The Archaeological Context of the Egyptian and Nubian Antiquities in the Redpath Museum

by David Berg

Amongst the Egyptian artifacts held by the Redpath Museum, there are but few for which an archaeological context can be documented. These came both from the excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund and, also, the collection of Prof. John Garstang (University of Liverpool), which was purchased by the Joint Board of the Theological Colleges in 1923. This material is identified along with an in depth discussion of the problems with the information contained in the museum accession book with reference to these antiquities.

Parmi les spécimens archéologiques de facture égyptienne qui font partie de la collection du musée Redpath, il y en a peu dont il est possible de déterminer les antécédents archéologiques. Ils proviennent soit des fouilles effectuées par l’Egypt Exploration Fund, soit de la collection du professeur John Garstang (University of Liverpool), dont le Joint Board of the Theological Colleges a fait l’acquisition en 1923. L’auteur donne une description du matériel accompagnée d’un exposé approfondi des problèmes liés à l’information relative à ces pièces dans le catalogue des acquisitions du musée.

In addition to the two mummies best known to the public, there are approximately twelve hundred artifacts from pharaonic Egypt and contemporaneous Nubia in the Redpath Museum. While most of these are relatively small, anepigraphic ‘objects of daily use’, there are several very handsome pieces that would grace any museum gallery (e.g., the polychrome Third Intermediate Period sarcophagus (Figure 1) on display with the mummies; a wonderful little wooden model boat with crew members that dates to the Middle Kingdom). This collection, actually the second largest holding of Pharaonic material in Canada, is virtually unknown to scholars and the general public alike. This is partially due to the fact that, save for a small number of objects recently on display in the Anthropology Department and those currently exhibited at the museum itself, the entire collection is in storage. Furthermore, scholarly publication of selected objects from the collection has just begun; there is no general catalogue.

Very little of this material came from excavated contexts. Many of the objects were donated to McGill by individuals or collected by members of the Natural History Society of Montreal (hereafter abbreviated as NHSM), whose museum holdings were donated to McGill in 1925 after the Society’s dissolution. In some cases, the site of origin (i.e., provenance) was given by the collector, but usually only in the most general terms (e.g., Karnak). The matter is further complicated by the fact that we are unsure whether a given collector actually picked up a particular piece at the named site or if he in fact merely purchased it from a dealer who had given his wares ‘pedigrees’.

A case in point is the large number of artifacts donated to the NHSM in September 1859 by James Ferrier, Senior. Provenances are given for some of the objects in several of the lists of objects comprising the donation. However, in a printed copy of the rough minutes of the NHSM meeting held on June 27,
1859, the list of antiquities is headed by the following statement: “We subjoin a list of Egyptian and oriental curiosities, purchased by the Hon. James Ferrier during his travels in the East…” Thus, in many if not in all cases, it would seem that Ferrier was merely recording the dealer’s ‘pedigree’.

**EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND**

There are, however, two groups of Egyptian and Nubian objects in the Redpath Museum that were excavated by archaeologists from archaeological contexts. The first such group is made up of the artifacts coming from the excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund (hereafter abbreviated as EEF), now the Egypt Exploration Society, at the sites of Naukratis, Tell Nabasha, Tanis (also referred to in the documentation by its modern name of San [el Hagar]), Tell el Yehudiya, Tukh el Qaramus, and Bubastis (Figure 2). With the exception of this last, these toponyms appear in two lists that are presently in the files of the Redpath Museum. The first is entitled “List of Objects Presented to the Peter Redpath Museum, by the Egypt Exploration Fund. 1887” and bears the stamp-impression of one H. Gosselin. This individual was the part-time clerk of the Royal Archaeological Institute in London, and, beginning in 1886, also dealt with the EEF’s business affairs. The second list has no title but is dated January 26, 1926 and consists of fourteen consecutively numbered sheets of Department of Geology or Peter Redpath Museum stationary. Objects listed in several entries beginning on page 5 of this second list are said to come from Naucratis, San, Nebeshet (sic. For Tell Nabasha), Tell el Yehudiya, and Tukh el Qaramus. It is further stated that these objects were presented by the ‘Committee of (sic) Egypt Exploration Fund.”

