



**WESTERN
AUSTRALIAN
MUSEUM**



A Curator's Dilemma

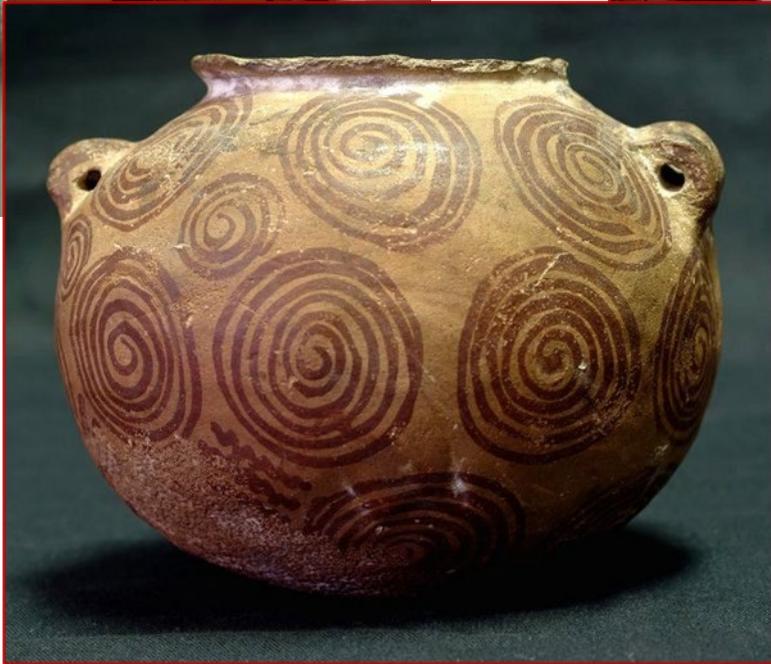
Dr Moya Smith
Curator Anthropology & Archaeology

Images Western Australian Museum unless otherwise specified

August 17, 2023

SURPRISE DISCOVERY IN THE COLLECTIONS

[Francis Street, WA Museum]



WHY DO WE HAVE EGYPTIAN ITEMS AT ALL???

Bernard Woodward

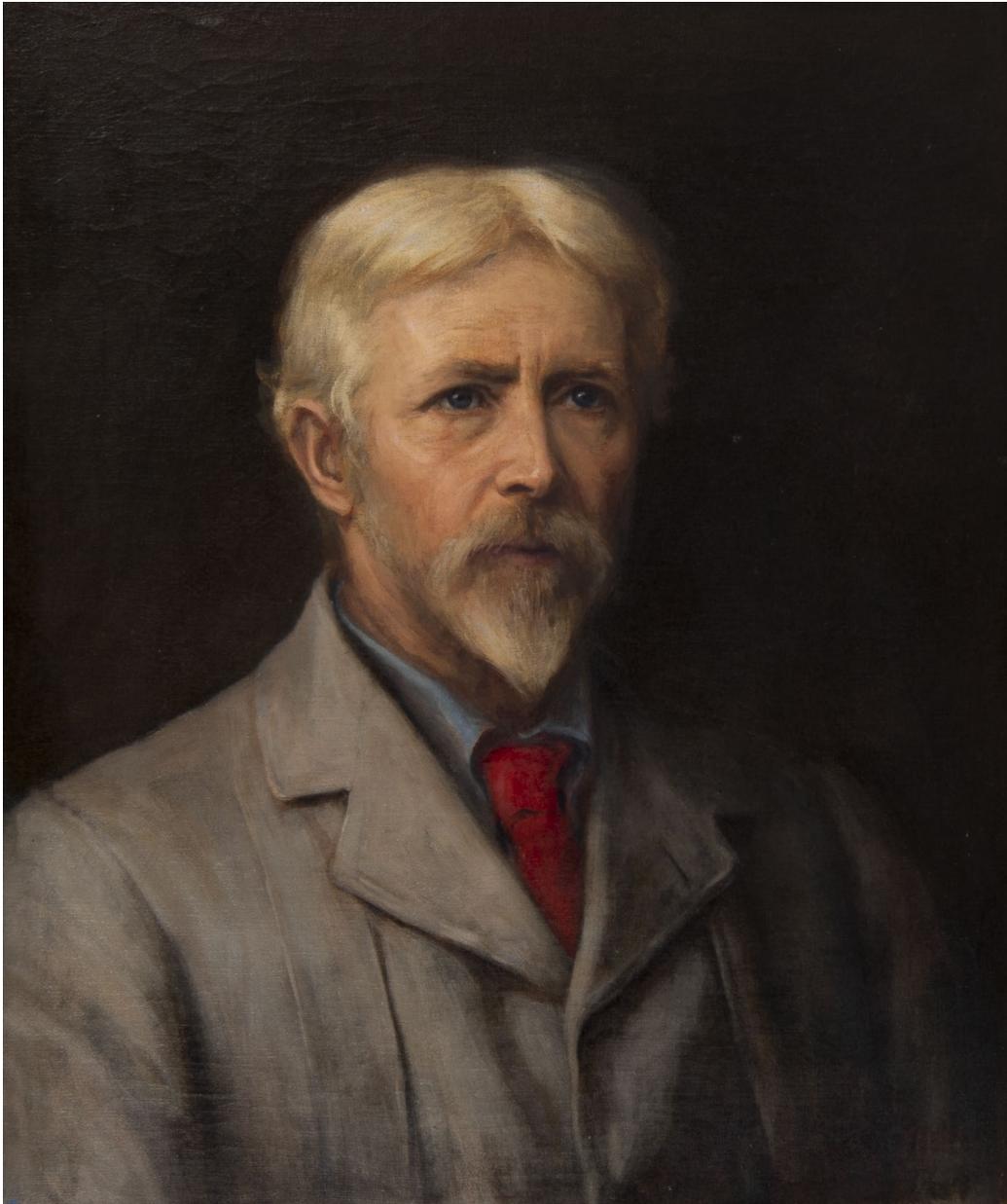
first Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery by 1901. Previously from 1889 Curator of the Geological Museum, later Perth Museum.

Family connections: associated with the British Museum and the Geological Society of London. Inspired BW's interest in exchange of knowledge and specimens.

Woodward was also interested in the arts and was involved with the Wilgie Sketching Club and the Perth Society of Arts.

Woodward desired to make the world more familiar, collecting objects in order to enliven Western Australian creativity, innovation, and enquiry.

Retired - 1916.



Woodward family networks



Bernard Henry Woodward
(1846-1916)
English-born, emigrated to WA in 1889 and employed as government analyst before becoming curator of the Geological Museum, curator of the Perth Museum, and first Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery.



Horace Bolingbroke Woodward
(1848-1914)
English geologist who participated in the Geological Survey of England and Wales, Vice-president of the Geological Society, and Fellow of the Royal Society.



Bernard Barham Woodward
(1853-1930)
British malacologist, assistant in the British Museum and librarian at the Natural History Museum.



Henry (Harry) Page Woodward
(1858-1917)
English-born geologist, mining engineer and public servant. Fellow of the Geological Society of London, the Royal Geographical Society and the Imperial Institute. Appointed government geologist of WA in 1887 and took over responsibility for the government's geological collections in 1889 when they were relocated to the old Perth gaol.



Bernard Bolingbroke Woodward
(1816-1869)
English antiquarian, librarian and keeper of prints and drawings at Windsor Castle.



Samuel Pickworth Woodward
(1821-1865)
English professor of geology and natural history in the Royal Agricultural College and assistant in the department of geology and mineralogy in the British Museum.



Henry Bolingbroke Woodward
(1832-1921)
English geologist and palaeontologist, assistant in the geological department of the British Museum and later keeper of that department. Fellow of the Royal Society and President of the Geological Society of London.



Samuel Woodward
(1790-1838)
English geologist and antiquary.

