

## THEBAN BORDERS OF LOTUS AND GRAPES.

(See Frontispiece.)

A VERY popular border was a design of lotus flowers and bunches of grapes, which is to be seen in twelve tombs (Nos. 8, 38, 49, 64, 74, 75, 90, 147, 151, 175, 181 and 249; for names see *Ancient Egypt*, 1920, p. 122). The simplest form is found in tomb 175 (Fig. 12), where open lotus flowers alternate with bunches of grapes, the latter appearing to be suspended in mid-air. On the western walls of tombs 38, 175 and 249 there are very similar borders, but it is probable that they are unfinished, and that it was intended to complete the stems, as there is a blank space left above the flowers and fruit. On the whole this design, as illustrated in Fig. 12, is very stiff and uninteresting.

It was somewhat improved, however, in tombs 8, 74, 75, 151 and 249 (Figs. 14, 15) by the addition of tendrils to the bunches of grapes. A further addition, and what appears to be an attempt to improve on Nature, is a series of looped stems joining the lotus flowers and clusters of grapes together, as may be seen in tombs 49, 90, 151 and 181 (Figs. 16, 17).

The borders of this type in tombs 151, 181 and 249 differ from the others in having a red spot just below the tip of each grape cluster. As the bunches of grapes in tomb 181 do not show the spots which usually serve to represent the separate grapes, it has been suggested that it was really intended to represent cornflowers, but the presence of the tendrils hanging down on either side of the bunches makes any question as to whether or not grapes are here represented quite superfluous. The red spot below each grape cluster in tomb 249 has a black base, and is probably an attempt to represent a poppy petal (Fig. 18).

It will be noticed that in tombs 8 and 90 (Figs. 13, 14, 17) there is a border of another design either above or below the floral border, a circumstance which will be more fully dealt with later in this section.

The floral border in tomb 8 (Fig. 14) has the additional feature of lotus buds alternating with the lotus flowers and grape clusters, and is the only example at present known in the necropolis, of lotus buds occurring in conjunction with both lotus flowers and grapes. The end of a stem showing on the right of the calyx of each flower is also only to be seen in this tomb. The whorl pattern between two rows of tail-edging ornament above this border is curious, but there is some doubt as to whether it belongs to the ornamentation of the border proper or to that of the barrel-vaulted roof.

In tomb 64 (Fig. 19) there is a border made up of a row of crescent-shaped ornaments, which may represent lotus leaves, alternating with mandrake fruit and cornflowers (?) below a row of lotus flowers and grape clusters. The cornflower is probably the species *Centaurea depressa*, Bieb., now only found in Asia Minor, the Caucasus, and neighbouring countries. This species has been found in ancient wreaths and garlands of the XVIIIth and XXth dynasties and again in the Fayum in the Graeco-Roman period. See article by Percy E. Newberry in *Proc. Bibl. Arch.*, May, 1900.

The same crescent-shaped ornament, but without the mandrake fruit, is to be found in tombs 147, 151 and 249 (Fig. 18). The crescents form the upper part of the frieze in the inner chamber of tomb 249 and the outer chamber of tomb 147, while in the shrine of tomb 249 they occur both above and below the

other components of the border. In tomb 151 (one wall) they form the lower portion of the border.

There is an auxiliary band of alternate mandrake fruit and rounded red objects, which may perhaps be identified as poppy flowers or petals, to be seen in the frieze in the inner chamber of tomb 151, and the whole frieze is further widened by two rows of chequers in red and black from which the lotus flowers and grapes depend (Fig. 20).

The design on part of the north-eastern and north-western walls of tomb 151 differs somewhat from that on the remaining walls. The grape clusters have no tendrils, and are connected by looped red stems with the lotus flowers on either side of them, instead of hanging down from straight stems as shown in the previous illustration (Fig. 20). A narrow band of yellow on which is placed a row of crescent-shaped objects, again suggesting lotus leaves, also replaces the mandrake fruit and poppy petals, and is repeated above the frieze between it and the chequer bands.

Tomb 147 has an effective border in its inner chamber which is, however, too much blackened to be copied. It is composed of the usual alternate lotus flowers and grape clusters suspended by short red stems from a single line of black chequers on a yellow ground, and between the flowers and bunches of grapes there is a series of red objects which are practically the same in form as those in tomb 151. Below the main design is a row of yellow mandrake fruit on a blue ground, and above the single band of chequers a green-margined border.

