







# EGYPTOLOGY





# MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Rosetta  
ALEXANDRIA

Giza  
Sagqara  
CAIRO  
Memphis

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



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

## E G Y P T

Members of the Expedition –  
Dagald A. Steer, Writer  
Nghiem Ta, Expedition Organizer  
San Andrew, Draughtsman  
Nick Harris, Artist  
Helen Ward, Artist

Bea  
Hassan  
Amarna  
RIVER NILE

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Abydos  
Valley of the Kings  
Deir El Bahri  
Karnak  
Luxor

Edu  
Hieraconopolis

Philae and Biga  
Aswan

Abu Simbel

RED SEA

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



templar

Publisher's Note:  
This book is the first of a  
series of books written in  
1926. As there is no evidence  
to back up this claim, it must be  
regarded solely as its own merit.



J.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



## EGYPTOLOGY

### SEARCH FOR THE TOMB OF OSIRIS

Being the Journal of  
Miss Emily Sands

November 1926 –



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 Luxor.



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 as seen.



# 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 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!



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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. Task, a much-travelled interpreter or "dragonman", the curators spoke no English.



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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!"



# Notes on Ancient Egypt

Monday 8th November 1926

Despite the curator's doubts, I am not going to give up my search for the lost tomb just yet. Instead I have decided to make a few notes about some of the Egyptian gods. There were hundreds of Ancient Egyptian gods, but the ones I am interested in are those linked to Osiris. I have also bought a map showing the main sites in Egypt.

*As we visit each of the archaeological sites along the Nile, I hope to find clues that will help me in my search.*

## ISIS

Wife of Osiris, Isis found the scattered parts of her husband's body. She used them to make the first mummy, which she buried in secret, and protected with powerful magic spells.

Isis



## OSIRIS

Legend tells that Osiris, the murdered king of Upper and Lower Egypt, ruled for a great many years before becoming lord of the underworld after his death. Could this story be a memory of a real king?



## HORUS

Son and avenger of Osiris, hawk-headed Horus became king of Egypt after his father's death. He ruled justly and many temples were raised in his worship.



## SETH

The enemy of Osiris, his brother Seth coveted the throne of Egypt for many years. It is said that after he killed Osiris, Seth cut the body into pieces before hiding them in 14 different secret locations.

## THE "BOOK OF THE GODS"

I've read that the Ancient Egyptians believed that before the time of the human Pharaohs - which usually begin with the reign of King Menes - there was a period known as the "reign of the gods". Lists showing the "gods" who reigned during this time include the Palermo Stone, the Turin Papyrus,

and the writings of a 3rd century BC Egyptian priest called Manetho. Although Manetho wrote in Greek, his list names the order in which the gods ruled, from Ptah and Re through Shu, Geb, Osiris, Seth and Horus. Could this list record the reigns of real Pharaohs? And do the tombs of these kings still await discovery?

## STEP PYRAMID, SAQQARA

Built to be King Zoser's tomb, this first pyramid-like structure was erected in 2600 BC by the royal architect Imhotep. Nearby lie many other fine pyramids and tombs.

- + TOMBS OF BENI HASAN
- + AKHETATEN

## OBELISK OF THUTMOSIS I, KARNAK

75 feet high, and 160 tons in weight, this obelisk was erected around 1530 BC during the New Kingdom. Some say it was once capped with gold.

## TEMPLE OF SETI I

## HYPOSTYLE HALL, KARNAK

There are no less than 134 columns in the great Hypostyle Hall in the temple of Karnak, one of the most photographed and impressive sites in all of Egypt.

## HATSHEPSUT'S MORTUARY TEMPLE

## TEMPLE OF KARNAK

LUXOR

## TEMPLE OF HORUS

## ASWAN

## BIGA ISLAND RUINS

## TEMPLE OF ISIS

## SITES OF ANCIENT EGYPT

1926 Edition

C. Forsey Cartography Co.  
EST. 1879



# A Trip to Giza Tuesday 9th November 1926

I have no doubt that we will not find the tomb of Osiris near the pyramids. Having been around for a mere 4,600 years they are not nearly old enough. Still, one can hardly visit Cairo without taking the tram out to the Giza plateau to survey these most magnificent of all monuments.



## A NOTE ON THE PYRAMIDS

As we climbed about with torches inside the tunnels and chambers of the pyramids, Mr. Task told us how they were built originally as the tombs of some of the Old Kingdom Pharaohs. Statues of some of these Pharaohs have been found in temple ruins nearby. A statue of King Menkaure and his wife, left, was found in his Valley Temple, near the small pyramid.