From the descriptions of the objects, it is clear that all the artifacts listed by Gosselin in 1887 appear on the second list; however, this latter records many more EEF objects of Egyptian origin. It would seem, then, that the EEF either made more than one donation to the Redpath Museum, or that some of the material came to the museum from the EEF via another collection. The Redpath Museum accession book explicitly states for at least one entry (2501) that the object had been a gift from the EEF to the NHSM and this is implied in several other cases (e.g., 2464ff.); these objects seem to include most of those Egyptian antiquities in the second list that are not also on the Gosselin list. Yet a few entries in the second list appear to give the dates of other donations by the EEF: 1884 and 1885. This would suggest a total of at least three donations of artifacts by the EEF to institutions in Montreal: to the NHSM in 1884; to the NHSM again in 1885; and directly to the Redpath Museum in 1887. As was indicated above, the NHSM material was donated to McGill in 1925.

This scenario has been extrapolated from various accession records and related documents at the Redpath Museum. As the data are rather sparse, it would have been helpful if corroborative evidence could have been found amongst the records of the NHSM and/or the EEF. However, this was not to be. The official record of donations to the museum of the NHSM has a gap covering the years 1854 to 1895.” A query by E. J. Judah of the University Museums Committee (McGill) to the Egypt Exploration Society in 1934 on precisely this subject resulted in a letter from the Secretary of that society informing him that no record of any antiquities having been given to the NHSM at that time could be found. Furthermore, the writer went on to state that “I doubt whether [the EEF] did present objects anywhere near the time you suggest, at least I do not think it at all likely that they were given direct (sic) to the Montreal Natural History Society.” Therefore, the above scenario may have to be expanded as follows: EEF > private collector > NHSM > McGill.

While the EEF material at McGill did come from archaeological provenances, there exists a major problem when attempting to assign archaeological contexts to these objects: the published records for many of the EEF’s early excavations are extremely cursory, especially with regards to small objects. Also, if any notes were made at the time of excavation, they are in many cases now lost or inaccessible. Still, there is a small number of Redpath
Museum objects from two EEF sites for which it may be possible to assign more or less specific archaeological contexts.

The first site is that of the famous ancient city of Naunkratis, modern San el Hagar, in the Nile Delta. Two objects (2239.1 and 2239.2) are mentioned in the accession book as having been found in House 39. Another artifact (2253) is said to have been found “N.W. of San” (see the accession book notation), but the 1926 list discussed above has a fuller entry: “Vase from great Stone Well N.W. of San...”. Another vase, perhaps to be identified as acc. no. 2254, is referred to in the 1926 list as having been found in House 50; the accession book does not mention the house. Finally, the accession book entry for number 2260 laconically states “San 57”, which may be a reference to House 57 at that site. The published record of the EEF excavations at San el Hagar makes no mention of these particular houses but does briefly discuss the well. While Petrie, the excavator does not mention Montreal in his published object distribution lists for this site, he does refer to “...a quantity of small pottery figures, etc.,...” that remained for future distribution. It is possible that the Redpath Museum material from San el Hagar was part of this lot of antiquities.

The second site is that of Tukh el Qaramus, which is also located in the Nile Delta. The Gosselin list has three entries for this site: a “glazed saucer”; five rosettes; and five scarabs. All these objects are said therein to come from the “foundation deposit from the temple site” at Tukh. The published excavation report only mentions the saucer; we, therefore, treat only this artifact as having definitely come from the foundation deposit. It is listed in the museum accession book as number 2634; “glazed saucer, Egyptian; from Tukh el Qaramus.”. The material is actually faience.

The saucer comes from the South-East deposit found along the temple axis. The published report describes the discovery as follows:

“However, a day or two before we closed work we had a wind-fall. The workmen were ordered to cut a trench through the rubbish down the axis of the temple, and at a point 37 feet S.E. of the centre and a few inches N.E. of the axis, ...they came upon a deposit. This was so unexpected that both M. Naville and I were away, but fortunately, M. Naville returned in time to see the last of the objects taken out of the deposit.”

