

Stelae from Egypt and Nubia in the
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge,
c. 3000 BC–AD 1150

The volume provides a detailed catalogue of 127 stelae (many funerary) deriving from the Nile Valley, now part of the Egyptian collection in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. The stelae are written in various scripts – Egyptian hieroglyphic, hieratic and demotic, Carian, Greek, Coptic and early Arabic – and cover a date-range of over 4000 years. Few museums have published their complete holdings of such material, and the carefully described and translated information from these stelae throws a flood of light on the history, religion, funerary customs, art and iconography, daily life and administrative systems of ancient Egypt and Nubia. Each entry has a photograph of the stela as well as a meticulous line-drawing which enables the texts and iconography to be understood and interpreted. Full museological details such as material, precise measurements, provenance (where known), mode of acquisition and dating are provided. The volume will interest specialists as well as a wider public concerned with Egyptology.

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Geoffrey Thorndike Martin

Frontmatter

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Stelae

from Egypt and Nubia in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, c. 3000 BC–AD 1150

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Works cited</i>	<i>viii</i>
<i>Chronological table</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xiii</i>

CATALOGUE OF STELAE

Egyptian catalogue	1
Hieroglyphic	nos. 1–18, 20–30, 32–97, 99 2
Hieratic	nos. 19, 31 29, 52
Demotic	no. 98 141
Carian catalogue	nos. 100–103 143
Greek catalogue	nos. 104–114 149
Coptic catalogue	nos. 115–122 167
Cufic catalogue	nos. 123–126 183
Modern catalogue	no. 127 189

Bibliography of published stelae collections and commentaries 191

Indexes

Concordance of Fitzwilliam Museum accession numbers and present Catalogue	194
Concordance of Budge, <i>A Catalogue of the Egyptian Collection</i> , and present Catalogue	195
Royal names	195
Deities, including epithets	195
Titles, administrative departments, etc.	196
Egyptian personal and geographical names	198
Carian names	200
Greek, Coptic and Arabic names	200
Provenances, etc.	201
Objects in museums	201
General	202

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Abbreviations

BES	<i>Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar</i>
BiOr	<i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i>
CdE	<i>Chronique d'Égypte</i>
CT	Coffin Texts
DACL	<i>Dictionnaire d'Archéologie chrétienne et de Liturgie</i>
DE	<i>Discussions in Egyptology</i>
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
GM	<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
JHS	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
JJP	<i>Journal of Juristic Papyrology</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JSSEA	<i>Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KRI	K. A. Kitchen, <i>Ramesside Inscriptions, Historical and Biographical</i>
LÄ	<i>Lexikon der Ägyptologie</i>
LXX	Septuagint
OMRO	<i>Oudheidkundige Mededelingen uit het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden</i>
MDAIK	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo</i>
MMJ	<i>Metropolitan Museum Journal</i>
Or Chr	<i>Oriens Christianus</i>
PM	B. Porter and R. L. B. Moss, <i>Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings</i>
PN	H. Ranke, <i>Die ägyptischen Personennamen</i>
PT	Pyramid Texts
RdE	<i>Revue d'Égyptologie</i>
SAK	<i>Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur</i>
TT	Theban Tomb
Wb.	A. Erman and H. Grapow, <i>Wörterbuch der aegyptischen Sprache</i>
WZKM	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>
ZÄS	<i>Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache</i>
ZPE	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>