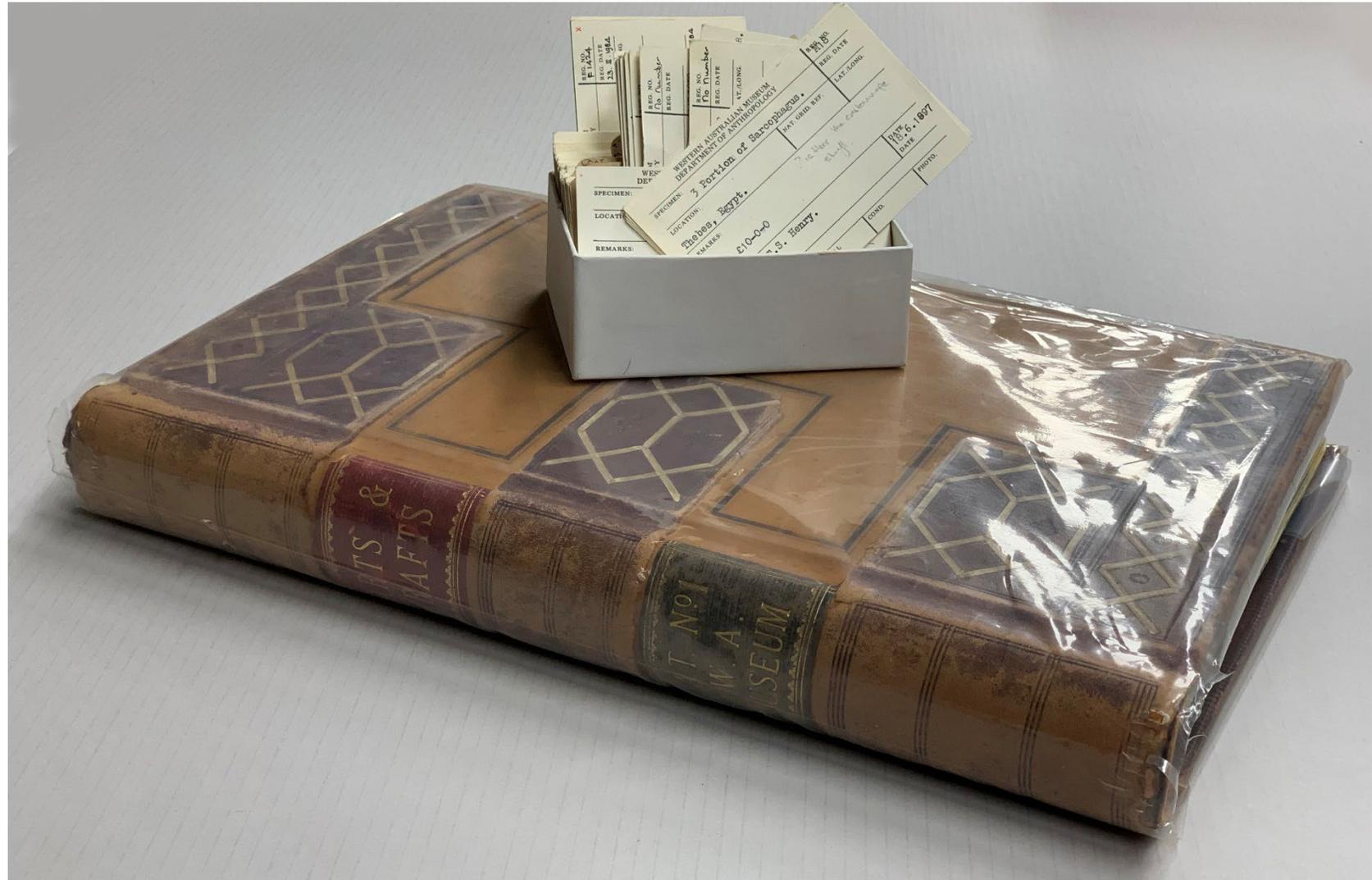
WHAT DO WE HAVE?

We understand what should be in collections from:

Record keeping

- The Register
- Day Book
- typed lists
- card file
- missing links between records and objects