Four of the thirty-one other saucers found in the deposit are apparently now in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

THE GARSTANG COLLECTION

The second group of objects with known archaeological provenances came to McGill as a result of the purchase of the Garstang Collection of Egyptian and Meroitic Antiquities in 1923. John Garstang (1876-1956) was a British professor (University of Liverpool) and archaeologist who worked throughout the Near East. At the time of the sale of his collection, he was director of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine (1920-1926), but had already had considerable experience working in Egypt and the Sudan. Individuals at McGill and especially at the Montreal theological colleges had actively been trying to obtain material for a museum of Ancient and Biblical History to be started at the university. Correspondence dating to late 1922 between R. A. Maclean, who had recently left McGill to join the Department of Classics of the University of Rochester, and W. D. Lighthall, K. C., clearly indicate that it was Garstang who initiated the negotiations that led to the purchase of his collection. A letter dated October 30, 1922, from Maclean to Lighthall reads, in part:

“I am writing to let you know that I have not lost an interest in Montreal nor in the prospect of furthering archaeological interests there. Since coming to Rochester, the question of establishing an Oriental Museum in connection with McGill has been on my mind a good deal, and more particularly since the receipt of a letter from Dr.
Figure 2. Lower and Upper Egypt, and Nubia showing the locations of excavations.
Garstang from Jerusalem a few days ago. In his letter Garstang informs me that he is intending to place upon the market his private collection of Egyptian antiquities which are now stored in Liverpool. He is anxious to keep the collection intact, and as McGill has been a supporter of the School in Jerusalem he would be willing to give her special terms on the purchase of this collection. Here is an opportunity which we should avail ourselves of."

There were apparently further communications with Garstang over the next few months. A letter dated January 16, 1923, from him to an unnamed correspondent discusses the purchase of his collection:

"As for my private collection of prehistoric and other Egyptian antiquities, nothing would be more gratifying to me than that it should be used for the nucleus of a teaching collection, which is what I collected it for. I have withdrawn it from sale and it is at your disposal: it has failed to sell at £650, so I suggest that you offer me a considerably lower price! I mean of course that I am so happy at the prospect of its being kept together and being useful that the matter of cost becomes secondary.

There are also I believe some original antiquities from Meroe (Sudan) at the Society of Antiquaries' rooms in London and that they are available at a relatively small cost. I will inquire next week and let you know."

The following day he wrote again:

"As desired I now enclose to you details and some photographs of my private collection...which I collected over a number of years before the war and am now constrained to sell at the price of £500. I have always wished that it be kept together and be used for educational purposes, but my continued absence abroad as Director of Antiquities in Palestine leaves the collection unutilized. I shall therefore be more pleased than by the mere sale if it finds its permanent usefulness with you in the new Archg¹ Dept. of the McGill University...I have also a small series of Hittite cuneiform letters and tablets and a selected lot of Meroitic antiquities about which I will send you further details if desired."

Documents now in the files of the Redpath Museum show that matters then moved quickly. On February 22, a letter was sent to Garstang informing him of the desire of the Joint Board of the Montreal Theological Colleges to purchase his collection for the sum of £500 and asking for more information concerning the Hittite and Meroitic objects.³ The collection was shipped from Liverpool on March 15 and opened to the public at the McGill University Library Museum on June 1.³² Garstang received his money on July 5.

The exact number of objects in this collection at the time of purchase is unclear. A list entitled "Catalogue of [sic] private collection of selected Egyptian prehistoric and other antiquities. Property of Professor John Garstang, University of Liverpool." has 135 entries (no. 85 was deleted). However, another list with the simple heading "Garstang Collection" has 158 entries (no. 85 was also here omitted). The two lists are basically identical for the first 135 entries with the addition of two sub-entries in the second list: G[arstang] 25A and 25B. The second list then adds the following entries: G 137; G 147-165. No explanation is given for the addition of these entries nor for the missing block G 138-146; this gap is especially puzzling as the accession book does not distinguish between the source of G 137 and G 147-165 on the one hand, and that of G 138-146 on the other.

That these additional objects were part of the same purchase seems relatively certain from evidence internal to the two lists. The second list notes the modern accession num-
bers given these objects after their arrival at McGill. G 1-136, the entries common to both lists, were assigned a block of 144 accession numbers from 1864-2007 that is almost a complete sequence; the 9 accession numbers 1993-1995 and 2001-2006 do not appear on the list. These 135 accession numbers (144 minus 9) were assigned to the 135 objects common to both lists: G 1-136 minus G 85 (see above) plus G 25A and 25B (see above) minus G 95 and 111 (see below). The entries unique to the second list, G 137 and G 147-165, were assigned accession numbers 2008 and 2018-2038 respectively. Accession numbers 2009-2017, which also do not appear on the list, were assigned to the missing block of Garstang entries, G 138-146. The Redpath Museum accession book states that accession numbers 2009 and 2017 were found at Meroe in the Sudan, as were 2008 (G 137), 2018 (G 147), and 2026 (G 154). Therefore, the fact that this block of numbers is missing from the second list probably reflects some criterion other than source.

