

Lines 3 and 4 of the translation appear to be a quotation of two hexameters, and addressed to the living.

(Deciphered by Le R. Père Germer-Durand, Augustinian Brothers, Jerusalem.)

Professor Ganneau writes:—"The inscription is curious enough, and Father Germer-Durand's reading of it seems to me to be, on the whole, satisfactory. I believe that the inscription has never before been published; if it has, I do not remember having seen it. The little philosophic address in the middle of it is evidently in verse (two hexameters), and must belong to the common stock-in-trade of sepulchral epigraphy. Probably it has been already met with in other epitaphs, and examples might be found by reference to the 'Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum.' The first verse is wrong in its scansion: *et nostris* probably should be amended into *nostrisque*; as for *mān(ybū)s*, there is a syllable too much; perhaps we ought to allow for a pronunciation *mān'būs* (?)."

NEWLY-DISCOVERED TOMB ON MOUNT SCOPUS.

By C. A. HORNSTEIN, Esq.

SOME men digging out *howar* (soft limestone) on Mount Scopus, close to the road leading to 'Anâta and El 'Aisâwiyeh, came unexpectedly on an old tomb. The entrance had been blocked up with loose stones, and then covered over with earth. The tomb consists of three chambers cut in the rock. The first, or vestibule, A, has a low doorway, 1 foot 9 inches square, on the east side, leading to Chamber B, and another of the same size on the south, opening into Chamber C. These entrances were closed by large blocks of stone, shaped somewhat like the stopper of a bottle, the narrow projecting part fitting into the entrance, the wider closing the rebate.

Entering Chamber B, we find a ledge or bench, X, raised about 3 feet from the ground, width from 3 feet 6 inches to 4 feet 7 inches, running round the room on the north, east, and south sides. On a level with this bench are six kokim or loculi, three

on the north and three on the east. Under the bench, and extending partly beneath the middle loculus on the eastern side, is another kok. The average length of these loculi is 7 feet 5 inches, width 1 foot 7 inches. On this bench were found 19 ossuaries, or bone chests, varying in length from 1 foot 4 inches to 2 feet 7 inches. Some are beautifully carved and have triangular lids, others are plain and have flat lids fitting in grooves. Four of these ossuaries have inscriptions in large plain letters (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4). The first three are Greek, the last is Hebrew. There are a few letters on some of the other chests, but they are so effaced that it is difficult to make them out. We have an example in No. 8. No. 1 should read **EPWT(A)PIOY**, the **A** being broken off. The same name, however, is incised on another chest; the letters in this case are very small, and separated between the ornamentation. They all are proper names:—No. 1, Erotario; No. 2, Protas; No. 3, Papos; No. 4, Yehohanan Bar-Zabia.

