

THE COPTIC ROOM.


THE **Copts** are the direct descendants of the ancient Egyptians, whom they often resemble in face and features and mental qualities; they are in number about 800,000. The name **Copt** is derived through the Arabic from the Greek *Αἰγύπτιος*, *i.e.*, an "Egyptian," though some derive it from **Kubt**, the name of the town of Coptos in Upper Egypt, where large numbers of Copts have lived from time immemorial. The Copts (like the Abyssinians) are Christians, and are frequently spoken of as **Egyptian Christians**. They declare that the founder of their Church was St. Mark the Evangelist, who, according to very ancient tradition, arrived in Alexandria A.D. 64, and preached the Gospel and established a Christian community in that city. The **first Coptic Patriarch** was **Ananius**, whose title was *Bâbâ* or *Pâpâ*. During the first three centuries the Copts were frequently persecuted, and they suffered so much at the hands of Diocletian that the day of that Emperor's accession to the throne (Aug. 29, 284) was made by them the first day of the Era by which they date their documents, *viz.*, the **Era of the Martyrs**. In the 4th century the Copts were divided into two great bodies, which were known as (1) **Jacobites**, *i.e.*, followers of Jacob Baradæus, a Syrian ascetic, and (2) **Melkites**, or **Royalists**, because they accepted the form of the Faith which was promulgated by the Emperors of Constantinople. The Jacobites, finding it impossible to overcome their opponents in the 5th and 6th centuries, joined their forces to those of the Arabs when they attacked Egypt. And two of them, "George the Makawkas" and Benjamin the Coptic Patriarch, betrayed the fortress of Babylon to 'Amr, the Khalifah's Commander-in-Chief, and admitted the Arabs through the water gate at Fumm al-Khalîg in Fustât, near the modern Cairo, in 640. At first the Copts were greatly honoured by the Arabs, but disputes soon arose between the Christians and the Moslems, and every now and then great persecutions broke out, and the Copts were slain by the thousands and all their possessions seized by the Arabs. Under the influence of the Copts Christianity

was carried up the Nile into Nubia and the Sûdân, and into Abyssinia, and in the eleventh and twelfth centuries there were many hundreds of churches on the Island of Meroë and in the district between the Fourth and the Third Cataracts. But little by little Islâm forced itself into Egypt and Nubia, and before the end of the thirteenth century large numbers of Copts had become Muslims in order to save their lives and property. Their churches were destroyed, or turned into mosques, their books were burnt, and the knowledge of the Coptic language dwindled, and for all practical purposes ceased to be.

The **belief** of the Copts is best illustrated by the Definition of Faith which was promulgated at the Council of Chalcedon in 451, *i.e.*, Christ was One Substance out of two substances, One Person out of two persons, One Nature out of two natures, and One Will out of two wills, and NOT two substances, two natures, and two wills in one person as their opponents declared. The Copts baptize their children, and practise circumcision, and pray seven times daily; and they make pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Their eschatological beliefs have much in common with those of the Ancient Egyptians. The **Coptic language** is the Ancient Egyptian language written in Greek letters. As there were in it seven sounds for which the Greek alphabet had no equivalents, conventionalised forms of the hieroglyphs which represented these sounds were added. A Coptic translation of some of the books of the Old and New Testaments was made in the fourth century, and many of the works of the Fathers were translated into Coptic in the great monasteries in Upper Egypt in the following centuries. For further information see the following works published by the Trustees of the British Museum:—*Catalogue of the Coptic MSS. in the British Museum*, by W. E. Crum, with 15 plates. 1905, 4to, £4 10s.; *Coptic Homilies, Coptic Biblical Texts, Coptic Apocrypha, Coptic Martyrdoms, Miscellaneous Texts*, by E. A. Wallis Budge, all in the dialect of Upper Egypt, with 145 plates and 27 illustrations in the text, five volumes, 12s., 15s., £1, 17s. 6d. and £2 respectively.

