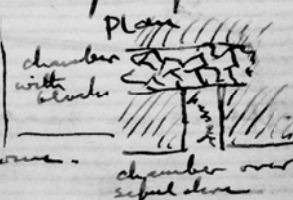


2/ XII -

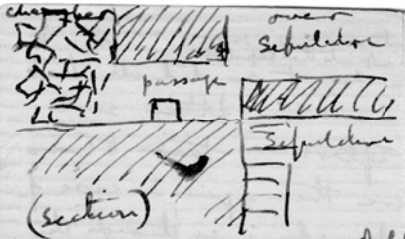
2/ XII -  
 Next morning the masons cut away some more of the place where we <sup>first</sup> entered <sup>(not into the sepulchre)</sup> & so did all that they could toward making it accessible. I then sent them off, so as to take the afternoon train to Cairo home. I wanted to secure them again in case of any other pyramid to be opened; so though the bakhshish I had promised for one stone, £6, was quite run out by lapse of time, yet as they had worked with a will latterly & done their best I gave them £2 over. Of course they asked for more, but went away well satisfied, & the best of friends, ready to face anything I want done in future by day or night, safe or unsafe, as they protest. The whole job has cost £14 for the cutting.

Then the slender lad, Abder Rahim, & his brother, & another lad Ahmed, all went on clearing out the hole leading N ~~to~~ <sup>filled with rubbish.</sup> By the evening we saw it ~~was part of~~ <sup>opened into</sup> another chamber or passage, which was filled with stones & earth. I was afraid of their going further with it, <sup>as</sup> they were foolhardy; so I took it in hand myself, having my shirt off as well as my coat for the heat of the place. I pegged & pegged for half an hour or more at the mass of blocks & earth filling this chamber, not daring to work in too close for fear of being caught by them when they fell into our passage. I got one big block down, & turning it over kept one foot on it, ready to spring up on it, the moment a rush should come.




Next morning the masons cut away some more of the place where we <first> entered <(not into the sepulchre)>, & so did all that they could toward making it accessible. I then sent them off, so as to take the afternoon train to Cairo home. I wanted to secure them again in case of any other pyramid to be opened; so though the bakhshish I had promised for one stone, £6, was quite run out by lapse of time, yet as they had worked with a will latterly & done their best I gave them £2 over. Of course they asked for more, but went away well satisfied, & the best of friends, ready to face anything I want done in future by day or night, safe or unsafe, as they protest. The whole job has cost £14 for the cutting.

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At last the rush came, & I sprung back squat on my islet, while a heap of blocks came bowling down in wild confusion. When they had settled I crawled over them & looking up saw the chamber open above; so I at once went up into it with Abder Rahim & Ahmed following. In one corner of this ~~is~~ is a well, which I think must lead to the proper entrance to the <sup>sepulchral</sup> chamber; it is half full of potsherds. The extraordinary thing is the masses of broken amphorae of Roman age which meet one in every corner & direction. In the opposite end this chamber ran into a passage which went down a drop & then on <sup>Ewards</sup>. Then it turned sharp at right angles, & went slightly upward <sup>to South</sup>, more & more filled with mud washed in from outside. After some way we had barely room to crawl on, then it was clearer, owing to the mud being level, & then dropping downward, while the roof slightly descended.



At last we reached the end of this passage,

[ R ] chamber over / sepulchre At last the rush  
 passage came, & I sprung  
 sepulchre back squat on my  
 (section) islet, while a heap  
 of blocks came bowling

down in wild confusion. When they had settled I crawled over them & looking up saw the chamber open above; so I at once went up into it with Abder Rahim & Ahmed following. In one corner of this was is a wall, which I think must lead to the proper entrance to the <sepulchral> chamber; it is half full of potsherds. The extraordinary thing is the dozens of broken amphorae of Roman age which meet one in every corner & direction. In the opposite end this chamber ran into a passage which went down a drop & then on <E-wards>. Then it turned sharp at right angles, & went slightly upward <to South>, more & more filled with mud washed in from outside. After some way we had barely room to crawl on, & then it was clearer, owing to the mud being level, & then dropping downward, while the roof slightly descended.

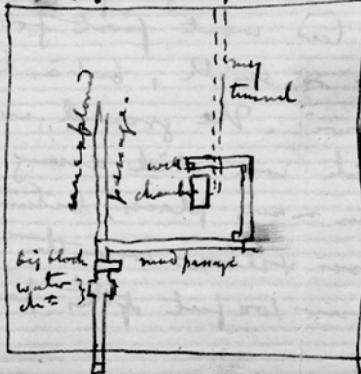
[ R ] roof  
 mud

At last we reached the end of this passage,

after about 80 feet, & found breaking away, on  
 both hands, but neither leading to any entrance  
 passage. I was nearly at a loss, but seeing that  
 the passage we had come along ~~was~~ sloped slightly  
 up, I felt convinced that it was not a blind,  
 but led to the entrance. On looking closer I saw  
 a gap under a large block, & scraping out  
 the sand from under it, the thin lad got  
 in, & soon bobbed his candle out. So as  
 we had but one, & no matches, Ahmed had to  
 go back to the chamber for <sup>a light</sup> ~~the~~, & for my  
 measure; & here Maurice joined him &  
 crawled through with him. Then got under  
 the stone, almost jammed tight, & soon  
 knocked the candle out again, so another  
 light had to be fetched, & matches. "Why did  
 not you carry matches?" asks an impatient  
 reader. Because we none of us had aught  
 but trousers or drawers on, & they were soaked  
 with mud & sweat. No matches would  
 survive. With two candles going, we then  
 went on. The thin lad went first for some  
 way, the space was so small, but as he went  
 on far I soon followed. The ground was  
 softish mud, on which we slid along without  
 an inch to spare, in many places, between our  
 backs & the roof. Toes & elbows were the  
 propellers, & after over 100 feet of this passage,

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 an inch to spare, in many places, between our  
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 propellers, & after over 100 feet of this passage,

54  
 it came to an end, & a cross passage ran N. & S. Across the south part of it I saw a great block with a tunnel cut under it. The thin lad went into a hole a-top of it, which I saw could not be the entrance. So I went under it. Here after sliding in softer mud, I got through, & into a chamber with water. This we waded through, & then the passage, to my delight, ran upwards at about ~~20°~~ 15° or 20° to the South. I crawled up it as far as I could & saw the end pit choked. Then I began measuring back all the way to the chamber, so as to get a plan & know where to dig for the entrance. At last we came out, black with mud from head to foot, after three hours exploration. The result is that the entrance is outside the pyramid <sup>in the ground</sup> at a quarter of the way from the S.W. corner along the S. side. This is about the best place I should have looked for it, & so my roof cutting is amply justified. The plan is thus



When I got back I found a handful more of amulets awaiting me. We have cleared 11 mummies & got over 400 amulets already <from one pit>. Now I do not much care if my horribly shaky tunnel in the brickwork, which is all fissured & cracked to pieces, does collapse. We know the way in, & will soon have it open.

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thus When I got back I found a handful more of amulets awaiting [R] me. We have cleared 11 mummies

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my / tunnel

unexplored / passage

well

chamber

big block mud passage

water

ch<sup>r</sup>

Now I do not much care if my horribly shaky tunnel in the brickwork, which is all fissured & cracked to pieces, does collapse. We know the way in, & will soon have it open.



3) XII.

3/XII. (55)  
 I have now thoroughly examined the chamber, but there is no trace of inscription on the sarcophagi or lids, or walls. The astounding thing is that the whole chamber, except a course around the top is cut in one solid block of sandstone; inside it 22 x 8 x 6 feet, & if 3 ft thick, as likely, it must be 180 tons.

At Illa we are trying to open the real entrance, but it is 20 feet down, with much stone & chips over it. Whether it is worth while to clear out the passages I much doubt: but want to improve ventilation at least.

At Illahun, we have opened two pits with lots of painted coffin heads, some with inscriptions which look to me like XXIII dynasty, Pimai & Ra neter kheper aa being names on them. I shall probably go over there soon altogether.

A card on Jan: 23, says that on a broken piece of alabaster in the chamber, was found the name of Amen-em-hat III.

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XIII  
13-19 Jan 1889.

