

EGYPTOLOGY



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E G Y P T

Members of the Expedition
Dugald A. Steer, Writer
Nghiem Ta, Expedition Organiser
Ian Andrew, Draughtsman
Nick Harris, Artist
Helen Ward, Artist



*I.A.'s sketch
of Ramesses II
unwrapped.*

RANEAN SEA

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



• Beni
Hasan

• Amarna

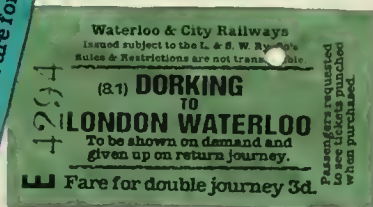
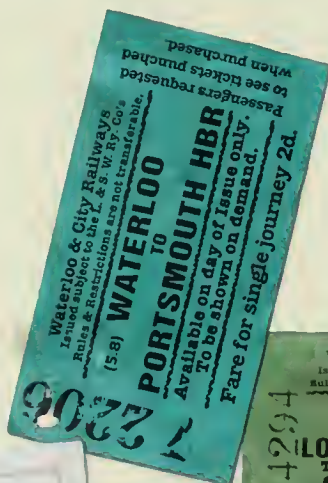
RIVER NILE

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

Edfu • Hieraconpolis

Philae and Biga • Aswan

Abu Simbel •



MUSEUM MEETINGS

Miss Emily Sands

Is invited to attend a lecture given by

HOWARD CARTER

"The Mummy's Curse — Fact or Fiction?"

The Rameses Room, Museum Street,
London, W1.

Friday 29th May 1925



CANDLEWICK PRESS
CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

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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.

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



WITHDRAWN

EGYPTOLOGY

SEARCH FOR THE TOMB OF OSIRIS

*Being the Journal of
Miss Emily Sands*

November 1926—



Ms. Joanna Sutherland
Artist-Illustrator
Tory Lane
Cambridge
Massachusetts



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



** Lady Farncombe,
the sponsor of my expedition,
made only one condition —
that I find artists to help
compile a pictorial journal
recording everything we see.*

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!



In order to travel up the River Nile, I have hired an old-fashioned dahabeeyah, or sailing barge. It comes complete with its own captain and crew and is called the "Benmu Bird."



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 Patsy's I spoke to some archaeologists who are going out to Giza. They told me that excavations in Egypt—near the pyramids and elsewhere—continue apace, with exciting discoveries being made on an almost daily basis!



I, too, could not resist sketching the Khan el-Khalili, the Cairo bazaar that we entered on a mission to track down a few final items of equipment. We sat peacefully sketching while we were assailed on all sides by eager tradesmen, keen to convince us of the superiority of their wares.



At the museum H.W. painted the statues of Raheleph & Nefret.

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 "dragoman," the museum curators spoke either French or English and were very helpful.



H.W. also drew this gold bracelet of Queen Theoph (left) and a wooden statue of King Amibre Her (right).



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!

V.H. set out early to paint these archaeologists carefully surveying the Giza plateau.



THE ORIGIN OF THE EXPEDITION

In the wake of the magnificent discoveries recently made here in Egypt by Howard Carter, I was struck with a sudden passion for all things Egyptological. Being a friend of the Farncombe family, I had heard of their old papyrus, and I asked Lady Amanda Farncombe if I could take a 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!"



CROWNS OF EGYPT

As king of both Upper and Lower Egypt, the pharaoh wore a double crown made up of the white crown of Upper Egypt and the red crown of Lower Egypt.



THE RED CROWN

This red crown was associated with Lower Egypt—the area from Memphis northward, around the Nile Delta.



THE WHITE CROWN

This is the crown of Upper Egypt, the area that stretched from Memphis southward to Thebes and beyond.



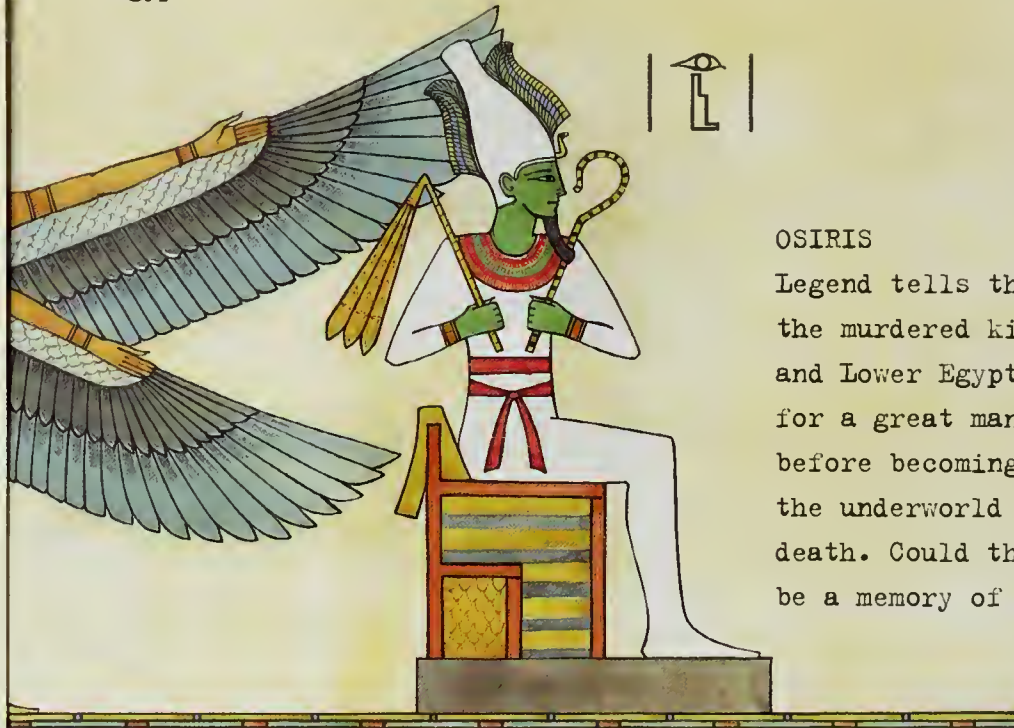
THE BLUE CROWN

This is known as the war crown because scenes of Seti I and his son Rameses II show them wearing it in battle.