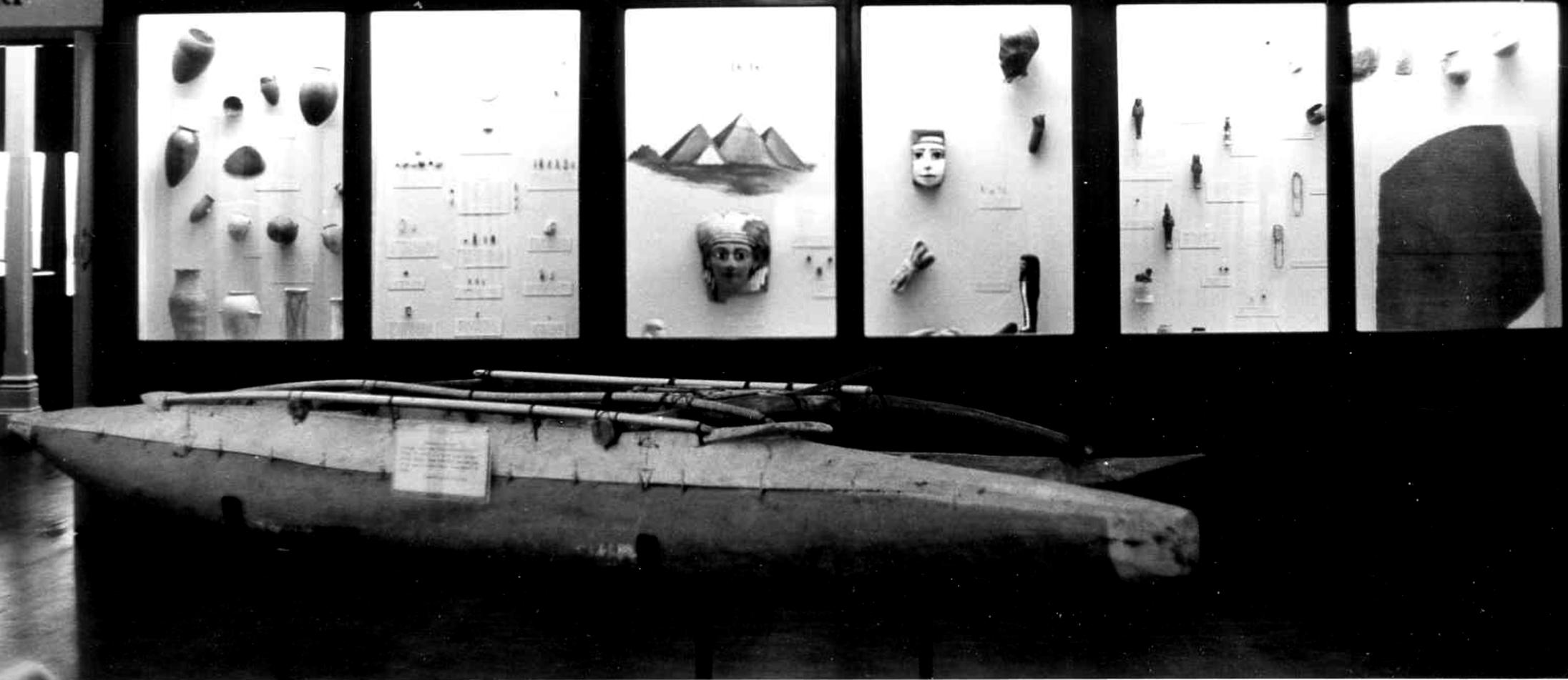
Improved databases



LACK OF DATA NO BARRIER TO DISPLAY

Woodward Gallery – 1960s

COLAY
RY

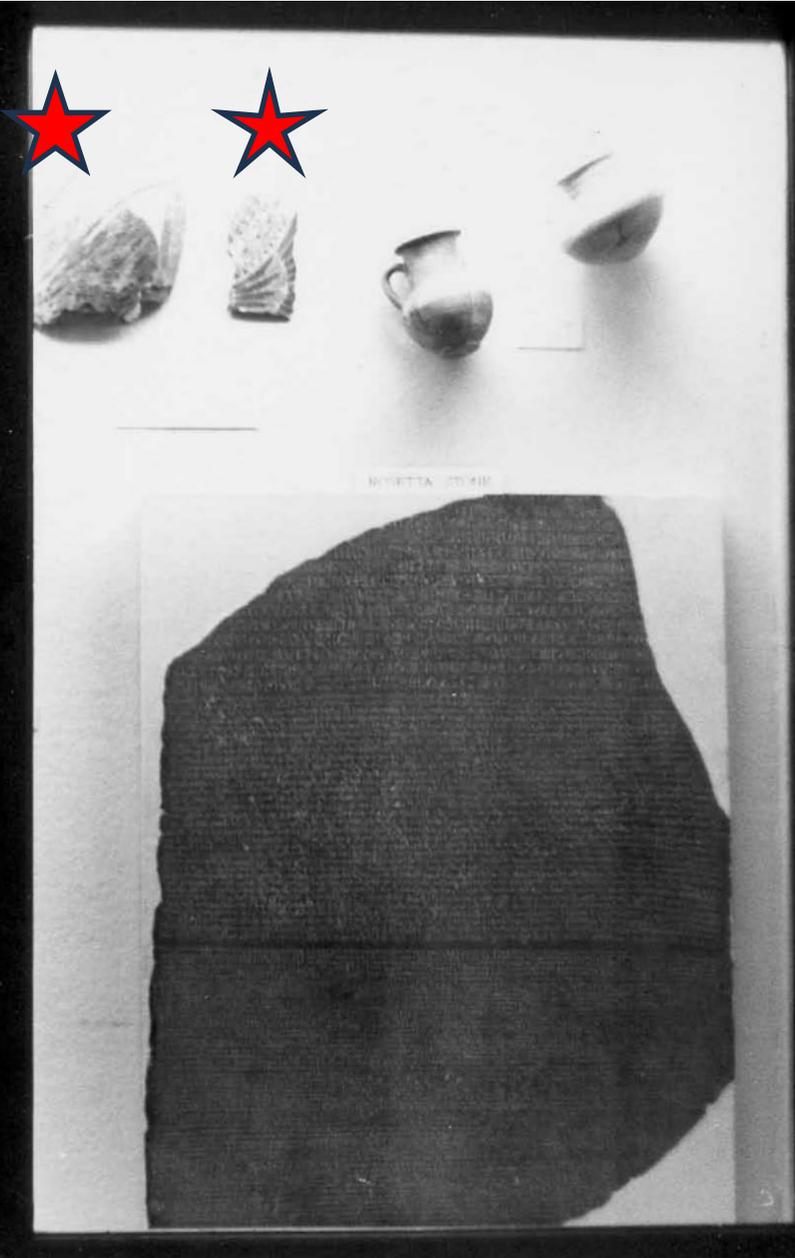
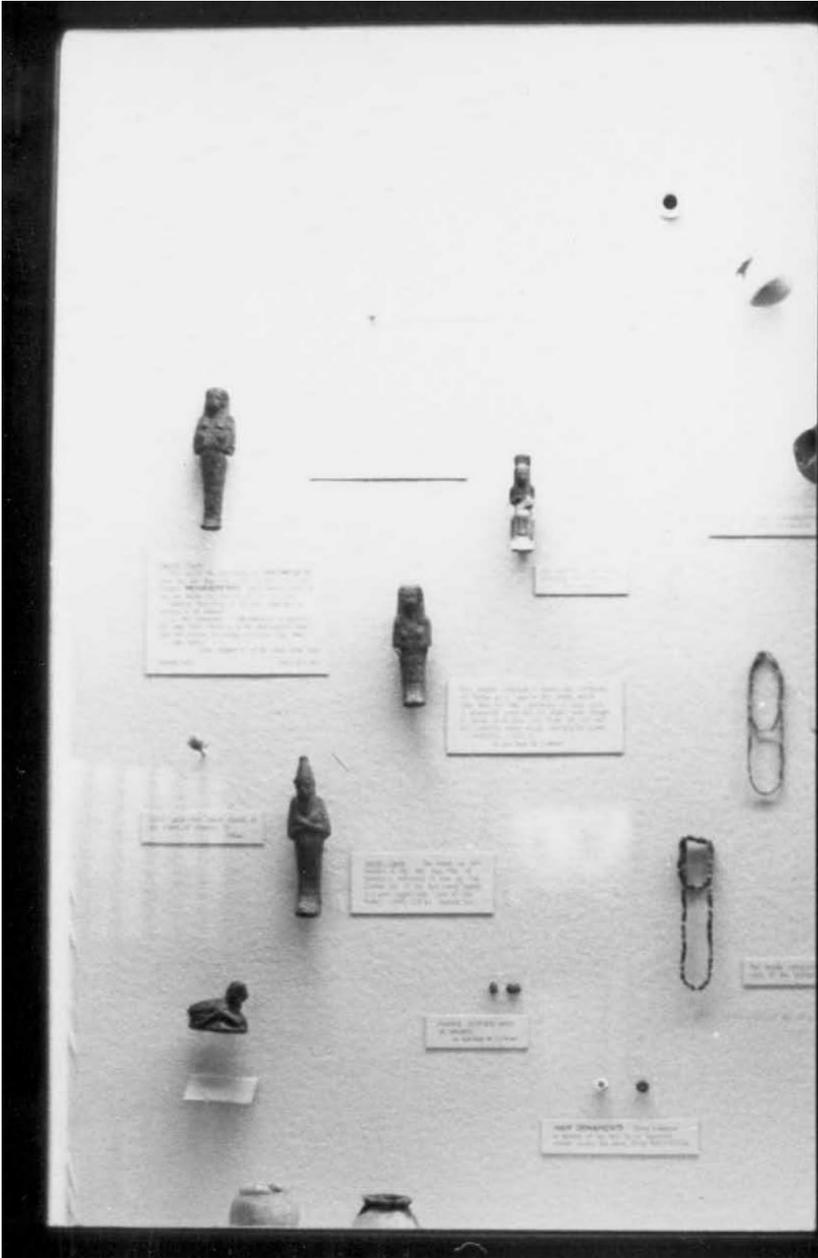


Woodward Gallery

Red stars –
No data, possibly TS
Henry
Yellow stars –
ID'd as no data in 1970s
but clarified by M Smith
1980s

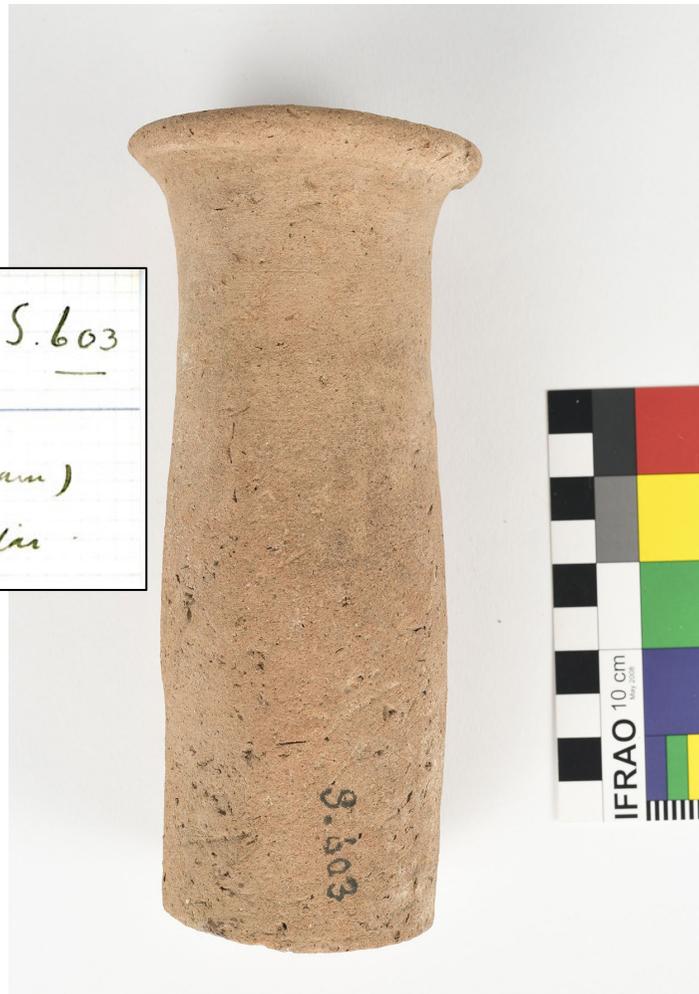


Woodward Gallery



A FORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF IDENTIFICATION by EXCAVATOR, AND MUSEUM

			S.603
I st dyn. bricked pit -			
tile 549. 601, 602.			
a) Series of pottery (clay)			
(b) a lat. cylindrical jar			



Abydos cemetery S, 1912, Loat

Esna Tomb 30E, 1906, Garstang



BEST PRACTICE IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT



Excavations in Egypt

Above: sieving , bagging, keeping lists

Right: Individual sections/zones identified as are individual finds from each zone





