

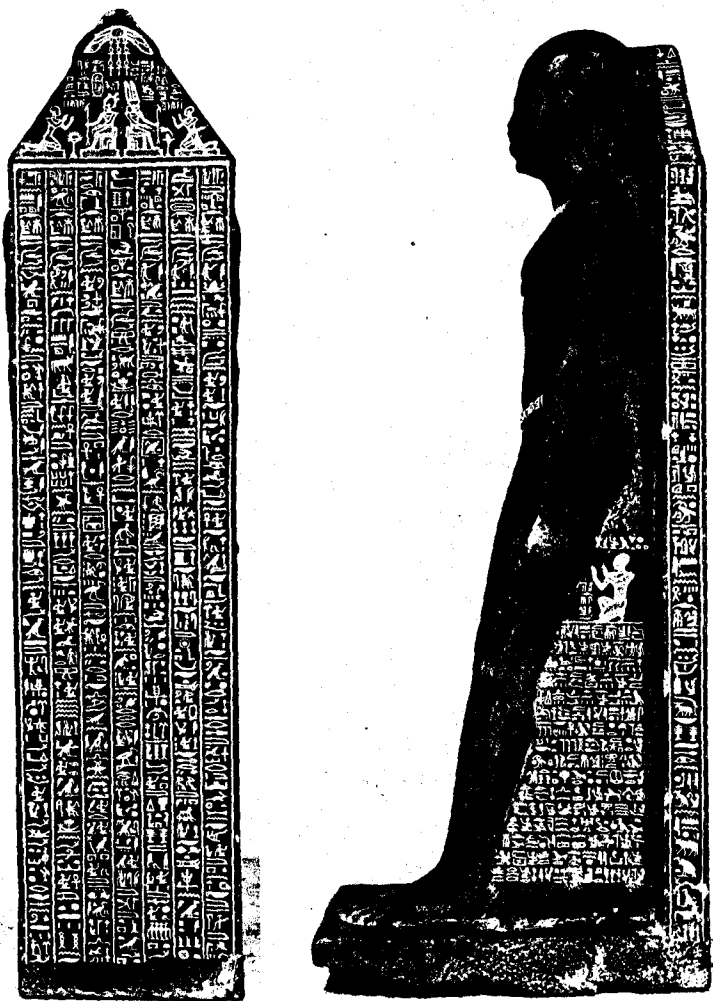
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Plate I



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Statue of Ahmes, son of Smendes.  
Cairo Museum, No. 37075. Height 95 cm.

## PETTIGREW'S DEMONSTRATIONS UPON MUMMIES. A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF EGYPTOLOGY

By WARREN R. DAWSON

THE year 1934 is the centenary of the publication of a very remarkable work, the *History of Egyptian Mummies* of Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, F.R.S. The work is really, for its time, a very learned and valuable contribution to science, and it was, in fact, the first book on Egyptian archaeology published in this country. In making this statement, I of course exclude the fantastic attempts at decipherment and other works of the pre-Champollion era, and likewise books of travel and descriptive works. Thus qualified, Pettigrew's book stands as the first British scientific contribution to Egyptian archaeology, for it covers a considerably wider field than its title suggests and ranges over the entire domain of funerary archaeology so far as it was then known and understood. In my biography of Pettigrew,<sup>1</sup> I have, of course, dealt with his researches into mummification, but as a considerable volume of new information has come into my possession since the biography appeared, the present is an appropriate occasion to summarize more fully Pettigrew's contributions to the study of Egyptian embalming.

Pettigrew's interest in Egyptology began when he met Belzoni in England in 1820. The explorer had enlisted his help, as a medical man, in the examination of some mummies he had brought from Egypt. Pettigrew soon afterwards became acquainted with Wilkinson, Burton (Haliburton), Hay, Lee, Madden, and others who had travelled in Egypt or interested themselves in Egyptian antiquities. He followed the progress of decipherment of Champollion and Young, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with all the available literature of the subject. Whilst taking the greatest interest in Egyptology generally, Pettigrew, as an anatomist and surgeon, was not unnaturally particularly attracted by the technique of mummification, and sought every possible opportunity of making original research upon actual mummies.

The first opportunity that presented itself was the acquisition by Pettigrew of an Egyptian mummy that had been brought to England by the physician and traveller Charles Perry in 1741. This mummy came from Saqqārah, and its cases are described and figured in Perry's *View of the Levant* (1749). Perry died in 1780, and the mummy subsequently passed into the possession of Richard Cosway, R.A. (1740-1821), after whose death it came again into the market and was purchased by Pettigrew. When unrolled, it proved to be in poor condition, and although Pettigrew made the fullest use of it for investigation, little was to be learned from it. From such indications as exist, we can gather that it was a late Dynastic or early Ptolemaic mummy, prepared according to the decadent methods of the time. This mummy was examined by Pettigrew privately and at leisure in his own house (then in Spring Gardens), but most of the later specimens he examined were ceremonially unrolled in the presence of audiences, and Pettigrew became famous for these public demonstrations.

<sup>1</sup> *Memoir of Thomas Joseph Pettigrew, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., F.S.A.*, New York, Medical Life Press, 1931. (Hereinafter quoted as *Memoir*.)



THOMAS JOSEPH PETTIGREW  
(1791-1865)

*Drawn and lithographed by CHARLES BAUGNIET*

It would appear that no further opportunities for the examination of actual mummies occurred until 1833. In March of that year the third collection of Henry Salt was sold at Sotheby's,<sup>1</sup> and there were several mummies amongst the lots. Pettigrew purchased a fine Ptolemaic example for £23, and at the same sale his friend Thomas Saunders, F.S.A., secured another for £36 15s. Pettigrew was anxious to unroll his specimen and to make a thorough examination of its method of treatment, and as Saunders, who owned the other specimen, had similar wishes, Pettigrew undertook to unroll and examine both. As there was no convenience in his house for an operation of this kind, the mummies were unrolled in the lecture-theatre of Charing Cross Hospital (where Pettigrew was at the time Professor of Anatomy) on Saturday, April 6, 1833, in the presence of a select gathering that included Prince Cimitilli, Lords Boringdon, Hotham, and Henley, and the physicians Sir Henry Hallford (President, R.C.P.), Sir David Barry, William Shearman, James Copland, Augustin Sayer, Stewart Crawford, Robert Richardson, John Elliotson, Henry Clutterbuck, and Benjamin Golding. There were also present many archaeologists, travellers, and other distinguished persons, including John (later Sir John) Barrow of the Admiralty, John Gibson Lockhart (the biographer of Scott), Edward Hawkins (Keeper of Antiquities, British Museum), and many others.

This ceremonial mummy-demonstration was the first of many, and witnessing the unrolling of mummies became a fashionable pastime amongst antiquaries, dilettanti, and even with the public. Not long afterwards, Pettigrew's friend, Dr. John Lee of Hartwell House, who had also bought a mummy at the Salt Sale, offered it for examination. Pettigrew gave a demonstration on this mummy (which was that of a priestess of the Twenty-first or Twenty-second Dynasty) on June 24, 1833. There were present the Bishop of Chichester, Viscount Ossulton, Thomas Phillips, R.A., the antiquary Francis Douce, the Rev. George Cecil Renouard, Dawson Turner, F.R.S., F.S.A., Edward Hawkins, Captain Dillon,<sup>2</sup> the excavator Rifaud, and many others.

