

Behind the town is a cemetery, the south end of which contains graves of the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Dynasties, while the north was used during the Ptolemaic period. Many Greek and demotic papyri were found with the cartonnages of the mummies, and Boulak is now the proud possessor of two large bronze pans and three wooden statuettes of the Nineteenth Dynasty.

It is to be regretted that, while so much has been done by English enterprise, Boulak should have so few results to show from its own excavations. Many of the antiquities found pass into the hands of dealers; and so lately as 1888 several statues of great value of the Fourth and Fifth Dynasties were found at Memphis, and had afterwards to be bought by the Boulak Museum.

14. The cuneiform inscriptions of Tel-el-Amarna, the necropolis of part of the Eighteenth Dynasty, half-way between Cairo and Thebes, have lately been deciphered by Professor Sayce. From his unique researches we find that, one hundred years before the Exodus, active literary intercourse was going on between Babylon, Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, and this was carried on by means of the Babylonian cuneiform writing. He believes that Babylonian was as much the language of diplomacy and of cultivated society as French has been in modern times, though it must have taken years