

Long Lost Engravings Relating to the Laocoon Still in Existence

ROME, Aug. 2.—Three copies of long lost engravings relating to the Laocoon have recently been discovered among some unsorted manuscripts in an old private library in Rome and have been reproduced by V. Bacolo & Co., who have kindly permitted their publication in the Sun. They include the caricature of the Laocoon by Titian, a conception of the Laocoon attributed to Raphael and a picture of the statue as it appeared when discovered in 1506, showing the missing parts.

The three engravings are unique and were practically unknown before their recent discovery. The caricature of Titian is of great artistic value, as the position of Laocoon's arms is inverted, and unlike the reconstruction in the original and Bandinelli's copy, the right arm instead of the left is raised on high.

Some critics incline to believe that originally the raised hands of the old man rested on his head and they contend that traces of the junction are clearly visible on the statue. This opinion seems to be corroborated by the evidence of an old gem on which the group is thus engraved.

But the engraving by Marco Dente shows the central figure in the same position of the original group, and both Michael Angelo and Bandinelli preferred, the former in his reconstruction of the arm, the latter in his copy, not to spoil the effect of Laocoon's

microscopic head by the conjunction of one of his hands to it.

The wonderful group of the Laocoon now at the Vatican was discovered by Felice de Fredis in a vineyard on the Esquilin in 1506, during the very highest development of Italian renaissance and while Michael Angelo was in Rome. The right arm of the central figure, that of the father, was missing at the time of the discovery, and it was restored in terra cotta by Michael Angelo himself.

The Laocoon is considered as a perfect specimen of antique sculpture, and Pliny's high estimation of it—"a work that may be considered superior to all others both in painting and statuary"—holds good to this very day. Both the grouping and the execution have never been surpassed. Every limb, every muscle, every vein of Laocoon and his two sons expresses with the fidelity of life the anguish, pain and grief of the unhappy trio.

The group of the Laocoon was copied in marble by the sculptor Baccio Bandinelli and modelled in bronze by Jacopo Sansonvino, and it is interesting to follow the story of Bandinelli's copy, especially in view of the finding of the long forgotten caricature of this unpopular artist's work, which is attributed to Titian.



THE LAOCOON



ENGRAVING BY MARCO DENTE OF LAOCOON AS DRAWN BY RAPHAEL

to Rome. While there the pope asked him if he thought he could make a copy of the Laocoon, which it was intended to send as a present to King Francis I of France.

According to Vasari, Bandinelli replied that he not only felt himself capable of equalling the original but of surpassing it as well. Before the blocks of marble were procured the sculptor got to work and made a model of the Laocoon in wax which was greatly praised; besides, he made a life size cartoon in black and white of the group, which the pope greatly admired.

When the marble arrived Baccio built a shed in the Belvedere, and within a short time he made so excellent a copy of the elder son of Laocoon that both the pope and all connoisseurs of the time remained astonished because between the original and the copy no difference could be found. Baccio, encouraged by this approval, began the statue of the father and the other son, but before long the pope died.

When Adrian VI was elected pope the original Laocoon narrowly escaped destruction, as he turned away from it, shuddering, and exclaiming: "Idol of the pagans!" It was then feared that the barbarian pope would order the burning of all pagan statues to make lime for the building of St. Peter's, and Bandinelli was advised to re-

turn to Florence and interrupt his work in Rome. When Clement VII succeeded Adrian, Bandinelli returned again to Rome and after two years' work he finished his copy.

It is difficult for modern critics to judge whether the admiration of Vasari and of Pope Clement VII for Bandinelli's Laocoon really corresponded to the merits of this statue, as the group, which was considered at the time such a masterpiece that instead of sending it to the king of France as originally intended, the pope sent it to his family palace in Florence, was greatly damaged by fire in 1582 and is half calcined.

