

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT ANTINOË.

BY THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

Recent archæological work was interestingly shown in the exhibition lately held in Paris by the Society of Archæological Research, a comparatively new association which nevertheless counts many well-known savants among its members. The exhibit of the eminent Egyptologist, M. Gayet, of some of his latest discoveries at Antinoë, forms one of the most interesting features. This highly important collection will be placed in the Louvre, where special quarters are to be prepared for it.

M. Gayet has been engaged within recent years in making excavations at the ruins of Antinoë, the city founded by the Emperor Hadrian to commemorate the death of his favorite, Antinous. The specimens which are here illustrated are among the latest discoveries of M. Gayet during the past year.

These discoveries were principally of different forms of tombs and the embalmed bodies and objects which they contained. In these tombs the bodies are clothed, generally, in the garments which the person was accustomed to wear. In other cases the bodies are wrapped in several winding sheets which are held in place by cloth bands. Over this is placed a mask of painted stucco or a portrait of the deceased. Often a single garment with a design of flowers covers the body. Embroidered cushions filled with feathers support the head. Around the body, generally at the head and feet, are placed objects which the person used in life. Different methods were employed for preserving the mummies. We find the black mummy, prepared with bitumen but not embalmed, wrapped in sheets and wound around with bands. The head and

greater part of which had been badly copied and were illegible. This is often the case in similar relics of this epoch of the Greek sepulchers, when the person was interred according to the Pharaonic rites merely because of his employment. Only the signs which represented the name and titles of the person had been reproduced distinctly, and this so that there should be no mistake as to his identity in the other world. The name is thus found to be "Khelmis, the precious singer of the Osiris Antinous." The body of the young woman is admirably preserved, and no doubt all the resources of the embalmer's art were brought into requisition. The body is clothed in the long veil of Isis, which closely resembles the drapery we find on the Tanagra statuettes. The veil, draped over the lower half of the face, is quite characteristic, though this was the first time that it had been found at Antinoë. The stuff is a kind of silk tissue, dyed a pale yellow, while the robe is of the same color. A diadem of leaves surrounds the forehead, while a garland starts from the neck and descends to the feet, after being wrapped several times about the body.

In the case had been placed different objects relating to the employment of the deceased. At the head was a statuette of Isis-Venus, of painted plaster, and hollow in the interior. The hair is tinted a light red and is surmounted by a diadem with the attributes of

different varieties but at least four distinct species of these horse-like animals more or less marked by dark stripes across their bodies, seems to be scarcely known to those who have not had occasion to study the subject, and yet the differences in the four species can be perceived at a glance when the animals are brought together as they are in the accompanying illustrations.

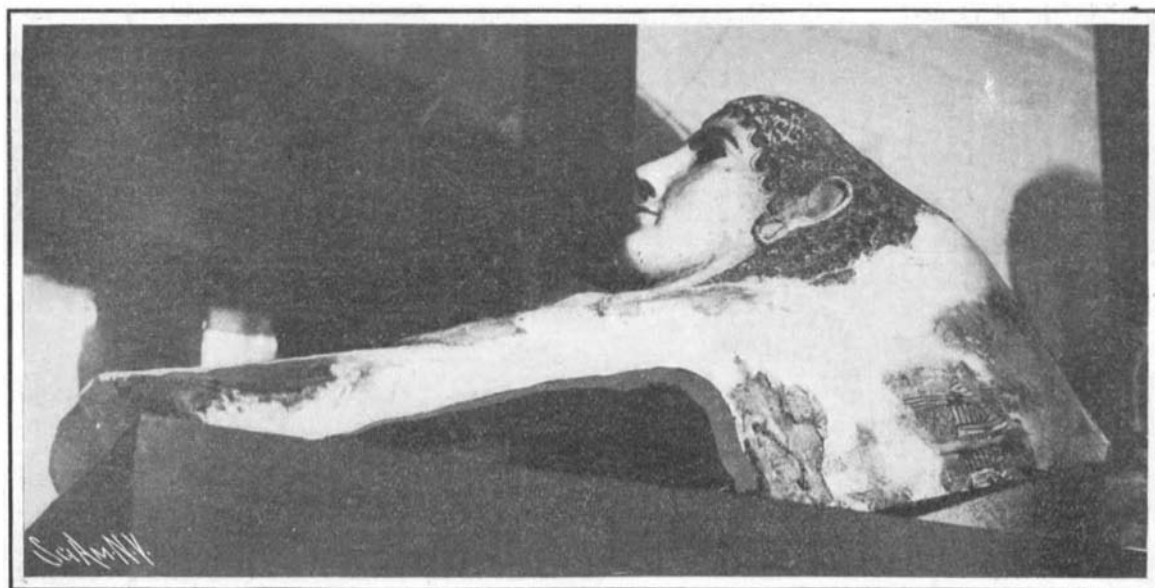
The zebra best and longest known outside of Africa, the one that has given its name to all members of the genus *Equus* distinguished by bodies marked with stripes, is the mountain zebra (*Equus zebra*), the *wilde paard* or wild horse of the old Dutch African colonists. It has now become so rare that it is even supposed to have become extinct in the district.

