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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Egypt.

With Plate G.

Naville: Hall.

Excavations at Deir el-Bahari, 1905-6. *By Professor Edouard Naville, Hon. D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D., and H. R. Hall, M.A., F.R.G.S.*

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The excavations of the season of 1905-6 have steadily carried the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund at Deir el-Bahari forward towards its completion, but the end is not yet reached. There is much yet to be found at Deir el-Bahari, and if the experiences of the last three seasons are repeated next year, much to be found that is of the highest archaeological value. We therefore repeat the appeal made last year in MAN on behalf of the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund. During this, the third season of the work, we had the valuable help of Mr. C. T. Currelly, replacing Mr. Ayrton, who had left the service of the Fund.

The work of 1904-5 had consisted chiefly in the clearance of the central platform of the XI dynasty temple, which was discovered in December, 1903. The square edifice in the centre of this platform was then explained as the base of the funerary pyramid of the king Neb-hapet-Ra Mentuhetep, who built the temple. This explanation, which was tentatively adopted last year, has only been confirmed by the work of this season. As was anticipated, there is no other building between the square erection and the cliffs, which can have been the pyramid of King Mentuhetep, which existed at Deir el-Bahari in the time of the XX dynasty (Abbott Papyrus). (There is another claimant to the honour of having been his pyramid, at Dra' Abu'l-Negga, but the claim is probably erroneous.) The work on the platform was pushed back nearly to the base of the cliffs, and, again as was anticipated last year, has revealed in the position predicted* the sloping descent to the entrance of a rock-cut tomb, which, to judge by its position and size, is that of King Mentuhetep. This remains to be excavated next year.

FIG. 1.—XVIII DYNASTY HOUSE IN SOUTH COURT.

Actually this was the last discovery of the season. The first work carried out was the completion of the excavation of the southern court of the temple, which was begun last year, and resulted in the discovery of the statues of Usertsen III.† In the course of this work the southern stone temenos wall of the temple was found (Pl. G., Fig. 1). It proved to be of the same style as the southernmost wall of the great temple of Deir el-Bahari, which wall was therefore shown to be really the north temenos wall of the XI dynasty temple. This southern wall was followed up for some distance eastward. At its junction with the boundary wall of the south court, some brick ruins were found,

* *Proc. Soc. Bibl. Arch.*, June, 1905, p. 180.

† MAN, 1905, 66.

FIG. 1.—EXCAVATION OF THE S. TEMENOS WALL OF THE XI DYNASTY TEMPLE: JAN. 1906.

FIG. 2.—DISCOVERY OF THE COW OF HATHOR IN HER SHRINE: FEB. 7, 1906.

FIG. 3.—THE COW OF HATHOR.

DISCOVERIES AT DEIR EL-BAHARI, 1905-6.

which are probably of the XVIII dynasty (Fig. 1). The XI dynasty walls were certainly partly broken down when these houses were built. But they cannot be much

later than the XVIII dynasty, since the level on which they stand, only a few inches above the original level of the XI dynasty court, cannot have been seen, certainly, since Ramesside times. The houses are therefore certainly not later than the Ramesside period, and are probably earlier, since fragments of pottery found in the bricks seem to be of XVIII dynasty date, or may be even older. The photograph shows also the cross-wall of the southern court, the temple platform beyond, and, away to the right of this, the pillars of the south lower colonnade.

FIG. 2.—RUBBISH STRATA AT WEST END OF TEMPLE.

On the platform the plan of the portion of the temple behind (west of) the tombs of the priestesses was made out. It is merely the court or dromos of the (probably) royal tomb, which has already been mentioned. In the court or avenue was found a large stele of Usertsen III, recording his gifts to the temple of Neb-hapet-Ra. The rock is artificially cut on either side down to the level of the platform, to make room for this avenue of approach to the tomb. On either side is a colonnade of six pillars. Three of these on the left-hand side are shown in the photograph (Fig. 2), which gives a good idea of the nature of the rubbish which covers the temple. Lying partly over the furthest pillar (which is half hidden by the second) is the mass of confused stone *débris* consisting simply of actual chips of the smashed stonework of the temple which covers the whole site. It is in this

