

plete catalogue of the local yearly feasts, the rising of Sothis must have been noted for the day on which it was visible in Elephantine. The Sothis rose on July 20 at Memphis, but about six days earlier, on July 14, at Elephantine. The first of Thoth coincided with these dates in 1325-22 B.C. at Memphis, and in 1301-1298 B.C. at Elephantine. As 28 Epiphi is 38 days before the 1st of Thoth, and as the Egyptian vague year loses one day every four years, this implies an interval of (38×4) 152 years, which, added to 1301-1298 B.C., will place the Sothis rising in the reign of Tutmes III. in 1453-50 B.C.¹ Now this very temple at Elephantine, of which the inscription is a fragment, was erected in the *second* year of Tutmes III.² This cannot mean the second year of his nominal reign, beginning in 1465, for he was then a mere child, probably not more than ten years of age, banished to the inaccessible marshes of the *north* of Egypt by his ambitious sister, who, besides, was hardly the kind of woman that would have allowed the building of temples without taking all the credit to herself. The second year must mean the second year of his *sole* reign, commencing with his 15th, in which, as we have shown from the monuments, he was *re-crowned* after the death of his sister. Now his 16th year, or second of his sole reign, falls in 1450 B.C., or in the last of the above four years.

(c) The rising of Sothis fell on Epiphi 28, *at Elephantine*, on July 14, in 1453-50 B.C., but on Mesore 4 or July 20 *in Memphis*. This, as our table shows, is the date of the beginning of Tutmes III. as sole ruler, and we can now understand why such an ordinary event as the rising of the dog-star, which happened every year, should have been thought worthy of special record: *it marked the year of his accession as sole king*. This conclusion is confirmed by the only two other reigns in which such risings are recorded. The Sothis rising of 16 Thoth in 1263, and of 1 Tybi in 842 B.C., both indicate the year when Ramessu II. and Takelut II. began their sole

¹ Lieblein, *Agypt. Chronol.*, 38, 39, also advocates 1453-50 B.C.

² Brugsch, *Hist. of Egypt*, i. 394.

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