

## 2 - History of the Abraham Papyri, Part II

As I mentioned before, I had to find and read all of the diary accounts of any travelers / explorers who may have entered Egypt between 1790 and 1830. The British Museum Library is similar to the Library of Congress. To check out a book, it can take 24-48 hours before the requested item is made available. Interestingly enough, the material we needed about the English Consulate General was found in the Louvre in Paris.



It was a very time consuming process. For example, a footnote found in one book would require a wait of 24 hours to read the reference in another book. This is why doing this kind of research can be very boring. I was in this Library for 45 days!

As it turned out, we were able to find quite a bit of information about Lebolo in this Museum even though he worked for the French Consul General, Drovetti.



The Louvre also has a very fine collection of Egyptian artifacts. At that time I was collecting photographs / copies of various hypocephali, and while waiting for my requested books to arrive I asked the staff there to make copies of some of their Egyptian Facsimiles.

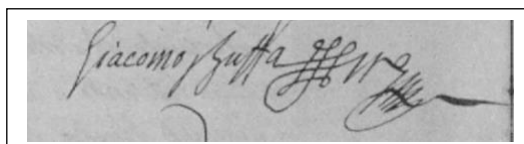
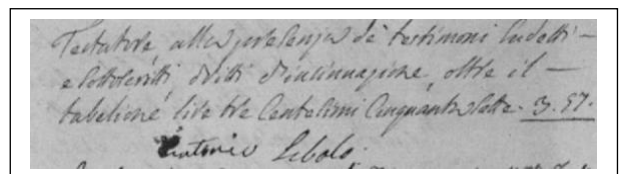
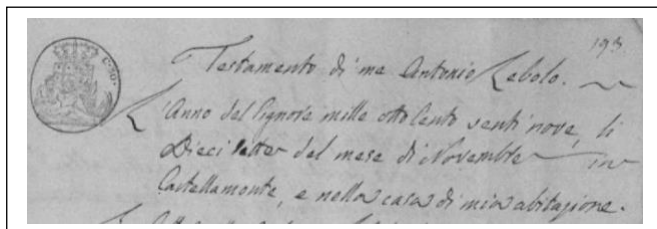


While at the Vatican Library and Museum, we discovered that an early part of their Egyptian collection was purchased from Lebolo for about 10,000 Crowns.

In our fact-finding journey we discovered that Lebolo did not die in Trieste; he actually passed away in Castellamonte. He also passed away on a different date than was previously stated by Chandler. We found a copy of his death certificate and his grave. The city of Castellamonte is at the Northwest base of the Italian Alps, whereas Trieste is located on the upper northeastern border. The city of Turin is not very far away from where Lebolo died. (You have heard of the Shroud of Turin?) We had the address of Lebolo's home in Castellamonte from the legal records—his descendants still live in the same home.

While in Egypt, Drovetti had purchased or acquired a slave girl. Before Lebolo left Egypt, Drovetti gave Lebolo this servant girl and her son or young brother. Lebolo took both the servant girl and her son back to Northern Italy. This girl and her son came out of the Darfur area of Africa. As Lebolo's first wife had died, he wanted to marry the servant girl and adopt the boy. While in Venice we discovered the record of this woman completing her catechism (a prerequisite for becoming a member of the Catholic Church), and where she became known as Anna Darfur. Lebolo then married Anna and adopted the boy.

A man named Giacomo Buffa, acting as his notary, signed all of Lebolo's legal documents that we discovered in the State Archives in Turin. Oddly, the documents were not filed under Lebolo's name, but rather under Buffa's name. It was in Buffa's files we discovered Lebolo's last will and testament!



In these archives, we set up a camera on one of the empty tables and photographed all the pages pertaining to Lebolo's will. That added up to about 350 pages! However, there was no mention of Michael H. Chandler or any mummies.

After spending time in the State Archives, we happened upon the Academy of Science and its library. It was a building that seemed to have been built in the 1500's. When we walked in, it looked like no one had stepped foot in the place for at least a decade. The librarian was so excited to greet anyone who walked through his doors! He spoke a little English and when we told him of our quest to find diaries and other documents from anyone who had worked in Egypt from the late 1700's to 1830, he directed us to an area in their library where their archives were shelved. He said he was sure there were records from a traveler by the name of Giovanni Morro.



Morro knew of Drovetti and Lebolo and other Egyptian artifact "collectors." He (Morro) had willed all of his personal documents to this academy of science, and we found a trove of documents sent to and from Lebolo and Morro detailing his business affairs in Egypt and elsewhere. Lebolo became quite wealthy selling his antiquities to the museums in Germany, England, France, and Italy.