nt Egypt

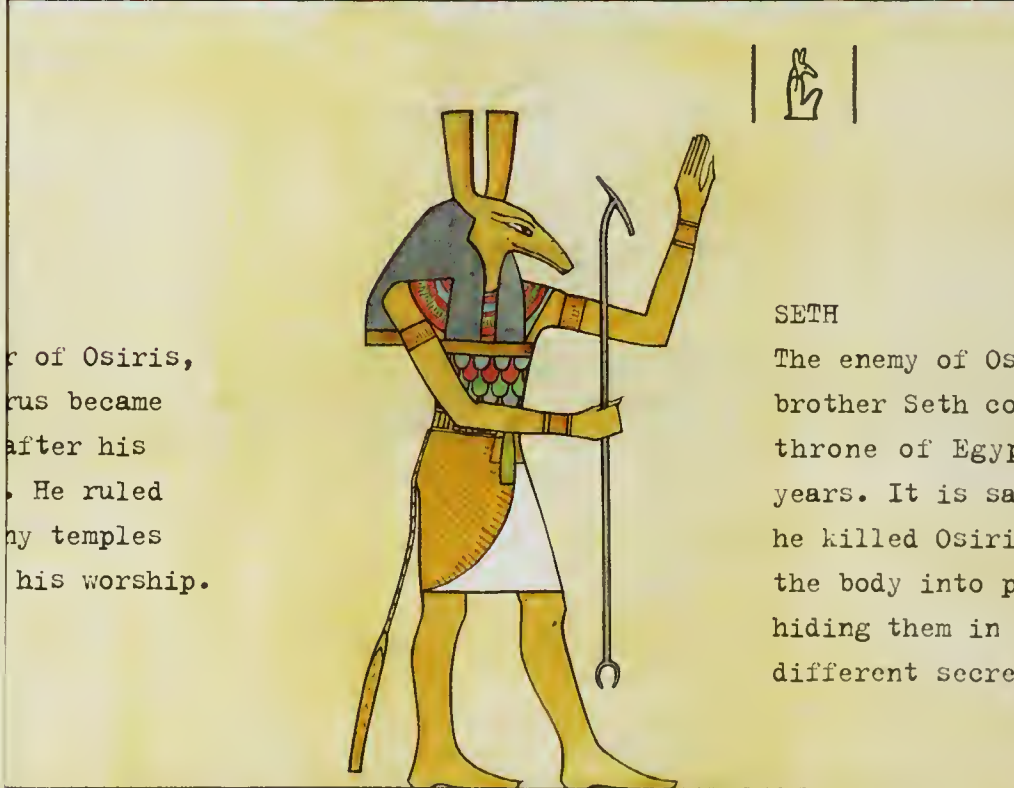
ing to give up
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the Ancient
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to Osiris. I
es in Egypt.

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



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?



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 fourteen different secret locations.

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writings of a third century BC Egyptian priest called Manetho. Although he 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?

Don't Get Burned
When You Buy a Hat . . .



With a Parish Hat, You'll Stay Cool
When the Going Gets Hot!
Parish: A Price for Every Budget

TEMPERATURES IN EGYPT

Min-Max	ALEXANDRIA		CAIRO		LUXOR		ASWAN	
	°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F
JANUARY	9.3-18.3	49-65	8.6-19.1	47-66	5.4-23	42-74	8-23.8	46-75
FEBRUARY	9.7-19.2	49-67	9.3-21	48-69	6.8-25.4	44-78	9.4-26.1	49-79
MARCH	11.3-21	52-70	11.2-23.7	52-75	10.7-29	51-84	12.6-30.4	54-86
APRIL	14.5-23.6	58-75	13.9-28.2	56-83	15.7-35	60-95	17.5-36	63-97
MAY	16.7-26.5	62-80	17.4-32.4	63-90	20.7-39.3	69-103	21.1-38.5	71-101
JUNE	20.4-28.2	69-83	19.9-34.5	68-95	22.6-41	72-107	24.2-42.1	76-108
JULY	22.7-29.6	73-86	21.5-35.4	71-96	23.6-40.8	74-106	24.5-42	76-108
AUGUST	22.9-30.9	73-87	21.6-34.8	71-95	23.5-41	74-107	24.7-41.3	76-107
SEPTEMBER	21.3-29.4	71-85	19.9-23.3	68-89	21.5-38.5	71-101	22.2-39.6	72-103
OCTOBER	17.9-27.7	64-82	17.8-29.8	64-86	17.8-35.1	64-95	19.3-36.6	66-99
NOVEMBER	14.8-24.4	59-76	12.1-24.1	54-75	12.3-29.6	54-85	14.5-30.2	58-86
DECEMBER	11.2-20.4	52-69	10.4-20.7	51-69	7.7-24.8	45-76	9.9-20.5	50-69

W
DES

TEMPLE OF SETI I



INTERNATIONAL DISTANCES

Distance in Miles	BOMBAY	CAIRO	HONG KONG	LONDON	NEW YORK	PARIS	RIO DE JANEIRO	ROME	SYDNEY	TOKYO
BOMBAY		2704	2681	4465	7788	4353	8327	3835	6309	4187
CAIRO	2704		5061	2178	5601	1993	6145	1325	8954	5944
HONG KONG	2681	5061		5976	8042	5980	10994	5765	4579	1785
LONDON	4465	2178	5976		3460	212	5775	889	10552	5398
NEW YORK	7788	5601	8042	3460		3624	4830	4277	9929	6737
PARIS	4353	1993	5980	212	3624		5705	686	10533	6035
RIO DE JANEIRO	8327	6145	10994	5775	4830	5705		5722	8384	11544
ROME	3835	1325	5765	889	4277	686	5722		10137	6124
SYDNEY	6309	8954	4579	10552	9929	10533	8384	10137		4858
TOKYO	4187	5944	1785	5398	6737	6035	11544	6124	4858	

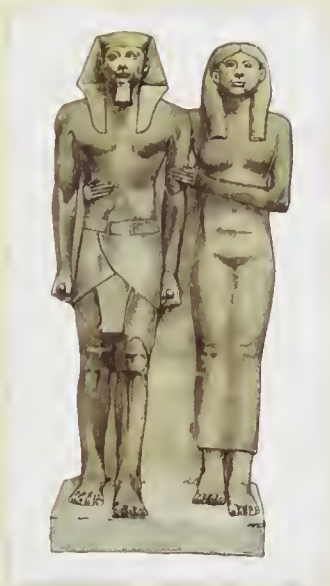


Walk Like
an Egyptian!

On a
Rambling Rameses
Walking Tour of Egypt.
Available November-February,
From Cairo to Luxor and Back

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. Taak 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 Menkaura and his wife (left) was found in his Valley Temple, near the small pyramid.

THE FUNERAL OF A PHARAOH

N.H.'s re-creation of Menkaura's funeral procession (below). 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!



