

FRAGMENTARY INSCRIPTIONS IN AN UNKNOWN SCRIPT.  
FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION

(with three illustrations)

[The inscribed pieces described below are in the possession of a private collector. They were inherited by the current owner from a distant relative, who had obtained them during the course of travels in the Holy Land. There is no further information concerning the acquisition of these pieces, but it is very likely, for reasons detailed below, that they came from Egypt. The script, and language, in which the inscriptions were written has defeated numerous attempts by members of the Committee to read the texts, but the publication of the writings was thought desirable by the owner of the texts, and by the President of the Academy, if only to make a lasting record of these interesting pieces for scholars. The brief descriptions accompanying the illustrations of the texts, which are the work of the Editors of these Proceedings. The owner of these antiquities has graciously permitted the Academy to hold them for study over an indefinite period of time, and they may be seen in the offices of the Academy, upon application to the Secretary.

DR. R. S. WALKER, FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY.]

I.

This fragment is written on that paper made of plant fibers called PAPYRUS, which is well-known to us from certain Classical Authors as a product of the land of Egypt. It is, therefore, not unreasonable to assume that this piece came from thence. As is the case with all the inscriptions described herein, it has not been possible to identify the script, which appears to have been written with ink or lampblack, with any certainty. Although the writing superficially resembles the Arabian script, and certain characters can be identified with individual Arabian characters, it has proven impossible to make any connected sense of the text in this manner. Moreover, many of the characters cannot be

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OF 455 } 26 Feb 1872  
by J. S. Cooper

SCIENCES,

AS3n } Report of the Special  
455 } Committee  
Survey of La  
1858

SUPPLEMENT.

NOVEMBER, 1874

TO

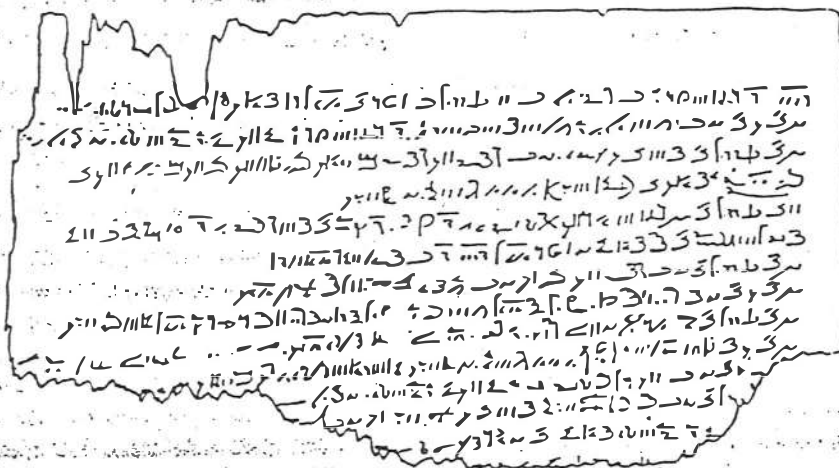
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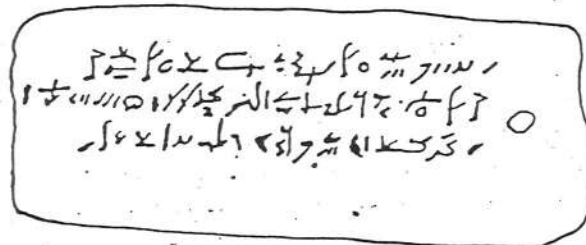
identified with any known elements of the Arabian syllabary. One of our members has pointed out a resemblance of the characters of these texts to the Hindoo script, while another has noted similarities between these texts and the ENCHORIAL script of the Ancient Egyptian language, which appears on the famous carving known as the Rosetta Stone. Unfortunately, no one among us is learned in either script, so the matter must here rest until further work is possible.

