

[Page also numbered 5.]

Journal A. 1901-2

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 Every day in the past month has been so filled with building moving & such affairs, beside excavating, that there has never seemed to be an hour for journal.

We stayed two days in Paris, going to the Louvre, Cluny Museum, & Musée Guimet. The latter does not contain any important Egyptian stuff, & is poorly arranged & lighted. The Indian & Chinese side of it is the best. Then we stayed a night at Tarascon & went over to Nîmes, where we saw the temple, which is larger & finer than I had supposed; the museum inside it is well kept & interesting. The arena is large, but not so fine as Verona. We went on Marseille the same night, & soon next morning to docks, only to find no news of the boat. So back to lunch in town, & met Hilton Brice. Then to docks in afternoon, about 2 miles out of the town, & near sunset the ship was sighted; so we got on board by

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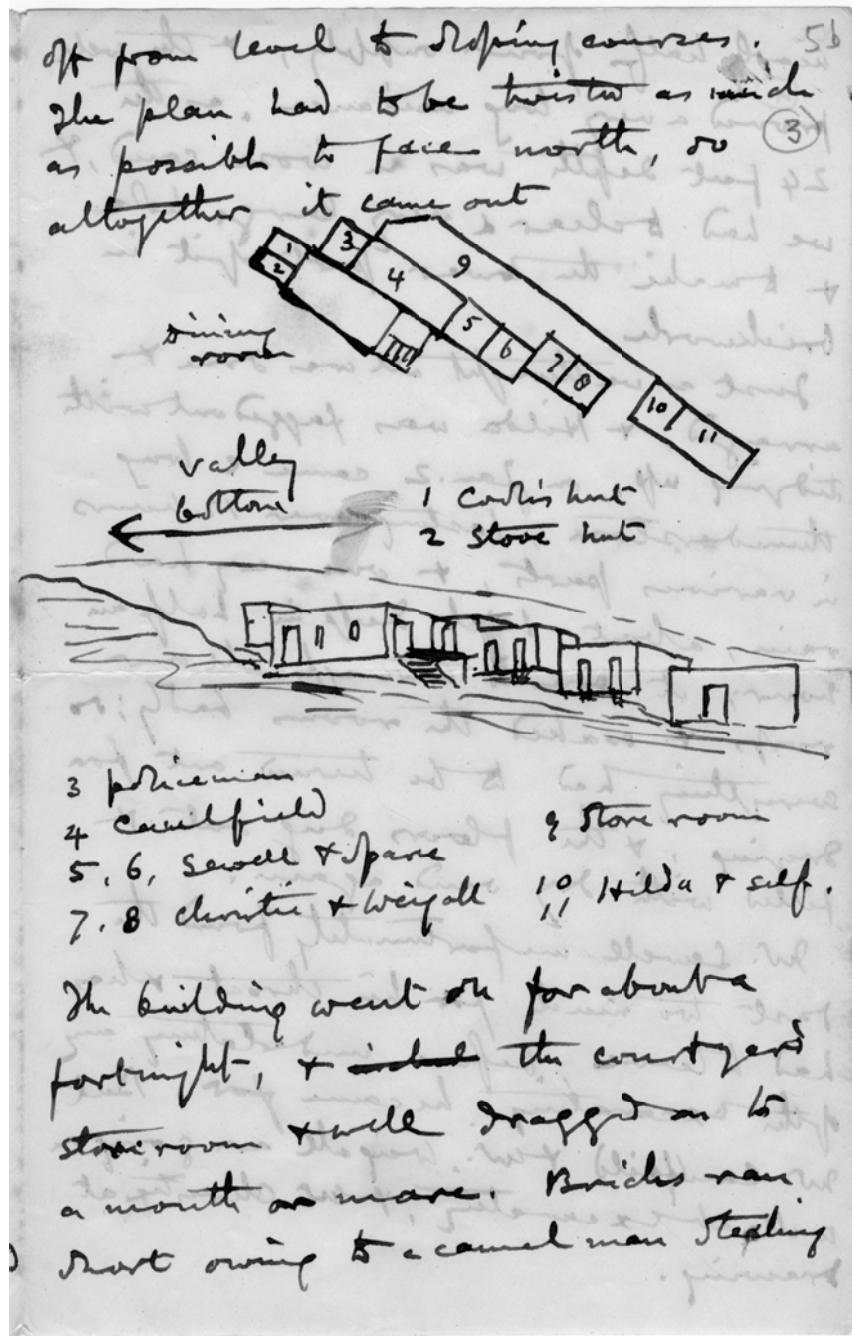
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[Page also numbered 5a.]