A further indication that all the objects from the second list were probably part of the Garstang collection as it was sold to Montreal is that G 95 "Two carnelian leg-shaped amulets", an entry that is common to both lists, was given the accession number 2031. The accession number is out of sequence as it appears between accession numbers 1958 (G 94) and 1959 (G 96); its proper place in the sequence of accession numbers would put it between G 158 and G 159, accession numbers 2030 and 2032 respectively. A similar situation exists with respect to accession number 2074 that was assigned to G 111; G 110 bears the accession number 1973 (also, see below the discussion of accession numbers 2039-2075).

It would seem that the best way of explaining the discrepancy between these two lists would be to assume that the first list was not a complete record of the objects in the Garstang collection at the time of its purchase, but, rather, that it had been compiled when the collection was first offered for sale in November 1922. This would seem to be the implication of the heading of this list, since in the margin of the letter dated January 16, 1923, Garstang wrote "The catalogue of my private collection is forwarded under separate cover by mail." The final purchase by McGill may have included objects that were added to the collection by Garstang after he had offered it to McGill but prior to its arrival in Montreal. There is no evidence for there having been two separate purchases of material from Garstang at that time. Therefore, the first list may be referred to as the 'Liverpool list' and the second as the 'Montreal list'.

Some of these additional objects might have come from the "...original antiquities from Meroe (Sudan) at the Society of Antiquaries' rooms in London..." or the "...selected lot of Meroitic antiquities..." mentioned in Garstang's letters of January 16 and 17, 1923 since approximately one half of the objects G 137-165 are from Meroe. Of course, it is possible that both references are to the same group of objects.

The accession book of the Redpath Museum indicates that numbers 1864-2075 inclusive were dedicated to the Garstang collection. The Montreal (and Liverpool) list accounts for accession numbers 1864-2038. This still leaves thirty-seven accession numbers (2039-2075) unaccounted for. The accession book states that this block of numbers was assigned to a group of artifacts that it erroneously claims was found in Nubia (see page 125f.) below where it is shown that some of these objects came from Upper Egyptian sites; these objects appear to have been excavated by Garstang. Only a few Garstang numbers were apparently assigned to these objects prior to their arrival in Montreal as the highest noted in the accession book or written on an object was G 174 (accession number 2052); the Montreal list stops at G 165. One might expect to find Garstang numbers as high as G 202 (G 165 + 37). Most of the artifacts without Garstang numbers bear archaeological locus numbers written on the objects themselves. A loose sheet of paper with a list of twenty-one locus numbers entitled "Presented by the Institute of Archaeology" in the museum's files undoubtedly refers to the institute of that name at the University of Liverpool where Garstang was a professor. While there is not total agreement with the locus numbers written on the Redpath
Museum artifacts, it may be that McGill received this group of objects from Liverpool at the instigation of Garstang. It is unclear whether these objects would have been considered part of the Garstang collection at the time of its purchase by McGill. However, the few Garstang numbers assigned these objects would tend to suggest that this was indeed the case.

Thus the collection of objects as it existed in Liverpool appears to have been somewhat smaller than the 'Garstang Collection' that was sold to McGill as a result of the addition of the Meroitic material referred to in his letters (2008-2038), along with the so-called 'Nubian' objects from the Institute of Archaeology (2039-2075). This scenario does not take into account the material from Beni Hassan that Garstang apparently sent to McGill and the NHSM in 1904 (see note 19); these objects have yet to be identified in the museum's collections.

