

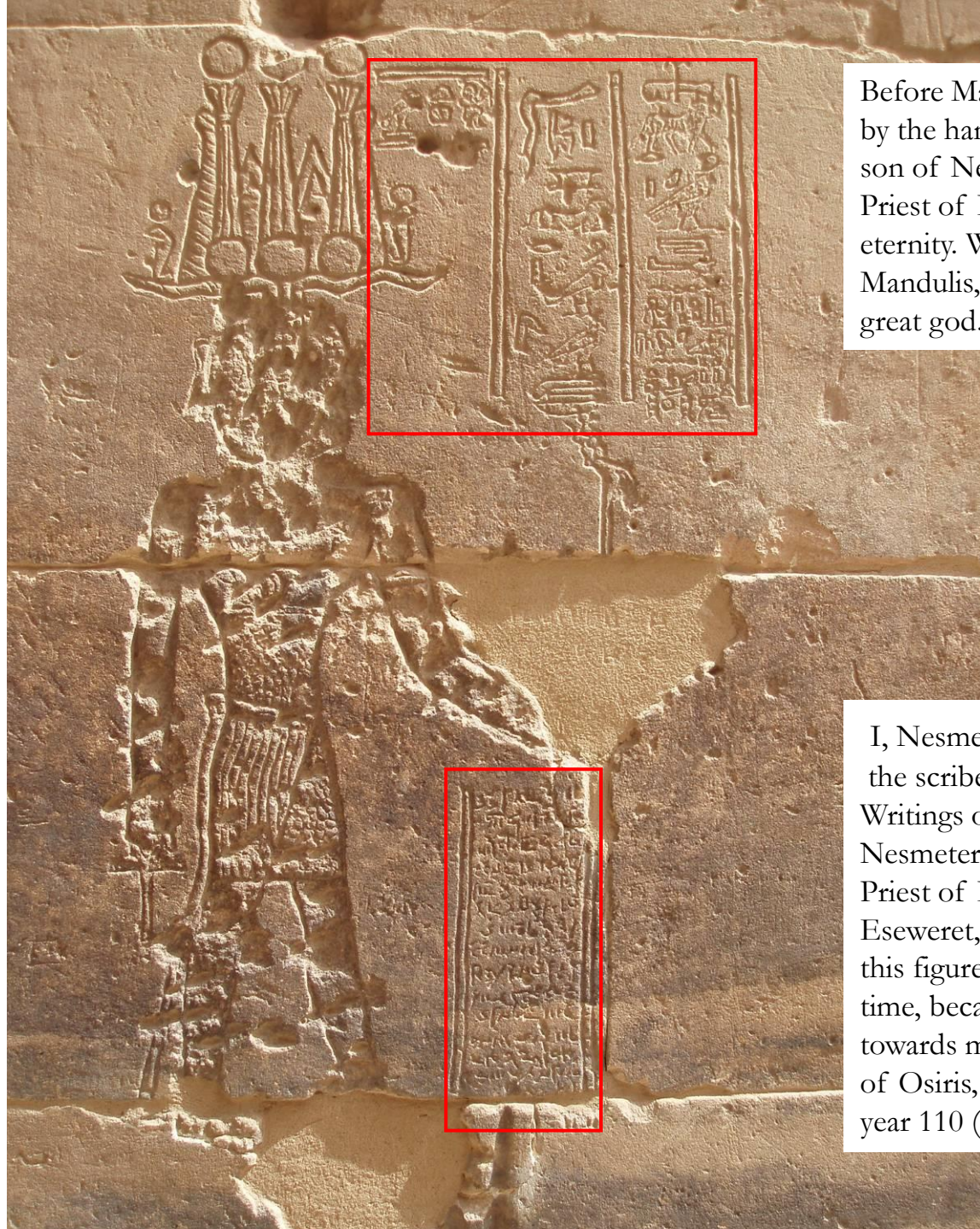






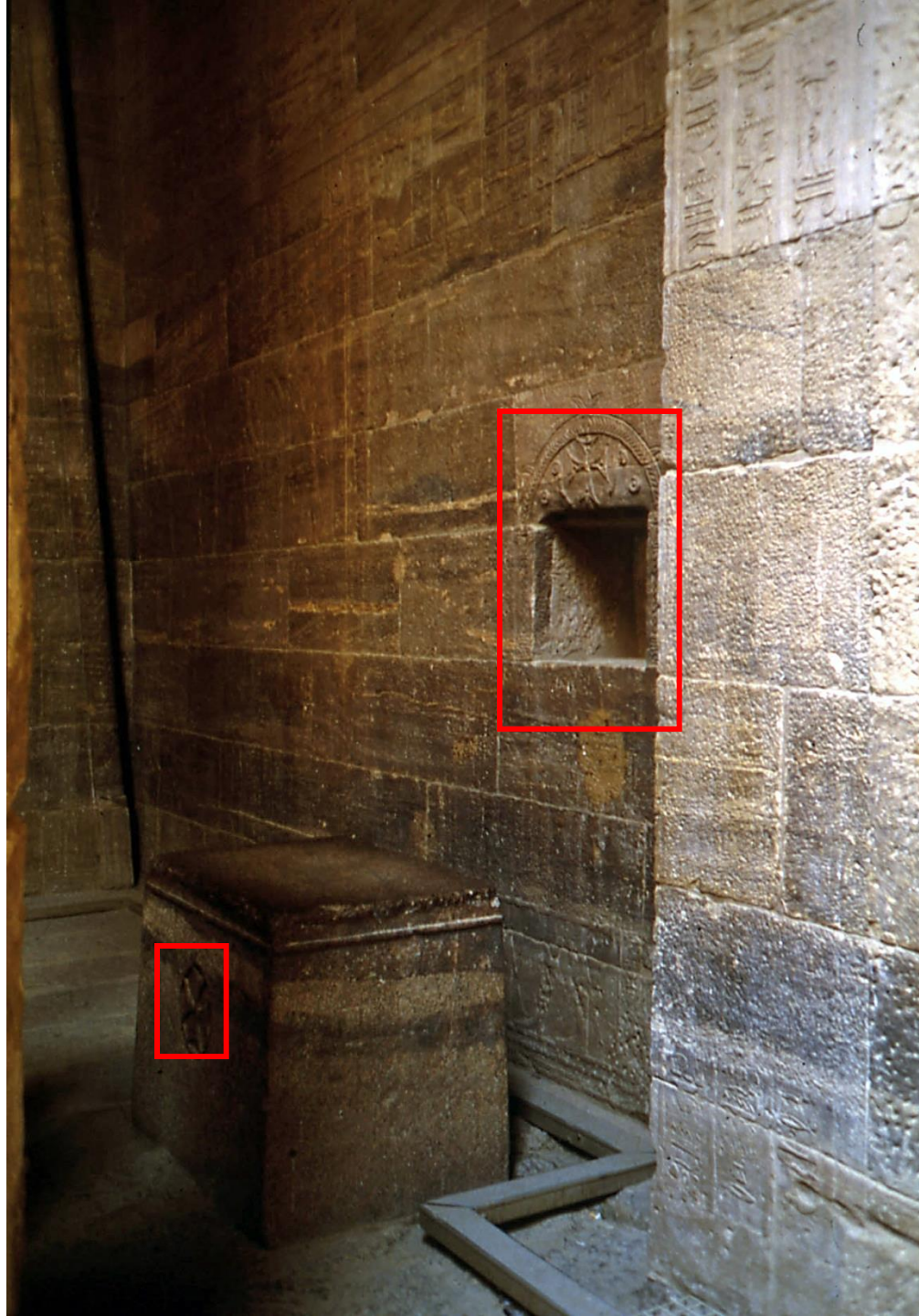


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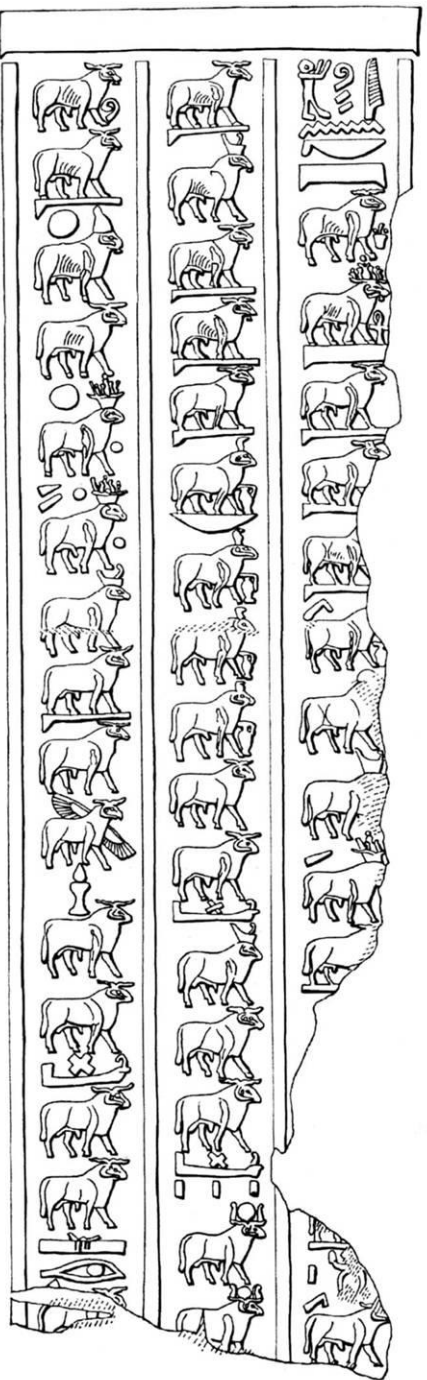
Before Mandulis son of Horus,
by the hand of Nesmeterakhem,
son of Nesmeter, the Second
Priest of Isis, for all time and
eternity. Words spoken by
Mandulis, Lord of the Abaton,
great god.

