

THE RAPE ^{OF} _{THE} NILE

Tomb Robbers, Tourists, and Archaeologists in Egypt

BRIAN M. FAGAN

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York

NOTE

There is no one uniform system of Egyptian nomenclature in use among Egyptologists. We decided to use that adopted by William C. Hayes in *The Scepter of Egypt*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1953, as his spellings appear to be in widespread use.

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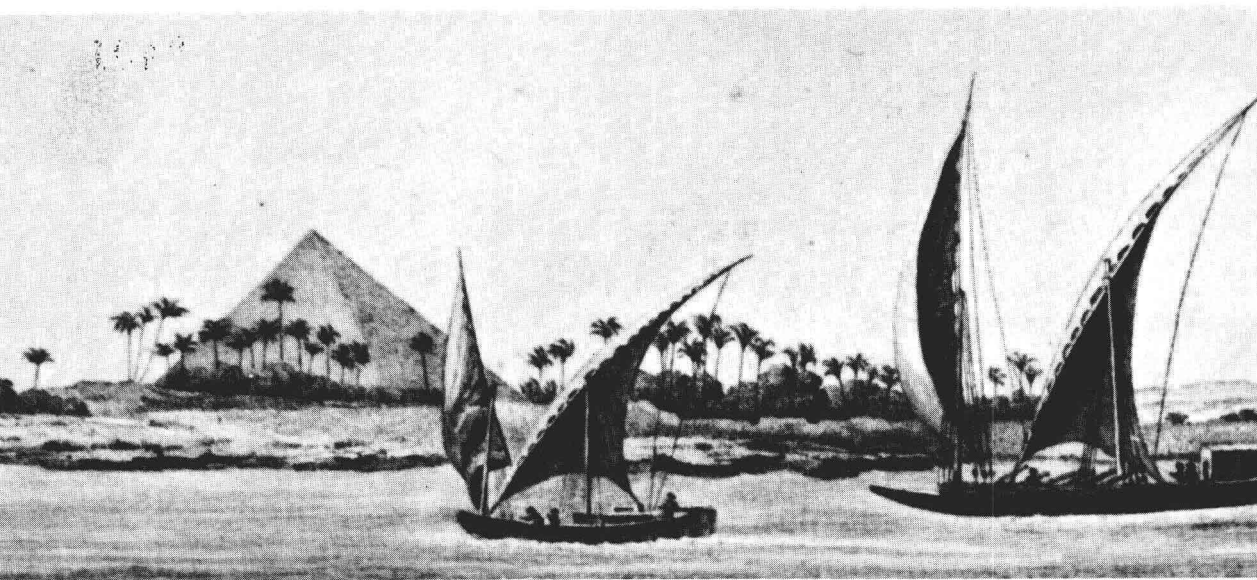
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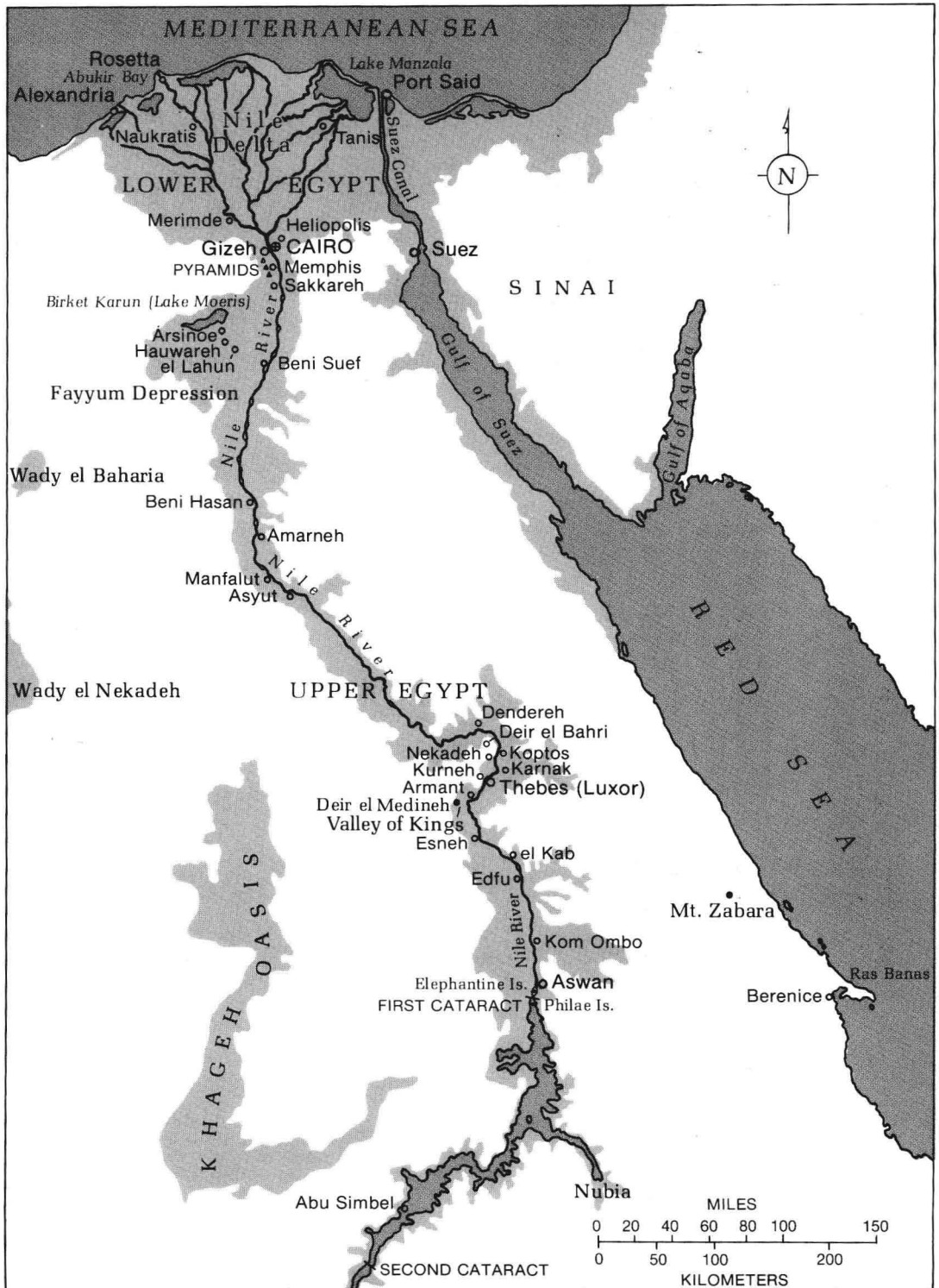


