

22 Oct. - 2 Nov. 1891.

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 miserably wet night, & on reaching Dover
 found a high sea running in. It had
 been a severe gale all day, & we were
 in for the results of it. I heard that all the
 decks would be swamped, so went below,
 & lay down. For two hours we chucked
 about horribly, & I was so consumed
 ill (that is exactly it) that my miseries
 continued long after I landed, violent
 sickness & trembling; & for two or three
 days I could hardly take anything properly.
 I reached Marseilles in due course, & went
 to look up Sayce. Found him, & went to
 the museum together. Though I had but
 an hour or two's sleep for two nights
 I was pretty brisk as I had been able to
 lie down nearly all the time, which is
 the main thing. Sayce crossed in the
 day before me, & was quite as bad as
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M^{rs} Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

(2)
 vessel, & went ⁽²⁾ lay down in my
 cabin (which I had taken just amidships)
 & so passed through it all without a
 single qualm. Next day by 10 it had
 almost settled & I got up; the rest of
 the voyage was excellent, & I only
 missed meals the first 24 hours.

Over my berth was Sahib, the Coptic
 post-master at Assiut. I did not
 know him, but heard of him in England.

He is a very good & intelligent fellow,
 had come to England for the first time,
 & stayed 4 or 5 weeks, seeing London
 Edinburgh, Oxford, &c, & many friends of
 his. He was so interested that he
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 again (in two years) in Europe & bring
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29th Rogers found him⁽³⁾, took him home & entertained him, & shewed him all the paper works.

29th At Alexandria I went to lunch at Sir Chas. Cookson's, as he had sent an invitation for me to stay along with Sayce, who went there. Newberry had come in by the P & O that morning, & was there. Sayce & he stopped to see the Abukir statues next day, & I went on to Cairo with Chester, who had also turned up.

I called on the Grants that evening & found them all well, & went to dine with them next day (30th)

D'Hulst looked me up early next morn (30th) & told me of Grebaut's madresses. He got native members of Committee, (while the English were away) to appoint two tools of his curators of the museum, & two natives - who were not even guards before - as Inspectors of the guards. I called on Sir Colin Moncrieff, who was

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as amiable as possible. He has written twice already to Grebaut about my fresh application, but - no answer. He will write urgently at once. Then to Sir Evelyn Baring who was quite open & pleasant on the subject; but is evidently not free to take a strong course. "The whole difficulty lies in that one man Grebaut" said he, again & again, with a fist down on the table. I think if ever a man was hated by every one all round it is G., for on all hands people abuse him as ^{being} madly impossible.

I have had a little fever & a nasty cold, from getting a chill here; but it is only what will clear off with quiet.

There is any number of sumptuous bronzes here from a great find of hundreds at San, every dealer has them, & Grebaut has nailed a great quantity also. They are all late, about end of XXVI & Persian, & of no particular interest. Being fine, all sorts of monstrous prices are asked, from 5 to 50 £.

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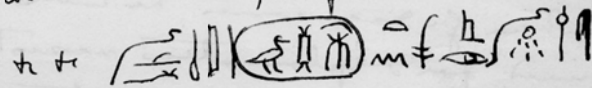
[R]



not alone. I have been getting many little things, of which I send note of three heads. I have at least got a Khian scarab myself; the signs are



So it is distinctly. Kh (& not R) as Spicer's scarab of last year. Arriving of 0 6 41 Ramessu. An ushabti of Aahmes, not of very glorious work, inferior to Horuta.



It is curious to see the absence of titles, merely $\frac{1}{2}$ in. It is good as giving an exactly dated one of the best work of its time; & it shews, what I suspected, that the very elaborate ones are of Persian or XXXth dynasty. A scarab of one Nebesi has a new title $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$, "chief scribe of the seal keeper." A bronze lion has $\frac{1}{2}$ on the shoulder, Phoenician 50, & weighs 2740 grs or 50 Drachmas Phoenician. This proves these small lions to be weights as I thought. I am going to Barings again early tomorrow.

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II. II.

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been excavating⁽⁸⁾ the tombs for some time. I then pressed for the town, & to that he acceded; & Moncrieff nailed him clearly to it.

But as to terms he was out of all reason. He asked him to name what terms he wished, to see at least if I agreed & so it could be settled. G. declined to discuss the question in relation to any private person !! It was a general affair to go to a general Committee.

He has thus given me the best of reasons for refusing any private arrangement with him in future. He must settle with the Public Works, & cannot claim now to arbitrate privately with anyone. I was to go at 10 on Saturday to consider new terms. I went & found that G. had proposed almost exactly what was fully discussed & negatived last year. Moncrieff was inclined to it, but I shewed him why it would not work. I waited for 1/2 hour, & Grebaut never came. So I then produced my old contract

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modified in a few words, (adopting an amendment which Grebaut had proposed) & pressed that that should be used direct ^{taking my stand on the existing law.} for this year. Strictly no fresh terms could be introduced by Grebaut without a re decision of the Council of ministers. He claims that all they decreed last year was invalid without his signature, which is preposterous, & certainly not tolerated by Baring or Moncrieff.

So I copied off my old contract modified, & left that, & Moncrieff promised to push it through if possible. Probably G. will be furious. But his time seems really coming to an end. ~~He is~~ Even Artin who backed him, called him openly une imbécile at the French Institute; & he really is such, for he has a theory of the mystic values of vowels & consonants in modern languages, & wishes to devote himself

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to elaborating it !!!⁽¹⁰⁾ So he told Sayce.
 I went to D^r Grant's, Wedⁿ evening; & gave
 an outline of Greek & northern civilization
 as cleared up by Egypt. Grenfell &
 Moncrieff were there. I called on Sir F.
 Grenfell, & had a very cordial talk with
 him as usual. He is Grébaud's strongest
 antagonist.