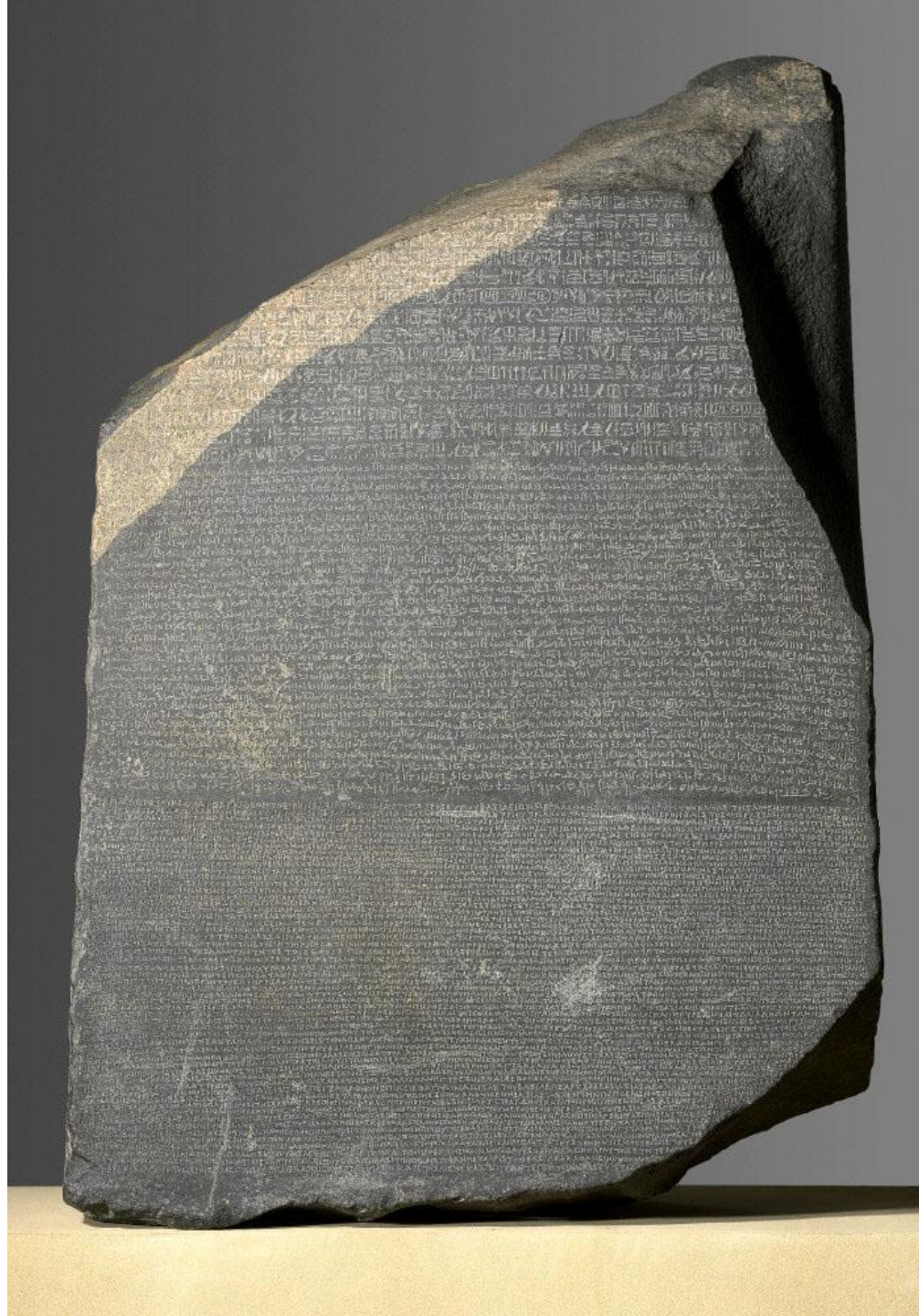
I, Nesmeterakhem,
the scribe of the House of
Writings of Isis, son of
Nesmeterpanakhet the Second
Priest of Isis, and his mother
Eseweret, I performed work on
this figure of Mandulis for all
time, because he is fair of face
towards me. Today, the Birthday
of Osiris, his dedication feast,
year 110 (= 24 August AD 394).

