This demonstration led to another, for a few weeks later John Davidson,<sup>3</sup> who had been present on this occasion, decided himself to unroll a mummy in his own possession, and requested Pettigrew to assist him. Accordingly on July 13, 1833, Davidson and Pettigrew appeared in the lecture-theatre of the Royal Institution, and under the presidency of the Duke of Somerset and before a distinguished audience, unrolled and lectured upon a fine Twenty-first Dynasty mummy, an account of which, with coloured plates, was afterwards published.<sup>4</sup>

This mummy, and another of the same period, had been brought from Thebes in 1821 by John Henderson (1780-1867), a well-known archaeologist and collector. Henderson's

<sup>1</sup> Salt made three main collections of Egyptian antiquities. The first was sent to England in Belzoni's charge and offered to the British Museum. The Trustees, after a vexatious delay of several years, bought it for £2,000—one-half the sum it had cost Salt to collect it, and rejected the finest piece (the Sarcophagus of Seti I); the second collection he sent to his brother-in-law Pietro Santoni at Leghorn, who, on the recommendation of Champollion, sold it to the French Government. (Salt had learned his lesson and did not offer it to the British Museum.) The third collection was brought to England after Salt's death by Giovanni d'Athanasii, and was disposed of at Sotheby's in a nine days' sale in 1833, realizing the sum of £7,168.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards Admiral Sir William Henry Dillon. He married Pettigrew's eldest daughter in 1843 (*Memoir*, pp. 94, 117).

<sup>3</sup> Born 1797. Studied medicine at Edinburgh and St. George's Hospital, London. His health failing, he gave up practice and settled in Naples, from which centre he travelled extensively in the Near East. F.R.S., 1832; died, 1836.

<sup>4</sup> *An Address on Embalming generally, delivered at the Royal Institution on the Unrolling of a Mummy*, London, James Ridgway, 1833.

second mummy went to the Royal College of Surgeons, and Pettigrew, who had in the meantime written his book on Egyptian mummies, was anxious to examine it before the publication of his work (which was by that time already printed off). He accordingly approached the Court of Assistants for permission to investigate the mummy, and the very fine and accurate coloured drawings of its case which had been made by William Clift, Junior, and which are still preserved at the College.<sup>1</sup> Two letters from Pettigrew on this matter are in existence, and by the kind permission of Sir D'Arcy Power, F.R.C.S., Honorary Librarian of the College, I reproduce them here:

My dear Sir,

Will you do me the favor to lay before the College of Surgeons a request on my part to be permitted to have the loan for a few days of some drawings made by Mr. Clift Jun<sup>r</sup> of Two Cases which contained mummies. My desire is to make out the Hieroglyphics and the pictorial representations upon those cases. I need not tell you that these things are not to be accomplished without much time and labour and reference to various works which it is not possible for me to take to the College and there make the investigation. The drawings are certainly not likely to be wanted by any other member and I therefore venture to solicit the loan of them for a few days for the purpose I have mentioned and to be noticed in my forthcoming work. I wish also to be permitted to take the facial angle of the Egyptian skull in the Museum.

Yours very truly  
T. J. PETTIGREW.

Saville Row  
Dec. 5. 1833.

The Secretary of the College, to whom the above letter was addressed, wrote on the following day informing Pettigrew that he would lay his request before the Court, and again on December 28 to say that permission had been granted to borrow the drawings for a fortnight, subject to acknowledgement of the source if any information were published. Pettigrew then wrote to the President, as follows:

Saville Row  
Dec. 30. 1833.

My dear Sir,

May I beg of you to communicate to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons my thanks for their obliging attention to my request and for their munificence in the loan of the Drawings of the Mummy Cases which shall, agreeably to specification, be returned at the period mentioned. I will, however, take this opportunity of acquainting you that I have already been able to make out the name and occupation of the Egyptian and that I find him to have been one *Horsiese*, the son of *Naspihiniegori*, an incense-bearing Priest in the Temple of Ammon and that he has been brought from Thebes. It would be very satisfactory to have the mummy unrolled and this may be done without any injury whatever to the case. I should be happy to undertake this task or to assist any one in the performance, and should the Council think fit to direct this to be done, I should further be obliged by their appointment of an early day for the purpose, as my work is now in the Press and it is probable I might meet with something new in illustration of my subject.

Believe me to be,  
Your very faithful Serv<sup>t</sup>  
T. J. PETTIGREW.

G. J. Guthrie Esq.  
Pres<sup>t</sup> Roy. Coll. Surgeons  
&c. &c. &c.

Pettigrew's request was granted by the Council, and preparations for the unrolling of the mummy were put in hand. For this event we are not dependent upon newspaper reports,

<sup>1</sup> Victor G. Plarr, *Cat. of the Manuscripts in the Library of the Royal Coll. of Surgeons*, 1928, p. 47.

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for the diary of William Clift,<sup>1</sup> the Conservator of the Museum, affords much interesting information, and shows us that the Council of the College expected a large and important concourse of visitors. Under date Monday, January 13, 1834, Clift writes:

Preparing the Theatre &c. against the meeting on Thursday. Assisting in answering the numerous applications for Tickets:—folding and sealing up visitors tickets.

On the next day the mummy itself was made ready:

Tuesday 14 Jan. Sawing open the case containing the Mummy of Horsiesi; preparatory to unrolling on Thursday.

Assisting in folding and sealing letters sent out to Visitors for Thursday; and receiving and answering applications.

On sawing open the case [i.e. cartonnage], which is composed of many layers of linen or cotton cloth, firmly cemented together with gum or glue, or possibly white of egg and lime, or plaster of Gypsum, the body was discovered in its envelope in excellent preservation, but without any ornament whatever. The case had evidently been formed on a Mould of clay, with straws &c., probably to give it tenacity,—some of which still adheres to the inside of the case:—on which mould the cloth was pressed while wet, in a manner similar to the present method of making masquerade Masks. A fillet passed across the eyes round the head and tied behind:—another with an Inscription on it, was tied round the legs at the ankles. The outer envelope one large smooth piece tied behind with pieces of similar cloth.

The Council evidently foresaw, from the large number of applications for tickets, that it would be impossible to accommodate all the would-be spectators. Clift relates how it was proposed to deal with the situation:

Wednesday, 15 Jan.—Prepared large Notices against the Meeting to-morrow, to obviate as much as may be the effects of disappointment to those who will not be able to gain admission:

"Gentlemen who may be disappointed in witnessing the unrolling of the Mummy this day, will have an opportunity of viewing it in the Museum every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 12 till 4 o'clock. Jan. 16. 1834."

"The three lower [tiers of] seats are reserved for Trustees of the Hunterian Collection and British Museum, Visitors and Members of the Council."

On Thursday the great day came. The meticulous Clift entered in his diary a list of distinguished visitors who were happy enough to gain admission, as well as a list of those who were not so fortunate. There is also extant another list, drawn up by the Secretary of the College.<sup>2</sup> These lists are too long to print here, but it may be noted that they contain the names of a Prince, several Peers, Bishops, Statesmen, Diplomats, Members of Parliament, as well as all the leading physicians and surgeons of the day, and many artists, authors, military and naval officers, and others. Many were doomed to disappointment; so thick was the press of eager spectators within the theatre that even such august personages as the Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>3</sup> and the Bishop of London were obliged to retire from lack of room. At one o'clock precisely the buzz of conversation ceased, and the company, who had filled the theatre since noon, rose to their feet as the President and Council followed the mace-bearer into the theatre, and Mr. Pettigrew, and his two assistants, William Clift and Richard (later Sir Richard) Owen,<sup>4</sup> brought up the rear. At this point we will allow Clift to resume his diary:

<sup>1</sup> I hereby express my grateful thanks to Mr. R. H. Burne, F.R.S., of the Royal College of Surgeons, for his kindness in providing me with copies of all the relevant passages in Clift's diary.

