Plate 1

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 1824 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, 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 summarise 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 (Hakluytus), 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 Saqqara, and its case is described and figured in Perry's View of the Levant (1748). Perry died in 1780, and the mummy subsequently passed into the possession of Richard Cowley, R.A. (1745-1821), 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 specimen he examined were ceremonially enrolled in the presence of audiences, and Pettigrew became famous for these public demonstrations.

THOMAS JOSEPH PETTIGREW
(1798-1865)

Drawn and lithographed by CHARLES BAOUINER
PETTIGREW'S DEMONSTRATIONS UPON MUMMIES

It would appear that no further opportunities for the examination of actual mummies occurred until 1883. In March of that year the third collection of Henry Salt was sold at Sotheby's, and there were several mummies amongst the lots. Pettigrew purchased a fine Ptolemaic example for £29, and at the same sale his friend Thomas Saunders, F.S.A., secured another for £6 1s. 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, 1883, in the presence of a select gathering that included Prince Conolly, Lords Hertford, Hotham, and Henley, and the physicians Sir Henry Halford (President, R.C.P.), Sir David Barry, William Shearman, James Copland, Agustín Sayer, Stewart Crawford, Robert Richardson, John Elliotson, Henry Catteroock, 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, 1883. There were present the Bishop of Chichester, Viscount Ossulton, Thomas Philipps, R.A., the antiquary Francis douche, the Rev. George Cecil Rennock, Dawson Turner, F.R.S., F.S.A., Edward Hawkins, Captain Dillon, the excavator Rinaldi, and many others.

This demonstration led to another, for a few weeks later John Davidson, 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 18, 1883, 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.

This mummy, and another of the same period, had been brought from Thebes in 1821 by John Henderson (1790-1867), a well-known archaeologist and collector. Henderson's

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1 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 vacation delay of several years, bought it for £2,000—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 Santini ai Leghier, 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 bought to England after Salt's death by Giovanni d'Albani, and was disposed of at Sotheby's in a nine-day sale in 1853, realizing the sum of £7,198.

2 Afterwards Adjunct Sir William Henry Dillon. He married Pettigrew's eldest daughter in 1842 (Memoir, p. 64, 117).

3 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., 1821; died, 1836.

4 "An Address on Embalming generally, delivered at the Royal Institution on the Unravelling 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 Coll, Junior, and which are still preserved at the College. 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 face for a few days of some drawings made by Mr. Gift of Two Cases which contained mummies. My desire is to make out the Hieroglyphics and the pictorial representations upon these 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 sketch of the Egyptian skull in the Museum.

Yours very truly

T. J. Pertemnaw.

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:

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 Ersnes, the son of Neipshau, as inaccurately printed in the Temple of Damos and that it has been brought from Flades. It is very desirable to have the mummy unravelled 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

T. J. Pertemnaw.

G. J. Guthrie Egy.
Prof. Roy. Coll. Surgeons
No. 40 &c.

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

1 Victor G. Place, Cat. of the Manuscripts in the Library of the Royal Coll. of Surgeons, 1928, p. 47.
PETTIGREW'S DEMONSTRATIONS UPON MUMMIES 173

for the diary of William Cliff, 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 18, 1834, Cliff writes:

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

On the next day the mummy itself was made ready:

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

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

On opening the case [i.e. cartonnage], which is composed of many layers of linen or cotton cloth, firmly connected together with gum or glue, or possibly white of egg and linters, or plaster of Paris, the body was discovered in its envelope in excellent preservation, but without any names or whatsoever. The case had evidently been formed on a mould of clay, with straw &c., probably to give it tenacity—it being of which still adheres to the inside of the case—on which model the cloth was pressed while wet, in a manner similar to the present method of making marquetry boxes. A slit passed across the eyes round the head and tied behind—a letter 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. Cliff 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 [i.e. 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 Cliff 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. 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 and the Bishop of London were obliged to retire from lack of room. At one o'clock precisely the bustle of conversation ceased, and the company, who had filled the theatre since noon, rose to their feet as the President and Council followed the may-bearer into the theatre, and Mr. Pettigrew, and his two assistants, William Cliff and Richard (later Sir Richard) Owen, brought up the rear. At this point we will allow Cliff to resume his diary:

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

William Cliff, F.R.S. (1775–1848), had formerly been assistant to John Hunter, and was conservator of the Hunterian Museum from 1793 to 1844.