While Garstang did publish interim reports for his various excavations, he rarely produced a final site publication. In recent years, several scholars have attempted to 're-excavate' some of his sites on paper using his excavation notes, published interim reports, and artifact distribution lists. The distribution lists allow one to track objects from a particular site to the institution where they are presently held. Frequently, these objects allow the 're-excavator' to understand better the history of the site in question, especially in those cases where the objects can be placed in a precise archaeological context (i.e., a locus). However, these loci are generally only known for certain when they are indicated on the objects themselves. The following loci numbers (usually tomb numbers) appear on Garstang objects now in the Redpath Museum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locus Number</th>
<th>Accession Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)...........309.b</td>
<td>.......... 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.101?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2)...........263E'06</td>
<td>.......... 2047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3)...........138F</td>
<td>.......... 2050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4)...........18F</td>
<td>.......... 2051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5)...........68F</td>
<td>.......... 2072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6)...........90F</td>
<td>.......... 2073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7)...........5M'06</td>
<td>.......... 2053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8)...........6K'06?</td>
<td>.......... 2055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9)...........20K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10)..........14K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Figure 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11)..........4K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2058</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12)..........51K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13)..........51K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14)..........79K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15)..........51K'06?</td>
<td>.......... 2062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16)..........100K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17)..........88K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18)..........149K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19)..........158K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20)..........13K'06a</td>
<td>.......... 2067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21)..........10K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22)..........171K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23)..........106K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24)..........220K1VOB</td>
<td>.......... 2071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25)..........174.27K'06</td>
<td>.......... 2075</td>
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<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Garstang's loci numbers for specific provenances can usually be recognized due to his use of the formula XYZ, where X is a number representing a tomb or specific find spot, Y is a capital letter indicating the specific site, and Z is a two digit abbreviation giving the year of excavation. In some examples, a (usually) lower case letter is added after or below XYZ; this refers to the object itself in those cases where several artifacts were found in the same locus. Thus 79K'06 means the first (a) artifact registered from tomb/find spot 79 at K[oshtamna] in [19]06.
Figure 3. Wavy-handled earthenware jar found at Koshtamna in Nubia. Late Predynastic-Early Dynastic Period. Height 25.3 cm., diameter 11.3 cm. (Photograph by Murray Sweet. Redpath Museum, accession 2057.)
Of the twenty-five objects listed above, sixteen bear loci numbers that indicate that they had been excavated at the Nubian site of Koshmatma in 1906; these are numbers 8-23 in the above list. The atypical loci numbers that are the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth entries in the list may also come from that site. Garstang only published a brief report on his work at "...200 graves of primitive character, but ranging possibly from early date as late as the XIIth dynasty." Near by, there were also the remains of a fortress that had been used from the Pharaonic down to Byzantine periods. A few Middle and New Kingdom graves were also found. A new treatment of Garstang's work at this site was recently announced by its publisher, however, the author has informed me that the work is but still in preparation. Little more can be said about these objects from Koshmatma at the present time.

Four of the objects in the list (numbers 3-6) bear loci numbers characteristic of Garstang's work at the so-called 'Fort Cemetery' at Hierakonpolis (i.e., Tomb number and F). The accession book at the Redpath Museum erroneously states that these objects came from Nubia; Hierakonpolis is in Upper Egypt. Once again, Garstang's publication of his work at this location is of a cursory nature. Fortunately, his site was recently 're-excavated' by B. Adams using his dig notes, etc. However, McGill is never mentioned in connection with the objects from this site that were distributed to institutions throughout the world. This is obviously due to the fact that, while most of the objects that were distributed were sent out soon after the excavation (1905-06), the artifacts at McGill were kept at the Institute of Archaeology until 1923.

A tentative identification with an object mentioned in Garstang's excavation notes could be made only for accession numbers 2072 and 2073: the former is either Pot g, k, p, or h from Tomb 68, while the latter, from Tomb 90, is perhaps Pot a, b, or c. The pottery drawings for Tomb 138 are incomplete so accession number 2050 could not be matched, while accession number 2051 could not be identified with any of the drawn pottery for Tomb 18. It is possible that the unpublished photographs of these two tombs taken at the time of excavation, and presently kept at the University of Liverpool, would be of help here.

Accession number 2047, the second entry in the list, bears locus number 263E06. While the museum accession book again gives the general toponym 'Nubia' as the provenance, this is highly improbable. The capital letter E in the locus number indicates the site of Esna. This site, which is not in Nubia but Upper Egypt, was excavated by Garstang in 1905-06. It was the first of Garstang's digs to undergo armchair 're-excavation'.

Locus 263 at Esna was a multi-chambered tomb, apparently of late Middle Kingdom date, but with subsequent reuse in ancient times. Accession number 2047 appears to be an example of Type 66 from Garstang's 'field pottery corpus'. The inventory of objects from Tomb 263 indicates that ten examples of this pottery type were found in it.