## THE FUNERAL OF A PHARAOH

Below, H.M.'s recreation of Menkaure's funeral procession. At the front would have been mourners, while behind oxen would have pulled the sledge bearing the king's gilded sarcophagus - a type of coffin. What a relief it would have been to the descendants of the oxen when Egyptians began to use the wheel a thousand years later!



Built around 2630 BC the Great Pyramid is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - and the only one left standing.

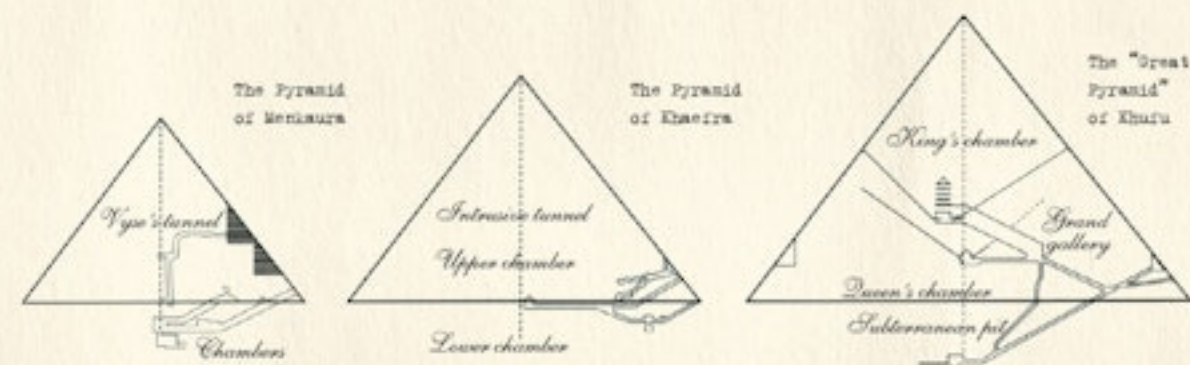


When it comes to the independent traveller riding camels, it is often the camels who decide just how "independent" each ride is going to be.



## THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA IN CROSS SECTION

All three of the main pyramids - of kings Khufu (Cheops), Khafra (Chephren) and Menkaure (Mykerinus) - were broken into in antiquity and all of their wonderful treasures stolen. Apart from stone sarcophagi, they now all lie empty.



Around AD 800 Caliph Mamun used "fire and vinegar" to enter the great pyramid searching for treasure. In the 1800s Belzoni used gunpowder on Khafra's pyramid to search for secret chambers. Today, gentler methods are used.



## THE SPHINX

We were lucky indeed to find the Sphinx cleared of sand for the first time in 2,000 years! For most of its life, it was buried right up to its neck. Its face is that of King Khafra.



## ORIGINAL SPLENDOR

Originally cased in fine white limestone from Tura, the pyramids must have looked dazzling in their heyday! But they have long since been stripped of these magnificent outer casings.

*It is amazing to think that the Ancient Egyptians could build such wonderful monuments using no more than simple tools of copper and stone.*





# Saggara and Memphis Friday 12th November 1926

It has only taken a couple of days to sail the Benma Bird from Cairo to Badrashein, where we travelled by donkey to Saggara, 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 Saggara the Apis bulls were mummified with a care usually only reserved for the Pharaoh himself.*



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

## THE SERAPEUM

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



Mummified Baboon



Mummified Cat



Mummified Ibis

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.

## EVOLUTION OF THE STEP PYRAMID

Mr. Teak 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...*



Found  
Set 13th Nov.  
Saggara, Egypt

*While little remains of ancient Memphis, at Saggara 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.





# Beni Hasan and Amarna

Saturday 27th November 1926

The wind dropped and the motor on our dahabeegah was out of action, so we hauled ourselves up the river to the tombs of Beni Hasan. One of the beauties of the Nile is that while it flows north, the prevailing wind blows south, so as long as there is enough wind, no human power is needed to navigate the river. If we had been travelling north we could simply have drifted with the current.



## MODEL FISHERMEN

The contents of Egyptian tombs are full of insights into the lives of Ancient Egyptians. There are wall paintings of everyday scenes and wooden models like this one from the Cairo Museum.

*I.A. sketched D.F. trying to help a crewman pull our becalmed boat up the river. It is reassuring to think that some things do not change – even in many thousands of years.*

*To prevent unauthorised entry iron gates have been fixed in front of the tombs.*

## THE TOMBS OF BENI HASAN

At these splendid tombs, we learned that while the Pharaoh was thought to live with the gods of the stars and the sun when he died, by the time of the Middle Kingdom, nobles also underwent the process of mummification so that they too could live forever in the Ancient Egyptian underworld, ruled over by Osiris.

