Griffith, Francis Llewellyn
The inscriptions of siut
and Der Rifeh
THE INSCRIPTIONS

OF

SIÛT AND DÊR RÎFEH.

COLLECTED BY

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1889.
TO THE TWO FRIENDS,
WHOSE GENEROSITY ENABLED ME
TO ENJOY
THE PRIVILEGES OF A STUDENT OF THE
EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND,
I DEDICATE
THIS VOLUME OF INSCRIPTIONS.
If a small portion of the sums of money that, in the name of scientific research, have been spent in Egypt on treasure-hunting for antiquities, on uncovering monuments and exposing them to destruction, on unwatched excavations from which the limestone sculptures have gone straight to the kiln or the village stone-mason—if a small portion of this had been utilised in securing systematically throughout the country accurate and exhaustive copies of the inscriptions above ground and in danger, the most important part of all the evidence of her past that Egypt has handed down to our day would have been gathered intact, instead of mutilated beyond recovery.

If the remainder of those sums had been devoted to watching, and taking proper measures to preserve, the monuments of Egypt, the present century would not have been destined above all other periods to the maledictions of posterity on account of the searching and unrelenting damage of every kind done to these records, that had weathered so many centuries with hardly an injury, and that should have delighted mankind for so many ages to come.

Each year a vast amount of damage is done, but there is still much that can be saved. The resources of Egyptology are considerable for good as well as for evil, and there are perhaps signs to encourage those who cannot but take a gloomy view of the present state of things. Meanwhile my heartiest wish is that the present publication along with a hundred others equally imperfect will soon be superseded.
INTRODUCTION.

Considering their accessibility and importance, the tomb inscriptions of Siut have been strangely neglected, and I have every reason to believe that the present publication will supply a much felt want. My endeavour has been, in the first place, to obtain accuracy in the readings and completeness; secondly, to give a faithful transcript of my own copy; thirdly, to add to it materials for future correction and restoration. The task has entailed more labour than may be realised by the reader, who I hope will none the less pardon the rudeness of my drawings.

The discovery of a mass of fresh material since the Plates were drawn, and consequent delays which gave me further opportunities for revision, have resulted in burdening the texts with more notes than are convenient. But until a fresh comparison with the original can be undertaken, I shall refuse to alter my own copies or to omit annotations that may still lead to the true reading: and I believe that no Egyptologist will quarrel with this decision.

Gladly would I have placed at the head of this little memoir the names of the two friends to whom I owe so much, but that privilege was refused me. Let me however here repeat my thanks, in the one case to a connoisseur of art who, exercising a wise philanthropy, has given a start and encouragement to many enterprises; in the other case to a dear relative to whom I am bound by acts of particular kindness.

I must also thank those who have assisted me in matters more closely connected with the present work, namely: in England, the Committee of the Egypt Exploration Fund, and especially Miss Amelia B. Edwards, Mr. R. S. Poole, and Mr. Grueber; also Mr. Le Page Renouf, Professor Hayter Lewis, and the Rev. W. J. Loftie; in Egypt, Mr. Petrie, Count Riamo d’Hulst, Dr. Grant-Bey, and M. Ed. Naville; whilst I must draw special attention to the fact that Professor Maspero of Paris and Professor Erman of Berlin have not only contributed directly to the contents of the Plates, but have also subjected those numbered from I to XIX to a close revision. Their cordial interest in the work has, I need hardly say, been the greatest possible encouragement to me.
SIÛT.

In two visits, December 31, 1886—January 1, 1887, without ladders, and May 21-29, 1887, with clumsy native ladders, I copied and revised the inscriptions from DéR Riše to Siût, with the exception of Tombs I and II at the latter place. It is clear that the Siût hill was once rich in memorials of the Middle Kingdom, but I could discover inscriptions in only five tombs, the same that have long been known to Egyptian travellers. Two of these, I and II, may be attributed to the XIth dynasty, the other three to the IXth or Xth. In England I added to these copies all the texts published by Lepsius, Brugsch (Recueil), Mariette, De Rouge, Maspero, and Erman, together with all their variations or suggestions, besides taking numerous notes from the "Description de l'Égypte"; moreover, Mr. Renouf lent me some good copies that he had made. I also obtained permission from the Committee of the Egypt Exploration Fund to be absent for a fortnight from the excavations of the following season.

