

BULLETIN OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

VOLUME XXXIII

BOSTON, OCTOBER, 1935

NUMBER 199



Korean Silver Ewer

Helen and Alice Colburn Fund

About Eleventh Century

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY

SUBSCRIPTION ONE DOLLAR



The Korean Silver Basin before Cleaning

Koreans of the Koryo dynasty had ideals and customs of their own which are naturally reflected in their art. As in the case of the ceramic craft, the Koreans first learned the technique of the silversmith from China. But they developed it in accordance with their needs and with the degree of their aesthetic capacity. The refinement of feeling and the excellent technique of the ewer—it is one of the most elaborate examples of silverwork of the Koryo period known—are the evidences of a very high attainment in the working of precious metals.

KOJIRO TOMITA.

Report on the Egyptian Expedition during 1934-35

MASTERPIECES of Egyptian art placed in a museum collection can never fail of appreciation whether the visitor is a layman interested generally in artistic production, or is a person with a more intimate knowledge, particularly of sculpture. Full understanding, however, comes only to the student of the history of art, the man who knows the beginnings of Egyptian art in prehistoric times and the causes of its development from that time to its great climax in the Pyramid Age. It is this man who alone can estimate the course of Egyptian art

after the climax with its variations from the old standards. It has been the aim of the Egyptian Department to make a collection of the kind needed to bring understanding of the whole history of Egyptian art and to make this development concretely visible to those who have no leisure for special study of this subject. The greatest part of the collection has been the product of scientific research in the history of Egypt and Egyptian art. With its great accumulation of objects of known provenance and known date, the collection is one of the best fitted for the purpose of illustrating the development of Egyptian art.

One of the largest pieces of research carried out by the Harvard-Boston Expedition has been the excavation of a large part of the great necropolis which contains the Giza Pyramids. The time has now arrived to consider the whole mass of evidence collected in that, the greatest group of monuments of the Pyramid Age. The work of preparing plans and drawings has been going on for years. In the camp at the Pyramids are stored the records of all these years, consisting of diaries, descriptions and drawings of the individual tombs, records of the individual burial places, card catalogues of objects found, registers of objects, and registers of the photographs taken, amounting to nearly thirty thousand



Fig. 1. The Western Cemetery at Giza



Fig. 2. Excavations on western edge of the Far Western Cemetery, looking across crude-brick roof of chapel of G 1457

plates. The series of publications projected begins with a volume (soon to appear) on *The Development of the Egyptian Tomb from the Predynastic Period to the Accession of Cheops*. This volume was written after the next volume, *The History of the Giza Necropolis*, was almost completed. It had become necessary in that volume to refer frequently to older forms which provided the origins or illuminated the use of the Giza forms. The volume on tomb development was therefore written as a book of reference for the second volume. The second volume is now under final revision. The remaining volumes of the series will present the detailed descriptions of the individual mastabas.

The chief object of the volume on the Giza necropolis is to fix more or less exactly the date of each of the 1500 tombs contained in the necropolis, those excavated by ourselves and those published by other persons. The establishment of this chronological series cannot be carried out merely by a study of the inscriptions, as these are seldom dated, and the majority of the tombs contain no inscriptions. The question has been approached by a study of the topography of the necropolis as it was before Cheops began to build his pyramid, and as it was altered by the quarrying of stone by Cheops, Chephren, and Mycerinus, in turn. On this massive rock basis it is then possible to place in chronological order the great monuments which form the three royal nuclei of the necropolis. Attached to the First Pyramid four great fields of mastabas have been identified, laid out in lines and rows with streets between them. The additions made to the nucleus cemeteries of Cheops have also been identified and, finally, the later mastabas intruded in the empty spaces left in the field. The chronological order of these later mastabas, which presents the greatest difficulty, has been based on the tendency of all Egyptian communities to make the tombs of members of the same family close together. The examination of the mastabas concerned proves that from the time of Mycerinus to the end of Dynasty VI the cemetery was growing by the interspersion of mastabas built on independent sites in the empty spaces. As each was constructed it became the nucleus of a group of tombs belonging to the descendants and adherents of the owner of the nucleus tomb. Thus in the reign of Mycerinus we have a number nucleus mastabas scattered in all parts of the cemetery, each to become the center of a minor group later in date. In the reigns of the first three kings of Dynasty V a similar scattered group of mastabas was constructed in the remaining vacant spaces, and these in turn were the nuclei of still later mastabas. This process of growth by interspersion and accretion continued to the end.