William Clift, F.R.S. (1775-1840) had formerly been assistant to John Hunter, and was conservator of the Hunterian Museum from 1793 to 1844. <sup>2</sup> Edmund Belfour.

<sup>3</sup> The Archbishop at this time was William Howley; born 1766; Primate 1828-48; died 1848.

<sup>4</sup> Owen's name is not mentioned either in Clift's diary or in any published report, but I have information from Pettigrew's papers that he assisted on this occasion.

Thursday, 16th Jan.—This day, at twelve o'clock, the doors of the Theatre were opened from Lincoln's Inn Fields, and from Portugal street; and all the seats were very soon occupied, and the greatest good order and regularity prevailed. The windows were soon obliged to be further opened to admit cool air, and all were perfectly satisfied, though great numbers were obliged to stand.

Visitors in considerable numbers arrived very early and filled all the Seats; many were obliged to stand; and many others retired from all the doors who could not find admission.

The president took the Chair precisely at One o'clock, the time appointed. Mr. Pettigrew immediately began his address, describing the various methods employed from the earliest periods downwards—exhibited various parts of his own mummy—and a portrait copied from an original lately discovered on opening a Mummy in the British Museum sent by the late Henry Salt Esq. which is executed in a very superior manner, considering the period. It lay on the face and breast—and was painted in water colours, chiefly of vegetable pigments, on cedar wood:—and probably the oldest Portrait in existence: the lights are heightened on the side of the forehead, nose, and pupils of the Eyes:—the skin reddish copper colour.<sup>1</sup>

The bandages were now removed as carefully as circumstances and time permitted. The outer smooth cloth being removed, exposed the circular hand-breadth rollers, which extended from head to foot several times in succession:—others oblique and diagonal very neatly but without much regularity or uniformity till we reached the very innermost layer or two which firmly adhered to the surface by a coat of asphaltum. On the breast, near the situation of the zypoid cartilage, was a small protuberance, which when divested of the bandage, exposed a small carved Scarabous [sic] of a pale semi-transparent white colour—and on the upper part of the Sternum a cluster of four or five small Tally-shaped bodies enveloped in, and sticking to the body by, asphaltum. Part of the face was exposed, and showed that a pair of artificial eyes, apparently of enamel, had been placed on or substituted for the natural ones. Here the examination of this part ceased for the present. In removing the crumpled wadding between the thighs, a small clay model of an outer Mummy case\* rudely made and imperfectly if at all vitrified, and now partly decomposed was found behind or beneath the Scrotum, but no Coins, ornament, or Papyrus was discovered. An inscription was discovered on the fillet surrounding the ankles (said to be descriptive of the name and quality of the Mummy) similar to that on the outside of the painted case. After many of the folds of the roller had been removed, another inscription on the end of a roller, which had been coarsely bezzed, was met with; and a third, on the edge of a large piece folded and placed behind the right Thigh.

Most of the bandages were of rather coarse texture, but very regular manufacture. One piece, nearly a yard wide, had on one side a selvage, the other had a torn edge, showing that it had been of still greater breadth; and one piece had many portions of thread in it that had evidently been a seam ripped open like that of a sheet that had been in use. Many pieces have Thrums or loose threads at their terminations as when cut from the loom or pad on which it was woven. All the cloth used appears to have been prepared by some process similar to Tanning for its preservation from decay or Insects: some much more rigid and brittle than others. Beneath or behind the body lay a kind of mattress of many folds of a finer and softer quality than the bandages, which extended very nearly the whole length of the body: and also underneath the feet were many folds of similar material.

N.B. A piece of modern Calico that had been pasted under the foot board to keep it secure, since the mummy was brought into England, was completely filgred by Insects while the adjoining mummy cloth remained untouched.

This long and interesting account, although a century old, compares very favourably with the inadequate descriptions of many later writers. The mummy and its case are still preserved in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. *Cal. Horsiers*

In the meantime another opportunity of witnessing the unrolling of a mummy had presented itself to Pettigrew, when he was invited to be present at the unrolling of a specimen belonging to Mr. Reeder, which took place at the Mechanics' Institution in 1833. From the brief description of this specimen left by Pettigrew, it appears to be a Middle Kingdom mummy.

<sup>1</sup> This is the portrait-panel of Roman period reproduced in Pl. vi of the *History of Egyptian Mummies*.

<sup>2</sup> A *shawabti*-figure. Clift has made three diagrams of the mummy in various stages of its unrolling, showing the position of the amulets, etc.



Pettigrew's *History of Egyptian Mummies* was now ready for publication, but even after the completion of the Introduction, in which all the mummies hitherto mentioned had been recorded, yet another specimen presented itself for examination, and Pettigrew delayed the publication of his book for a few days in order to include a notice of it. This was a mummy presented to the Museum of London University by James Morrison, M.P., which evidently belongs to the Twenty-sixth Dynasty or thereabouts. A few years earlier (in 1827) Morrison had presented another mummy to the City of Norwich, a description of which I published in this *Journal* in 1929 (vol. xv, pp. 186-8).

The *History of Egyptian Mummies* appeared early in 1834, dedicated by permission to William IV and illustrated with plates by Cruikshank. For an account of it I must refer the reader to the relative passage in my *Memoir* of Pettigrew, pp. 72-4. The book was certainly a success and it created and stimulated a great interest in Egyptian antiquities. Pettigrew was frequently invited to lecture, and before long another mummy was placed at his disposal by Dr. John Lee of Hartwell House. This mummy had originally belonged to Pettigrew himself, and it was enclosed in a cartonnage case within three coffins, the two inner ones being of anthropoid shape, the outermost a rectangular sarcophagus with a vaulted cover. Salt sent this "lot" to England several years before his death and Pettigrew bought it from Salt's London agent, Bingham Richards of Lamb's Conduit Place. Owing to its perfect condition Pettigrew did not unroll it, but, after keeping it and its cases in his house for some years, he sold the whole to Dr. John Lee for his museum at Hartwell House, where it became one of the most prominent exhibits. In 1837, however, Lee, whose interest had been much stimulated by Pettigrew's mummy-demonstrations, decided that the mummy ought to be unrolled and sent the body to London, but he retained the cartonnage case and the three coffins. These cases were lithographed by Joseph Bonomi and published with descriptive letterpress by Samuel Sharpe in 1858.<sup>1</sup> They remained in Lee's possession till his death (in 1866), when they were acquired, together with the rest of Lee's museum, by the late Lord Amherst of Hackney. They were sold once more in 1921 when the Amherst Collection was dispersed at Sotheby's (Lot 352).

The mummy was unrolled in the lecture-theatre of the Royal Institution on Friday, May 27, 1836, in the presence of a crowded and distinguished audience, Lord Prudhoe<sup>2</sup> being in the chair. The lecture, which lasted three hours, was reported in the press at length, and from this report the following extracts are taken:

On Friday evening Mr. Pettigrew unrolled an Egyptian mummy at this institution. Previous to doing so, he delivered a lecture on the mode of embalming, as performed by the Egyptians. [*Here follows a long report of the introductory lecture.*] Mr. Pettigrew then proceeded to unroll the bandages. Most of them were about four yards in length, and four inches in breadth, and were rolled around the dead body with such accuracy, that hardly a wrinkle was to be seen. The lecturer observed that it was evident that they were put on in a damp state, and they were dried after the process of rolling was completed, by exposing the body to a high temperature. A number of linen compresses were also found at various parts of the body; these were

<sup>1</sup> *The Triple Mummy Case of Aroeri-Ao, in Dr. Lee's Museum at Hartwell House.* Published for the Syro-Egyptian Society of London.