Labelled baskets of pottery and the sorting grids



Labelled bags of individual sorted finds

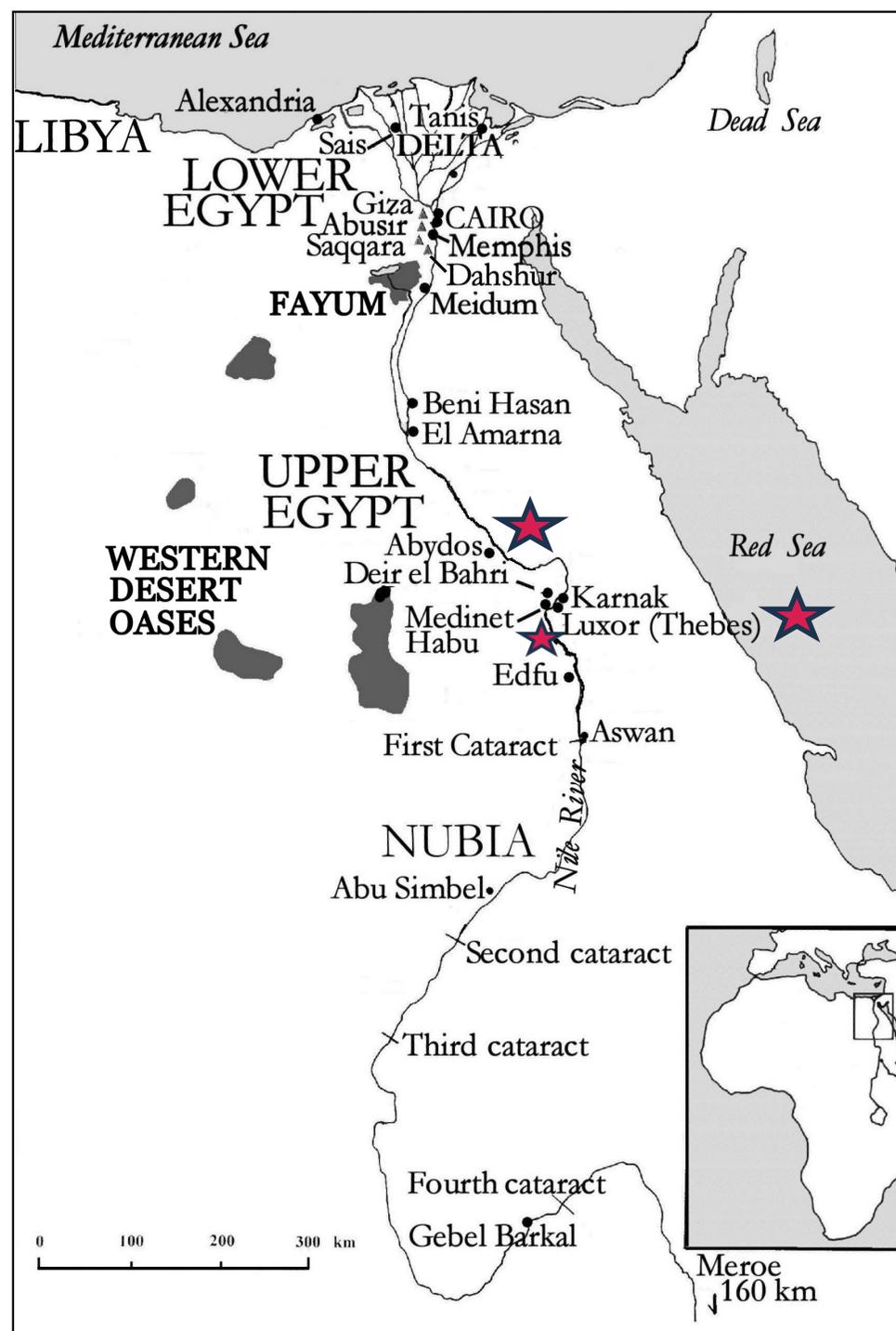


- Compiling data
- re-sorting/ checking IDs,
- surveying equipment getting fixed positions of site features
- detailing texts found in excavations



<https://www.rmo.nl/en/news-press/news/excavations-in-saqqara-2023/>

Places mentioned





- mummy wrapping,[M23];
- snakes x 2, cobra *Naja haje*, and Psamoticus – rear fanged [in a coffin] [M22]
- hawk [*Falco columbarius*] [M21]
- calcite jars x 2 [M25]
- Stone “image” canopic jar head [no M #] given F reg number in 2002

TS HENRY OBJECTS, ACQUIRED BY WA MUSEUM 1897

- Sycamore box and some of the fragments of the floral garland
- Broken Son of Horus amulet
- Wedjat eye amulet [eye of Horus]



TS HENRY OBJECTS, ACQUIRED BY WA MUSEUM 1897

Museum Open Day display early 1980s

21st Dynasty mummified human heads [obscured]

Man – tooth defect left upper margin. nose damaged during brain removal; dark brown hair

Woman, linen packing, traces of resin indicating lying flat with head tilted the right, recent pre mortem tooth loss; red hair? Possible inclusion of honey in preserving mixture

Thanks to Path Centre staff c 2002-2004 - Alanah Buck, Pierre Fillion, Neil Hicks, Steve Knott

Linen



TS HENRY OBJECTS, ACQUIRED BY WA MUSEUM 1897

TS HENRY OBJECTS, ACQUIRED BY WA MUSEUM 1897
MAYBE – MAYBE NOT!

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 6 July 1897, page 2

*The following relics from Thebes, Egypt, viz.,
mummy head of male, mummy head of female, feet of mummy,
mummy snake, mummy snake (in sycamore box), mummy hawk,
portions of coffin, casing of coffin,
alabaster ointment jar, specimens of pottery,
sycamore box containing floral wreath,
stone image;
together with the dress of a Nubian woman, a sawfish from the Indian
Ocean, bone of extinct moa of New Zealand, human remains taken
from a Maori oven, and a pair of horns from the Soudan,
have been purchased by Mr. T. S. Jienry.*

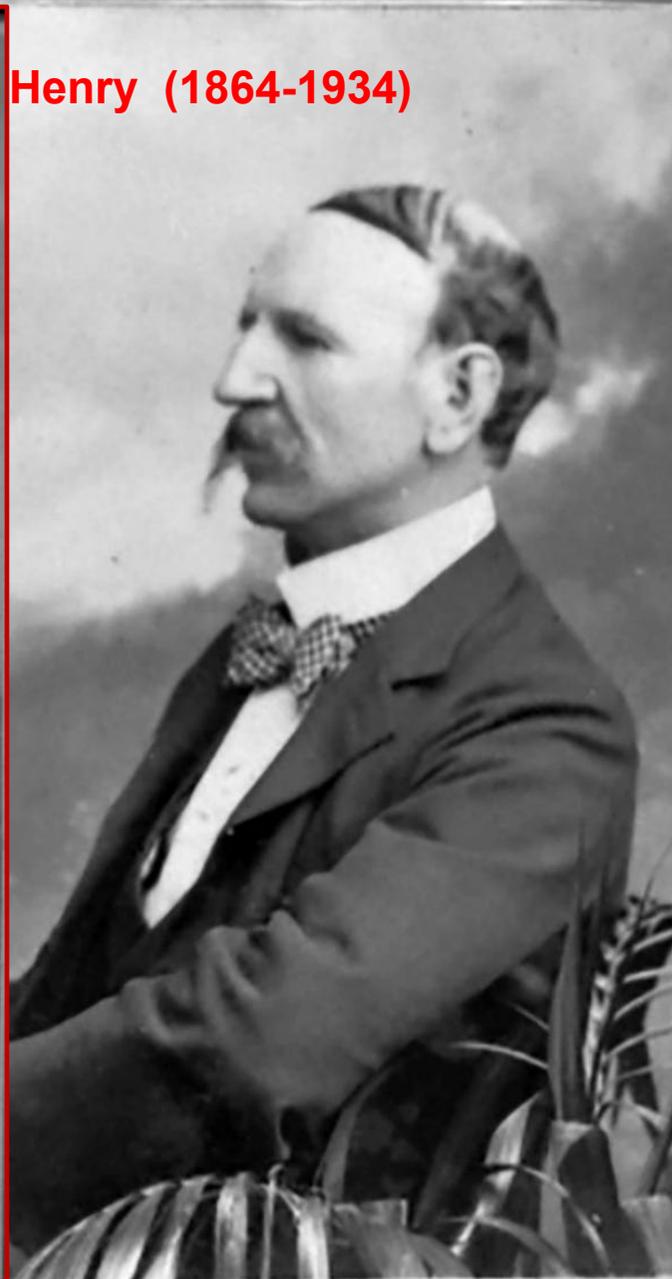
Note the misspelling of Henry may have delayed our finding this Trove record

TS HENRY OBJECTS, 1897 -
MAYBE – MAYBE NOT!!

Six ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM –
3 portions of sarcophagus – or
2 coffin fragments, and a casing



The Elusive Thomas Shekleton Henry (1864-1934)