The first process is to isolate the nucleus mastabas and arrange them in chronological order by their relative positions and their type forms, and then to date the attached mastabas of each complex in accordance with the date of the nucleus tomb. It is at this point that the chronological series of type

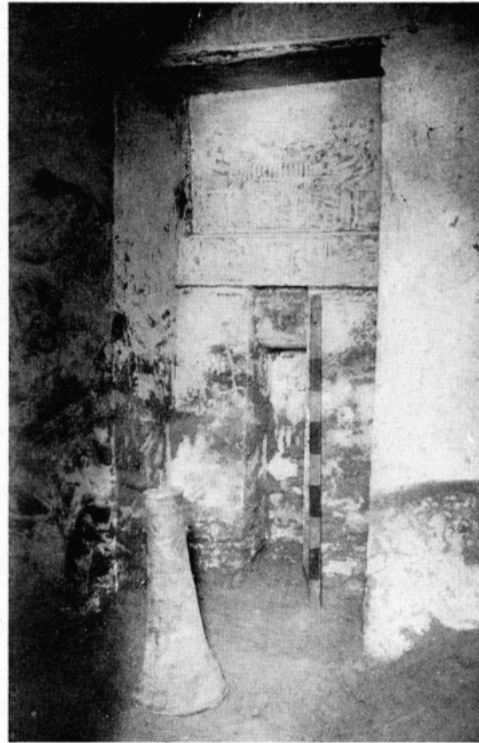


Fig. 3. False-door in chapel of G 1457. Red pottery offering-stand in front of niche with carved tablet as left when the funerary service was discontinued

forms must be used to control the results of the examination. For this purpose a classified list of the types of masonry and their occurrence must be established. The forms of the mastabas, the chapels, the character of the scenes in relief, the forms of the burial places and the types of burial, must be treated in the same way. The work establishes not only the order of the mastabas but also the development of each of the essential parts of the tomb during Dynasties IV-VI. This sounds like a complicated process, but it may all be carried out by ordinary scientific methods of assembling and classifying facts. When the chronological order of the mastabas is established, the basis is laid for the arrangement in chronological order of statues, statuettes, reliefs, and other objects produced by the ancient Egyptian craftsmen.

The remaining volumes of the series will give the detailed descriptions of the individual mastabas. These descriptions will be simplified and shortened by the use of the type designations laid down in the second volume. For example, it will not be necessary to describe in detail the ordinary two-niched mastaba, marked as mastaba type X c (1) (that is, a two-niched mastaba built with a retaining wall of small nummulitic stones laid on a slope), except in so far as it differs from the type. Not only will the description be reduced to the essential minimum, but, as a result of the chronological list reached in the second volume, each mastaba can be set in its