<sup>2</sup> Algernon Percy, first Baron Prudhoe, was born in 1792 and succeeded as fourth Duke of Northumberland in 1847. He was a great traveller and a generous patron of science. He explored Egypt with Major Orlando Felix in 1827-9, penetrating as far as Senaar, and visiting Sinai. He met Champollion in Nubia in 1828. In 1834 he accompanied Sir John Herschel's expedition to the Cape; D.C.L. (Oxon.), 1841; F.R.S.; F.S.A.; F.R.A.S.; financed Edward William Lane's Arabic Lexicon and sent Lane to Egypt to collect the materials; made a large collection of Egyptian antiquities, of which Birch published a catalogue in 1860. The Duke was First Lord of the Admiralty, 1852-3, a Vice-Admiral in 1857, and Admiral in 1862. He died at Alnwick, February 12, 1865, and was buried in the Percy Chapel in Westminster Abbey.

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Salt

about four yards in length and two feet in breadth, and were folded with great care. Mr. Pettigrew several times exhibited pieces of the linen, with the name of the deceased inscribed on them. This he observed had evidently been done after the bandage had been applied, as in one instance the ink or colouring matter had penetrated to the roller beneath. An enormous quantity of linen was removed from the body, and Mr. Pettigrew remarked that he had measured the length of the linen removed from the mummy which he had opened in 1833, and found that it exceeded 2000 yards, and that upwards of 60 yards had been drawn from the nostrils which had been forced into the cavity of the head. The body was found enveloped in four large linen sheets. It then appeared that the viscera had been removed by an incision in the flank, and were rolled up and placed between the legs. The liver was also found placed in the abdomen. Portions of the innermost cloths adhered so closely to the body that they could not be removed in consequence of the bituminous matter used in the operation, and great time and care were required to complete this part of the operation. There was no hair on the head, which proved that the body was that of a priest, for the Egyptian priests always shaved their heads. The beard, however, was clearly made out. The arms were swathed separately. The body was evidently that of an aged man, and in some parts of it, portions of gilding were visible. . . .

Pettigrew now decided to give a course of public lectures, and to unroll a mummy as a dramatic wind-up to the course. Arrangements were made in 1837 for the delivery of six lectures in the Exeter Hall, Strand,<sup>3</sup> and a printed syllabus was issued, a copy of which is reproduced in Pl. xxiii, left. At the termination of the last lecture the public unrolling of a mummy was carried out, and was thus reported:<sup>3</sup>

At the close of a series of six interesting and instructive Lectures on Egyptian Antiquities, delivered at Exeter Hall, by Mr. Pettigrew,—which it is a good sign of the taste of the times, and the increasing desire for information, to notice, were well attended by persons of both sexes, and of various ranks of life,—that gentleman, on Monday evening last, [March 6, 1837], summed up his remarks, and unrolled a mummy, most liberally presented for the occasion by Mr. Jones, of the Admiralty. The operation excited a marked feeling throughout the whole of the numerous auditory, including many individuals of distinction in the literary circles. In the commencement, Mr. Pettigrew, referring, with just eulogy, to Mr. Wilkinson, who was present, noticed that the inscription on the outer case differed from that on the inner case containing the mummy. Both stated the party to have been a female; but the names and genealogies were different, and the latter stated the mother of the deceased to be living when her daughter died. It might be that the wrappings would settle the point; which, however, they did not,—for no name was found on them, as often occurs. The mummy was Greco-Egyptian, and embalmed after the ancient manner; the bowels being extracted by an incision on the left flank, and the brains, probably, through the nostrils, as the nose was much broken. The legs were separately bandaged, and the ankles bound by stripes of painted linen, about half an inch in breadth. The figures were not hieroglyphic, but simply ornamental. Bands of the same kind surrounded the arms, which were crossed upon the breast; and a similar circle went round the neck, with a thin golden scarabeus [?] in front. On each knee was also a thin piece of gold, resembling the lotus-flower; over each eye the providential eye of Osiris, of the same material; and another golden ornament upon the top of the ridge of the nose. There were rings on the fingers; but the opportunity was not sufficient for examining them, nor time for proceeding to the careful and laborious unrolling of the body to the end. The upper wrappers were not voluminous, and of coarse nankeen-coloured linen. Then came a complete envelope of asphaltus [sic], and below that the usual disposition and extent of linen rolls. On the soles of the feet were slight sandals, transversely striped black, white and red, exactly like those painted on the bottom of the inner case. The finger and toe-nails were gilt; and, altogether, the subject presented many objects for further investigation and study.

At the conclusion of his discourse, which was much applauded, Mr. Pettigrew . . . intimated that

<sup>1</sup> *Morning Chronicle*, May 30, 1836, p. 5, col. 5; also reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1837, n.s., vol. vi, p. 82. Pettigrew himself published a very full account of this mummy, "Account of the Unrolling of an Egyptian Mummy, with incidental notes on the Manners, Customs, and Religion of the Ancient Egyptians", *Magazine of Popular Science and Journal of Useful Arts*, vol. ii, pp. 17-40.

<sup>2</sup> The Strand Palace Hotel now occupies the site.

<sup>3</sup> *Literary Gazette*, March 11, 1837.



# SYLLABUS OF A COURSE OF LECTURES ON EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES,

More especially as connected with the Processes of Embalming;

By T. J. PETTIGREW, F.R.S. F.S.A. F.L.S., &c. &c. &c.  
Author of a "History of Egyptian Mummies," &c.

These Lectures will be delivered at the EXETER HALL, STRAND, at Half past Eight o'Clock in the Evening precisely, & copiously illustrated by Specimens and Drawings,  
AND IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER.

**Monday, Feb. 13.—LECTURE I. INTRODUCTORY. ON THE GENERAL CHRONOLOGIES OF DIFFERENT NATIONS.** Reverence paid to the dead—Burial in the earth—Earliest example on record—disposal of the dead by fire, a practice among the ancient Greeks, Romans, Germans, Gauls, &c.—Roman Urns—Ashes of the dead dispersed to the winds, or taken in the beverage of the living—Burial in water, in snow, and ice—Perfuming of bodies by the Romans—Painted bodies of the Macrobians and Ethiopians—Preservation of the Persians, Syrians, and ancient Arabians, by honey and wax—Chinese method of treating their dead. Quarries of the Canary Islands—Mode of preservation—Examples—Peruvian Mummies—chiefly desiccated bodies, not embalmed—Articles found in the Mummy Pits—Examples of the Ancient Peruvians—Desiccated bodies of Palermo—their arrangement—mode of preparation—Examples of great preservation from burial in sand—Burmese Priests—singular account of their mode of embalming—exhibition—destruction—curious ceremony on the occasion.

**Thursday, Feb. 16.—LECTURE II. EGYPTIAN TOMBS.** Wisdom of the Egyptians—Antiquity of the Egyptian Mummies—extraordinary perfection of the art to be accounted for by referring to their theology—immortality of the soul—transmigration—Mummies as guests at feasts—as pledges for the loan of money—deposit of treasure in the tombs—various articles found—examples of several—earliest tombs—pyramids—Architecture and Sculpture of the Egyptians—Temple of Karnack—bears the name of Osireion I. the cotemporary of Joseph—Monotony of Egyptian buildings—colossal character—Head of Remeses the Great—Subjects represented in the temples and in the tombs—their variety—Egyptian Funeral Procession—ceremonies—instances of the denial of sepulture—examination of the characters of the dead—Assessors—Sacred Boat or Bari—QUEENS' TOMBS—Tombs of the Valley of Dayr el Medinet—under the protection of the Goddess Athor—invention of the arch—Amunoph I. Catacombs and pits of Abd el Qorneb and Drah Aboo Naggah—Gate or Gates of the Kings—ROYAL TOMBS—number known—Tomb of Osirel, commonly known as Belzoni's tomb—Alabaster sarcophagus—most likely to have been the receptacle of the body of a monarch—Some of the representations given in this tomb—Tomb of Remeses III. The Harper's—Illustration of Egyptian manners and customs—Tomb of Remeses V. Astronomical subjects—Tomb of Remeses VII.—peculiar character of its sculptures—Tomb of Remeses II. the supposed Benefactor of the Greeks—Tomb of Pthah-Septah—Western valley—Tomb of Amunoph III.—Tombs of Phtah and Phtah's Insurgents—Largest sepulchre hitherto discovered, of Phtah-munap—Sale of tombs by the Priests—CATACOMBS.—At Alexandria—Baccara—Sillilis—Gouran or Qouran—Thebes—Mummy pits—Position of the Mummies. Concluding remarks on the Representations in the Tombs.

