

**EGYPTIAN
ANTIQUITIES IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM**

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Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum by Samuel Sharpe

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EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

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DESCRIBED BY

SAMUEL SHARPE,

AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY

OF EGYPT.



Heaven bestowing knowledge on a man and his soul.

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JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,

36, SOHO SQUARE.

1862.

TO JOSEPH BONOMI, ESQ.

THE EGYPTIAN TRAVELLER AND STUDENT

OF EGYPTIAN ART,

This Work is Dedicated

WITH WARM THANKS FOR THE STORES OF ANTIQUARIAN

KNOWLEDGE SO FREELY COMMUNICATED

DURING THE FIVE-AND-TWENTY YEARS THAT

THE AUTHOR HAS HAD THE PLEASURE

AND ADVANTAGE OF HIS

FRIENDSHIP.

PREFACE.

THE Egyptian antiquities in the British Museum are arranged first, in a long gallery or series of rooms on the ground-floor; secondly, on the staircase which leads to the first-floor; and thirdly, on the landing-place and two rooms on the first-floor.

On the ground-floor are placed the heavier monuments of stone, from the sarcophagus and colossal statue down to the small funereal tablet. On the staircase are hung a few papyri in frames. On the first-floor are all the lighter works of art, such as mummies, vases, engraved stones, and porcelain models of mummies in the glass-cases, with a few large plaster casts fastened against the walls.

In this catalogue the above arrangement has, for the most part, been followed.

Part I. contains the principal monuments on the ground-floor, together with the large plaster casts which are fixed against the walls on the landing-place and first-floor upstairs. These are many of them royal monuments, and bear the names of the kings for whom they were made; and many others, which were made for private persons, have the names of the kings in whose reigns they were made. These form an Historical Series, and are arranged in the order of their antiquity, beginning with the oldest, and

coming down to those which were made under the Roman emperors two and three centuries after the Christian era.

Part II. contains the papyri which hang in frames on the staircase.

Part III. contains the wooden mummy-cases, the countless small objects in cases in the two rooms on the first-floor, which last are described in classes rather than individually. As there are few of these to which a date can be assigned with the same certainty as to the stone monuments below-stairs, they are for convenience sake taken in the order in which they stand in the glass-cases round the rooms.

Part IV. contains a few other Egyptian monuments which are scattered in other rooms of the Museum.

The dates are here given to the kings according to the author's History of Egypt; but it is almost unnecessary to remark that not a little doubt hangs over those given to some of the oldest of the Egyptian monuments. Those monuments which have kings' names upon them, and are more modern than the reign of Shishank, who fought against the Jewish king Rehoboam about the year B. C. 975, are seldom so far doubtful as twenty or thirty years. As to the earlier Theban monuments of Amosis, Amunothph, Thothmosis, and Rameses, some of our antiquaries would place them about 200 years earlier than the dates in this catalogue; and there are a few monuments which they

consider even 1000 or 1500 years older than our dates. Such are some of those found near the pyramids of Memphis, and such also are the Theban inscriptions which were made before the time of Amosis, who drove out the Hyksos, or shepherd kings, about the year B. C. 1540, according to this chronology. In the case of those monuments which have no kings' names upon them, their age has been judged from their resemblance, in respect to their mythology and style of art, to those which have names.

If the reader should wish to know the dates given to the Egyptian kings by the best-known German scholars, he may learn them by adding to our chronology three intervals of time, for which we have no buildings in Egypt; one of 200 years, one of 500, and one of 800. To our dates immediately before the year B. C. 1000, or between the kings of Lower Egypt and the great kings of Thebes, he may add 200 years. This is to be done upon the supposition that Rameses II, and not Thothmosis III, is the Menophra of the Sothic period, or of B. C. 1322. To our dates before the year B. C. 1450 he may add 500 more, or 700 in all. This is for the time when the shepherds tyrannized over Egypt, and is to be placed between the great kings of Thebes and the earlier kings, as if no native kings were then reigning; but this interval is not allowed by either Eratosthenes or the Tablet of Abydos, as shown in pages 76 and 78. To our date of the Great Pyramids and their builders he may add 800 more, or 1500 years in all; but this interval is not allowed by Eratosthenes, as shown in page 78. In this way, however, may be learned the dates sometimes given to the Egyptian kings according to what may be called the long chronology.