In 1888, from the 16th January to the 5th February, I was engaged at Siût, and having already much exceeded the time agreed upon, was quite unable to proceed to Riše. The Committee of the Exploration Fund was however well satisfied with what had been done, and furthermore, contrary to my expectation, paid all the expenses of travelling and stay at Siût.

When preparing my note-books in England, in the case of important inscriptions I assigned four vertical or horizontal lines to each line of the original, and so had plenty of space for annotation. But the abundance of false readings and other circumstances made it necessary, after the first collation with the original, to make a fair copy, into which were introduced many improvements resulting from subsequent collations. I was anxious to obtain the original reading of obscure and mutilated passages, which unfortunately abound, and this was only to be done by long-continued and repeated examination of the parallel texts in the tombs. Some long and handy ladders borrowed from Mr. Petrie enabled me to closely examine the lofty walls, and catch the merest shadows of signs by holding a candle at every possible angle. For the sake of clearness, all the effaced signs were inserted in red ink amongst the black ink of my fair copy. One more such revision after a thorough study of the texts should complete the recovery of the inscriptions. Unfortunately my hieroglyphic vocabulary was then exceedingly limited, and even such a common word as $\frac{\pi}{\lambda}$ was a total stranger to me: I had therefore to depend almost entirely on eyesight for the restorations, which however are in general fully confirmed.

Since my return from Egypt I have collected some new material. In Paris indeed (where I unhappily lost a note-book containing two inscriptions) the MSS. of Nestor de l'Hôte furnished scarcely any material for this memoir. From Berlin, however, Professor Erman, most kindly forwarded for my use his collation of the MS. copies of Brugsch and Dümichen, supplying several signs and groups that have become illegible on the original. Above all, in London, last October, after the Plates had been drawn, I had the good fortune to find some copies by Arundale (1834?) in the Hay MSS. of the British Museum. Made evidently with the help of a good ladder, they might long ago have solved many difficulties. Lastly, since commencing to work seriously on the philology of the inscriptions, I have found many passages quoted in Brugsch's dictionary: but very few of these are accurate, though Herr Brugsch's copy is, I think, the most careful of any that I have yet seen, except perhaps Arundale's, which still abounds in little faults. The truth is that high ladders, with an infinite expenditure of time, trouble, and patience, and candles in corresponding quantity, are necessary for making good transcripts in such places.

The Plates of Siût are drawn from the fair copy. For the revision of I—XIX I was exceedingly fortunate in obtaining help from MM. Maspero and
Erman. Many of the emendations of these great scholars appear in the notes upon the Plates, while the queries of Professor Erman have besides unearthed several faults that I had committed in recopying, and that I was able quietly to correct without impairing the genuineness of the text. Where I found clear corroboration of a queried sign in Arundale’s copies, or a proof of some kind in my own, the word *sic* is inserted on the Plate; where I still feel a doubt the suggestion has been placed in a note.

I am not quite satisfied with the numbering of the lines. To combine logic with convenience is not easy, and I have simply followed the numbers in my note-book, proceeding in each tomb from the interior to the façade.

All signs not in existence in January, 1887, are treated as restorations. Where no authority is stated for a restored sign it is conjectural. For the meaning of abbreviations etc., *vide* Plate XX.

In the following notes I use the word *band* in the sense of the French *registre* when describing scenes superposed on the same wall; and in connection with doorways, the word *framing* denotes the lintel and jambs (which of course are cut in the solid rock), and *thickness of wall* is the part in which sculptures are seen to right and left in passing through the door.

**XIIth Dynasty.**

Tombs I and II. The first is elaborate; the scheme of the second seems not to have been completely carried out.

**TOMB I.**

*(See PI. I-X, and Plan, PI. III.)*

The sculptures are raised about 6 feet above the floor, over a plain band or *dado.*

**Shrine.**—Sculpture only, no painting. At top *A*

Back (west) wall two bands—

(1) upper, l. 1-4, MS. Dümmichen.

(2) a. South half defaced, probably similar to north, or else statue in the round?

b. North half, II. seated ←→, in front 3 female relations standing holding lotus flowers ←→, l. 5-12, MSS. Brugsch and Dümmichen (continued smaller in 5th band, north wall);

also (3) below the 6 feet level, a, centre defaced lower part of statue?, b, on south a false door, l. 13-15, much defaced.

South wall, PI. I and II, 5 bands of equal height, the upper scene comprising 4.

(1)-(4) at west end II. seated ←→; above him titles, l. 20-25, Mariette, Mon. Div., 68a, MSS. Brugsch and Dümmichen; in front, table of offerings, l. 65: (1) (2) names of offerings in two rows, l. 25-64: (3) priests performing services, l. 64-71: (4) priests et al., bringing offerings, l. 72-73.