**Monday, Feb. 20.—LECTURE III. ON MUMMIES, AND THE PROCESSES OF EMBALMING.** Etymologies of the term Mummy—various applications of it—Natural Mummy of the Mountains—its scarcity and value—Mummy used in medicine—introduced by Rhazes—generally employed in the 16th and 18th centuries—cessation of the practice. EMBALMING—definition—art now unknown to the Egyptians—accounts given by Herodotus and Diodorus Siculus—variations in the modes—principal kinds—order pursued—peculiarities observed—substances employed—Mummies of the poor Nubians—Faint specimens of embalming—Destruction of Mummies in the search for treasure—Mummies of Thebes—Abydos—Memphis—The embalmers—the swabbers—Extraction of the brain and other viscera—instruments employed—Account by Forchhammer, supported by Plancher—its improbability—Resinous substances—application of bees—Gilding of Mummies—Tongue plate—Body of Alexander furnished with a covering of gold chased work—Staining of the nails with henna—Position of the Mummies—horizontal—arms crossed—Preservation of the hair—plaited—examples—rarity of the Mummies of Children—Mummy of a Fetus—its case—Creation of the practice of embalming—Christian Mummies—insects found in the head of a Mummy—Medicaments employed in embalming—resinous and bituminous matter—asphaltum—Cedar—Balm—different kinds: of Judaea—Syria—Egypt—Mesopotamia—Celaenoth—Myrrh—Aloe—Cedar dust—Natron—its analysis—Honey—Wax.

**Thursday, Feb. 23.—LECTURE IV. BANDAGES, CASES, AND SARCOPHAGI.** Necklaces in contact with the body—Scarabaeus—Rings—Enamelled eyes—Mouthpiece of the time of Remeses the Great—Ear-Rings—Silver nails—Dentures of the Ameniti—Bandages of different colours—Uraco—Egyptian Mummies—covering of painted cloth—Bandages formed of linen—satisfactory proofs—researches of Dr. Ure and Mr. Thomson—different substances with which the bandages are coloured—Blumen—Aloe—Goudron—Tannin—Soud—Carchamus—length of bandages—compresses—all applied wet—limbs sometimes separately handaged—quantity of bandage varies greatly—Hieroglyphical characters impressed upon them—generally at the end—Articles of dress, occasionally found—old linen, mended and darned—Hieratic and Eucherial and Greek inscriptions—Splendid Mummy from Memphis, in Signor D'Albanesi's collection—Amulets—leathern finger—ornaments in the Leeds Mummy—Garlands of flowers—Bandage—painted case, with hieroglyphics—Symbolical representations under the heads of some Mummies—Varnished bandages—Portrait over the face of a Mummy—Idols and ornaments placed between the first and second layers of the bandages—great variety of necklaces—golden ornaments—quantity of gold in Egypt—metallic mirror, wooden cistern, alabaster vase, &c. found in a mummy case—Funeral tablets—breast-plates of kings—The Gem of the Ameniti—Idol found in the mummy of Horwail—Bulbous neck—Rosary—Eyes of Osiris—Bracelets of gold and other materials—Diadems of gold and silver—Horned work—No money discovered in the tombs—Egyptian commerce—Rings of gold and silver—Medals struck under the Greeks, Romans, and Arabs—First current coin of Egypt—Coin of Ptolemy in a Mummy—Leadens Medals affixed to a Greek Mummy.—CASES: The Cartonnage—its manufacture—beautifully painted—subject of the representations—Wooden coffins—sycamore—cedar—formed occasionally out of a single trunk—outer cases—hard wood—inscriptions—SARCOPHAGI: Lapis aestivus—different materials and forms—ordinary shape—rose-coloured granite—marble—limestone—alabaster—Egyptian breccia—beak—slate—baked-earth—wood. Sarcophagus of Amynteus (Alexander's tomb) in the British Museum.—"Lover's Fountain"—Alabaster Sarcophagus in Sir J. Soane's Museum—Description of the Wooden Sarcophagus of Osirel.

**Monday, Feb. 27.—LECTURE V. ON THE PAPIRUS, & ON THE HIEROGLYPHICAL LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.** Natural History of the Papyrus—its manufacture into paper—Egyptian literature—Rosette stone—labours of De Saury—Akerblad—Young—Salt—Champollion—Wilkinson—Horton, &c.—Hieroglyphical characters—Hieratic—Eucherial—Bilingual MSS.—Papyri—their contents.

**Thursday, March 2.—LECTURE VI. Sacred Animals—Worship of various Animals throughout Egypt—Idol-worship of the serpent—Egyptian Mythology—Embalming of the Sacred Animals—Quadrupeds—Birds—Amphibious Animals—Fishes—Insects—Embalmed Vegetables.**

**Monday, March 6.—LECTURE VII. RECAPITULATION—UNWINDING OF AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY.**

Tickets of Admission to the Course, to which Ladies will be admitted, to be had of the Lecturer, No. 8, Saville Row; Mr. LEIGH NOTHMAN, Wellington Street, Strand; and at the Exeter Hall. Front Seats and Gallery, One Guinea. Back Seats, Half-a-Guinea.

SYLLABUS OF PETTIGREW'S LECTURES, 1837

# GIOVANNI D'ATHANASI

Respectfully informs the Public, that

On the *EVENING* of *MONDAY*, the 10th of *APRIL NEXT*.

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK,

THE

## **MOST INTERESTING MUMMY**

That has as yet been discovered in Egypt,

## **WILL BE UNROLLED**

**IN THE LARGE ROOM AT EXETER HALL, STRAND.**

WHICH MAY BE NOW SEEN

At the House of **Mr. LEIGH SOTHEBY**, Wellington Street, Strand.

"Every Traveller who has visited Egypt, and indeed all those who have taken an interest in the Antiquities of that Country, are fully aware of the difficulty—nay, almost impossibility—of discovering at Memphis a Mummy in any thing like a perfect state, owing to the general destruction occasioned by the search of gold that took place in the Tombs during the period when Canhyes invaded Egypt. Though many of the most beautiful objects of antiquity, such as the minute Figures in Porcelain, the Alabaster Vases, and MS. Rolls of Papyrus, have been discovered at Memphis, yet, it is well known, that in no museum in Europe does there exist a perfect Mummy from that city.

"The circumstance, therefore, of this Mummy coming from Memphis, and being in so perfect a state, alone renders it very valuable; but it is now, arising from a discovery made since its arrival in this country, rendered of the highest interest and importance.