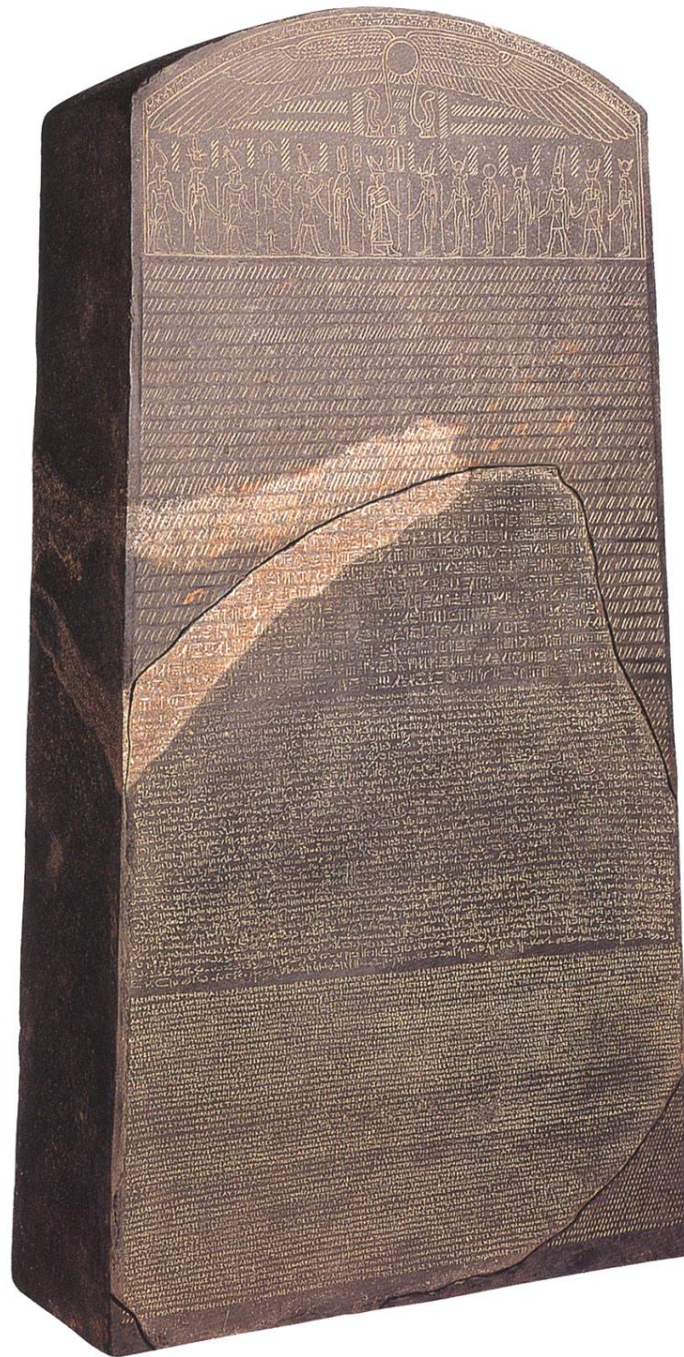
PRESENTED BY KING GEORGE III

CAPTURED IN EGYPT BY THE BRITISH
ARMY 1801

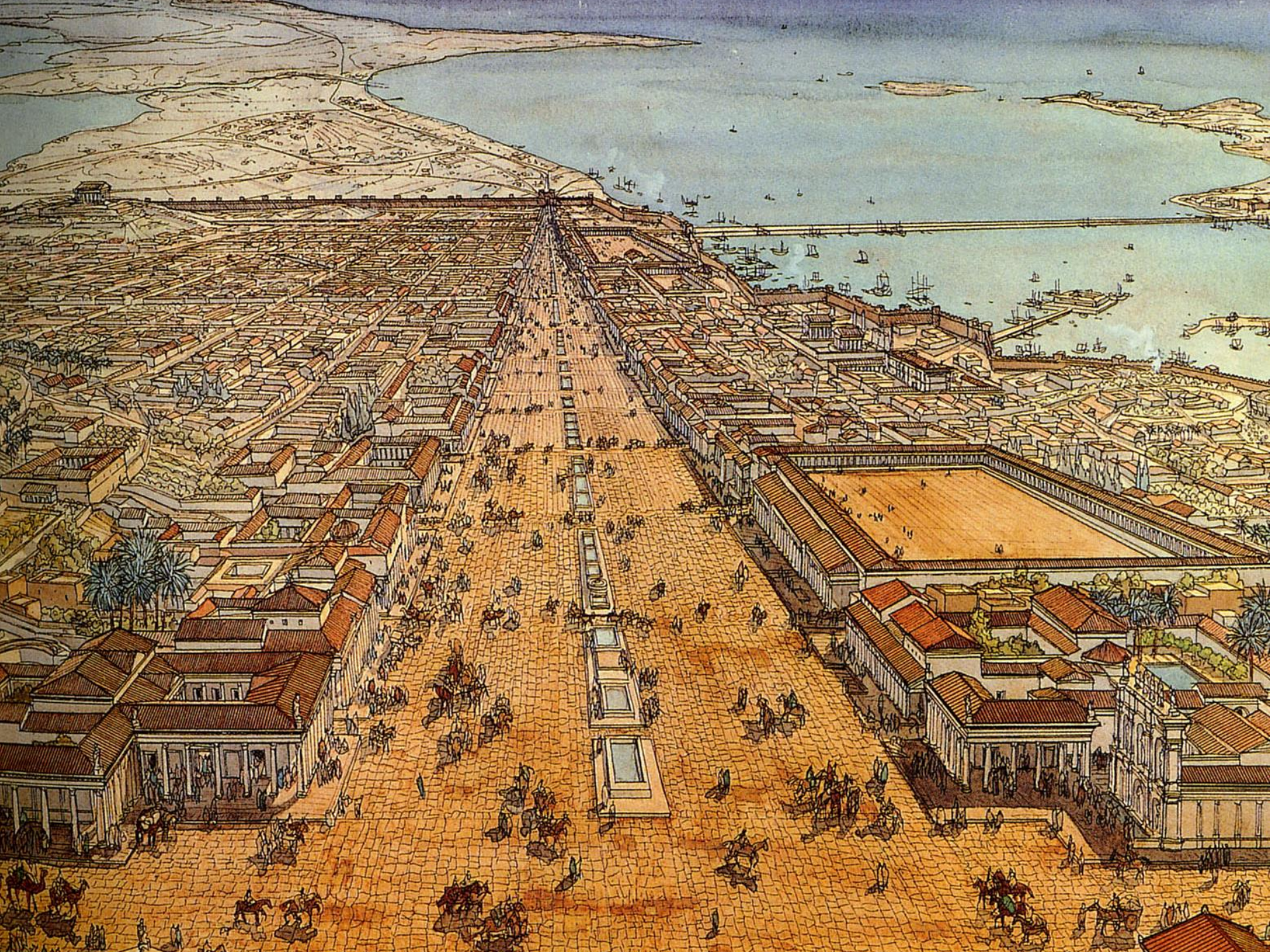






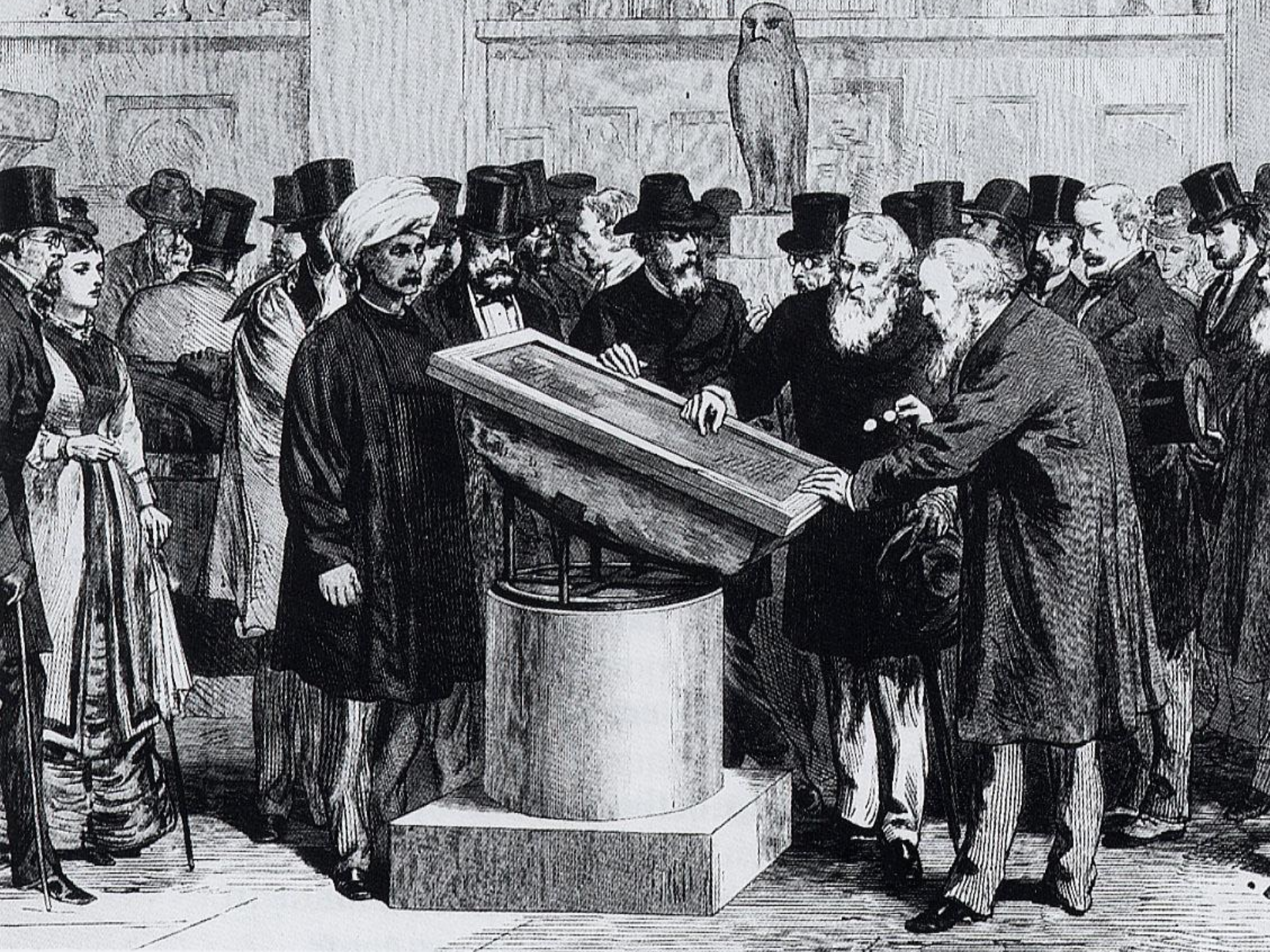








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Dear Sir

Wellbut Hall Tuesday 10 Feb. 1818

I send you a few memorandums, which I shall be much obliged by your forwarding to your son, for the chance of his receiving them before his return to Egypt, as I doubt not that so enlightened and enterprising a traveller will be as willing as he is able to assist in promoting the investigation of the hieroglyphical antiquities of that singular country: and I trust that a few hints of what has already been done will enable him to effect this purpose, with considerably less labour than might otherwise have been bestowed on it.

1. The great desideratum of all is the recovery of the lost fragments of the Rosetta Stone, which to an Egyptian antiquary would be worth their weight in diamonds. The part found by the French contains little more than one third of the inscription in the "sacred character"; and this portion, imperfect as it is, has afforded an explanation of above fifty hieroglyphics; a number which would be more than doubled by the discovery of the remainder. Mr. Salt was empowered by the British government to expend a liberal sum in digging in the neighbourhood of Fort St. Julien, or otherwise, in pursuit of this object; but there is reason to fear that it has wholly escaped his memory.

2. A duplicate of this stone is described by Dr. Clarke as having been seen by him in the house occupied by the Institute at Cairo, but in imperfect preservation. It would be of the utmost importance to have this duplicate brought to England, since the slightest traces might possibly be rendered intelligible by a careful comparison: and it is indeed hoped that Mr. Salt has already taken measures ^{indeed} for this purpose.

3. The inscriptions on the ruins of buildings, still existing in Egypt, and even on unwrought blocks and rocks are far too numerous to be copied by any single traveller: it becomes therefore of importance to be directed to the most important parts of them: which are commonly the names of the kings whom they commemorate, and those of the deities to whom they are dedicated. The names of the deities are generally distinguished by a hatchet or a sitting figure which follows them; those of the kings universally by an oval ring which surrounds them, preceded by a reed and a bee: and frequently followed by a goose and a circle, and then a second name, which is that of the father.