The seventh entry in the list, accession number 2053, has the locus number 5M06 and was also assigned a Nubian provenance by the compiler of the accession book. It is unlikely that this object came from anywhere in Nubia. The only Garstang site in that region that begins with the letter M was Meroe and the excavations there only began in 1909. While it is possible that Garstang was using a code here that did not reflect the toponym, there are two points that tend to suggest that the object came from another site. First, as we noted above when discussing the material from the Fort Cemetery at Hierakonpolis and Esna, the museum's accession book frequently gives the wrong provenance (i.e., Nubia) for Garstang objects bearing the accession numbers 2039-2075. Secondly, Garstang did excavate the site of Messawiyah, probably in 1906; this site is south of Esna in Upper Egypt. His report on this important but badly plundered site is, however, too brief to help us ascertain whether our accession number 2053 was indeed found there.

The last object to be discussed is the first on the list. Accession number 2022, with
locus number 309.b is said by the accession M101?

book to have been found at the site of Meroe. It further notes “see Meroe the city of the Ethiopians pl. XLVI no. 35 FF 71 + G 19 + XL1#5”, a reference to plates in the publication of that name by Garstang. However, the cited examples are merely parallels found at the same site, if 2022 is actually from Meroe. It does not appear that this particular object was illustrated in the site publication.

CONCLUSION

While the main purpose of this article was to discuss the archaeological contexts of some of the antiquities in the Redpath Museum, the unintentional focus has been the problems with the accession book and related documents as they pertain to the Egyptian and Nubian objects in the collection. We have seen how the information on the provenances of many of these objects that is recorded in the accession book is frequently wrong and must be used with caution, especially in those cases where the provenance cannot be confirmed through other sources. It is, therefore, unfortunate that the accession book is our only source for this type of information for most of the Nilotic antiquities in the museum. Only in a very few cases is there further documentation or, even rarer, internal evidence that would allow scholars to assign a provenance with any confidence.

Due to the imperfect sources of information, the foregoing has been a rather convoluted treatment of the topic. However, it is hoped that through this new understanding of the recent history of parts of the collection, better use may be made of the Pharaonic and Nubian artifacts in the museum.

Notes

1. The author would like to thank Phoebe Chartrand of McGill Archives and Barbara Lawson of the Redpath Museum for their assistance during the researching of this article.


3. The donors of approximately one-third of the objects are unknown. Of the remaining two-thirds, four hundred and seventy came from the Natural History Society of Montreal, two hundred were purchased as the Garstang Collection, while another one hundred and seventy objects were donated by various individuals and/or organizations; these numbers are approximations.

4. For this society, see S. B. Frost, McGill Journal of Education, 27 (1982), 31ff. Documents related to this donation are held in the McGill Archives (R.G. 41, C. 16). The Society’s records are presently kept in the Blacker-Wood Library of McGill University. Note that, unless stated otherwise, copies or originals of all documents referred to in this article are in the possession of the Redpath Museum.

The W. D. Lighthall Papers are held in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, MS 216. For a general description, see: Richard Virr, “Son of the Great Dominion: W. D. Lighthall and the Lighthall Family Papers,” Fontanns, II (1989), 103-109.

5. E.g., Anonymous, The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, 4 (1859), 405-6; an anonymous hand-written list entitled “List of Antiquities and Curiosities presented by the Hon. Jas. Ferrier. 1859” inserted in the General Registry Book of Donations belonging to the NHSM (now in the Blacker-Wood Library); a list appended to the minutes of the NHSM’s meeting on June 27, 1859 (also in the Blacker-Wood Library).


7. The Bubastite piece is a granite block bearing the praenomen of Ramesses II. It was
According to the Gosselin List, the EEF donated five rosettes to the Redpath Museum, although only four such objects are mentioned in the published excavation report (E. Naville and F. Ll. Griffith, The Mound of the Jew and the City of Onias, [1890], 56). The entry in the accession book under number 2655 is for six rosettes from the NHSM. Of these six, only five are from Tukh el Qaramus. The sixth is of unknown provenance and was probably included with the other five at the time of accessioning due to similarity of appearance; it is not known which of these six rosettes is the one not from Tukh el Qaramus. There is only one other rosette in the collection (accession number 2036). This latter was part of the Garstang Collection (G 163) but no provenance was given in the accession book. It is somewhat different in appearance than the six rosettes of accession number 2655. The current view in some of the museum’s documents, that it was from Tell el Yehudiya, should be abandoned, as it appears to have been based on the false provenance posited for the other rosettes. Thus, of the seven rosettes in the collection, five are from Tukh el Qaramus (2655): one, of unknown provenance, came to McGill as part of the NHSM donation along with the five from Tukh el Qaramus; and the seventh (2036), also of unknown provenance, was purchased as part of the Garstang Collection.