13-19 Jan 1889. Muhammed came over with a donkey load of tins from my stores; I had sent them over to ~~Tell~~ Illahun, & now I want some here I have to stay so long. He looked over the pyramid & was much struck with the difference between it & other pyramids. He reports some fine things at Illahun, which I must go over & see. As there was one bit of inscribed alabaster from the chamber I determined that we must ~~get~~<sup>lift</sup> up & see every bit of stone lying in the water. So I told the lads to clear the sarcophagus utterly, & then to clear the chamber, putting the stones on the lid or inside the sarcophagus. I also promised them  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre ( $1\frac{1}{4}^d$ ) for every hieroglyph, & 20 piastres (dollar) if they found the name of the king. So they worked with a will being all sharp fellows, & brought up a lot of alabaster, three bits inscribed & one with the cartouche, where I read to my joy, Ra-en-mat [  $\text{R}$  ], Amenemhat III, as I always expected. More alabaster next day, with another inscribed bit; I have now some 50 bits of vases & bowls of alabaster, & hope finally to put them together. The power of bakhshish!


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(57)  
 About ½ hour before sunset the fellow from that rich amulet tomb (from which we have about 600 amulets already) came to me, radiant, saying he had some large figures. So off I went with him, taking my flannel nightgown to work in as usual. I think I mentioned that in a recess on the north of the large chamber I observed that the back of it was masonry & not rock; & I thought it probable that there was something behind it. They had accordingly dislodged one large stone, & were in the act of moving another when they found some ushabti in a hollow cut in the stone. When I went in I found about a dozen of the very finest quality of large green ushabti, <sup>of a man, Horuta,</sup> of exquisite work, the faces elaborated to show the dimples & muscles, & the details of the pick & hoe & basket all standing out in high relief; the material hard pottery merging into stoneware glazed throughout; long inscriptions beautifully incised all around, & the figures 9 inches high & some more brilliant ones of 10 inches. They are just of the finest class I have ever seen. I thought at first that this dozen was all, as usually there are

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only two or three as fine as such in any (58)  
interment; but they said there were yet  
more, so raising the stone further from  
the hole I felt in & looked, & could see  
rows of heads yet; I pulled some out;  
but could see that I could not get them all  
from such a position. So I set about  
shifting the large stone which lay over the  
recess, & having got it aside I could get at  
the hollow. I then looked in & saw —  
row after row of these ushabti, all stacked  
in order with their faces inward toward  
whatever tomb may be inside (to the N.)  
slightly leaning back one on the other

By this time it was after sunset,  
& so I ordered down a lot of the people's  
baskets, & went on clearing. Maurice  
came down to see, & was astounded. The lucky  
fellow of the tomb, looked into the hole, & then  
dashed back & danced round & round in the  
water, snapping his fingers & yelling with  
delight. And I went on clearing. I  
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row, filling basket after basket. And  
I went on clearing. At last twelve

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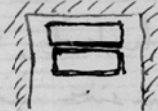


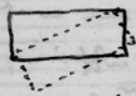
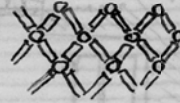
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I went on clearing. At last twelve

(59)  
 baskets were filled by the time I stretched  
 in to the end of the recess, & when I  
 stacked them in my tent the tally was  
 203!!!! I gave that most lucky party  
 of four in that tomb the glorious bakhshish  
 of £10; and though that may sound absurd  
 to some folks, it must be remembered that  
 I should say that they are worth in London  
 10 times as much, or more even. I have  
 never seen a finer class than these, & only two  
 or three miraculous-looking specimens in Bulak  
 exceed their quality. The glaze is rather  
 browned on some of them where they were  
 exposed to air & damp, but it is as bright &  
 green as ever where they were covered with  
 mortar. There was about 5 inches of sand  
 in the recess, on which they stood. But these  
 are only the advance guard of what is to  
 come behind all that masonry. What amulets!  
 What gorgeousnesses! may we look for,  
 we found the entrance to the pyramid on the  
 outside today, & I expect to have it  
 open in a day or two more. Then will come  
 a long job in clearing the passages, which  
 will I think be worth while. / Next morning,  
 I gazed on the great stack of ushabti in my tent, a sort  
 of solidified phantasy; they are about the biggest, the finest,  
 & the greatest pile that I have ever seen of such.

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 & the greatest pile that I have ever seen of such.



2/  
XIII The rest of the week was comparatively (60)  
uneventful. I spent, for a third time, half a  
day in getting up the lid of a sarcophagus,  
the very awkward one behind another and  
mentioned before.  I found that  
the men were quite helpless in  
raising it; they only potted & let it down almost  
as much as up, & muddled all the supports.  
At last we got it as high as the top of the front  
sarcophagus, some 10 ins up, & then supporting  
it at one end by two blocks, I rested the other end  
on the head of a mallet, for a roller   
& then ~~turned~~ it skewed it over  
towards   
this side, enough to get at the coffin inside  
then . The wooden coffin was very  
much rotted, & we got off the  
lid for the lifting merely; the whole thing being  
full of water, as the edge of the stone sarcophagus  
is below the waterlevel in the chamber. There  
was a bead network over the mummy   
but when I went below that it  
proved to be but poor, and amid general  
execrations, we took out only 32 amulets  
where we expected three times as many. The  
next thing in that tomb now is to clear  
away the masonry in which we found the

The rest of the week was comparatively uneventful. I spent, for a third time, half a day in getting up the lid of a sarcophagus, - the very awkward one behind another which I mentioned before. [ R ] I found that the men were quite helpless in raising it; they only potted & let it down almost as much as up, & muddled all the supports. At last we got it as high as the top of the front sarcophagus, some 10<1> ins up, & then supporting it at one end by two blocks, I rested the other end on the head of a mallet, for a roller [ R ] & then ~~turned~~ it skewed it over to one side, enough to get at the coffin inside thus [ R ]. The wooden coffin was very much rotted, & we got off the lid for the lifting merely; the whole thing being full of water, <as> the edge of the stone sarcophagus is below the waterlevel in the chamber. There was a bead network over the mummy [ R ] but when I went below that it proved to be but poor, and amid general execrations, we took out only 32 amulets where we expected three times as many. The next thing in that tomb now is to clear away the masonry in which we found the

ushabti, & see what further there is. I have  
 never described this amulet tomb I think.  
 First one swings down a rope ladder for 25  
 feet, then squeezes through the top of a  
 doorway nearly choked, & at once slides  
 down the slope inside into the water. The  
 whole of the walls are pitch black, owing to  
 some deposit or growth when the water  
 has filled the chamber. So it is very dark,  
 & the candle only just shows you where  
 you collide with floating coffins or some  
 skulls that go bobbing around. One wades  
 in carefully, the ground being strewn with  
 slippery sodden wood, bones, & mud; in the  
 outer chamber are two recesses, one with  
 a sarcophagus & ~~xx~~ some wooden coffins; &  
 in the inner chamber are the <sup>other</sup> stone sarcophagi  
 & the walled up recess where the ushabti were  
 placed. There is also another chamber S. of  
 the well, where we got some more  
 amulets.

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 never described this amulet tomb I think.  
 First one swings down a rope ladder for 25  
 feet, then squeezes through the top of a  
 doorway nearly choked, & at once slides  
 down the slope inside into the water. The  
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[ R ]		the well,
masonry		where we
	well	got some
This / should be longer		more
	wooden	amulets.
	coffins	

We have made a big hole about 30 ft x 40<sup>62</sup> at the top and 30 ft deep to reach the real entrance of the pyramid, and it only needs a little more trimming before we begin to regularly clear out the passages. Meanwhile I am having the most important part of the passages preliminarily cleared, heaping the earth partly, in order to search for more pieces of funereal vessels. We have part of a longish inscription on a vase with the name of Amenemhat, & pieces of four great alabaster bowls in the form of half a duck trussed; the largest is 18 ins long & is inscribed  $\overline{\text{K}}$ , which I can only suppose to be "The royal bird Ptahneferu", i.e. the name of the bowl.

The great tombs of XII dyn., later used as a crocodile cemetery, have produced so little that I have almost abandoned them.