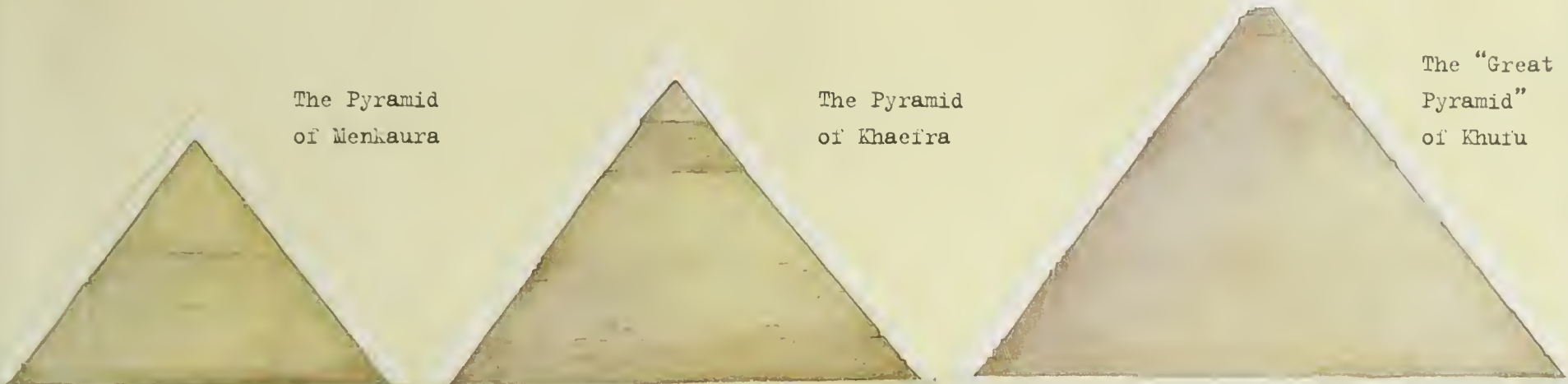
Built around 2680 B.C., the Great Pyramid is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—and the only one left standing.



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 Khuru (Cheops), Khaefra (Chephren), and Menkaura (Mycerinus)—were broken into in antiquity, and all their wonderful treasures were stolen. Apart from stone sarcophagi, they now all lie empty.



The Pyramid
of Menkaura

The Pyramid
of Khaefra

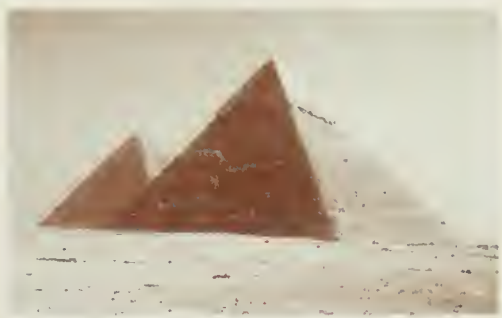
The "Great
Pyramid"
of Khuru

Around AD 800 Caliph Mamun used "fire and vinegar" to enter the Great Pyramid searching for treasure. In the 1800s Belzoni used gunpowder on Khaefra'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 Khaefra.



ORIGINAL SPLENDOUR

Originally cased in fine white limestone from Turah, 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 taken only a couple of days to sail the "Bennu Bird" from Cairo to Badrashein. From there we travelled by donkey to Saggara, the burial ground of Memphis, Egypt's most ancient capital. We will 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 reserved only for the pharaoh himself.



In the Serapeum, I startled 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 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 weigh 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 too dangerous.

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

While little remains of ancient Memphis, at Saggara we realised 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

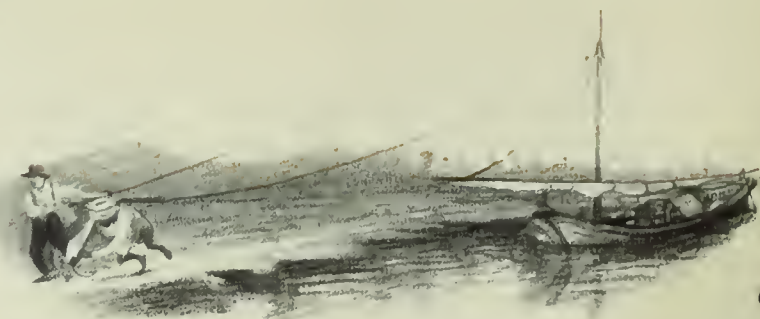
Saturday 27th November 1926

The wind dropped and the motor on our dahabeeyah 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 although 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. S. 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.

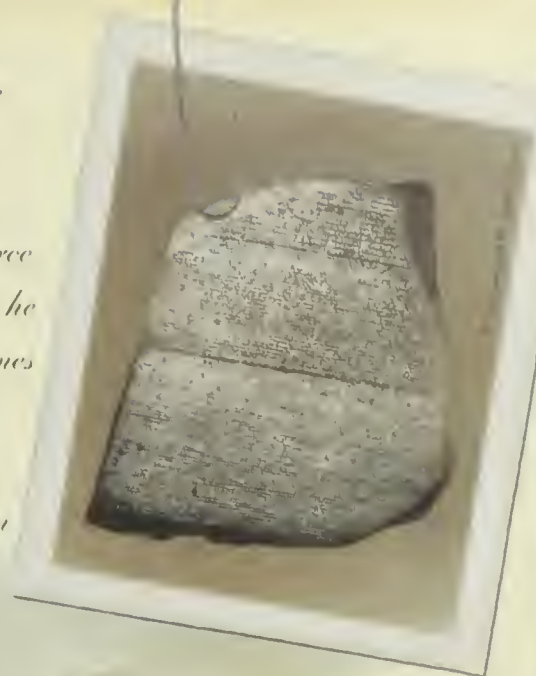
THE TOMBS OF BENI HASAN

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 could live forever too, 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.

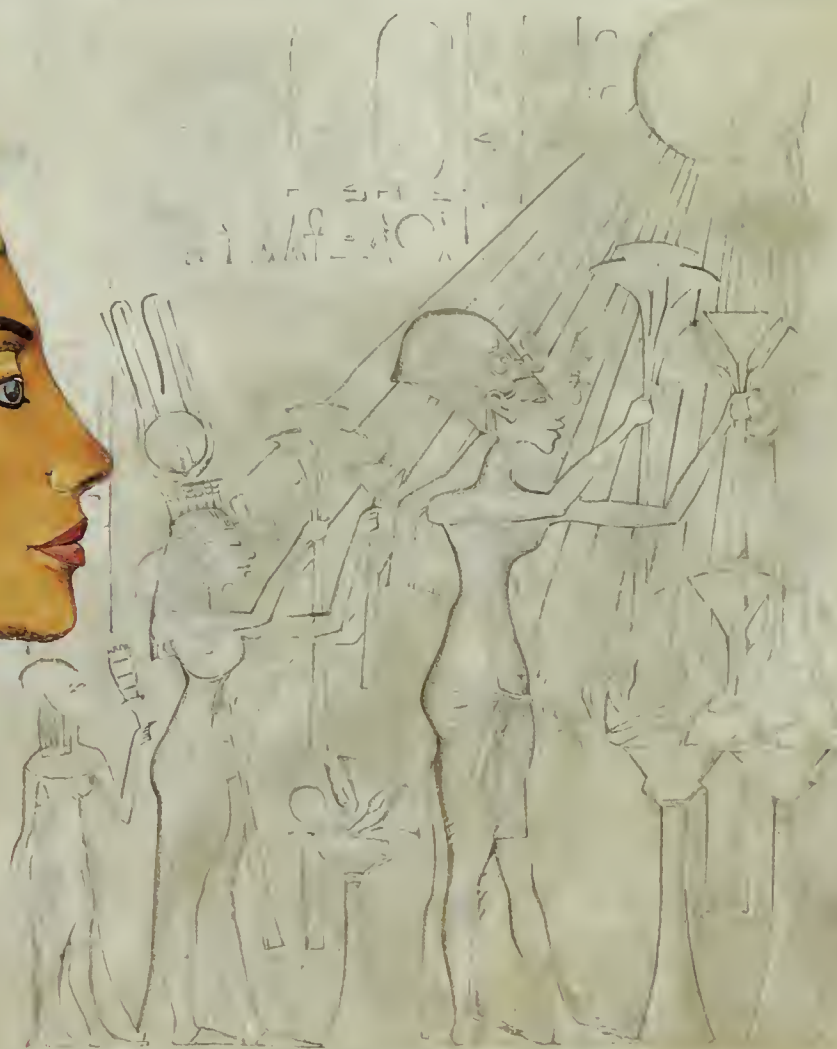
The Rosetta Stone enabled the French scholar Champollion to decipher hieroglyphs, as ancient scribes had written on it using three scripts. By comparing the texts, he was first able to recognise the names of Ptolemy and Cleopatra.



