EXCAVATING EGYPT

WATERCOLOURS: Archaeology or art?
This booklet has been compiled by Carl Graves, John Wyatt and Katherine Piper for use in *Excavating Egypt*, 2015

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WATERCOLOURS: Archaeology or art?

The collection of watercolours housed in the Egypt Exploration Society Lucy Gura Archive were painted by members of early missions, and served two functions: firstly, the watercolours formed accurate colour copies of reliefs and inscriptions, preserving a record of the archaeology against possible future damage in the days before colour photography; secondly, and more practically, they were created to be copied and printed as colour plates in publications.

Watercolour by Amice Calverley showing an unfinished painting in the temple of Seti I at Abydos
Many of the watercolours in the collection were painted in the course of the Archaeological Survey of Egypt by Marcus Blackden and Howard Carter. More still were painted by Howard Carter and his assistants, including his brother Vernet and Rosalind Paget, during the Fund’s work at the Hatshepsut temple at Deir el-Bahari; there are also some from the Society’s work at Amarna in the 1920s and 30s (top right). Watercolour paint was a good medium for epigraphic work; it required speed, before the paint dried up, and allowed the artist to achieve a very close match in shades and strength of colour to accurately represent several thousand years’ worth of damage and fading. The front cover of this booklet shows Howard Carter’s downed painting tools in the chapel at Deir el-Bahari.
BACON, Henry
(1839-1912)

Entrance to temple at Abu Simbel (ART.223)
The temple of Abu Simbel (ART.217)
Priest wearing a leopard skin from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.215)
Flying pintail duck hieroglyph from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.001)

Swallow hieroglyph from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.005)
Table with offerings from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.011)

Servant of the Ka hieroglyph [Gardiner D31] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.029)
Various hieroglyphs, including a boat from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.013)
Bead necklace with counterpoise hieroglyph [Gardiner S18] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.021)

Village with crossroads hieroglyph [Gardiner O49] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.057)
Seated woman hieroglyph [Gardiner B1] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.060)
Was sceptre hieroglyph [Gardiner R19] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.051)

Symbol of the West hieroglyph [Gardiner R14] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.014)

Adze chopping wood hieroglyph [Gardiner U21] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.056)
Detail of knife cutting meat from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.082)
Priest pouring a liquid offering from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1891 (ART.214)
Birds in acacia tree (ART.218)
CALVERLEY, Amice Mary (1896-1959)

Seti I offers food to the gods, Abydos
Seti I offers to the barque of Amun, Abydos
CARTER, Howard  
(1874-1939)

Detail from marsh scene of sacred ibis on papyrus from the tomb of Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.231)
African Jabiru hieroglyph from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.003)
Wigeon (?) hieroglyph from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.007)

Arm hieroglyph [Gardiner D36] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.043)
Goose hieroglyph from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.008)

Five jars/vessels varying in form and material from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.072)
Hoopoe in left Acacia tree from the tomb of Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.211)
Vine on Props hieroglyph [Gardiner M43] from the tomb of Amenemhat at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.017)

Herders driving goats from the tombs of Djehutyhotep at Deir el-Bersheh (ART.213)
Man spinning from the tomb of Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.216)
The head of Queen Ahmose from the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari, 1896 (ART.221)
Detail from marsh scene of swamp cat on papyrus from the tomb of Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.230)
Hieroglyph for Khnum [Gardiner E10] from the tomb of Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.245)

Detail of Hippopotamus from marshland scene from the tomb of Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 1895 (ART.244)
EDWARDS, Amelia Ann Blanford (1831-1882)
Arab tombs near Siout (East Bank of the Nile) in Middle Egypt, 1877 (ART.212)
CARTHEW, Alice Grace Elizabeth (1867-1940)

Decorated tile from Deir el-Bahari (ART.174)
Six broken pieces of faience with hieroglyphs from Deir el-Bahari

(ART.170)

Two broken pieces of faience with hieroglyphs from Deir el-Bahari

(ART.172)
Four pieces of decorated faience including two beads from Deir el-Bahari (ART.180)

Six decorated broken pieces of faience from Deir el-Bahari (ART.177)
NEWBERRY, Percy Edward (1868-1949)

Priest and Anubis Baboon from the tomb of Khnumhotep I at Beni Hasan (ART.061)
PAGET, Rosalind Frances Emily (1844-1925)

Winged sun disc from the Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari (ART.229)
Scene from Punt including palm tree, baboon, cattle and giraffe from Deir el-Bahari (ART.219)