## THE AMARNA HERESY

South of Beni Hasan we visited the ruins at Tel el Amarna. This city, known as Akhetaten was built by the heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten to be Egypt's new capital. He banned the worship of Egypt's old gods, in favour of a single god, the Aten. After his death this city was razed to the ground by his successors, and his name was chiselled out of history.

*The Rosetta Stone enabled the French scholar Champollion to decipher hieroglyphs, as ancient scribes had written on it using three scripts. By comparing the texts he was first able to recognise the names of Ptolemy and Cleopatra.*



*This sketch shows a relief of Akhenaten and his family worshipping the Aten – represented by the rays of the sun.*



*A bust of Nefertiti, Akhenaten's queen, which was found in the ruins of a sculptor's studio at Akhetaten in 1911.*



## HIEROGLYPHICS >>>

The secret of understanding hieroglyphs was lost until the Rosetta Stone was discovered by a French soldier in 1799.

I bought this booklet in order to help me recognise at least some of the more basic hieroglyphs.

*Scenes of wildlife decorate many of the ancient tombs.*

Here are some extra signs to help you read the names:

	that		ma		ma
	khun		hat		shpy
	akh		hka		iam
	shma		sty		mr

The part of the name that refers to a god is often written as the first part of the word, even though it was pronounced later, often at the end, so that imen (Amen), ptah (Ptah) and iten (Aten) all come first in the cartouches where they appear – a "cartouche" being the oval that was typically drawn around the name of a king.



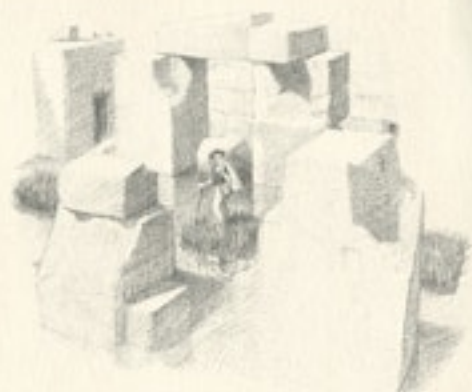
# At Sacred Abydos

Friday 10th December 1926

At last we have arrived at Abydos, the most sacred site in all of Egypt, and the centre of Osiris worship. Here, behind the temple of Seti I, father of Ramses II, there is a mysterious, half-flooded temple known as the Osireion. I have made contact with an archaeologist friend of Lady Farncombe called Gordon John, who has promised to give us a tour of the whole site.

## TEMPLE OF SETI I

I purchased this handy map of the Temple of Seti I from a local guide. Here, a number of gods were worshipped, including Ptah, Re-Horakhte, Amun, Osiris, Isis, and Horus.



Here is F.A.'s sketch of the water-logged Osireion. N.H. seems unsure how to go exploring without getting his feet wet.



Mr. John gave us a ride in his Studebaker to see the tomb of King Djer. He told us that in Middle Kingdom times the tomb of King Djer was thought to have been the tomb of Osiris.

## THE TOMB OF KING DJER

Mr. John showed us a picture of these bracelets, found on a mummified arm in the tomb of King Djer. He also told us that some legends claim Isis did not bury Osiris in one place, but buried the pieces of him as she found them. So his heart may have been buried at Abusir, for example, and his backbone at Busiris. I showed Mr. John our papyrus and he said that while Abydos could be ruled out as the site of the "holy mound", a site near Philae might just be a contender.



Djer's bracelets of gold, lapis lazuli, amethyst and turquoise.

## TEMPLE WORSHIP

N.H.'s recreation of the scene of the daily dressing of the god Horus in the Temple. Each day his statue was dressed by the priests and fresh offerings of flowers and food were placed before him, as hymns of praise were sung out.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOOLS

I have recorded here the chief tools of the archaeologist. Mr. John's kit is much more extensive than ours (but we need to get a torch!)



7. Electric Torch - useful in unlit tombs and grottoes.
8. Large Brush - for sweeping away sand and soil.
9. Tape Measure - for measuring out the site.

Mr. John was kind enough to let us go and see a dig he was working on. There, we realised just how many people it can take to move enough earth to uncover one small tomb. And you need the necessary permits, too. We have learned much today that will help us should we need to undertake a dig of our own.



# Deir El Bahri

Sunday 12th December 1926

We have been on board the Benma Bird for just over a month now. To pass the time we often play a game called Senet, a sort of Ancient Egyptian draughts. But we will not have much time for play today, because we are going to visit Deir El Bahri, the sacred mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut.