In this Room are exhibited large and important series of **Coptic Antiquities** of various periods between the seventh and the thirteenth centuries A.D. On the walls **above the Wall-Cases** are several groups of funerary stelæ, with elaborate carvings and designs, and short inscriptions. On the **tops of the Wall-Cases** are arranged a number

of richly carved capitals of stone pillars from churches and shrines in various parts of Egypt and the Sûdân. **Wall-Cases 1-26** contain:—1. A number of fine examples of the carvings in stone which the Copts used to decorate the shrines of the Virgin Mary and the walls near their altars. 2. **Funerary stelæ**, inscribed in Greek and Coptic, from the famous cemeteries of Edfû and Esna, or Asnâ, in Upper Egypt, and memorial tablets from the walls of monastic churches in various parts of Egypt. 3. A collection of **ostraka** and slices of calcareous stone, inscribed in Coptic, of the period A.D. 550-900. The texts chosen for exhibition consist of affidavits, letters, invoices, contracts, writing exercises, extracts from the Scriptures and from liturgies, hymns, etc. In the **Table-Cases A and B** are miscellaneous small antiquities of the later Coptic Period. A full description of many of the inscribed stelæ, ostraka, etc., exhibited in this room, together with transcriptions, translations, etc., will be found in *Coptic and Greek Texts of the Christian Period from Ostraka, Stelæ, etc., in the British Museum*, by H. R. Hall, with 100 plates. London, 1905. £2. This work can be obtained on the bookstalls in the British Museum. Fine specimens of Coptic needlework of all kinds are exhibited in **Table-Cases G and H** in the Fifth Egyptian Room, and in **Wall-Cases 273-279** in the Sixth Egyptian Room.

WEST WALL. 1-3. Three wooden lintels from church doors inscribed in Coptic [41,611, 54,040, 41,618]. 4. Limestone **panel**, which was fixed immediately above the altar in a Coptic church, sculptured with five circular ornaments, three large and two small. The central ornament contains a cross and four vine leaves, and the large ones on the right and left contain vine leaves and a rectangle and circle interlaced. In each of the two small connecting circles is a rosette. From Şûhâk. Length 4 ft. 10 in., breadth 1 ft. 7½ in. [1334]. 5 and 6. Two wooden figures of saints, probably Peter and Paul, from a screen in a Coptic monastic church at Edfû [41,616, 41,617]. 7. Solid **lead cross** , on which, in raised outlines, are the figure of a saint, triple crosses, and a mutilated inscription. The death day of the deceased was the 21st of Tôbe $\overline{\text{KZ}} \text{ } \Pi \text{ } \tau \omega \delta \epsilon$; Indiction number uncertain [46,708]. 8. Rectangular wooden panel with deeply cut inscription [49,244].

NORTH WALL. 9. Sandstone **sepulchral stele** of a person whose name is wanting, sculptured with figures of a cross and crown, a dove, and four annules. By the sides of the dove are cut the letters Alpha and Omega. Height 2 ft. 2 in., width 11 in. [1350.]

10. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with pyramidal top, of **Paulos Heliodoros**, who was at one time an officer in the army, and died on the twenty-ninth day of the month Pharmuthi, in the third year of an Indiction. On the upper portion is sculptured a vine leaf, and below the Greek inscription are a cross, crown, and four annules, in relief. Height 2 ft. 4 in., width 11 in. [1335.]

11. Limestone **sepulchral stele of George**, a Copt, who died in the month of Mekhir, in the fourth year of the third Indiction. Below the Coptic inscription are sculptured two figures, who stand full-faced, with their hands raised. Height 2 ft. 4 in., width 1 ft. [924.]

12. Sandstone **pyramidal stele of Abraam**, a monk, sculptured with figures of a cross and crown, a dove, annules, and a vine leaf within a triangle; by the dove are cut the letters Alpha and Omega. Height 2 ft. 2 in., width 9½ in. [619.]

