

The Table of Abood.

THE TABLE OF ABOOD.

By the Rev. W. J. LOFTIE, B.A., F.S.A.

The celebrated Table of Abydos, or Abood, is a list of the kings who preceded Sethi I. of the xix dynasty.

There are two temples at Abood, both erected by Sethi and his more celebrated son, Rameses II. The western temple is ruined, almost to the ground. The table of kings sculptured in it was broken to pieces, but the fragments are now in the British Museum.

The Table,¹ now under consideration, is still in its place, sculptured on the wall of a passage in the other or eastern temple, of which the remains, lately cleared, are very perfect, and remarkable for the beauty of the sculpture, the finest produced under the middle monarchy, though so far inferior to that of the period of the Pyramid builders.

The Table represents Sethi and his son making an offering to the divine kings who preceded them, and its great value consists in its giving us a clue to the succession of Egyptian Dynasties of what may be called the legitimate line.

The succession was as follows: the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th, without a break; the 11th, 12th and 13th, followed by the 18th and 19th. If this be correct, the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th dynasties were contemporary with the 11th under its earlier kings; and the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th were contemporary with the early kings of the 13th.

This is but a rough summary of the views of the most advanced Egyptologists, but serves sufficiently well to explain the Table.

A hieroglyphic "determinative" figure of each king heads his cartouche, and the names are disposed in two lines, read, contrary to the usual Egyptian fashion, from

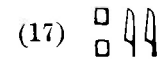
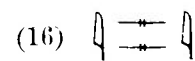
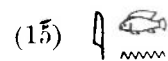
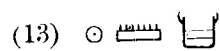
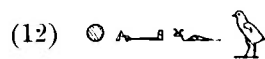
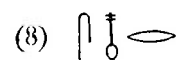
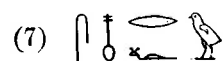
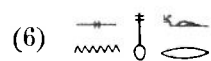
¹ M. Loftie exhibited a photograph of the Table at the meeting of the Institute on July 3, 1879.

left to right, like our own writing. They occupy a space on the wall some thirty feet long, and reach nearly to the roof of the passage, which is about ten feet high.

A translation of the line of hieroglyphs above the names will point out in the briefest way the object and meaning of the Table: "An act of devotion to Ptah-Sokar-Osiris, lord of the grave, who dwells in his palace of Ra-men-ma. The oblation is made to the Kings of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt by the King Sethi (whose title is "The Abiding Sun of Justice") of a multitude of loaves, drinks, meats, fowls, perfumes, ointments, dresses, sauces, wines, and other sacred offerings, on the part of King Sethi to the King Mena, to the King Teta," and so on, seventy-five in number, the name and title of Sethi himself marking the conclusion of the list.

I subjoin a list of the names, transliterated to suit our pronunciation, and append some notes, which may be found useful to other students, only adding that I am but a beginner myself, and that I venture with great hesitation to put forward my readings, as no complete English edition of this most valuable list has, I believe, been published.

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|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mena | 24. Ramenkaoo |
| 2. Teta | 25. Asseskaf |
| 3. Atoth | 26. Ooserkaf |
| 4. Ata | 27. Rasahoo |
| 5. Husapti | 28. Kakai |
| 6. Merbapen | 29. Raneferf |
| 7. Semenptah | 30. Raenooser |
| 8. Kebéh | 31. Hormenkaoo |
| 9. Buzao | 32. Ratatka |
| 10. Kakaoo | 33. Oonas |
| 11. Baneteren | 34. Teta |
| 12. Uznes | 35. Raooserk |
| 13. Senta | 36. Ramery |
| 14. Zazai | 37. Rameren |
| 15. Nebka | 38. Raneferka |
| 16. ... Soser | 39. Rameren Sentam Saf |
| 17. Teta | 40. Raneterka |
| 18. Sezes | 41. Ramenka |
| 19. Raneferka | 42. Raneferka |
| 20. Sneferoo | 43. Raneferkaneby |
| 21. Shoofoo | 44. Ratatkamaen |
| 22. Ratatef | 45. Raneferka Shentoo |
| 23. Rachaf | 46. Horneren |



Hieroglyphs referred to in the text.