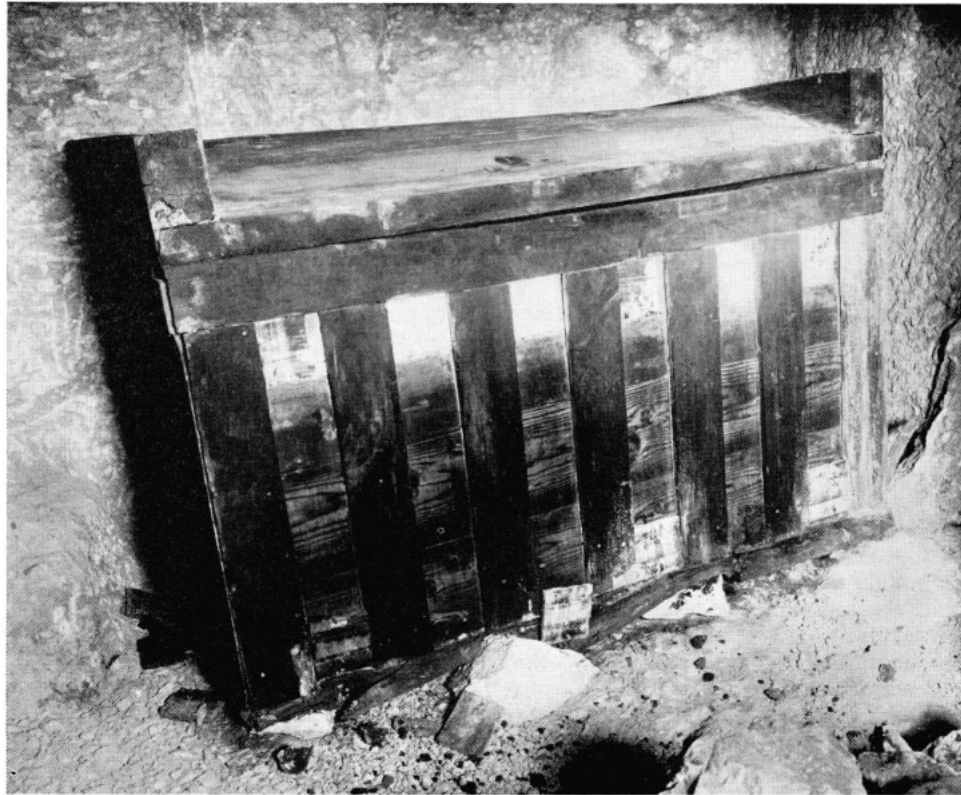


Fig. 4. Intact panelled coffin in position in burial chamber of G 1451 B (2)

proper place in time. These descriptions will be accompanied by all the available plans and drawings, and by photographs. This is the method followed in previous publications (see particularly *Naga-ed-Dêr III* and *Kerma*) in which the descriptive material is kept separate from the deduction drawn from that material. A great mass of the material for the descriptive text has already been prepared as it was necessary for use in the volume on the history of the necropolis which will contain a large number of drawings illustrating the types of mastabas, chapels, and shafts.

During the past winter, while the publication has been proceeding, a certain number of minor clearances have been made to obtain definitive information on certain points. For example, the old mastaba G 1102 was obscured by intrusive burial shafts which at the time of excavation I was reluctant to clear away. This winter, knowing clearly the character of these intrusions, we had the obstructions removed and made a complete plan of the mastaba showing its construction, its nucleus, and its large northern addition. In another case, G 2210, a small gang examining the interior of the mastaba found that it contained a core mastaba of the type built by Cheops and that this core was a part of the Cheops Cemetery G 2100. Thus the rather puzzling combination of type forms was cleared up and the chronological problem presented by that mastaba completely elucidated.

In addition to these minor clearances we made some larger excavations on the limits of the work carried out in former years. On the western edge of the cemetery west of the Cheops Pyramid, we observed, partly excavated, several crude-brick mastabas, part of a group which appeared to me to be of Dynasty IV but for which we had no definite date. The clearing of one of these, G 1457, of which only the northern end was visible, led to the recovery of a chapel still roofed with a leaning-course crude-brick vault, and with a fine carved tablet in relief in the offering niche. The excavation of the two burial shafts yielded mud sealings bearing the name of Mycerinus and confirming the dating assigned to the whole group.

At the same time a number of burial shafts have been cleared, both in the newly excavated mastabas and in some of the others. In some cases the upper chamber had been cleared in a shaft which on re-examination was found to continue downwards and to have another chamber lower down. In two of the chambers excavated we found a wooden coffin fairly well preserved of the early form with vaulted lid and panelled sides. This type of coffin is rare at Giza where it is a simplified survival of the archaic coffins of Dynasties II and III. One of these was found in an intact chamber, G 1451 B, below the empty chamber previously cleared higher up in the shaft. Inside lay the contracted body of a lady with her head resting on a fine wooden head-rest



Fig. 5. Burial inside panelled coffin in G 1451 B (2). Head in position on wooden head-rest

fixed in the end of the coffin. All her organic tissues had disappeared as she had been only imperfectly mummified, but her hair was left in profusion, hanging down naturally without plaiting or curling. In another case, in the wrappings of the head of a woman, were six plain wooden combs, objects recorded by us for the first time at Giza. Several fine alabaster vessels were found, dated by the shafts in which they occurred to Dynasty IV. In one burial chamber, G 4710, was a large collection of well worked model vessels of alabaster, and in another, G 1208 B (2), a similar lot of alabaster models with a number of model tools of copper. A curious incident of the shaft clearing was the discovery of footprints left in the mud sealing of a small shaft, G 1210 C. This shaft has a contracted burial resting in a small stone chamber built in the bottom and closed by roofing with stone slabs covered with mud plaster. The mud bore on its upper surface the footprints of a man and a boy who had stepped on the roofing while it was fresh. It is to be emphasized that all the work of this season has been carried out by the Expedition guards, four at a time in turn, assisted by five to eight local basket-carriers.