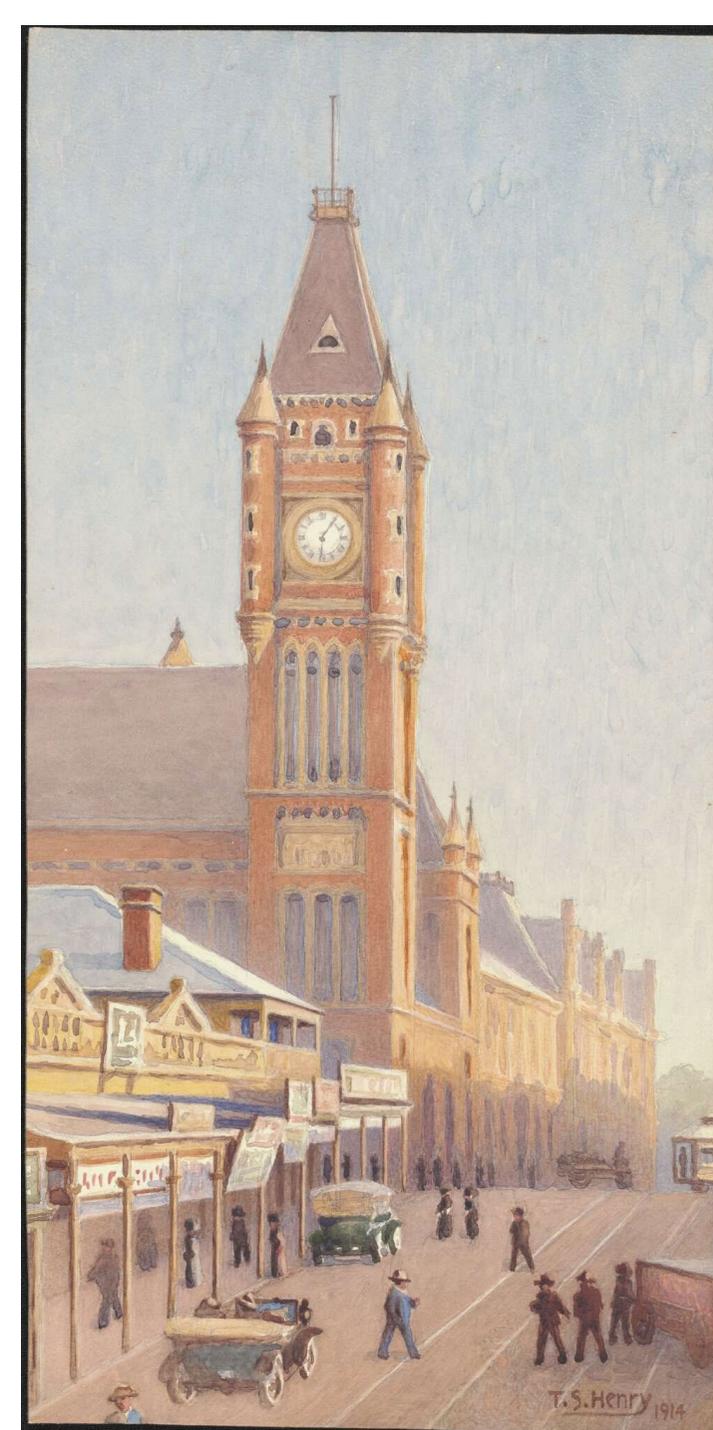
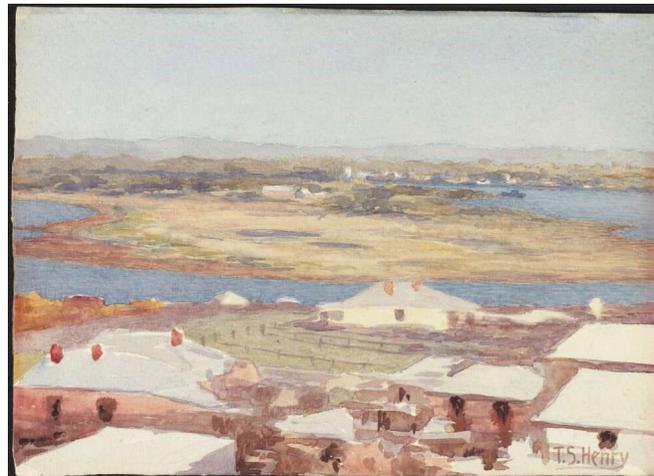
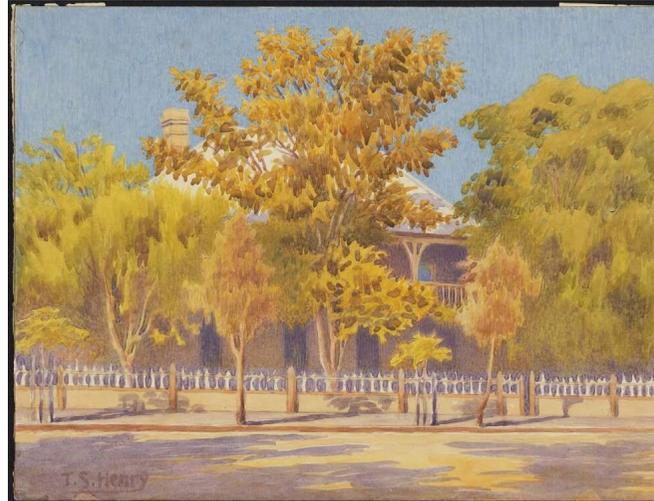
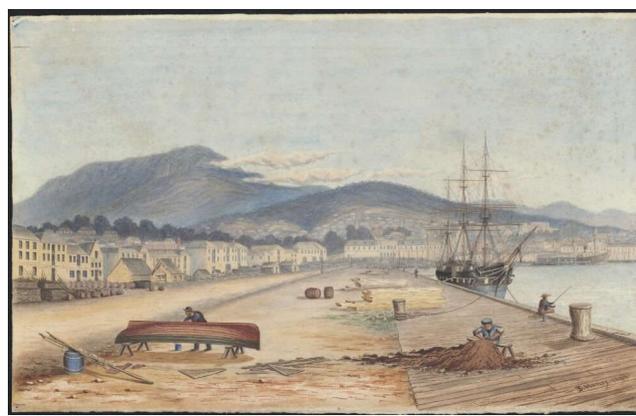