47. Sneferka	62. Rachakheper (Usertasen ii)
48. Ranka	63. Rachakaoo (Usertasen iii)
49. Raneferka Terer	64. Raenmaat (Amenemha iii)
50. Horneferka	65. Ramaakeru (Amenemha iv)
51. Raneferka seneb Papa	66. Rapehti (Amosis)
52. Sneferka Annoo	67. Raserka (Amenhotep i)
53. Ra ... kaoo	68. Rakheperka (Thothmes i)
54. Raneferkaoo	69. Rakheperoo (Thothmes ii)
55. Horneferkaoo	70. Ramenkheper (Thothmes iii)
56. Raneferarka	71. Raaakheperoo (Amenhotep ii)
57. Ranebker	72. Ramenkheperoo (Thothmes iv)
58. Ransanchika	73. Ramaneb (Amenhotep iii)
59. Rashotepab (Amenemha i)	74. Raserkheperoo Setepenro
60. Rakheperka (Usertasen i)	75. Ramenpehti (Rameses i)
61. Ranubkaoo (Amenemha ii)	76. Ramamen (Setti i)

1. The name of Mena is slightly varied in some inscriptions the lower letter having a pair of legs attached to it, with the effect of doubling the vowel. The name would then read in English Meny. But I think this Table contains the earliest extant form of the name.

7. This king's name is given by Manetho as Semempses. M. Lieblein very ingeniously suggested that Semempses might be identified with the name on this cartouche, if it be read "Sem-en Ptah," the image or likeness of Ptah, and offered the hieroglyphic spelling shown in fig. 1. Strangely enough I bought a small green cylinder at Cairo a few months ago, of the oldest type, three-eighths of an inch long, on which are hieroglyphs within two lines, as represented in fig. 2. This reads literally, "Ptah's beautiful image," and may possibly be referred to the cult if not actually to the time of King Semempses, of whom Manetho adds this account, "in his reign a terrible pestilence afflicted Egypt."

9. The first king of the second dynasty, called by Manetho Boethus the First.

13. Senta, who probably answers to the Sethenes of Manetho, is the first king whose name I have observed on a monument. At Boolak the tomb of Shry or Scheri describes him as priest of King Sent, whose name is there written as in fig. 3, and of another king "Perabsen," of whom nothing is known. The stone is very ancient, perhaps of the time of the fourth dynasty. A scarab in my possession¹ has the syllables Sen-ta on it, and may preserve the king's name in an unusual form (fig. 4).

¹ Exhibited at the Meeting.

19. This name, Raneferka, the fair representative, or living likeness, of the sun, was also borne by the 38th and 42nd Kings of the Table of Abood, corresponding to members of the Sixth and Eleventh Dynasties, and formed part of the names of several others.

20. Seneferoo, Senoferoo, Snefru, or S-nefer-oo, has been variously identified with Siphuris, the last king but one of the Third Dynasty, according to Manetho, and with Soris, whom he makes the first king of the Fourth. Throughout this work I have assumed the correctness of the histories of M. Mariette and Herr Brugsch, who place him in the Third. But it must be remembered that M. Lieblein places him with confidence at the head of the Fourth. His name, the earliest which occurs on contemporary monuments, is spelt with many variations on tombs, rock inscriptions and scarabs:—at Maydoom (fig. 5): at the Pyramids of Gheezeh, according to Lepsius (figs. 6 and 7): on a scarab in the Boolak Museum (fig. 8). I have a scarab on which are hieroglyphs as in fig. 9.

21. The name of the builder of the Great Pyramid is spelt in almost as many different ways as that of his predecessor. In the Table, I was not able to find any distinction made between the first letter Sh, and the ordinary Ra. The colour probably determined it. But in some inscriptions a ram is figured at the head of the cartouche, and may be read hieroglyphically as Be, or Noom. We have often, therefore, speculations made as to Noom Shoofoo, who is assumed to have been his brother, and to have assisted in building the Pyramid. If we regard the Ram as the representative of the God Shoo of Snee, and the determinative, in this place of the first syllable of the name, all such speculations will be cleared away. One author who reads Noom-Shoofoo, translates it by "Shoofoo, the Builder." The oval containing the ram's figure occurs in the upper chambers of the Pyramid, where, though very indistinctly, it is many times repeated. The following are some of the variations: on a scarab belonging to Dr. Grant, of Cairo (fig. 10): on a stone in the same collection (fig. 11): by Dr. Lepsius (fig. 12): and two ways with the ram at the top.