Near the ruins of the tomb-builders' village of Deir El Medina we had an eerie moonlight encounter with a jackal by one of the old tombs. I could almost fancy it was the jackal-god Anubis himself watching us.

Soon we will enter the Valley of the Kings. I very much hope to meet Howard Carter, to see whether he has any useful ideas about our last tomb.



## THE SATIRICAL PAPYRUS >>>

This impressive painting on papyrus from Thebes shows animals doing all sorts of strange things - wolves herding sheep, a crow guarding some cherries and a gazelle playing senet with a lion. Some people like to think that this may very well have been the first ever "children's book". It is around 3,000 years old!



vi. An exact throw is needed to land on square 26. vii. If you land in square 27 or are landed on in squares 28-30 your piece must go back to square 15 and your turn ends. viii. Instead of going to square 15 you may wait in square 27 until you throw a 4 ks. To clear a piece from the board throw any number from square 30 or exact throws from squares 28 and 29. x. A throw of 5 clears a piece from square 26. xi. If you can only move from square 26, but have nowhere to go, you must land on square 27. xii. Clear all your pieces from the board to win.

4

## EGYPTIAN VOYAGES

Mr. Tash informed us that the Ancient Egyptians appeared to have no desire to travel to foreign parts. They firmly believed Egypt to be the best of all possible lands. However, they did conduct trading expeditions in order to bring back goods such as leopard skins for their priests, spices, incense and wood. The palm trees that grew in Egypt were useless for construction and so cedar was imported from Byblos in the Lebanon.



H.W. copied these pictures of one expedition painted on the walls of Hatshepsut's temple. It was to Punt, an African land that may have lain along the shore of the Red Sea, and



the queen must have sent artists and scribes to record the event. In the first picture we can see the King and Queen of Punt coming to greet the Egyptians. In the second we can



see the still houses of the people of Punt, and in the third, Egyptians carrying incense trees back to their ships in wicker baskets, to be watered regularly on the trip home.

The magnificent temple of Queen Hatshepsut is set back into the rock, not far from the Valley of the Kings. She may have been a queen, but she still wore the artificial beard of the Pharaoh!



# The Valley of the Kings

Thursday 16th December 1926

Arriving in the valley, I had very much hoped to meet Howard Carter, but he was indisposed. I suppose this may just have something to do with the fact that the tomb he uncovered - of Tutankhamen - has had some 20,000 visitors since he first opened it up in 1922.



Right, the magnificent mummy mask of the Pharaoh, made from 22 1/2 lbs of solid gold.

When Carter opened the tomb, he first made a small hole in the tomb door, and looked in. After waiting for some time, Lord Carnarvon grew impatient. "Can you see anything?" he asked. "Yes," replied Carter. "Wonderful things!"



One of the boy king's gilded chariots was one of the many items found in his tomb.

Under Tutankhamen, worship of Egypt's traditional gods was restored after the period of Akhenaten's "Amarna heresy".

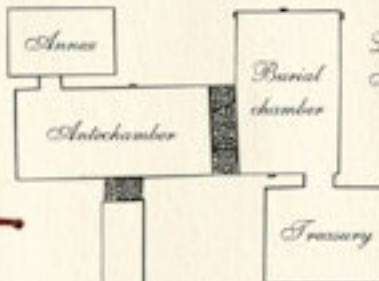
## THE TREASURES OF KING TUTANKHAMEN

Although his tomb contains some of the most wonderful and precious antiquities ever found, we were told that King Tutankhamen himself was a not very powerful monarch whose short reign ended when he was only about

nineteen years old. How magnificent, then, must have been the lost funerary treasures of some of Egypt's mightiest Pharaohs, such as Khufu (Cheops), Khafra (Chephren) or Ramesses II!



Although we did not manage to see Carter, we were invited to a highly enjoyable 'tea in the tomb' of Ramesses II which has been converted into an Egyptological dining room!



Left, a plan of King Tutankhamen's tomb.



Right, a painting from the wall of the king's burial chamber.

## THE FAMOUS TOMB

Carter has so far cleared the antechamber and burial chamber, the result of four years' painstaking work. Currently he is unwrapping Tutankhamen's mummy.



## FALSE FINGERING & TOES

The mummy is wearing more than 100 items of jewellery including these finger and toe protectors.



## #1 OUTER COFFIN >>>

Made of gold foil on carved wood, this is the first in a series of coffins that fit like Russian dolls over the mummy resting inside.