I went to the Khedivial Library, &
 the German librarian was most pleasant,
 & got out Lepsius' Denkmaler for me,
 & I traced both the plans of Tel Amarna.
 I dined at Judge Scott's with Sayce, who
 is staying there.

I have been getting some more little
 things. A piece - the butt end - of a
 fine basalt cubit turned up; 3½ digits
 of it, engraved on every face with
 names of nomes & inscriptions. There
 is no accuracy of work in these
 ceremonial stone cubits. Also a
 nice bronze libation vase




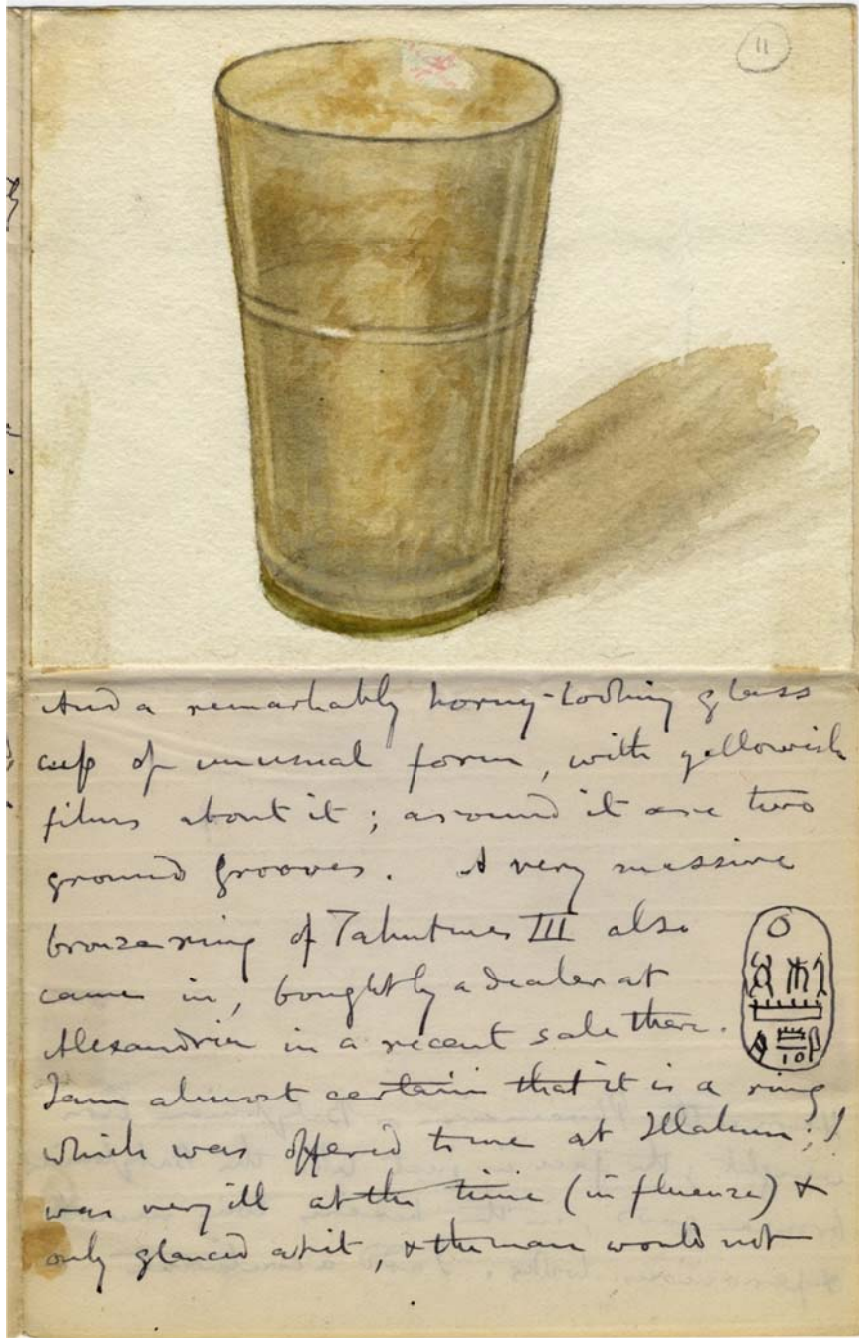
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[𓆎]

And a remarkably horny-looking glass cup of unusual form, with yellowish films about it; around it are two ground grooves. A very massive bronze ring of Tahutmes III also [𓆎] came in, bought by a dealer at Alexandria in a recent sale there.

I am almost certain that it is a ring which was offered to me at Illahun; I was very ill at the time (influenza) & only glanced at it, & the man would not

take my price. ⁽¹²⁾ So far as remember it is the same, & it has exactly the oxidation of Gurob rings. It is interesting from the mention "born at Thebes"; like a scarab of Tahutmes IV(?) "born at Memphis" which I have.



The low-bred Babylonian, 50 on his shoulder, 50 drachmas.



The Egyptian, in adversity still noble.

Here is the Phoenician or Babylonian lion weight; the face is just like the Babylonian bronze god, in the hideous long mouth, & ferocious looks. I add a contrast

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




below it, in green⁽¹³⁾ glaze, which I also got here.