FIG. 3.—THE TEMPLES OF DEIR EL-BAHARI : DECEMBER, 1904.

that the fragments of painted bas-reliefs are found as they were thrown where the Ramesside quarrymen left them after their work of destruction. To the left of this, above the two small boys with baskets, is the rock face, which turns inward, forming the beginning of the avenue to the tomb, immediately in the line of sight beyond the first pillar. Similarly in appearance immediately above the first pillar, we see a "pocket" of compact wind-blown dust, lying where it drifted up against the rock. Above this and the heap of *débris* which rises to the right, is a stratum of the same wind-blown dust upon which water has lain for a considerable period, coagulating it and rendering it almost as hard as cement. Above this are the tip-heaps of the modern explorers, Mariette and others. This layer of modern rubbish is shown in the photograph being cleared off the top of the ancient rubbish, the top layer of which is the water-hardened dust. This layer of dust which covers the actual *débris* of the temple must have taken centuries to form, as of course it settled down imperceptibly, but nevertheless is often several feet thick. This photograph will show how utterly impossible it is that the actual pavement of the temple can ever have been seen since Ramesside times.

In the course of last year's work the beginning of a building of XVIII dynasty date, at a higher level than the XI dynasty temple, and apparently built over part of it, was found at the north-western end of the platform. The work in this direction was stopped in December 1904, and was not resumed till the completion of the work in the Southern Court in January of this year. The building, which was much ruined, proved to be of the time of Thothmes III. In it was found a fine perfect statue of a scribe, of the period of the XIX dynasty. It was a sort

FIG. 4.—THE TEMPLES OF DEIR EL-BAHARI: DECEMBER, 1905.

of forecourt, approached by steps (?) from the platform of the XI dynasty temple, to a small *speos* or rock-shrine of the goddess Hathor, which, with the image of the cow-goddess found in it, is the great discovery of the year. (Pl. G., Figs. 2, 3.)

The shrine was erected in the reign of Thothmes III, and the image of the goddess was dedicated by his son, Amenhetep II. The *speos* was cut in the rock and the sides and roof were covered as is customary with blocks of sandstone, as the natural rock is unfitted for sculpture. The roof is vaulted and painted blue with yellow stars, in the usual manner, to represent the vault of heaven. The walls are decorated with the customary scenes of offerings made to Amen-Ra and Hathor. The length of the chapel is 10 feet, its width 5 feet. Within it, when found, still stood the image of Hathor in her form of a cow, life-size, with a small figure of the king Amenhetep II, who dedicated it, advancing under her protection before her. The king reappears at the side as a boy, kneeling beneath her to be suckled. The goddess is advancing from out of the papyrus marshes, and a novel and rather fine effect of composition is given by the way in which the papyrus stems rise from beside her forefeet and, bending over

in the wind, blend their lines with those of her head and head-dress. She wears the high feathers of divinity, and the papyrus stems, bending over as they do, effectually support this head-dress, which otherwise might easily have broken off.

The modelling of the whole, and especially of the head and face, is superb. The cow is a splendid specimen of the Egyptian high-standing variety of domestic cattle. But, further, she is every inch a goddess as well as a cow. She is the divine cow Hathor, goddess of the West and more especially of Deir el-Bahari, in person, coming out from her mountain sanctuary, as she is depicted in the *Book of the Dead*. This is evidently the scene represented on the various paintings on linen depicting offerings being made to her, which have been found during the excavations.

The cow, which is of sandstone, is painted reddish-brown with black spots. The head, horns, and flanks have evidently been overlaid with gold. Other figures of the kind are known, notably the Saite one in the Museum of Cairo, and a fine granite one at Florence; the head of a similar figure in pure white alabaster was found by us last year at Deir el-Bahari, and is now in the British Museum. But this is the first time that an image of this kind has been discovered intact in its sanctuary. It is also the largest of the type known.

FIG. 5.—BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE XI DYNASTY TEMPLE FROM THE CLIFFS OF DEIR EL-BAHARI.