"On removing the covering of fine linen which was placed on the body of this Mummy, it was observed, from a small piece of linen which protruded through a fracture in that which appeared a thick layer of asphaltum, that it had on it some inscription. On a more minute examination, it was discovered that the folds of linen, then perceptible, were all written upon in the same manner, and that the layer of asphaltum was merely intended for their preservation. This thin layer of asphaltum was immediately removed from the upper part and sides of the body, leaving only, as now seen, a small portion towards the feet, as a specimen of its original state; and the appearance which the Mummy now presents is such as has never been before seen. The numerous folds of cloth with which the body is surrounded are covered with HIERATIC, ENCHORIAL and HIEROGLYPHICAL INSCRIPTIONS and DESIGNS of all the Funereal Ceremonies. The piece of linen now placed round the Mummy is above eight feet in length; it was taken from around the feet, and from the mark or character at the end, it would appear that the pieces placed on the breast and other parts of the body were a continuation of it—thus forming the subjects which are usually found in the MS. rolls of Papyrus. It is believed, that these, with the other inscriptions with which the whole of the bandages are covered, include the entire RITUAL of the ancient Egyptians.

"It would be difficult to enter into a description of the numerous designs with which the folds of linen are decorated. There is a greater variety of subjects here given than is to be found in any of the Funereal Manuscripts on Papyrus. On the piece of linen taken from around the feet, is a representation of a funereal ceremony, wherein the body of the deceased is being conveyed to its resting place on a four-wheeled carriage. This circumstance was particularly reverted to by Mr. Pettigrew, in the second of his very interesting course of Lectures on Egyptian Antiquities, at Exeter Hall, Feb. 18; when he observed, and supported in his opinion by the authority of Mr. Wilkinson, whose valuable researches into the history and customs of the ancient Egyptians cannot be too highly appreciated, that this, the representation of a carriage on four wheels, as used by the ancient Egyptians, was the first that has been discovered.

"The Sarcophagus, which is 5 feet 9½ inches long, 1 foot 8 inches broad, and 1 foot 3 inches deep, is, with the exception of the three lines of Hieroglyphics on the exterior of the cover, and a representation of the Four Deities of the Amenti at the head, without any ornament; it is singularly shaped, yet more resembling the coffins of the present period. The Hieroglyphics alluded to are found to give the name of the deceased, and make mention of the City of Memphis; thus corroborative of its having been found in that place."—Extracted from Mr. Leigh Sotheby's Catalogue of Giovanni D'Athanas's Collection of Egyptian Antiquities.

Tickets, as under, with a description of the Mummy, may be now had of GIOVANNI D'ATHANASI, at No. 3, Wellington Street, Strand.

A limited number of Seats will be reserved, immediately around the Tables on which the Mummy will be placed, at *Six Shillings*.

Seats in the Balconies and Platform, *Four Shillings*.

All the other Seats in the centre of the Hall and Gallery, *Two Shillings and Sixpence*.

J. BAYLY, Printer, 11, Queen Street, Essex Wharf.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY D'ATHANASI, 1837

Plate XXIII

Mr. Athanasi's splendid mummy, from Memphis, would be unrolled on the 10th of April, in Exeter Hall: a notice which has excited a strong sensation among lovers of Egyptian lore and antiquities; for, hitherto, those which have been examined in this country are from Thebes and other places, and we have had no opportunity of seeing the generally richly ornamented mummies of Memphis.

D'Athanasi seems to have made the unrolling of his mummy a commercial speculation, and issued a handbill advertising the event, a copy of which is reproduced in Pl. xxiii, right. The unrolling was duly carried out by Pettigrew on April 10, 1837, before a crowded audience, and the following report of it appeared in the press:<sup>2</sup>

Unrolling a Memphis Mummy.—On Monday, Mr. Pettigrew unrolled the Mummy from Memphis, belonging to M. Athanasi, in the Great Room at Exeter Hall, which was, however, too large, and not well adapted to the purpose; as the spectators were not only too far distant, but all around the space enclosed for the operation: and thus many of them were precluded from having a good view of Mr. Pettigrew's skilful process. From the case, and numerous inscriptions on the wrappings, the corpse was pronounced to be an eminent priest of Phra, chief of the spirits, prophet &c. &c. The linen was in narrower strips than we have ever seen before; and there were various peculiarities which rendered this specimen interesting. All down the front of the body, longitudinally, were laid pieces of linen, covered with figures and inscriptions; some of the former altogether new. These were delicately executed in lines. On the head was a species of helmet-mitre, much gilt; and below a human face was rudely traced on the bandages above the original countenance. After some travel [sic], Mr. Pettigrew came to a complete asphaltic envelope, of extreme hardness and tenacity, into which the body had been plunged; and which resisted hammers, knives and chisels. By much perseverance it was partially removed; and about the neck scarabei, cornelians and other stones were found. The toe-nails were gilt, the legs separately bandaged, and the arms crossed over the breast; the whole indicative of the Greco-Egyptian period. The mummy was, therefore, about 2200 or 2300 years old. Finding it impossible to make greater way in removing the obstacles interposed by the preparation, it was announced that the task would be carefully completed elsewhere, and the results submitted to the view of the public. We should guess that there were five or six hundred persons present.

Pettigrew's fame as an unroller of mummies was now at its height. Sir George Staunton (1781-1859) was present at the lecture on D'Athanasi's mummy, and he then informed Pettigrew that he knew of another mummy that might with advantage be unrolled and examined. This was the specimen, afterwards famous as the 'Jersey Mummy', which had been brought from Egypt in 1835 by John Gosset, F.S.A., who travelled in Egypt with Edward William Lane, but died in Paris on his way home. The mummy was presented to the museum of Jersey by his father, Isaac Gosset. Pettigrew at once communicated with his friend J. Hodges of Jersey, by whom he was invited to visit the island and to deliver a course of lectures on Egyptian antiquities. Pettigrew accordingly visited Jersey, spending the first week of September there, and repeated the lectures he had delivered earlier in the year at Exeter Hall. After the final lecture, Gosset's mummy was unrolled. The lectures were very fully reported in the *British Press* of Jersey, September 8, 1837, from which the following extracts are taken:

Mr. Pettigrew's last lecture, combined as it was with the unrolling of the Mummy, which has served as a nucleus [sic] and ornament of our infant Museum, attracted, as might have been expected, on Saturday last a greater concourse of spectators than on any previous occasion: the room was literally crowded with

<sup>1</sup> Giovanni d'Athanasi, the son of a merchant of Lemnos who settled in Egypt, was born in 1799. He was taken to Cairo in 1809, and when a boy entered the domestic service of Col. Missett, British Consul-General, who, on his retirement, recommended him to his successor, Henry Salt. D'Athanasi (who was known in Egypt as Yanni) was employed by Salt as a servant and as an excavator until his death. After Salt's death, Yanni built a house at Thebes (near Tomb No. 52) and collected antiquities which he brought to England in 1836, and which were sold at Sotheby's in March 1837. Some of his best specimens were engraved by Visconti and published in 1837.

<sup>2</sup> *Literary Gazette*, April 15, 1837.

the first families of the island, and all who had any pretensions to fashion, science or literature attended on this interesting occasion. The learned lecturer assumed with an air of modest triumph his station at the table on which the Mummy was placed: behind him were ranged its several cases, and the wall was covered with sheets of paper on which were delineated accurate copies of the Hieroglyphical inscriptions referring to the subject of the day's lecture, now about to be divested of the bandages which had enveloped it untouched for many centuries. Extreme attention was apparent throughout the numerous audience, and eager curiosity was visible on every countenance as Mr. Pettigrew commenced his lecture, of which we offer to the public the following very inadequate sketch.

