

Dr. Salim Hasan

1886-1961

(Egyptologist)



Written by: Karim Swelim

Class: 9A

Salim Hasan

(Egyptologists)



Dr. Salim Hasan

Dr. Salim Hasan was an Egyptologists. He was born on the 15th of April 1886 in Mit-Nagi. He was brought up by his mother in the village. In his old age he lived in a villa near the zoo. His villa was all full of books on Egyptology including the ones he wrote himself. The house also contained allot of replicas of ancient Egyptians statues. He spend most of his life writing books, doing researches on Egyptology and doing archeological excavations in the necropolis at Giza. He also worked in other places like Abu Rawash and at Saquara.

Dr. Salim Hasan first studied at the Higher Teachers College in Cairo. In 1912 he graduated and became a teacher. In 1921 he became as an assistant keeper in the Egyptian museum. In 1923 he went on a government mission to the Sorbonne in France. In 1928 Dr. Salim Hasan became an assistant professor in the Cairo University and then In 1931 he became the fist ever Egyptian professor in Egyptology. In 1935 he got his PhD from Vienna in Austria. Then after a lot of years doing hard work Dr. Salim Hasan went on a trip all around the world and saw all the major museums to continue his research about antiquities that have been stolen from Egypt.

At that time king Farouque was the king of Egypt and he had a lot of real Egyptian statues that his family had stolen many years ago and king Farouque had said that it all belonged to him and that he would not give it back to the country for people to see. At this point Dr. Salim Hasan sued the ministry of culture in 1960 and said that all the real statues that are in king Farouque's palace that were made by the ancient Egyptian people themselves do not belong to the king but to tombs and museums.

Dr. Salim Hasan gave all the books that he wrote to the library in the American University in Cairo before he died so that people could read them and be interested in Egyptology. The books he wrote were allot and some of them are very famous.

Here are some of the most important books and writings he wrote:

In 1928-61 (his death) he wrote on highrogliphic texts.

In 1930 he wrote ten volumes 'On the excavations of Giza'.

In 1933 he was the translator of 'The dawn of conscience'.

In 1938-39 he wrote three volumes 'On the excavations of Saquara.

From 1940-61 he wrote 16 volumes on 'The history of Egypt'.

In 1949 he wrote 'The Sphinx'.

In 1955 he was a co-author on 'The monuments of Nubia'.

After when Dr. Salim Hasan wrote a book, he used to go to the government press to print the books. The director of Dar al Kutub print house at that time was called Mohamed Nadim (My Great Grandfather).

Dr. Salim Hasan got an award as the first Arab scholar to be admitted to The International Academy of Science but unfortunately he got this award after he died.

Opinions of people I interviewed on Dr. Salim Hasan.

The opinion of :

Mr. Abdul Hamid Nadim

(My Grandfathers Cousin who knew Dr. Salim Hasan personally and used to visit his house frequently because his father and Dr. Salim Hasan knew each other well)

“He was a very kind man and had a good character and he had great values and was very considerate with those working for him and as a child I was very impressed of the amount of books that were everywhere in his house”.

Dr. John Swanson

(Professor at the A.U.C.)

“He was one of the most important Egyptian Egyptologists and the most important one of all. His collection of books are also very important for the A.U.C library”.

Dr. Nabil Swelim

(My Grandfather who is an Egyptologist specialized in pyramids)

“His most important contributions are the books he published about his findings and excavations which have been used by later scholars like myself when I did some research on a rock that he discovered near the pyramid of Khafra and I discovered that that rock is part of the very tip top (pyramidian) of the pyramid of Khafra”.

My own opinion

“He is a very great Egyptologist and wrote wonderful books. His life was very interesting and full of extraordinary things that I have never seen before like when he traveled the whole world to see all the important museums. I am also very much impressed on the amount of books that he wrote, the hard work he did on his excavations and diggings in Egypt and that he became the first ever Egyptian professor on Egyptology in the University of Cairo”.

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