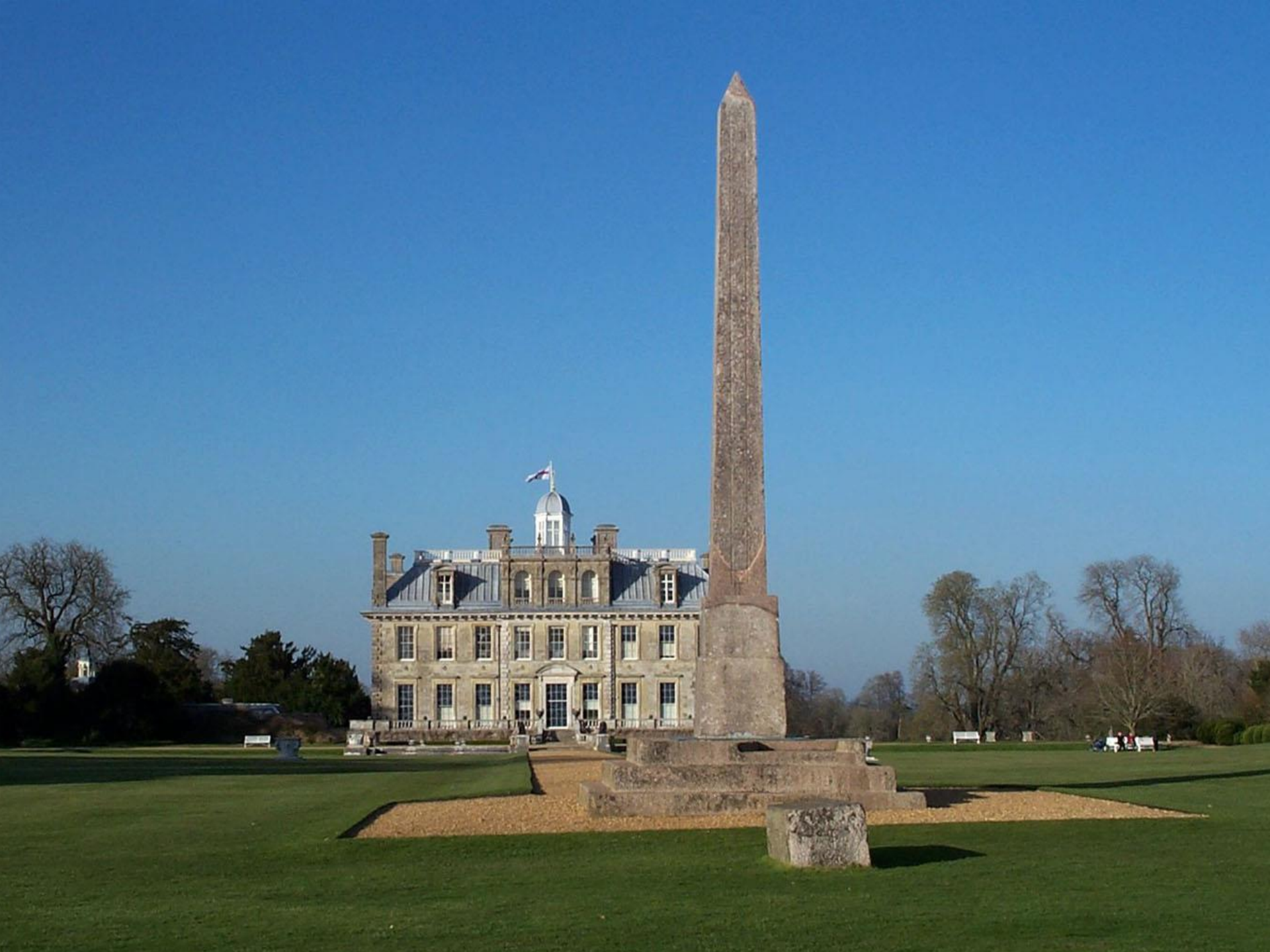
4. The inscriptions almost universally relate to the figures over or before which they are placed; and they are always read from the front to the rear of the figures; ^{when they are arranged} but from right to left, or from left to right, almost indifferently.

Specimens

A God	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	King	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	One	I	Protony	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
A Goddess	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Son	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Two	II	Berenice	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Phthah, or Vulcan	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Life	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Ten	X	Amenophis, or Osamen	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Shue, or the Sun	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Eternity	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂			Mesphres	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Thoth, or Hermes	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Immortal	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂			Bammis, or Senusets	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Osiris	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Day	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Aptural	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Soter	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Isis	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Month	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Of, or to	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Epiphane	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Ankeris, or Apollo	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Year	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Thron	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Eucharistus	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂
Nephthie, or Aphrodite	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Temple	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	And	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂	Philometor, or possibly Philopator	𐀀, 𐀁, 𐀂











DANS CETTE MAISON OÙ IL HABITAIT

JEAN-FRANÇOIS CHAMPOLLION

DÉCOUVRIT EN SEPTEMBRE 1822

LE PRINCIPE DU DÉCHIFFREMENT

DES HIÉROGLYPHES ÉGYPTIENS

THE DECIPHERMENT OF HIEROGLYPHS

The English scholar, Thomas Young believed that the *cartouches* were used to write only non-Egyptian names like those of the Ptolemaic rulers, and that most hieroglyphs were symbols. Jean-François Champollion went much further and using the hieroglyphs that he had already identified, he began deciphering names on other monuments. He realised on 14 September 1822 that he could also read the names of earlier native pharaohs. From this he deduced that hieroglyphs must have been used as sound-signs to write Egyptian names and words as well. He also realised that Coptic, the language of Christian Egypt which survived in the Coptic church and was written in an adaptation of the Greek alphabet, was a form of the language of Ancient Egypt.

Knowing by some of the signs and a form of the language, he deduced that Ancient Egyptian words were written with a mixture of sound and picture signs, for example, the ancient Egyptian word for 'cat' is written ; the first three signs record the sounds *miu* (like mew), followed by a picture showing the animal. By the time of his early death in 1832 he had laid the ground for understanding the Egyptian language. Although most texts can now be read quite easily, much remains to be done before we fully understand this ancient language and its four thousand years of written culture.

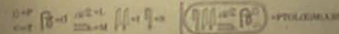


THE MYSTERY OF THE HIEROGLYPHS

For many centuries after the end of Ancient Egyptian culture, hieroglyphs were a great mystery. The last known hieroglyphic inscription was carved at the Temple of Isis at Philae on 24 August 394 AD, and during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance hieroglyphs were regarded as mystic symbols of ancient wisdom. Since Egyptian hieroglyphs are signs that look like pictures, people assumed that they were emblems recording ideas rather than signs which could record the sounds of the Ancient Egyptian language.