13. Sandstone **sepulchral stele of Rebecca**, a nun, inscribed in Coptic and sculptured with a representation of a pediment, with circle and vine leaves, and two *ankh* crosses ☩ ☩. Height 2 ft. 1 in., width 1 ft. 2 in. [1299.]

EAST WALL. 14. Sandstone **sepulchral stele**, with pyramidal top, of **John**, the son of Euprepios, sculptured with a representation of a pediment with vine leaf, a cross within a crown, a cross between palm branches, annules, etc. Height 2 ft. 3 in., width 10½ in. [1326.]

15. Limestone **stele**, with rounded top, inscribed in Greek, with a text recording the repairs of the walls which surrounded the **Sphinx** at Gîzah, in the sixth year of the reign of the Emperors **Marcus Aurelius Antoninus** and **Lucius Verus** (*i.e.*, A.D. 166), when Fl. Titianus was Prefect of Egypt, and Luceius Ophellians was general of the army, and Theon was Nomarch. Dated on the 15th day of the month Pakhôn. Found in front of the Sphinx. Height 2 ft. 3 in., width 1 ft. 2 in. Presented by Captain Caviglia, 1817. [438.]

16. Limestone **tablet**, which was set up in a church to commemorate **Apa Pahomo**, the Father of a monastic settlement, **Apa Victor**, **Apa Iônas**, **Apa Asa Antseinou**,

Anup, and their mother, and young brother **Phoibamón**. In the centre are sculptured a cross and crown; on the right is a figure of the military saint **Victor**, and on the left a figure of the military saint **Apa Kene**. From *Sûhâk*. Seventh to tenth century A.D. Length 6 ft. 5 in., breadth 1 ft. 1 in. [1276.]

17. Limestone sepulchral stele of **Mary**, a child, who died on the tenth day of the month *Tybi*. On the upper portion is a sculptured panel containing a cross and crown, and below this, enclosed within a leaf-border, is a second panel containing the Coptic inscription and the figure of a dove standing on scrolls ornamented with crosses. Both panels are enclosed within a scroll border. From *Sûhâk*. Height 4 ft. 4 in., width 1 ft. 6 in. [618.]

SOUTH WALL. 18.

Rectangular limestone sepulchral stele of **Porieuthes**, who died aged 12 years, on which is sculptured a representation of the front of a shrine or temple. Between the pillars, in high relief, are sculptured a cross and crown. Height 2 ft., width 1 ft. 1½ in. [1254.]



Sepulchral stele of **Mary**, a child. [618.]

19. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **John**, who died on the fifth day of the month Phamenôth, in the fourteenth year of an Indiction. On the upper portion is sculptured a representation of the front of a shrine, or temple, surrounded by an ornamental border. On each side of the pediment is a dove, and between the pillars is a cross. Height 2 ft. 0½ in., width 1 ft. 2½ in. [665.]

On the tops of Wall-Cases. 20–22. Capitals of pillars of churches in the Sûdân [1536, 1567, 1565]. 23. Portion of a limestone **pillar**, probably from an ancient Egyptian temple, which has been cut and hollowed out to form the **apse of the shrine** of a saint



Apse of a shrine of a Saint from a Coptic church. [1423.]

in a Coptic church. On the edge are sculptured the figures of birds (doves?), and on the inside, springing from a shell in the centre, is a design formed of vine branches with doves perched among the grapes and leaves, the whole being enclosed within a border of leaves, flowers, shells, fish, etc. From Esna. Diameter 2 ft. 7 in. [1423]. 24. Stone obelisk, on one face of which are cut a cross, a triangle, and three lines of inscription (illegible) [1635]. 25. Portions of a limestone arch sculptured with figures of men (saints?) riding on dolphins, and circular ornaments; the bevel is decorated with a leaf pattern [1606]. 26–29. Capitals of stone pillars with elaborate carving and decorations [1563, 1569, 1566, 1636]. 30. Relief with figures of

a dolphin, a crocodile, and an ass, with a tail having a split end [1652]. **31.** Sandstone **apse**, from a small shrine which held a figure of Mary the Virgin, or a Coptic saint, on which are sculptured, in relief, a cross and other religious symbols. From the ruins of a Coptic church on the Island of Philæ. Coptic Period. Height 2 ft., width 2 ft. 3 in. [1422]. **32.** Slab sculptured with the figure of the BA bird, full-faced, symbolic of the soul, a cruse of water and three loaves of bread. On each wing is carved a seated figure of a man with one hand raised in adoration or farewell [1651]. **33-35.** The capitals of stone pillars elaborately carved [1564, 1570, 1637].