I also have some more interesting scarabs. A fine Khian, (the king found by Naville at Bubastis) a new title, chief scribe of the seal bearer, Nehesi


another new title, who the Setru were I do not know. And a very unusual family scarab of the scribe Khonsu, son of the priest of Amen Khonsu nefer, & the lady Bak-khi. The determinative I have not seen before. Doubtless it is Theban, by the Amen & Khonsu, probably XII dynasty. A nice jackal on a staff also turned up; & another very exquisite minute bust of Isis, in green glaze.

Also a new year ring of Ra, "may Ra give a good new year". This is the sixth that I have met with of new year rings, all of different gods.

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 Palmer about the antiquity business. I
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accidental discoveries which cost the
 finder nothing. To morrow is to be a
 Committee to decide whether the decree
 is to stand for two years, as promulgated.
 If so, I am safe this year, but the whole
 question is to be rediscussed this winter.
 I am sorry that I cannot give any

absolute news by this mail. It is quite
possible that Grebaut's terms may be passed,
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Mrs Petrie, & Crescent R.
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III

9-13. Nov. 1891.

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The Committee was held on the 10th, & Sir F. Grenfell called that even. I was out, but got found an appointment for next morning. I went, & he began by saying "We had a desperate struggle over your body for 2½ hours yesterday.... Grebaut was perfectly obstinate..... & nothing could be done. Tigran Pasha moved that under the existing law I should be allowed to go on with work, until the two years of that law were expired. Meanwhile regulations should be discussed for the future. But Grebaut as President of the Com^{ee} had drawn up his orders of the day, & refused to listen to anything except his proposals, or to put any other question to the Com^{ee}. After wasting 2½ hours with him & we - Moncrieff, Palmer & myself - all left the room in a

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body, & declared ⁽¹⁶⁾ that we should not sit on any committee in future of which Grebaut was President".

This is far the most serious step that has yet occurred. "He came running after us with explanations, but we refused to hear anything further."

Grenfell then went to Baring, & B. is to see Reverseaux again on the matter. As Grenfell says, every change or proposition of the Com^{ee} has been opposed by Grebaut for years past, & had to be carried in the Council over his head. But matters have never come to such a rupture before, & it may mean the end of G.

It is well for me that G. is so obstinate & troublesome, as it has made Moncrieff & Palmer - who were very half & half - take a decided course.

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enormous step ⁽¹⁷⁾ when it was agreed that no English subject should hold office on the antiquities; & now they are trying by vexatious rules to drive out voluntary work.

Got a few things at Gizeh, the main one a very fine Osiris with inscription for a servant of Psamtik II, called Neb nekht son of Aabesh, who was born? on the 26th day of mesori. I never saw a date put on a bronze before.

Particularly noted a point about the granite temple. Sayce believed that it was buried in a mound, subterranean; but I found the cuttings on the outer face shewing a casing to have existed. He thought they were only rough quarrying, but I saw that this cutting in to the stones ran across the joints



proving that it was done to fit in the backs of fine casing in the regular manner.

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[R]

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longer, so I should start next day
for Tel Amarna. He agreed, &
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soon as may be. There is a meeting
of the English members & Tigran this
evening on the matter.

I post this now as I may not
remember it in my moving about. I
have to go to Illahun first to get
some of my old men as a staff for
guarding & work. I expect to be
settled down in a few days.

My address will better be

Der Moës, which is nearer
than Derut; but I shall send to
Derut almost as often, as that is
my nearest town. I shall be within
25 miles of Newberry; so can send down a
messenger to him on anything important.

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remember it in my moving about. I
have to go to Illahun first to get
some of my old men as a staff for
guarding & work. I expect to be
settled down in a few days.

My address will better be
Der Moës, which is nearer
than Derut; but I shall send to
Derut almost as often, as that is
my nearest town. I shall be within
25 miles of Newberry; so can send down a
messenger to him on anything important.

M^{rs} Petrie. Bromley, Kent.

H/<V>.

13-21 Nov 1891.

13-21 Nov 1891. Having ⁽¹⁹⁾determined to leave ^{TE}Cairo, & trust to my contract following, I went first to the Fayum, left baggage at station, left money in care of my friend the Coptic postmaster, & after lunch at the Greek inn, I walked over the 13 miles to Illahun. There I went to my old quarters, & soon had dozens of my old hands around me, some twenty or thirty were in the room most of the evening. I explained my movements, & had plenty of volunteers to go. Some of the best men were occupied, as I expected; but I easily got four men & boy who were with me to the last in the Medum work, & all of whom I thoroughly like. I was astonished at the eagerness shown. One man who had an easy post as guard at 30/- a month was longing to desert his work, & come for £1 to 2 a month according to the hardness of his work. So on the average he would be harder worked, & away from home for months, & yet it was only his brother's dissuasion which kept him from deserting his business. Another lad who was rampant

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to come & would hardly let go of my hand,
was only lately married; his bride declared
she would go home to her father if he left, &
so his father insisted on his staying, to
avoid such a family scandal.