2 Edmund Beaufort.

3 The Archbishop at this time was William Howley; born 1716; Primase 1828–46; died 1846.

4 Owen's name is not mentioned either in Cliff'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 boxes; 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 was 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.†

The bandages were now removed as carefully as circumstances and time permitted. The outer smooth cloth being removed, exposed the circular hand-breath rollers, which extended from hand 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 of two which firmly adhered to the surface by a coat of asphaltum. On the breast, near the situation of the pyphoid cartilage, was a small protuberance, which when dissected of the bandages, exposed a small cartilaginous [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 seashell, had been placed on or substituted for the natural one. Here the examination of this part ceased for the present. In removing the crumpled wrappings between the thighs, a small oval model of an outer Mummy case†† made and imperfectly if at all varnished, and now partly decomposed was found behind or beneath the Soles, but no Cuff, ornament, or Fayrus was discovered. An inscription was discovered on the fist 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 formerly hummed, 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 salvage, 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 Tresses or loose threads at their terminations as when cut from the seam or pad on which it was worn. 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. Bands 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 Calfskin that had been pasted under the foot board to keep it secure, since the mummy was brought into England, was completely disfigured 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.

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.

† This is the portrait-pen and Roman period reproduced in Pl. vi of the History of Egyptian Mummies.

†† A shabby figure, C.S.R. has made three diagrams of the mummy in various stages of its unrolling, showing the position of the amulets, etc.
PETTIGREW’S DEMONSTRATIONS UPON MUMMIES

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 three-boutta. A few years earlier (in 1897) Morrison had presented another mummy to the City of Norwich, a description of which I published in this Journal in 1899 (vol. xvi, pp. 186-9).

The History of Egyptian Mummies appeared early in 1884, 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. 73-4. 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 cartonage case within three coffins, the two inner ones being of anthropoid shape, the outermost a rectangular sarcophagus, with a vailed 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 unveil 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 1887, however, Lee, whose interest had been much stimulated by Pettigrew’s mummy-demonstrations, decided that the mummy ought to be unveiled and sent the body to London, but he retained the cartonage case and the three coffins. These cases were lithographed by Joseph Bonomi and published with descriptive letterpress by Samuel Sharpe in 1888. 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 Aubem of Hackney. They were sold once more in 1921 when the Aubem Collection was dispersed at Sotheby’s (Lot 892).

The mummy was unveiled in the lecture-theatre of the Royal Institution on Friday, May 27, 1896, in the presence of a crowded and distinguished audience, Lord Prinsep2 being in the chair. The lectures, which lasted three hours, were reported in the press at length, and from this report the following extracts are taken:

On Friday evening Mr. Pettigrew unveiled 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 unveil the bandages. Most of them were about four parts 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

1 The Triple Mummy Case of Amset-Atu, in Dr. Lee’s Museum at Hartwell House. Published for the Egypt-Egyptian Society of London.
2 Apsenam Penry, first Baron Prinsep, was born in 1759 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 1837-9, preceding as far as Benice, and visiting Suez. He met Champollion in Alesia in 1826. 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.; Fellow 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 Apsenam, February 10, 1860, and was buried in the Percy Chapel in Westminster Abbey.
about four yards in length and two feet in breadth, and were folded with great care. Mr. Petigrew 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 bundle had been applied, so as to inscribe the line or colouring matter had penetrated to the roller beneath. An enormous quantity of them was removed from the body, and Mr. Petigrew 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 3000 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 incrustation clothes 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 operations. 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 closely made out. The arms were wrapped separately. The body was evidently that of an aged man, and in some parts of it, portions of gilt were visible.

Petigrew now decided to give a course of public lectures, and to unveil a mummy as a dramatic wind-up to the course. Arrangements were made in 1837 for the delivery of six lectures at the Exeter Hall, Strand, 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:

At the close of a series of six interesting and instructive Lectures on Egyptian Antiquities, delivered at Exeter Hall, by Mr. Petigrew,—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 unveiled 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. Petigrew, referring, with just apology, 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—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 bones, probably, through the nostrils, so the nose was much broken. The legs were separately bandaged, and the soles bound by strips of painted linen, about half an inch in breadth. The figures were not hieroglyphic, but simply conventional. 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 necklace [?] in front. On each knee was a thin piece of gold, resembling the lotos-flower; over each eye the presidential eye of Geru, of the same materials and another golden ornament upon the top of the edge 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 labious unrolling of the body to the end. The upper wrappings were not voluminous, and of coarse natural-coloured linen. Then came a complete envelope of sénphalut [sic], and below that the usual disposition and extent of linen rolls. On the sides 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 future investigation and study.