Bandinelli's vanity and arrogance knew no bounds after his success with the Laocoon's copy. Benvenuto Cellini had already criticised Bandinelli's group of Hercules and Cacus in the following terms in the presence of the grand duke and of Bandinelli himself: "If your Hercules had his hair cropped he would not have skull enough left to hold his brain. One cannot tell whether his face is that of a man or a monster, for he is half lion and half ox. His heavy shoulders remind me of the two pillars of a donkey's pack saddle. His chest and muscles are copied, not from human nature, but from a bag of melons." He is said to have been so angry that he told Bandinelli: "Provide yourself with another world, Baccio, as I am determined to remove you from this one very soon." Baccio retorted: "Let me know just a day



ENGRAVING BY MARCO DENTE OF LAOCOON AS IT APPEARED WHEN DISCOVERED

ahead, so that I may get shriven and make my will, as I do not wish to die like a beast, the same as you are."

Michael Angelo said, referring to Bandinelli's Laocoon, that he who follows others can never get ahead of them, and he who does not know how to work well by himself can never expect to use the good work done by others.

It was at this time that Titian drew his classic caricature. Maso Finiguerra, the goldsmith, had then just discovered the method to take on paper impressions in ink from an engraved plate, and within a short time beautiful engravings were sold all over Italy and many famous painters engraved their own works.

Niccolo Boldini engraved Titian's caricature, which represents the Laocoon and his two sons as three monkeys, and many copies were scattered over Rome and Florence which deluged Bandinelli with ridicule. This engraving and two others printed here were published at the same time.

The two other engravings were the work of Marco Dente. As has been said they represent one conception of the Laocoon attributed to Raphael and the other the statue as it appeared when it was discovered in 1506, showing the missing parts. All three became extinct, and although engravings have existed no trace of them could be found until their recent discovery here.

placed by new ones. The ground around them is kept clear of weeds and the young trees are carefully trimmed twice a year. In five or six years the tree will have reached the height of twelve or thirteen feet, and its trunk will be straight and slender. It resembles the orange tree in size and shape, and the peculiar gloss of its leaves.

Two or three times a year, three or four strips of bark, about four inches wide, from two to eight feet long, are cut from the trunk and thrown upon a paved yard to dry, where, as the moisture evaporates, they curl up like cinnamon. Within a year or so, nature replaces the bark that has thus been stripped off, and the tree is stripped again in other places. As it grows older, smaller strips can be taken from the stronger branches, and the nature tree will produce an annual average of about four pounds of bark.

The mark dries in a few days, and is packed for shipment in rawhide bales. Most of it is shipped with an eye to dryness in the holds.—Philadelphia Record.

Quinine Grown on German Plantations

THE quinine plantations, or quinalas, as they are called, which have been started in South Germany are usually found on rough and broken mountain sides, and at altitudes of 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the sea. The trees will grow at a height of 5,000 feet, but they require a great deal of sun, rain and wind, and therefore flourish best at an elevation of 1,000 feet.

Most of the groves have been raised from the seed, which is gathered in the early summer months, and planted in hot houses. When the plants are about six inches high, they are transplanted upon hillsides which have been cleared of underbrush and plowed up beforehand, so that the young roots can secure the benefit of all the moisture and plant food in the soil and the heat of the sun. For shelter they are partially covered with twigs, straw and other light stuff, which also serves to keep the moisture and heat in the ground.

After two years, this shelter is raked off, the plants are carefully inspected and those which are not promising are re-

placed by new ones. The ground around them is kept clear of weeds and the young trees are carefully trimmed twice a year. In five or six years the tree will have reached the height of twelve or thirteen feet, and its trunk will be straight and slender. It resembles the orange tree in size and shape, and the peculiar gloss of its leaves.

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How Archaeologists Are Unearthing Graves Forty Centuries Old

CAIRO, Aug. 22, 1907.—The most important archaeological work now going on in Egypt is in the hands of the Americans. Our scientists are making explorations in Nubia, away up the Nile, and they are opening up tombs in the desert near Luxor. There is a rich Yankee named Davis, who is carrying on a series of independent investigations not far from Thebes. He has spent large sums and has discovered the tombs of several kings who reigned over 4,000 years ago. He recently unearthed the mummy of Queen Hatshepsut, which is now on view in the museum at Cairo, and he has made many other finds in the last year.

