

BONOMI, JOSEPH, F.R.S.L. and F.R.A.S., son of Joseph Bonomi, A.R.A. (an Italian architect highly esteemed for his works in England and Italy), was born in London, in 1796. His original intention was to become a sculptor, and he went through a course of anatomy under Sir Charles Bell, and at the same time studied at the Royal Academy, where he gained honours. In 1822 he went to Rome to pursue the study of arts, and afterwards visited Egypt and Syria, remaining in the former country about fifteen years. He was the first to point out to the learned

the hieroglyphical text of the celebrated alabaster sarcophagus (now in Sir J. Soane's museum) of a Pharaoh who reigned during the most flourishing period of the Egyptian era, appeared in 1864. He is the author of several brochures on Egyptian archæology, on which he has contributed papers to the Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature, and one on the Cosmography of the ancient Egyptians to the Royal Astronomical Society. He is curator of Sir John Soane's Museum.

Pray enquire for a friend of mine Miss Todd of
the Consul or any English traveller lady We
are anxious to hear of her safe arrival in Rome
from the South of Italy

Sunday 3 January 1870

I am sorry to inform you that you
will have one friend the less when you
visit the Camels again. My dear brother
breathed his last sigh a little before
Eleven this night

So Thanks you very much the stamps you
were so kind as to send him

January 4 1870

All well Your Cousins says

These letters all came
to me at Rome.

Joseph Bonomi.

The Camels

Jan^y 1 1870

My dear Simpson

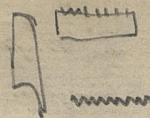
'Felicissimo Capo d'Anso'

We are and have been in much trouble at the
Camels owing to the serious illness of my
brother or you should have heard from me before

I hope you are likely to remain in Rome
for a long time because there is so much for a
man like you to enquire about with expert
head and eyes that escapes the unpractised.

There is a Monsignor Benoni Canon of a
church I do not remember in which stands a
cousin of mine who has been appointed to receive
strangers coming to Rome to attend the ceremonies
he is a little amiable man with rough husky voice
expressively neat in shoes and cap and would
receive you well if you should chance to see
or call upon him somewhere near the Piazza
Navona There is an other man a distant connection
of mine ² ~~Cast-Rosa~~ ^{descendant of of senator Rosa} conductor of the Papal
excavations in the ruins of the ancient palaces
of the Caesars I do not know him but he
will know me, perhaps, not unfavourably through

In all this use your excellent judgment
the Monsignore The excavations in the Catacombs
are most interesting and deserve your attention
almost more than any thing in Rome because
of the importance of the age of the different
pictures painted in the walls that requires
the practiced eye of a practitioner to determine
Inscriptions and names may be forged but style
of painting and delineation of the human figure
and other requisites of a picture of this or that
age have certain features that none but a man
of practiced eye and mind can see and that book
learning alone cannot determine There is a Mr. Parker
an honest truth seeker who is connected with the
researches in the Catacombs who could at once put
you ~~in~~ in possession of the argument to
be proved and sifted and turned and examined in
all points of view no view so subtle as that from
the art stand point contradicted tho' it may be by
long tradition and ancient inscriptions which themselves
require the practiced enquirer to determine their age
for in all time there have been forgeries forgeries
that have escaped for thousands of years; witness, the



hieroglyphics of certain names or words to be met with
in every one of the three lines of inscription on all
the four sides of the Lateran Obelisk These forgeries
escaped all the learned hieroglyphicists till a few years
ago when a faithful copy was made by the help of
a good opera glass; and they are now known to point
to a most interesting change in the religious opinions of
the ancient Egyptians that ~~took~~ took place at a time
so remote as the reign of Amunoph^{III}, according to some,
before the time of the Exodus


I am ashamed of having written so much to a man
whose every moment must be most interestingly occupied
I only hope the writing will not detain you as for the
matter you cannot ^{hope for} ~~hear~~ from owing.

I have not been to London for an age but I go on
Monday ~~the 3~~ and will endeavor to see you cousin and give
you what farther I can glean. Till then, 'adieu bene'
and remember me to my fellow student of the R Academy
Joseph Severn, to whom I wrote to introduce you on
your first arrival.

Tell me, are there not arabic inscriptions round the panels
of the bronze door of St. Peter's?

after the death of Ramses II or in the latter
part of his reign. Ramses II is the destroyer of
the Greeks and of history?.

If Photographs of the Obelisks have been made
buy them for me

Look with your Opera glass at King's name
in the centre line of the Popsolo to see if you
can detect the square ~~head~~ eared divinity 
for that would prove that they did not
make a scaffolding to ~~erect~~ elevate the obnoxious
divinity and it would certainly prove the obelisk was
standing NB ~~the~~ 3 of the sides of this obelisk were
engraved by the son of our Sarcophagus and only
one line in the centre of one side by his father
if my memory serves me. You will be pleased to see
the superiority of the old work and as an artist you
will see it. Other people are blind.

We are all well. Your cousin is very kind to me

Yours truly

William Simpson Esq
the author of the Lithographs
of the Crimea and India &c &c

Josiah Manning



13 Lincoln Inn Fields
26 Jan 1870

Ciao e stimateissimo Simpson


You will be sure to hear of Miss Dodd when
she arrives in Rome from Seville. She is still
in Naples and remains there till next month
and will find you out easily as she belongs
to the British Archaeological.


I am much obliged to you for the information about
the bronze gates of St Peter's. Is there no one of
real
the orientals now in Rome capable of reading those
arabic letters round the panels. The cursive
character seems to be used between 5 and 6 hundred
years ago when the present character came into
use. What you tell me about the numbers round the
heads of the figures of St Peter and Paul having
arabic characters ^{is very curious} is that you are right and
tell the public in your letter from the travel of
the world which of course is to be transferred
from the Greek church of the Sepulchre at Jerusalem
to St Peter's in Rome. Also what you ^{say} about the



inside of the doors and the subject of Christ entering Jerusalem is curious Miss Dodd made the enquiry for me about the arabic inscriptions but could gain no information there is so much mystery about every thing in Rome that every thing certain should be recorded.

The forgeries on the Lateran Obelisk are all except some close to the bottom of the time of Amunoph III those close to the bottom of the obelisk are by Fontana the architect who erected the obelisk in its present site. You would do the world of hieroglyphical students a great service if you would enquire for and buy Padre Ungarelli's work on the Obelisks of Rome and ^{take} the Lateran Obelisk to the spot and mark all those groups of hieroglyphics that have been forged. It cannot be done without a good Opera glass and considerable time and many journeys. I would guarantee you the cost of Padre Ungarelli's work; it is a

a large folio and must be worth its cost in England.

I shall let Pezzi Smyth know about the  as I am in correspondence with him and give my authority.

NB The forgeries on the Lateran  are easily detected by the lighter colour of the granite wherever they occur and they can be distinguished best on a dull day or on the shadow side and not at all when the sun is full in front ~~but~~ ^{however} when the sun is very oblique, with respect to the surface, you will see that the surface on which the forgeries occur has been hollowed.

On the Porta del Popolo obelisk on the centre line near the bottom the King's name, which is the same as the Scam Sarcophage, has had a hawk head divinity inserted instead of the former character  by cutting a square piece out to obliterate the former character and  then inserting the hawk. This was done some