

# **LIBYAN NOTES**

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Libyan Notes by David Randall-MacIver & Anthony Wilkin

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**DAVID RANDALL-MACIVER & ANTHONY WILKIN**

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BY

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## PREFACE

THIS volume is the result of an expedition to Algeria undertaken in the spring of the year 1900. Our special object was to obtain such information with regard to the Berber tribes as should solve the vexed question of their early connection with Egypt. The scope of the work has, however, insensibly increased beyond what was originally intended, so that a certain amount of matter has been included which it is hoped may be of interest to the student of general Anthropology as well as to the Egyptologist.

The first place in our acknowledgments is due to Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie. It was his suggestions which originally inspired the idea of the work, and whatever value it may possess as a contribution to archaeology is due to the training acquired in working with him. In Algeria itself our obligations are many, but especial thanks are due to Mr. F. Hay Newton, H.B.M. Consul, and to Mr. F. Drummond Hay, H.B.M. Vice-Consul, at Algiers, for their kind advice and assistance. Finally, it is no less a pleasure than a duty to record that everywhere the French officials showed us the greatest courtesy and did all in their power to facilitate our enterprise.

D. R. M. I.

A. W.





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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

IF anthropology is a new science yet there have been both in modern and in ancient days many amateur anthropologists. Amongst the earliest of these may be placed various Egyptians who lived about 1300 B.C., and whose names are unfortunately unknown, though they have left published record of their theories. On the walls of the tombs of their royal masters, Seti I. and Merenptah, these untrained but not unobservant ethnologists have painted the types of the four races of mankind amongst whom the Egyptians of the nineteenth dynasty supposed the world to be partitioned. Here in the galleries of the royal necropolis of Thebes are shown the Egyptians themselves—"mankind" *par excellence*, the Asiatics, the Negroes, and the Libyans, each clearly differentiated by their peculiar dress and characteristic features.

The visitor to these tombs has from the first been struck by the curious fact that the Libyans were evidently conceived by the painters to be representatives of a race stock considerably fairer than the Egyptians. Whereas the latter are depicted in the usual red colour employed by their native artists in all periods, the Libyans on the contrary are white, with blue eyes and fair beards. The occurrence of white men of European type on a continent that is naturally thought of as inhabited mainly, if not entirely, by black races or by Semites, is a circumstance sufficiently curious to have aroused considerable interest; and since North Africa has come within the range of civilised power, observers have from time to time reiterated with no little surprise the statement that a large proportion of fair and even of blond persons is to be found among those Berber races which line the coast from Tripoli to Tangier, and extend far south into the Sáhara.