At Illahun many more painted face coffins have been found. At Tell Gurob, a great bead-necklace of very small beads has been found, in a room; beads are mostly carnelian, with lazuli and crystal hearts, three small gold-mounted scarabs, & a gold scorpion, with some other stone pendants. It will look imposing if

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(63)  
 well strung. I also hear of a stone tablet  
 or bit of a tomb with figures, which seems  
 to be early.

XIII. Mrs Petrie  
 8. Crescent Road,  
 Bromley, Kent.

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 to be early.

XIII. Mrs Petrie  
 8. Crescent Road.  
 Bromley, Kent -

[Pages 64 to 66 were copied by Professor Griffith.]

Last in the Post.  
Feb<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>?</sup> / 89 -  
Copied by Mr Griffith,  
from Mr Amos.

XIV  
Mr Petrie's Journal 20-26 Jan. 89.

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Though we had gone through the pyramid passages to the entrance, yet there was one which I had marked as a blind passage, which we had not yet explored. So now that the entrance was open, & we only needed to wade through mud & water (& not to crawl for 100-200 ft. on soft mud) we went to examine it. It proved to be truly a blind passage ending blank in nothing; and it had been all filled with blocks of stone, over which I crawled along a forced passage cut along their tops. The sum total of blinds in this pyramid is astonishing. (1) a roof trap door, passage going on at a higher level (not a portcullis as I first thought); 2<sup>nd</sup> a straight continuation of the entrance ostentatiously blocked up solid with stone for its whole length of about 50 to 60 ft. The true passage being a branch left only fastened by a wooden door, so as to make the plunderer think that it could not be of importance (3) at the end of this passage closed with a wooden door a blank end with roof trapdoor out from one side. (4) a third roof trap door (5) the real well (probably leading to the chamber in the floor of a chamber, the rest of which was filled with stone built in to attract spoilers who would thus pass over the true entrance & spend their energies in clearing this chamber of stone, and working out the false well in the further corner & its continuation. Thus not only was the real thing hidden, but by intensive filling up of blind passages & blind chambers the energies of spoilers were to be safely turned in the wrong direction. The result seems to have been attained as the chamber has never been entered by its real door, wherever that may have been, but by a cut right through the solid masonry. The passages appear to have been filled up with sand, as there is a part quite clear of sand, before the place of the door, & then within the door the passage is nearly filled with clean sand. This cannot have therefore have come in by accident, especially as a chance filling would be of mud. This accounts for our finding the multitude of Roman pots all on the surface of the filling. The passages have only been cleared out enough to crawl through; and the sand filling has never been disturbed below that.

The work at the crocodile pits (as we continue to call them) is at an end now as it did not pay in results after we had once really settled what the tomb ... The last thing found was another name which is of early date [ R ] Pernefankh, & we have his figure seated on a slab.

The next find was in the passage by the pyramid chamber, & such a find! An alabaster table of offerings, a rectangular block 26 1/2 x 17 x 9 inches, engraved with

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65

110 figures of cups bowls loaves birds &c nearly all engraved with their names, over 70 different names of offerings, varieties of wine, of birds, of cakes &c. In fact a combination of the lists of offerings found in early tombs on the walls, with the decorated table of offerings, found separately in other cases. Around it all is a border with the usual funerary inscription for the Ka of the King's daughter Neferu Ptah  $\overline{\text{Ka}} \text{ Ptah} \overline{\text{Neferu}}$ . This explains what I had thought was the name of the carved duck, as being written  $\overline{\text{Ka}} \text{ Ptah}$ ; not one of the birds in this inscription is written full, & some only heads for the whole bird.

$\overline{\text{Ka}} \text{ Ptah} \overline{\text{Neferu}}$  This is a form of contraction that I have never seen before. There is a flake off one corner of the block, but it is otherwise as fresh as the day it was first engraved. It is a lovely monument, new in its details, & new in the lady it commemorates, as Ptah Neferu is unknown as yet, but we here see that she must have been the daughter of Amenemhat III & sister of Sebek Neferu.

We had a hard job to get this out of the pyramid as it weighed 400 lbs & had to be hauled up all sorts of slopes & holes & twisted about; & being of alabaster not a rub or a knock could be allowed on it.

I went to Illahun one rainy day - it rained the night before, it rained off & on all day & it rained heavily most of the next night. It was altogether so miserable that I could not go my regular round: & so three days later, when Mr Kennard had come I went over again with him. We have cleared nearly all the edge of the rock lower part of the pyramid, but so far without finding the entrance trench which should exist, built up. More tombs have been opened there, & at the house we opened two coffins found a fortnight ago. There was an outer box with two painted wooden figures of hawks on it. In that a coffin with ludicrously huge fat pink face & bronze eyelids & eyebrows. In that a similar one lesser. In that a wooden case covered with cartonnage & gilt all over, bronze eyes as before, with inscription in blue & white around the feet. In that the mummy with the old pattern bandage  a bead net work over it (all fallen apart), & outside the wrappings, on the body, 10 scarabs inscribed, 4 plain stone scarabs, 4 square plaques, 9 long & 5 round stone beads, & amethyst lotus bead. All these had been strung on the net-work I expect, but in the carrying about they were shaken off & lay loose. 3 scarabs are  $\overline{\text{Ka}} \text{ Ptah}$ , & so after XVIII<sup>th</sup> dyn. I should date it to XX-XXIV. There are two early scarabs reused here; and two scarabs are in copper mountings. A less obtrusive mummy of like style had nothing but

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(6)

a bead, net work on it. It had a gilt cartonnage strip, inscribed, down the body, & gilt carton genii & little silver cowries. With these mummies were a host of wretched little pottery ushabti, washed over with blue. All points to XX-XXIV dyn. From Gurob there is a rough but good tablet of Nebamen XVIII dyn,  $\overline{\text{R}} \overline{\text{B}} \overline{\text{M}} \overline{\text{M}}$  'overseer of the King's girls' & son Rudpenamen, & daughters Baktmut & Khatus adoring Amen rā & Mut. It was found re-used in a house: There are some amulets from Illahûn interesting as the early stage of such in XXVI dyn.

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IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT NO MARKS BE ADDED HERE TO.

XV

Jan 27 - Feb 2, 1889.

M<sup>r</sup> Kennard came here on Thursday, went with me to Illahun on Friday & left early on Tuesday. A great part of the time we spent on cleaning the great find of ushabtis, which were crusted with lime & mortar. Maurice went off to Cairo on Saturday, & returned on Thursday. Just as we were finishing scaling & brushing the last tinful of ushabtis, one of the men from the amulet tomb came up, & said they wanted me, as they had another lot like the first! Off I went & M<sup>r</sup> Kennard, in great excitement; when I got down the well & into the chamber, I found that on the north side of the sarcophagus was a similar hollow <B> to that in the masonry on the south <A> [ R ]

masonry


B  
sarcoph.  
A

But the recess was long from N-S. In it were the same rows of heads

of ushabtis shewing out of the water, as in the first find. Their order however was irregular. In A they were all with faces to the sarcophagus [ R ] 11 ranks & 18 files [ R ] &c &c whereas in B they were facing west for five files next the sarcophagus, & facing to the sarcophagus for 9 files beyond that with a confused amount in the N.E. corner The total comes out 195, which with the preceding lot is 399! The order was evidently

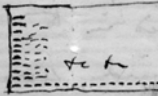

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT NO MARKS BE ADDED HERETO.


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(68)  
 therefore 400, to be divided on either side of  
 the sarcophagus. I can distinguish several  
 different makers styles; the poorer ones are  
 but mediocre, only their olivy glaze has withstood  
 decomposition better than the brighter blues &  
 greens. The fine ones are superb; every  
 detail such as the rope tie on the hoe [  ]  
 is worked out; the blade of the hoe is modelled  
 so thin that it is translucent, yet standing out  
 nearly 1/4 inch from the figure, the hieroglyphs  
 all round the body are deeply cut in, as sharp as  
 stone-cutting. Between the extreme styles there  
 are three or four others which are all good  
 enough. The new lot are in cleaner state than  
 the others, being nearly all under water when  
 found, so that they brush up readily. Many  
 were set tight in the mortar which had poured  
 into the hole. When the stones were built on;  
 it was difficult to get them out. Though I  
 usually only work with my shirt on down there,  
 I had to take <sup>them</sup> that off, & crawl into the ushabti  
 hole & lie in the water while I reached in to  
 take them. It is a monstrous find, 400  
 of such ushabtis, & it makes all the difference  
 to the returns of our work this year. The  
 men are now hacking with a heavy pick to  
 break away the lid of the sarcophagus. It is so  
 roughly made that I think there must be an inner one.