WALL-CASES 1-3. **36.** Tablet with the figure of a man sculptured in high relief [1608]. **37.** Relief with the figure of a goddess riding on a dolphin [1537]. **38.** A group of fragments of calcareous stone inscribed in Coptic. **39, 40.** Two bronze-winged animals with human faces (Cherubim ?) [54,031, 54,032]. **41.** Bronze lamp with elaborate handle [54,030]. **42.** A bronze shovel, with feet and an elaborately decorated handle for use in a church [48,981]. **43.** A group of miscellaneous carvings on wood [41,613, etc.]. **44.** Rectangular coffer with bronze handles and lock, inlaid with ivory. On each side are inlaid in ivory two figures of females standing in a building with a pediment [51,061]. **45.** Wooden board for use in schools, inscribed in the dialect of Upper Egypt with the text of the Belief [54,037]. **46.** Wooden board for use in schools, inscribed in the dialect of Upper Egypt with passages from the Scriptures, etc. [54,036]. **47.** Panel painted with a scene representing Christ rising from the tomb [54,035]. **48.** Stele of Theodora, inscribed in Greek and elaborately carved with the Cross and Crown, an eagle holding the Cross ✝ in his beak, and decorated border [54,709].

WALL-CASES 4-13. **49.** Upper portion of a rectangular limestone **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Coptic with an address, or **invocation**, to Michael, Gabriel, Adam, Mary the Virgin, Victor, Phœbamon, Mēna, George, Cyriacus, and other saints and martyrs. Height 10 in., width 1 ft. [673.]

50. Portion of the sandstone **sepulchral stele of Marcus**, inscribed in Greek with a prayer that the deceased might rest in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He died on the fifth day of Phamenôth, in the second year of the Indiction, in the year of Diocletian 472, *i.e.*, A.D. 756. Height 8½ in., width 10½ in. [408.]

51. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with pyramidal top, decorated with flowers (?), etc., sculptured in relief, and inscribed in Greek, of **Moses**, a centurion, son of Paul, who died on the first day of the month Epiphi, in the second year of an Indiction, aged 35 years. Sams Collection. Height 1 ft. 1 in., width 11½ in. [1362.]

52. Portion of a **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Coptic with prayers on behalf of a deceased person, whose name is illegible, that he may rest in the bosom of Abraham, and may hear the "sweet voice saying, 'Come, good and "faithful servant.'" From Kalâbshah. Height 1 ft. 1 in., width 1 ft. 2 in. Presented by Lyttelton Annesley, Esq., 1854. [825.]

53. Portion of a limestone **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Coptic with an invocation of Michael, Gabriel and other saints. From Abydos. Height 9½ in., width 9½ in. [995.]

54. Upper portion of the sandstone **sepulchral stele of Maria** (?), inscribed in Coptic. Sams Collection. Height 7 in., width 8½ in. [403.]

55. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Tsia**, who died on the twelfth day of the month Phamenôth, in the tenth year of the Indiction. Height 1 ft. 1 in., width 10 in. [1328.]

56. Octagonal marble **sepulchral stele of Trois**, the wife of Parashe, who died on the twenty-eighth day of the month Mesore, in the 457th year of the Era of the Martyrs, *i.e.*, A.D. 741. The inscription is in Coptic. Height 1 ft. 5½ in., width 1 ft. 5½ in. [1208.]

57. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Ammonios**, sculptured with a representation of an elaborately decorated front of a shrine, or temple, with four pillars, gable, etc. Christian Period. Height 1 ft. 2 in., width 9 in. [1337.]

58. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of a person whose name is wanting, sculptured on the upper part with a shell, bead and other ornaments, and on the lower with figures of two lions in combat (?), between two pillars. Height 1 ft. 2 in., width 10½ in. [621.]

59. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, sculptured with figures of a cross and crown. The name of the deceased is wanting. Height 1 ft. 3 in., width 10 in. [1338.]

60. Limestone **sepulchral stele of Apa Abeg and Apa Serine**, the former of whom died on the twenty-second

day of the month Pharmuthi in a year not stated. The inscription is in Coptic. Height 1 ft. 8 in., width 1 ft. $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. [1256.]




61. Rectangular limestone **sepulchral stele of Manna**, who died on the seventh day of the month Tybi, in the third year of an Indiction. The Greek inscription is cut on the lower part of the monument, on three sides of it are rosettes and the meander ornament, and on the fourth side is a raised ornament. Between the inscription and the border are cut two crosses and two crowns, and between these is a rectangular cavity, with an ornament above it. Height 1 ft. 4 in., width 1 ft. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. [677.]

62. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, on which are sculptured figures of a cross and crown and two circles containing crosses; below are three lines of rudely cut Coptic text. Height 1 ft. 5 in., width 1 ft. [714.]

63. Sandstone **sepulchral stele of Peter**, a deacon and monk, who died on the twenty-fifth day of the month Khoiak, in the eighth year of an Indiction. The inscription is in Coptic. Height 1 ft. 3 in., width 1 ft. $0\frac{1}{2}$ in. [601.]



64. Portion of the sandstone **sepulchral stele of George**, a monk, who died on the seventeenth day of the month Thoth, in the fifth year of an Indiction. The inscription is in Coptic. Height 1 ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., width 11 in. Presented by Sir J. Bowring, 1854. [604.]

65. Rectangular limestone **sepulchral stele**, broken at three of its corners, inscribed with an epitaph in Greek. From Upper Egypt. Period doubtful. Height 1 ft. 1 in., width 10 in. [923.]

66. Rectangular sandstone **sepulchral stele of Abraam**, the "perfect monk," on which is sculptured a representation of the front of a shrine, or temple. Between the pillars are a tablet bearing the name of the deceased, the cross , the letters Alpha and Omega, and  . Height 1 ft. 11 in., width 1 ft. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. [1257.]

67. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with pyramidal top and unfinished inscription, sculptured in relief with figures of vine leaves, annules, a cross and crown, etc. Height 1 ft. $11\frac{1}{2}$ in., width $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. [663.]

68. Limestone **sepulchral stele of Pléinôs**, an *anagnôstês*, or "reader," on which are sculptured, in relief, the representation of the front of a shrine, or temple, the cross

✠ and crown, the letters Alpha and Omega, the cross ✠, and two *ankh* crosses  , etc. Height 2 ft., width 1 ft. 3 in. [679.]

69. Portion of an alabaster **sepulchral stele** inscribed ✠ *ⲁⲛ ⲡⲣⲟϭ* Sams Collection. Length 8 in. [410.]

70. Stone sculptured with a **rosette** in relief. From the ruins of an ancient Coptic church at Philae. Length 1 ft. 6 in., height 1 ft. Presented by Captain Handcock, 1886. [1040.]

71. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top and cornice, inscribed in Greek with a prayer for the repose of the soul of **Theodore**. Below the inscription is sculptured a cross between two pillars. Christian Period. Height 1 ft. 5 in., width 1 ft. 0½ in. [405.]

72. Limestone **stele**, uninscribed, with rounded top, sculptured with a representation of the front of a shrine or temple, the figure of a dove, etc., within a decorated border. Height 1 ft. 5 in., width 11 in. [668.]