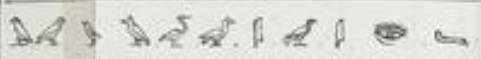
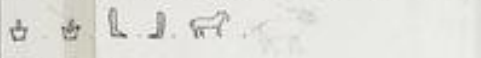





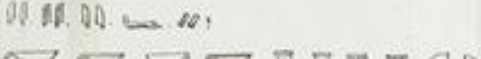








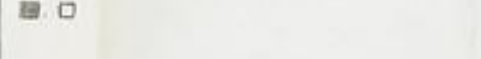
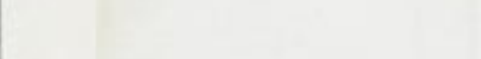


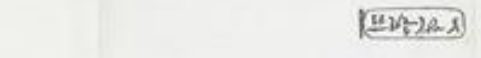
As soon as the Stone was known, renewed attempts were made to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs. Important contributions were made by scholars such as J. Åkerblad (1763-1819) and Sylvestre de Sacy (1758-1838). Two exceptional men were working at the same time in England and France: the polymath Thomas Young (1773-1829) and the brilliant Jean-François Champollion (1790-1832).

Scholars had already guessed that rings, *cartouches*, probably enclosed Egyptian royal names, and these names were known from Greek and Roman sources. Young studied the *cartouches* on the Stone and other inscriptions, including an obelisk brought from Philae to Kingston Lacy in Dorset, and he identified a few of the signs in the royal names. The Greek name Ptolemy¹⁶ is written:



Portrait of Thomas Young, an early stage of the portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830) of about 1815.
Reproduced by kind permission of Mr and Mrs R. E. Young

*Tableau des Signes Phonétiques
des Ecritures Hiéroglyphique & Démotique des anciens Egyptiens*

<i>Lettres Phonétiques</i>	<i>Signes Démotiques</i>	<i>Signes Hiéroglyphiques</i>
A	u. u.	
B	4. 2.	
Γ	κ. κ.	
Δ	κ. κ.	
E	i	
Z		
H	III. III. III. III.	
Θ		
I	α. III.	
K	κ. κ. κ. κ. κ.	
Λ	λ. λ. λ.	
M	μ. μ.	
N	ν. ν. ν. ν. ν.	
Ξ	ξ.	
O	ο. ο. ο. ο.	
Π	π. π. π. π. π.	
P	ρ. ρ.	
Σ	σ. σ. σ. σ. σ.	
T	τ. τ. τ. τ.	
Υ		
Φ	φ.	
Ψ		
X	χ.	
Ω		
TO. TA.		

Bl. 6/3.

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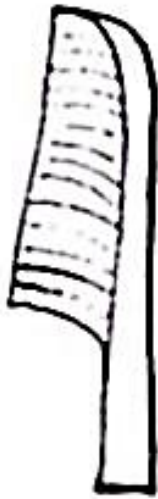


Cette inscription qui signifie, a. Mon ami Dubois,
a été tracée par Champollion, lequel me donna
cet exemplaire.