In the preparation of the projected volumes the Expedition has received at every turn the assistance and co-operation of the Department of Antiquities. The most essential material for the first volume on *Tomb Development* is from the great Archaic

Cemetery at Saqqarah which is an area reserved for the Department. M. Lacau, the Director General of the Department of Antiquities, allowed us access to the records left by Mr. C. M. Firth, to the maps prepared by the Survey of Egypt, and to the mastabas themselves, and permitted us to use plans and drawings of these mastabas for publication. The late Mr. J. E. Quibell, entrusted by the Egyptian Government with the publication of Mr. Firth's material, assisted us in every way, and both he and M. Lacau approved of the publication of an appendix to *Tomb Development* which gives a history of the growth of the great Saqqarah necropolis. I have myself written the part on the arrangement of the mastabas of Dynasties I-IV excavated by Mr. Quibell and Mr. Firth for the Department of Antiquities. In order to make clear this description of the Archaic Cemetery and its connection with the great stone mastabas of Dynasties V-VI, Mr. W. S. Smith prepared a map of the whole Saqqarah necropolis, using as a basis the map recently made for the Department of Antiquities by the Survey of Egypt. This map gives the buildings still visible on the surface. The details of the areas excavated by Quibell and Firth were marked on this map, but many of the older mastabas excavated by Mariette and others had become completely buried. Mr. Smith, taking all the available material, proceeded to locate the buried mastabas on this map. When he had finished, he expressed the desire to

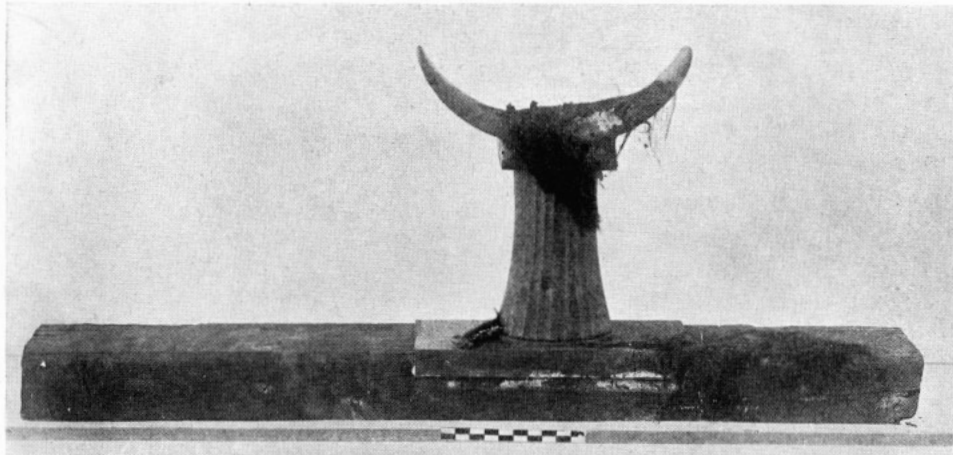


Fig. 6. Head-rest from coffin in G 1451 B (2)

control his reconstruction by making test excavations (*sondages*) at three different points. When I explained the matter to M. Lacau, he immediately, and as a matter of course, gave us the necessary permission. Mr. Smith went to Saqqarah with a couple of men and receiving the assistance of a few more from Mr. Quibell made his three tests. The first was to determine whether he had correctly placed the tomb in which Mariette found the famous statue known as the "Sheikh-el-Beled." Within an hour and a half the workmen had descended directly over the granite stela left in place by Mariette and Smith had read the inscription on the stela published by Mariette. The other tests were equally satisfactory and gave M. Lacau and ourselves confidence in Mr. Smith's reconstruction of the map. With the consent of the Department of