5a. ② The delay had been due to a strong head wind up to marseille. However we had a perfect passage to Alexandria, so that it was difficult to believe that the vessel was going when we sat at meals. We came in a day late, owing to delay in starting. Hilda had got a chill owing to cold from open porthole, so as our huts were all nohow, she went next day to Miss Dodd's Winter Home at Helwan ^{for 3 days}, a most comfortable place, & was most kindly looked after by Dr Page May, while Weigall & I went up to Abydos, & started business. We found two of the old huts habitable, & began building the new huts $\frac{1}{2}$ mile back on the desert, just beyond all the cemetery & organic soil. We had to built up the sloping side of a valley which made the work rather troublesome, as the native always wandered

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[Page also numbered 5b.]



off from level to sloping courses.
 The plan had to be twisted as much
 as possible to face north, so
 altogether it came out

[२] (Dining room - 2 - 1 - 3 - 4 - 9 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 10 - 11)

(valley bottom

1 Cook's hut

2 Store hut

3 policeman

4 Caulfield

5, 6, Sewell & spare - 9 store room

7, 8 Christie & Weigall - 10 / 11 Hilda & self.

The building went on for about a
 fortnight, & include the courtyard
 storeroom & well dragged on to
 a month or more. Bricks ran
 short owing to a camel man stealing

[Page also numbered 5c.]

5c
 nearly half of our supply, & the well
 (4) proved a very long nuisance, as the
 24 feet depth was in loose sand, &
 we had to clear a very large hole
 & to make the lower part of it in
 brickwork.

Just as we thought all was done &
 arranged, & Hilda was fagged out with
 tidying up, on Jan. 2, came a long
 thunderstorm, lasting over 12 hours
 in various parts, & one very hard
 rain, about 1 inch deep in half an
 hour; it poured through all our
 roofs & soaked the rooms badly; so
 everything had to be turned out for
 drying, & the floors dug out &
 filled with dry sand again.

Mr. Sewell unfortunately found the
 dust too much for his throat, & has
 had to leave before undertaking any
 of the excavating he came for. But
 Mr. Caulfield & Mr. Weigall are going on
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[Page also numbered 6.]

The temple ground has proved to be accessible⁵ in the higher side at this beginning of the season, but the lower side will have to wait till the latter part. I began to turn over the soil with a row of pits side by side, but only 8 could be worked down to native sand, making about 40 metres width of clearance. In a month more I reckon on clearing a lower region nearer the cultivation. The result so far is that there is nothing before the age of Dynasty 0; but we have about 10 feet thick of house ruins of Dyn 0 to IV. Every pot & good flint from there I level & mark; already I have quite distinctive objects of Dyns 0, I & III at different levels, & when we come to putting the whole of the material in order we shall have a chronological scale of things over the first 1000 years of the kingly history. All the levelled pots & flints are being drawn, & we shall publish them in order of the levels. Beside these we have some strings of beads,

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[Page also numbered 6a.]

6a (6)
 green glazed monkeys (like those from
 Hierakonpolis) slate palettes, a glazed
 cylinder with inscripⁿ: $\Delta \tau o l \alpha$ (i.e.
 "give thee the house of bread"), a copper axe
 & chisel, & various little things. So far
 we have not reached any of the early
 temple; the ground of that lies still before
 us. It is very clear that this site
 was founded by the dynastic race: &
 the prehistorics had nothing to do with
 it.

In another part of the temple ground
 we are working out a high level first
 before going deeper; & have cleared
 several chambers of a temple of
 Amenhotep I, in which were a few
 fine blocks of sculpture with figures
 of him. These unhappily have been
 injured by the rain; but Christie
 completely copied them first. Two blocks
 of Meren ra (VI dyn) were found in
 the floor of this temple; & when we
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[Page also numbered 6b.]

shall get doubtless more of the early temples.


A roughly-built late tomb had used up in it a fine block of Usertesen I



of a very strange form, with two grooves in front & in ventilation along the front, & three lines of another king (XIII?) on the top. A great stele with long family or household of a queen mother. And part of a great Ramesside stele, blocks of Amenhotep's temple, &c, &c.

