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THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT

BY HILDA FLINDERS PETRIE, *Hon. Sec.*

[See Plate XXIX]

THE principal work of this season has been at Lahūn, round the pyramid of Senusert II. The four sides of this pyramid were completely cleared along the base, and outward to the second enclosure wall. It is found to have many features not known elsewhere, and a complete clearance down to the bare rock has proved needful for understanding the site. The excavations here and at Harageh occupied five months, and over a thousand pounds in direct digging has been spent at Lahūn alone. As this pyramid was cut into a rocky hill, it has retained many features which have vanished where the construction was of material which could be removed. The pyramid was surrounded by a wide trench filled with sand, which was intended to drain off rain water from the limestone casing. This trench was enclosed by a wall, partly in rock cased with stone, and partly stone-built; this wall was panelled like an early mastaba. Beyond this was the court of the royal burials, with fourteen tombs, enclosed in a great temenos wall of brick, 17 feet thick, and about 30 feet high. Of this, 15 feet height still remains, where it is built against the rock. The court was drained into a series of water pits in the rock. Outside of the temenos wall were trees planted in line round the whole enclosure, forty-two on a side.

The chief discovery, beyond the many architectural features of interest, was that of a treasure belonging to one of the princesses at Lahūn. It is of the same character as the Dahshur jewellery, and was probably made in the same royal workshops. This is by far the most valuable group that has fallen to any excavators outside of the Government service, being worth the returns of a dozen good seasons.

The whole group had been left in a recess of a tomb which had been attacked by plunderers, who broke open the granite sarcophagus, and entirely rifled the burial, but they left the valuables untouched, on one side. The name of the princess is given, on the fine canopic jars of alabaster, as the Royal Daughter Sat-Hathor-Ant. She was a daughter of Senusert II, and lived under Amenemhat III.

The outfit of jewellery comprises:—

The crown with uraeus and fifteen flower rosettes round it, on a broad gold band; at the back rise high plumes of gold, at the sides and back hang down streamers of gold. The whole is 18 inches high.

Fig. 1. Mottoes and scarabs: gold inlaid.

Fig. 2. Gold inlaid pectoral of Senusert II.

Fig. 3. Lion heads and cowries of gold from two collars (scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

Two pectorals with names of Senusert II (Plate XXIX, Fig. 2) and Amenemhat III, of gold inlaid with lazuli, amazon-stone, and carnelian, and minutely engraved on the back.

Armlets of gold bars and beads fastened by sliders inlaid with carnelian, with the name of Amenemhat III.

Bracelets of gold bars and beads; also with knots and lions of gold.

Two great gold collars of cowries and double lion heads (Plate XXIX, Fig. 3).

A collar of balls and pendants of gold, lazuli, amazon-stone, and carnelian.

A necklace of rhombic beads in the same materials.

An amethyst necklace of deepest colour with gold claw pendants.

A silver mirror with obsidian handle inlaid with gold and carnelian, and a cast gold head of Hat-hor.

Five mottoes of carnelian inlay in gold (Plate XXIX, Fig. 1).

Two inlaid gold scarabs (Plate XXIX, Fig. 1), and a scarab of Amenemhat III of the richest lazuli.

Thousands of gold ring beads, over a pound weight.

Three obsidian vases with gold mounting, and a similar kohl pot.

Eight alabaster vases.

Remains of two caskets of ivory and gold.

The second site of Harageh, four miles from Lahūn pyramid, gave a rich return in objects of the XIIth Dynasty; wooden and stone statuettes, gold amulets and amulet cases, strings of amethyst and other beads, several fine steles, hundreds of scarabs ranging down to the XVIIIth Dynasty, and a large number of glazed statuettes of gods of the XXIIIrd Dynasty. It proved one of the richest class of cemeteries.

The work at Lahūn was conducted by Prof. Flinders Petrie—Mr and Mrs G. Brunton, and Rev. C. T. Champion helping us; that at Harageh was under Mr R. Engelbach, while Mr F. Frost, Mr B. Gunn, Mr D. Willey, and Dr Walter Amsden joined either camp according to the needs of the excavations. My own share was chiefly in pyramid survey and tomb-plotting. Sites are in hand for next year which promise well. The jewellery will be published in colours in the new volume on the pyramid, "The Treasure of Lahūn," and the remainder of the work in the second annual volume, entitled "Harageh."

The excavators' share of the jewellery will be on view at the Annual Exhibition of Antiquities at University College, Gower Street, during July.