Antiquities and the Survey of Egypt, the map is being published in *Tomb Development*. I then asked Mr. Smith to prepare another appendix to follow my own on the Archaic Cemetery, in which he reviewed the results of his researches on the stone mastabas of Dynasties V and VI. This work appears in *Tomb Development* in order to make clear the history of that great necropolis, but it will be used repeatedly in the next volume on *The History of the Giza Necropolis*. For the first time scholars now have a reliable plan of the distribution of all the known mastabas including those once excavated and now lost to sight. It is also possible for the Department of Antiquities to see the great areas as yet unexplored and to plan the direction of their future work in that field which presents the development of the Egyptian tomb from the reign of



Fig. 7. Collapsed panelled coffin in burial chamber of G 1413 C

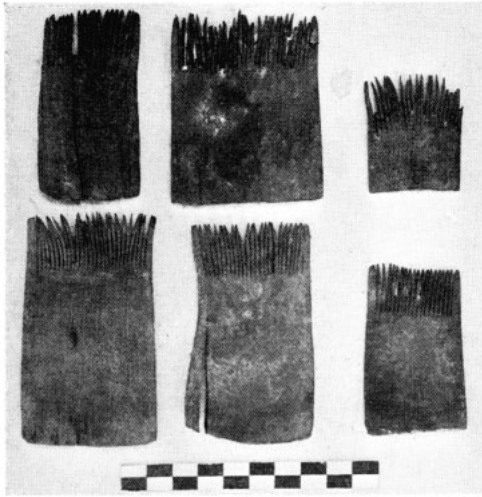


Fig. 8. Wooden combs from head-wrappings of burial in G 1102 C

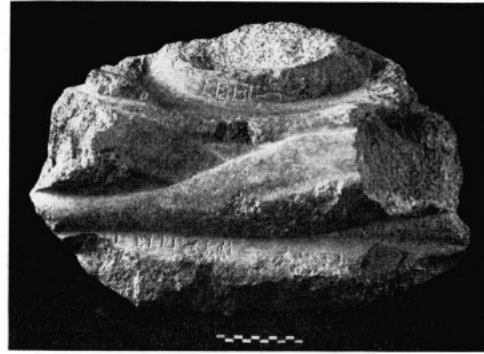


Fig. 9. Lower part of statue of Prince Ka-wa'ab, the eldest son of Cheops, as a squatting scribe. Found in minor clearing operations

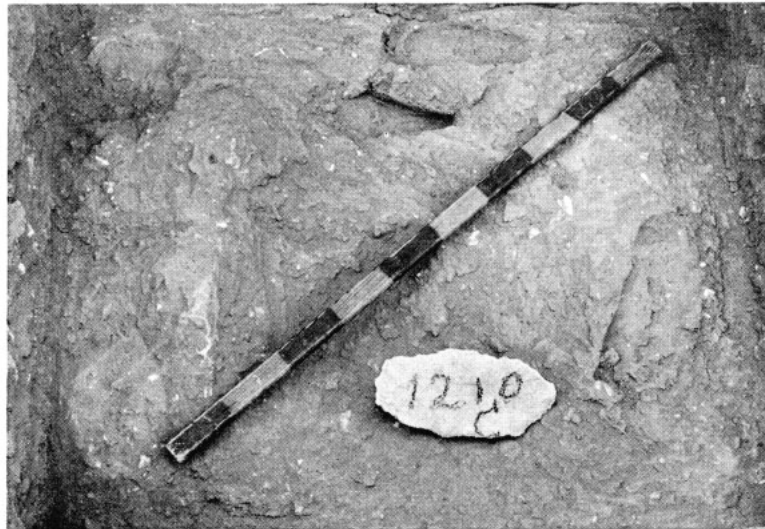


Fig. 10. Footprints of man and boy in mud sealing of burial-pit of G 1210 C

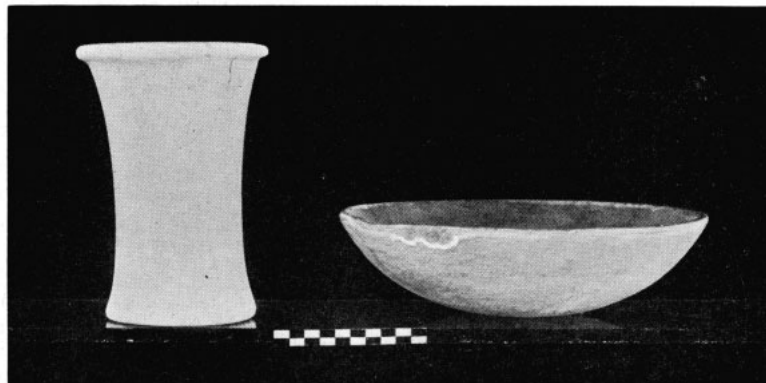


Fig. 11. Alabaster cylinder jar from burial chamber of G 1407 A and alabaster bowl from burial chamber of G 7330 A