(5) family headed by two sons, l. 74-76, offering (to the defaced figure or statue on back wall).

**North wall, PI. II and III, similar to south but reversed.**

(1)-(4) I. before table ←→, receiving offerings, l. 85-133 (l. 80-85 = Mariette, Mon. Div., 68a, MS. Dümmichen).

(5) family offering, l. 134 (continued l. 5-12 on the back wall).

**East wall (and entrance) now blasted away, PI. II, scenes 1-8, now destroyed, are from Deser. Ant. IV, Pl. 45. In the text they are said to have filled the spaces between the doorway and the side walls. Probably there were five bands, as on the side walls, but perhaps only four: no space over the doorway?. I have assigned the eight scenes in the Description to the north and south according to direction of figures. A portion of scene 4 remains at the top of the wall on the north.**

Walls of chamber surrounding shrine and passage formerly with paint on plaster?

**Great Hall.**—Ceiling painted on plaster with basket and scroll-work, cornice painted □□□□ and □□□□ blue on greenish-black: line of titles (blue) down the centre from south to north, defaced.

West wall, traces of painted scenes at south end.

Central doorway, inscriptions incised and painted green; destroyed except l. 150-155, which are very much damaged; l. 155a insert (copy): at end of l. 154 I have omitted “1” (restored).

South doorway, inscription incised and painted green, framing l. 160-163; thickness of wall on south, l. 170-174, copy lost, from MS. Dümmichen, corrected by notes and recollection. Top of l. 173 very doubtful, the rest almost certain. Thickness of wall north, illegible.

North doorway incised only, framing l. 180-185.

South wall, defaced or blank.

North wall, traces of painted scenes.
East wall, south side of door, Pl. IV–V, scene painted in colours on plaster, inscription incised and painted, l. 210–249. A portion of the wall palimpsest, the early text from left to right = inscription much damaged and reading still uncertain in some places. Arundale’s complete copy shows the wall in almost the same state as now. I have improved my copy of the figure from it: he indicates the unbroken corner of the wall on the left of the scene, thus there are no lines missing. His drawing of the figure explains my finding that the outline of it had been marked with a lead pencil.

210, 211 v. Pl. XXI.

223a. Not in Arundale: it should therefore be omitted.

241a. nḥt mātw-f E.

b. mk ab E, but Arundale as text.

North side of door, Pl. VI–VIII, incised and painted green. MSS. Arundale, Brugsch and Dimiechen (MS. Mariette partly collated by Prof. Maspero without result). After subjecting the copy to every possible test, I have detected two errors, l. 209a and 324a. Perhaps also l. 295 sic? ∆–? where the sign seems to have been imperfect. Some parts of the text are very indistinct, especially at the base, and a portion is palimpsest.

262–4 v. Pl. XXI.

270a. The restoration is almost certain.

273a, 282a, insert (copy).

291a. Perhaps perhaps from the palimpsest.

317a. or ____________.

320a, Top, Maspero, Trans. Soc. Bibl. Arch., restores ____________ but?

325a. In my own copy only: the restoration was suggested by l. 313, and confirmed by the faint traces on the wall.

Entrance.—Incised, not painted.

Thickness of wall on south, l. 330–336. My copy lost. Copy in Pl. IX worthless except for comparison with that in Pl. XX. The lower half of l. 330–1 is destroyed. Arundale has two copies, (1) fol. 18 without ladder, (2) fol. 68 evidently with ladder, and excellent; the inscription is thus complete except extreme base of l. 350–1. The copy seems to be exact excepting two or three very slight errors. The figure of II. (alterations seen owing to the plaster having fallen off) is the only example in the tomb with wig, beard, and divided skirt.

Thickness of wall, north, l. 337–342. My copy lost, and I have found no others.

Framing l. 345–359. The upper lines are in bad condition. MSS. Brugsch, Dimiechen, Nestor de l’Hôte.

346a. Inserted only to show the width of the gap.


Entrance Passage.—Roof arched with storm pattern painted blue on yellow? or dark green? Cornice of various colours.

South side. Traces of scenes painted on plaster; at outer end remains of incised inscription, l. 370–3; probably others preceded them. Originally each line of same length as those on north side.