Left
Hobart 1890

Governors residence 1912

Narrows 1914

Right
Town Hall 1914

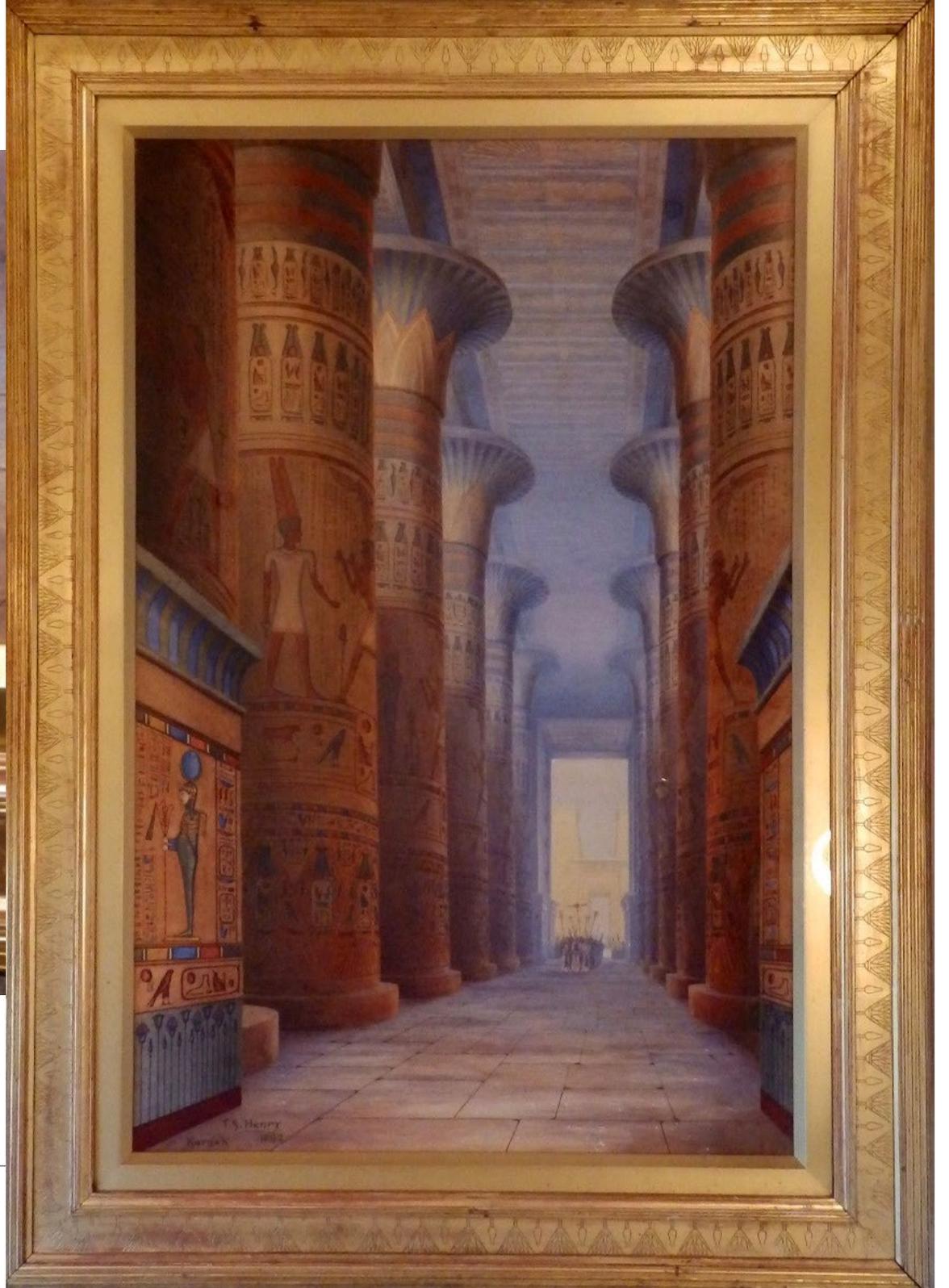


<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135172943/view>

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/1922147>

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/1922936>

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135263219/view>



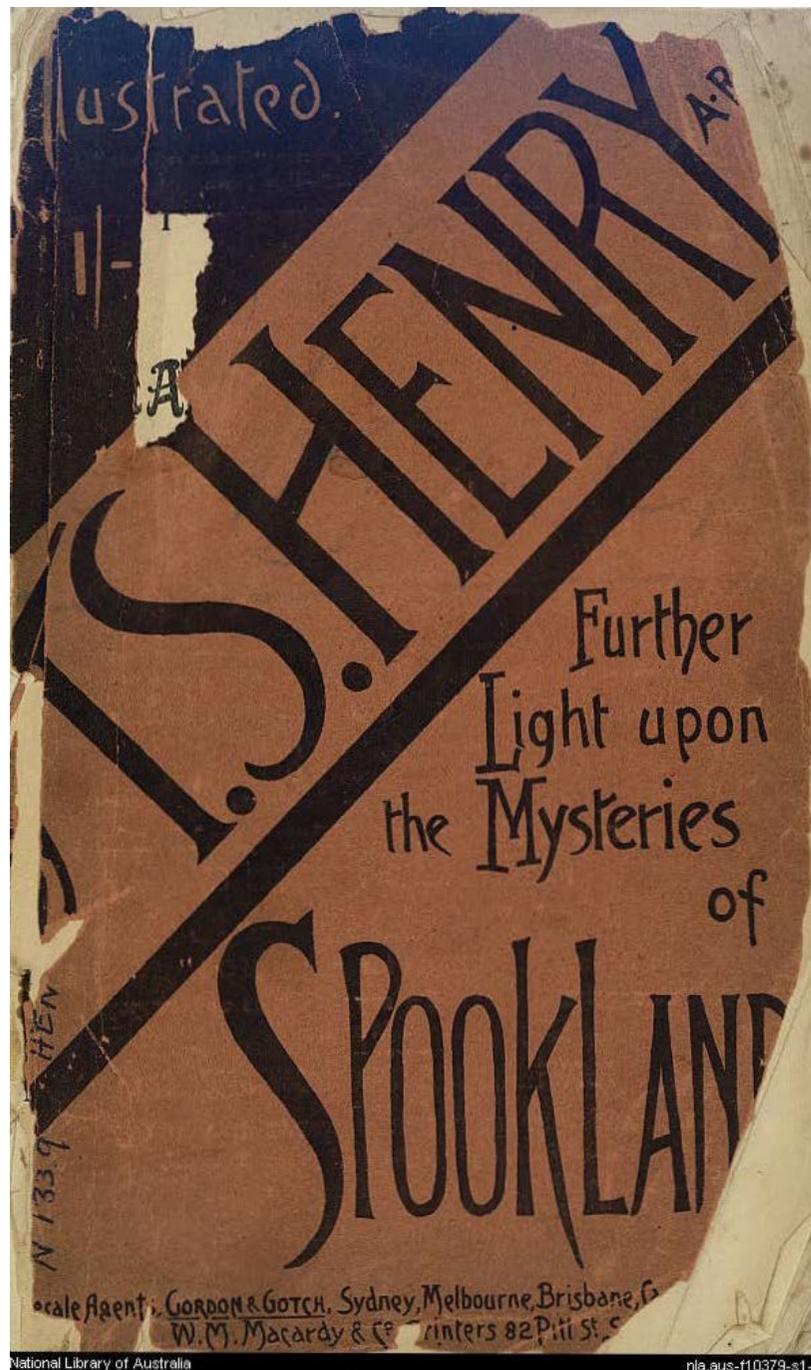
Karnak 1892

Sold at auction, UK

TS HENRY - OTHER INTERESTS

December 1894, T. S. Henry published a booklet titled
"Spookland!"

A Record of Research and Experiment in a much-talked-of realm of mystery, with a Review and Criticism of the so-called phenomena of Spirit Materialisation And Hints and Illustrations as to the possibility of Producing the Same."



National Library of Australia

nl.a.us-f10379-e1-e

TS HENRY - what next?

Thebes was listed as the source location, if true how might he have acquired them?

1898. Lucor.
Landing place.



Francis Frith 1857 [public domain image]

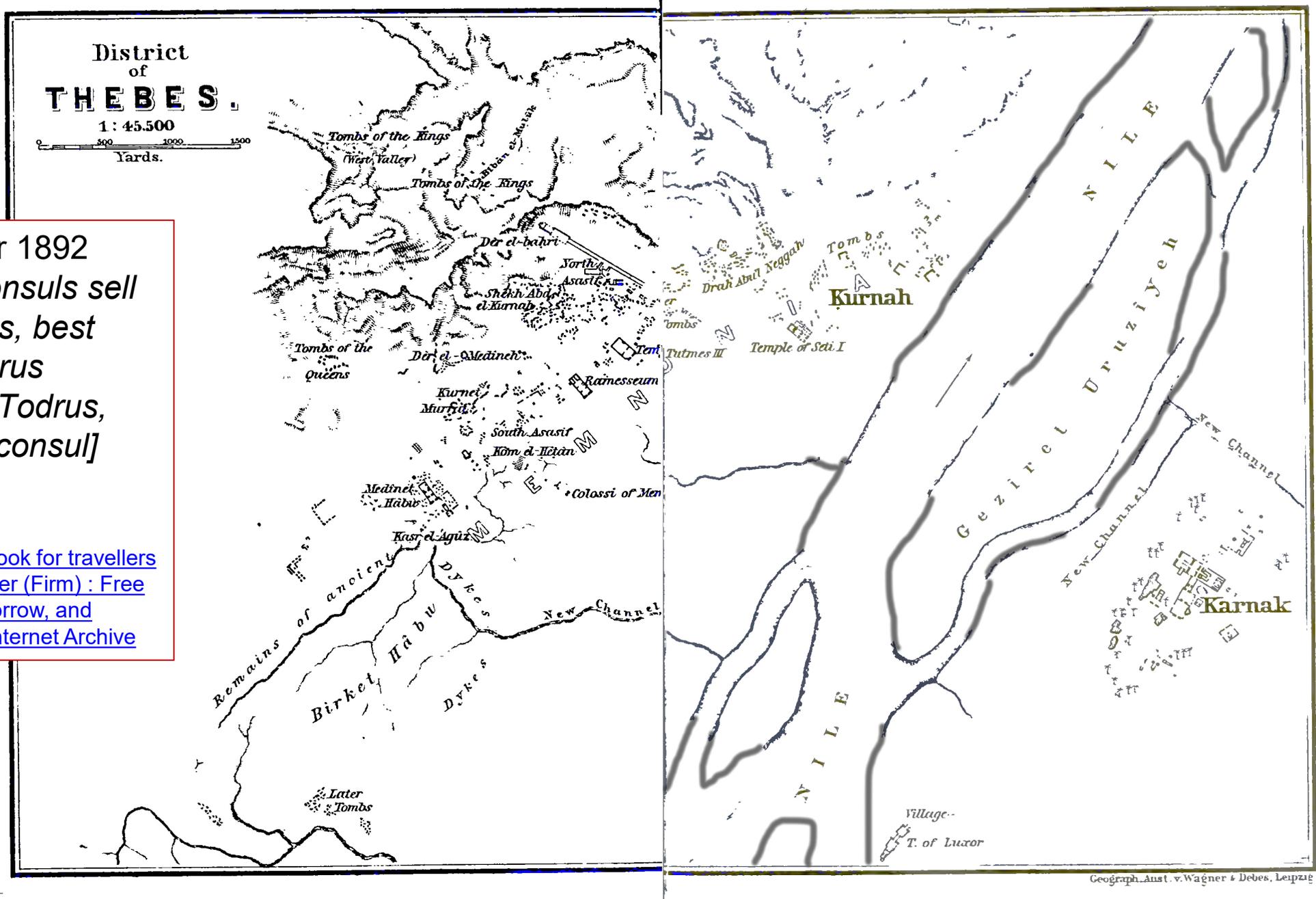
<https://www.getty.edu/art/collection/object/108YQZ>

The emergence of tourism and flourishing antiquities trade

See also Image copyright Royal collection Trust, viewable at link below:
Sarcophagus with mummy opened for Edward, prince of Wales, excavation organized by Sa'id Pasha, the Viceroy, during excavations at Gournah. The prince was allowed to keep finds. Date: 18 March 1862/ Original watercolour by Jemima Blackburn, Royal collection Trust

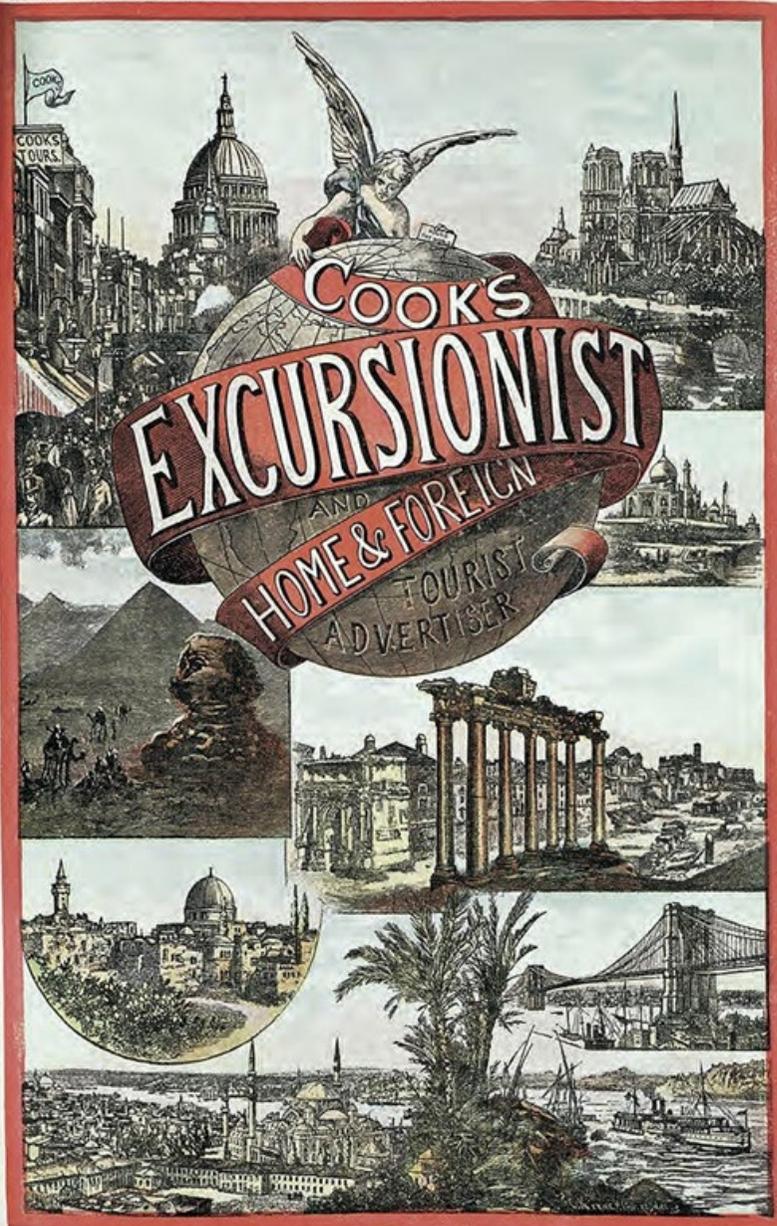
<https://www.rct.uk/collection/920994/the-prince-of-wales-at-thebes-18-march-1862>