The sketch below 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.



UNDERSTANDING HIEROGLYPHS

Ancient Egyptians wrote using picture symbols called hieroglyphs. These symbols stood for both a sound and a word. So the symbol meant both the word **re**, meaning "mouth," and the sound **r**. When the symbol was used for the word, it usually had a line beneath it, like this (mouth). Otherwise it was combined with other sounds to make words, for example, or **rn**, meaning "name." As we do not know how Ancient Egyptian was pronounced, we add an **e** to **rn** and pronounce it **ren**. Besides using single-letter signs like (**r**) and (**n**), the Ancient Egyptians also used signs standing for more than one letter like (**pr**), (**nfr**), and (**ankh**). Again we add an "e" to the first two, pronouncing them **per** and **nefer**.

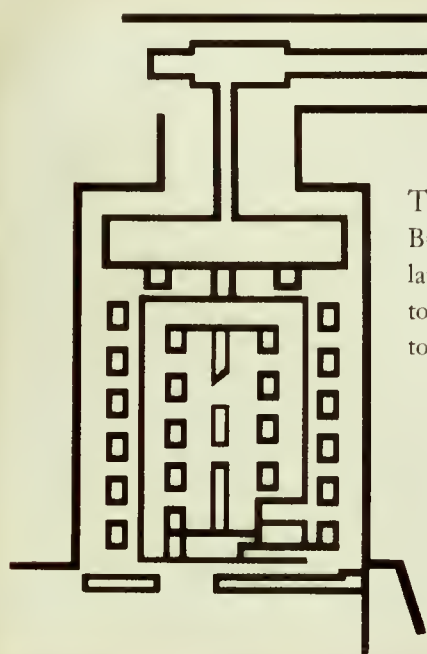
SINGLE LETTER SIGNS

	a		i		q
	a		j		r
	b		kh		sh
	d		kh		s
	f		k		tj
	g		m		t
	h		n		w/u
	h		p		y

At Sacred Abydos

Friday 10th December 1926

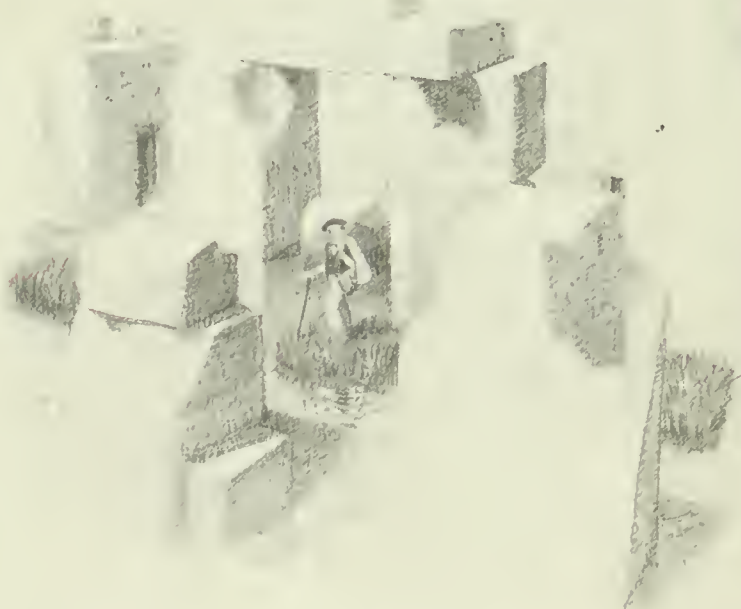
At last we have arrived at Abydos, the most sacred site in all of Egypt, and the centre of Osiris worship. Here, behind the Temple of Seti I, father of Rameses II, there is a mysterious, half-flooded temple known as the Osireion. I have made contact with an archaeologist friend of Lady Farncombe called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



THE OSIREION
Built by Seti I, it was
later falsely thought
to be the site of the
tomb of Osiris.

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.

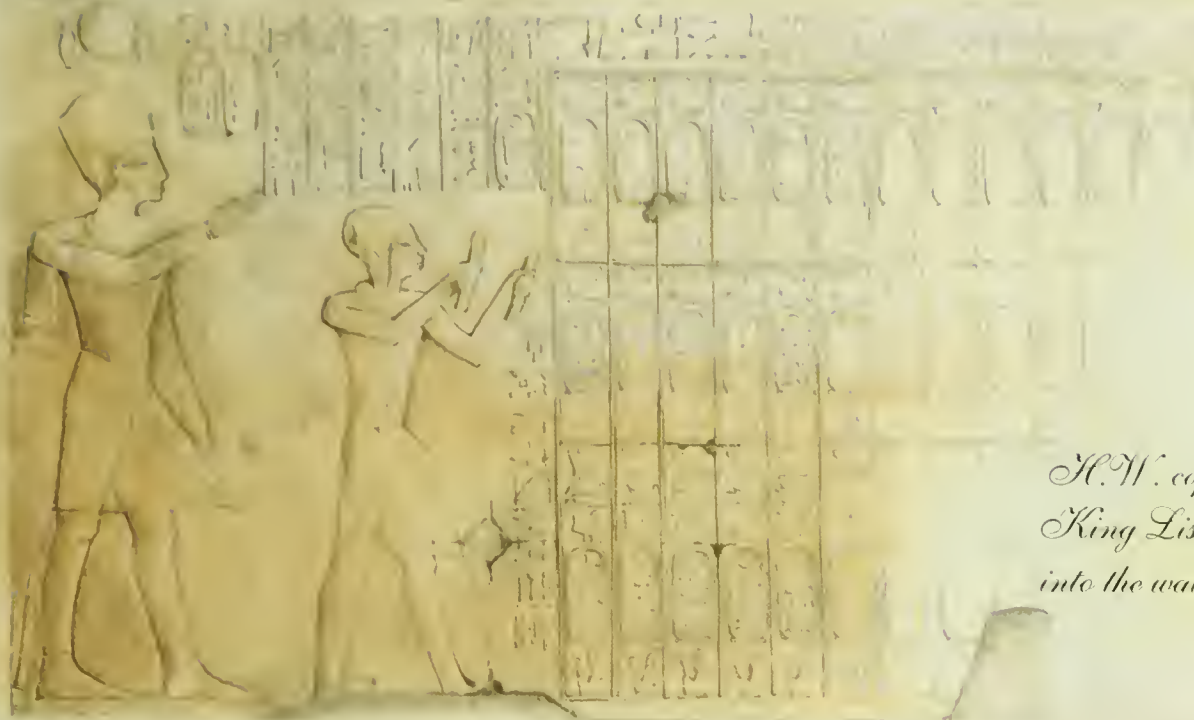


*Here is J.A.'s sketch of the waterlogged
Osireion. N.H. seems unsure how to go
exploring without getting his feet wet!*





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



H.W. copied a part of the King List of Seti I carved into the walls of his temple.

