

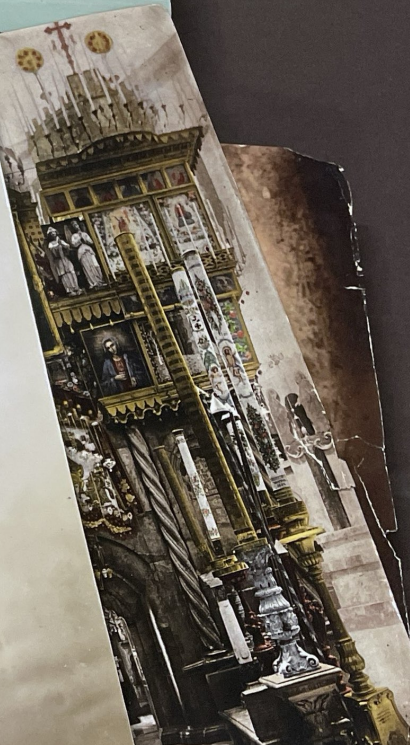


MAUD RITCHIE - EGYPT 1903-1904

1903 -

MAUD RITCHIE

EGYPT



an Arab (or a Turk) in native dress to wait at
 our table. After dinner we sat down in a
 large & comfortable room & listened to a very good band. We went to bed at 10. Our beds have mosquito curtains and we also tied up cotton wool soaked in Eucalyptus over our beds, to keep away mosquitoes. With was told of this by the old Colonel on the Moldavia. On going to bed we were astounded to hear rain pouring down in torrents on to the leads outside our windows. Rain is the last thing we expected to find in Cairo, & afterwards we heard that it was the first rain they had had this year.



Thursday. Dec: 24th 1903.
 It poured with rain all night, & was dull & coldish in the morning, and when we went out at 10 o'clock we found the streets in the most terrible condition of mud, thick & flowing. We started for the Szeik Museum on foot, but the mud was so bad that we had to take a cab. The museum building is a large new one. We had to pay 1.5 Each to get in. Papa did not stay long, but Edith & I were there for about 1 1/2 hours. We thought it awfully interesting, but all the monuments & hieroglyphics & reliefs were far beyond my comprehension. We saw the mummies of Seti, Ramases, & Thothmes, all dreadful looking objects lying in their sarcophagi. We took a cab back to the hotel, & then strolled about till 1 o'clock, when we had lunch. At 2 o'clock I & J walked round to Shepherd's Hotel, where Hilda is shut up with a cold. Mr. Wiener took us & introduced us to Mustapha Mahomet Ali, a Drayman in the Service of Cook's, and I & J took a carriage, and drove with him up to the Citadel, the highest point in Cairo,

We stopped soon after the sunset at a little place called Beni-Suef. We managed to persuade Ben Rinkewitz, the manager, to give us each a cabin as there were so many empty. This was a great relief, & Gorkh got the cabin next mine. Ibrahim comes in always at sweet time during dinner. He steals in quietly & stands just inside the door for about two minutes, then advances slowly, takes a knife to the middle of the room, turns his blinking eye on some one person, usually me, and then addresses the company "good evening, ladies & gentlemen, ~~bonjour~~, "bonjour soir, messieurs, mesdames, Guten ab' mein heer," he then tells us the arrangements for the next day, and after that he tells us a "storia". I will tell you a storia. Sometimes it is amusing, sometimes it is rather too long, but it is always received with rapt attention and applauded at the end. He has a good deal to tell us this evening about what we were going to see the next day.

Sunday - Jan 7th 1912
We left Beni-Suef early in the morning, & glided on without stopping all the morning. The scenery in places was very fine, sometimes the bank on the East side had sand cliffs rising 1000 ft. The other side being quite flat, dotted with date palms. Today was originally hot, & it was lovely sitting on deck all the morning. We passed Abou Sirgah, Kholouk, & Samalut, & in the distance we saw the rocky mountains of Gebel-el-Tayr.



of Queen Hatshepsut - called Der-el-Bohri.



At the Tombs of the Kings.



Queen Hatshepsut was associated with Tuthmosis II in the government of Egypt, and she erected this Temple to the glory of her father, her mother, and

herself, who are often pictured in the reliefs. Tuthmosis caused her name to be everywhere erased when he came to the throne, but her body name, & the Queen's name can still be read. This

Queen is frequently represented in the sculptures as wearing a beard, & she is supposed to have worn male attire, wishing to figure as a



DER-EL-BOHRI.

beginning to get dark. After dinner we had some music. Ibrahim told us rather a good story about a Nubian who was presented with a watch, which on being left one day by its owner, was "killed" by his mother, as she feared it would sting her naked children.
Sunday January 17th 1904.

A beautiful day though rather cold. At $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ there was the most lively scene on the bank, great noise & fighting among the donkey boys ~~where~~ as to whose donkeys the saddles were to be taken for. We had breakfast at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, but Papa did not get up as it was to be a long day & he was not feeling very well. We started at 8 o'clock for Abydos. We all had most excellent donkeys & donkey boys, my donkey being very keen to gallop, but as we had to ride about 16 miles in all, we went at a moderate pace, first through the village of Bahariéh, then across canals, & between fertile, green fields of flowering sugar cane, which was being cut & packed on the backs of donkey & camels, & taken to the trains.

We first rode to the Coptic Convent which dates from the year 1306 of the Coptic Era, very old & interesting. We dismounted & went into the little old church, and outside Arab schoolboys, speaking English, produced their little English reading books to show us when they learn! Then we rode on past the Ancient

site of ~~Abydos~~! Abydos was one of the most ancient cities in Egypt, and played an important rôle in the religion of the Country, for the famous grave of Osiris was here, in which the head of the god was believed to be buried in a Casket, and here, from the days of the Ancient Empire, all Egyptians desired to be buried, near the 'last abode' of the Great God Osiris. Those who