Having at last settled my men I told them
that I should give 1 piastre a day more
to each than before, raising 3 p. to 4 for
men, & 2 p. to 3 for boy, in consideration
of their having to buy all their food
instead of fetching it from home. ~~the~~
for I thought this only fair to them; ^{the whole extra is only 1^s a day.}

I then walked back next day to Medinet,
the men going direct to Wasta on foot.
I trained to Wasta & joined them. Went to
Hewat's house, but he was still away.
So I slept in the store room, & next morn.
packed up what I had left there, & moved
it to the station, a couple of miles; & thence
took train with my 5 Lahunis up to
Derut. At Abu Kerkas I saw Fraser
for a moment, he had come in the
same train from Minya. We reached

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(21)
 went at sunset; & I found there the
 servant of a M^r Day, the engineer there;
 he having heard I was coming, & leaving
 himself for Cairo, told his man to
 look out for me & give me any
 information or help.

I went to the Greek Locanda, which is
 far below the Fayum one in accommodation
 but good enough for me. At supper
 I regaled three cats with sardine bones;
 one of them with a true corkscrew tail,
 one complete turn ∞ , not broken, but
 a true regular spiral.

Next morning we had the heavy matter of
 moving down all my baggage to the canal,
 which proved to be about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from
 the station. My five Lahunis behaved
 excellently: the lot of 18 cwt was just as
 much as they could physically manage, the
 lads staggering along with rigid faces
 under the heavy boxes. But they never
 flinched once, nor hinted at having any
 extra help. I encouraged them up to it, &

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then gave a judicious ⁽²²⁾dole of 1/8 after it was
 over, to buy some little extra luxuries
 after their kind. I have one fellow
 of about 25, tall, one-eyed & split-nosed;
 a worthy fellow who has distinguished
 himself by never once grumbling at
 his work, though it was some of the
 hardest at Medum. I value Muh^d Mansur
 in spite of appearances. Then there is Misid
 a cheerful affectionate lad about 17, who
 has I think been drilled out of a little laziness
 he had. Ali Suefi is one of the meekest,
 most conscientiously obliging, lads I ever
 knew: he was not thought smart
 enough by Hewat, to whom I recommended
 him; but he kept him as long as there
 was work for him. I was very glad to get
 him again as he is a most devoted
 fellow. A strapping lad of about 20 is
 Abdallah, who has the advantage of
 reading & writing (as Misid also a little); &
 he has a good sturdy way of doing
 his business. With him is Hussein, his
 brother about 14, a most winning,
 lively little fellow, full of jokes & fun,

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2)
13-21 N. 91

13-21 N. 91 2
whose laugh alone is worth his 7¹/₂ a day.
Such are my special five, whom I thought
worth bringing all the way with me;
more willing or kindly fellows no one
could find. No doubt they might be spoilt
by a few months carelessness; and in such
a case I consider "Woe to the man by whom
offences come".

Having all my baggage on the boat, &
my shopping done, we left Derut &
tacked down stream against the north
wind to Haji Kandil. We reached
it about 1 hour before sunset. I ran
ashore to look for a good place
to settle in, while the men unladed
the boat. Various natives followed
with many suggestions, & all of which
I listened. Of course there was the
usual wish to stick one in the
middle of the village; & the usual
desire to ordain all ones business.
But I found an excellent place
just where I wanted it, N.E. of the
village, so that the strong S.W. storms

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(24)
 should be broken, ~~not~~ ^{swamp} one
 with dust. A long straight boundary
 wall, running N & S, with clean open
 desert & ruins outside of it was just
 the place. Of course nearly every body
 wanted me to do something different;
 but I found a curiously effective way of
 settling objections, by taking one aside, & in
 a very slow & low voice imperatively stating
 that I must do as I intended because
 of so & so. They are so accustomed to
 loudness & declamation that the strangeness
 of it reduces them amazingly. I had
 the satisfaction after all the to & fro of
 hearing that "all his words are good";
 which was more than might be expected as
 I had done exactly as I thought best
 without heeding anyone.

In the hour we had I got up everything
 with a couple of natives to help (for
 which they never claimed anything, so
 I shall give them a trifle some day)

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(25)
 & by dark I had pitched my tent, & made a hut of boxes & boards for the men, & got everything in under cover.

Next morning I was rather spilt, for what with dogs & guards I had very little sleep. I sent a polite message to the owner of the worst dog close by, giving a triple choice; either tie up the beast in the house all night to quiet him, or produce his carcass for which I would give 2/-, or let him go ~~on~~ in which case I should shoot him next night. There were stifled howls & smothered barks next evening, & the beast was successfully repressed.

Then sent Muh^d after bricks, & bought 3000 at 10^d a 1000; donkeyage cost 8^d a 1000 more. My men went into the mud business with a zest. Misid stamped about in a huge puddling of mud & sand mortar, little Hussein plastered with glee, &

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(26)
 the others brought up basins of mud, & handed me bricks. By night I had built a large room $8 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ feet inside, & $7\frac{1}{2}$ high, built against our big wall. This roofed with boards laid on & covered with maize stalks to keep the sun off. It will be a good habitation for me. Then I am putting a similar room next to it for storage & visitors, & a rather lesser room for my men beyond. Thus I shall be well set up for staying on into the heat of the spring; & perhaps for Fraser taking charge while I am away in the summer.

Having established myself I sent to the post, & was glad to find my contract come. It is amusing to see that rather than be left out - Grebaut has signed it. As it is a contract between the Minister of Public Works & me, Grebaut has no official voice in it, & refused to recognise the contract last year. But when he finds that he may sign or not

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3)
3-21 N. 91

13-21 N. 91) 3)
as he likes, but that it will be granted in any case, he comes round to putting his name to a precisely similar contract. I then set my Lahunis & the guards here to begin a bit of house digging while I walked over the place, & entered on my heritage.