TEMPLE WORSHIP

N.H.'s re-creation 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. (We need to get a flashlight!)



1. Plumb Line — to mark out the excavation area.
2. Trowel — to move the soil away carefully.
3. Pegs — used with string to section off the excavation area.

Mr. John was kind enough to let us go and see a dig he was working on. There, we realized 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 undertake a dig of our own.

Deir El Bahri

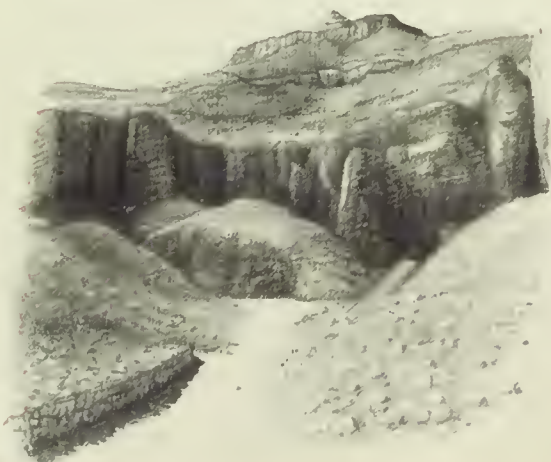
Sunday 12th December 1926

We have been onboard the "Bennu Bird" for just over a month now. To pass the time, we often play a game called Senet, a sort of Ancient Egyptian checkers. 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.



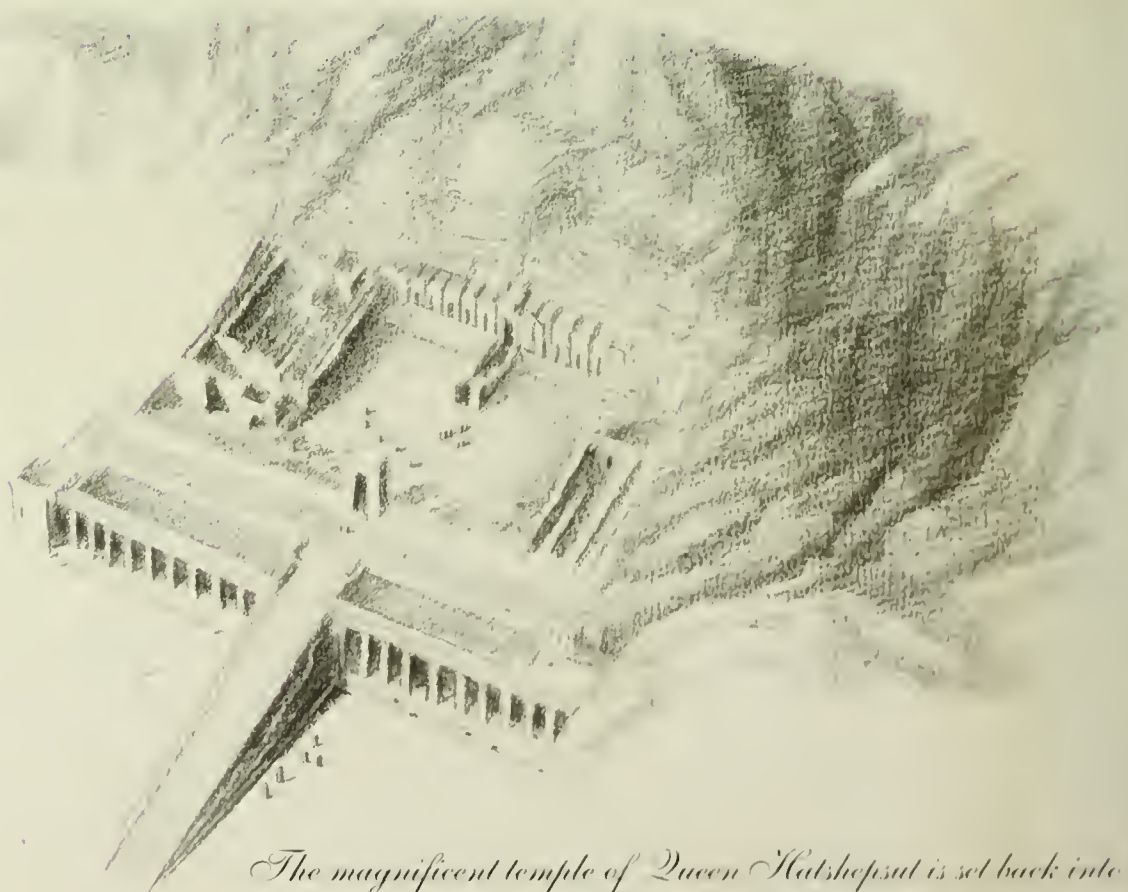
Near the ruins of the tomb-builders' village of Deir El Medina, we had an eerie moonlight encounter with a jackal. I could almost fancy it was the jackal-god Anubis himself watching us.

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 lost tomb.

