Review

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NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: The Tomb of Nakht at Thebes. By NORMAN DE GARIS DAVIES. With Plates in color by L. CRANE, NORMAN DE G. DAVIES, and F. S. UNWIN of the Egyptian Expedition and NINA DE GARIS DAVIES. (ROBB DE PEYSTER TYTUS memorial series, volume I.) New York, 1917. Pp. xxvi+80. With 29 Plates in color, in photogravure and in outline, and many figures in the text. Folio.

Since 1908 Mr Davies and his assistants have been slowly and laboriously amassing facsimile records of Theban tombs for the great Museum in New York, and this volume worthily inaugurates their publication. As to the *format* the page is somewhat larger than in the Fund's large Dêr el-Bahri volumes. Mr Carter's drawings in those volumes can hardly be surpassed, but in the case of *Nakht* luxurious hand-made paper, large type and exquisite reproductions of outlined and coloured drawings and photographs put the final result into a different artistic category for bibliophiles. Mr Davies has always cultivated the highest standard of accuracy and he has successfully impressed his standard on his artistic helpers.

The tomb of Nakht is one of the best known to tourists. There are tombs which greatly surpass it in size, beauty of decoration and technical interest, but the well-preserved colouring of its single decorated chamber make it the best example by which to realise the original appearance of a typical painted tomb of the Eighteenth Dynasty, and it is right that this little monument should be preserved for all time in a really adequate copy. The greater part of the decorated surface is reproduced not once but thrice, in photograph, in outline and in coloured facsimile.

Of Nakht himself and his kin curiously little is discoverable. His scanty titles show that he was a scribe or educated person who exercised also some small priestly function in the temple of Amûn. The date of the tomb is fixed by the costume and other details to the reign of Amenophis II or Tuthmosis IV. The usual scenes of banqueting, fishing and fowling, agriculture and cultivation of the vine occur in it. The most pleasing composition, a group of girls in a concert of musicians, forms the frontispiece of the volume. Of interesting or rare details we may note a tame cat devouring a fish, and a puzzling figure over the scene of winnowing, for which Mr Davies quotes two parallels in other tombs, apparently of some religious significance. The author observes the unevenness of the artist's work: when he was interested, as in the faces of the principal figures, he drew firm outlines with clear definition and detail; when he was merely getting through the task of covering space with conventional humdrum figures and inscriptions, they are as it were smudged in and must be unsatisfactory to copy. An extraordinary mistake, due to piecemeal, conventional work, occurs where the artist, having drawn the arms of the large figure in the act of spearing fish, totally forgot to put the harpoon into the hands.

The plates include a series of photographs of the range of foothills and cliffs forming the necropolis. The first of these, taken from a distant point, is marvellously fine. It is followed by others at closer range and narrowing down until the entrance of the tomb itself is the main object seen. A very interesting and suggestive chapter discusses a variety of general questions concerning the Theban necropolis and Egyptian funerary ideas: though published after Dr Gardiner's admirable and elaborate account of the *Tomb of Amenemhêt*, it was written before it and we are glad to have Mr Davies' independent views, derived more from the monuments and from general evidence than from the writings, which, after all, not uncommonly fail to tell us clearly the thing that we should most like to know. Mr Davies points out how the strong and joyous desire for earthly pleasures after death,

displayed in the tombs of the Eighteenth Dynasty, gave place in the Nineteenth to dwelling on imagined horrors of the Underworld; for scenes of daily life were thereafter substituted processions of demons, and for the first time it seems that the sadness, hopelessness or misery of death was expressed freely in the tomb. Mr Davies evidently inclines to the view that the sculptures and paintings in the necropolis, like those in the houses, were selected for their appropriateness and not for any magical effect such as Professor Maspero's theory involved; but Dr Gardiner in his memoir on Amenemhêt has brought forward some evidence again on Maspero's side. Mr Davies' suggestion that the paths and halls of the country house were imitated in the passages and transverse chambers of the tomb is noteworthy. The cost of this splendid memoir is borne by a fund given in memory of the late Robb de Peyster Tytus, whose interest in Egyptian research is thus bearing goodly fruit. Mr A. M. Lythgoe contributes a short preface.

F. LL. GRIFFITH.

Beschrijving van de Egyptische Verzameling in het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden: Mummiekisten van het Nieuwe Rijk, tweede Serie. By Dr P. A. A. BOESER. Haag: Nijhoff, 1917. Pp. 8; 1 coloured and 11 photographic plates. Folio. (Text in Dutch or in German.)

This ninth volume continues the photographic publication of the mummiform coffins, belonging to the later part of the New Kingdom, which was begun in 1916 (see *Journal*, vol. iv, p. 66). It includes four numbers, all of which belong to the old collection purchased from Anastasi; very complete drawings of them are in Leemans' *Monumenten* and are useful for comparison with the photographs. The first two numbers belong to one person, being the entire inner coffin and the lid of the outer coffin of a certain Amenhotp who was "priest of Amûn and of Mût and prophet of the *yeb-yeb* (portable statue¹) of Amûn." A funerary papyrus probably of the same individual, though with additional titles, is in the Louvre². On the chest of the outer coffin-lid the deceased is represented standing before King Amenophis I, who is entitled "the *yeb-yeb* of Amûn," with his mother queen Ahmose-nefertere and his grandmother Ahhotp; thus "the *yeb-yeb* of Amûn" here means nothing more nor less than the divine statue of the deceased King, who is known also elsewhere by this designation³. The whole of the coffin, inside and out, is covered with inscriptions and representations of deities and genii, including a strange ass-headed mummy holding up a lizard. This coffin may belong to Dyn. XX. The same may be said of the other two numbers, viz. the lids of the coffins of (1) Espnebeueb, a "fore-priest of the god Chensemwêse-Neferhotp (Nephotes) and registrar of the young men of the temple of Chons"—as "fore-priest" he was one of the front bearers of the sacred bark of the god⁴—and (2) a *kauti* (clerk of the works?) of the temple of Ammon named Papai, son of the *kauti* Es-amûn. The photographs reach the high standard to which we are accustomed in the Leyden publication, and Dr Boeser has in this volume given copies and translations of most of the inscriptions.

F. LL. GRIFFITH.

The New Archaeological Discoveries and their Bearing upon the New Testament and upon the Life and Times of the Primitive Church. By CAMDEN M. COBERN; Introduction by ÉDOUARD NAVILLE. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Co., 1917. Pp. xxxiv+698. 113 illustrations. 8vo.

Professor Cobern has rendered good service in thus presenting under one cover and in popular, readable form the results of nearly a half-century of archaeological labours. The volume relates to the New Testament, and comprises two divisions: (1) Manuscripts and documentary sources so far as they bear on the subject, and (2) Monuments and inscriptions. What has been scattered through memoirs, journals, and numerous volumes, the reader will here find summarized. The text is enhanced in interest by a collection of fine illustrations of sites, monuments, and photographs of the men who have done so much to create the field.

Starting with Deissmann's pronouncement (1895) on the unique value of the papyri, Cobern has summed up under suitable headings the range of discoveries in the realm of Biblical Greek—the place of the Koinê in the history of the language, the area over which the discoveries have occurred, the light

¹ See LEGRAIN, *Rec. de Trav.*, XIII, 180.

² DEVÉRIA, *Catalogue des MSS. du Louvre*, p. 56, III, 6.

³ See GAUTHIER, *Livre des Rois*, vol. II, p. 206.

⁴ LEGRAIN, *Annales du Service*, vol. XVI, p. 163.