

**OTIA ÆGYPTIACA.
DISCOURSES ON EGYPTIAN
ARCHÆOLOGY AND
HIEROGLYPHICAL DISCOVERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649664641

Otia *Aegyptiaca*. Discourses on Egyptian Archaeology and Hieroglyphical Discoveries by George R. Gliddon

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GEORGE R. GLIDDON

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DISCOURSES

OR

EGYPTIAN ARCHÆOLOGY

AND

HIEROGLYPHICAL DISCOVERIES.

BY

GEORGE R. GLIDDON:

*Quis si fa quel che si sa?
E si sa quel che si fa.*

LONDON:

JAMES MADDEN, 8, LEADENHALL STREET,

Paris: HECTOR BOSSANGE.—New York: BARTLETT and WELFORD.—
Philadelphia: JOHN PENNINGTON.

1849.

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P R E F A C E .

THE promise made to the readers of the *Ethnological Journal* having been performed, MR. BURKE's prefatory remarks sufficiently explain the incidents that suggested, in the first instance, the periodical publication of the following digest of American editorial reports.

In compliance with the wish of my friend MR. JAMES MADDEN, these pages are now offered in one volume to the student of Egyptology; and I beg leave to append a few personal observations.

The Course of Lectures herein presented, originally formed part of some *thirty* discourses, distinct from each other, and comprehending the more prominent discoveries in hieroglyphical literature, of which the subjoined *eight* are but selections. In the process of arranging the Newspaper reports for diffusion in England through the ETHNOLOGICAL JOURNAL, I became convinced that some additional Notes were indispensable: and their preparation led me insensibly into more digressions than were at first contemplated. Most of these were prompted by a local consideration.

During transient sojourns in my native land, where these studies have hitherto encountered no *popular* favor, the CUI BONO of hieroglyphical researches is a query that has fallen incessantly upon my ear;—frequently from respected parties whose high education ought to have ranked them long ago among the most ardent of CHAMPOLLION's disciples.

As far as the facilities at my disposal permitted, I have endeavored to answer this interrogatory:—in *Notes*, pages 33 @ 42, by pointing out the inevitable overthrow, through pending *pyramidal* revelations, of

above *three hundred* systems of Chronology, (including Archbishop USHER's in our Authorized Version,) for ante-*Abrahamic* ages, heretofore based upon biblical numeration :—in *Appendix D*, by attempting to indicate, that GEOLOGICAL science amply corroborates monumental deductions :—in *Appendix G*, by submitting sundry exegetical and other facts calculated to impress antagonists with the possibility, that some of the arguments with which it is still fashionable to obstruct scientific inquiry, or to veil the light of truth, are not perhaps so unassailable as they have been made to appear :—and in a concluding Excursus on *Berber* subjects, while Hebraical criticism has been partially continued, a few elements for the reconstruction of early African history and geography have been glanced at which may suggest new resources to fellow-laborers.

Controversy in these matters being neither courted nor deprecated, it remains to be seen whether objections, to the general tenor of the views herein advocated, cannot be rebutted through severer analyses, or overcome by a closer grapple: because, whatever may be the popular notion still current in this country concerning the *results* of Egyptian exploration, those who really know anything about them will cheerfully subscribe to the assertion of DE SAULCY :—“ En résumé, les études égyptiennes sont partout en honneur aujourd'hui. Si elles marchent trop lentement au gré des esprits inquiets qui ne croient à une découverte qu' autant qu' elle est complète, elles marchent avec sûreté; et chaque pas qu' on leur fait faire est assez vigoureusement empreint pour qu' il n'y ait plus à craindre que le mauvais vouloir, à défaut du temps, en puisse désormais effacer la trace.”—(“ De l'étude des Hiéroglyphes ”—*Revue des deux Mondes*, 15 Juin, 1846; page 969.)

The circumstances under which the desultory Articles that now appear in this little book were prepared, and the effort made to keep its price within general reach, may induce the charitable reader to overlook the many typographical and other blemishes it has been found impossible to avoid. A Table of *Errata* corrects the grosser errors. No attempt has been made towards literary excellence, because the Lectures themselves are published merely as *reported* by the Press, rarely adhering to the language of the MSS.; while everything in the *Notes* has been sacrificed to condensation. Nor will the generous critic expect that one who, taken from England to the Mediterranean at two years of age, has spent thirty-two summers out of his Father-land, during twenty-five of which the English tongue was unheard beyond a very limited circle, should not

be deficient in Anglican scholarship :—"car, s'agit il de mon style ? je l'abandonne. Veut-on s'attaquer à ma personne ? ma conscience est mon refuge. Est il question du fond de cet ouvrage ? qu' on entre en lice ; mais qu' on prenne garde aux *raisons* qu' on y apportera."—(D'OLIVET, "Langue Hébraïque restituée," Paris, 1815 ; *Introduction*, page 28.)

Yet, there is one topic on which I fain would dwell, did I not fear that its adequate exposition would make these preliminary remarks loom larger than the book itself.

The peruser of this sequel to my CHAPTERS of 1843, struck perchance with the indefinite length of time herein claimed for *Egyptian* history, may reasonably inquire, whether researches, founded upon the far more restricted chronology of other Nations, would yield a similar result ? I have not the slightest hesitation in replying in the affirmative ; because, if no such aggregation of the multiform data, through the critical synthesis of which the primaval history of Mankind can be rebuilt, has hitherto been *published*, this grand historical desideratum has nevertheless been achieved in *manuscript* by my excellent friend, M. HENRI VENEL, of Geneva, Switzerland.

My avocations during the last three years have been so migratory, that the *translation* of "Chronos," even with my Wife's effective and zealous co-operation, has not progressed as we hoped when the labor was undertaken ; but, inasmuch as the hundred and forty folio pages of the *English Manuscript* cover the entire ground of human history, so far as modern science has reusucitated it, from primordial epochas down to the days of CYRUS, I speak confidently in averring, that it would be difficult to point out a branch of this mighty theme which has escaped the venerable author's scrutinizing attention.

Without having availed myself, in these specifically-Egyptian investi-

* "CHRONOS.—Outline of a Grand Chronological Atlas, presenting the Parallel Histories of the *East* and the *West* ; or, a Synoptical and Synchronous Tabulation of Oriental and Occidental Events, from the earliest times to the death of Napoleon.—Based upon the latest Geological, Geographical, Ethnological, Archæological, Monumental, Biblical, and other Researches, and covering above 400 Pages, folio. Translated from the Author's original and unpublished French Manuscript, and edited, with Annotations, by GEORGE R. GLIDDON." (See APPENDIX to "Chapters on Early Egyptian History," &c., 1846 ; xth @ xiith editions.)