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And now for an unpleasant surprise. The <sup>(69)</sup> lucky  
finder of all the things, asked in a timid way if it  
was the rule that Muhammed must have  $\frac{1}{4}$   
of his bakhshish. Then it came out that M. has  
been always compelling these poor fellows to  
hand to him  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all the bakhshish they have  
received from me for things last year and  
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proceeding that they never thought he  
could be dismissed for it, so they had always  
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turned out. It is very abominable of him,  
especially after his continual pious comments  
& moral reflections that he used to indulge in.  
At the same time one must not view it like  
a theft or such offence; it is no crime in Arab  
morality, & I must not forget the really  
good service that he has done. I held an  
enquiry, as soon as Maurice returned, summoning  
up, one by one, half a dozen of the best men, &  
questioning them in detail. They all agree that  
M. never tried to get the antiquities, but only to  
take a share of the money. This was inexcusable  
as I gave him a large bakhshish in a lump  
for himself beside good pay. I am perfectly  
certain that this is not a conspiracy to oust him, as  
I have overheard the men talking in the pyramid,  
when they could not possibly know that I was there,  
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been overcharging for everything he bought; a  
 clear fact, as an honest fellow here told me  
 he would bring things much cheaper, & he has done  
 so. My decision was to send over all the  
 money due to Muh<sup>d</sup>, with a message of dismissal,  
 by Maurice, as that avoided the need of blowing  
 Muh<sup>d</sup> up as I must have done if I saw him.  
 He is about as honest as a far more clever &  
 capable than, anyone else in the business. So  
 I may need to make use of him on some future  
 occasion. I also sent over with Maurice  
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 a list of all claims we could make out; & told  
 them to go at Muh<sup>d</sup> on their own account, &  
 try to badger their money out of him as I  
 was paying him up his legal dues & money  
 he had deposited with me. The result was  
 that he went off quietly, and cashed up 30/-,  
 which unluckily he gave to Maurice as a sort of  
 composition. I have divided it among 8 men  
 who had given him most. Exit Muhammed.  
 I do not care so much about it personally, as I had  
 been cool toward him this year, being disgusted  
 with the grasping way in which he always <sup>bothered</sup> ~~haggled~~  
 for advances of wages. But it is a nuisance to  
 be without him just now. I must stop the work  
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(71)

The contents of the pyramid of Hawara.

Illahun ~~Medinet~~  
Medinet el Fayum  
14 Feb. 1889

Proof to Miss  
Edwards  
Riversdale Hall  
Ashton under Lyne  
Nr Manchester

The examination of the inside of this pyramid is now tolerably complete; the passages in general have been cleared, except where they sink below the water level, and the chips & blocks in the chambers have all been turned over. The results are that we have fragments of half a dozen or more alabaster vases from under the water in the sepulchral chamber, many inscribed, and one with the cartouche of Amenemhat III, proving this pyramid to be his. Beside these the question of the second added sarcophagus is settled by one piece bearing the name of the "king's daughter Ptahnefru", showing that there was a sister of Sebeknefru, bearing a name of the same type, who must have died between the dates of the building up of the chamber & the death of Amenemhat III.

But the main honouring of this princess was in the outer passage-chamber, which led to the sepulchre. Here we found an alabaster table of offerings, 27 x 17 inches, of beautiful work & very unusual type. It bears figures of over a hundred offerings, vases, plates, loaves, birds, &c, each inscribed with its name, seventy different names in all. Scattered around this were fragments of at least nine alabaster bowls of the form of half a trussed duck, most of which also bear the name of Ptahnefru; these were mostly about 18 or 20 inches long, one small one is 8 inches.

A peculiar feature in the inscriptions is that not one of the birds has any legs engraved to it, and the goose is


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often abbreviated to merely [  ] the head, in the title "king's daughter".  
Stranger still on the alabaster vases the legs have been first engraved & then roughly erased. (72)

I carefully cleared out the sarcophagi under the water myself. & Much charcoal shewed only too plainly what had become of the inner wooden coffins; but I was puzzled by scales of mica & grains of quartz in the Ptahnefru sarcophagus. These were explained by finding in the chamber a piece of an unmistakable beard for inlaying, cut in the finest lapis lazuli. This shewed that the features of the wooden coffin had been ~~inlaid~~ <sup>inlaid</sup> with carved stone.


Both of the wells in the passage-chamber proved to be blinds, and after carefully examining the sepulchre it appears that there never was any door to it; the entrance was by one of the sandstone roof slabs, which was elevated in the upper chamber, & then let fall into place after the interment. As it weighed 40 or 50 tons it was tolerably safe not to be lifted again.

The trap-doors in the passages I now see to have been for sliding and not for falling; but the two inner ones never were drawn, only the outer one having been closed, and the others merely built up solid with masonry filling.

I am now living at Illahun, and working at the pyramid and cemetery there, & the town of Tell Gurob.

The latter had a peculiarly brief history; a dozen or twenty cartouches have been found, all between Khuenaten and Ramessu II, and not a fragment of anything there suggests a wider range of date. Some pieces of rudely decorated vases <sup>from there</sup> are therefore peculiarly interesting, as they are un-Egyptian in style, & are identical with archaic Greek pottery. The patterns are radial lines rising around the vessel, & ~~on~~ a bottle with a solid false neck ~~with~~ are concentric quadrant lines. To have such pieces dated to the 15th cent. B.C., and connected with an inland town in Egypt, is of much importance historically.

Wm. Flinders Petrie.

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The trap-doors in the passages I now see to have been for sliding and not for falling; but the two inner ones never were drawn, only the outer one having been closed, and the others merely built up solid with masonry filling.

I am now living at Illahun, and working at the pyramid & cemetery there, & the town of Tell Gurob. The latter had a peculiarly brief history; a dozen or twenty cartouches have been found, all between Khuenaten and Ramessu II, and not a fragment of anything there suggests a wider range of date. Some pieces of rudely decorated vases <from there> are therefore peculiarly interesting, as they are un-Egyptian in style, & are identical with archaic Greek pottery. The patterns are radial lines rising around the vessel, & <on> a bottle with a solid false neck ~~with~~ are concentric quadrant lines. To have such pieces dated to the 15th cent. B.C., and connected with an inland town in Egypt, is of much importance historically.

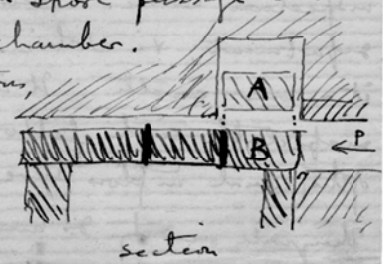
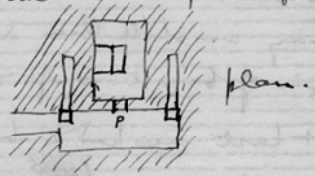
W.M. Flinders Petrie

XVI.

3-16 Feb 1889

3-16 Feb 1889 While the men <sup>XVI.</sup> with a long train of boys finished clearing out the pyramid passages, I was packing up & preparing to move. But the measuring up of the pyramid took over two days. The outside bears no trace of the position of the casing, even the pavement having nearly all disappeared; & only in one place could I guess at the thickness of casing. The brick core is so far rough that I did not attempt to survey it on all sides, as it is difficult ground, & much worn away at one corner. I therefore took the length of the south side within three or four inches & the position of the entrance passage in that side. All through the pyramid I took continuous levels with theodolite, & levelled outside to the paving & the canal. So I shall be able to give complete plans & sections of the passages & chambers.

I found on examination that both of the wells were blinds; the ~~one with~~ <sup>one</sup> deeper well in it proving to be merely a spoiler's forced hole. The plan was to provide a blind well & passage on each side of the chamber to take the attention of spoilers; and I can only conclude that the entrance for the interment was by the short passage at P which led to the roof of the chamber. One slab of the roof, 40-50 tons, must have been raised in the upper chamber as at A, & after the interment through the passage P, lowered into position B.



