

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF EGYPT

FRM :-

ROCK-DRAWINGS
OF
SOUTHERN UPPER EGYPT
I

SIR ROBERT MOND DESERT EXPEDITION

SEASON 1936-1937
PRELIMINARY REPORT

BY
HANS A. WINKLER

LONDON
THE EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY
2 HINDE STREET, MANCHESTER SQUARE
HUMPHREY MILFORD
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, AMEN HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.4
1938

his enormous stride, lifting his wings, and in front of him the hunter (35. M 467, 468a, 470, 472a, Pls. XX, XXI). The animals in the frieze are just sketched. With a few lines a spirited picture of each one is given, the elephant and the rhinoceros heavy and strong, the horned game svelte and graceful. The ostrich below is done with more detail, but the hunter is only superficially indicated. This decline of interest is remarkable. The hunter drew the ostrich with close attention; the image of his quarry dominated his mind. With the same attention he drew that important weapon, the arrow: the sinew-cutting broad tip and apparently its hafting, and the feathered or notched shaft. The 3-shaped bow is done with less interest and the hunter himself without any.

The evidence which inclines me to attribute this picture to a Hamitic artist is not strong. We more readily expect to find Hamites here than any one else. The 3-shaped bow we have already seen to be a Hamitic weapon. The broad-tipped arrow was in use among Hamites (but by no means limited to them). The fine artistry is not surprising amongst Hamites; indeed, from no other people in the desert can we expect it. The long tail of the hunter's garment, which is lightly indicated, may be intended to represent the smock-like dress which we know as Libyan from ancient Egyptian pictures.

The technique is singular. On the smooth surface of the wall the artist drew his sketch with a pebble or other blunt implement, just as one uses chalk on a blackboard. The softness of the lines, the lack of any intention of penetrating the patina of the stone, leads us to think that this artist was accustomed not to carve in rock, but to paint on rock.

It is at present not possible to date the picture. We can only say that it was probably made at a time when the hunter could observe, here near the Nile, elephants and rhinoceroses. The rhinoceros is the only specimen yet found in the rock-drawings of Egypt.

B. *Early Nile-valley Dwellers*

Drawings of these people have been found in the Western Desert at site 34. Here there are smooth limestone walls, and on them a series of drawings has been finely incised by these Early Nile-valley dwellers.

Fauna. The following animals appear: elephant, ibex, fox, crocodile or lizard; greyhound, cattle, ass. The asses are domesticated: two of them bear a burden on their back attached by girths (34. M 405a, Pl. XVI. 1).

Dress. Two of the five men represented wear a crook-like object at the girdle, which looks like a kind of Libyan sheath. It is exactly the same as that found in one drawing in the Eastern Desert (18. M 151a, Pl. XIII. 2) at that site which was particularly rich in drawings of the Early Nile-valley dwellers. Two others wear a garment reaching to the knees. One drawing (34. M 412a, Pl. XVI. 2) suggests that this cloth is a hide with the tail (compare *U'b.*, p. 7 and fig. 1). The fifth man has no definite characteristics.

Hunting. One man is hunting with a throwing-stick (34. M 412a, Pl. XVI. 2).

Shipping. Of the three sickle-shaped boats, one (34. M 406a, Pl. XIII. 1) is interesting; an ibex stands on the stern. In a drawing of these people in the Eastern Desert an animal's hide seems to be hung at the incurved stern of a boat (24 B. M 316a, Pl. XXXVI. 39). We suppose that here this ibex represents also the hide of an animal, probably sacrificed.

As has been said, this group of drawings is only slightly incised with a sharp-pointed implement. The hunter and some of the animals are not only drawn in outline, but also either