It is an overwhelming site to deal with. Imagine setting about exploring the ruins of Brighton, for that is about the size of the town; and then you can realise how one man must feel ~~is~~ with such a huge lump of work. After a few hours I concluded that I should not attempt to make a continuous plan of the whole place. Kahun took a full season of work & a hard month of plotting to do it; & this is equal to 20 or 30 Kahun in extent. This place would need a life time to exhaust it properly, & as the period of the XVIIIth is so well known, I do not think it desirable to spend any very large proportion of time upon it. I decided therefore to

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- restrict my regular work to
- (1) A selection of the houses, where a block can be cleared out entire, & planned to shew details; especially doing some of the palaces of the nobles
 - (2) The royal palace, if I could find it.
 - (3) The plans & foundation deposits of the temples.

I went all over the place with a copy of Lepsius' plan, identifying the buildings & examining them.

The palace of Khuenaten I have fixed for certain I think. It is the largest single building in the whole town; for though the temple enclosures are large, the buildings are but small ^{in comparison}.

It lies with axis N-S, whereas the temples are E-W. It has no enclosure or pylons. And in its ruins I found the lower part of the face of a colossus of Khuenaten, & a bit of his figure in intaglio, with the name of his daughter Atenmerit.

The arrangement of the palace was,

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The arrangement of the palace was,

on the south end a long fish pond,
 then a hypostyle hall about double the
 size of that of Karnak, with over 500
 columns, the base platforms of which laid in
 mud brick remain, & are planned by Lepsius;
 then a stone building about double that
 size, with fragments of statues lying about;
 beyond that to the north a long mass
 of mounds of buildings, one of which was
 ornamented with mouldings in brilliant
 green glazed tile work.

To thoroughly exhaust this site will
 probably cost £200 or 300; but it is
 the most promising place for (1) pieces
 of the finest carving & glazed work of
 that age, (2) valuable things hidden or
 lost, (3) any historical objects such as
 papyri or clay tablets.

I have also seen deep hollows in some
 of the other palaces, which must be
 the fish ponds such as are shewn in the
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edges in particular.³⁰
 I am delighted to see some Mykenae
 pottery turning up here; as the history
 of this place is so brief, (under 50 years),
 we shall have things well dated.

Letters & papers duly received to the 9th.

Mr. Petrie, 8. Crescent R^d
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V.

22-29. Nov. 1891.

22-29. Nov. 1891. ^{V.} ⁽³¹⁾ The first thing that I set the men on was clearing out a small detached house; as that was simple work, while I was looking over the place. Room after room was cleared without finding anything; until the last man, clearing the last room (on the fourth day) turned up the greater part of an Aegean globular pilgrim bottle with concentric circles, & a rude spiral down the edges of it. This is a different arrangement to any that I have seen before; & it is the earliest ornament to be called a pattern that



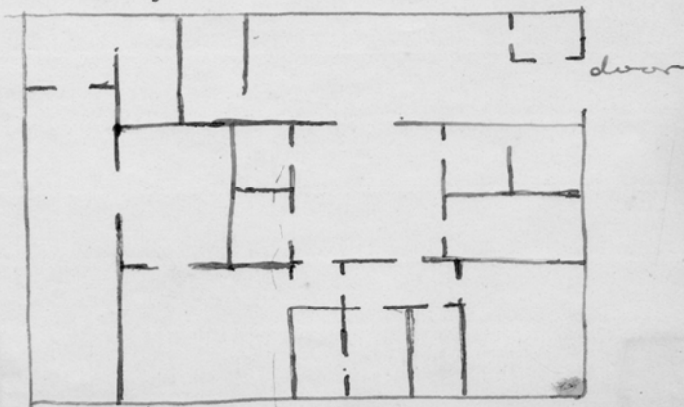
cir. 1350 B.C.

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[R]

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we have yet met with ⁽³²⁾ on such. The great value of this place is the narrow range of the dates. Khuenaten does not seem to have founded this till his 4th year; ~~it was~~ the town lasted on through Aten merit & Ra saa ka khepru, through Tutankhamen, & into Ai. But there is nothing found here among the innumerable rings & ornaments later than Ai, & his tomb is at Thebes, shewing that he had deserted the place. This range of date is about 1400 - 1340 B.C. This Greek pottery left in one of the houses may well have been made then about 1350 B.C. & gives us a good fixed point of decoration. The house plan was roughly - thus



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[]
door

On going over the place, I found that I
 have another department which is promising.
 All along the length of the town there is on
 the desert edge a line of dozens - or
 hundreds - of tomb chapels, with
 doubtless chambers beneath. Only the
 grandest tombs were in the distant
 hills, all the others were close to the
 town, & all these must be cleared.
 Luckily my contract reserves to the
 Museum only "the tombs in the mountains"
 & so those down in the plain by the town
 are certainly in my hands. That
 brute of a plunderer Farag has been
 here & dug into several of these
 chapels without guessing that there
 were tombs, or how he would have
 plundered! No single tomb has been
 opened in recent times; but the largest
 were cleared anciently, & great pits in
 the ground north of the chapels shew where
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on to the town, (palace & temple) work, or everybody will be tomb-mad, & I shall not get anything else done. I am hoping to get someone to help me to do this large field before my contract is up (1 July /92); especially as I hear that Grebaut has got fatuously absurd terms decreed for the future; & we may have a tough job to get them reversed for next season. If the British influence of the public at home is insufficient for this, I shall offer to work for Berlin if the Germans will screw proper terms out of the Egyptians, i.e. French.

