

ANNOTATIONS (C) TO TABLE XV

(1)

AMENEMHAT III AND THE HYKSOS MATHEMATICAL PAPYRUS.

In Annotations (A) Col. 2, we saw that the Heq-shu (Hyksos) entered Egypt in 2063 A.K.—the 6th year of Senusert II—and first became aggressive in the 2nd year of Amenemhat III, 2095½-6½ A.K. The latter year is the 33rd year from the Epoch of the Hyksos’ entry into the Delta. Accordingly we find that the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus mentions Amenemhat III in the 33rd year of the Hyksos king Ra-aa-user Apepa (I). The coincidence of the two 33rd years is striking, but is not in itself an identity. The absolute identity is otherwise fixed, however.

On the back of the Hyksos Mathematical Papyrus is a scribe’s note, already dealt with in ¶¶ 61 and 62. This shows that the note was made at the commencement of the 2nd year after an intercalation had been effected in both the 360 days’ calendar year and in the 365 days’ calendar year. Now a 103 years cycle of Table III ended at 2060 A.K. By Table III, an intercalation in the 360 days’ year and in the 365 days’ year was effected 34 years later at 2094 A.K. The 1st year, following this intercalation, half of the 1st year and the first half of the 2nd year of Amenemhat III.

Again, it is from the Calendar cycle of the intercalated year of 360 days that the calendar record of Sirius rising in the 7th year of Senusert III is found to agree with the heliacal rising of Sirius as astronomically fixed by Oppolzer’s Calculations (refer ¶ 317). Both the intercalated year of 360 days and the intercalated year of 365 days were in use during the XIIth Dynasty, and the scribe’s record on the back of the Hyksos Mathematical Papyrus gives the relative positions of the two years holding for the 2nd year after an intercalation, which 2nd year, by two coincidences that cannot both be accidental, is shown to coincide with year 2 of Amenemhat III. For an additional coincidence giving the same identity, refer to Addendum opposite on Annotations (D).

When we find, therefore, that the record, on the Mathematical Papyrus proper, states that the data were copied by the scribe Aahmes in the 12th month of the 33rd year of the reign of Ra-aa-user Apepa (I) from a copy made under Maat-en-Ra* (Amenemhat III); when we find that this record of a 12th month is followed by a scribe’s note on the back of the papyrus, of the positions of Month 1 of the 360 days Calendar (intercalated) in relation to the “*5 days over the year*” of the 365 days intercalated Calendar, we necessarily conclude that “Month I” follows “Month XII,” and therefore that the 2nd year after the intercalation and year 2 of Amenemhat III, who is mentioned, followed or were partly coincident with year 33 of Apepa (I), who is mentioned.

The name of the scribe, Aahmes, again, brings us into immediate contact with the form of name peculiar to the time of the XVIIIth Dynasty. The first signs of Hyksos’ aggression in the 2nd year of Amenemhat, when the above record was written, clearly relate to the circumstances that led to the Egyptian War of Independence—about 50 years later.

Manetho, according to the version of Eusebius, gives the Hyksos Dynasty preceding Dynasty XVIII as ruling for 103 years. This is the Calendar Cycle, with which the above data are associated. The cycle ended in 2163 A.K. in the reign of the last king of Dynasty XVII—Kames. Manetho states that the Hyksos were expelled by Alis-phragmuthosis, which name as Sayce has shown was derived from the name of Kames, Uaz-Kheper-Ra Kames, through the form Ual-s’ph’ra-Kamuthosis. (“Anc. Emp. East” p. 36).

* For Amenemhat III and Mathematics in early Greek tradition, refer Table X, p. 103, col. 2.

(2)

THE HYKSOS AGGRESSION IN RELATION TO AMENEMHAT AND EGYPTIAN WORK IN THE DELTA.

As confirming the data and conclusions of (1) above, it is a fact, worthy of consideration, that there are no works of Amenemhat III, Amenemhat IV, and Sebekneferu—the last three rulers of Dynasty XII—in the Delta, where the Hyksos were predominant; whereas buildings and statues of the earlier kings of Dynasty XII occur at Tanis and Bubastis. Certain Sphinxes, however, were discovered by Mariette at Tanis, and these, while inscribed with the name of a Hyksos King Apepa have undoubtedly been proved to be identical in style with, and similar in features to, statues of Amenemhat III. This exclusive usurpation of the work of Amenemhat III - statues of the earlier XIIIth Dynasty kings at Tanis and Bubastis not having been usurped by the Hyksos, - points to a deliberate intention to insult Amenemhat III during the actual life of that king. This intention would correspond with what we know, from the Sallier Papyrus I, concerning the satirical and insulting form of Hyksos humour that precipitated the Egyptian War of Independence.

Now the name “Apepa” is inscribed on the *right* shoulder of each of the sphinxes of Amenemhat III. In the same manner each of the granite statues of the XIIIth or XIVth Dynasty king, Mer-Meshau, contains on the *right* shoulder, an added inscription by a Hyksos king Ra-aa-qenen Apepa.

Mer-Meshau—by the synchronisms of Annotations (B) —was the contemporary of Amenemhat III, during the latter’s long reign. From what has been said above, this makes Ra-aa-qenen Apepa the contemporary of both Mer-Meshau and Amenemhat III, and a successor of Ra-aa-user Apepa (I) who was living in the 2nd year of Amenemhat III, *i.e.*, in 2095-2096 A.K.

In Semitic allegory, the right arm signified the king’s power. Thus the name of the Hyksos king inscribed on the right shoulder of each of the statues and sphinxes of the kings of Dynasties XII and XIII would signify that the Hyksos king considered himself to have thus symbolically set his seal upon the power of his Egyptian contemporaries.

So close is the connection between the reign of Araen-emhat III and the period at which the chiefs of the Hyksos settlers usurped the royal titles of the Egyptian kings that Professor Petrie (“Egypt and Israel,” p. 13), in spite of his long chronology, is forced to admit that this occurred “*soon after the XIIth Dynasty*.” Thus Petrie—who identifies the Hyksos settlers as Syro-Mesopotamian intruders, or Babylonian immigrants—states as follows :

“*Another Babylonian of the same age is a king Khen-rer, whose name is also found as that of a later Babylonian king, Kinziros, or Yukin-ziru. A well-cut tablet, now in Paris, bears the name of Khenzer along with an Egyptian name which he adopted, Ra-ne-maat-ne-kha (or Ra-en-maat-en-kha). This name is based on the name of one of the most celebrated kings of the XIIth Dynasty, Ra-ne-maat, Amenemhat III. The tablet states that the repairs of temples and provision for the worship were being carried on, and gives the king the usual Egyptian titles. All this points to the Babylonian having come into Egypt while the country was still well ordered, soon after the XIIth Dynasty and shows that he acted as a regular Egyptian king.*”

The facts must be admitted, however, that up to and including the first year of Amenemhat III, XIIth Dynasty works were executed at Tanis, that the sphinxes of Amenemhat III at Tanis were executed during the peaceful period of Hyksos Settlement in Egypt, and were later usurped by the Hyksos king Apepa; that no XIIth Dynasty work later than this occurs at Tanis, and that it was from Tanis that the Hyksos king Ra-Apepi, according to the Sallier Papyrus I, addressed his famous insulting ultimatum to Seqenen Ra (III) Tau-aa-qen of Dynasty XVII at Thebes. This precipitated the war that led to the expulsion of the Hyksos under the reign of the latter king’s successor Kames, or the 1st king of Dynasty XVIII. Aahmes or Amosis I.