At the conclusion of his discourses, which was much applauded, Mr. Petigrew . . . intimated that . . .

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2 The Strand Palace Hotel now occupies the site.

3 Literary Gazette, March 11, 1837.
SYLLABUS OF A COURSE OF LECTURES ON
EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES,
From a Manuscript in the Possession of Messrs. Haydon.


These Lectures will be delivered in the Egyptian Hall, Strand, on each Thursday at 8 o'clock, in the evenings.

SYLLABUS OF PETTIGREW'S LECTURES, 1837

GIOVANNI D'AITHANASI

Announcement by D'Athanassi, 1837

ANNOUNCEMENT BY D'AITHANASI, 1837

On the evening of Monday, the 18th of April next, at seven o'clock,

MOST INTERESTING MUMMY

This has not yet been discovered in Europe,

WILL BE UNROLLED

IN THE LARGE ROOM AT EXETER HALL, STRAND.

WHICH MAY BE NOW SEEN

At the House of Mr. Leigh Rothery, Wellington Street, Strand.

Sydney, Thursday, 31st January, 1837.

To Mr. Leigh Rothery.

Mr. Leigh Rothery,

5 Wellington Street, Strand.

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To Mr. Leigh Rothery.

5 Wellington Street, Strand.
SYLLABUS OF A COURSE OF LECTURES ON EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES,

More especially as connected with the Process of Mummification;


Author of a "History of Egyptian Mummies," &c.

These Lectures will be delivered at the Easter Hall, Strand, at Half past Eight o'clock in the Evening precisely, every evening, by T. J. Pettigrew, &c. &c. &c., and in the following Order:

Monday, Feb. 3.-LECTURE I. INTERTRACTION. On the Physical Characters of the Egyptian Race, including their Origin, and the Features of their History, from the Earliest Ages to the time of the Roman Conquest.

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Thursday, Feb. 18.-LECTURE II. EGYPTIAN BIBLES. On the Egyptian Mummies, and the Process of Mummification, as exhibited by the Mummies themselves, their clothing, and the various objects found in their possession, as well as the Mummies themselves, and the Mummies themselves.

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Monday, Feb. 25.-LECTURE III. On Mummies, and the Process of Mummification. The Mummies themselves, and the Process of Mummification, as exhibited by the Mummies themselves, their clothing, and the various objects found in their possession, as well as the Mummies themselves, and the Mummies themselves.

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 SOOTHEBY, 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 a perfect Mummy; and it is 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 five linen which was placed on the body of the Mummy, it was observed, from a small piece of linen which extended through a fracture in that which covered a thick layer of mummy, that it had been some time since. On a more minute examination it was discovered that the body of linen, then perceptible, were all written upon in the same manner, and that the line of mummy was merely intended by their preservation. This line of mummy 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 the original state, and the appearance which the Mummy now presents is such as has never been before seen. The enormous folds of cloth with which the body is surrounded are covered with Hieroglyphs, Hieratic, and Hierothesialra, Hieroglyphs and Hieroglyphs of all the Funeral Ceremonies. The piece of linen now placed round the Mummy is about eight feet in length; it was taken from around the feet, and from the mouth or character at the end, it would appear that the piece placed on the breast and other parts of the body was a continuation of it—thus forming the subject 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 Rituels of the ancient Egyptians.

"It would be difficult to enter into a description of the numerous designs with which the body of linen is decorated. There is a greater variety of subjects here given than it is to be found in any of the Funerary Manuscripts on Papyrus. On the piece of linen taken from the feet, is a representation of a funeral ceremony, wherein the body of the deceased is being conveyed to its resting place on a four-wheeled carriage. This circumstance was particularly noticed in by Dr. Petrie, and the sound of his very interesting course of Lectures on Egyptian Antiquities, at Exeter Hall, Vol. 18, when he observed, and suggested 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 Hieroglyphs, which is 6 feet 2 inches long, 1 foot 3 inches broad, and 1 foot 2 inches deep, is, with the exception of the three lines of Hieroglyphs on the external of the cover, and a representation of the Four Divisions of the Ancient in the head, without any ornament it is singularly shaped, yet more so than any of the others of the present period. The Hieroglyphs alluded to are found to give the name of the deceased, and make mention of the City of Memphis; thus corroborating of its having been found in that Leigh Sotheby's Catalogue of Giovanni D' Athanasi's Collection of Egyptian Antiquities.