J. J. Dubois



mj

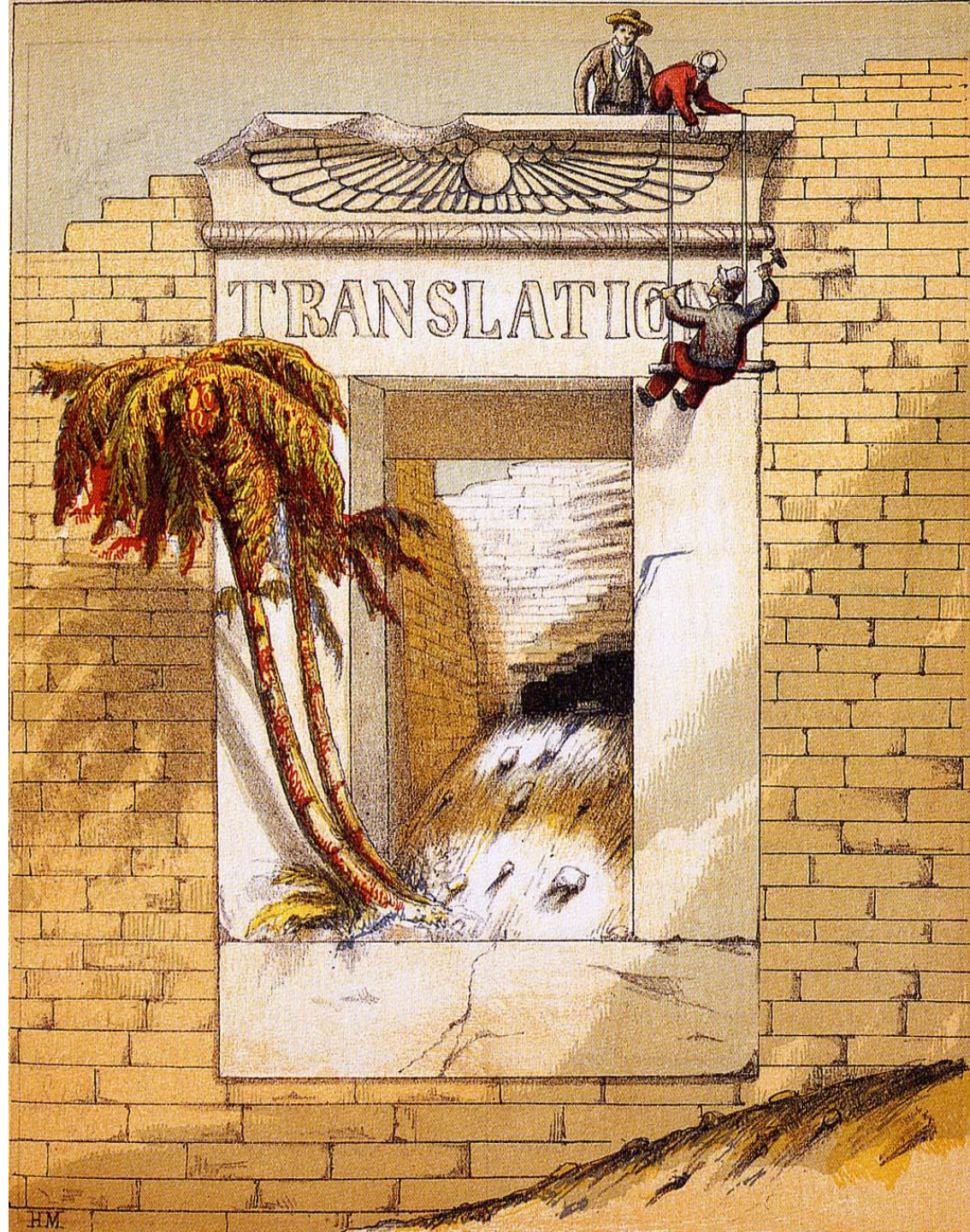


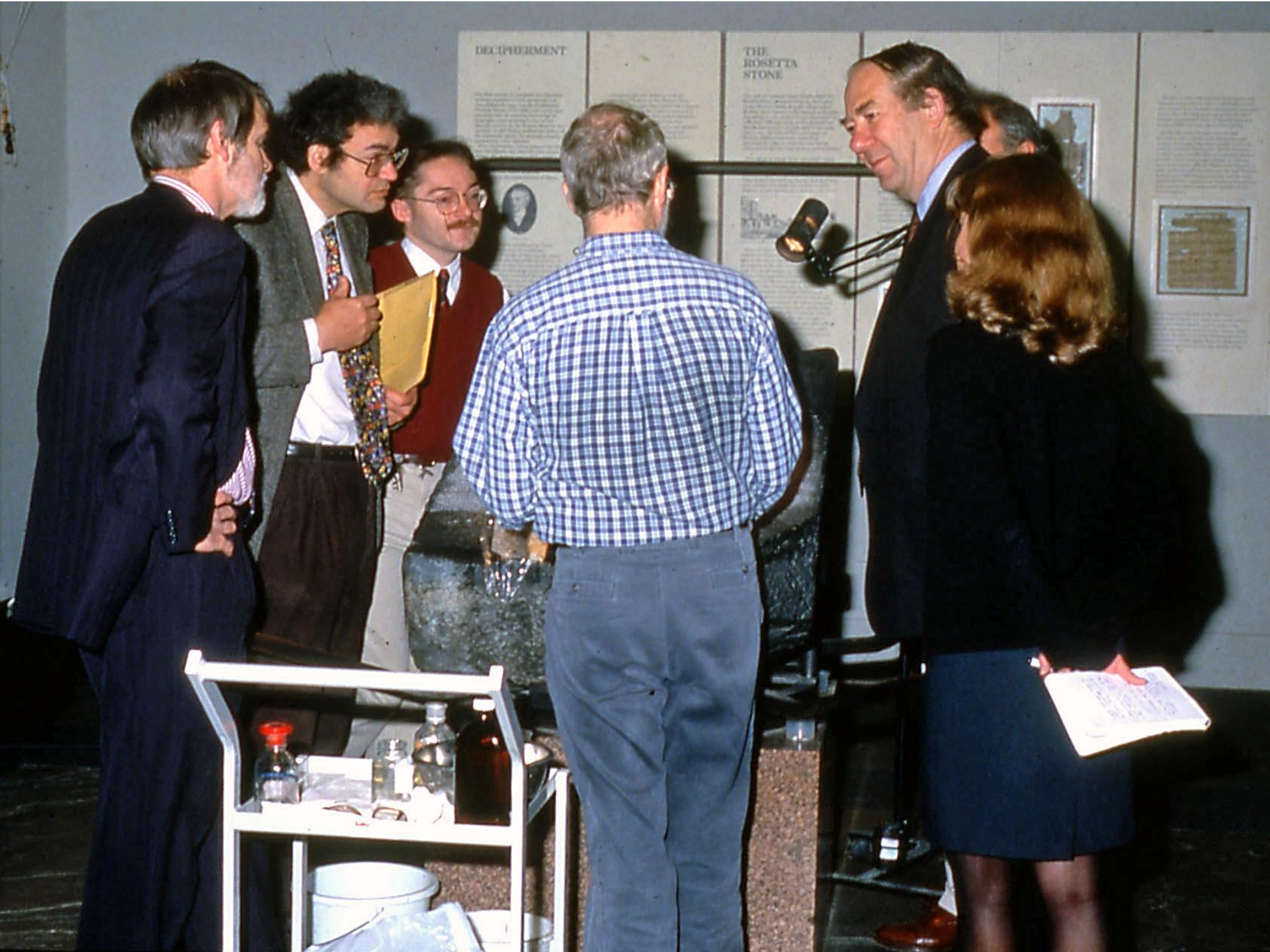
j

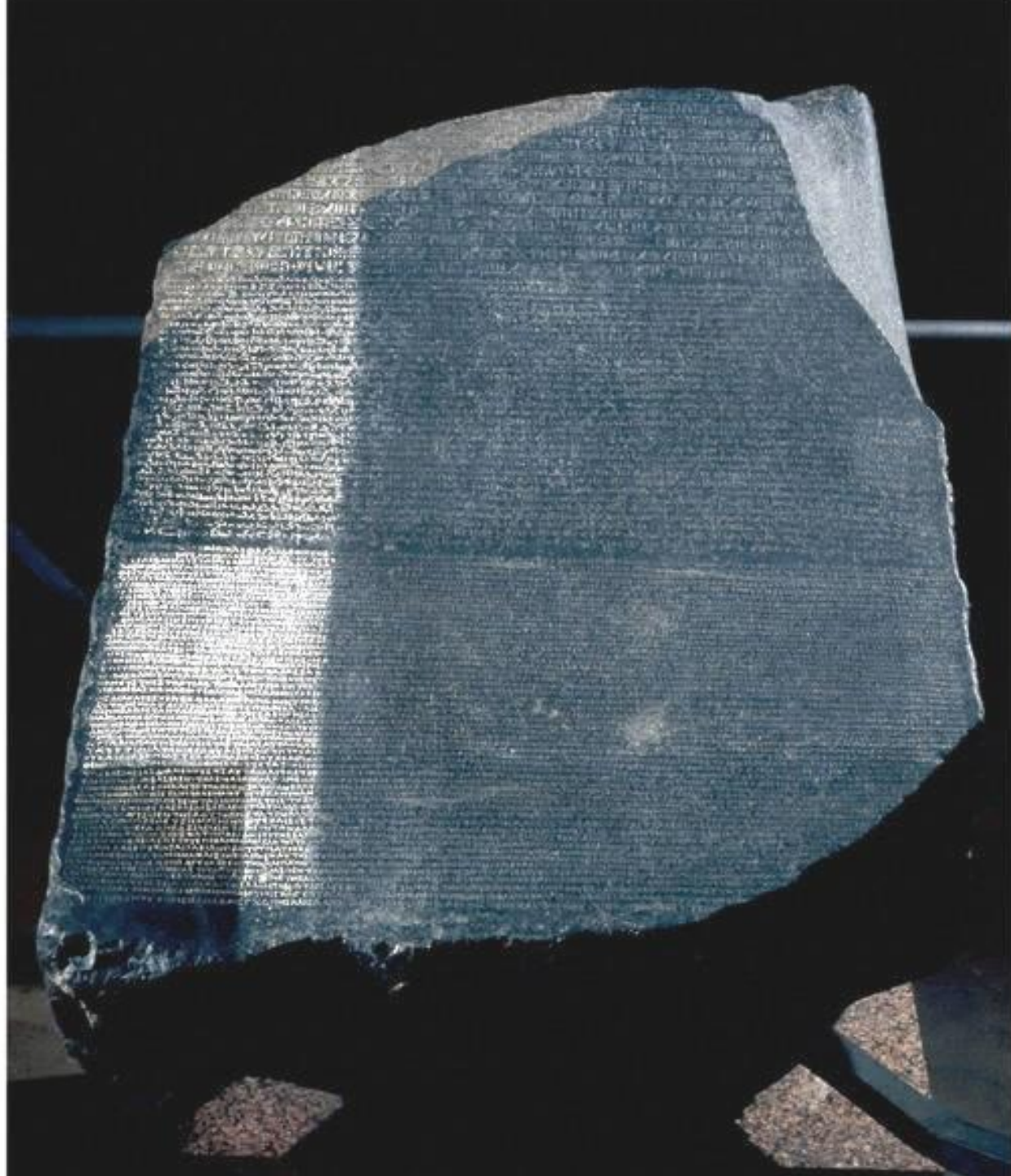


w











三才圖會

WRITING
AND ART

Text describing the exhibit, likely detailing the historical context and significance of the artifacts displayed.