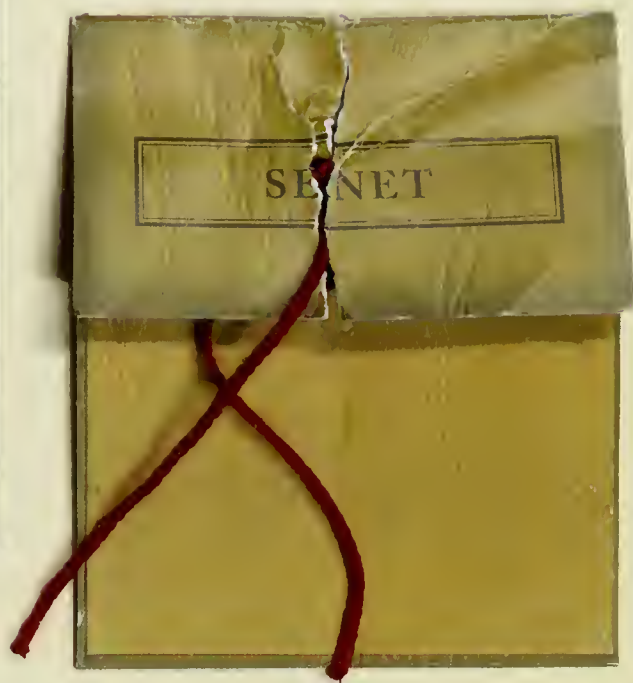
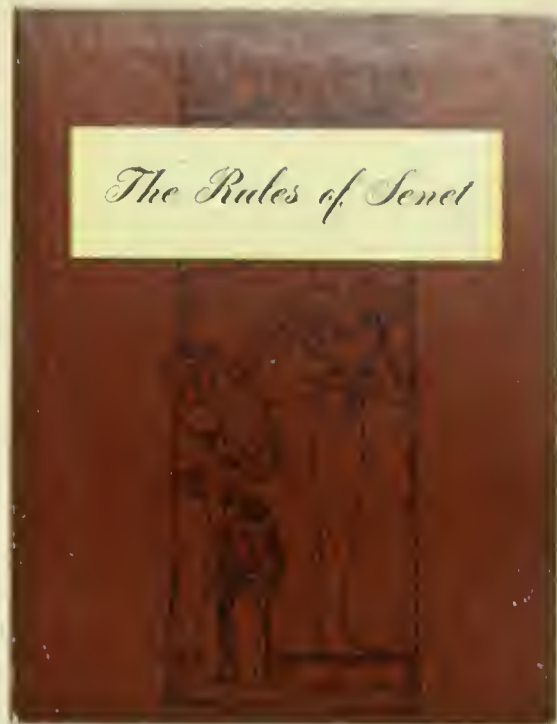


THE SATIRICAL PAPYRUS

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 about 3,000 years old!

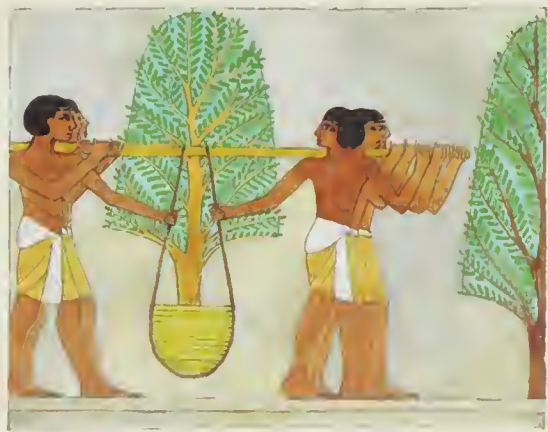


The magnificent temple of Queen Hatshepsut is set back into the rock, not far from the Valley of the Kings. She may have been a queen, but she still wore the artificial beard of the pharaoh!



EGYPTIAN VOYAGES

Mr. Taak informed us that the Ancient Egyptians appear to have had 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, so cedar was imported from Byblos, in 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

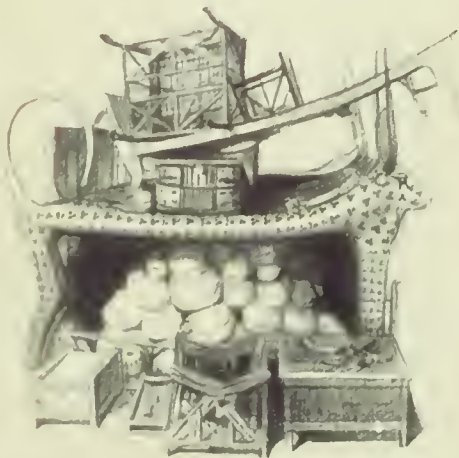
the queen must have sent artists and scribes to record the event. In the first picture, we can see the King and Queen of Punt coming to greet the Egyptians. In the second, we can

see the stilt 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 Valley of the Kings

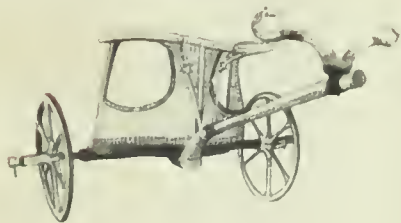
Thursday 16th December 1926

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 22½ pounds 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 among the many items found in his tomb.

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

THE TREASURES OF KING TUTANKHAMEN

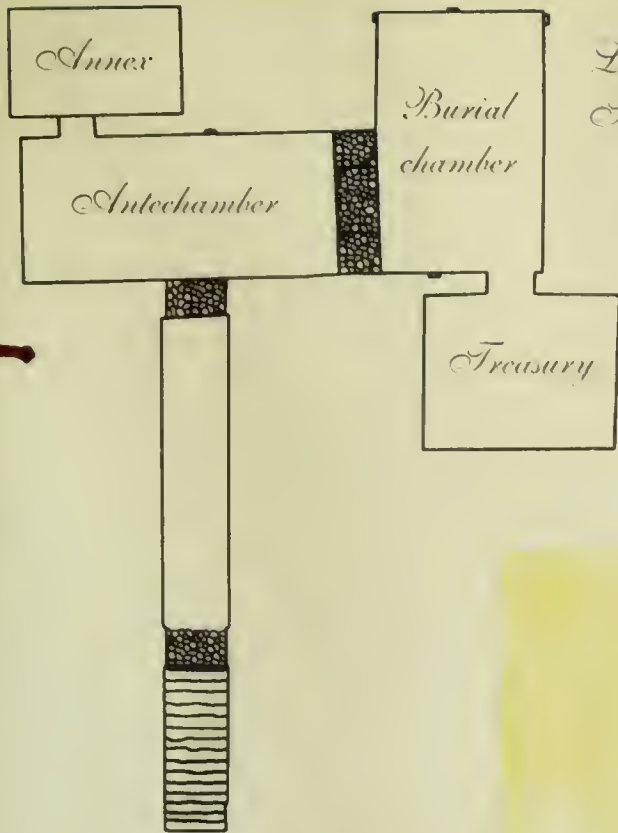
Although his tomb contains some of the most wonderful and precious antiquities ever found, we were told that King Tutankhamen himself was a not very powerful monarch: his short reign ended when he was only about



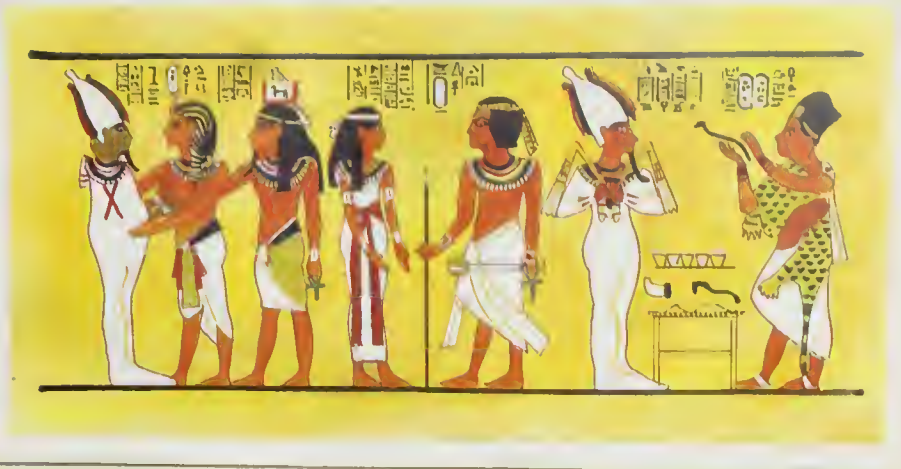
Although we did not manage to see Carter, we were invited to a highly enjoyable "tea in the tomb" of Rameses II, which has been converted into an Egyptological dining room!



