

EGYPT'S
PLACE IN UNIVERSAL
HISTORY:

AN HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION IN FIVE BOOKS

BY

CHRISTIAN C. J. BUNSEN

VOL. 1

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,

BY CHARLES H. COTTRELL. 1848

Extract of pages 50–53

Note: For the German text, see pages 5–6 below

LONDON

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS

1848



Created by and for PHARAOH.SE 2016

III. The Royal Papyrus.

(Lepsius Records. Pl. III–VI.)

The French Consul-General Drovetti, celebrated since the days of Napoleon for his love of Egyptian art, brought to Europe a roll of Papyrus, which, with the rest of that splendid collection despised by the Bourbons, fell to the lot of the Turin Museum. It lay there neglected as a mere mass of illegible fragments until discovered by Champollion in 1824, who inserted a notice of it in a scientific Journal.¹ He saw at once that this Papyrus contained a List of royal Egyptian Dynasties, and undertook to arrange the principal fragments, passing over those of smaller dimensions. Seyffarth in 1826 found this MS. to be 6 feet long by 14 inches in height, and arranged in 12 columns, each of which contains from 26 to 30 lines, and almost as many names of Kings. There were vestiges of more than 200 Kings, and from the number of unconnected fragments there must have been at least 250. On the back were calculations in which the name of Ramses occasionally occurs. This circumstance would seem to establish the 19th Dynasty, or the first epoch of the New Empire, as the date of the compilation. Several other considerations tend also to this conclusion. No single name of the 18th or 19th, much less of any later Dynasty, occurs in the List. The Hieratic character however is so precisely the same as that of the other MSS., which, from their superscription or subscription, clearly belong to that epoch, that we cannot do otherwise than adopt it, even upon palaeographical grounds — grounds which are at least as good as those familiarly applied to Greek and Latin MSS.

To Seyffarth belongs the signal merit (and we have a double pleasure in admitting it, considering as we do his other attempts in the department of Egyptian research to be completely abortive) of having spared no pains in restoring the invaluable MS. in a durable manner, and in reconstructing with scrupulous fidelity, or at least in securing the smaller pieces which Champollion had thrown aside.

This fact was communicated by the curators of that collection to Lepsius when engaged in studying those treasures in 1835. He took an accurate and complete copy of the whole. Unfortunately, however, some portions of it, which Champollion had both seen and copied, and which Salvolini published after his death, were no longer to be found. In the year 1838 he obtained an insight into the labours of Champollion at Paris, by the kindness of his brother, and a communication of Seyffarth's arrangement of the fragments, through Mr. Samuel Birch of the British Museum. He found that both those scholars had in reality made the same arrangement, in 12 pieces. When in the year 1840, Lepsius's discovery of the 12th Dynasty of Manetho in that Papyrus rendered it important to have an exact copy of that one line of the fragment in which there was a different reading in Salvolini and Champollion — he undertook a second journey to Turin expressly for the purpose of dissipating even the shadow of a doubt as to the actual state of the Record. His present publication of the fragments is therefore as scrupulous and correct a copy as has ever yet appeared of any monument of antiquity. We shall not here anticipate either the detailed explanation of its contents, which he himself has promised on his return from Egypt, nor the results of our own investigations; we shall be contented for the present to place before our readers the general bearings of these results on the progress and prospects of Egyptian historical research.

¹ Bulletin Universel, Nov. 6. 1824.

Egypt's place in world history

A historical investigation

in

five books

by

Christian Carl Josias Bunsen

First book

ONLINE TRANSLATION FROM 2016 OF THE GERMAN ORIGINAL FROM 1845

Translated extract of pages 82–83

[Note: For the German text, see pages 5–6 below](#)

Hamburg, 1845.

Friedrich Perthes



Created by and for PHARAOH.SE 2016

III. The Royal Papyrus.

(Lepsius *Auswahl*. Pl. III–VI.)

The French General Consul Drovetti, famous from the Napoleonic era, and by his love of Egyptian art, brought with him a papyrus-roll, which, besides the rest of the magnificent collection, which was spurned by the Bourbons, was part of the Turin Museum. It remained there, a mass of illegible fragments of a never-ending papyrus, until Champollion discovered it in 1824, and made a note of it in a scientific paper.² He recognized at once that this papyrus contained an old list of the Egyptian royal dynasties, and undertook, with exception of the smaller ones, to arrange the main fragments. Thus in 1826, Seyffarth found the 14-inch-high and six-foot-long handwriting arranged in twelve columns, each of which is divided into 26–30 lines, with almost as many royal names: the remains of more than 200 kings; but according to the quantity of unrelated fragments, it must be at least 250. The reverse hold accounting records, in which the name of Ramesses occasionally occurs. If the composition is from the Nineteenth Dynasty, that is, the first epoch of the New Kingdom, this leads to two further considerations; there are no names from the 18th or 19th dynasties, and none later appears in the list. The hieratic writing is, however, exactly the same as that of other manuscripts which belongs to the epoch for epigraphical reasons, which are at least as good as those generally used in Greek and Latin manuscripts, and cannot be put into practice at any other time.

It is to Seyffarth's great merit, – and we are doubly pleased to acknowledge it, since we must regard his other remarks in the field of Egyptian research as wrong – that he spared no efforts to produce the invaluable manuscript, incorporating accurately the small fragments, which were rejected by Champollion.