*[Here follows a long report of the lecture.]*

The learned lecturer now commenced unrolling the mummy, which bore, he said, a striking resemblance to the one opened at Leeds some years ago.<sup>1</sup> On the body was laid a garland of lotus and other flowers: the leathern strap contains emblems indicating a king, and is probably a description of Amenoph. When the flowers and fillets were removed the whole body appeared covered with a sheet that was laced at the back, in a manner, said Mr. P., which might give a lesson to our modern stay-makers (laughter). The sheet was tied in a knot at the back of the head, and when it was renounced [*sic*] the multitudinous rolls of bandages came into view. . . . as the unrolling went on, the room became filled with a strong but not very disagreeable odour, arising probably from the resinous materials used in the process of embalming. . . . The operator now came to a layer of bandages entirely covered with asphaltum which could not be unrolled: it was therefore picked off, and was composed of a common kind of cloth. After removing this a layer of bandages appeared with a coloured border, in accordance with specimens Mr. Pettigrew had exhibited to the audience (applause). . . . The lecturer now exclaimed "Here at length is something to repay one's caution (applause): in a preceding lecture I mentioned the scarabeus as an ornament found frequently between the bandages: I will now lift this portion of the covering, and you will see a very fine one". Here the mummy was carried round, and every one rose to see the ornament on the breast, which was a fine scarabeus formed of greenish porcelain. The work of unrolling now again proceeded until the joyful announcement was made that something new was discovered which had never before been found on a mummy. Mr. P. now exercised his scissors very freely, and soon released the scarabeus which was found to be fixed above a plate of metal . . . found to be fashioned in the form of a hawk. . . . The wings of the hawk were expanded, and he held in his talons the emblem of eternal life; it was handed round for inspection and excited much applause and admiration. A new description of bandage now appeared, and the arms and legs were shown to be separately bandaged. . . . At length the left foot was displayed to sight, and though black and shrivelled, it excited much applause. . . .

*[Here follow some more general remarks, a description of the amulets found, and a general conclusion to the whole discourse.]*

Further Discoveries:—Since the unrolling of the Mummy on Saturday, Mr. Pettigrew has made a further examination of the body, which, though satisfactory in a certain degree, has not enabled him to approach in the remotest manner a knowledge of the name of the person, or the period of his death. He is, however, of opinion that the cases are of much greater antiquity than the Mummy, which seems to refer to the Greco-Egyptian period of the Ptolemies. On opening the head, Mr. Pettigrew found the space once occupied by the brain, filled with a sandy earth, which appears to have been lodged there by means of an incision in the throat, through which, and not through the nostrils (as was usual) the brain appears to have been extracted. The body was found to contain the intestines also contrary to custom, as they were generally placed in the Canopic vases. After having been cleansed and purified they were made up into four parcels . . . [and] replaced in the body. . . .


The Jersey Mummy is one of particular interest. Pettigrew was wrong in assigning it to the Ptolemaic period. The very good description of it which he afterwards published leaves no doubt that it should be assigned to the Twenty-second Dynasty. Pettigrew was supplied with good drawings of the mummy-case and amulets, made by Col. John Oldfield

<sup>1</sup> *An Account of an Egyptian Mummy presented to the Museum of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society by the late John Blayde, Esq. drawn up at the request of the Council, by William Osburn, Junior, F.R.S.L., Secretary to the Society, etc. Leeds, 1828. 52 pp. and 5 plates. The mummy belongs to the reign of the last of the Ramessides.*

(1789-1868). On his return, he went carefully over his notes and wrote a detailed description of the Jersey Mummy, which he read before the Society of Antiquaries on November 23, 1837, and the paper, which was afterwards published, is one of the most valuable contributions to the literature of mummification.<sup>1</sup>

Between 1837 and 1840 Pettigrew was busily engaged in the preparation of his great biographical work, *The Medical Portrait Gallery*, and this, in addition to his professional practice, apparently left him no leisure for further demonstrations upon mummies. In January 1840, however, he was in the arena once more and unrolled a mummy at the Islington Literary and Scientific Institute. A short account of the lecture appeared in the press:<sup>2</sup>

At the Islington Literary and Scientific Institution on Monday evening, Mr. Pettigrew unrolled a Mummy in the presence of a numerous audience. The inscriptions on the outer case, consisting of prayers for, and the pedigree of, the departed, announced its occupant to have been Ohranis daughter of the Priest of Mandoo, Bal Snauf, Son of the Priest of Mandoo Bakensaht, son of the priest of Amun-Re, King of the Gods, Esaintmi. Ohranis was born of the Lady of the House of [sic] Nasmaut, daughter of the priest of Ammon Re, King of the Gods, Nashtafmaut. This pedigree Mr. Pettigrew considered a further proof of the statement made by Herodotus that the priesthood amongst the Egyptians was hereditary. The only ornaments found on the antiquated dame were a few common beads and a ring. That she was old before she died the state of the teeth gave proof. The Mummy had been brought from Thebes, and presents the characteristics usually observed in the embalming of that locality.

"Mandoo" is evidently Pettigrew's reading of , Menthu, or Month, and the titles borne by this mummy show that it belongs to the series of mummies of which Mariette in 1858 found a *cache*, and of which I have given some account in this *Journal* (XIII (1927), pp. 158-60).

In 1843 the British Archaeological Association was founded, and Pettigrew played a prominent part in its establishment and in its progress for the rest of his life. In the summer of 1844 the Association held the first of its annual congresses, Canterbury being selected as the place of meeting. The assembled archaeologists enjoyed a busy week of lectures and excursions, and the culminating excitement at the close of the congress was the unrolling of a mummy by Pettigrew in the Canterbury Theatre. I extract the following paragraph from the interesting and entertaining account of the Canterbury Congress recently published by the late Mr. E. Reginald Taylor, F.S.A.,<sup>3</sup> in which he quotes from contemporary accounts:

"At eight o'clock the theatre presented a gay appearance, being well filled with a most respectable audience; the leading families of the neighbourhood were present. All the boxes were filled" (the pit had been boarded over), "and the most intense interest prevailed throughout these altogether novel proceedings." The *Pictorial Times* says that "the stage decorations were got up with great care, Mr. Pettigrew and the mummy being in the centre, supported on either side by antiquarians tastefully arranged so as to give full effect to this imposing scene". There was first a lecture by T. J. Pettigrew on mummies generally, which lasted an hour, and then Pettigrew, assisted by his son, Dr. W. V. Pettigrew, began the unrolling. "This was a task of no ordinary difficulty, as a great quantity of bituminous matter had been used in the embalment." The mummy was said to have been brought from Thebes by Captain Needham, being purchased by Pettigrew in London, and to have lived about 500 B.C. Pettigrew read his name as HAR son of UNEFER.

<sup>1</sup> *Archaeologia*, xvii (1837), pp. 262-73, and 2 plates.

<sup>2</sup> *Buckinghamshire Gazette*, January 25, 1840. This notice was doubtless communicated by Pettigrew's friend Dr. John Lee.

<sup>3</sup> *Journ. of the Brit. Archaeological Assoc.*, n.s., xxxviii (1932), 212.

<sup>4</sup> William Vesalius Pettigrew, M.D., F.R.C.S. (1814-74), the eldest surviving son of T. J. Pettigrew. See *Memoir*, pp. 33, 86, 87.



As the unrolling proceeded the cloth became more and more difficult to unroll, being impregnated with bituminous matter, and it had to be cut away with knives. After working hard for about an hour, the face was uncovered, showing a "complacent smile" on the mouth, and enough of the body to reveal its form. The greatest interest was evinced by the spectators, "and from time to time pieces of the bandages were handed to the ladies in the boxes", although the cloth "had a peculiar and disagreeable smell". "The dust pervaded the atmosphere and was inhaled by all persons near." Dr. Pettigrew then sawed off the back part of the skull, to see what was inside, and found that the brains had been replaced by pitch. After an hour and a half "the mummy, which proved to be that of a young man, was raised to its feet, and presented to the company, and was received with enthusiastic applause". The audience did not leave the theatre till 11 p.m., having had three solid hours of mummy study.