TS HENRY - what next?



Baedeker 1892
All the consuls sell
antiquities, best
from Todrus
[Moharb Todrus,
German consul]
p.102

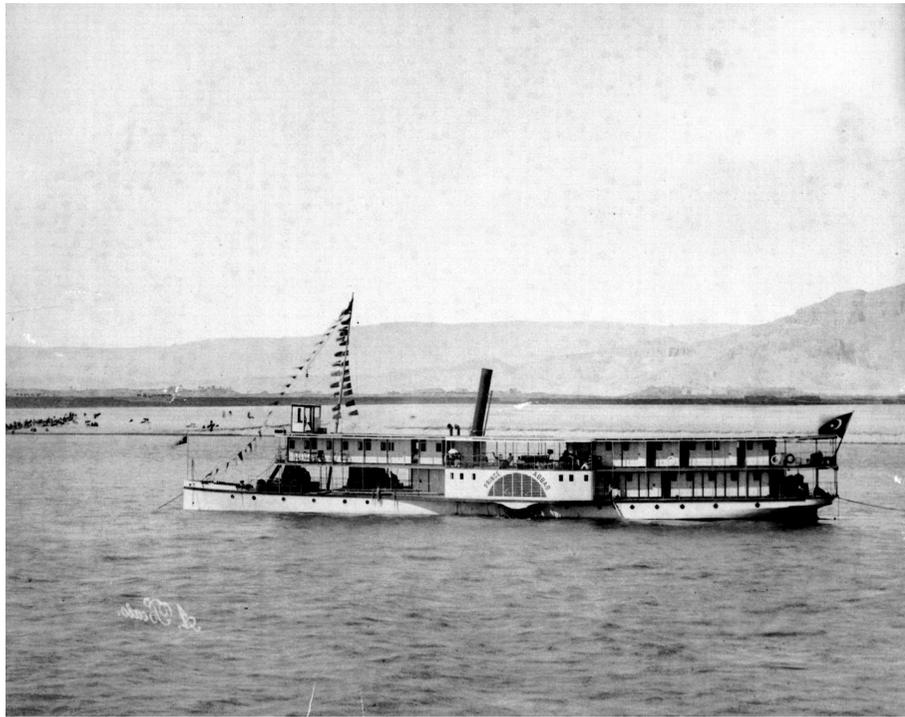
[Egypt, handbook for travellers](#)
: Karl Baedeker (Firm) : Free
[Download, Borrow, and](#)
[Streaming : Internet Archive](#)



THOS. COOK & SON—CHIEF OFFICE, LUDGATE CIRCUS, LONDON.

Cooks tours 1899

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/cruises/river-cruises/Beautiful-images-of-Nile-cruises-in-the-golden-age-of-travel/>



Cruise ship 1890s.
Beato.WAM



Cruise ship
Late 1990s.

Can we ID
portions of coffin, casing of coffin
mentioned in the 1897
newspaper ?



THE OPTIONS



Could they come from Thebes? Are they real or fakes?





After conservation – orpiment detectable



Overpainted with poster paint in the 1960s, before conservation 1980s





Compare hand with those detached from Amun priestly cache, and from RMO collection coffins



Might this be the coffin casing?



Excavated at Deir el-Bahari by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Egyptian Expedition, Winter of 1930-1931, by Ambrose Lansing; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, ca. 1930-1931; Walters Art Museum, 1941, by exchange.

Mummy and Painted Cartonnage of an Unknown Woman. 850-750 BCE (Third Intermediate)

Walters Art Museum Walters 781
Founded and opened in 1934.



<https://art.thewalters.org/detail/91759/painted-cartonnage-for-mummy-of-an-unknown-woman/>
Creative commons license

From Deir el Bahari to the Nile



Peter Lacovara identified this stylistically as a Late Period coffin fragment, between dynasties 27-30 [525-343 BCE]. Faces of this period were often separate carved pieces, pegged to a space at the front of the coffin lid.

Is there a geographical focus to these?



Left foot probably from ka statue



Statue of Metjeti (Methethy), Late Dynasty 5 to early Dyansty 6, 2371-2288 BCE. Probably from Saqqara. 700mm tall. Curled black wig, kilt with polychrom bead apron and belt, gesso broken in many places. Left foot detached

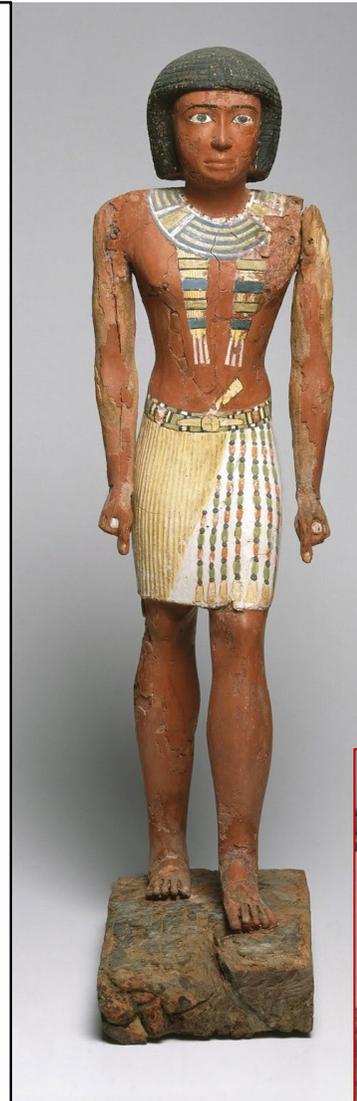
Acc. No 53.222, Brooklyn Museum

Creative Commons-BY (Photo: Brooklyn Museum, 53.222_SL1.jpg)

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/3593>

Detail of left foot, Extract: https://d1lfxha3ugu3d4.cloudfront.net/images/opencollection/objects/size4/CUR.53.222_erg2.jpg

(Photo: Brooklyn Museum, CUR.53.222_erg2.jpg)

