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Arthur E. P. Weigall

Réponse de M. Arthur E. P. Weigall [à H. Gauthier, BIFAO 8, 1911, p. 154].

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RÉPONSE DE M. ARTHUR E. P. WEIGALL.

M. Arthur E. P. Weigall, Inspecteur en chef du Service des antiquités, m'adresse la lettre et la note qu'on lira ci-dessous. Je publie bien volontiers l'une et l'autre. — É. C.

Luxor, September 30th.

Dear Monsieur Chassinat,

I should be much obliged if you would be so kind as to publish in your next *Bulletin* the following answer to M. Gauthier's note in the *Bulletin* of 1911, t. VIII, p. 154. I think M. Gauthier's remarks require an answer as they are somewhat misleading.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR E. P. WEIGALL.

M. Gauthier's note in a recent issue of this publication has been brought to my notice, in which he accuses me of publishing a facsimile of a certain mortuary wall-painting representing girls dancing, without acknowledging that it was discovered by him during his excavations at Thebes. In reply I have to say that I did not know that the painting was unearthed by my learned confrere when I pointed it out to Prof. Petrie and advised him to record it. The discovery was never reported to me by M. Gauthier, as it should have been, although I paid official visits to the work; and when, some time later, in walking over the rubbish-heaps left upon the site, I came upon this unique painting, exposed to the cupidity of the Gurneh thieves and to the violence of the elements, the thought did not for one moment occur to me that it could have been thus abandoned by any persons but those absolutely ignorant of its value and utterly callous as to its probable destruction. At my request a copy was made by Mrs. Petrie, and it was this copy which I used in my book, with due acknowledgements to her. In offering my apologies to M. Gauthier for my ignorance of the fact that it was he who had left this painting in the condition in which I found it, I hope it will not be taken amiss if I express the view that an excavator will have difficulty in defending his actions before men of science if he shall so much as touch an ancient site without being fully prepared to protect, safeguard, and duly hand over to the officials in charge, every immovable antiquity of value which he may discover. There can be no justification for excavation which leaves ancient remains in danger of destruction.

ARTHUR E. P. WEIGALL.