113. Prehistoric Egyptian Carvings.

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PREHISTORIC EGYPTIAN CARVINGS.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Egypt.

With Plate L.

Petrie.

Prehistoric Egyptian Carvings. By *W. M. Flinders Petrie, D.C.L., LL.D., Edwards Professor of Egyptology at University College, London.* **113**

The accompanying photographs of carvings have not yet been published, and such work is so rare that it needs to be put on record. Each object is shown on one side in the upper half with Arabic figures, on the other side in the lower half with Roman figures. All the objects are five-sixths of actual size.

1. A unique slate carving, bought in Cairo some years before prehistoric work in slate was discovered. The head has a lump on the forehead, which has the outline of a clenched fist, but without any details of the fingers. The reliefs upon this cannot be read as hieroglyphs, although some might be identified; the birds are indeterminate, like most of those in early use; the second sign might be *neb*, the third *maa*. The incised signs on the back differ from the others, but none can be read with certainty, though the last one might possibly be *amiut*. From the style, compared with what has since been found, I should refer this to a date shortly before the age of Mena.

2. Another carving in slate, of a fish form. The combination of the tail of the fish developed into the head of some other animal is what is now familiar to us in the prehistoric slate palettes, though this was bought in Cairo before those were known. The relief signs are linked together from opposite sides by the serpent which passes over the top edge: on No. 2 are two birds and the *neb* basket, with half the serpent; the remainder is on No. II. with a hoe, a *neb* basket, and another bird. From the work this appears to be of the same age as the previous object.

3. Carving in ivory, apparently the handle of some object. Fig. 3 should be turned with the hole end downward; then is seen a figure of the hippopotamus goddess Taurt, standing on two long thin legs, with a brief tail, grasping a crocodile by the hind leg in her right hand, and in her left hand holding the tail, which she is apparently devouring; the head of the crocodile hangs downward. No such scene of Taurt and a crocodile is known elsewhere. Fig. III. shows a dog chasing a deer. The cross lining of these figures belongs to the earlier prehistoric time, and is not found on the late carvings.

4. This small flint knife is of the usual work, one side ground, the other flaked. It is the smallest knife that I have seen highly finished. The handle appears to belong to it originally, as it agrees in size, and it is very unlikely that such a small knife and handle should be found independently. On Fig. 4 are two cerastes serpents twice crossed, caduceus-fashion, and between them two six leaved rosettes. On Fig. IV. is a lion, a leopard, and a hedgehog. The character of this side is much like the Pitt-Rivers knife handle (*Naqada*, pl. lxxvii.) with rows of animals; but the serpents are an entirely new grouping, only coiled figures of single serpents being known before from prehistoric times.

5, 6, 7. Pendants of shell, apparently to be worn on the forehead. Many pendants are known of plain oval forms, made of shell, marble, and copper, but decorative ones are very rare. A few have a hook on the inner side of the lower end, as is seen here in Fig. V. The mat-work pattern of 5 suggests that these pendants may have been made of twisted fibre lashed together. The pendants in form of a standing female, 6, and a seated female, 7, seem from their material and nature to belong to the same age as 5, with which they were sold by a travelling dealer as being of one group. The hole for suspension was just below the head, and the figure has naturally broken down at so weak a point. The long robe is already known to us as being worn in the earliest dynastic times, probably before Mena, on some ivory figures of girls from Hierakonpolis, and in the time of Mena on the ivory figure of a girl in the tomb of Bener-ab.

That these objects were face pendants is shown by actually finding an oval example on a forehead, and by all of them fitting well to the forehead, the hook coming in over

the bridge of the nose. The use of face-pendants belongs to the later part of the pre-historic age ; and the well-formed figures here may well belong to the dynastic race who brought in artistic work. The use of a hook at the lower end clearly points to a face veil being suspended from it, and indicates that the latter prehistoric people wore face veils, which have been re-introduced by the Arabs into modern Egypt. The shining pendant of white shell or polished copper is evidently akin to the burnished gilt metal ornament now worn on the forehead by Egyptian women, from which the face veil is suspended.

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.

Crete: Fauna.

Boyd-Dawkins.

Remains of Animals found in the Dictæan Cave in 1901. By 114
Professor W. Boyd-Dawkins, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

The remains of the animals discovered by Mr. Hogarth in the Dictæan Cave in 1901, and sent to me for identification, present points of considerable interest. They belong partly to animals which have been sacrificed in the Sanctuary of Zeus and partly to animals which have been eaten and left in a lower stratum to form a refuse heap similar in every respect to those invariably found in caves which have been occupied by man. They form an important contribution to our knowledge of the wild and domestic animals in Crete in the Mycenean and early Greek periods.

The conditions of their discovery were as follows : The larger specimens were obtained from an untouched deposit in the atrium of the cave (*Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Vol. XVII., p. 355) three feet in thickness, which rested upon a layer of gravel. They were associated with fragments of charcoal and of pottery. Three fragments sent along with the bones belong to three flat-bottomed bowls similar to those described by Dr. A. J. Evans in the above paper. One of these, covered with stalagmite, is of thick

FIG. 1. FRONTLET OF *Bos domesticus*, VAR *creticus*.

red ware made on the wheel ; another is of thin red ware, hand-made, with little stones embedded in the paste ; and a third of black pottery, fine in the grain, with a polished surface.

The smaller, or refuse-heap

bones, were derived from the lower stratum, and are therefore of higher antiquity than those obtained from the undisturbed layer above.

The following species have been identified : 1. *Bos domesticus*, variety *creticus*—A frontlet (Fig. 1) with two perfect horncores, from the upper deposit, belongs to a small domestic bull. It has been hacked off the rest of the skull and has probably been fixed to one of the sides of the shrine or to the altar, as a *Bucranium*.

It presents the following measurements :—

	mm.		mm.
Anterior width between horncores -	190	Length of horncore -	180
Middle - - - - -	170	Basal circumference of horncore -	167
Posterior - - - - -	144	Between tips of horncores -	490
[162]			