But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour,
and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of
silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye
shall put them upon your sons, and upon your
daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

Exodus 3:22

For the Fox and the Vicar,

**with love and affection, and because of many
good times**



THE CHRONOLOGY, DYNASTIES, PHARAOHS, AND MAJOR EVENTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

DATES	DYNASTIES	PRINCIPAL PHARAOHS *	MAJOR EVENTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS
3100 B.C.	Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt, Early Dynastic Period I and II	Narmer (Menes)	Emergence of Dynastic civilization and of the major institutions of Egyptian government and religion Capital of Egypt eventually estab- lished at Memphis. Royal tombs at Abydos and Sakkareh
2686 B.C.	Old Kingdom III to VI	Zoser, Snofru, Khuf-wy, Kha'ef-Re, and Men-ku-Re	Pyramid burial for pharaohs. Construction of the pyramids of Gizeh. Eternal life a royal preroga- tive
2181 B.C.	First Intermediate Period VII to XI		Disintegration of the state and internal dissention. Eventually Thebes prevails. Expansion of the cults of Osiris and Amun-Re
2050 B.C.	Middle Kingdom XI and XII	Various Montu-hotpes and Amun- em-het I. Sesostriis I and II	Extension of Egyptian sphere of influence into Asia and Nubia. Amun becomes a major god

1785 B.C.	Second Intermediate Period XIII to XVII	Hyksos rulers in Lower Egypt are eventually toppled by the Thebans. Horse and chariot are introduced to the Nile Valley
1580 B.C.	New Kingdom XVIII to XX	The height of Egyptian power and prosperity. Empire extends into the Euphrates region and deep into Nubia. Valley of Kings comes into use as a royal burial place. Karnak and Luxor the scene of much temple building
1085 B.C.	Late Period XXI to XXX	Country sundered by political disputes. Eventual conquest of Egypt by Persians and others
525 B.C.	Conquest of Egypt by Persian King Cambyses	
332 B.C.	Alexander the Great visits the Nile Valley	
305 B.C.	The Ptolemies	Denderah, Edfu, Kom Ombo, and Philae. Period of great influence for Greek rulers of Egypt. Library at Alexandria achieves great importance
30 B.C.	Roman occupation of Egypt	Egypt becomes part of the Roman Empire after the death of Antony and Cleopatra