A very free treatment of grape clusters and vine-leaves as a running pattern is to be seen in tombs 149 and 259 (Fig. 21); in the former tomb, on the northern wall of the outer chamber above the Hathor and Anubis frieze. In tomb 259 it is found above a Kheker frieze on the north-eastern wall at the northern end of the tomb. This design, therefore, can hardly be accepted as being a border in the strict sense, for it was merely used to fill up a vacant space between the border proper and the ceiling of the tomb. In both tombs the design is painted on a yellow ground and forms a very distinctive ornamentation, all the more to be valued on account of its extreme rarity in the necropolis. There is also a very similar border, but coarsely executed, on the eastern wall of the inner chamber of an unnumbered tomb a little to the west of tomb 154, which belonged to the XIXth or XXth dynasty. The illustration is taken from the design in tomb 259 (Fig. 21), which is practically identical with that found in tomb 149, except that the latter is more roughly painted and has rather more angular stems. Both tombs are of late date, the former belonging to the period of Haremheb and the latter to the XIXth or XXth dynasty.

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[If we look at the historical order of these borders, the earliest is Fig. 15 of Zenuni, under Tehutmes IV, a simple and complete design. Similar, though obviously unfinished, is Fig. 12, of Tehutmes IV (?). Next come the group with a flower and seed border, Figs. 18, 19, 20; of these 19 is attributed to Tehutmes IV, but as Heqerheh was tutor to Amenhetep III, it is likely that his tomb was not decorated till Amenhetep III. Figs. 18 and 20 are dated to Tehutmes IV (?); but the flower and seed borders are scarcely as early as that, and seem to belong to the naturalistic schools of Amenhetep III. The borders with rows of bouquets (Figs. 13, 14) are obviously later; of these 14 and 17 are of Amenhetep III, and 18 probably the same date. The loops connecting the lotus flowers in Fig. 17 are developed further in Fig. 16, which is dated to late XVIIIth dynasty,

and is obviously degraded in its Pompeian style. Lastly, the old design vanishes under the influence of Akhenaten's realism, and Fig. 21 shows a degraded running border, probably of the time of Heremheb, which continued in other examples into the XIXth or XXth dynasties. Thus there is a consistent development in these borders, which ran through all their changes in about a century.—F.P.]

FRIEZES OF LOTUS FLOWERS AND BUNCHES OF GRAPES.

1. WITHOUT TENDRILS OR STEMS; PLATE 12

Tomb 38. Northern wall of western end of outer chamber.	Tuthmosis IV.
" 175. Northern, southern and eastern walls.	" "(?).
" 249. Western wall of outer chamber.	" " "

2. WITH STRAIGHT STEMS ONLY; PLATE 13

Tomb 90. Western end of southern wall.	Amenophis III.
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3. WITH TENDRILS; PLATE 14 15

Tomb 8. Side walls of vaulted chamber.	Amenophis III(?).
" 74. Southern end wall of outer chamber.	Tuthmosis IV.
" 75. Right hand jamb of entrance to inner chamber.	" "
" 151. South-eastern wall of north-eastern end of inner chamber.	" "(?).

4. WITH LOOPED STEMS CONNECTING FLOWERS AND GRAPES; PLATE 16 17

Tomb 49. Inner chamber.	Early XIXth. dynasty(?).
" 90. Eastern end wall and western end of Southern wall.	Amenophis III.
" 151. North-western wall of inner chamber.	Tuthmosis IV(?).
" 175. Western wall.	" " "
" 181. All walls of outer chamber.	Late XVIIIth. dynasty.

5. WITH LOTUS LEAVES(?); PLATE 18

Tomb 147. Above false door at southern end of outer chamber.	Tuthmosis IV(?).
" 151. North-western wall of inner chamber.	" " "
" 249. Inner chamber and shrine.	" " "

6. WITH LOTUS LEAVES(?), MANDRAKE FRUIT AND CORNFLOWERS(?); PLATE 19

Tomb 64. Northern end of outer chamber.	Tuthmosis IV.
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7. WITH POPPY PETALS AND MANDRAKE FRUIT; PLATE 20

Tomb 147. Inner chamber.	Tuthmosis IV(?).
" 151. South-eastern wall of inner chamber.	" " "