Both shrine and cow have been removed to Cairo and have been set up in the museum, where also the splendid XI dynasty reliefs and the sarcophagus of the priestess Kautit from last year's work are now exhibited. The authorities of the British Museum have also speedily erected in the Egyptian Gallery the three granite statues of Usertsen III and the great Osiride figure of Amenhetep I, also found last year.*

This year's discoveries, as well as coloured reliefs of the XI dynasty, from the last two years' work, will be shown at the annual exhibition of the Egypt Exploration Fund, which will be held, by kind permission of the College Council, at King's College, 160, Strand, W.C., from July 10 to August 4.

The progress of the excavations at Deir el-Bahari is well exhibited in the two photographs (Figs. 3 and 4) which show the two temples from the same point (high up on the ghafir's path to the Biban el Muluk) in December, 1905, and December, 1906. In the foreground (or rather in the *Abgrund*!) is the XVIII dynasty temple with its ramp, two upper colonnades and court, in front, of the entrance to the central *speos*. Beyond is the duller form of the XI dynasty temple, upon its rectangular platform. In the first photograph the pyramid base appears only partly disengaged from the superincumbent rubbish. In the second, taken a year later, the whole of the

* MAN, 1905, 66.

platform and pyramid base are seen cleared. Fig. 5 shows the temple seen in bird's-eye view from the top of the cliffs, 400 feet above it. This gives a good idea of the plan.

The completion of the excavations is fast approaching and the two temples will then be seen side by side and clear of rubbish and fallen rocks, as they were in the time of the XVIII dynasty. Except for Mariette's work in the Great Temple, the excavation of this remarkable site is entirely due to the Egypt Exploration Fund, to whose work the two temples will remain an ineffaceable monument, *ære perennius*.

EDOUARD NAVILLE.
H. R. HALL.

Africa, East.

Bramly.

The Bari Tribe. *By Captain Alwyn Jennings Bramly.*

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The Bari are a large tribe of Nilotic negroes whose territories extend into the Soudan, the Uganda Protectorate, and the Congo enclave. Formerly they were a large well-organised and warlike community possessing immense herds of cattle and cultivating broad tracts of country reaching back far from the banks of the Nile. Unluckily for them the Dervishes instituted raids far and wide through their land, and now they exist, a small remnant of their former strength, along a narrow strip close to the borders of the Nile. Journeying through their country the traveller is struck by the great number of deserted villages marked by circular rows of upright stones about 3 feet high, the sites of their former tukls or huts. These villages are generally found in open, park-like country, now, however, becoming more or less overgrown by thorn scrub. They possess practically no cattle, and their villages, confined as they are to the river banks, have not the stability of the old settlements, being built of reeds and mud only. The inhabitants grow millet, groundnuts, and sesame: the first in a good year more than supplies their needs; it is their staple food and drink, as *morissa*, the only intoxicating liquor of the country, is made from fermented millet; the old men live on *morissa* entirely and eat practically nothing. As a race they are fine and tall physically, the men averaging about 6 feet, but they are extraordinarily lazy and unenterprising even for Nilotics. Their women do all the work of cultivating the ground, the men only condescending to help in building their huts. They wear no clothes in their own homes, the women smearing themselves all over with a red clay, obtained from white ant hills, which, combined with sesame oil, gives them a fine polish. They have now become sufficiently civilised to wear "*americani*" cloth when they visit a station. The men do not hunt, and as the pastime of war has ceased to exist for them, the young generation has lost the habit of keen observation so marked in tribes accustomed to kill their daily food. They are absolutely useless as trackers or shikaris and know nothing about the haunts of game near their villages.

The Acholi and the Madi, their neighbours to the south, are, on the other hand, mighty hunters, organising great beats and driving the game before them into nets skilfully hidden in the long grass, behind which again are other natives ready to spear anything which may get entangled. They also kill elephants by surrounding a herd in the long grass and setting fire to it, spearing the wretched half-blinded beasts when they finally summon up enough courage to force their way through. Luckily this method can only be practised at one season of the year when the grass is high and dry enough to burn easily.

However, to return to the Bari, the latter do not seem ever to have hunted game, although in Sir Samuel Baker's time they were very warlike. They were essentially a pastoral people until the Dervishes killed all their cattle; now they cultivate a fair amount of land and possess a few goats only. In religion they believe in the power of their chiefs as rainmakers. On a man's death the widow rubs wood-ashes instead of