22. Ratatef, or Tatfra, is only known by this cartouche.

23. On a scarab, I have the name of Chafra.

24. The name of Mycerinus, or Menkaoo-ra, deserves more attention than I have yet seen bestowed on it. At Boolak there is a scarab bearing in a cartouche (fig. 3). This is labelled with his name. Manetho says the Third Pyramid was built by Nitocris, a queen, the last monarch of the Sixth Dynasty: and Herodotus, one of the most untrustworthy authorities in a matter of this kind, may be taken as the sole authority for the tradition which ascribed it to Mycerinus, until the discovery of the sarcophagus by Col. Vyse. This sarcophagus is now lost, but the lid, which is in the British Museum, bears the cartouche of Menkaoo-ra, and a long inscription. Even here the question is by no means settled, because the cartouche of Menkaoo-ra and that of Nitocris are almost precisely similar. (See No. 41, *infra*.)

25. There has been some question as to the phonetic value of the sitting figure in this cartouche. The question is somewhat obscurely stated in the preface of Mr. Renouf's "*Hieroglyphic Grammar*," but why there, in particular, I am unable to guess. I may remark, however, that though Brugsch gives the name as Sepseskaf in his *History*, Mariette gives a name spelt with a similar sign as Assa. On a statue in the Boolak Museum, Assa's name is written with this sitting figure (fig. 14).

26. The First King of the Fifth Dynasty.

30. Raenooser had a private name, An. (fig. 15).

32. Rataatka's private name was Assa, spelt as in fig. 16.

33. Oonas or Unnas or Unas, the Pharaoh of the Mastábat el Faroon, is very frequently commemorated on scarabs. The name seems to signify "the living Osiris." Sometimes, as in a scarab in the Boolak Museum, the letter N is omitted, but the rest of the word spelt as at Abood. Unas was the last king of the Fifth Dynasty.

36. Ramery bore also the better known name of Papa or Pepe (fig. 17). In French books it is generally given as Pepi. Perhaps it should be Ppai, or Pepy.

38. The cartouche of Raneferka ii. ends the upper line of names. Among the most remarkable of the attempts to reconcile the chronologies of Manetho and Ussher was one which made the two lines of kings contemporary, and recognised Neferkara and Rameses i. (No. 75) as the joint immediate predecessors of Seti i.

41. Menkara is usually identified with Nitocris (Nitaqert, *Brugsch*), as the last monarch of the Sixth Dynasty. The Throne name, Menkara, may have caused the confusion with Menkaoora noticed above: but, as I have remarked, the questions relating to this queen, if Menkara was a queen, and indeed the reading, Nitaqert, in the Turin Papyrus are open to much further investigation than they have yet received. Mr. Perring is said to have found signs in the Third Pyramid that it was rebuilt, and contained two sepulchres.

42-58. There is much difficulty as to the exact place of these kings: and I must refer the reader desirous of consulting the best authorities to M. Liebhen's work already mentioned (*Chron. Egyp.*, p. 43), as well as to Brugsch Bey's *History*, where he will find the various views carefully stated.

STELA OF PERNEFERT.

This Stela,¹ of which an engraving is annexed, was purchased from a collection found in Cairo some years ago. It has been sadly mutilated and partly scored over, by way of "restoration," I presume. The meaning is, however, perfectly clear. It relates to a lady called Pernefert, and gives a catalogue of the offerings at her tomb:—"Libations made for the kings relative Pernefert, flour bread, a measure of incense, a vessel of oil, a thousand geese, a thousand cranes, divine garments, wine."

In the lower panel the lady is represented again with the inscription "Immense offerings devoted to Pernefert."

I was given to understand that this stela came from Maydoom. It is certainly of the earliest type, and the hieroglyphs have the appearance of simplicity and the absence of grammatical forms which point to the highest antiquity. I do not think I over-estimate its age if I consider it to belong to the time of the Third Dynasty.

¹ Exhibited at the Meeting.



Sieja of Pernefert.