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Chronological table

PREDYNASTIC	c. 5000–3000 BC	SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD	1650–1551 BC
Badarian	c. 5000–4500 BC	Dynasty XV–XVI (Hyksos)	c. 1650–1540 BC
Naqada I	c. 4500–4000 BC	Dynasty XVII (in Thebes)	c. 1650–1551 BC
Naqada II	c. 4000–3000 BC		
Naqada III	c. 3000 BC	NEW KINGDOM	1551–1070 BC
		Dynasty XVIII	1551–1306 BC
EARLY DYNASTIC	c. 3000–2628 BC	Dynasty XIX	1306–1186 BC
Dynasty I	c. 3000–2763 BC	Dynasty XX	1186–1070 BC
Dynasty II	c. 2763–2628 BC		
		LATE PERIOD	1070–30 BC (including Third Intermediate Period)
OLD KINGDOM	2628–2134 BC	Dynasty XXI	1070–945 BC
Dynasty III	2628–2575 BC	Dynasty XXII	945–715 BC
Dynasty IV	2575–2465 BC	Dynasty XXIII	808–715 BC
Dynasty V	2465–2325 BC	Dynasty XXIV (Delta)	725–711 BC
Dynasty VI	2325–2150 BC	Dynasty XXV	715–664 BC
Dynasties VII–VIII	2150–2134 BC	Dynasty XXVI	664–525 BC
First Intermediate Period	2134–2040 BC	Dynasty XXVII	525–404 BC
Dynasties IX–X (in Middle Egypt)	2134–2040 BC	Dynasty XXVIII	404–399 BC
Dynasty XI (in Upper Egypt)	2134–2040 BC	Dynasty XXIX	399–380 BC
		Dynasty XXX	380–343 BC
MIDDLE KINGDOM	2040–1650 BC	Dynasty XXXI	343–332 BC
Dynasty XI (after unification)	2040–1991 BC	Macedonian Period	332–306 BC
Dynasty XII	1991–1785 BC	Ptolemaic Period	306–30 BC
Dynasty XIII	1785–c. 1650 BC	Roman-Coptic Period	30 BC–AD 641
Dynasty XIV (in Delta)	c. 1720–1650 BC		

Preface

The stelae and fragments of stelae¹ from the Nile Valley² in the Department of Antiquities in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, form an interesting collection, one hundred and twenty-seven in number, ranging in date from Dynasty I (c. 3000 BC) to the Middle Ages. One is a modern piece, included for comparative purposes. A number of Coptic stelae and several inscribed in Greek or with Greek iconographical elements are also included in this catalogue, as are four Carian monuments, one being of particular interest and importance, stemming from recent excavations in Egypt. Finally, four Cufic gravestones round out the picture of inscribed and decorated stelae from Egypt in the Museum.

Of the vast number of surviving Egyptian stelae of all periods, comparatively few have been published as facsimile line drawings, the mode adopted in the present catalogue. Facsimile recording of monuments of necessity involves considerable investment of time, but in the final analysis is doubtless the best way of rendering all iconographical and other details, especially of damaged surfaces. Such details may not be evident even in photographs of high quality. The present author is fortunate in being able to include photographs in the catalogue as well as his own drawings. The design of the publication precludes the reduction of the latter to a uniform scale. However, precise measurements³ are cited in the individual catalogue entries.

In the catalogue the commentary has usually been kept to a minimum, as in other volumes of stelae, notably the series published in recent years by the Department of Egyptian Antiquities (now renamed the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan) in the British Museum. I have, however, provided translations. A few stelae have previously been given full and often definitive treatment by specialists in sundry publications. In the present volume full

indexes are provided in lieu of an analysis *in extenso*. In addition, a reasonably complete and annotated bibliography of catalogues, commentaries on, and collections of Egyptian stelae is included for comparative use and for further study. Dating the material occasionally presents problems. Refinements will no doubt be forthcoming as a result of the publication of this corpus.

It is hoped that the work will prove of use to specialists, not least because many of the stelae are unpublished or are merely mentioned in the literature. Stelae provide a rich mine of information, in some ways scarcely tapped, on many aspects of Egyptian culture. The catalogue may also be of service to an increasing number of members of the lay public who take an interest in all things Egyptian, and by their financial and other aid provide valuable support for research in the field and in the museums. *Note:* Greek stela **116** is published in the Coptic section of the Catalogue, p. 173.

¹ A number of items classified as stelae in the museum records have been excluded from the present work since they in fact fall into other object categories (including that of reliefs).

² Stelae nos. 109, 110, 113, 115, 116, 120 derive from the Sudan.

³ The maximum in each case. Fragments are oriented in their correct plane for the purposes of measurement.