Lepsius heard this from the heads of the collection when he examined the treasures in 1835. He made an exact and complete drawing of all the fragments. Unfortunately, he found no new pieces, only what Champollion had seen and transcribed, which were published posthumously by Salvolini. In 1838 he examined Champollion's work in Paris, through the friendliness of his brother, and in London, Mr. Samuel Birch at the British Museum, showed him Seyffarth's arrangement. He found that both scholars had made essentially the same arrangement, in twelve columns. When he discovered the 12th Manthonian dynasty in his meticulous copy of the papyrus in 1840, he also found that Salvolini and Champollion had different readings, and made a second journey to Turin in order to dispel any doubt as to his reading. The present edition of the fragments is, therefore, probably as conscientious and faithfully reproduced as possible from a monument of antiquity.

² Bulletin Universel 6. Nov. 1824.

Aegyptens Stelle in der Weltgeschichte

Geschichtliche Untersuchung

in

fünf Büchern

von

Christian Carl Josias Bunsen

Erstes Buch

[Auszug aus den Seiten 82–83](#)

Hamburg, 1845.

Bei Friedrich Perthes



Created by and for PHARAOH.SE 2016

III. Der königspapyrus.

(Lepsius Urk. Taf. III–VI.)

Der aus der napoleonischen Zeit und durch seine Liebe zur ägyptischen Kunst rühmlich bekannte französische General-consul Drovetti brachte nach Europa eine Papyrusrolle mit, die nebst der übrigen herrlichen Sammlung, von den Bourbonen verschmächt, dem turiner Museum zu Theil ward. Sie blieb dort, als eine Masse unleserlicher Bruchstücke eines nieatischen Papyrus, verkannt liegen, bis Champollion sie im Jahre 1824 entdeckte, und in einem wissenschaftlichen Blatte eine Anzeige davon machte.³ Er erkannte sogleich, daß dieser Papyrus eine alte Liste der ägyptischen Königsdynastien enthalte, und unternahm, mit Verschmähung der kleineren, die Hauptbruchstücke zu ordnen. So fand Seyffarth im Jahr 1826 die 14 Zoll hohe und 6 Fuß lange handschrift nach zwölf Spalten geordnet, deren jede 26–30 Zeilen und fast eben so viele Königsnamen entheilt: Reste waren da von mehr als 200 Königen ; nach der Menge der unzusammenhängenden Bruchstücke müssen es aber wenigstens 250 geweßen sein. Auf der Rückseite standen Rechnungen, in welchen beiläufig der Name von Ramses vorkommt. Wenn man nun schon hiernach die Abfassung in die 19^{te} Dynastie, also die erste Epoche des neuen Reiches fetzen muß; so führen dahin auch noch zwei andere Umstände. Kein einziger Name der 18^{ten} oder 19^{ten} Dynastie, weit weniger ein späterer, kommt in der Liste vor. Die hieratische Schreibart ist aber so genau die von anderen Handschriften, welche, der Über- oder Unterschrift nach, jener Epoche zugehören, daß man sie, nach paläographischen Gründen, die wenigstens so gut sind, als die bei den griechischen und lateinischen Handschriften allgemein angewandten, nicht anders als in jene Zeit setzen kann.

Es ist Seyffarths großes Verdienst, – und wir freuen uns doppelt, es anzuerkennen, da wir seine übrigen Bersuche auf dem Felde der ägyptischen Forschung für verfehlt halten müssen – daß er seine Mühe gescheut, die unschätzbare Handschrift dauernd herzustellen, und mit gewissenhafter Treue die kleinen, von Champollion verworfenen Stückchen jener einzuverleiben, oder wenigstens zu sichern.

Dies vernahm Lepsius von den Vorstehern jener Sammlung, als er im Jahr 1835 die Schätze verselben durchmusterte. Er machte sich von dem Ganzen eine genaue und vollständige Zeichnung. Leider fand er einige Stücke nicht mehr, die Champollion noch gesehen und abgeschrieben, und die Salvolini nach dessen Tode herausgegeben. Im Jahr 1838 erhielt er in Paris, durch die Freundlichkeit des Bruders, Einsicht in Champollions Arbeit, und in London durch Herrn Samuel Birch, am brittischen Museum, Mittheilung der Seyffarthschen Anordnung. Er fand, daß beide Gelehrte im Wesentlichen dieselbe Anordnung, nach 12 Bruchstücken gemacht hatten. Als nun im Jahre 1840 Lepsius folgenreiche Entdeckung der 12^{ten} manethonischen Dynastie in jenem Papyrus die genaueste Durchzeichnung einer Zeile dieses Bruchstückes wichtig machte, vorin sich eine verschiedene Lesart bei Salvolini und Champollion fand, unternahm jener Gelehrte eigens eine zweite Reise nach Turin, um über den Thatbestand dieser Urkunde auch nicht den geringsten Zweifel übrig zu lassen. Die gegenwärtige Herausgabe der Bruchstücke ist also wohl eine so gewissenhafte und getreue Nachbildung, als jemals von einem Denkmale des Atlerthums erscheinen.

³ Bulletin Universel 6. Nov. 1824.