

A
BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES
IN
UPPER EGYPT,
MADE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
HENRY SALT, ESQ.

BY
✓
GIOVANNI D'ATHANASI.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
A DETAILED CATALOGUE OF
MR. SALT'S COLLECTION OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES,
ILLUSTRATED WITH TWELVE ENGRAVINGS OF SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING
OBJECTS, AND AN ENUMERATION OF THOSE ARTICLES PURCHASED
FOR THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.



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MDCCLXXXVI.

again reverted to his darling objects of research, and he desired me to go and occupy the place which Mr. Belzoni had lately filled at the excavations which were being carried on at Thebes. Upon this gratifying mission I set out without loss of time, and immediately on my arrival arranged the order of the excavations; I also made some purchases of antiquities, notwithstanding all the difficulties which I experienced through means of a certain Antonio Lebolo, a countryman of M. Drouetti, who had just been buying up all the antiquities the Arabs had to sell. Singularly enough, however, he had left in their hands, for what reason I know not, the finest specimen of all; namely, a Greek mummy, that of the wife of a governor of Thebes, named Soter Corneliou, which I immediately purchased. An English traveller, had just bought the fellow mummy of the governor of Thebes, but having taken it into his head, whilst on his road to Cairo, that there might be some gold coins in this mummy, he caused it to be opened, and not finding any thing in it of the nature he sought, he threw it into the Nile, and gave the case belonging to it to Mr. Salt. Such was the fate of the mortal remains of the governor of Thebes.

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CHAPTER IV.

Departure of Messrs. Banks and Beechy for England—Mr. Salt's serious illness—The author is sent to superintend the excavations at Thebes—Curious Greek mummies—Five different methods of embalment described—Accidental discovery of papyri inclosed in the black wooden idols found in the cases of mummies—Three mummies of musicians, with their instruments and wine flasks—Wonderful preservation of articles in the climate and soil of Thebes.

SOME days after our arrival at Alexandria Mr. Banks joined us there, and began making his preparations to return to England, in company with Mr. Beechy, who had just been recalled by his father. Their departure was delayed a little on account of the celebration of Mr. Salt's marriage, which took place a few days subsequent. Not many days after they left, Mr. Salt was taken dangerously ill, and his recovery was tedious, and attended with some hazard. As soon as he found himself well re-established in health, his thoughts