"Tickets, as under, with a description of the Mummy, may be now had at GIOVANNI D'ATHANASI,

at No. 3, Wellington Street, Strand.

A limited number of seats will be reserved, immediately around the Table on which the Mummy will be placed, at Six Shillings.

Tickets at the Post Office and Pulteney, Four Shillings.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY D'ATHANASI, 1837
Pettigrew's Demonstrations Upon Mummies

Mr. Athanassi's splendid mummy, from Memphis, would be unraveled 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'Athanassi seems to have made the unraveling of his mummy a commercial speculation, and issued a handbill advertising the event, a copy of which is reproduced in Pl. xiii, right. The unraveling was duly carried out by Pettigrew on April 10, 1837, before a crowded audience, and the following report of it appeared in the press: 1

Unravelling a Memphis Mummy.—On Monday, Mr. Pettigrew unraveled the Mummy from Memphis, belonging to M. Athanassi, 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 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 Horem, chief of the spirits, prophet to Am. &c. The linen was in narrow strips that 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, many girt, and below a human face was robotically traced on the bandages above the original countenance. After some labor [ed], Mr. Pettigrew came to a complete envelope of extreme hardness and tenacity, into which the body had been plunged; and which resisted hammer, knives and chisels. By much perseverance it was partially removed; and about the neck amulets, ornaments and other stones were found. The toe-nails were girt, the legs separately bandaged, and the arms crossed over the breast; the whole indicative of the Greco-Egyptian period. The mummy was, therefore, about 2500 or 2500 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 mummy submitted to the view of the public. We should guess that there were five or six hundred persons present.

Pettigrew's fame as an unraveller of mummies was now at its height. Sir George Staunton (1781–1859) was present at the lecture on D'Athanassi's mummy, and he then informed Pettigrew that he knew of another mummy that might with advantage be unraveled and examined. This was the specimen, afterwards famous as the 'Jersey Mummy', which had been brought from Egypt in 1832 by John Gosset, F.S.A., who traveled 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, the Judge 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 unraveled. The lectures were very fully reported in the British Press of Jersey, September 9, 1837, from which the following extracts are taken:

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

1 Giovanni D'Athanassi, the son of a merchant of Lemnos who settled in Egypt, was born in 1790. He was taken to Cairo in 1800, and when a boy entered the domestic service of Col. Minetti, British Consul-General, who, on his retirement, recommended him in his position, Henry Salt. D'Athanassi (who was known in Egypt as Yenali) was employed by Salt as a servant and an excavator until his death. After Salt's death, Yenali built a house at Thebes (near Tomb No. 53) and collected antiquities which he brought to England in 1838, and which were sold at Sotheby's in March 1837. Some of his best specimens were engraved by Visconti and published in 1837.

2 Library Gazette, April 15, 1837.
the first families of the island, and all who had any pretensions to fashion, science or literature attended on the following 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 divorced from 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. Petigrew 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, how, he said, a striking resemblance to the one opened at Leeds some years ago. On the body was laid a garland of lotus and other flowers; the lothris and fibber were removed and a sheet which was laced at the back, in a manner, said Mr. P., which might give a lesson to our modern star-makers (laughter). The sheet was tied in a knot at the back of the head, and when it was removed (etc.) the multitude of bandages came into view. . . . as the unrolling went on, the room became filled with a strong but not very disagreeable odor, arising probably from the curios materials used in the process of embalming. . . . The operator now came to a layer of bandages entirely covered with asphaltum which could not be unravelled; it was therefore picked off, and was composed of a common kind of cloth. After removing this layer of bandages appeared with a colored border, in accordance with specimens Mr. Petigrew 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 scarabaeus 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 scarabaeus 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 sciences very freely, and soon released the scarabaeus 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 handled 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 scarabaeus found, and a general conclusion to the whole discourse.]

Further Discoveries—Since the unrolling of the Mummy on Saturday, Mr. Petigrew 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 cause was of much greater antiquity than the mummy, which seems to refer to the Greek-Egyptian period of the Ptolemics. On opening the head, Mr. Petigrew 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 packets . . . (and) replaced in the body.