73. Rectangular sandstone **sepulchral stele of Teucharis**, a Christian lady, who died in the month of Mesore, in a year not stated. Below the Coptic text is a sunk panel, on which are cut in relief the Cross ✠, the letters Alpha and Omega, and vine leaves. On the border are cut a zig-zag pattern, vine leaves, crosses ✠ ✠, etc. Height 1 ft. 6½ in., width 1 ft. 1 in. [1300.]

74. Alabaster **circular tablet of Apa Kurillos**, a presbyter of the Church of Abbâ Kuros, who died on the twenty-sixth day of the month Thoth, in the seventh year of an Indiction. Diameter 1 ft. 8½ in. [411.]

75. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Rachel**, a Christian, sculptured with the figure of a dove standing between pillars, a cross, a shell, and semicircular bands of beaded and leaf ornaments. Inscribed "One God, our Helper." Height 1 ft. 8 in., width 1 ft. 2½ in. [680.]

76. Portion of a limestone **sepulchral stele**, of **Apa Joseph Pegosh**, a native of Terôt-en-Shoone, who died on the twenty-first day of the month of Mesore. The inscription is in Coptic, and contains an invocation to Saints Biktôr (Victor), Phêbamôn, Mëna, George Cyriacus, Philotheos, Sergios and his brethren, and other saints.

Round the inscription is a raised flat border ornament with diamond and leaf patterns. Height 1 ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in., width 1 ft. 6 in. [676.]

77. Portion of the limestone **sepulchral stele of Phoibamon**, a monk, inscribed in Coptic with an invocation to the Trinity, and to the saints Jeremiah and Enoch. The year of his death is not stated. Height 1 ft. $6\frac{1}{2}$ in., width $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. [404.]

78. Rectangular limestone **sepulchral stele of John the Deacon**, inscribed with a text in which the deceased is made to lament the bitterness of death, and to state that he died and was buried in the city of Kôs. Height 1 ft. 4 in., width 1 ft. 1 in. Presented by J. Manship Norman, Esq., 1865. [900.]

79. Rectangular limestone **relief**, ornamented with herring-bone and rope patterns, crosses, vine leaves, and other ornaments. Height 2 ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., width 10 in. [678.]

WALL-CASES 14-26. 80. Rectangular limestone **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Coptic with a text commemorating Apa **Phoibammon**, who died on the twenty-fifth day of the month Paope, and Ména, John, and other brethren. Height 1 ft. 2 in., width 2 ft. 8 in. [702.]

81. Portion of a limestone **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Coptic with parts of three lines of text, a cross ✠, etc. Sams Collection. Height 7 in., width 1 ft. 6 in. [1361.]

82. Sandstone **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Coptic with a prayer on behalf of **Hetosé**, who died on the tenth day of the month Mesore. Height 1 ft. 2 in., width 10 in. [607.]

83. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Sara**, a Coptic lady, sculptured with figures of an altar, or pillar, with a floreated capital, a dove, a cross, etc., within an ornamented border. Inscribed "One God, our Helper." Height 1 ft. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., width 1 ft. [667.]

84. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, on which are sculptured a representation of the front of a shrine, with rounded roof and pillars, and a bird (dove?) with its wings raised. The name of the deceased is erased. Height 1 ft. 2 in., width $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. [671.]

85. Portion of a limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, on which is sculptured, in relief, a representation of the front of a shrine, or temple, with pediment. Between the pillars are figures of two doves, facing each other, and on the sides of the roof are figures of animals.

Below is an interlaced ornament. The raised semi-circular border, which rests on four pillars with floreated capitals, is sculptured with a floral pattern, leaves, and semicircles. Height 1 ft., width 1 ft. 1 in. [176.]

86. Rectangular limestone **sepulchral stele of Philotheos**, who died on the eleventh day of the month Paône, in a year not stated. Height 1 ft., width 7½ in. [622.]

87. Upper portion of a rectangular limestone **stele**, inscribed in Coptic with an address, or **invocation**, to Jeremiah, Enoch, Mary the Virgin, and other saints. Height 11 in., width 11 in. [672.]