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The <sup>74</sup>soaking & drying & packing of the great find of  
 ushabti was a serious affair. They were all soaked  
 in petroleum tins, in two waters, about a week.  
 Then dried one day, sorted into the different styles,  
 which are very distinct, & then carefully packed  
 with chopped straw in the same tins. The whole  
 fill six cases, each as heavy as I can well lift.  
 The sarcophagus of that same gentleman is a  
 long affair. The lid is two feet thick, of very hard  
 yellow limestone, which can only be cut away by  
 bruising it, very seldom getting away a flake. They  
 are working about night & day in relays, & after  
 a week's work I offered £3.10 to finish cutting it  
 & moving the cut part off. I expect to hear  
 about it in two or three weeks time. Most  
 of the lid is under water, & the <sup>stone</sup> cutting is carefully  
 left at the sides so as keep the water out of  
 the trench that is cut. When they do get the piece  
 away we shall then see if there is an inner  
 coffin of basalt or of wood under the water.  
 At last we had a boat down the canal from  
 here & moved all our things over here to this  
 inspection house. This belongs to Mr. Hewat's  
 department, & is at his sole disposal, so we occupy  
 it as our castle. It is looked after by two very  
 respectable civil fellows who keep the register  
 of the canal in flow here & are generally responsible.  
 They will readily do anything that we may want,

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 They will readily do anything that we may want,



75  
 We have our little attendant ("the cherub,"  
 or "cupid") who keeps the house & washes up &  
 is useful all round.

The entrance  
 to the house is by  
 a big outer door.  
 From the courtyard  
 one door leads to  
 a room for our  
 men, & the other  
 to the large  
 room in which  
 we live: from  
 this a door  
 opens into another  
 court off which turn  
 two rooms, one for  
 Maurice (MA) & the other for me (FP). At the  
 back of the house is a wide stretch of water, &  
 about 500 yards off across that is the village  
 of Hawara Eglan. It is a lovely outlook, with  
 palms & trees fringing the water, & seen beneath  
 the grove of young palms which shade all  
 the back of our house down to the water. Indeed  
 it would be hard to invent anything pleasanter  
 in position. So here we are well established,  
 for as long as we care to stop. As Mr. Hewat  
 only occasionally uses the place for a day & as  
 we can put him up more comfortably than <sup>he would be</sup> if  
 we were not here, there can be no hesitation  
 in making the best use of the premises.

& we have our little attendant ("the cherub,"  
 or "cupid") who keeps the house & washes up &  
 is useful all round. [R]

The entrance canal bridge  
 to the house is by palm / grove  
 a big outer door. FP water / &c MA  
 From the courtyard one door leads to road  
 a room for our large / room Mess[?]  
 men, & the other to the large Men Court  
 room in which we live: from Magazine  
 this a door opens into another  
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(76)  
 I am digging tombs at Illahun, & clearing away  
 at the pyramid. We have tried the edge of the  
 rock which forms the lower 30 or 40 ft of it around  
 most of the circuit, almost ensuring that the  
 entrance cutting cannot be beneath those parts.  
 At the S.E. however the rock slopes inward, & we  
 cannot well reach it; so there I am now clearing  
 the base, & going to work upward along the sides.  
 I have found part of a good early mastaba-tomb  
 of panelled brickwork which I am clearing.  
 I suspect I have found the site of the temple of  
 this pyramid. There are no signs of it near  
 the pyramid; but ½ mile off, opposite the E. face,  
 on the edge of the desert is a large square area  
 of chips. As the temples of the Dahshur pyramids  
 are a long way from them, on the edge of the  
 desert, I think this must belong to this  
 pyramid.  
 At Tell Gurob I have not begun more work  
 yet, only just holding the place with two men.  
 We got however a beautiful set of four bronze  
 chisels from there, of XVIII or XIX dynasty; and a  
 good tablet of User mat neb & his wife Nefert mut  
 adoring Ptah (seated in his shrine), Har em khuti,  
 Anhur & Nesit, a lion headed goddess 𓆎𓆏𓆑  
 whom I do not remember. The divinities are curious.  
 There is a large site of a town, out N. of the temple of the pyramid,  
 but it seems to be all of XXX dyn. & Ptolemaic times.  
 This is such good quarters that I am inclined to  
 think of sticking here until the whole place is worked out.  
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2. XVI.

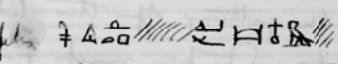
IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED THAT NO MARKS BE ADDED HERETO. (77)

A lot more mummy cases have been found, some with bead networks over the mummy. One case I found apparently almost crushed under fallen pieces of rock, but as - on peeping in at a broken bit of the lid - I saw the inner carved case with a painted face in good state, we cleared it carefully. On getting off the lid boards the inner coffin was found to be much rotted, so I began to break away the lower part so as to remove the head & shoulders alone. I soon saw some beads shewing at the feet, so as I wished to note the pattern of the network for rethreading it I cleared it delicately. Next I found on the legs a band of hieroglyphs executed in bead work, & then spied the corner of a pectoral shewing. Now all these beads simply lay on the mummy, the threads being completely rotted, & it was utterly impossible to move them on the mummy without shifting them all & losing the pattern. I thought over it, & then laying some boards over the bead work, & turning the men out of the tomb, I went off to the house for my petroleum stove & pot of bees-wax. It was blowing a high cold wind full of sand which did not improve the walk to & fro. On returning I lit the stove down in the tomb, melted the wax, lifted & blew off the dust <sup>& stones</sup> which had fallen through on the beads, & then with the wax almost chilled, (so that it should not run in deep down in the bandages) I laid it on by spoonfuls

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over the beads. So soon as it was firm, but yet just plastic I lifted it gently, & all the beads came up on it in one sheet, every one perfectly in place fixed on the layer of wax; the under side showed the pattern better even than the upper, & no wax had run through under the beads, owing to my using it ~~at once~~ only just melted. The result is as perfect as it could be. Thus I secured the band of hieroglyphs  the four genii, & a glorious pectoral of a scarab & wings all in bright beads, 14 inches wide & 5 high. This is probably the finest piece of bead work known, certainly far larger than any in Brit. Mus.; and above all I know now how to secure beads. Blessed be beeswax.

Among the finds there is a fine bronze knife quite perfect from Tell Gurob.

XVI. Mrs Petrie  
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17-23 Feb. 1889.

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Maurice & I walked over to Ahnes to see the ~~stone~~ "mother of mounds". It is an immense field of ruins, but so far as the town ruins are concerned I would not give up half of Tell Gurob for the whole of them, as they are all miserably late - Roman stuff - that is not worth working. There are two possible sites for the temple; but I do not think that the ground with Roman granite columns has anything to do with the early temple. These columns are striking from their size & number, & four of them are still standing, about 20 feet high, side by side. I found a block with a figure of a king, evidently Ramessu II by the style; there is another part a drum of a granite column of Ram<sup>s</sup> II, & on the flat side of it the ka name of Usertesen II (XII dynasty) which shews that here as elsewhere, Rammy has smashed up

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Bromley, Kent.

XVII. Mrs P Petrie,  
8. Crescent R<sup>d</sup>  
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(80)  
 his predecessors' works, & we should have to search for their inscriptions on his blocks as at Tanis. Then I found the base of a kneeling statue in sandstone with many cartouches of Ram<sup>s</sup> II, & scratched-in cart<sup>s</sup> of Merenptah on the front. These were all scattered far & wide apart on different sides of the mounds, & there may be other pieces that escaped me. We were pretty well tired by the time we got back, with a tramp of 23 miles.


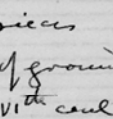
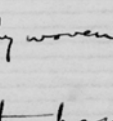
I have begun work on the temple of the pyramid at the edge of the desert. It is a square area covered with chips, & with the hollow <sup>lines</sup> where the walls have been destroyed quite plainly visible. There are two blocks of fine limestone with some splendid large hieroglyphs on them, & quantities of chips of red granite & of sandstone. We may find pieces of statues or tables of offerings, & may get the name of the pyramid king here.


The week has been uneventful on the whole; at the temple we have found many scraps of beautifully painted hieroglyphs & sculpture,

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

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among which two point to its being in honour of one of the Usertesens;  and  i.e.  as we have only turned over a small fraction of the whole. I hope to find some decisive pieces before the end. Strange to say this bit of ground was used for a cemetery about the V-VI<sup>th</sup> cent A.D., & we have got a good many finely woven pattern stuffs from the burials.