Fig. 12. Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith painting a panorama of the Giza pyramids

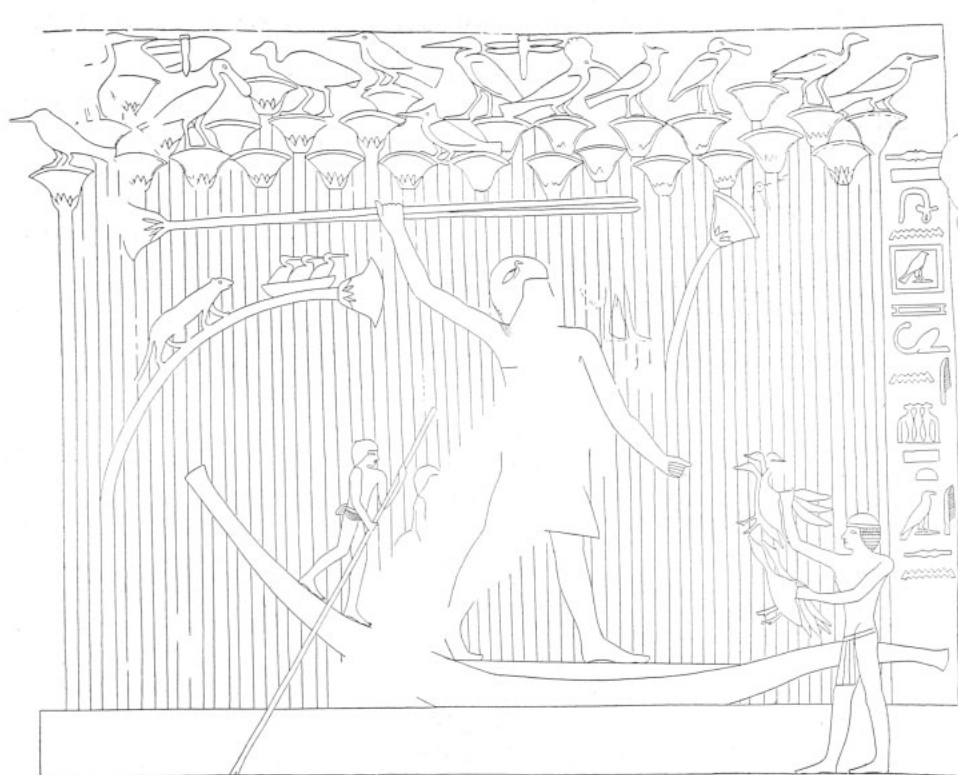


Fig. 13. Swamp scene from the tomb of Yasen, G 2196.

Drawing by Wm. Stevenson Smith

Zer (third king of Dynasty I) to the end of the Old Kingdom.

I began by calling attention to the value of the Egyptian collection of our Museum in illustrating the history of Egyptian art. The publications described above have a direct bearing on this quality of our collection. The finest objects we have are the sculptures, statues, statuettes, and reliefs of the Pyramid Age. The publication will co-ordinate all these objects and give to each its full value as a museum piece. The historical chapters dealing with the family history of Dynasty IV and with the development of the reliefs and other parts of the tomb will emphasize the significance of all our pieces individually and collectively. It is now possible for the first time to write a "Guide to the Egyptian Department" which will be in itself a treatise on the history of Egyptian art.