The Canterbury ceremony was repeated a few years later, when, at the Worcester Congress of 1848, in the Shire Hall, Pettigrew unrolled a mummy that had been specially presented for the occasion by Joseph Arden, F.S.A. (1800-79). He delivered a preliminary lecture, and then, assisted by his son, unrolled the mummy before a crowded audience. The ceremony lasted, like that of Canterbury, three hours.<sup>1</sup>

The last mummy unrolled in public by Pettigrew, so far as I have been able to trace, was a specimen belonging to the United Service Institution. A printed notice announcing the ceremony was issued to the members.

The demonstration took place on May 28, 1851. The mummy is evidently one belonging to the period intermediate between the Twenty-second and Twenty-sixth Dynasty, for the viscera were found wrapped in parcels with wax effigies of their guardian deities in the style of the former, but were placed, not inside the body but between the legs, after the manner of the latter dynasty. Pettigrew afterwards published an account of the viscera and their genii.<sup>2</sup>

Such are the public demonstrations that Pettigrew gave on Egyptian mummies, or, at least, all of which I have been able to find any record. His frequent performances earned for him the nickname of "Mummy Pettigrew", and afforded many opportunities to wits and lampoon-writers. *Punch* parodied the well-known Latin proverb *Crescit amor nummi, quantum ipsa pecunia crescit* into *Crescit amor mummy, quantum ipse Pettigrew crescit*. The performance in the theatre at Canterbury called into existence the following bad, but amusing, verses:<sup>3</sup>

Even on that sink of all iniquity, the Stage,  
The sacrilegious monsters dared engage  
On Friday evening to strip a corpse—  
A Mummy called they it—and what was worse,  
Sawed through the head—as it had been a cheese;  
(Praise be where due, the powder made them sneeze)  
Then placed upon its feet the insulted dead,  
Gave three wild yells, called cheers—and went to bed.

The following story is told by Pettigrew's grandson.<sup>4</sup> Pettigrew was one day unrolling a mummy in his house in Saville Row before some friends, and was just remarking that he had come to some hieroglyphics which would give the name of the mummy, when a maid-servant came in and overheard the remark. She went back to the kitchen and told the others that the master had just found out the name of the mummy, and that it was 'Harry Griffiths' (Hieroglyphics).

<sup>1</sup> Pettigrew published a full account of this mummy in the *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, iv (1849), 337-48. It belongs to the Twenty-first Dynasty.

<sup>2</sup> *Archaeologia*, xxxiv (1852), 392-3.

<sup>3</sup> Quoted by E. R. Taylor, *op. cit.*, p. 213.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 212.

In concluding these remarks on Pettigrew's work on Egyptian mummies, I will add two instances in which he was concerned with mummies of post-Egyptian date.

On January 20, 1852, a special committee was appointed by the Council of the Society of Antiquaries to investigate the circumstances attending the discovery that had been made a few days earlier, of an embalmed body in St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. This had come to light unexpectedly during some structural repairs, and as the committee considered that an examination of the body, which exactly resembled an Egyptian mummy, might be helpful in their researches, Pettigrew was invited to join their number and unroll the body. This he accordingly did, assisted by his son. A full account of the whole proceedings was afterwards published, and the evidence seemed to establish that the body was that of William Lyndewode, Bishop of St. Davids, who died in 1446.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, Pettigrew instead of, as so often before, unrolling a mummy, was called upon to roll one. On August 18, 1852, Alexander, the tenth Duke of Hamilton, died in his London house in Portman Square. The Duke had left directions during his lifetime that on his death his remains were to be mummified and deposited in an Egyptian sarcophagus that he had caused to be sent from Egypt many years before for that purpose. An enormous mausoleum was built in the grounds of Hamilton Palace, and the sarcophagus was placed therein to await its noble tenant. Pettigrew fulfilled the function of the Egyptian embalmer, and also that of the Chief Ritualist at the funeral. The following extracts are taken from *The Times* of Tuesday, September 7, 1852:<sup>2</sup>

On Saturday last the remains of Alexander, tenth Duke of Hamilton, who died in Portman-square, London, on the 18th of August, were deposited in their final resting-place, for it cannot be said they were buried. On the preceding Thursday, the body having previously been embalmed by Mr. Pettigrew of London, was transmitted from London to Hamilton Palace. . . . On Saturday the interment took place in the new mausoleum, situate in Hamilton grounds, about 300 yards to the south-west of the palace, and which, though it has been in the course of construction for the last four years, is not yet entirely completed. This is believed to be the most costly and magnificent temple for the reception of the dead in the world—always excepting the Pyramids. . . . The interior is approached by a great flight of steps, and presents a stone chapel of great altitude, which is to be lighted from above by a single circular plate of polished glass fourteen feet in diameter. . . . Below the floor of the chapel . . . are situated the vaults or catacombs for the interment of the members of the noble family of Hamilton. Here have been deposited within the last four months the bodies of 12 members of the family which formerly lay in the vaults of the old Hamilton Church. . . . The late Duke Alexander, however, is not destined to lie in the same vault with his noble kindred, but in the chapel above, and in a most costly and unique sarcophagus which his Grace procured about 30 years ago from the Pyramids of Egypt, and which was at one time destined for the British Museum. The sarcophagus is made of hardest basalt, and is literally covered with the most exquisitely carved hieroglyphics, which are almost as fresh as the day they were executed. The lid contains a most beautifully chased female face, and it is believed that it originally contained the body of an Egyptian Queen or Princess, but the late Duke had the cavity chiselled out and extended so as to serve as the sepulchre for his own body. Everything had been prepared by the orders of the late Duke before his death, and the sarcophagus rested in the niche of the chapel opposite the entrance, upon two splendid blocks of black marble, which already contained an inscription, complete with the exception of the day of death. . . . [Here follows an account of the funeral and a list of those present.] . . . The company retired, leaving the body resting on a dais in front of the sarcophagus. The workmen, headed by Mr. Pettigrew, the embalmer, and Mr. Bryce, the architect, then took possession of the chapel, when the coffin was opened and the body placed in the sarcophagus. The lid, which weighs 15 cwt., was then lowered, and the world and all its concerns closed for ever on Alexander, the tenth Duke of Hamilton. The empty coffin was removed to the vaults below. . . .

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia*, xxxiv (1852), 406-30, Pls. 30-4; *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, viii (1853), 62-3, 70-2, Pls. 14, 17.

<sup>2</sup> This account is too long to print in full, but the elaboration of the ceremonies it describes recalls the well-known wall-paintings on the walls of the Theban tombs.

Pettigrew's *History of Egyptian Mummies* and his various separate papers on mummies were not his only contributions to Egyptology. In 1842 he projected the publication of an Encyclopaedia, alphabetically arranged, of Egyptian archaeology, history, and geography. A prospectus was issued inviting subscriptions to the work, which was to appear in parts. In 1842 the first part was issued, containing an introductory essay and the commencement of the alphabetical portion from AAH to ABO. This first part of the work, a large octavo, contained thirty-two pages and two engraved plates (one coloured) and was published by Whittaker & Co. at the price of three shillings. It also contained a list of 151 subscribers, but the number was insufficient to justify the cost of production, and no further parts were issued.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Encyclopaedia Aegyptiaca, or a Dictionary of Egyptian Antiquities. Part i. General View of Ancient Egypt forming the Preliminary Discourse; AAH-ABO.* London, 1842.