



# EGYPTOLOGY





MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Rosetta  
ALEXANDRIA

Giza  
Sagqara • CAIRO  
• Memphis

Translations of the hieroglyphs on the cover of this journal. Top, "An offering which the king gives to Osiris, Lord of Djeda, great god, Lord of Abydos."  
Bottom, "May 'Welcome in Peace' be said for him by the great of Abydos."

This statue of the god Anubis guards King Tutankhamen's treasury.



E G Y P T

• Beni  
Hasan

• Amarna

RIVER NILE



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RED SEA

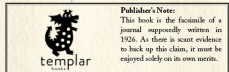
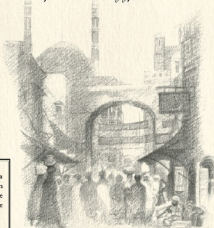
Abydos • Valley of the Kings • Karak • Deir El Bahri • Luxor

Edfu • Hieraconpolis

Philae and Biga • Aswan

Abu Simbel •

Cairo - bustling gateway to all the many splendours of Ancient Egypt.



Publisher's Note:  
This book is the facsimile of a journal supposedly written in 1926. As there is scant evidence to back up this claim, it must be enjoyed solely on its own merits.



EGYPTOLOGY  
SEARCH FOR THE  
TOMB OF OSIRIS

Being the Journal of  
Miss Emily Sands

November 1926 -



L.S.A.'s sketch of Ramses II unwrapped.



MUSEUM MEETINGS

Miss Emily Sands  
is invited to attend a lecture given by  
HOWARD CARTER  
"The Mummy's Curse - Fact or Fiction?"  
The Ramses Room, Museum Street,  
London, W1.  
Friday 29th May, 1925



An image of Osiris carved on a pillar.  
The purpose of my expedition is to find his lost tomb.



A sketch of the famous Queen Cleopatra - copied from a relief on the temple at Dendera.

Camels - a stylish, if uncomfortable, means of visiting the monuments.



\* Lady Farncombe,  
the sponsor of my expedition,  
made only one condition -  
that I found artists to help  
compile a pictorial journal  
recording everything we saw.



# Arrival at Cairo *Monday 1st November 1926*

Yesterday I had my first glimpse of the pyramids on the train to Cairo. Potent symbols of the mysterious land of Egypt, they reminded me of all I have come to discover - the dusty tombs, the ornate temples, the golden treasures and the strange, unearthly mummies. But I have also come to find something more, for I have with me an old papyrus belonging to the Farncombe family, which some believe contains a clue to the location of the tomb of Osiris. It is my aim to find this tomb, and reveal its treasures to the whole world.



*I arranged to meet my fellow Egypt enthusiasts, the writers and artists who are to help compile my journal, here in the foyer of Patsy's Hotel in Cairo.*



## THE FARNCOMBE PAPYRUS

The two lines of hieroglyphs on the left read: "Isis, Lady of Heaven, Mistress of the Gods, She grants that you may live for ever and eternity." On the right: "Osiris, the great god, foremost in the West, Lord of Busiris, who is in the Holy Mound".

At P  
out  
near  
exc



*At the museum N.W. painted the statues of Queen Sakhmet.*

THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM  
As Cairo has the very best collection of Egyptian antiquities anywhere in the world, I went to the museum to learn about the history of Ancient Egypt and the Pharaohs. Although I have hired the services of Mr. Taak, a much-travelled interpreter or "dragonman", the museum curators spoke to me in English.

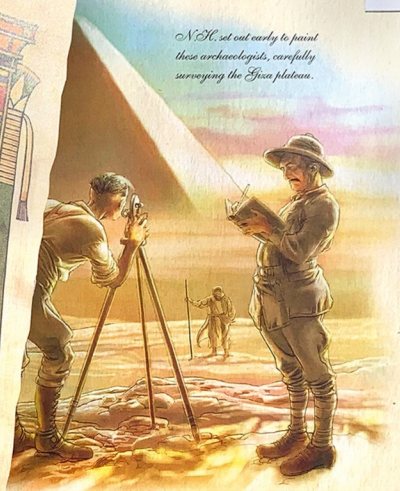


*N.W. also drew, left, this gold bracelet of Queen Sakhmet, and right, a wooden statue of King Amheh Her.*



A DEAD END  
At the museum I asked one curator if he had heard the story of a "lost tomb of Osiris" hidden in a "holy mound". He laughed and said it all sounded like nonsense, but when I showed him the papyrus he asked us where exactly we had got it, as it looked so authentic!

*N.W. set out early to paint these archaeologists, carefully surveying the Giza plateau.*



*a few friends were peacefully sketching while we were on all sides by angry tradesmen, keen to convince us of the superiority of their wares.*

recently  
so many  
or all  
the Farncombe  
and I asked  
look at it.