I picked up a bit of a fritting dish, with some dark blue frit, with sand grains undissolved in it: the dish seems to have been a flat tray, to judge by the bit. We also found a pot bottom with some very bright pale blue frit in it; probably it had been ground in the pot, from the rough lump.

We have found a lot of three-line inscriptions on jars broken up, in the palace. The temple supplies scraps of coloured sculpture; but it has been all too & carefully destroyed.

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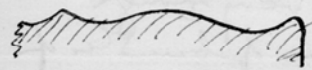
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22-29. N. 91

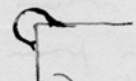
22-29. N. 91

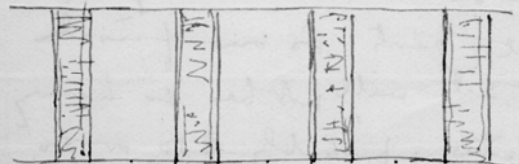
we began to clear ⁽³⁵⁾ about the region where I saw the pieces of green glazed tile. Many more pieces were found



of these sections



which probably filled in angles in the building. There were also films of plaster ~~on the~~ fallen, painted with plants; & having much hair in them they held together. Also the floor was all plastered, with traces of painting on it; & I may be able to copy this if we can get the dust off without the colour all scaling. In the great pillared hall of the palace, I have cleared many of the pillars remaining two or three feet high; they are built of brick, square, with roll corners  added in plaster, the whole whitened. The pillars are 2½ cubits square, with 5 cubits between; so the effect must have been thus






rather heavy & clumsy.

The pillars

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[] of these sections

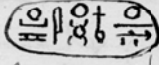

which probably filled in angles [] in the building. There were also films of plaster ~~on the~~ fallen, painted with plants; & having much hair in them they held together. Also the floor was all plastered, with traces of painting on it; & I may be able to copy this if we can get the dust off without the colour all scaling. In the great pillared hall of the palace, I have cleared many of the pillars remaining two or three feet high; they are built of brick, square, with roll corners [] added in plaster, the whole whitened. The pillars are 2½ cubits square, with 5 cubits between; so the effect must have been thus

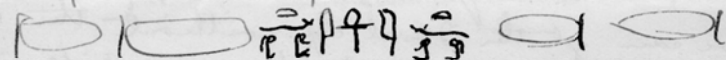
[]

rather heavy & clumsy.

The pillars

were all white, ⁽³⁶⁾ but splashes of red yellow & blue on them; shew that painting was done above: and I found pieces of cieling plastering, with very rough colouring. The cieling was of bundles of straw lashed together, tied up to the poles, & mud plastered; after whitening, this was then painted.


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
 with cartouches of the Sun.

One corner of the hall seems to have been a glory hole for old wine jars as we find pieces by the dozen, one or two perfect jars, & plenty of inscriptions from them.

I see that much of the palace has been finally skimmed long ago, & there is nothing left; & on the rest is only a foot or two in most parts. So our final skinning of the site will not be so heavy as I had expected; probably £50 or so

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will do the whole⁽³⁷⁾; & as it is the most promising ground here (except the cemetery) I shall stick to it, & leave nothing for the next comer.

This great pillared hall, of about 700 pillars, is interesting architecturally, as being the prototype of the great hall of Karnak in its idea.

A great novelty has been found. A large room or hall in the palace had a painted floor, the colours laid on gesso. The subjects are groups of plants & birds; with a border of alternate lotus bouquets & dishes of offerings. It is astonishingly fresh & clear considering its situation. I have written to Sir F. Grenfell about it, & asked if the Committee will give me a credit of £50 to enclose & roof it as a sight of the place. If left for a few weeks it will go to ruin, as the people think there is an inscribed stone under it, & will dig it up. If it is not decided to preserve it in

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a few days, I shall ⁽³⁸⁾ peel off the gesso of the best parts, & leave the rest to destruction. I am making a coloured copy of it on a scale of $\frac{1}{10}$; but I can only take 3 or 4 hours a day, & it will occupy me for weeks at this rate.

I am expecting Newberry & party over tomorrow to see the pavement. They are only 8 miles off now, at Bersheh, within easy reach.

I hear that Grebaut has got passed a new set of regulations about excavating which are fatuously absurd. If the govt stick to them I shall have to be busy next summer getting people alive to the matter in England, & making it a public affair.

Gesso is gypsum, plaster of Paris - W.P.
Letters & papers regularly received so far, many thanks.

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29 Nov - 5 Dec 1891.

29 Nov - 5 Dec 1891. ⁽³⁹⁾ Newberry Fraser & Carter all came over on Sunday, as I had asked them, to have a look round & see the pavement in particular. I much hope that Newberry will manage to have a good pull at these tombs for a few weeks, while I am here.

In a long passage, by the side of the palace, we have found pieces of a gorgeous thing; just enough of a blue glazed head dress, to shew that there was a statue of the king about half life size in glazed pottery. Another fragment of splendour was brought to me, the stem of a \mathbb{R} sign cut in black granite for inlaying, probably into alabaster. To form narrow strips of signs like that, in such a stuff, shews what sumptuous work was here.