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 Rameses II!



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 FINGERS & 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.



#2

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 Tutankhamen's 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.

H.W. and J.A. enjoyed creating paper coffins of the boy king.

Karnak and the Colossi Saturday 18th December 1926

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. From Luxor, site of the ancient Egyptian capital of Thebes, we crossed the river and visited the famous "singing statues" of Memnon—two huge sandstone colossi that stand some 60 feet high.



I.A. is imperturbable — for who else would attempt sketching during an episode of the fierce khamseen, the desert sandstorms, that leave even the most travel-hardened rushing for cover?

THE COLOSSI OF MEMNON

These colossi, which used to be known as "Shammy" and "Tammy," 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 299.

The southern statue shows Amenhotep III with his wife, Tiye, and a daughter.

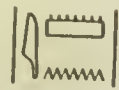
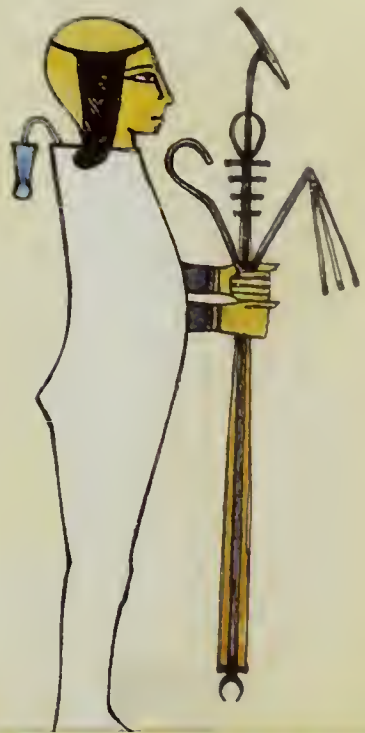
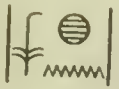
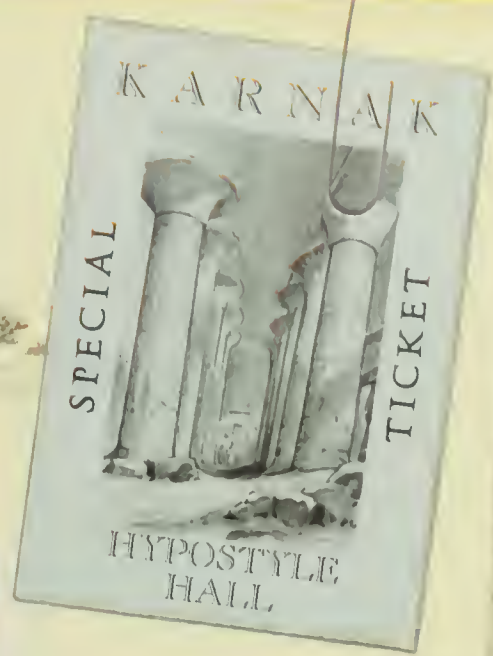
These statues were once merely the door wardens of Amenhotep's vast mortuary temple complex.

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 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.



ard, which shows two huge feet a famous poem by Shelley.

was connected to the Temple that ran along each side of



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 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.

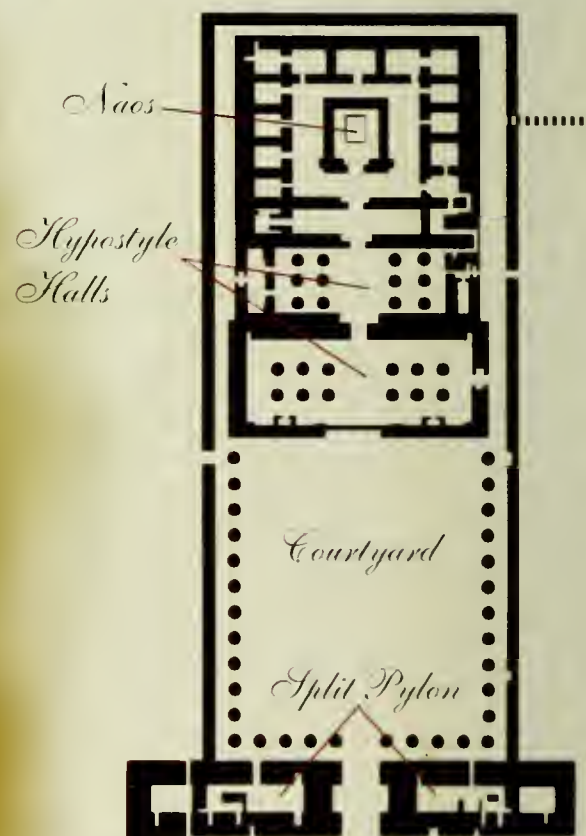
On Christmas morning we visited the ruins of Hierakonpolis, city of the hawk.

Hierakonpolis was the home of Upper Egypt's early kings. The eyes of this amazing golden hawk head found there are 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!

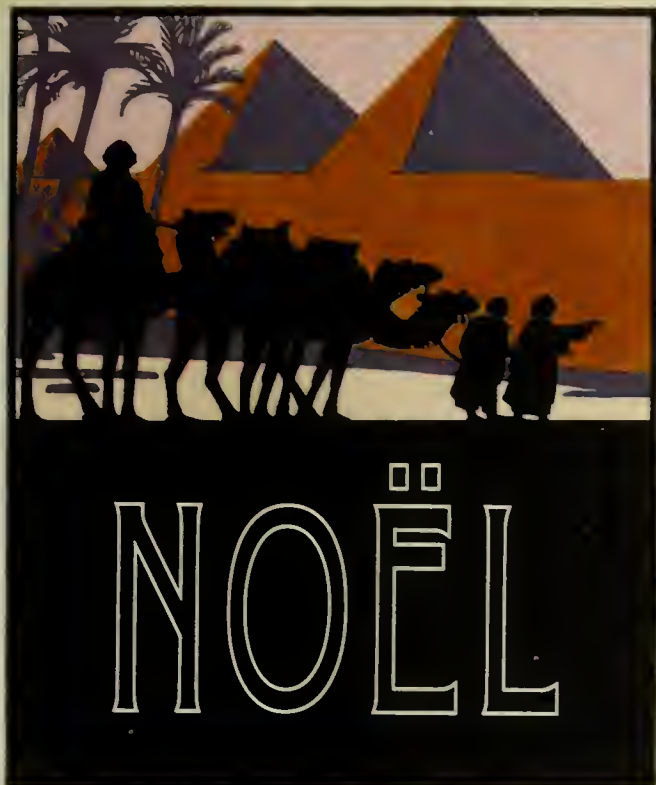
On Boxing Day, we stopped at Edfu to see the ruined Temple of Horus, the god who was the son of Osiris.