*For reasons of clarity, only the most important rulers are mentioned by name. Dates of their reigns are occasionally given in the text, or they can be obtained from any book on Ancient Egypt. The chronologies used in this table are a digest of various time scales proposed by different scholars and should be regarded as approximations, especially for the earlier dynasties.

A Note on the Illustrations

The photographic research for *The Rape of the Nile* took me into many fascinating byways of Egyptology and nineteenth-century history. I have tried to balance contemporary portraits, lithographs, and photographs against modern shots of major sites. Anyone developing a pictorial survey of Egyptology is bound to rely heavily on *La Description de l’Egypte*, for the exquisite illustrations are a fascinating kaleidoscope of early nineteenth-century Egypt. Scenes of Egyptian life are to be found in David Roberts’ *Egypt and Nubia* (1846), illustrations with a keen eye for detail and often with a pleasingly romantic touch. Stanley Lane Poole’s *Social Life in Egypt* (London, 1884) includes some pleasing views of Cairo. Tourist drawings of the Nile are plentiful but often of

dubious quality. I found the illustrations in Amelia Edwards' *Thousand Miles up the Nile* a little disappointing, and some of the best material is found in travel books published by Bible and Tract societies. One excellent example is the Reverend Samuel Manning's *Land of the Pharaohs: Egypt and Sinai Illustrated by Pen and Pencil* (London, 1876), which comes complete with Biblical texts, moralizings, and numerous lithographs of the tourist in Egypt, many of which appear in this book.

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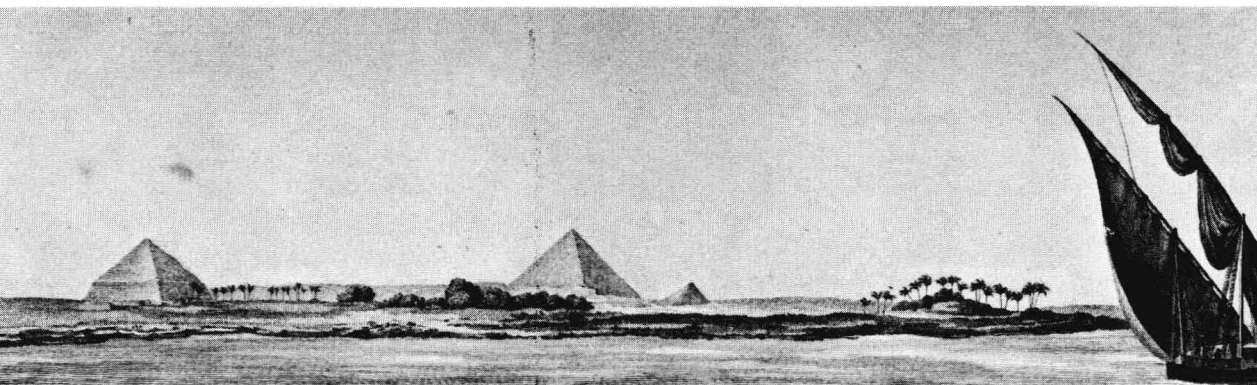
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PART
ONE:

TOMBS, TOURISTS, AND TREASURE



The Valley of Kings

1 The Destruction of the Pharaohs

“One can imagine the plotting beforehand, the secret rendezvous on the cliff by night, the bribing or drugging of the cemetery guards, and then the desperate burrowing in the dark, the scramble through a small hole into the burial chamber, the hectic search by a glimmering light for treasure that was portable, and the return home at dawn laden with booty.” So wrote the great British Egyptologist Howard Carter soon after he had discovered the magnificent tomb of Tut-ankh-Amun in 1922. “We can imagine these things,” he added, “and at the same time we can realise how inevitable it all was.”

Howard Carter was writing about the Valley of Kings, the desolate and rocky valley to the west of Thebes chosen as a royal burial place for the