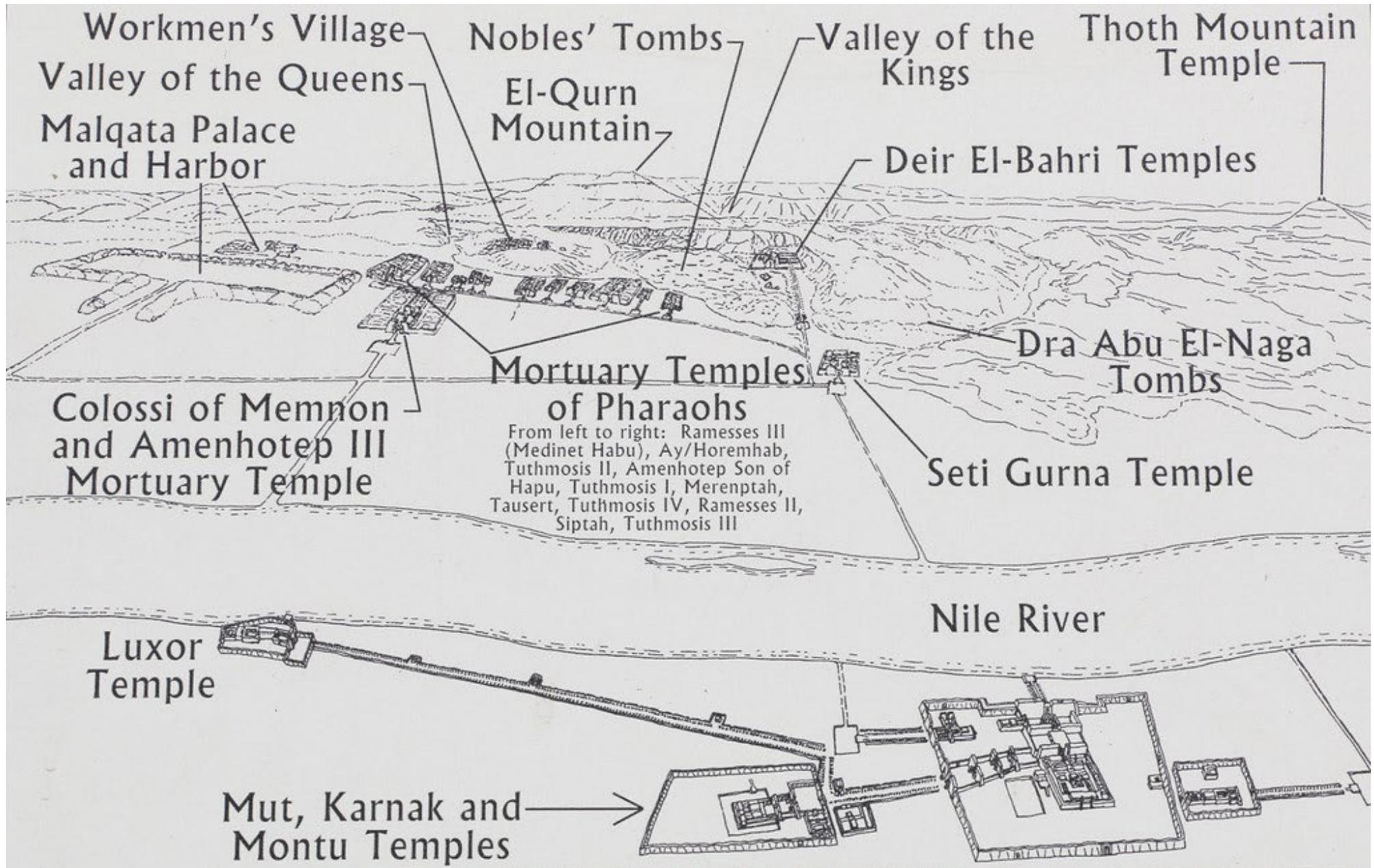


See also: Statue of a man, left foot forward, with a loincloth, curly wig and ousekh necklace. Collector Henry Salt, acquired by Louvre 1826. Late 5th Dynasty-6th Dynasty, 2430-2015 BCE. No 47, At 46.

<https://collections.louvre.fr/ark:/53355/cl010010056>

Image use protected by copyright.

Thebes was listed as the source location, but in Thebes there are many possible specific source locations



Terry Feuerborn 2015 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/travfotos/22709389397>

Mountain above VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Valley of the Kings: Deir el Bahari to the right, then the back of the mountain with Valley of the Kings on other side



VALLEY OF THE KINGS



<https://www.artic.edu/artworks/157994/valley-of-the-tomb-of-the-kings-thebes>



Norah Cooper 2005

Francis Frith 1857 - Art Institute of Chicago
[open access image]

DEIR EL MEDINA

<https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/43506/chapter/364131105?login=true>

See also copyright image of Deir el-Medina being cleared by Egyptian workmen in 1935.
Archives dept of the French Institute of Archaeology in Cairo, Photo: © IFAO, Archives B. Bruyère



LUXOR

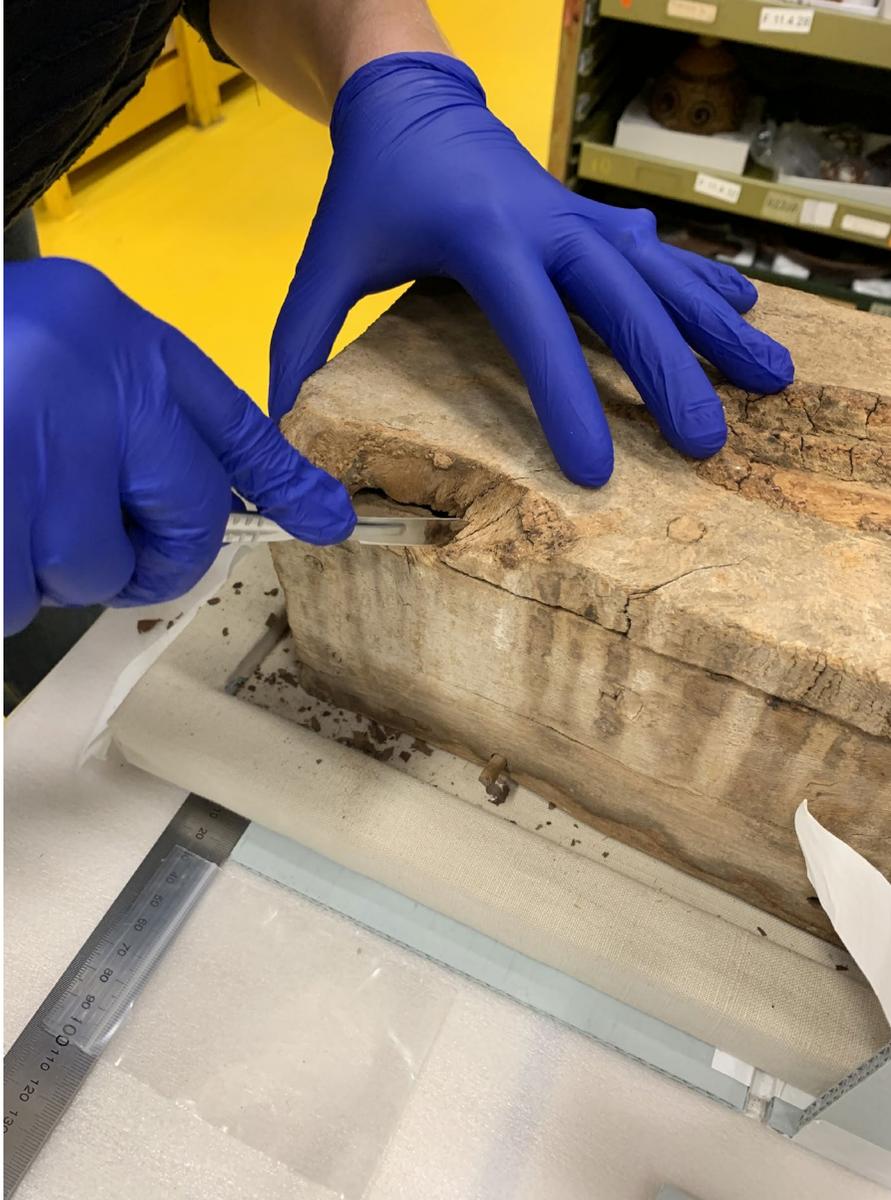


<https://www.artic.edu/artworks/157944/entrance-to-the-great-temple-luxor>
Public domain image

Above: Norah Cooper 2005

Right:
Francis Frith 1857 - Art Institute of Chicago





Collecting wood sample to date the sycamore box, 27th Dynasty, Persian Period.
2443 ± 16 BP [507-477 BCE] Sample WK-56572
It is more recent than the contents that were in it when donated!



The AMS date of the floral garland.
26th Dynasty, Saite period
2519 ± 20 BP [589--549 BCE]. Sample WK-54561

The garland is older than the box!



Generally - plants in similar funerary wreaths have been identified as persea, mimusops schimperi, lotus, and nymphaea stellata), and flowers (cornflower, centaurea depressus, carthamus tinctorus, and acacia nilotica).

Compare the garland: 18th Dynasty Amenhotep 1 treated by 21st Dynasty embalmers – new floral garlands.

See copyright images on various websites eg:

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/africa/scans-reveal-details-of-unwrapped-ancient-egyptian-mummy-of-amenhotep-i-20211229-p59ko5.html>



Floral garland fragments, “including persea leaves and lotus petals sewn with a double running stitch over thin strips of palm leaf. ... Mummy of Nauny, a member of the High Priests of Amun”.
3rd Intermediate period . 21st Dynasty, c1050 BCE.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/553220>
Public domain image

Delphinium orientale, *Sesbania aegyptiaca*, *Acacia nilotica*, and *Carthamus tinctorius*.



Eastern larkspur
Egyptian riverhemp
Gum Arabic tree
Safflower

Cornflower
[*Centaurea cyanus*]



CONSTANT CONSIDERATION

Centres of trade

N: Alexandria, Cairo, Kafr el-Haram [pyramid fields] and in the south- Luxor

All the consular agents at Luxor sold antiquities –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdGanYqKcL0>

Egyptian galleries in Western museums are immensely popular [joy of seeing material from excavations which continue to have a sense of romance and danger] ... the majority of objects currently on display in museums, however, were not excavated by archaeological missions, they were acquired through the antiquities market. The circumstances of their acquisition are frequently obscure and, until recently were very rarely considered relevant.

Kim Ryholt – *Collectors and Dealers – The Trade of Egyptian Antiquities*,
Professor of Egyptology, University of Copenhagen

