NOTICE ON THE ARAMAIC PAPYRI DISCOVERED AT HERMOPOLIS WEST

BY

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Eight papyri, well preserved in a jar, were unearthed in December 1944 by Prof. Sami Gabra, director of the excavations of Fouad I University at Hermopolis West (Tuna el-Gabal).

This discovery of Aramaic papyri is to be considered as second only to that of Elephantine (1904).

A communication on this discovery was given by Prof. S. Gabra and the present writer in the "Institut d'Égypte" on the 24th of March 1946. It is to appear in the *Bulletin de l'Institut d'Égypte*. A publication of the whole text with transcription, translation, commentary and plates will be given in the "Publications of Fouad I University".

All the eight of them are private letters and they are in a practically perfect condition. They differ in length, herewith the number of lines in each of them is given respectively: 13; 17; 14; 4; 13; 10; 9; 15.

They are clearly written with the Egyptian pen, rolled, bound with straps of papyrus, and clay seals fasten these straps.

The address on the outside of the roll is written in one line as follows:

To (the clay seal) so and so from so and so; the name of the town; to be brought. For example: תשי מן מכבנת בר פסמי סון יבל (clay seal) אל.

To Tashi from Macbanit b. Psami; Syene; to be brought.

The letters are addressed some to Assuan (Syene סון) and the others to Api (אפי) Thebes or Panopolis (Akhmim ? *'ipw*).