At the pyramid we have reached the base along the S & E sides near the SE corner, & are clearing it upward in search of the entrance. I find that much of the pyramid building was rubble, having a face of masonry filled in with layers of chips  in many parts. Then the stones have been removed & we have nothing left but chips, which need to be distinguished from the chips left in breaking up the pyramid, as of course there is no possibility of the entrance being behind the ancient chip work.

The tombs have not produced any great finds, but there are pounds of green beads, I should think 10 to 15 lbs this week.

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[Pages 82 and 83 were written by Anne Petrie,  
W. M. F. Petrie's mother.]

From a letter to a friend.  
Feb. 27. 89.

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Feb. 27. 89.  
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Ali, alias Cherub, alias  
Cupid, a pensive juvenile  
of about 10 - who has a  
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body; so much so that  
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him up, if he has any war=  
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& some ideas of cleanliness,  
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

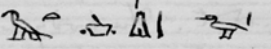
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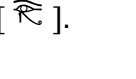
useful a scullion as <sup>(83)</sup> we  
 could have, & he looks  
 well after the premises  
 with the utmost rigour  
 in our absence - one day  
 Whitehouse & a friend came  
 over; & after seeing me  
 at the work, & saying they  
 did not want to use  
 the house, they went  
 & asked to go in - but Cupid  
 assured them he had not  
 the key, & they could not  
 go in - all the time  
 the doors were unlocked.  
 Happily, the house belongs  
 now to the Irrigation Dept.  
 & is absolutely in Hewat's  
 hands, & he hands it over  
 to us - sundry people have  
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(85) fragments of such covers before, but never found a perfect one like this. Then behind that was a cartonnage mummy in wooden coffin, of a certain [  ] Ankh-hor. The cartonnage white with an inscribed band down the front headed by a composite ram headed bird . These burials were probably all contemporary. But beneath the last, sunk in the flooring of loose chips was another coffin, which had evidently been overhauled when these last were buried. It was a double coffin, inner & outer containing a cartonnage figure, all inscribed for  Hortabade son of Pen ran. The whole of the inner chamber (which only just held these three mummies) was lined in a most beautiful way with gypsum filaments; by wavy threads of transparent gypsum, a foot and more in length covered the roof & sides, exuded from the stone around, while a sort of undergrowth of woolly masses stood out some two or three inches in dense tangle. At the pyramid nothing has been yet found although we have cleared the whole of the side up to the brickwork over nearly a quarter of its circuit, in the most likely part. After

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clearing a little further each way, I shall have to examine the sides further out than I did. I only ~~went~~ started from the bottom of the masonry, & did not examine the rock beyond that.

The temple has produced nothing but a few chips more of sculpture; we are now going across what seems to have been merely the open court of it, which was completely stripped of its paving & has only a foot or so of dust & chips over it. I expect to get more blocks when we clear the sides. (called Medinet Kahün I hear)

The town beyond the temple, I now suspect to be of the age of the temple XII<sup>th</sup> dynasty, & to be almost untouched since then. If so it will be a prize to work for historical interest of dated objects. I cannot be certain yet as to its age, but the pottery is unlike any that I get know, except some chips of XII<sup>th</sup> dyn that I got at Hawara; and the walls of the town run regardless of natural features, over a low hill & back again, but square with the temple. Out at a Coptic monastery, some way to the N. of the town (Deir) I have been induced to begin work by a Copt who says he has found many papyri.

We already got in one afternoon two good sized bits of Arabic & Coptic, so I shall do more there.

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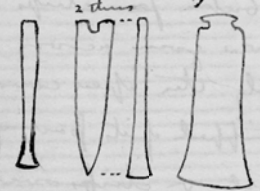
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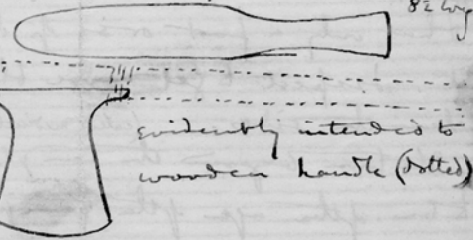
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pyramid temple Desert Nile plain

(87) At Gurob only the same two couples have been at work, but some more good bronzes have been found. I do not remember whether I described four bronze chisels found there some time ago, they are very good ones, 6 to 6 1/2 ins long.

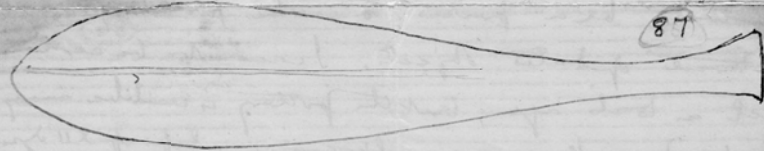


Then they found a knife 8 1/2 long.

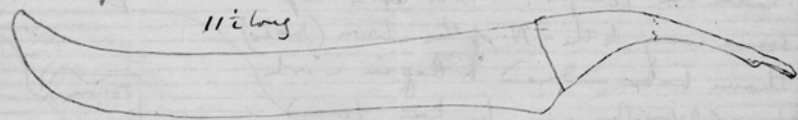


Then an axe head [ ] evidently intended to be bound into a wooden handle (dotted) 4 1/4 ins square.

Then a bronze knife turned up, 10 1/2 long.



in beautiful state, thin, with a double line traced down each side. And while I was strolling about there after taking this knife another was found, which is one of the loveliest I ever saw.



The blade thin & springy, ringing when it is struck, & the handle a heavy casting (all in one with the blade) in the form of a gazelles leg. It is a splendid piece.

Letters & papers all have come regularly.

NO MARKS PLEASE ON THIS JOURNAL.

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The blade thin & springy, ringing when it is struck, & the handle a heavy casting (all in one with the blade) in the form of a gazelles leg. It is a splendid piece.

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2-9 March 1889 The temple has been the most interesting point lately. We had found pieces with [𓆎] and [𓆎] shewing that an Usertesen was probably in the matter. Now we have found two pieces [𓆎] and [𓆎] giving the throne name of Usertesen II, and two more giving parts of the ka name, [𓆎], any one of which four would prove Usertesen II to be the king. This is a better find than the identification of the Hawara king, as that was almost certain from the labyrinth pieces, whereas nothing whatever was known of Illahun. There are dozens of bits of sculpture from the temple, scraps the size of one's hand, with parts of signs most exquisitely cut. This find of the name throws light on the history of the destruction of the temple. At a little distance from the temple are the workmen's chips where the granite was worked, all small chips mixed with fragments of stone hammers. These prove granite to have been used; yet in the temple site there are no blocks & very few scraps of granite. Hence the granite was carried off entire for some other building. And the date of this is suggested by our finding beads & pottery of XVIII or XIX dyn. scattered in the ruins, but no later rubbish. Now being of Usertesen II all this is exactly accounted for by the find which I lately mentioned of granite work of Ramessu II with the pre worked out of blocks of Usertesen II at Ahnas. The temple there built by Ramessu was the grave of the temple of Usertesen II at Illahun, which was destroyed by the arch-plunderer for his own glorification.

XIX -  
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Now for a find which is but minor, yet delightful to me.  
 On one of the blocks of stone built into the foundation  
 rock, in a slightly <sup>lower part</sup> ~~corner~~, were found <sup>lying</sup> three pieces of  
 wood, round sticks, 5 ins long, & about  $\frac{3}{4}$  diameter. Two of these  
 had a hole in one end ~~with no~~ coming out on the side, [  ]  
 the other had no hole. Now I had explained a  
 painting (copied by Wilkinson), as shewing masons  
 testing their work in face-dressing by means  
 of a string stretched over two offset pieces, &  
 measuring the depth below the string by an equal  
 offset piece.  Here we have  
 exactly the apparatus, two pieces to hold the string  
 & the third equal but plain. These must be not  
 later than XIX dyn, as the temple was cleared away  
 then, & they are more probably of XII dyn. Found  
 separately their meaning would not be certain, but all  
 together, & in a temple site, we cannot doubt their use.


