The volume provides a detailed catalogue of 127 stelae (many funerary) deriving from the Nile Valley, now part of the Egyptian collection in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. The stelae are written in various scripts – Egyptian hieroglyphic, hieratic and demotic, Carian, Greek, Coptic and early Arabic – and cover a date-range of over 4000 years. Few museums have published their complete holdings of such material, and the carefully described and translated information from these stelae throws a flood of light on the history, religion, funerary customs, art and iconography, daily life and administrative systems of ancient Egypt and Nubia. Each entry has a photograph of the stela as well as a meticulous line-drawing which enables the texts and iconography to be understood and interpreted. Full museological details such as material, precise measurements, provenance (where known), mode of acquisition and dating are provided. The volume will interest specialists as well as a wider public concerned with Egyptology.
Stelae from Egypt and Nubia in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, c. 3000 BC–AD 1150

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Contents

Acknowledgements vi
List of abbreviations vii
Works cited viii
Chronological table xii
Preface xiii

CATALOGUE OF STELAE
Egyptian catalogue 1
  Hieroglyphic nos. 1–18, 20–30, 32–97, 99 2
  Hieratic nos. 19, 31 29, 52
  Demotic no. 98 141
Carian catalogue nos. 100–103 143
Greek catalogue nos. 104–114 149
Coptic catalogue nos. 115–122 167
Cufic catalogue nos. 123–126 183
Modern catalogue no. 127 189

Bibliography of published stelae collections and commentaries 191

Indexes
Concordance of Fitzwilliam Museum accession numbers and present Catalogue 194
Concordance of Budge, A Catalogue of the Egyptian Collection, and present Catalogue 195
Royal names 195
Deities, including epithets 195
Titles, administrative departments, etc. 196
Egyptian personal and geographical names 198
Carian names 200
Greek, Coptic and Arabic names 200
Provenances, etc. 201
Objects in museums 201
General 202
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Abbreviations

BES  Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar
BiOr  Bibliotheca Orientalis
CdE  Chronique d’Egypte
CT  Coffin Texts
DACL  Dictionnaire d’Archéologie chrétienne et de Liturgie
DE  Discussions in Egyptology
DNB  Dictionary of National Biography
GM  Göttinger Miszellen
JARCE  Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt
JECA  Journal of Egyptian Archaeology
JHS  Journal of Hellenic Studies
JJP  Journal of Juristic Papyrology
JNES  Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JSSEA  Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities
JTS  Journal of Theological Studies
KRI  K. A. Kitchen, Ramesside Inscriptions, Historical and Biographical
LÄ  Lexikon der Ägyptologie
LXX  Septuagint
OMRO  Oudheidkundige Mededelingen uit het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden
MDAIK  Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo
MMJ  Metropolitan Museum Journal
Or Chr  Oriens Christianus
PM  B. Porter and R. L. B. Moss, Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings
PN  H. Ranke, Die ägyptischen Personennamen
PT  Pyramid Texts
RdE  Revue d’Egyptologie
SAK  Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur
TT  Theban Tomb
Wb.  A. Erman and H. Grapow, Wörterbuch der aegyptischen Sprache
WZKM  Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes
ZÄS  Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache
ZPE  Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik
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## Chronological table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predynastic</th>
<th>Early Dynastic</th>
<th>Old Kingdom</th>
<th>Middle Kingdom</th>
<th>Late Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badarian</td>
<td>c. 5000–4500 BCE</td>
<td>Dynasty I</td>
<td>2628–2134 BCE</td>
<td>1650–1551 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naqada I</td>
<td>c. 4500–4000 BCE</td>
<td>Dynasty II</td>
<td>2150–2134 BCE</td>
<td>1551–1070 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naqada II</td>
<td>c. 4000–3000 BCE</td>
<td>Dynasties VII–VIII</td>
<td>2134–2040 BCE</td>
<td>1551–1070 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naqada III</td>
<td>c. 3000 BCE</td>
<td>Dynasties IX–X (in Middle Egypt)</td>
<td>2134–2040 BCE</td>
<td>1070–945 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dynasty XI (in Upper Egypt)</td>
<td>2134–2040 BCE</td>
<td>945–715 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>First Intermediate Period</td>
<td>2134–2040 BCE</td>
<td>808–715 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dynasty VI</td>
<td>2325–2150 BCE</td>
<td>725–711 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dynasties VII–VIII</td>
<td>2150–2134 BCE</td>
<td>715–664 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dynasty V</td>
<td>2465–2325 BCE</td>
<td>664–525 BCE</td>
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<td>Dynasty IV</td>
<td>2575–2465 BCE</td>
<td>525–404 BCE</td>
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<td>Dynasty III</td>
<td>2628–2575 BCE</td>
<td>404–399 BCE</td>
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<td>Dynasty VI</td>
<td>2325–2150 BCE</td>
<td>399–380 BCE</td>
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<td>Dynasties VII–VIII</td>
<td>2150–2134 BCE</td>
<td>380–343 BCE</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2465–2325 BCE</td>
<td>343–332 BCE</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>2575–2465 BCE</td>
<td>332–306 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dynasty III</td>
<td>2628–2575 BCE</td>
<td>306–30 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dynasty VI</td>
<td>2325–2150 BCE</td>
<td>30–AD 641 BCE</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dynasties VII–VIII</td>
<td>2150–2134 BCE</td>
<td>Roman–Coptic Period</td>
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<td>Dynasty V</td>
<td>2465–2325 BCE</td>
<td>30–AD 641 BCE</td>
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Preface