As I examined it, she told me how one well-known Egyptologist had suggested it might just hold a clue to the lost tomb of Osiris. That same day the subject of an expedition was raised, which Amanda generously offered to fund herself. She and her husband have even come to Cairo to bid us farewell and "bon voyage!"

family, I had seen  
Lady Amanda Farncombe if I could



# Sagqara and Memphis Friday 12th November 1926

It has only taken a couple of days to sail the Benmu Bird from Cairo to Badraushin, where we travelled by donkey to Saqqara, burial ground of Memphis, Egypt's most ancient capital. We plan to see the Step Pyramid of Zoser, the Serapeum - catacomb of the sacred Apis bulls - and a remarkable tomb of animal and bird mummies.

*At Saqqara the Apis bulls were mummified with a care usually only reserved for the Pharaoh himself.*



*In the Serapeum, I started poor Mr. Taak by igniting a tray of magnesium powder which lit up the whole interior.*

### THE SERAPEUM

Following a clue left by the Greek Strabo, Auguste Mariette located in 1851. There the Apis bulls - considered incarnations of the god Ptah - were buried in huge sarcophagi that weighed up to eighty tons.

### EVOLUTION OF THE STEP PYRAMID

Mr. Taak told us that the Pharaohs before Zoser were usually buried in 'mastaba' tombs of mud brick. Zoser went one better, commissioning his

royal architect Imhotep to build a step pyramid of stone, surrounded by walls that represented the walls of Memphis itself. Imhotep carried

out his work so well that in later times he was worshipped as a god, so a tradition of deification did exist among the Ancient Egyptians.



*From Mastaba tomb...*

*... to Step Pyramid*

*Mummies have been used for strange things. When American writer Mark Twain visited Egypt, he wrote that they even used them as fuel in his steamboat! I'm afraid we wouldn't get very far with this piece...*



*While little remains of ancient Memphis, at Saqqara we realized that the ground we were on was composed of the remains of many hundreds of graves.*

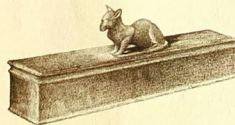


*The fruits of our first dig were disappointing...*



*... so we doggedly set to work again.*

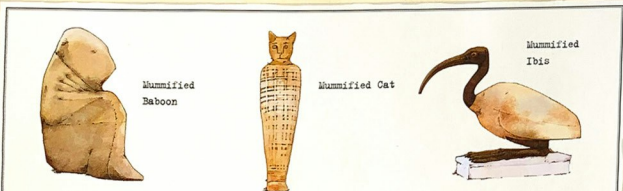
*Our brief search revealed only a few broken bits of pottery and a piece of mummy cloth. Hardly comparable to the nearby glories of the tombs of Ti and Ptah-hotep.*



*The Ancient Egyptians were certainly fond of cats - some even had their own little coffins.*

### KING ZOSER >>>

In the Step Pyramid, a statue of King Zoser was found completely walled up, except for a small slit at eye level, so the king could gaze out on eternity. H.W. has attempted to paint it in the original colours. Could there be a statue like this in the tomb of Osiris? Although we were told that many early Pharaohs had two tombs - one here, and the other in Upper Egypt at Abydos, we have found nothing here to help our search.



At the Tomb of the Bird Mummies lie the remains of perhaps millions of ibises and baboons - sacred to the god Thoth, and cats - sacred to Bast, along with snakes, crocodiles, frogs, and many other creatures. Unfortunately, we could not gain access to this tomb as it is considered unsafe.



T.G.H. JAMES

May 21, 2004

Dear Miss Sutherland,

I have read your great aunt's journal with interest. My first impression was that the whole was an elaborate spoof, but on reflection I feel less ready to dismiss it out of hand. In some respects it is very like other accounts of visits to Egypt written by visitors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Miss Sands and her party follow a fairly conventional itinerary, determined by the course of the river Nile on which they travel. The notes she includes on places visited and on various Egyptological matters are generally accurate, but not very original; and no doubt she had a good guidebook to help her.

I am not convinced that the Farncombe Papyrus is truly ancient; its appearance is convincing, but its content is very dubious. I have not been able to find any reference to it in Egyptological literature; neither have I been able to find any contemporary account of the Sands disappearance. The very idea of discovering the tomb of Osiris is somewhat far-fetched. The disappearance of the party is very puzzling, but the world is not without other, more mysterious, disappearances.

As it stands, I think the journal is worth publication. It has great charm and interest in Egypt eighty years ago, and might damage its reputation if it were not published.

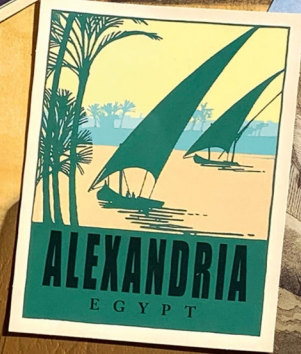
Yours sincerely,

T.G.H. James

For Miss Sutherland  
P.S. Miss Sutherland  
Miss Sutherland



*This is a sketch of Intashkhamun's temple which he actually found it. It contained four Lotos, each holding a memorandum written with the king's internal organs.*



E.S.