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? How I wish I had been able to speak more fully to that young man at Luxor!



the "Benu
lured lanterns.
d 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 Re amulet onto me, I was told by an American who had arrived from Aswan 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 foolhardy explorers, as J.A. demonstrated!



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.

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



Weapons of War



1. Khopesh sword 2. dagger 3. throw stick
4. axe 5. arrow 6. bow 7. spear

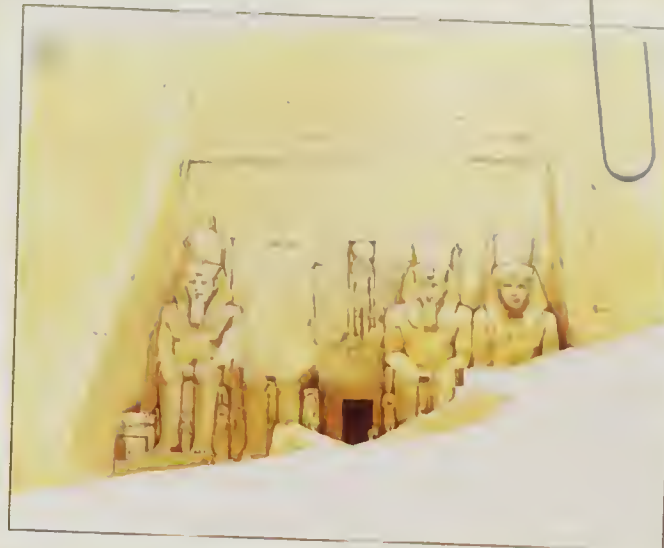


On the left are the main weapons used by Egyptian soldiers of the Middle and New Kingdoms. During the earliest period, before metals came into common use, flint axes, knives, and stone clubs and maces were used.



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

Right: a painting from the wall of the temple.



THE TEMPLE OF RAMESES II, ABU SIMBEL
Rameses 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.



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 Rameses II. It is not to scale, of course. As well as commissioning this temple to himself, Rameses 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 up-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 for burial of the dead.



Above: J.A. has sketched the tool used to extract the brains from the skull before mummification. Inserted up a nostril, the tool 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

Second, 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 ba to move about.

Horus leads Ani by the hand.



Ani Horus

THE EGYPTIAN BOOK OF THE DEAD Chapter 30b

The chapter for not letting Ani's heart create opposition against him in the gods' domain.

Osiris, the scribe Ani, saith: "My heart, my mother, my heart, my mother, my heart, my coming into being! May there be nothing to resist me at my judgment; may there be no opposition to me from the tribunal; may there be no parting of thee from me in the presence of him who keepeth the scales! Thou art my ka within my body which knitteth and strengtheneth my limbs. Mayest thou come forth

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 "Osiris, the scribe Ani."



We hired a small sailing boat, or felucca to take us out to Philae. To our disappointment, we found the ruins were 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. Taak 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 could hardly sleep with excitement. Today we went to the island of Biga. 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 Biga, we have taken lodgings in a little village near the shore. We will hire men here to help us dig.

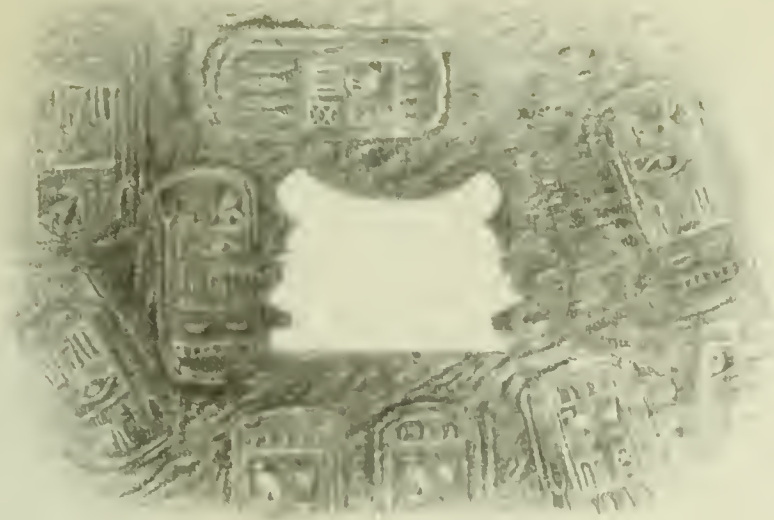


THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

In Egyptian, this book 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 judgment of the dead by a panel of gods, in which the dead person's heart is to be 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, his soul is swallowed by the crocodile-headed Ammat, the "devourer."

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





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

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!!!

As we were wondering what to do next, a rather strange old lady approached us claiming to be a "priestess of Isis."



She warned us about 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 A.H. and I.A. explained that we were just recording the sights of Ancient Egypt for our journal. Her talk of curses has upset me a little, but I.A. says not to be so silly.

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

T.G.H. JAMES

May 21, 2004

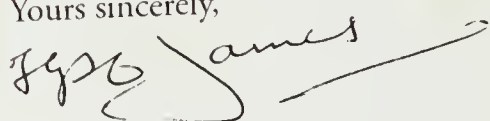
Dear Miss Sutherland,

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; 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 fanciful, although the mysterious disappearance of the party is very puzzling. I am not a believer in mummy curses, but the world is not without other, more prosaic, manifestations of malevolence.

As it stands, I think the journal might make an interesting, if curious, publication. It has great charm, and the illustrations are very evocative of travel in Egypt eighty years ago. It should be reproduced as it stands; tinkering with it might damage its naive attraction.

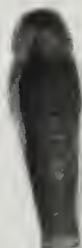
Yours sincerely,



T.G.H. James

Formerly Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum

P.S. I append some drawings and notes on Tutankhamun's canopic equipment.
Miss Sands would never have seen it.



Here is a sketch of Tutankhamun's canopic chest as Carter actually found it. It contained four lobes, each holding a mummiform coffin with the king's internal organs.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

In this facsimile we have retained Emily Sands's 1926 spellings for the Ancient Egyptian names featured in her journal. So *Menkaura* and *Khafra*, for example, may be better known today as *Menkaure* and *Khafre*. This also explains why Mr. James writes of *Tutankhamun*, in contrast to Miss Sands, who refers to that famous pharaoh as *Tutankhamen*.

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Dear Gordon,
Thank you

E.S.



"THE PYRAMIDS REMINDED ME OF
I CAME TO EGYPT TO DISCOVER —
THE DUSTY TOMBS, THE ORNATE
TEMPLES, THE CRIES OF TREASURERS,
AND THE STRANGE, UNEARTHLY
FAMILIES. BUT I HAVE ALSO COME
TO FIND SOMETHING MORE."

— *Emily Sands, 1926*

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