Right here, under the shadow of the pyramids, two American institutions have a large force of natives at work and have uncovered a cemetery of the time when the greatest of the pyramids was built. This cemetery includes the tombs not only of the rich, but also of the poor, and the relics, statues and other things found in it enable one to reconstruct the lives of those who were buried here now more than 4,000 years ago.

George Reisner, one of the most efficient archaeologists of the day, has charge of the work. Dr. Reisner came to Egypt about six years ago as the head of the Hearst expedition. He worked for it several years and made valuable explorations far up the Nile. He discovered there the first-working camps of the people of the pharaonic period, and he explored quarries which date back to the times of the Ptolemies. He also unearthed the site of a large town which was in existence 1,500 years before Christ and excavated a mass of valuable material therefrom. He then came nearer Cairo and there uncovered cemeteries of ancient times, which give us a new view of Egyptian civilization.

It was in connection with the Boston museum that he began his work at the pyramids, and as it is now carried on, the museum gets all of the art discoveries, while Harvard receives everything found bearing upon history and ethnology. It should be said that one-half of all that is unearthed goes to the Egyptian government and the other half to the United States.

together and are bringing new life to the pages of history.

In Desert with American Excavator.

I went out to the pyramids today and called upon the chief of the American excavation works. Dr. Reisner has built him a home under the shadow of old Cheops. He is beyond that greatest of the pyramids, with the sands reaching for miles away on the north, south and west of him. His house is built of stone, which probably came from the pyramids. It is a long, one-story structure, not over twelve feet in height, but large enough to contain a laboratory, a photographic establishment and the necessary instruments of an archaeologist.

One part of it is the living quarters of Dr. Reisner and his family. He has his wife and baby with him, and as we chatted together his little daughter, a bright-eyed infant not more than a year or so old, played about our feet. The baby was born here on the edge of the Libyan desert, and her youth and the age of old Cheops, that great tomb of more than 4,000 years ago, were striking in their contrast. As I looked at "the little one" I thought of the

tombs of the babies of more than forty centuries ago which her father is now excavating.

During my stay we examined some photographs of Dr. Reisner's discoveries. One represented three statues of a well-to-do couple who lived here in those bygone ages. It was Teti and his wife. The faces were life-like and I doubt not Mr. and Mrs. Teti sat for them.

There were other photographs of objects found in the cemetery of the rich and also some found in the cemetery of the poor. The higher classes of that time were buried near the pyramid, and beyond them, farther up the desert, were the burial places of the poor. The latter are, I believe, the only graves of that class so far discovered. Each poor person had a little coffin-like hole in the ground built round with stones. These holes were close together, making, as it were, a great series of stone boxes, reminding one of the compartments for eggs in a packing case.

To the Pyramids by Trolley.

This is the third time that I have made lengthy visits to the pyramids of Egypt. In 1882 I rode to them on a donkey. In 1889

I came out from Cairo in a comfortable carriage, and today I passed over the same route on an electric trolley, paying 74 cents for the trip. The street cars to the pyramids began at the end of the bridge, opposite Cairo, and go along the side of a wide avenue, which is shaded by acacia trees. The cars are open and one can look out over the Nile valley as he goes. The tracks run along one of the main roads and we whizzed by caravans of donkeys, loaded with all sorts of farm products, and by camels, ridden by gowned men, who bobbed up and down in the saddle as they went. There were men, women and children on foot, and veiled women on donkeys.

The cars were filled with Egyptians. Two dark-faced men in black gowns and white turbans sat on the seat beside me. In front was a yellow-skinned Arab dandy in a red fez cap and long gown, and just behind me sat a woman with a black veil fastened to her forehead by brass hoops. As we neared the pyramids we stopped at a cafe where they sold American drinks and a little further on was a great hotel, containing a telephone, electric lights and all modern improvements.