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

1 An Account of an Egyptian Mummy presented to the Museum of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society by the late John Rigby, Esq. drawn up at the request of the Council, by William Osburn, Junr., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society, etc. Leeds, 1826. 22 pp. and 5 plates. The mummy belongs to the reign of the last of the Ramses.
PETTIGREW'S DEMONSTRATIONS UPON MUMMIES (1789-1860). 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 in November 20, 1837, and the paper, which was afterwards published, is one of the most valuable contributions to the literature of mumification.1

Between 1837 and 1840 Pettigrew was basly 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 area once more and unrolled a mummy at the Ixionton Literary and Scientific Institute. A short account of the lecture appeared in the press:2

At the Ixionton Literary and Scientific Institute on Monday evening, Mr. Pettigrew unrolled a Mummy in the presence of a numerous audience. The inscriptions on the outer case, consisting of paeans for, and the pedigree of, the departed, announced its occupant to have been Ohnala, daughter of the Priest of Mando, Balmauf, Son of the Priest of Mando, Bakemaski, son of the priest of Amun Ro, King of the Gods, Resurremi. Ohnala was born of the Lady of the House of (sic) Namasut, daughter of the priest of Amun Ro, King of the Gods, Nakhsamaut. 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.

"Mando" is evidently Pettigrew's rendering of मंदो, Menthu, or Month, and the title borne by this mummy show that it belongs to the series of mummies of which Mariette in 1850 found a great cache, and of which I have given some account in this Journal (xiii (1857), pp. 150-59).

In 1840 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.R.A.S., 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 handed over,) and the most intense interest prevailed throughout these altogether novel proceedings.3 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 antiquaries tastefully arranged so as to give full effect to this imposing scene." There was first a lecture by T. J. Pettigrew on mumification generally, which lasted an hour, and then Pettigrew, assisted by his son, Dr. W. V. Pettigrew,3 then unrolled. "This was a task of no ordinary difficulty, as a great quantity of bitumenous matter had been used in the embalmment." The mummy was said to have been brought from Thebes by Captain Needham, being purchased by Pettigrew in London, and to have lived about 300 B.C. Pettigrew read his name as MAX son of OSIRIS.

1 Archæologia, xvi (1837), pp. 202-73, and 2 plates.
2 Buckingham Gazette, January 25, 1840. This notice was doubtless communicated by Pettigrew's friend Dr. John Lee.
3 Journ. of the Brit. Archæological Assoc., N.S., xxviii (1852), 212.
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 excited by the spectators, "and at times a portion of the heads were handled to the benefit of the mummy, though the cloth "had a peculiar and disagreeable smell." The dust pervaded the atmosphere and was inhaled by all persons near. Dr. Pettigrew then moved off the back part of the skull, to see what was inside, and found that the brain 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 1864, 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.

The mummy, unrolled in public by Pettigrew, as 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.

Such are the public demonstrations that Pettigrew gave on Egyptian mummmies, 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 wise and lampoon-writers. Punch parodied the well-known Latin proverb: "Cras at amor mensum, quantum vpus presua creavit;" into: "Cras at amor mensum, quantum vpus Pettigrew creavit."

The following story is told by Pettigrew's grandson. 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).


2 *Archaeologia*, xxxiv (1825), 392-3.


PETTIGREW'S DEMONSTRATIONS UPON MUMMIES

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, 1853, 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 Lyndwood, Bishop of St. David's, who died in 1446. 1

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 mummiified and deposited in an Egyptian sarcophagus that he had caused to be sent from Egypt many years before for that purpose. An enormous mummies 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 of the Chief Ritualist at the funeral. The following extracts are taken from The Times of Tuesday, September 7, 1852. 2

On Saturday last the remains of Alexander, tenth Duke of Hamilton, who died in Portman-square, London, on the 14th 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, situated at 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 above by a single circular open 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 oaken oak, and is liberally 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 follow an account of the funeral and a list of those present.)... The company retired, leaving the body resting on a dias 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 forever on Alexander, the tenth Duke of Hamilton.

2 This account is too long to print in full, but the elaborate description of the ceremonies it describes recalls the well-known wall-paintings on the walls of the Theban tombs.
Warren R. Dawson

Petigrew'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 1843 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.1