The five scarabs are entered in the accession book under the number 2631 while the saucer was given the number 2634.

16. Naville and Griffith, Mound of the Jew, 29 and especially 55 and pl. XVII, 9-21. For ancient Egyptian Foundation Deposits in general, see J. Weinstein, “Foundation Deposits in Ancient Egypt”, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1973, where the Tukh el Qaramus material is discussed on pages 374-5. Weinstein notes that the dating of the building where the foundation deposits were found to the reign of Philip Arrhidaeus is probably erroneous.


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19. See W. R. Dawson and E. P. Uphill, *Who Was Who in Egyptology*, (2nd edition, 1972), 113-14. It appears that Garstang had possibly sent artifacts excavated at Beni Hassan to McGill (listed as “Montreal, [University!]”) as well as to collections in Quebec and Toronto (J. Garstang, *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Égypte*, 5 [1904], 227). A letter currently in the files of the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies of the University of Liverpool, dated March 2, 1904, appears to represent the first contact between Garstang and McGill. It was sent from B.J. Harrington, the Honorary Curator of the Redpath Museum, to the “Director of Excavations, Beni Hassan”. Garstang also seems to have sent some artifacts to the NHSM at roughly the same time. Two letters (both also now in Liverpool) from the Honorary Recording Secretary of the NHSM, Frederick W. Richards, to the excavators at Beni Hassan request artifacts for that society as well as “...any small ‘phallic’ objects or remains...” for Richards’ private collection. These objects, save the erotica, would have been given to McGill in 1925 upon the dissolution of the NHSM.

Both the Redpath Museum and the NHSM were responding to an advertisement in the *Times of London* (February 19, 1904) offering antiquities from the excavations at Beni Hassan in return for a donation from any learned institution. My thanks go to Prof. A. F. Shore of the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies of the University of Liverpool for having brought the advertisement and subsequent correspondence to my attention and also for having provided me with copies of same.

The Montreal and Quebec material from these donations has yet to be identified. Nevertheless, it would seem likely that there is Garstang material in the Redpath museum from three separate sources: directly from Beni Hassan in 1904; to the NHSM from Beni Hassan in 1904 and then, subsequently, to the Redpath Museum in 1925; from Garstang in 1923 as the Garstang collection. Ms. Sara Orel of the University of Toronto, to whom go my thanks for this reference, has identified some of the Toronto material during her ongoing research on her doctoral dissertation entitled “Social Stratification in a Middle Kingdom Cemetery”.


21. See, too, the letter from Lighthall to E. I. Rexford, the Dean of the Theological Colleges at McGill, dated November 8, 1922.

22. This sale was apparently considered important enough to receive coverage in the British press. Less than three weeks after the letter of offer to purchase, the “President, Theological College, Montreal, Canada” received a letter from the firm of Spink and Son Ltd.:

“Having learnt through the Press that you have purchased the GARSTANG COLLECTION of Egyptian Antiquities to form the nucleus of a Museum which you are founding at the College, may we bring to your notice the fact that we have always here a large and varied collection of such objects?”

Prof. A. R. Gordon of the Presbyterian College wrote back and requested information on any Palestinian antiquities that they might have for sale. In a letter dated April 9, Spink and son Ltd. replied that

“We beg to say that we have only two objects in our large stock at the present time relating to Palestine...[but that possibly] you would also be interested in a copy of St. Matthew and St. Mark written in Cingalese on Talipot leaves.”

Mercifully, there does not appear to have been any further correspondence.

23. See, too, D. L. Ritchie, *The McGill Neues*, IV, no. 4 (1923), 3. The collection has led a peripatetic existence since then, but is now housed in the Redpath Museum.