## CANOPIC JARS

When a person was mummified, their internal organs were placed in canopic jars guarded by different gods. So far, Carter has not found the chest containing the canopic jars. They will probably look like these:



### JACKAL JAR

The jackal-headed god Duamutef guarded the stomach of the deceased in his jar.



### HUMAN JAR

The liver was placed in the god Imsety's jar. He had a human head.



### BABOON JAR

The lungs were stored in the jar of the baboon-headed god Hapi.



### FALCON JAR

The falcon-headed god Qebehsenuef was protector of the intestines.

K.W. and F.A. enjoyed recreating the coffins of the boy king.



# Karnak and The Colossi Saturday 18th December 1926

As we approached Luxor, site of the ancient Egyptian capital of Thebes, we were caught in a fierce sandstorm as we followed the famous avenue of sphinxes from the Temple of Karnak to the Temple of Luxor. Across the river we visited the famous "singing statues" of Memnon - two huge sandstone colossi that stand some 60 feet high.

*I.A. is importunate - for who else would attempt sketching during an episode of the fierce Khamsin, the desert windstorm that leaves even the most travel-hardened rushing for cover?*

## THE COLOSSI OF MEMNON

These colossi, which used to be known as "Shammy" and "Tummy", possibly a corruption of the Arabic words for left and right, used to "sing" each morning - a sound probably caused as the sun heated up the stones. But the singing stopped when Roman emperor Septimus Severus "repaired" them in AD 199.

*The southern statue shows Amenhotep III with his wife Tey and a daughter.*

*These statues were once merely the door-keepers of Amenhotep's vast mortuary temple complex.*

*The northern statue shows the Pharaoh with his mother Mutemwia.*



*Near the site of ancient Thebes, the Temple of Karnak looks glorious from the river.*



## THE THEBAN TRIAD

At Karnak we learned that most ancient Egyptian cities had their own triads of gods, a triad being a father, mother and son. Here, Amun, Mut, and their son Khonsu were worshipped. Khonsu was represented as a gigantic Egyptian baby, with a child's shaved head and sidelock of hair.



*\* At Luxor I bought this amusing postcard that shows two huge feet from the Ramesseum - the inspiration for a famous poem by Shelley.*

*Situated in Thebes, the Temple of Luxor was connected to the Temple of Karnak by a mighty avenue of sphinxes that ran along each side of the road for more than a mile.*

*At Luxor, Mr. Fack introduced us to a young Egyptian man who claimed to know all about the tomb of Osiris. He entrusted to us this strange Eye of Ra amulet. Before we leave town, I am going to commission a goldsmith to make me a copy of it to take back to Lady Ferricomb.*





# The City of the Hawk

Saturday 25th December 1926

It is Christmas Day! And so we are celebrating in style with a pudding that H.W. has brought all the way from London! It is just what I need to cheer me up. Despite my mysterious encounter at Luxor, I don't seem to be getting any closer to Osiris or his tomb.



## THE NARMER PALETTE

This "palette" of King Narmer was originally used for mixing make-up, which was worn by both men and women. On it the Pharaoh Narmer is shown defeating his enemy, the king of Lower Egypt, thus unifying the kingdom.

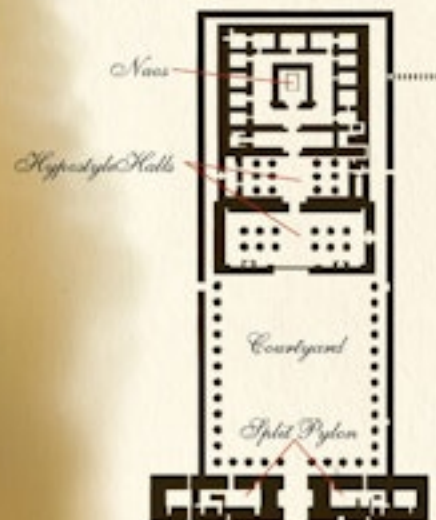
On Christmas morning we visited the ruins of Hierakonpolis — city of the hawk.

Hierakonpolis was the home of Upper Egypt's early kings. This amazing golden hawk head, found there, has eyes made from a single red of obsidian.



I have a feeling that this may be one of my more memorable Christmases — H.W.'s pudding was excellent!

On Boxing Day, we stopped at Edfu, to see the ruined Temple of Horus, the god who was the son of Osiris.



A plan of the great Temple of the god Horus at Edfu.