I picked up part of a spoilt dish of frit. It is very interesting as ~~sh~~ shewing the material. The silica is in grains not at all like sand, quite white, mainly opaque, larger, & sharply angular & splintery. It is evidently pounded material, & apparently not flint but white quartz rock, probably heated & quenched to break it up. The mass

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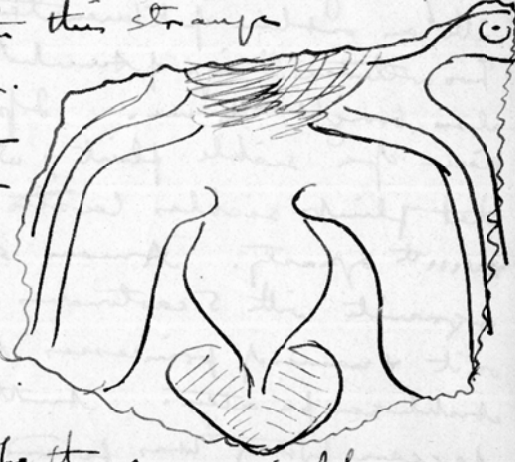
is full of large bubbles, ⁽⁴⁰⁾ due to the carbonic acid liberated in the pasty mass from the carbonate of lime. This shews that the lime was not calcined first. I think the batch has failed from the silica being in excess, & too coarse. But it shews excellently the procedure for making the coloured frits. I shall add a note to Dr Russell's paper about it.

It is instructive to notice the differences between this place & Gurob, of the same age. Moulds for pottery ornaments abound here, shewing that they were made here; but none occur at Gurob. Bits of coloured glass rod are also common, but rare at Gurob. Glass beads are rare here, & there are none of the eye beads blue & white or red & white so common at Gurob. Beads of pottery are scarcer than at Gurob. Marks on pottery are far rarer here than at Gurob; of both potters' & owners' marks there are not a sixth of the number at Gurob, or perhaps I should say not $\frac{1}{10}$ th considering how much I & my Lahun men have searched. This strongly suggests that these

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marks are more ⁽⁴¹⁾foreign than Egyptian.
 No netting bones are found so far, nor
 spindles, which were common at Gurob.
 Fragments of glass bottles variegated
 are pretty common here; I keep every
 scrap to shew the colours & patterns of this
 age.
 A curious feature here is that a long
 narrow passage runs by the side of
 the palace buildings; this was probably
 to enable servants to pass from part
 to part without entering the halls. In
 this passage, a hundred feet from the
 previous piece, we found more of the
 great glazed headress.
 But the most curious matter is a piece
 of a pillar with this strange
 figure in relief.
 The only thing at
 all like it that
 I know is the
 double headed
 eagle of the
 Hittites, & it
 really seems to be the same, but I have no



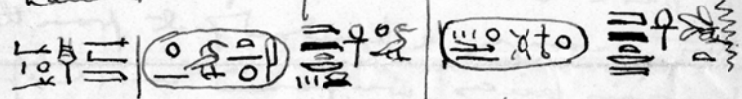
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copy of the Eyuk eagle to compare. It is strange to find it adorning Khuenaten's palace. In another chamber of the palace are many fragments of columns with names of Khuenaten, & Neferti-iti; the columns were carved as bundles of reeds bound together, with the knots carved on each reed. With these is half of a tray ^{which was} held by a statue of Khuenaten; it is carved in red granite, with a beautifully cut hand remaining below it. On the edge is



I hope we might find some of the statue. A boy brought me a ludicrous little tablet, with an outline of Khuenaten offering. Two other things of Amenhotep III have been also brought to me. I picked up one piece of a sickle flint; which settles that flint sickles lasted through the XVIIIth dynasty. A man sold me a block of granite with 5 cartouches of the Aten (Sun) on it & names of princesses Atenmakt & Ankhsen pa aten. Another piece of Aegean pottery was found, in the passage


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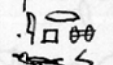




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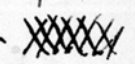

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

29. N. 91



29. N. 91

with the smashings of Khuenaten's wig. It is ~~at the top of a sim~~ the bottom of a similar vase to that drawn last journal, but with lines in place of spirals, . A lot of

fragrant resin was found, with charcoal used to burn it. A jar sealing has the stamp on it of some wine.  Another has    

Some beautiful pieces of a base, about 3 inches high, with green plants inlaid in a blue ground, were found along with more of that blue wig. Dozens of pieces of alabaster jars were in the same passage; & more Aegean pottery, part of a bottle like that drawn but with black-brown on a grey ground, & two handles of a vase  with pattern  also of  brown black on grey. Pieces of ostrich egg accompany these. A very curious piece is from a glass bowl

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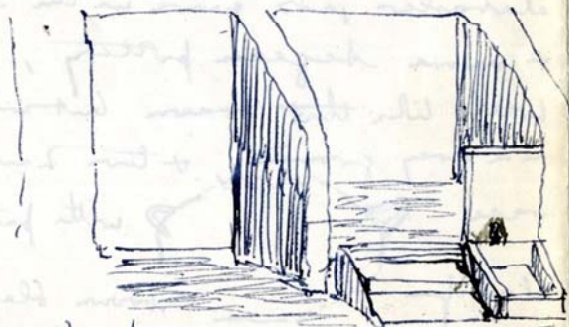
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made of fragments fused together & then ground & polished. This process is essentially Roman in general, & I am surprised to find it here, & certainly ^{fixed to} of this age, as the individual colours are those of XVIII dyn.



I cleared another house, & found a very curious affair, a washing place, the arrangements of which are so exactly what would be needed now by a Muslim for the religious ablutions, that one strongly suspects such ceremonial to have come down from ancient times. On one side of the house are two recesses divided by a slight wall.