Of all the zebras this species possesses the most complete and perfect suit of markings. In writing of it Mr. C. L. Sutherland, fellow of the zoological society in England, says: "Although the true zebra is much more beautiful than the allied species known as Burchell's zebra, there can be no doubt that it is more asinine in its build, not only in the form of its head and tail but markedly in the length of its ears. Nevertheless the animal is full of grace and beauty. It is true its shoulder is straighter than would be approved in a horse, that the quarters are shorter, the neck thicker, and the cannon bones longer, but no one can look at the animal without being struck by its extreme beauty."

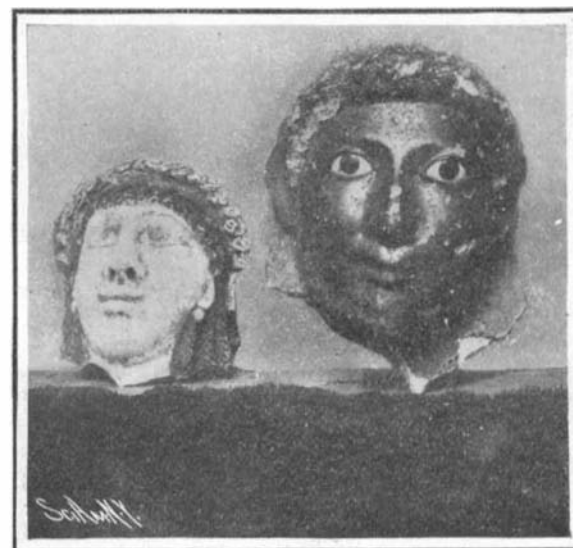
From its smaller size, straighter shoulders and more asinine form the mountain zebra is less adapted for the service of man as a beast of burden or draft animal than the Burchell's zebra; nevertheless, although it is a more difficult animal to handle and break in than the comparatively larger and stronger animal referred to, it



The Body of Khelmis.



The Mask of Painted Plaster Which Was Placed on the Mummy.



Mummy Masks. A Painted Plaster Head and a Gilded Head With Enameled Eyes.

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breast are often covered by a mask or plate of decorated plaster. Then we find the bodies which are embalmed and clothed in their accustomed garments. We illustrate some of the masks which are used to cover the first-mentioned type of mummies. As required by the Egyptian ritual they are life-like representations of the features. Some of the masks are painted in colors, while others are covered with gold-leaf and have eyes of enamel. Some of the bodies are those of persons who took part in the Olympic games which were instituted in honor of Antinous. We find a charioteer and a gladiator who were champions of the hippodrome of Antinoë. The most interesting of the bodies is that of a young woman, Khelmis, who seems to have been a singer devoted to the celebrations of the deity, and who was interred with the different objects belonging to the worship. In another tomb was found the body of Glithias, whose office it was to clothe, ornament, and perfume the divine statue and to burn incense before it. It was accompanied by perfume flasks, wreaths, and garlands.

Among the most interesting tombs is that of the singer Khelmis. The sepulcher was built of masonry and contained the remains of a plaster-covered wooden case which inclosed the body. At the head and feet were fragments of wood slabs which were covered with paintings of the Egyptian ritual. In these an image of Isis appears, accompanied by inscriptions, the

goddess. At the feet was a pair of crotales in bronze, of rather large diameter, and joined by a leather thong. The pottery which accompanied the mummy consists of red and black figured Greek vases, and there is also a number of small alabaster perfume flasks which may be distinguished at the side of the body. Very curious is the miniature bark containing a marionette theater. It has a set of movable figures which are mounted upon pivots and which were made to move by means of strings. The latter were still visible at the time when the tomb was opened. The sacred bark contains a small platform in the center, mounted in front of which is an upright panel. The panel has a square opening which can be closed by two shutters. In the foreground are the movable figures, crudely carved out of wood, and these can be seen from the front. They seem to represent Isis, accompanied by Osiris, with the sacred tree and the emblem of Horus. The bark containing the miniature theater seems to have been used in celebrations of the deity.

STRIPED STEEDS.

BY J. CARTER BEARD.

The recent importation of a specimen of the rare Grévy zebra obtained by W. P. Ellis of King Menelik of Abyssinia, who, Mr. Ellis says, possesses five others, has naturally attracted attention to the fact that there are many varieties of zebras. That there are not only

can be and often is tamed and ridden. The Grévy zebra brought to this country by W. P. Ellis is the first of the species that ever entered the western hemisphere. A specimen sent alive to the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, some years ago was the first, probably, that ever left Africa.

Sir William Flower, writing of this species, says: "Being obviously different from any that had hitherto been seen in Europe it was named by M. Milne Edwards *Equus grevyi* in compliment to his political chief. On a white ground color it is very finely marked all over with numerous delicate, intensely black stripes, arranged in a pattern quite different from those of the other species. In view of the great variability of the markings of these animals, as long as but one specimen of this form was known some doubts were expressed as to whether it might not be an exceptionally-colored individual of one of the other species; but subsequently additional specimens, presenting almost exactly the same characters, have been received from Somaliland, and it seems something more than probable that all the zebras known to exist in the northern districts of East Africa belong to this species."

A. H. Newmann, in a letter from Laiju, East Central Africa, writes: "As we emerged from the bush we saw zebras ahead of us. . . . I was soon made aware by their great, wide ears and their different markings that they were not the common Burchell's species.