## SETH AND HORUS

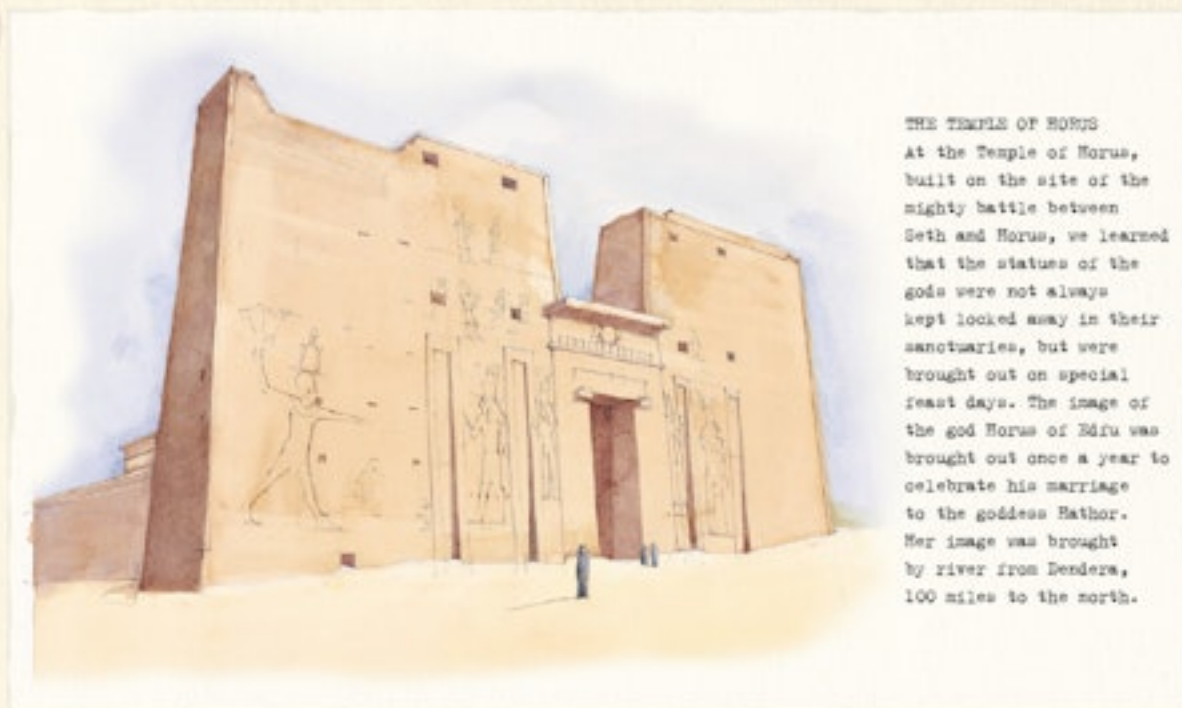
At Hierakonpolis we learned that the followers of Horus of Hierakonpolis defeated the followers of Seth of Nubt in battle. Could this have anything to do with the origins of the Osiris legend? Now I wish I had been able to speak more fully to that young man at Luxor!



The crew worked very hard to help us decorate the Benu Bird for Christmas, decking her out with coloured lanterns. We had no turkey — so rewarded them instead with roast mutton!



This sketch shows King Scorpion overseeing canal building. It was through controlling the regularly flooding Nile — by irrigation — that Egypt became such a fertile, powerful land.



## THE TEMPLE OF HORUS

At the Temple of Horus, built on the site of the mighty battle between Seth and Horus, we learned that the statues of the gods were not always kept locked away in their sanctuaries, but were brought out on special feast days. The image of the god Horus of Edfu was brought out once a year to celebrate his marriage to the goddess Hathor. Her image was brought by river from Dendera, 100 miles to the north.

A sketch of the priests carrying the statue of Horus to celebrate the god's marriage to the cow-goddess Hathor.



As I went round asking about the strange young man who pressed the Eye of He amulet onto me, I was told by an American who had arrived from Assuan that he had heard tell of a secret group who were said to still worship Isis and Osiris. I wonder if that young man had anything to do with them?



# A Trip to Nubia Friday 31st December 1926

I am anxious to get to Philae, for I now feel sure that is our destination, but I am equally keen to learn as much as I can about Ancient Egypt before starting any excavations. So we are first going south to visit Abu Simbel in the nearby kingdom of Nubia.



*This far south, Nile crocodiles — who had their own god, Sobek — may still be a menace to footloose explorers, as F.A. demonstrated.*

*While horses were introduced to Egypt some time before the New Kingdom, domesticated camels were not used for another 2,000 years.*



THE TEMPLE OF RAMSES II, ABU SIMBEL  
Ramses II built this temple to show his dominion over the southern kingdom of Nubia. The explorer Belzoni first cleared away enough sand from around its doorway to be able to effect an entry in 1818.