The leaf is inscribed on one side of the page, in thirteen lines of characters. The size of the leaf is nearly eight inches in breadth, and five inches in height. The colour of the stuff upon which the text is written is light brown, and what is preserved of the writing is, in general, very clear and distinct. The following drawing of the text is roughly half the size of the original.



## II.

This piece appears to be in the same sort of writing as the previous inscription, but it does not appear to have been written by the same hand. It, too, is written in a dark ink, but the material upon which the text is inscribed is wood. The piece measures approximately two inches in height, five inches in breadth, and a quarter-inch in thickness. There is a small hole in the object, which contains the remains of some sort of cord or twine. The back of the objects may have been similarly inscribed, but is now badly stained with hardened pitch or bitumen. It is very likely that this object, and the one that follows, served as some sort of label.





not for circulation, please

- (1) n3y n3 sdy.w nt hp nt-iw 'Iss 'nh d n-im=w n3.w mtw=f sh gr  
Dhwt<sub>y</sub>-ms ..[....]
- (2) p3y-d=f d p3 nt hy r t3 hrymyn3 n n3 sdy.w bn-iw=f t t3 tpy.t  
n p3 mwt
- (3) p3y-d 'Iss d my ir=f lg p3 nt sn iw=f sn š'-tw=f gm w3h-iw  
(= λγω) iw=f gm iw=f štr iw=f ir
- (4) hp<sub>y</sub> mtw=f ir Pr-'3 r-d3d3 p3 tre=f
- (5) i-ir 'Iss d p3y sdy iw=f nw r-hn r n3 hry.w n n3 rmt.w d my sn  
r n3y=w ntr.w nt-iw=tn
- (6) m3wy d wn-mtw=n p3 'nh n-im=w n3y n3 nt mtre n-im=y n3.w
- (7) p3y-d 'Iss d p3 nt sn iw=f gm.t=f p3 nt thm r-hn iw=w wn.t=f n-im=f
- (8) p3y-d=f d p3 m3' iw wn 3 ntr.w n-im=w hyn ntr.w n3.w p3 m3' iw wn 2  
gr w' n-im=w tw=y hpr irm=f
- (9) p3y-d 'Iss d mr p3y=k sn r-h t3y=k [....] hrh n-im=f [....] p3y=k br
- (10) p3y-d=f d w3h=y ndry (= NOYXE) h.t r-d3d3 p3 tre=f twy=s tw=y  
hrh r-r=f š'-tw=f [....]
- (11) p3y]-d=f d p3 nt-iw=f sw n-im=w(?) bn-iw=f t t3 tpy.t n p3 mwt ..[....]
- (12) p3y-d 'Iss d p3 nt wn-mtw=f msdr my ir=f sdm.t=f p3 nt [....]
- (13) [....] t t3 tpy.t mtw=tn d p3 nb hlk ..[....]

- (1) These are the secret sayings which the living Jesus speaks and Dhutmose (sic) writes ..[...]
- (2) He said: Whoever finds the interpretation of these sayings will not experience the taste of death. (1)
- (3) Jesus said: Let the one who seeks cease seeking until he finds, and when he finds he will be disturbed and will
- (4) marvel and become ruler over the all. (2)
- (5) Jesus uttered this statement while looking at the rulers of the people: Make enquiry of their gods,
- (6) from whom you think you possess life. They are the ones who instruct/are instructed about/are satisfied with me.
- (7) Jesus said: Whoever seeks will find (it). Whoever knocks will be let in. (94).
- (8) He said: Where there are three gods, they are gods. Where there are two or one, I am with him. (30)
- (9) Jesus said: Love your brother like your [....]. Guard him [....] your eye. (25)
- (10) He said: I have cast fire upon the all. Behold, I guard it until it [....]. (10)
- (11) He said: The one who knows them(?) will not experience the taste of death ..[....]. (19)
- (12) [Je]sus [said]: Whoever has ears, let him hear (it). Whoever [....]. (8, 21, 24, 63, 65, 96)
- (13) [....] experience the taste, and you say 'Lord, sweet ..[....].