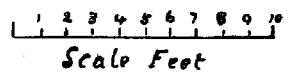
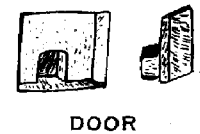
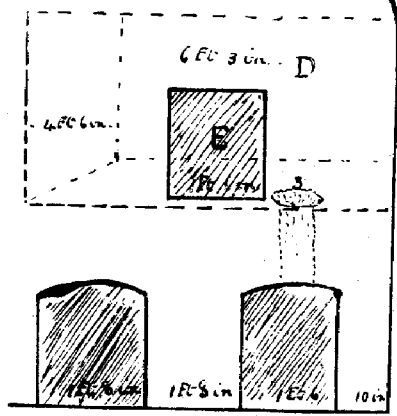
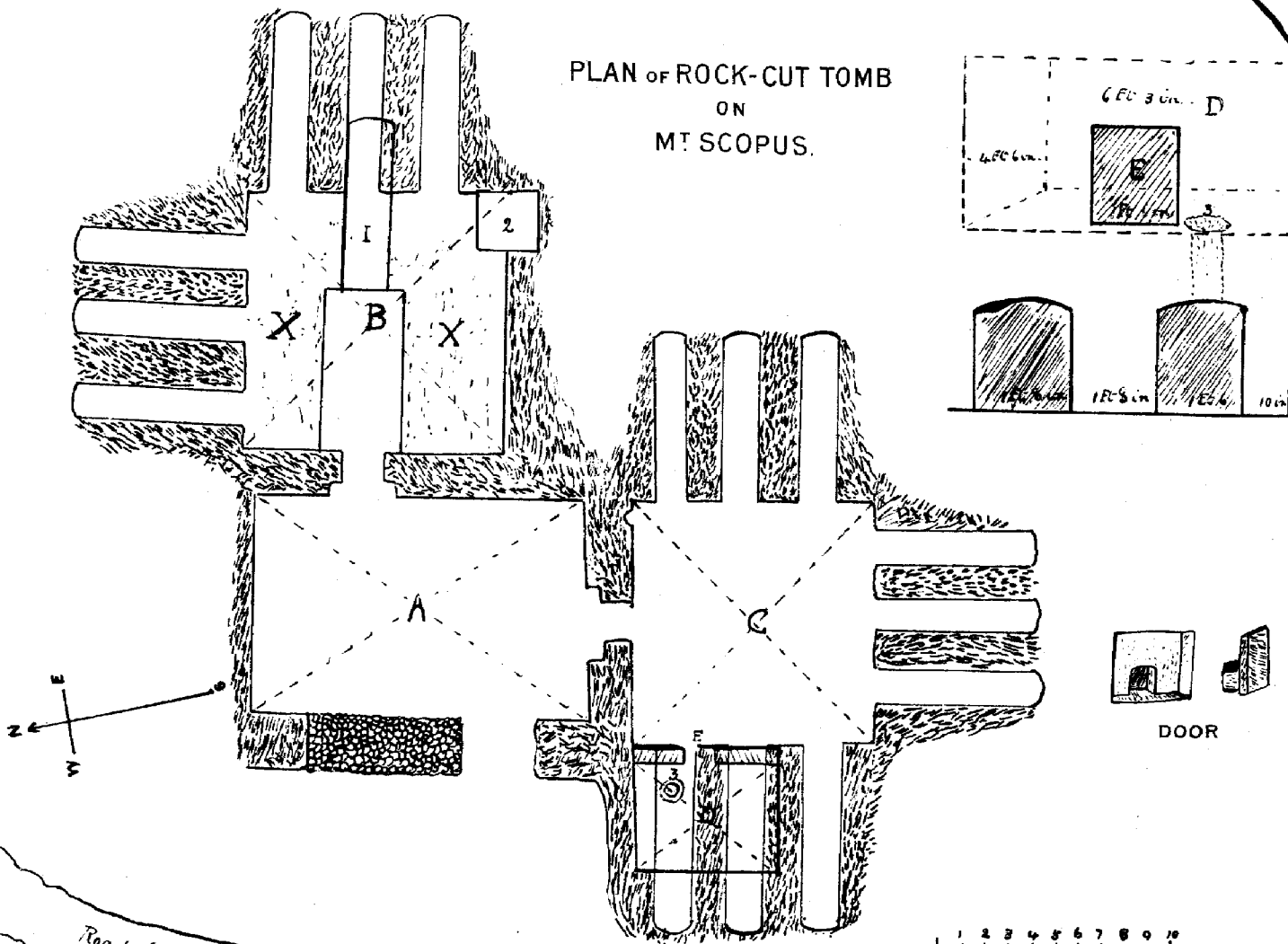
In the south-east corner there is an alcove, 2 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 8 inches, and about 4 feet deep, which is partly filled with bones and dust.

Chamber C has no ledge, and contains nine loculi on a level with the floor. Near the north-west corner, and 3 feet 2 inches from the ground, is an opening, E, which leads to another room, D, 6 feet 2 inches by 4 feet 6 inches, excavated over the loculi on the west side. In the floor is a circular hole, 1 foot 6 inches in diameter, which leads down to Kok 1. This little chamber seems to have been used either for the collection of bones, &c., after the bodies had decayed, or as a depository for ossuaries, of which several were found here. There were nine altogether in C and D, quite plain and with flat lids. The Hebrew inscription No. 5 was found on one of these chests; Nos. 6 and 7, on fragments of lids; Nos. 5 and 6 appear to be names; but what No. 7 is it is difficult to say.

Ismâin Bey, head of the Public Instruction Department, has had the principal ossuaries removed to the Government school near Herod's Gate.

JERUSALEM, *October 30th*, 1899.

PLAN of ROCK-CUT TOMB
ON
MT. SCOPUS.



ΕΡΩΤ

ΠΙΟΥ

1

שקח
תאצ

2

תאקוס

3

יהוה אלהינו
יהוה אחד

4

סליח'סח

5

קחת

6

~~כני כניא~~
את' שריס'ניא

7

X // 1
8

one inch