, the outer end of the southern channel—and presumably of the northern as well—was not square with the face of the pyramid originally, for it turned abruptly to run parallel with the ground for approximately the last 10 feet, 'probably', Perring believes (*op. cit.*, p. 2, pl. 4, figs. 5-6) 'with the view of preventing the sand from choking it up'. Petrie (*op. cit.*, 70-71) found the air tunnels in the Queen's Chamber were 'exactly like the air channels in the King's Chamber in their appearance, but were covered over the mouth by a plate of stone, left not cut through in the chamber wall; no outer end has yet been found for either of them . . .'. However, a telescope did show him 'something like the mouth of a hole in the 85th course on the S. face', but he was 'hindered from examining it closely'.

ELIZABETH THOMAS

### The beginning and the date of P.Ryl. IV. 586 (Plate I)

IN view of the interest to palaeographers of precisely dated specimens of bookhands or near-bookhands, it is worth recording that confirmation has now been found of the date indicated for the careful round letters and broad serifs of the hand of this document. The name Simaristos occurring in the briefly described P.Oxy. 802 suggested the possibility that this text was part of the Rylands document. A photograph obtained through the kind offices of Professor Gerstinger from the University library in Graz, where the papyrus is now housed under the inventory number P.Graz I 1933, reveals in fact the top left-hand corner of the Rylands papyrus, of identical handwriting, and making an actual join with it. Its prescript is of Ptolemy Alexander and Berenice, dated by its form as not earlier than 101 B.C., and by the word δεκάτου at the beginning of a line to not later than their nineteenth year, a *terminus ante quem* which P.Ryl. l. 12 advances to their sixteenth year. Now the first four lines of P.Graz are written in the small cursive found also in P.Ryl. lines 5 and 10, and seem to have been longer in number of letters (l. 1, 42; l. 3, 39; l. 4, 29-31) than are the lines from l. 5 on, where the large round capitals of P.Ryl. begin, in a line averaging twenty-nine letters. In the prescript therefore only [έκκαλ-] | δεκάτου is short enough to be acceptable as a restoration if lines 1-3 were of even length. This suits the other data admirably: the loan therefore was made in Apellaios = Phaophi 99 B.C., to be repaid later during the same regnal year. The assignation of the text to the Arsinoite nome, inferred from a false interpretation of Αφροδίτης in P.Ryl. l. 2, is shown to be wrong, for the provenance is Oxyrhynchus. Possibly Αφροδίτης in some way describes the κοινόν or association from which the loan was made.