The stelae and fragments of stelae from the Nile Valley in the Department of Antiquities in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, form an interesting collection, one hundred and twenty-seven in number, ranging in date from Dynasty I (c. 3000 BC) to the Middle Ages. One is a modern piece, included for comparative purposes. A number of Coptic stelae and several inscribed in Greek or with Greek iconographical elements are also included in this catalogue, as are four Carian monuments, one being of particular interest and importance, stemming from recent excavations in Egypt. Finally, four Cufic gravestones round out the picture of inscribed and decorated stelae from Egypt in the Museum.

Of the vast number of surviving Egyptian stelae of all periods, comparatively few have been published as facsimile line drawings, the mode adopted in the present catalogue. Facsimile recording of monuments of necessity involves considerable investment of time, but in the final analysis is doubtless the best way of rendering all iconographical and other details, especially of damaged surfaces. Such details may not be evident even in photographs of high quality. The present author is fortunate in being able to include photographs in the catalogue as well as his own drawings. The design of the publication precludes the reduction of the latter to a uniform scale. However, precise measurements are cited in the individual catalogue entries.

In the catalogue the commentary has usually been kept to a minimum, as in other volumes of stelae, notably the series published in recent years by the Department of Egyptian Antiquities (now renamed the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan) in the British Museum. I have, however, provided translations. A few stelae have previously been given full and often definitive treatment by specialists in sundry publications. In the present volume full indexes are provided in lieu of an analysis in extenso.

In addition, a reasonably complete and annotated bibliography of catalogues, commentaries on, and collections of Egyptian stelae is included for comparative use and for further study. Dating the material occasionally presents problems. Refinements will no doubt be forthcoming as a result of the publication of this corpus.

It is hoped that the work will prove of use to specialists, not least because many of the stelae are unpublished or are merely mentioned in the literature. Stelae provide a rich mine of information, in some ways scarcely tapped, on many aspects of Egyptian culture. The catalogue may also be of service to an increasing number of members of the lay public who take an interest in all things Egyptian, and by their financial and other aid provide valuable support for research in the field and in the museums. Note: Greek stela 116 is published in the Coptic section of the Catalogue, p. 173.

1 A number of items classified as stelae in the museum records have been excluded from the present work since they in fact fall into other object categories (including that of reliefs).

2 Stelae nos. 109, 110, 113, 115, 116, 120 derive from the Sudan.

3 The maximum in each case. Fragments are oriented in their correct plane for the purposes of measurement.
Maya stelae (singular stela) are monuments that were fashioned by the Maya civilization of ancient Mesoamerica. They consist of tall, sculpted stone shafts and are often associated with low circular stones referred to as altars, although their actual function is uncertain. Many stelae were sculpted in low relief, although plain monuments are found throughout the Maya region. The sculpting of these monuments spread throughout the Maya area during the Classic Period (250–900 AD), and these pairings of