*A slightly exaggerated report of our numbers had gone before us to Abu Simbel, where we were met by some 20 boys with nearly 80 donkeys between them.*

M.H. has painted Ramses II, styled "the Great" (by himself), riding in his mighty war chariot. It is interesting to compare this recreation to the sketch opposite, taken from the wall of Ramses II's granite temple.



*Right, a painting from the wall of the temple.*



## Weapons of War



1. Khepesh Sword
2. Dagger
3. Thrown Stick
4. Axe
5. Arrow
6. Bow
7. Spear

*On the left are the main weapons used by Egyptian soldiers of the Middle and New Kingdoms. During the earliest period, before metals came into common use, flint axes, knives and stone clubs and maces were used.*

## ANCIENT ENGINEERING >>>

I have tried to show what it was like to enter one of these Ancient Egyptian temples by constructing this card representation of the Temple of Ramses II. It is not to scale, of course. As well as commissioning this temple to himself, Ramses also created a smaller one nearby, dedicated to his chief wife Nefertari.





# Back to Philae Tuesday 4th January 1927

Having enjoyed very much our stay at Abu Simbel we have turned around and headed back down-river to the granite quarries at Aswan and the Temple of Isis at Philae. In my bones I feel we are closing in on our target, and so I am studying a little more about Ancient Egyptian customs of burial of the dead.

*While I was learning about mummies, I.A. has sketched the tool used to extract the brains from the skull before mummification. Inserted up a nostril, it was jiggled about until the liquefied brain could be poured out through the nose.*

*In a ceremony called the "Opening of the Mouth" priests prepared the mummy for burial.*

*Priests and mourners read spells to protect the dead man's "ka" or spirit on its final journey to the other world.*



## # 1 MUMMIFICATION: ORGAN REMOVAL

First the organs of the body were removed and the brain hooked out. Apart from the brain, which was thrown away, the organs were preserved separately in canopic jars.



## # 2 MUMMIFICATION: DRYING

Secondly the corpse was covered in a special type of salt called "natron" and then left for a month or so to dry out thoroughly so that it was much less likely to decompose.



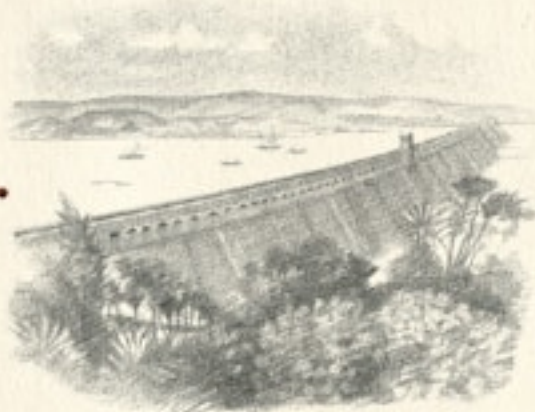
## # 3 MUMMIFICATION: WRAPPING

In the third stage hundreds of yards of linen were wrapped around the corpse to protect it. Many jewels - some with magic properties - might be slipped in with the bandages.



## # 4 MUMMIFICATION: ENTOMBING

Finally the mummy was wrapped in a sheet. Often a papyrus of the Book of the Dead would be placed with it to help the dead man's body reanimate and his soul or "ka" to move about.



*While I was learning about mummies, I.A. sketched the dam at Aswan opened in 1902, which holds back the mighty waters of the river Nile.*

The great company of gods reply to Thoth who is in Hermopolis: "That which cometh forth from thy mouth hath been ordained. Osiris, the scribe Ani, triumphant, is holy and righteous. He hath not sinned, neither hath he done evil against us. Let it not be given to the devourer Ammat to prevail over him. Meat-offerings and entrance into the presence of the god Osiris shall be granted unto him, together with a grant of land in the Field of Offerings, as for the Followers of Horus."

This text of Chapter 30b of the Papyrus of Ani based on the translation of E.A. Wallis Budge, 1890.

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*This booklet contains a chapter from a papyrus of the Book of the Dead written for a man named Ani. In the papyrus he is referred to as "Qener, the scribe Ani".*



*We hired a small sailing boat, or "felucca", to take us to Philae. To our dismay, we found the ruins were partially under the water held back by the dam. Some say this dam is too low and needs replacing by a "high" one. What will happen to them then?*



## GREAT EXCITEMENT!

From Philae, sacred to the goddess Isis, we were able to see the nearby island of Biga. I could hardly believe my ears when Mr. Teak said that it was once sacred to Osiris, was referred to as the "abaton" or "holy mound" and moreover, that it was relatively unexplored. Why has no one done any more serious excavations? Can it really have been overlooked until now? After all, Carter continued his search long after everyone said nothing more remained in the Valley of the Kings. One thing is certain: I will be back for a closer inspection tomorrow!