The Honorary Curator of the Egyptian Department, Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith, with Mrs. Lindon Smith stayed at the camp from November 15th to March 1st. Mr. Smith painted six very fine reliefs at Saqqarah, one in the tomb of Mereruwka and five in that of Kagemni. These form an important addition to our great collection of his paintings. He also painted a great panoramic view of the whole Giza necropolis seen from the southeast, which will be a record of this great site of the Old Kingdom from which so large a part of our collection has been drawn.¹ On March 1st Mr. and Mrs. Lindon Smith left by aeroplane for Persepolis. There he painted six pictures of the royal palaces of the Achaemenid Dynasty of Persia for the Oriental Institute of Chicago. The Oriental Institute has been working at Persepolis for the last five years, and it is great recognition of the value and quality of the work of our Honorary Curator that Professor Breasted should have selected him to prepare for the Oriental Institute a record of their work at this great capital. Mr. and Mrs. Lindon Smith returned to the Pyramids on April 29th and on Sunday, May 5th, an exhibition of all the pictures painted this year was given at Harvard Camp. Mrs. Reisner and Miss Reisner organized the show, which was attended by all those interested in Egyptian art. I never cease to congratulate myself on my foresight in beginning our collection of Lindon Smith's paintings in 1911. I hope that friends of the Boston Museum who own pictures by him will not forget that every one they contribute to the Museum increases the value of the Egyptian Department to the great public.

The Expedition staff during the last year has consisted of the following persons:—

- 1) Wm. Stevenson Smith, chief assistant, engaged particularly in the reconstruction of the chapels of Dynasty IV.
- 2) Miss Evelyn Perkins, my personal secretary, assisting me in the preparation of the various card catalogues and the writing of the text.
- 3) Hansmartin Handrick, general utility man, and engaged in the keeping of the records.
- 4) Alexander Floroff, engineer, engaged in preparing plans and drawings.
- 5) Miss Mary Reisner, engaged on the publication of the hieroglyphic inscriptions found by the Expedition.

¹These paintings are on exhibition in the Gallery of Recent Accessions.

Attention must also be called to the work of some of the Egyptian employees. The two sons of our old *reis*, Said Ahmed, named Mohammed Said and Mahmud Said, have become efficient office assistants and facilitated greatly the work of Miss Perkins and myself. It is a great satisfaction to me to have these two boys whom I have known since their birth taking the place of their father in my regard and affection. The photographer, Dahi Mohammed, was loaned for the greater part of the year to the Oxford Expedition working at Kawa in the Sudan. Two others were loaned to Mr. Crowfoot for the work at Samaria and three to Professor Lake for his expedition to Sinai. The staff has prepared the following publications:

- 1) *The History of the Egyptian Mastaba*, by G. A. Reisner, in the *Mélanges Maspero*, published by the French Archaeological Institute.
- 2) *The Coffin of Prince Min-khaf*, by Wm. Stevenson Smith, in *J. E. A.*, Vol. XIX, p. 150 ff.
- 3) *The Old Kingdom Linen List*, by Wm. Stevenson Smith, in *Zeitschrift für Aegyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde*, now in press.
- 4) *Inscribed Monuments from Gebel Barkal: The Stela of Sety I*, by G. A. Reisner and Miss M. B. Reisner, *A. Z.*, Vol. 69, pp. 73 ff.
- 5) *Inscribed Monuments from Gebel Barkal: The Stela of Prince Khaliut*, by Miss M. B. Reisner, *A. Z.*, Vol. 70, pp. 35 ff.

All these articles, except the first named, form part of the publication of the material obtained by the Expedition in its field work.

GEORGE A. REISNER.

Six Early Illustrated Books¹

1471	VALLA VENICE	ELEGANTIAE NICOLAUS JENSON
1472	VALTURUS VERONA	DE RE MILITARI JOHANNES EX VERONA
1473	PETRARCH VENICE	SONETTI E TRIONFI GABRIELE DI PIETRO
1483	VALTURUS VERONA	DE L'ARTE MILITARE BONINUS DE BONINIS
1497	S. HIERONYMUS FERRARA	VITA E EPISTOLE LORENZO ROSSI
1499	COLONNA VENICE	HYPNEROTOMACHIA ALDUS MANUTIUS

FROM the estate of the late Edward P. Warren the Museum has purchased the six fifteenth century books mentioned above. They formed part of a small library of rare books and manuscripts made some years ago by John Marshall, and passed at his death in 1928 into the possession of his close friend and associate, Warren. This provenance is

¹On exhibition in the Gallery of Recent Accessions.