The greater part of our men are however up at the S. corner of the plain, just under the hills where are some great mastabas of the XII or XIII dyn. These have been wrecked for stone, but we are getting the plans, & the whole place is very interesting, with strong suggestions of a big prize being possibly up there.

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[Page also numbered 6c.]

I put a few men on to the Ptolemaic or XXXth cemetery just behind our house, & they found an undisturbed tomb with four sarcophagi. Though they were not inscribed, yet we got three fine bronze hypocephali covered with long scenes & inscriptions, three sets of amulets, & 400 blue ushabtis. We are trying a few more of these tombs & may get more of the inscribed stone sarcophagi. The main name is [Ⲥ] Zeher, of XXX dynasty.

Please forward to 22 Staff. Terr.
 W. Petrie, Esq, 30 Crescent R^d, Bromley, Kent.
 Miss Griffith, 38A Willoughby R^d, Hampstead N.W.
 F. L. Griffith, Esq.
 Miss Orme, Angmering Rectory, Worthing
 Dr Walker 55 Fitzroy R^d Regent's Park N.W.
 Miss Brooke, 11 Herbert St, Dublin.
 Mrs. Pinker, Dunsfold Common, Godalming.
 Miss Buckton 43A Acacia R^d St John's Wood N.W.
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<red 10.2.02 / sent 10.2.02> Aldborough Norwich

A. L. Lewis, Esq, 54 Highbury Hill, N.

[Pages 9 to 16 are by Hilda Petrie.]
[Page also numbered 7.]

<1901-2>

i
El Arabah, Baliana
Upper Egypt.

1901-2 i El Arabah, Baliana
Upper Egypt. (9)

Many thanks for letters from such friends as have written. After 6th March please discontinue posting to above address. We shall be travelling from March 16th onwards.

But on + after March 30, please address Poste Restante, Rome, where we shall call for letters all the first week of April.

Saturday to Wednesday last, 5 days, were taken up in an exhaustive search along the desert northward for cemeteries and early buildings etc. including a run down to Monfalut, 100 miles north, to explore the remains of a pyramid which turned out to be a late fort.

We started early on a Saturday morning - as early as the packing + loading would allow - and rode to Mahasna, 8 miles, during the morning. Flinders, + I, and Ali, rode donkeys from the village, some without bridles, some without stirrups! F. had

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[Page also numbered 7a.]

7c (10)
 on rather Bohemian working-clothes, I went
 in a galabieh, the native dress, and Ali
 had a long striped green quftān or cassock
 with a huge headshawl of soft ornamental
 muslin. We were innocent of collars, ties,
 or stockings, but met no Europeans, so they
 were not expected of us. The camel was
 laden with two cases of our blankets and
 food-tins, and our two small tents wrapped
 in grass-mats to make a floor. We started
 along the cultivation edge to Mahasna, called
 in at Garstang's hut at mid-day to look
 over his alabasters, and sealings, & then
 proceeded across a great stretch of open desert
 to his King's tomb, (see last page but one)
 the huge mastaba-pyramid of Neter-Kha
 or Khet, about the end of the 11th dynasty.
 It is an enormous mass of masonry, lying by
 the foothills & almost rivaling them in height,
 far back under the high gebel. G's
 workmen have built a row of huts under its
 wall, & a camel brings them water 3 times
 a day. We pitched our tent behind the

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mastaba, and had a lovely quiet ⁽¹¹⁾ night and dawn here. The men have gone down several plunderers' holes & struck underground passages & stairways down which we clambered & crept, but he has still to reach the central chamber. In the morning we clambered under a portcullis & F. took a photo of the brick vaulting of the passage leading between arched doorways, by tying back the camera button with his watch-cord for 10 minutes' exposure. A smaller mastaba, there, has a perilous descent 40 ft down, which it was great fun to scramble down, & we ducked under props into small chambers, & turned corners in the dark, and had to swing ourselves up the slope in the shaft with a rope. From thence we rode to Ragagnah, and looked over a mound with some small mastabas of early date, not yet disturbed, and along a bit of cemetery scattered 18 plunderers who were busy rifling Coptic graves which they left strewn round with red & yellow grave-clothes with