I began work in the rubbish mounds of an  
 old Deir, & found many pieces of Coptic &  
 Arabic papyri: but as it proved to be in  
 Benisuef Mudiriyeh, & not in the Fayum, I had  
 to withdraw & leave it.

Having altered the work somewhat, stopping tomb  
 digging & nearly closing the pyramid work, & putting the  
 men on to clearing the temple site where the positions  
 of objects is of scarcely any consequence, I felt that I could  
 leave for a few days safely. On Tuesday Hewat  
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in charge of the work. Thursday I spent <sup>(90)</sup> mainly going to dealers & their coming to me. Also ~~just~~ seeing Chester before he left Cairo that evening, & having a long talk to Corbett. I stayed at Dr Grant's as usual. He is very well now, & kind as ever. Friday I went with Corbett up Gebel Mokattam to survey over Old Cairo, the work which I had come up on purpose to do. The greater part I could manage though in a tearing high wind, which almost prevented seeing anything in the theodolite. But the more distant points were so hidden by the dust blown up from the mounds that we could not see them. However we fixed in 40 points which will not have to be done again. Then Saturday I returned to work, writing this in the train on the way. I got 30 kings scarabs from Cairo this time, beside many interesting little things, scraps of gold work from Defenneh where Suleiman the dealer is now allowed to work regularly by Grebaut, a shrine model in limestone from Naukratis, a ~~pa~~ foot of a statue of a priest of Senoferu, the base of a statue with long inscription of one Uah-ab-ra of XXVI Dyn, a diorite table  of the old kingdom, turned, about a foot across, &c, &c. My coming to Cairo is a signal for Dr Grant's house being besieged all day long, by the Arab dealers wanting to see me. Of course I got a quantity of weights.

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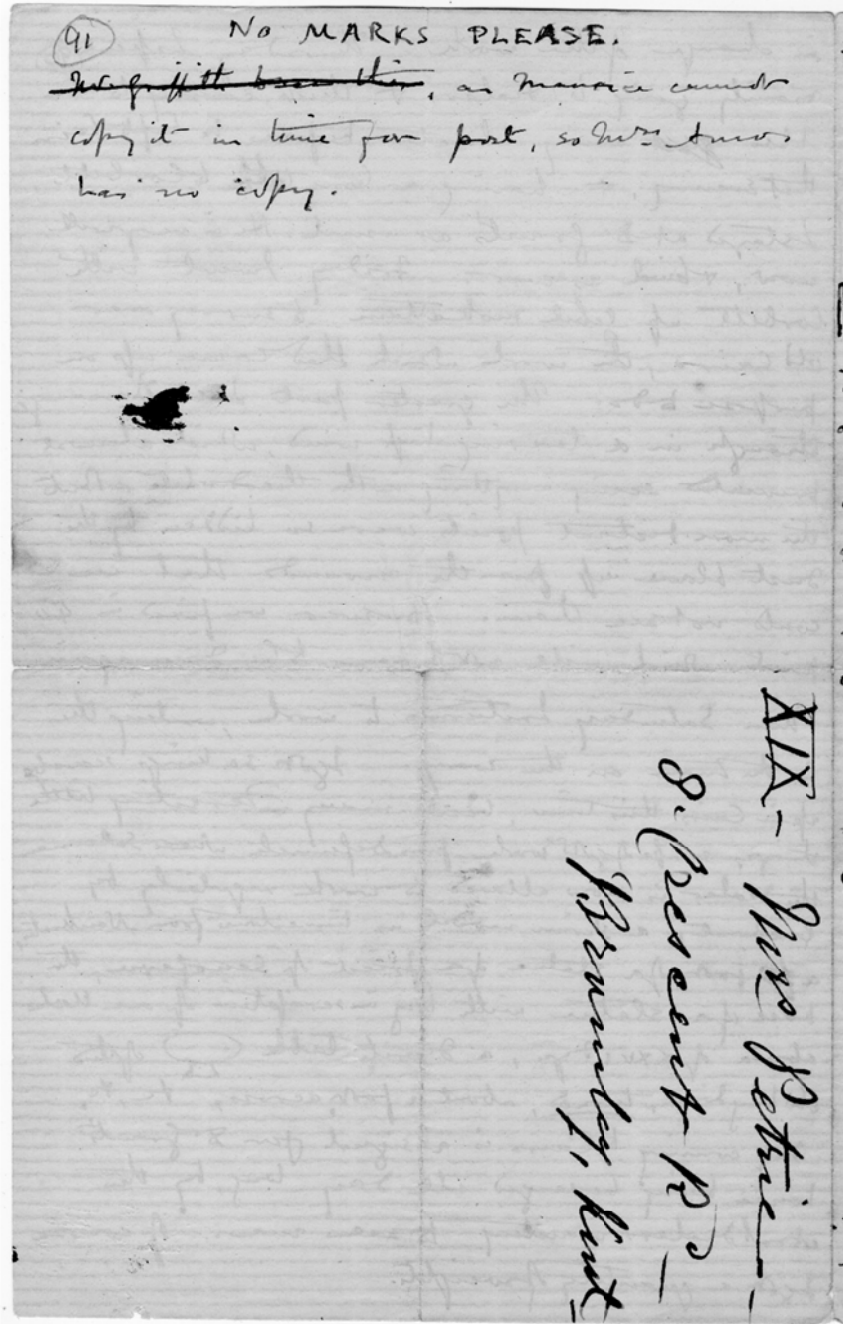
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NO MARKS PLEASE.



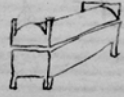
Mr Griffith to see this, as Maurice cannot copy it in time for post, so Mrs Amos has no copy.

XIX - Mrs Petrie -  
8. Crescent Rd -  
Bromley, Kent -



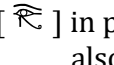



9-16 March 1889.

9-16 March 1889. On my return I found a <sup>92</sup>prodigious <sup>XX</sup> lot of clothing from the bodies buried in the chips of the temple. The finest was a garment with sleeves, only somewhat torn down the back, woven with broad purple bands in the green body of it: the purple bands embroidered with white thread; & round the neck & bottom a broad band of red with white embroidery, sewn onto the green base. The whole is of wool, & very fine & thick. All the other garments are of wool, & many of them with fine embroideries. The date is probably the VI<sup>th</sup> cent A.D. Several more pieces of the sculpture turned up; the only two of value are a perfect ka name of ~~Ame~~ Usertesent II, & a mention of the Sed festival which came every 30 years; if only it was a rarer festival it would be of chronologic value.


As the temple was nearly done I took all the men but two off it, & began seriously at Tell Gurob. I put 14 men on to the cemetery & five on the town. The main result so far, historically, is that the excessively rudely carved faces, often [  ] & worse [  ], are on coffins containing fairly good cartonnage heads & pectorals of the Ptolemaic age. The difference of capacity shewn by the outside & inside is extraordinary. There is also a mummy case of Ramesside age with all the wig beautifully modelled, & a charming face, the precedent of the painted-wig cases which are so common of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> dynasty. There is one very good & solid sarcophagus of wood [  ] in perfect condition, but uninscribed; also Ptolemaic.

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(93)  
 A most curious find is a new source of papyri.  
 The cartonnage head cases, which are common here,  
 are built up of papyri, with a thin wash of plaster  
 over all. By soaking them the layers of papyri  
 can be separated easily, none the worse for  
 their pasting & plastering. I shall in this way  
 get a quantity of Ptolemaic papyri, in pieces  
 as large as one's hand. This is somewhat like picking  
 out early M.S.S. from mediaeval bindings.  
 Beside the regular work the villagers have  
 found that there is a large amount of beads to  
 be picked up in the surface dust of the town. There are  
 as many as fifty, mostly girls, to be seen crawling  
 about picking up beads & scraps. These are offered  
 to me, & most of them I buy; but they have a great  
 fancy for them themselves & often they will not  
 take my price though I give 1<sup>d</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> each for little  
 glass beads of this size . However I have got  
 quite enough to establish what all the varieties  
 of Ramesside glass colours & work are; and so far  
 as I can settle there is not a bit of later stuff  
 offered to me, except a little from Roman tombs.  
 Maurice Amos has now left me, after a pleasant  
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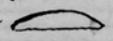


(94)


of that. At Hawara it was almost impossible to find any ground to practise on, as one continually ran into soft patches in which steering was impossible. However after about 4 hours practise in all, I mastered the automatism required. The entirely new experience of instinct is most curious & interesting. To learn not to press on the pedals to save yourself from going over, nor to lean on the handles, but to keep balanced solely by steering is a new sensation altogether: and it is strange how soon such a totally new co-ordination of muscles is learned. In theory it ought to take as long almost to learn to ~~walk~~ balance by means of ones hands as it takes to learn to balance on ones feet in walking. Yet a few hours trial produces the rearrangement. When I came here I began to use the bicycle freely, though this is not an ideal place. The road is a dyke with a wall dropping down 10 to 15 feet on one side, & a steep bank sloping down to the water on the other. So vagaries in steering must be eschewed. Moreover the surface of this dyke is scarcely ever flat, but is seamed over with narrow 9 inch paths, more or less knubbly, & lumpy dried mud between. On the one good part of the road (where one only

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95  
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One weight has been brought to me, a beautiful haematite barrel form  like the Syrian; it is a light 3 shekels of 121½ grs. with 3 cuts on it. |||

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9.3.89.