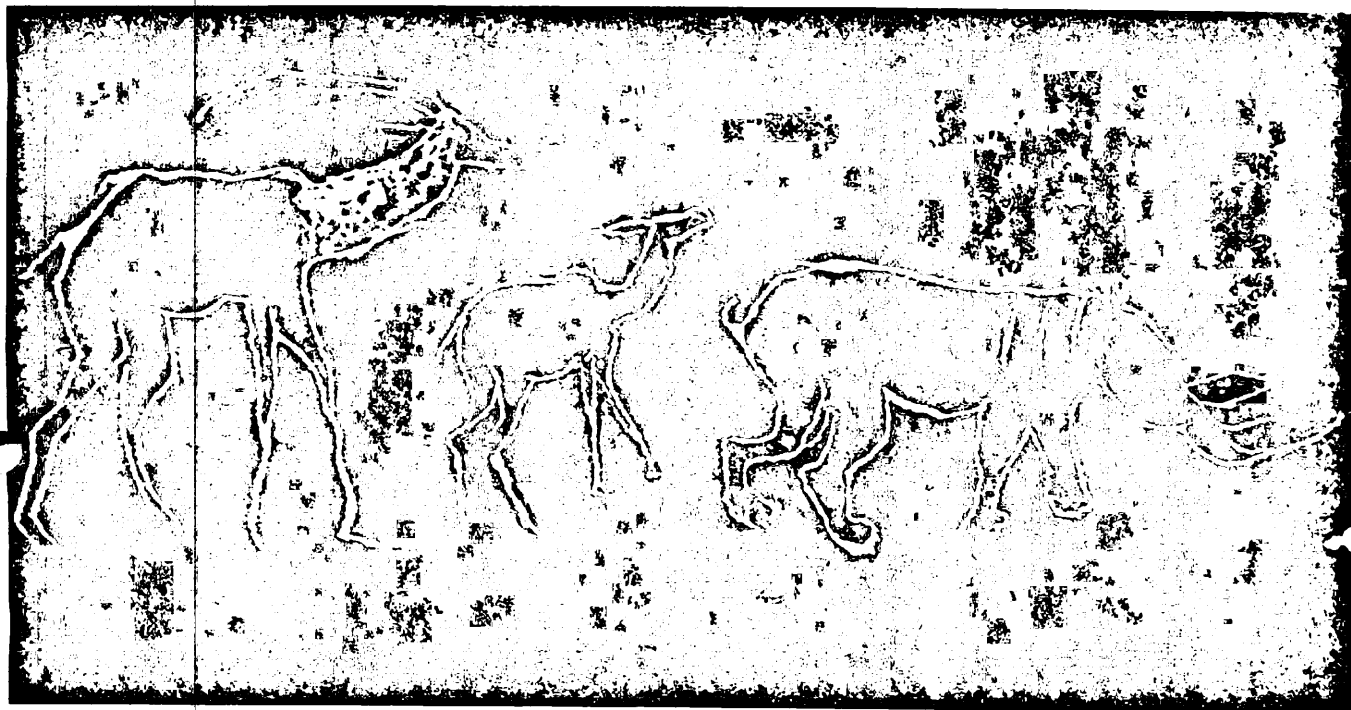


See pl XXI

1 ——— 10 cm. See p. 30.

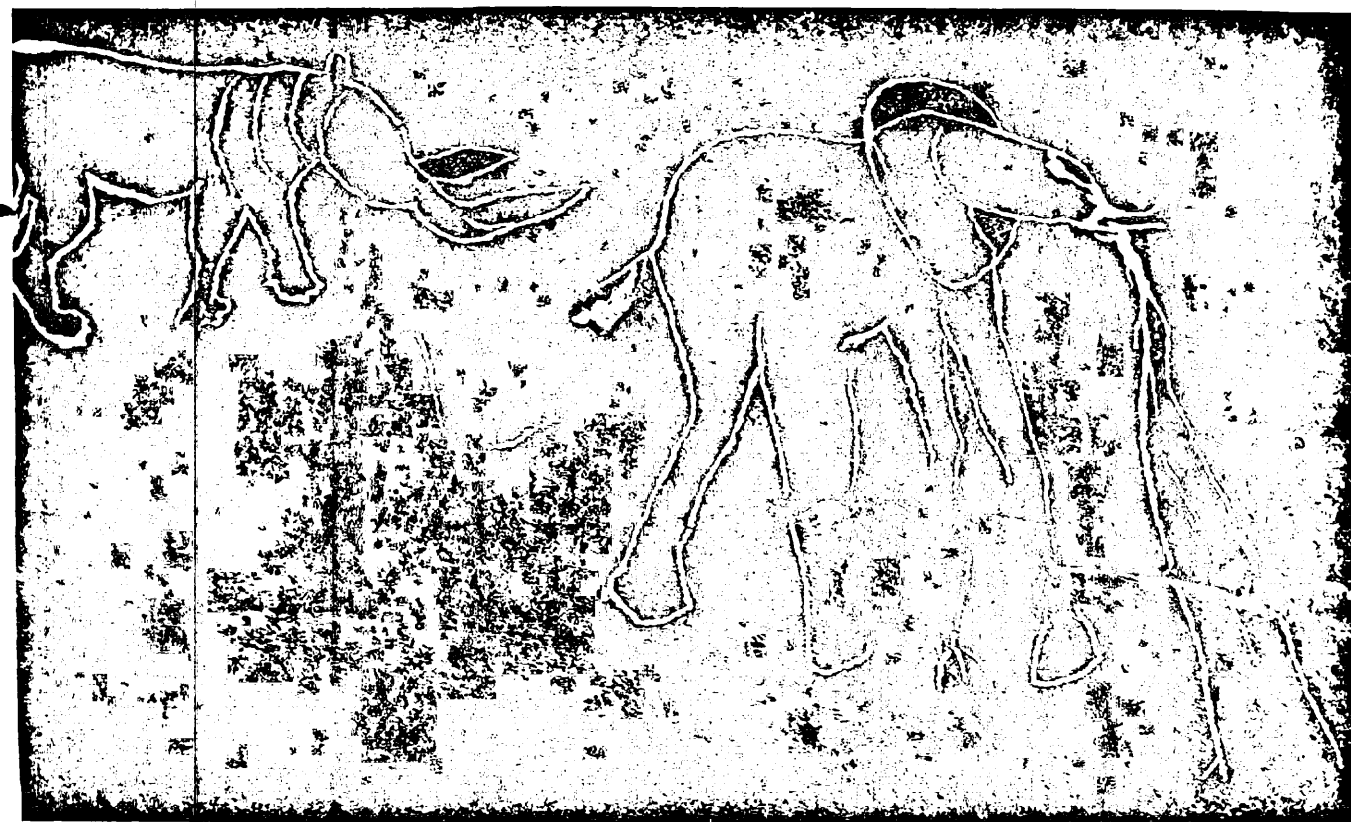
35. M 467





1 |—————| 10 cm. See p. 30.

35. M 470



2 |—————| 10 cm. See p. 30.

35. M 472a