24. The first gap of three accession numbers was obviously left at the time of accessioning in order to later assign separate numbers to each of the four ceramic vases initially referred
to in both lists as G 128. Thus G 128A-128D were supposed to have been assigned accession numbers 1990, 1993, 1994, and 1995. The following two Garstang entries, G 129 and 130, were assigned accession numbers 1991 and 1992. However, at some point in between the compiling of the second list and the entering of the data into the accession book itself, these accession numbers were re-arranged so as to keep all of the G 128 material (A-D) in a block of consecutive numbers. The accession book lists the following equivalences: G 128A = 1990; G 128B = 1991; G 128C = 1992; G 128D = 1993; G 129 = 1994; and G 130 = 1995.

Precisely the same process was involved for the gap 2001-2006. G 133 (five scarabs) was originally assigned accession number 1998. When these objects were entered in the accession book, each was given an unique number. The gaps can thus all be accounted for.

25. While the accession book makes no reference to a provenance, the object file-cards for 2019-20 (G 148 + 148A), 2022 (G 150), and 2030 (G 158) all refer to Meroe. What this information was based upon is now unclear.

26. G 165 and 166 were assigned accession numbers 2038 and 2040 respectively. Accession number 2039 was recorded in the accession book as having not had a Garstang number, but, rather, the reference number NR 577. The meaning and source of this number is unknown to the present writer. It is quite possible that we are here dealing with an error made by the accessioner. Accession number 2038 (G 165) was the last entry made in the accession book on June 6, 1928. Accession number 2039 was the first entry made on the following day (2040 was the second) and it is just possible that the object NR 577 was recorded out of sequence; possibly it was one of those Garstang objects that had not been assigned a Garstang number. This would mean that NR 577 might refer to an archaeological locus as in the other cases where no Garstang number was assigned (see below).


28. Accession numbers 2048 and 2049 bear the designations F and FA respectively. As these seem to be more general indications than the others in the F series, they have been omitted from the list. The number 66F is recorded in the accession book under 2054 but was not noticed on the object itself.

29. This information comes from an unpublished document entitled “Some Notes on the Labelling of Objects from Garstang’s Excavations” compiled in 1963 by B. J. Kemp. I would like to thank Professor A. F. Shore of the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies, University of Liverpool, for having sent me a copy.

30. See B.G. Trigger, History and Settlement in Lower Nubia, (1965), 37. The site of Koshtamna is located in Lower Nubia on the west bank of the Nile, some five miles north of the better known site of Dakka. It is presently under the waters of Lake Nassar.

For work at this site subsequent to Garstang’s excavations, see the references in B. Porter and R.L.B. Moss, Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings, VII, (1952), 37. the reference there to C. M. Firth, The Archaeological Survey of Nubia. Report for 1908-1909, (1912), should also note the excavations in the cemeteries, not just the fort (ibid., 157ff. (my thanks to Prof B. G. Trigger, Anthropology Department, McGill University, for this reference).

31. Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Egypte, 8 (1907), 133; 139-141; pls. X-XII.

32. Ibid., 133.

33. I.e., Tooley, Excavations in Nubia 1906: Koshtamna, Dakka and Qubban; personal correspondence dated October 17, 1989.

34. Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Egypte, 8 (1907), 136-7; pls. V-VII, fig. 2; Man, 5, no. 79 (1905), 145.
35. Adams, *The Fort Cemetery at Hierakonpolis*; for the purposes of the present article, see especially page 5, n. 2 where Adams discusses the locus number formula used at that site by Garstang. Adams points out that pots that were not found within a specific grave were merely marked F; this is relevant in the cases of our numbers 2048 and, perhaps, 2049 (see n. 28 above).


37. *Ibid.*, 90. Compare the drawings with the photograph of the objects *in situ* on pl. 17 [bottom]. It is unclear to me which of the three pots, a, b, or c, is the one presently in the Royal Institute of South Wales, accession number AX121.11 (*Ibid.*, 229).


42. *Ibid.*, 8. See, too, page 128 for an inventory of the objects found in this tomb including a Meleagrina shell inscribed with the praenomen of Senwosret I.


45. See J. Garstang et al., *Meroe. The City of the Ethiopians*, (1911).

46. *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Égypte*, 8 (1907), 133-134. The article covers his work for the years 1905-1906; he does not specify which year when discussing Messawiya.

47. I have been informed by Prof. A. H. Shore of the School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies at the University of Liverpool, to whom my thanks, that there is but one object in their collection that appears to have come from that site: a ceramic bowl that presently has the accession number E 6133. The Garstang designation M’06 was once evident on it (personal communication dated October 4, 1989).