The Librarian helpfully allowed us to use his antiquated copy machine for some of the other documents. We even found among Morro's papers a parchment from Napoleon to the Pope. The parchment had been sealed at one time with Napoleon's wax seal. The Librarian was not even aware of the existence of this historical document.

After Lebolo passed away his estate needed to be settled. We found documentation that eleven mummies had been consigned to a Mr. Albano Oblasser in Trieste. The estate was suing to receive payment for the 11 mummies. So here's the connection! Lebolo had consigned his 11 mummies to be sold, and he then returned to Castellamonte where he died a year later. The executor of Lebolo's estate brought suit against Oblasser for payment of the mummies. However, at this time Egyptian mummies were very common and there was no market for them.

Lebolo's executor, Bertolla, had a son in Philadelphia who was a veterinary doctor. Bertolla was the brother of Lebolo's first wife, and he was trying to settle Lebolo's estate on behalf of Lebolo's two sons born to his first wife. Thus, Bertolla's son in Philadelphia was Lebolo's nephew. The plan was to send the mummies to the US, and for Bertolla's son to sell them and then send the money back to the estate.

Somehow Michael Chandler found out about these mummies coming into Philadelphia, and when they arrived, he impersonated Bertolla's son and took possession of the mummies. As he traveled

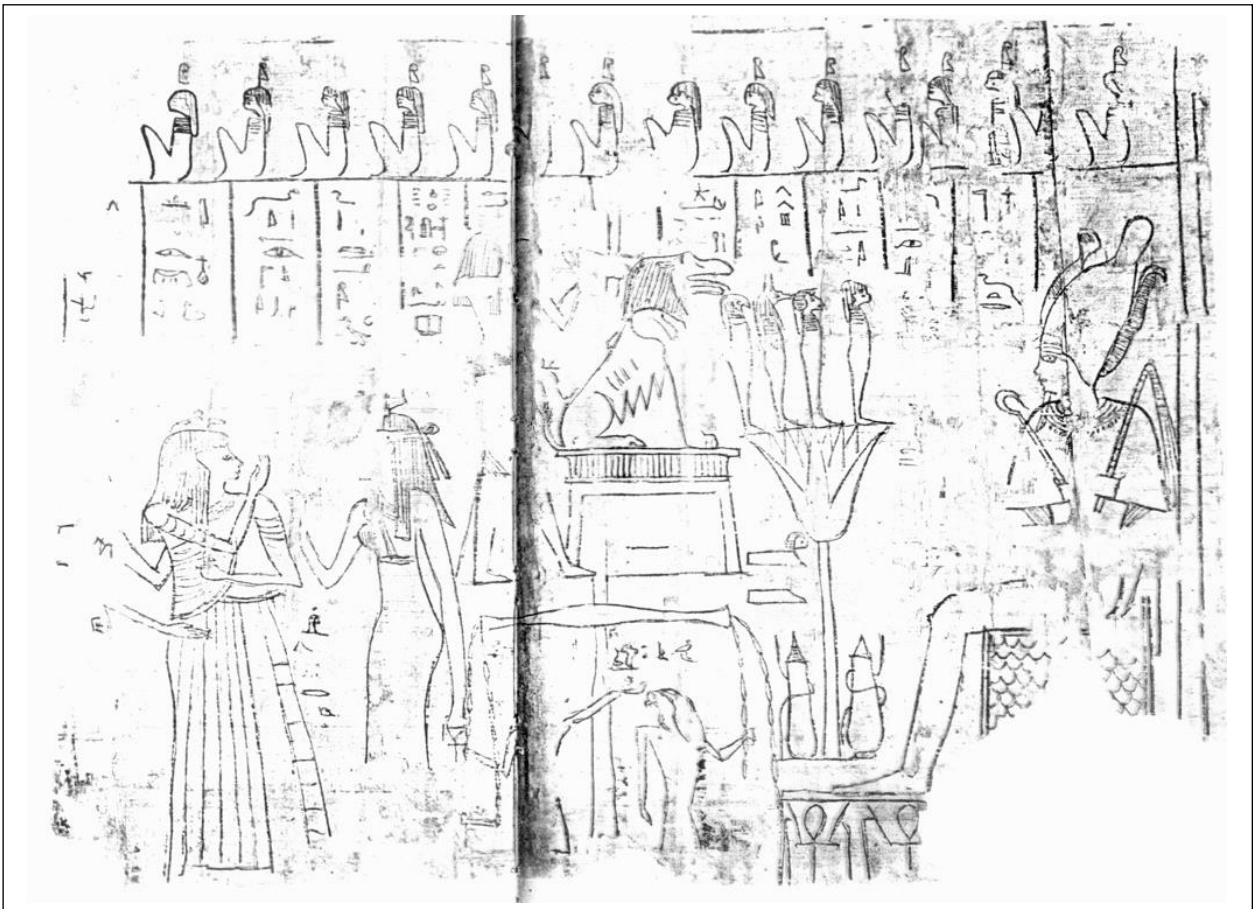
around showing these mummies, the story he told was that his rich uncle died and left these mummies to him; this is the story that ends up in our church history.