ROSETTA

For the closest inspection
of a comet ever made

*Une première dans l'histoire de
l'exploration cométaire*









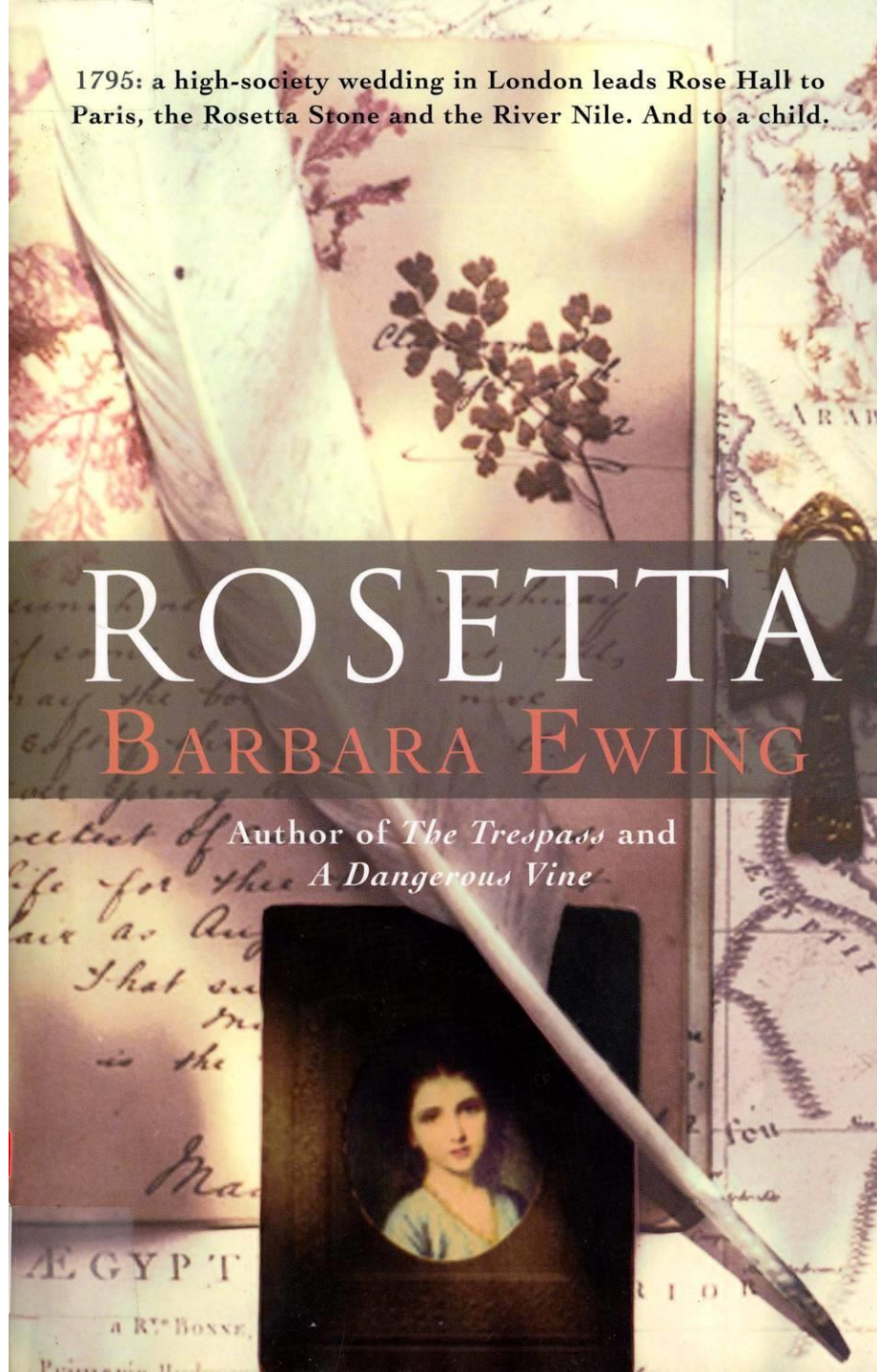


1795: a high-society wedding in London leads Rose Hall to
Paris, the Rosetta Stone and the River Nile. And to a child.

ROSETTA

BARBARA EWING

Author of *The Trespass* and
A Dangerous Vine





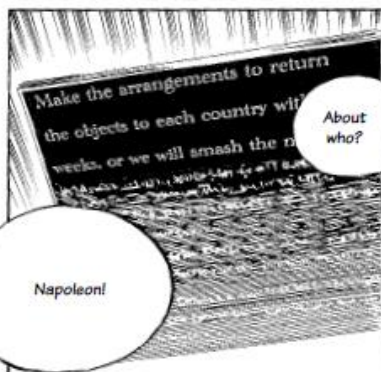
George III ruled Great Britain from the late 18th to the early 19th centuries, around the same time that Napoleon was in power in France.



I am sure there was only one, King George III (1738-1820).

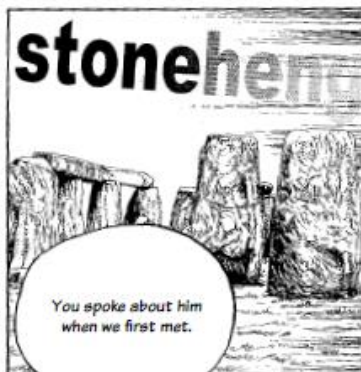


Napoleon...



About who?

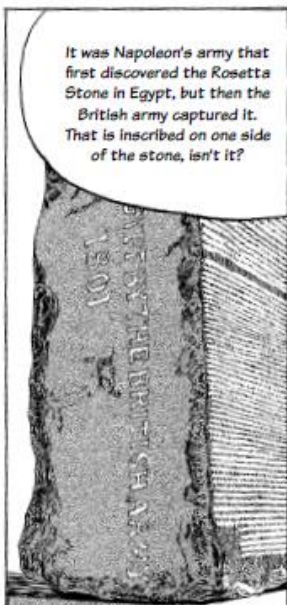
Napoleon!



You spoke about him when we first met.



What is inscribed on the other side?



It was Napoleon's army that first discovered the Rosetta Stone in Egypt, but then the British army captured it. That is inscribed on one side of the stone, isn't it?