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My supposition that the temple was destroyed by Ram<sup>s</sup> II for building at Ahnes is verified by finding a (96) cartouche of Ramesses roughly painted on the joint surface of a block [ 11M ], which could not have been done until the place was being broken up.

In reply to kind enquiries as to my whereabouts I send this sketch map, from the War Office map.



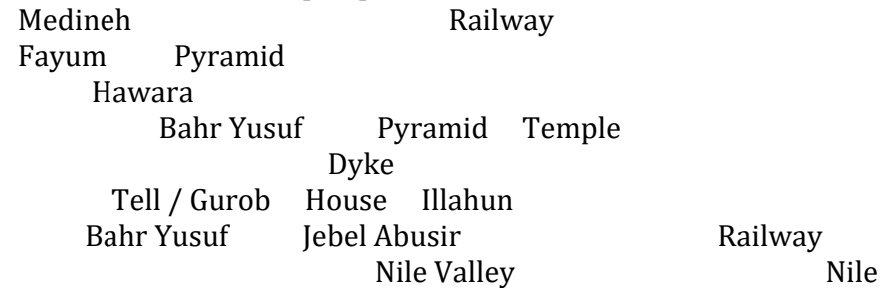
I see that I have rather exaggerated the dyke. The distances are Illahun to the Nile or to Medineh 12 miles direct to the pyramid 2 1/2 miles, to Tell Gurob 2 miles. From the house to the pyramid & Gurob is much like going from Plaistow to Hayes & to Grove Park.

I am sorry to find that there do not seem to be any early tombs at Gurob, or at least, what were probably early, are all cleared out. We only get an unlimited quantity of Ptolemaic cartonnage heads,

My supposition that the temple was destroyed by Ram<sup>s</sup> II for building at Ahnes is verified by finding a cartouche of Ramesses roughly painted on the joint surface of a block [ 96 ], which could not have been done until the place was being broken up.


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[ 96 ]



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pectorals &c, of mediocre work, painted blue  
 all but the face which is white or gilt. I already  
 have some dozens & there is every prospect of  
 many more to come. These are in amazingly  
 rude coffins, all with very deep lids & shallow bodies  

 with very rude carved faces; some coffins  
 are painted, rudely but intelligibly, & with real  
 inscriptions. I am struck by not finding any  
 sign of the renaissance of XXVI dynasty here.  
 The painted coffins of Ptolemaic age seem to  
 descend without a break from the XXIII<sup>rd</sup>, only varying  
 in the style but without any sign of improvement.  
 This suggests that after all the decadence  
 in the country places may have been continuous  
 from XIX downward to Greek times without being  
 affected by the taste of the XXVI<sup>th</sup>.  
 In the town we have some more pieces of proto-  
 Greek pottery.  
 News has just come that they have raised  
 a piece of the lid of Horuta's sarcophagus at Hawara,  
 & there is a wooden coffin inside it, which I must  
 go & open. The worst is that it's a foot <sup>or more</sup> under  
 water, & no chance of lifting it out, owing to the tons  
 of lid still in position, so I must cut it to pieces under  
 the water as it is, & get out the contents. There is a layer  
 of beautiful soft transparent resin in the sarcophagus.

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XX. Mrs Petrie, 8, Crest Rd,  
 Bromley  
 Kent.

XXI  
16-23 March /89

16-23 March /89 <sup>XXI</sup> At last news came that the party left at Hawara had cut through the lid of Horuta's sarcophagus, & raised a part of it. So I stopped work here, took over a tent & blankets, & pitched at Hawara by the tomb. I soon found that very provokingly we had cut away the foot-end instead of the head: there being nothing to distinguish it outside, & the other sarcophagi in the tomb having heads to N, while the length of this was E-W, we could not anticipate the position. Inside the stone sarcophagus was a wooden coffin, the lid carved in one piece, & all painted & stuccoed. This was much rotted in parts & could be broken away, & disclosing an inner coffin, also body-form, stuccoed & painted, but of very hard wood. Over the outer coffin sand had been filled in, & a layer of clear <sup>red</sup> yellow resin poured over the whole. While lying on this coffin were two alabaster canopic jars, lying on their sides at the side of the coffin lid, one on either side of the feet; doubtless the other two are at the head. The jar of Kebhsenuf has a speech of Selk, that of Tuatmutf a speech of Neit; the others will be of Isis & Nebhat no doubt. This is new to me. I broke away the outer wooden coffin around the feet, & then tried to get out the remainder of it from under the rest of the stone cover but could not succeed, owing to its fitting down beyond the head.

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 ≡≡ outer coffin  
 ≡≡≡ inner coffin

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[ R ]  
stone  
outer / coffin  
inner / coffin

Broken / away  
Broken / away



99  
 The only chance of getting the inner coffin out  
 was by breaking away all the outer coffin, &  
 so getting room to turn the <sup>inner</sup> about inside the  
 stone sarcophagus. I spent over six hours  
 in the water working at it, most of the  
 time up to my neck, and at last had to give  
 it up, & determine that they must lift or  
 break up the rest of the stone lid. The most  
 conspicuous result was a considerable aching  
 of rheumatism in all my limbs & ribs for two days  
 after. To sit for hours in dirty salt water  
 striving & levering with all one's might, entirely  
 by feeling under the water, with hardly room to  
 move beneath the piece of the lid which was  
 raised, is certainly not work to be coveted.  
 The water completely fills the sarcophagus & covers  
 half the thickness of the lid. The fellow who  
 had the work thought that he could raise the  
 remaining part, without needing to cut it in two,  
 so he is now trying that. It has been six weeks  
 work already for a party of 5. However the  
 set of canopic jars alone will repay me <sup>well</sup> if  
 nothing more is got out.  
 During the night after this, as I slept in my tent there  
 a gale sprang up, very cold & laden with sand.  
 The tent would hardly stand, & I was glad to be  
 off next morning to Illahun. It was not  
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the gale rose still more, & after sunset  
blew furiously, the whole air so full of sand  
that one could not see 50 yards. Luckily we have  
not yet had any hot winds to speak of; but this  
is the second cold sand storm, the first being on  
the day I went to Cairo. Indoors everything  
is yellow & with fine sand.

A good piece from Gurob is an ivory stibium case  
6½ ins long, with cartouches of Amenhotep III & his  
daughter Isit inlaid with blue paste; around  
the top a pattern with remains of red & green  
inlaying. Several more pieces of  
Greek pottery have been found; some  
down in the bottom of the chambers, &  
so certainly of the age of the town, 1400 B.C.

ⲓⲓ  
ⲓⲓ  
ⲓⲓ  
ⲓⲓ  
ⲓⲓ

I think this must have been brought in by the  
Achaians in their invasion with the Libyans  
under Merenptah. In any case it is of the  
greatest interest & value historically as giving  
such an age to such pottery.

One set of embroidered garments from the temple  
ruins has been found with a coin of Heraclius;  
so this dates them to just ~~the~~ about the age I  
supposed. But everything here, even the  
pyramid, now fades in interest compared  
with the dated Greek pottery, so many centuries  
earlier than what is hitherto known.

Another bronze knife from Gurob, & more bits of  
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