# The Tomb of Osiris?

Wednesday 5th January 1927

I can hardly sleep with excitement. Today we went to the island of Baga. I decided I might as well make a few more notes on the Ancient Egyptian idea of the afterlife. After all, if Osiris is the god of the dead, then perhaps in finding his tomb we should be prepared for almost anything!



*To be near to Baga we have taken lodgings in a little village near the shore. We will hire men here to help us dig.*



*Beneath the loose earth of the pit we found a door covered in ancient seal impressions of the name of Osiris. In the centre is a hollow that seems designed to fit our Eye of Ra.*



*She warned us from going near the tomb and spoke of dire consequences if we should try to open it, muttering about curses, poison gases and booby traps and shrieking that the order of Isis had to keep the tomb of Osiris hidden forever. She left us alone only when N.H. and I.A. explained that we were recording the sights of Ancient Egypt for our journal. Her talk of curses has upset me a little, but T. F. says not to be so silly.*

Despite our encounter with the so-called priestess we have decided, in the interest of science, to try fitting the amulet into the hole tomorrow after we have had a chance to inform the local authorities. Then we will inform the world... hopefully of some stupendous finds!!!

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: At this point Emily Sands' journal ends abruptly. It was followed by several blank pages, some of them bearing (coffee?) stains, which have not been included in this facsimile.

## THE 'BOOK OF THE DEAD'

This book in Egyptian is called "The Book of Coming Forth By Day". Its spells enable the dead person's "ba", or soul, to take different forms and travel in and out of the tomb. It also includes the judgement of the dead by a panel of gods, in which the dead person's heart is weighed against the feather of truth. The jackal-headed god Anubis weighs the heart, while the Ibis-headed Thoth, the god of wisdom, records the verdict. If the dead person is judged "true of voice" then he may pass into the realm of Osiris; if not, their soul is swallowed by the crocodile-headed Ammat, the "devourer".

*I.A. drew this picture of an interesting pit we found at Baga. We cannot start excavations proper before informing the authorities, but we simply must go back tomorrow!*





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 puzzling, and the disappearance of the party is very puzzling, but the world is not without other, equally puzzling, events.

As it stands, I think the journal is a very good publication. It has great charm and interest, and in Egypt eighty years ago it might damage its reputation.

Yours sincerely,

T.G.H.

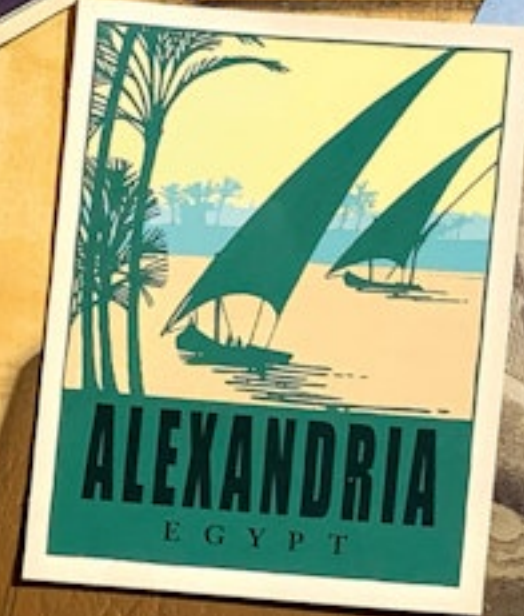
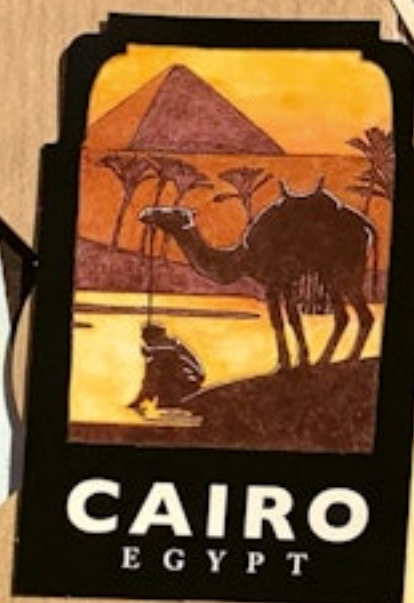
For

P.S.

Miss



Here is a sketch of Isankhamun's temple, which was actually found. It contained four holes, each holding a mummy, and was with the king's internal organs.



E.S.