North side. Incised inscription. l. 380–418, Pl. IX–X, on a palimpsest wall; much altered and corrected by the mason, and damaged by incrustations, etc. Hoping to find other versions I did not revise minutely, it being the most difficult of all to copy. M. Maspero quotes parallel pyramid texts, l. 388–404 = Unas 269–294 (Rec. de trav., III, p. 214 ff.), and Horhoteb, 148–166 (Mem. Miss. Arch. Franc. Caire, II, p. 144 ff.).

Tomb II.

Single chamber, formerly with pillars and sculptured entrance, now destroyed. Pl. X and XX.

West wall, two real doorways with traces of inscriptions (but no excavated passage beyond). On lintel of southern doorway inscription painted green, l. 1–2.

East wall, traces of inscription.

Entrance. Thickness of wall, south, l. 3–10 from Mariette, etc.

" " north, l. 11–18 from Rougé, etc.

12a, 13a. I have mis-copied Rougé, who reads ____________ and ____________.

Framing, 19–22, Pl. X and XX, from MSS. Nestor de l’Hôte; Arundale; photograph Petrie. The portions in the photograph are dotted, but all is somewhat obscure and uncertain. Hieroglyphs curiously crowded.

Facade on south side of doorway, l. 23, visible on photograph.

" north " ruined anciently.
HERACLEOPOLITAN (Dyn. IX-X.)

Tombs III, IV, V from south to north on one terrace, divided only by party walls. Large single chambers, divided transversely by pillars and architrave. Façades now destroyed.

TOMB III.

No traces of decoration left, except on north wall, viz., west of architrave traces of painted plaster, and East of pillars, l. 1-56, Pl. XI-XII, as follows: l. 1, incised and painted blue, heading the inscription (it also remained as the heading after the substitution of l. 41-56 for l. 16-40), l. 2-40 one inscription in two sections, of which l. 2-15 were incised and painted blue, but l. 16-40 being offensive were not completed. These latter remained half incised, half sketched, and plaster was laid over them. On the plaster was painted a figure of Tefaba, and behind him a new inscription, l. 41-56. This plaster fell off from the upper part in ancient times, and the wall was again covered with whitewash by Copts? I cleaned the earlier inscription with great care. There is no trace of the lower halves of l. 16-40; the signs in the upper portions are incised, but roughly and not finished; some have not yet been begun but are traceable in the sketching.

l. 15b. Insert ....

16e should probably be a female; cf. Champollion, Not., II, p. 145 = L.D., Pl. 130.

Inscriptions in thickness of wall and framing of entrance, l. 57-71. From the "Description de l'Égypte," identified by the name = ḫ ].[

TOMB IV.

On a pillar remains of inscription, ride Pl. XIV.

South wall, east of pillars, scene of soldiers with large shields, in two rows, unfinished (perhaps for the same reason as the inscription III, 16-40).

North wall, east of pillars, inscription incised and painted blue, l. 1-40, Pl. XIII and XX: authorities for the destroyed portion, Description and Arundale. In Description, by confusion of l. 3 with l. 22, the former has been repeated, and the first two lines misplaced. Their true position is almost certain.

L. 41-44, inscription beneath a cornice, from Description, but its provenance is quite uncertain.

Thickness of wall and framing of entrance (Pl. XIV, l. 45-57), the latter identified by name in l. 76, and the former, l. 45-60, corresponds in size, etc., to the framing, and is associated with it in the Description.

TOMB V.

Back wall, large false door in the centre, inscription incised and painted green, l. 1-24 (MSS. Brugsch and Dümichen). Damaged since my visit in 1887.

South wall, in the inner half (i.e., behind destroyed architrave) fragment of long inscription incised, l. 25-40; less than half of the height remains. There were at least 24 lines.

Thickness of wall at entrance, l. 41-48, from Description. The name is = ḫ ].[ and there is no other tomb to which these can be assigned.

Add notes 12a, G. 1887, etc.; 12b, G. 1887; 14b, old copies, G. 1887; 15a, so M. R, in R.

DÈR RÎFEH.

In the western cliffs about nine miles south of Sûf and seven miles from Shōtb. The principal tombs are on one terrace, the northern tombs are occupied by the Copts.

I have had to depend entirely on my copies of 1887. Tombs I and VII were copied with special care, but the former was very difficult (a portion of Tomb VII checked with a photograph taken by Count Rümo d'Hulst).

TOMB I (Middle Kingdom).

Entrance-framing and thickness of wall, north side, inscription incised l. 1-6. Pl. XVI.