8. WITH POPPY PETALS(?) AT BASE OF THE FRUIT; PLATE 16 18

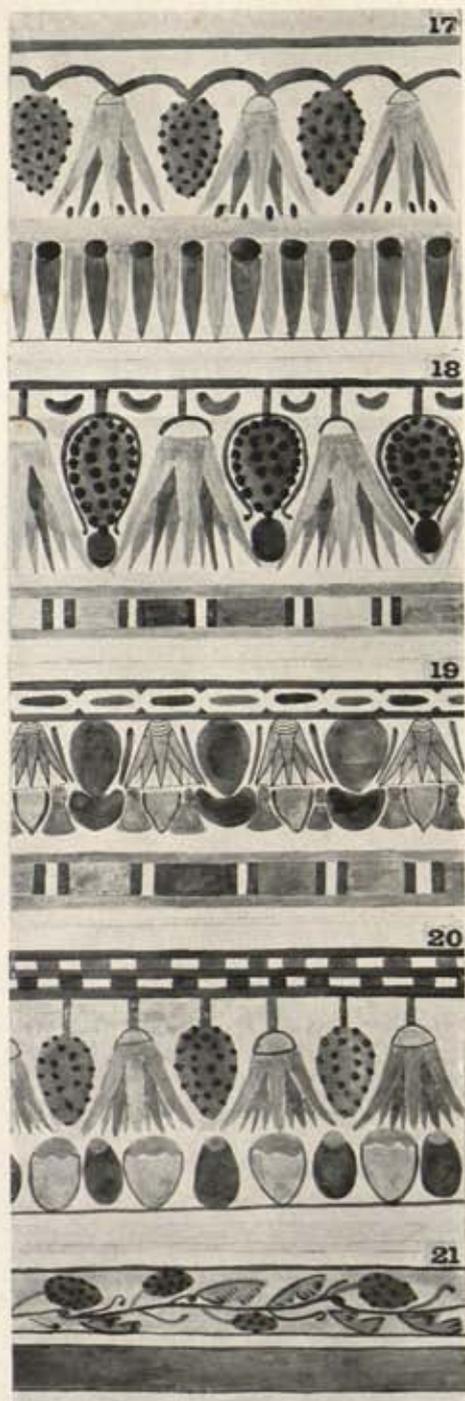
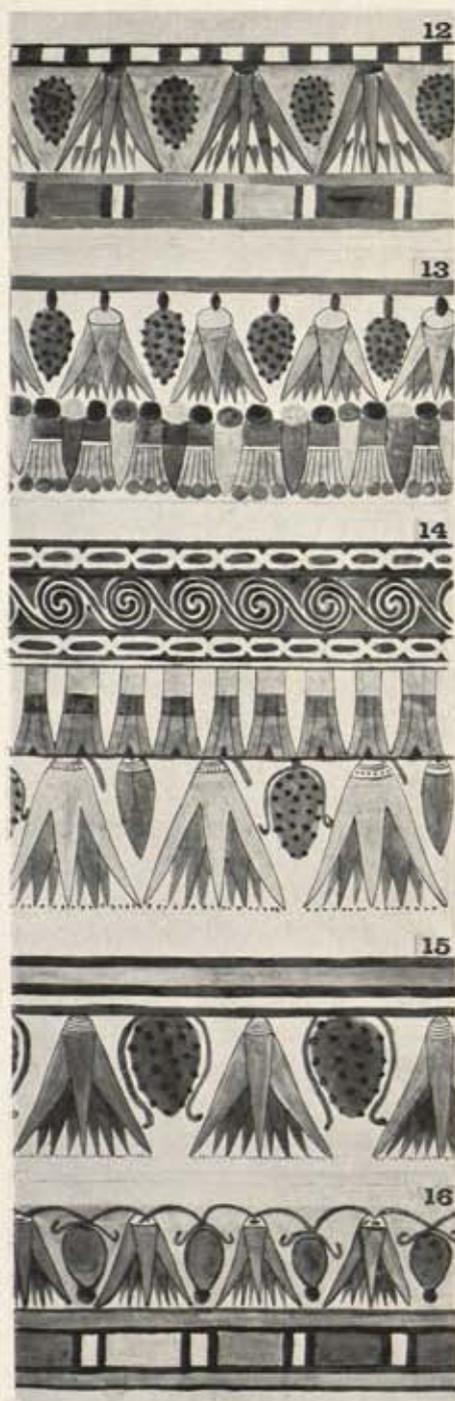
Tomb 181. Outer chamber.	Late XVIIIth. dynasty.
" 151. North-eastern end of north-western wall of inner chamber.	Tuthmosis IV(?).
" 249. Inner chamber and shrine.	" " "

9. WITH AUXILIARY PETAL BAND; PLATE 14 17

Tomb 8. Side walls of vaulted chamber.	Amenophis III(?).
" 90. Ends of southern wall of outer chamber.	" " "

10. RUNNING DECORATION OF GRAPE CLUSTERS AND VINE LEAVES; PLATE 21

Tomb 149. Northern end wall of outer chamber.	XIXth.-XXth. dynasties.
" 259. North-eastern wall of chamber.	Haremhab(?).
" (?). (a little west of Tomb 154). Eastern wall of inner chamber.	XIXth.-XXth. dynasties.



BORDERS OF THEBAN TOMB-PAINTINGS.  
 LOTUS FLOWERS AND BUNCHES OF GRAPES.

COLORS IN ORDER OF TINT; YELLOW, GREEN, BLUE, RED, BLACK.

TEHUTMES IV TO HEREMHEB.

1420—1330 B.C.