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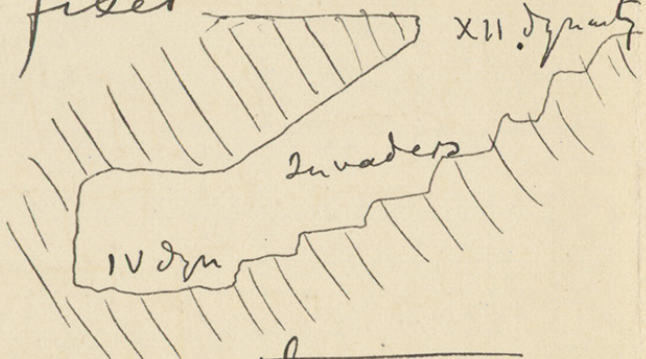
University College,
Gower St,
London. W.C.
7 April /95

My dear Sir,

Thanks for your very cordial appreciation of the work at Koptos, which I see in L'Anthropologie. And now let me tell you of an entirely new race in Egypt. I have found the foreigners who overthrew the Old Kingdom after the VI^th^ dynasty. We have excavated a small town, & cemeteries containing nearly 2000 tombs. Not a single Egyptian object was found in the whole place!! The pottery, the metal, the beads, the ivory, are all non-Egyptian; & not a single scarab or hieroglyph or figure of a god was found. It shews the most complete

destruction of a civilization that is known. Although these foreigners were devoted to fine pottery, & made great quantities, yet not one piece was made on the wheel, — it is entirely hand made with superb skill. This shews that not any workmen of the SW Egyptian race were left in that region. The extent of these invaders is at least from Abydos to Gebelen; I was working near Negada, but their characteristic things are found at the other places.

The date is absolutely fixed by the burials being in the descent to a IV^th dynasty tomb, with XII dyn burials over them. Also burials of the XII^th dynasty are cut through a town of the invaders.



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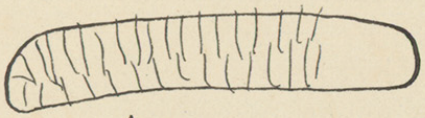
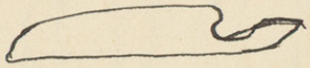
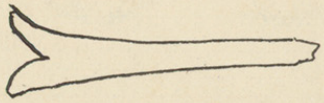
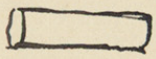
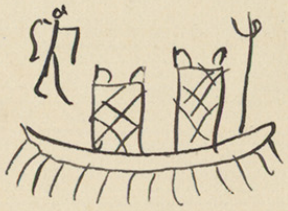
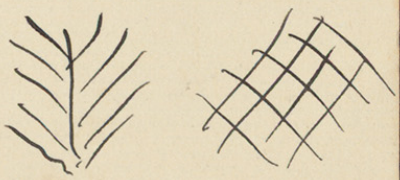
This discovery has linked together nearly all of the strange classes of objects that used to distract us in Egypt.

(1) The magnificent flint knives with long flaking, +  no handles like the Egyptian handles  . Also the forked lance  with minute saw edges . All the flint work is far finer than Egyptian.

(2) The slate slabs &c which we now find were used to grind malachite for painting the eyes.

(3) The cylindrical beads  of hard stone.

(4) The buff pottery with  red lines + figures.

(5) The red pottery with white lines + figures 

(6) The red polished pottery with black tops, produced by baking in ashes.

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(7) The wavy handle jars which degrade to cylinders

I expect about 200 cases of pottery &c, over in June, & hope to exhibit in July. Can you come then? Or come to the British Association where it would give me the greatest pleasure to have your support in the Anthropological section over which I have to preside this year. I hope you can come.

I also found the home of palaeolithic man, with perfectly unworn grand palaeoliths 20 cm long, on the top of the plateau 400 metres over the Nile. And later, palaeolithic flints in the Nile gravels. So there is hope enough to draw you to England this year.

Yours sincerely

W.M. Flinders Petrie.

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