East wall, north of entrance, l. 7-20, incised and painted; much damaged.

North, west, and south walls, traces of scenes of offerings, soldiers, figure of Nefer Khnum, and false door (west wall). All these painted only.

TOMB II (New Kingdom).

Great hall, west side, south of the door, scene with cartouches of Ramesses III A. An inscription of many short lines, painted black, terminates with B. In a lower band gods with C. Over the entrance D is the bark of ḫ. The tomb was probably painted throughout.
TOMB III (New Kingdom).
Occupied by Copts. Small entrance much defaced. Incised inscriptions in the thickness of the wall very fragmentary. Cornice-lintel.

TOMB IV (New Kingdom).
Occupied: very large and lofty, inscriptions incised. Pl. XVI, XVII, XVIII. Framing of entrance scene and inscriptions, l. 1–21.
Thickess of wall, south side, l. 22–29; north side, very fragmentary.
Entrance passage, south side, l. 30–47; north side, l. 48–65.
Interior partly explored. The framing of an inner entrance, much encumbered with mud walls, has a scene at the top, and l. 66–71 at the sides.
The Coptic marble slab in Pl. XVII is over a doorway in the village leading to the church.

TOMB V (New Kingdom).
Occupied. Inscription incised: framing of entrance l. 1–11; interior not seen.

The Coptic tablet in Pl. XVIII is fixed over the main gateway of the Dër on the inside.

TOMB VI (New Kingdom).
Occupied, very large and lofty, inscription incised. Pl. XVIII.
Framing of entrance inscribed; lintel illegible; south jamb mostly hidden by brick walls; north jamb destroyed. Interior partly explored, no inscriptions.

TOMB VII (Middle Kingdom).
Enterance: two polygonal columns support the roof, terminating in eave with beams. Entrance hall (used as church), north side, inscription incised and painted on plaster, much damaged, l. 1–55. Count R. d'Hulst and I scaled off the Coptic plaster. One or more inner chambers, but no other inscriptions found.

DËR DRONKEL.
In western cliffs two miles north from Dër Rifâh. Quarries, and Coptic epitaphs. Pl. XIX.

ERRATA.

Pl. VI, l. 266. The letter b should be attached to the last sign (☞?)
Pl. VI, l. 282, top. ☐☐ should perhaps be entirely omitted.
Pl. X, Tomb II, l. 4. For ☐ read ☐
Omit the words 20a read ☐.
Pl. XI, l. 1. For ☐ read ☐
 l. 12. Near base read ☐.
 l. 14. Read ☐ and ☐.
Pl. XI, l. 17 a. E. prefers ☐, but?
 l. 22. Read ☐.
Pl. XII, in title. For front wall read façade.
 l. 47. Omit a.
 l. 58, 62, 55. Read ☐ (without ☐).
 l. 84 read ☐.
Pl. XIII, l. 27. Omit the letters a, b, c.
 l. 28, near the top. Omit the letter b.
Pl. XIV, l. 75 a. ☐?
Pl. XV. For 28a read 26a.
 l. 39a 37a.
Pl. XX (Plate 13). For 28a read 28b.
Pl. XXI (Plate VIII). 304a is in Pl. VII.
 l. (Plate IX). 354a. Omit the last part of the note.

For corrections throughout, see Plate XX–XXI.

A Bibliography, etc., will appear in the Babylonian and Oriental Record, May, 1889, and following numbers.
Tomb of Osiris - The sculptures and inscriptions are all well cut into a prepared surface, but not painted. There is a cornice ornament of Xakhef.
The image contains a diagram of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and illustrations. The text below the diagram reads:

"Bringing animals and offerings."

Further down:

"North of doorway.

East (Front) wall now destroyed.

South of doorway.

North wall.

South wall continued."
The inscription is on a palm-leaf tablet and is cut in through the plaster and painted blue.

The scene which is much damaged was painted finely on plaster. The false door in the Standard is very elaborate.

Much of this inscription is in the worn state, consisting, perhaps, and united with its elements in the earlier stages, which have not yet been elucidated. The right reading in several places after 3 minutes.

215. a. There is no word handled for 3 and 4.35.

223. a. I am the king of the gods.

223. b. The table is the one of my sister, the other, wrongly oriented.
303. The incision of the word may
be made; the illustration
is based on another.

315 a. The supposed
image of the word
is not clear in the
inscription.

Heptisia seated.
painted inscription
(1.41-56)

legs of figure
painted on
plaster.
Griffith, Francis Llewellyn
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