### **The Book of Joseph**

Along with the Book of Abraham, Joseph Smith also translated the record of Joseph who was sold into Egypt. In the *Messenger and Advocate*, Oliver Cowdery wrote a description of a facsimile:

“In the inner end of the same roll (of Joseph’s record) presents a representation of the judgment: At one view you behold the Savior seated upon his throne (1), crowned and holding the scepters of righteousness and power, before whom also, are assembled the twelve tribes of Israel, the nations, languages, and tongues of the earth, the kingdoms of the world (2) over which Satan is represented as reigning (3). Michael the archangel, holding the key to the bottomless pit (4), and at the same time the devil is being chained and shut up in the bottomless pit. But upon this last scene, I am only able to give you a shadow, to the real picture.”

**(Messenger and Advocate, Vol 2 (Oct 1835 - Sept 1836)**

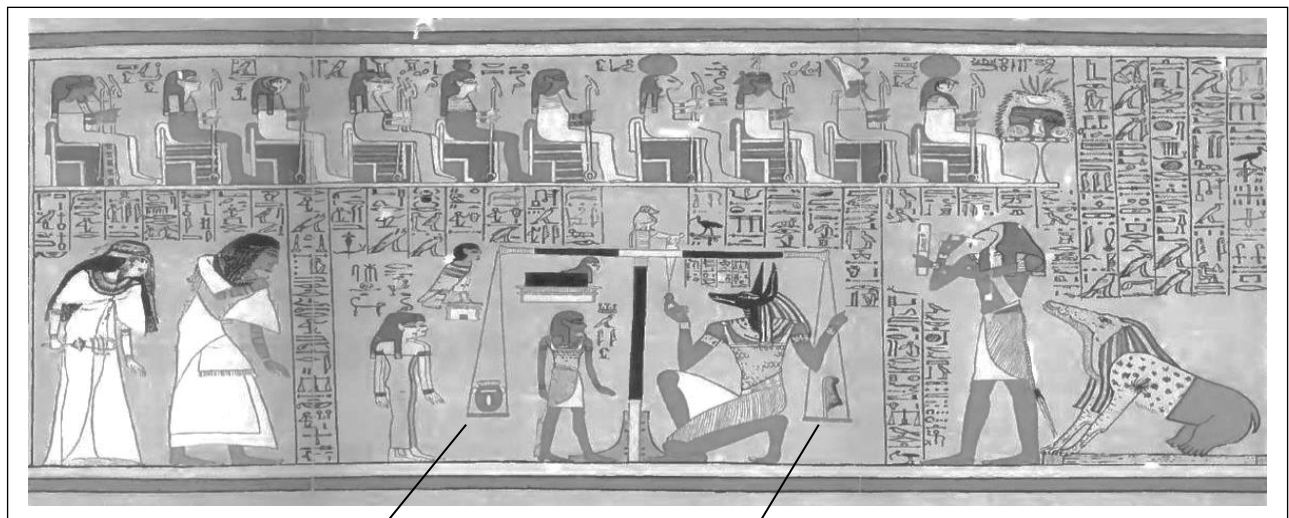


While doing research, I found that this is a copy of one the fragments obtained by the Church in 1967. I realized this description, written in the Messenger and Advocate, was actually describing the scene from the Book of Joseph Papyrus. At that time I was often working with Hugh Nibley, and while walking together across campus one day, I took out this copy in my files and asked if he thought it might be from the Book of Joseph. He took it out of my hands, looked at it for a brief time, handed it back to me and said, “Yes, it is.” I then asked, “If that is the case, why haven’t you written anything about it?” He said, “I don’t want to unless I have to.” That was his polite way of telling me to keep my mouth shut!

Knowing a bit about Church history and the Egyptian religion I was able to put two and two together and deduce this came from the Book of Joseph.

Below is from the Papyrus of Ani, depicting the Symposium Scene. One has to be presented to God in order to come into the presence of God. The person is being judged, found worthy to progress and move forward through the different veils of the different kingdoms of glory, and then receive greater glory in order to enter into the presence of God.