I took a donkey for my ride to the great pyramid of Cheops, and today I passed around it, climbing up the stones here and there to see how it was made. I have gone to the top and made notes of the desert as it stretches out for miles on three sides, and also of the valley of the Nile, which, with its teeming millions is in view not far away. The top of the pyramid is about thirty feet square. It is as big as a good sized parlor and is one of the most interesting roof gardens known to man. As I sat there I could see the work going on in the sands below me, and I reaped them with the men now being dug up under the superintendence of our Americans. In my mind's eye I could see them as they toiled here over 4,000 years ago. I could see them dragging the great blocks over the road of polished stones, which had been made for the purpose and observe the sweat rolling down their dusty faces under the blazing sun of Egypt. It was the labor of their taskmasters, the great pile grew. There was an army of them. One hundred thousand men worked three months of every year for more than twenty years on this construction, and Herodotus says that the onions, garlic and radishes which the laborers ate cost \$1,000,000. If that was the price of radishes, what must the real food have cost? How much must have been spent on clothing and how much on toilet?

The Cemetery of Cheops.

When I visited Egypt, just after the assassination of President Garfield, the sands about the pyramids were almost as smooth as those of the seashore. I galloped my donkey over them and had no idea that I was tramping down innumerable graves.

I walked over the same ground yesterday, picking my way in and out through a vast network of half-broken-down tombs, from which the sand had been shoveled, and climbed across piles of sun-dried bricks which were made by the Egyptians at the time old King Cheops lived and reigned. In one place I saw a rang of half-naked brown skinned fellows shoveling the earth into the cars in which it is carried far out in the desert, in order to unearth the tombs below. When the work is in full play an endless caravan of cars of sand play an endless track with turntables at each end, and the arrangements are such that the sand can be taken out at the rate of half a ton per minute. For a long time seventy-two men were employed and the result is that some most interesting historical material has been collected. About one-half of this is now here in the museum at Cairo and the other half has gone to the University of California and Harvard.

Uncle Sam's Successful Gamble.

The story of the allotment of the archaeological territory about the pyramids is interesting. The government was anxious to have the country excavated, and there were three nations ready to do the work. The three were Germany, Italy and the United States. Archaeologists representing each of these countries came here as its representatives and the whole of the Gizeh pyramid field was turned over to the one with the understanding that Egypt was to have half of the discoveries.

Then the question came up as to how the field should be divided. As it was then, it was a great area of sand not far from the banks of the Nile with the big pyramid of Cheops and the smaller ones of Khafren and Mycerinus rising out of it, each being quite a distance apart from the others. Each nation wished to do independent work, and the archaeologists finally agreed to divide the tract into three sections and cast lots for them. I am told that Mrs. Dr. Reisner held the straw. In the drawing the United States got the tract just north of the great pyramid and Germany and Italy those to the south of it. Our tract was thought to be the best of all, and Uncle Sam's luck has been no better evidenced than right here. We are making more finds than both the other nations put

together and are bringing new life to the pages of history.

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Millions of Stone Blocks.

The great pyramid was composed of 2,300,000 separate blocks of stone. It covered thirteen acres and still contains more than 8,000,000 cubic yards of solid masonry, taking out the chambers within it. Its perpendicular height is now just about that of a forty-five-story flat, allowing ten feet to each story; it is within 100 feet of the height of the Washington monument, provided you do not count the aluminum tip of the latter.

These stones of which the pyramid is built are of different sizes. Some are as big as a flat-topped office desk and some are so high that you require two men to pull you toward as you climb from terrace to terrace. I am told that one cheap weight something like 1,000,000 tons, so much that if the blocks were torn apart and loaded on wagons it would take something like 10,000,000 horses, or more than half of all the horses in the United States, to drag it off to the sea.

For such an undertaking the stones would have to be broken to pieces. There are few of them which do not weigh at least two tons and some of the large blocks which cover the king's chamber inside the structure weigh sixty tons. As measured

Harvard College and Boston Museum. The excavations which are now being made near the great pyramid are in the interest of Harvard College and the Boston Museum. They furnish the money and Dr.

RICH MAN'S CEMETERY NOW BEING EXCAVATED BY AMERICANS—CHEOPS IN BACKGROUND

PAUPERS' FIELD OF FORTY CENTURIES AGO.

(Continued on Page Four.)