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7c (12)
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 we struck right across the desert some miles
 back, thinking we saw just such a dark
 mass of building as Neter-Khet's, but it
 turned out to be a platform of natural rock
 jutting from the foot-hills, so we took our
 way to Kawamil, a straggly village on
 the desert edge, where men were weaving in
 the side alleys. While Ali had the camel
 unloaded & tent pitched, F. and I went off
 exploring to the cliff-face of the high gebel
 which here projects to the cultivation, and
 discovered a ruined Coptic monastery just
 under the precipitous headland which was
 itself the home of many other brethren
 formerly, as all the natural caves and all
 the rock cut Egyptian tombs had been used
 by Coptic hermits & monastics. The face
 of the rock was riddled with rows of small
 square openings, the tomb-doorways being
 hewn out with a lintel above: there were
 thirty or more in each row! We climbed
 up about 250 ft. to the tombs, & just
 got down by sunset. F. left his purse under

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[Page also numbered 8.]

ii

13 ii (13) 8
 a large stone, in case any convict might be lurking in the caves. By the time we got back to the tents, the 50 or so inhabitants eager for a sight of our camp had melted away & we were left in quiet.

The 3rd day we rode about a mile to explore a fine XVIIIth dyn. cemetery under the headland, with some Coptic over it, and thence crossed the ruins of the town of Athribis which remains, about 15 acres of it, intact rubbish and dust with a good chance of papyri, as it has never been overlaid with Coptic or Arabic, nor subsequently dug out by seabakh-diggers.

F. copied some late inscriptions on huge lintels & jambs of a great stone temple site which we explored, and then we went up the cliff into a rock-tomb which had paintings in it, and found a chamber with the usual wall-paintings of the mummy and Anubis, and Genii, but with an interesting ceiling with two representations of the zodiac. The date of this tomb, Roman. Next we came to the well-known Deir el Abyad, the White

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[Page also numbered 8a.]

8a (14) Convent, the oldest Xtian church in Egypt, founded by Helena. It is a huge square building of hewn stone, white, shaped like an Egyptian temple, with the usual batter to the walls, and a cornice above, ^{with} but a row of small windows high up. There are fine classical doorways of red granite, with chi rho and crosses carved on the lintel. The crosses too have the lock of Horus. The doorways are mostly blocked by ^{porphyry} pillars, & stone. Inside, houses have been built up against the walls all round, & since the destruction of the nave, the great granite pillars remain standing, but the nave is an open courtyard into which all the houses open, & the church itself consists solely of apse, and side-apses in a yet older style of architecture than one sees at Ravenna in San Vitale, & not unlike it. The pavement down the middle of the nave consists of 3 great square blocks of red granite, taken, F. thinks, from the sides

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[Page also numbered 8b.]

15 8b
 of a shrine: the inscriptions are much worse
 but there is the name of Neferites, 1st king
 of the XXIXth dynasty. The inscriptions on the
 under side ought to be in perfect preservation.

The apse of the church has fine Corinthian
 columns in place, and interesting little pilastered
 niches with shell-top (as in Renaissance) &
 the frescoes are quite Italian in character,
 copied from mosaics, and F. thinks were
 evidently done by an Italian artist by imperial
 order, and he believes the whole place to be
 actually of the date of Constantine, and
 the Red Convent, a mile further on, to be
 of the date of Arcadius. We saw this in
 the afternoon, and found the comparison very
 interesting. The Red Convent is a similar
 square building, but of red brick, with
 white corner-stones & cornice, and its
 windows have pointed arches, but it all seems
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[Page also numbered 8c.]

8c (16) dark early curious church, with frescoes in the apses, and a ruined nave which is now all courtyard & Coptic dwellings.

The two communities seem a nice sort of people. very Arabic, and very dirty, but quiet, and well-mannered, and intelligent looking. The women & children of the Red Convent clustered round me, & said complimentary things, & came far out to see us off, and gave us & Ali little cups of spiced coffee. We pitched that night at ~~Kawamil~~ Arabah abu dahab (father of gold) on a rise of desert close to some Bedawi tents, & had half the village to watch us. Next morning got off about 7, to ride across the cultivation 7 miles to Shendawin where we caught a train to Monfalut; our further adventures I must finish next time, as now we ride in to Baliana.

Please do not mention the early jewellery next described, until you see it in the Times.

(No description reached F Spurrell as here spoken of clearly something is lost. F C J S)

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