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(45)
 a private corner for the ablutions. A hole runs out under the slab, & discharged the waste into a small trough. The ablution place was reached by two low steps of stone. The other small recess adjoining it is just what a Muslim requires for a praying place, close by the washing place, to which he steps after ablutions. I have never seen anything ancient of the kind before. Possibly it was for some Syrian official of Khuenaten who had the customs of Arabs.

A large lump of yellow paint has turned up.

I am slowly getting on with my copy of the pavement. It is I think, the only entirely unfettered piece of design that we have of ancient Egypt: all the other known paintings are of tomb or temple subjects.

I wrote to Sir F. Grenfell, urging that it should be properly preserved at once. He is afraid to move apparently, & instead of the Committee authorising me to take

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steps to preserve it, Grenfell sent my
 letter to Moncrieff, who wrote to
 Major Brown at Minia 35 miles off to
 ask him to consider the matter,
 while Moncrieff writes & puts it in
 Grebaut's hands! So instead of
 my at once walling it in &
 safeguarding it, it is to go into an
 interminable official mill, & very
 likely be destroyed before it is
 preserved. Such is the power of French
 obstruction here! As it is the only
 thing of the kind known, & about as
 good as the hundreds of Pompeian
 paintings which are so carefully
 preserved, there can be no question of
 the necessity of attending to it. I have
 just finished copying a tank of lotus &
 fishes about 11 ft x 3 ft; & there is a
 long border of prisoners & bows. The whole
 seems to have been about 30 ft square
 & about half of that remains in patches.
 Letters & papers duly received. Many thanks.
 Mrs Petrie, 8. Crest R^d Bromley, Kent.

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VII.
6-13 Dec. 1891..

6-13 Dec. 1891⁽⁴⁷⁾ Mr. J.J. Tylor & Mr. Roller^{VII}
came here on their way up to El Kab,
which they are going to photograph & copy
this year. They spent the night here,
& went over to see the northern tombs
here. They brought up to me from Chester
a gorgeous weight which he lately got in
Asia Minor; too splendid for me to
think right to keep in the risks of a
private collⁿ; it must go to B. M.
It is an ovoid cone  of black-
-green jasper, 3 inches high, with 8 lines
of cuneiform, & such an inscription!
"Amareh standard weight
The property of Merodach-sar-ilani
made uniform with the weight
Which Nebuchadnezzar
King of Babylon
The son of Nabopolassar
King of Babylon
Had made in conformity
with the standard established
By the deified Dungi a former King."
So this is an official standard copy of
Nebuchadnezzar standard copy of the
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It is an ovoid cone [] of black-
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So this is an official standard copy of
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standard of 3000 B.C. I roughly weigh it

(by a graduated rod & some small weights) as 15,080 grains. which implies a shekel of 125.7 grs. This can hardly be 1% out, & it shows that the trade standard¹²⁶ (lighter than the monetary¹²⁹) is the older form. I must get the standards de^{pt} to weigh it with all precision, & ~~make~~ I shall make casts of it before it goes out of my charge.

Most curiously as soon as Tyler & Roller came we got some good things. I have always got my best things when visitors come to see me, & the chance seems to strangely continue. First an agate ring of brilliant orange, (part of the hoop / broken) with the two cartouches of the Aten delicately engraved. The cutting is distinctly done with the wheel, & not with the splinter; so the age of wheel engraving is taken back to 1400 B C; far before the debated question of "Whether the ancients knew of the wheel", which has exercised classical gem collectors.

Then we found the greater part of the lintel & sides of a doorway, with cartouches of Khuenaten, Nefertiti, & the Aten. And lastly in a pit of rubbish in the floor of great hall was a gold ring of Khuenaten,

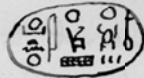
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weighing 32⁵/₈ ⁽⁴⁹⁾gold; the cartouche is
peculiar, but of excellent work.



(N.B. This is private, to Journal readers only)

My repose here is not yet assured. I got the
two dogs tied up at night who barked close
by; but then others came from the other side
of the village to make up for the silence.
They kept me awake about three hours
one night, so I made the best of the
matter, & announced next morning that
not having slept at night I must do so
in the day, & hence there would be no
work that day; and I slept most of the
day up in the quiet of the ruins to
make up for it. Now the forty people
whose pockets were thus affected by this
"lock-out" were all indignant with the
dogs, & next night dogs were chased
& hunted away diligently, & if a stray
dog is found about in the evening he
is ignominiously taken to his owner to be
tied up. I have also drilled the guards into
not talking loud enough to be heard round
the corner, & my own 5 men who sleep

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not talking loud enough to be heard round
the corner, & my own 5 men who sleep





(50)
 next to me never make a sound, so on
 the whole I have secured amazing quiet
 for the side of a village camping ground.
 My friends who came were surprised at
 the quietude at night, knowing what dogs
 & Arabs generally are. The lock-out game
 answers excellently to enlist a strong
 anti-dog party.

Every day more Aegean pottery is found,
 nearly all of the globular pilgrim-bottle
 type, with concentric circles.
 The most advanced piece has
 a pattern down the edge
 which leads to have



supposed to be as early as 1350, B.C., to
 which this must be dated. Not a single
 piece of a false-necked bottle has
 yet been found. // Yes, one piece has
 come which may be of a false-neck; it
 has a pattern . Many of the
 blue painted jars of the XVIIIth dyn. are
 found, & hundreds of scraps. The finest
 is a bright light red brown with blue
 painting on it of grapes & vine leaves,

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