88. **Mural ornament**, sculptured with a cross in relief. From a Coptic Church on the Island of Philae. 11 in. square. Presented by Captain Handcock, 1886. [1039.]

89. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Paḥaê**, sculptured with a representation of a shrine, or temple, in relief. Height 1 ft. 3½ in., width 10 in. [666.]

90. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Tapia**, who died on the fourth day of the month Pharmuthi, in the sixth year of an Indiction. The upper portion is decorated with a rosette within concentric circles, cut in relief. Height 1 ft. 4 in., width 9½ in. [620.]

91. Limestone **sepulchral stele of Hêlenê**, the daughter of Peter, the deacon and steward of the Church of St. John at Esna. From Esna. Height 1 ft. 4½ in., width 10½ in. [1336.]

92. Limestone **sepulchral stele of Sabinos**, inscribed in Greek, and sculptured with a rough representation of the front of a gabled shrine, or temple, with the sacred symbols ✠ and ⚡, and the letters Alpha and Omega. Height 1 ft. 4½ in., width 1 ft. [1352.]

93. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Anup**, sculptured with a rosette. The inscription is in Coptic. Height 1 ft. 5 in., width 9½ in. [670.]


94. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Taia**, who died on the seventeenth day of the month Mekheir, on which are sculptured a representation of the front of a shrine, or temple, figures of doves holding the Egyptian symbol of "life," ☩, etc. Height 1 ft. 4½ in., width 10 in. [1327.]

95. Limestone **stele**, uninscribed, with rounded top, on which are sculptured figures of doves, palm branches, a

cross and crown, and a representation of the front of a shrine, or temple. Height 1 ft. 5 in., width 1 ft. [674.]

96. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Theutora**, sculptured with a representation of the front of a shrine, or temple, having a pediment and pillars with floreated capitals, and with figures of a dove, vine leaves, etc. Height 1 ft. 4½ in., width 1 ft. 1 in. [669.]

97. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Biktór** (Victor), sculptured with figures of the eight-rayed cross, and a crown. Height 1 ft. 4½ in., width 1 ft. 0½ in. [716.]

98. Limestone **sepulchral stele of Moses**, on the upper part of which are sculptured, in relief, the representation of a pediment and vine leaves. Below these are the name of the deceased, a cross, and two palm branches. On the lower part, within a double frame, are the cross , the letters Alpha and Omega, and four small crosses. Top left hand projection broken. Height 1 ft. 11½ in., width 1 ft. 1½ in. [1255.]

99. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **Moses**, who died on the fifteenth day of the month Pharmuthi, in the sixth year of an Indiction. On the upper portion are sculptured representations of fronts of shrines with pillars, semi-circular ornamental bands, figures of a dove, animals, etc. Height 1 ft. 8½ in., width 1 ft. 3½ in. [664.]

100-107. Eight limestone slabs sculptured in high relief with ornamental patterns, and the figures of an eagle, horsemen, etc.

[1531, 1530, 1613, 1534, 1532, 1607, 1609, 1617.]

108. Limestone **slab**, on which is a representation of a human foot, in sunk relief; above it are the letters **ⲛⲉⲕⲪ**, and on one side of it is cut a palm branch. Found in front of the Sphinx. Roman Period. Length 1 ft. 9½ in., width 9 in. Presented by Captain Caviglia, 1817. [436.]

109. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, with rounded top, of **David**, who died on the ninth day of the month Pakhon, in the twelfth year of an Indiction. On the upper portion is sculptured an eight-rayed cross enclosed within a crown. Height 1 ft. 10 in., width 1 ft. [675.]

110. Sandstone **sepulchral stele of John**, who died on the fourteenth day of the month Tybi, in a year of the tenth Indiction. This monument is sculptured with

representations of a gable, or pediment, bosses, a cross and crown, etc., and is inscribed in Greek with an address to the mourners, who are entreated not to grieve for the deceased. Seventh or eighth century A.D. Height 1 ft. 9½ in., width 11 in. [1250.]