### The Twelve who sit at Judgment



Ani, the deceased

Thoth, the scribe

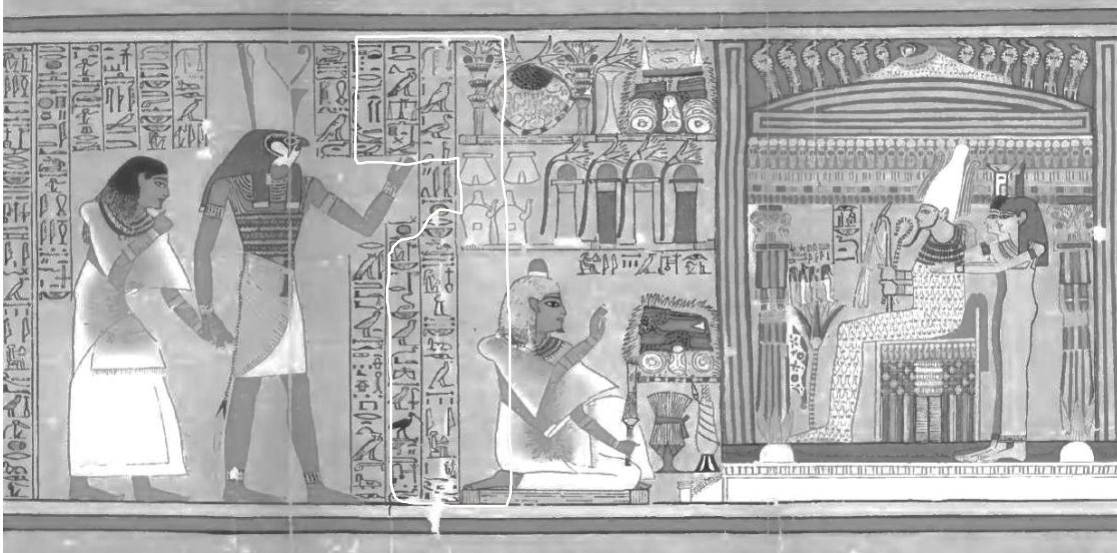
The Great Devourer

Ani's heart is being weighed against Maat, or truth and righteousness

When Ani is brought before the God, (who is behind the veil), Horus reports:

Thus, saith Horus the son of Isis, I have come to thee O great God and have brought the resurrected Ani. *His heart is pure and has come from the balance, he has not sinned against any god or goddess.* Thoth hath weighed it in according to the decree

uttered by the council of the Gods unto him. It (Ani's heart) is *true and very righteous*. Grant that he may be given cakes and beer and *may he enter the presence of Osiris and be like the followers of Horus forever* (exalted). This translation is outlined in white below



Horus presents Ani before the God Ani in the Presence of Osiris

Osiris

**This scene is found in Ani's Book of the Dead. The papyrus of Ani and is the largest and most complete Egyptian Book of the Dead.**

**Question:** *Why all the different gods in the Egyptian religion?*

Herodotus, a Greek historian, said all of the Greek gods came from Egypt. The older Egyptian gods come from the days of the Patriarchs. Thoth rules over knowledge, language, and understanding. In the Greek pantheon he is called Hermes. Thoth is also the scribe of the gods. This goes back to the traditions of Enoch. Enoch was always called the scribe of Jehovah. It was through Enoch that the Endowment *and* the language passed down through the Flood. So the traditions of Enoch have preserved these things. All of what we have been talking about is in the Book of Joseph.

As mentioned earlier, we only have two-thirds of the Book of Abraham. The last third and the Book of Joseph were not prepared for publication in Joseph's lifetime and were in Emma Smith's possession. In the early 1870's Elders Orson Pratt and Joseph F. Smith were sent back to Nauvoo on what was called the Mission to the States. When they were set apart, they were given the assignment to invite Emma to come west and to purchase the remaining manuscripts that Joseph had written. When Elders Pratt and Smith returned to Salt Lake right before the October conference of that year, they reported in General Conference: "we had a very successful mission."

Even though Emma did not come back with them, the fact that they reported that the mission was "very successful" indicated that they were able to get the unpublished manuscripts. Sidney B. Sperry, Elder Talmage, and Elder Bruce R. McConkie have all talked about the contents of the

Book of Joseph, and they have all said that the contents are of such a sacred nature that they ought not to be published to the world. McConkie felt that the revelations Joseph Smith received from the manuscript of the Book of Joseph contributed to the restoration of the endowment at Nauvoo.

*Comment: Brother Nibley's book\* about the Egyptian Endowment contains full color reproductions of this fragment and all of the other fragments found in the Met back in 1967.*

*\*[The Message of the Joseph Smith Papyri, An Egyptian Endowment]*

In 1975, in her research on the Greco-Roman-Egyptian Magical Papyri, Janet Johnson, unfriendly to the Book of Abraham, found a facsimile that represented Abraham on a Lion Couch and mentioned Abraham by name. The similarities between her discovery and our Facsimile #1 are remarkable.



We will begin our discussion of Abraham 1 in our next session.