

Notes on the Story of Sinuhe by Alan H. Gardiner: Review by: F. Ll. Griffith (The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology Book 3)

F. Ll. Griffith

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About the Author

Francis Llewellyn Griffith (1862–1934) was an eminent British Egyptologist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

F. Ll. Griffith was born in Brighton on 27 May 1862 where his father, Rev. Dr. John Griffith, was Principal of Brighton College. After schooling at Brighton College (1871), then privately by his father, he went to Sedbergh School, Yorkshire (1875-8). Griffith was awarded a scholarship to Queen's College and went up to the University of Oxford in 1879, his enthusiasm for Egyptology already apparent: in the absence of an Egyptological department he taught himself ancient Egyptian. After the establishment of a post in Egyptology, Griffith was appointed Reader in 1901. He was Professor of Egyptology at the university from 1924 until 1932 and died in 1934.

By the terms of his will the Griffith Institute at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford was established in 1939.

Alan Gardiner

Sir Alan Henderson Gardiner (29 March 1879, Eltham – 19 December 1963, Oxford) was one of the premier English Egyptologists of the early and mid-20th century. Some of his most important publications include a 1959 book on his study of "The Royal Canon of Turin" and his seminal 1961 work Egypt of the Pharaohs, which covered all aspects of Egyptian chronology and history at the time of publication.

Two major contributions to ancient Egyptian philology by Gardiner are his famous three editions of Egyptian Grammar and its correlated list of all the Middle Egyptian hieroglyphs in Gardiner's Sign List. Publishing Egyptian Grammar produced one of the few available hieroglyphic printing fonts.

In 1915 Gardiner was also able to crack the so-called Proto-Sinaitic writing system by deciphering the "B'alat inscriptions".

He was educated at Temple Grove School, Charterhouse, and Queens College, Oxford; he was later a student of the famous egyptologist Kurt Heinrich Sethe in Berlin.

The Book

"The Story of Sinuhe" is considered one of the finest works of Ancient Egyptian literature. It is a narrative set in the aftermath of the death of Pharaoh Amenembat I, founder of the 12th dynasty of Egypt, in the early 20th century BC. It is likely that it was composed only shortly after this date, albeit the earliest extant manuscript is from the reign of Amenemhat III, ca. 1800 BC.

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