111. Rectangular **sepulchral stele**, with pyramidal top, of **Abraam**, who died on the twenty-second day of the month Mekhir, in a year not stated. On the upper portion is sculptured a vine branch, and on the middle are a cross and crown. Height 1 ft. 10½ in., width 1 ft. 0½ in. [1351.]

112. Limestone **sepulchral stele**, inscribed in Greek, of **Eutyhousa**, who died on the twenty-fifth day of the month Khoiak, in the eighth year of an Indiction. Height 2 ft., width 1 ft. [660.]

113. Limestone cross which was set up in memory of **Abariouna** and **Eulekia**. Height 1 ft. 9½ in., width 8 in. [1339.]

TABLE-CASE A. Specimens of **ostraka** and slices of calcareous stone, **inscribed in Coptic**. The texts chosen for exhibition consist of affidavits, legal acknowledgments and undertakings, letters, invoices, contracts, writing exercises, extracts from the Scriptures, and from liturgies, hymns, etc. The period to which most of these belong lies between A.D. 550 and 900. The following are the most important:—

1. Affidavit made by three persons that Kyrikos had acknowledged in their presence the receipt of money due to him. [32,783.]

2. Circular letter from the Bishop Abraham (?) to his people, denouncing the injustice of Psate towards the poor. Presented by the Egypt Exploration Fund. [32,782.]

3. Liturgical fragment in Coptic, containing part of a preface and sanctus from the anaphora of the mass. [32,799.]

4. Acknowledgment of the gift of a field from Apa Victor, and engagement to pay the taxes for the same.



Sepulchral monument in the form of a cross. [1339.]

Signed by five persons; dated 20th Thoth, 15th year of an Indiction. [32,860.]

5. Undertaking by Abraham, son of David of Tchême (Madīnat Habû), to look after the camel and its furniture belonging to Apa Iakob. Witnessed by two persons, dated 12th Hathor, 5th year of an Indiction. [32,794.]

6. A promise to obey the canons, to learn the gospel of St. John by heart, etc., by three persons who have applied to Bishop Abraham to be ordained deacons. Presented by the Egypt Exploration Fund. [32,789.]

7. Fragment of a writing exercise in Greek, of a religious character, written by Elias. [21,091.]

8. Religious exercise; Coptic and Greek hymns. [35,123.]

9. Letter from the Bishop Abraham to Pesynthios, the Lashane (magistrate), rebuking him for injustice. [32,795.]

10. Undertaking by Papas and Photinos, priests, to report the proceedings of Apa Victor to the Bishop (?). [32,785.]

11. Coptic school exercise in Greek words and names of persons and places. [26,210.]

12. Writing exercise, of a religious character, written by the deacon Petros (?). [21,271.]

13. Blacksmith's invoice of iron rings, chains, collars, etc., which he had supplied. Names wanting. [21,178.]

14. Bilingual (Coptic and Greek) list or account of "damaged sacks." [32,867.]

15. Coptic abecedarium and copybook. VIIth century. [26,739.]

16. Letter from the "most humble" Pesenthius to his "father" Mōyses. [21,138.]

17. Beginning of an extract from Psalm xcviiii., "Sing unto the Lord a new song, etc." [14,070.]

18. Part of a letter to an unknown person. [21,087.]

19. Part of the Alexandrine canon of the mass written in corrupt Greek by Apa Eihannes. [5880.]

20. Fragment containing part of a Greek hymn and a letter in Coptic, conveying the salutations of Dioskoros to his brother Ounaref, his mother Tnouba, etc. [5881.]

21. List of measures of corn (?) sent (?) to various persons, whose names are enumerated. [20,025.]

22. Part of a hymn or psalm (?). [14,248.]

23. Letter from Souloumôn Mengera to Apa Karakos, referring to gravestones. [21,235.]

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:
Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature
which can be purchased on our Website :
www.Brainfly.net

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :
Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

webcomments@brainfly.net