

Studies in Native Animal Husbandry.

(13) A Note on the Three Parent Stocks of African Cattle.

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IN a previous paper by Curson and Epstein (1934) illustrations were shown of the three parent stocks, that of the Hamitic Longhorn (which is apparently extinct) being taken from Kronacher's *Allgemeine Tierzucht*, 1 Abt., fig. 73. Kronacher gives Adametz as the source of this picture, which represents two Apis bulls from an ancient Egyptian text. As photos were not shown of the *Brachyceros* and Longhorned Zebu cattle as drawn by the Egyptians, illustrations will now be given and the opportunity taken to show the Hamitic Longhorn type, cows being represented as well as the bull.

HAMITIC LONGHORN STOCK.

Fig. 1 shows seven cows accompanied by a bull, both the conformation and colour patterns being very similar to that encountered to-day among Sanga cattle (which contain Hamitic Longhorn and Longhorned Zebu blood) in many parts of Africa. The picture is reproduced from Yahuda's *The Accuracy of the Bible*, and in referring to Pharaoh's dream, the author states: "As to the famous dream of the seven fat and seven lean kine (Gen. 41: 1-7), it was several years ago pointed out by Edouard Naville and others that such a story was only conceivable in Egypt, where the Goddess Hathor was worshipped in the form of a cow. As there were seven districts each having its Hathor cow, hence the seven kine. In the tomb of Nefretiry, the beautiful wife of Rameses II, the seven cows are to be seen accompanied by the bull-god as if they were marching in a solemn procession" (p. 8).

BRACHYCEROS STOCK.

Another representation of ancient cattle is shown in Fig. 2, where the *Brachyceros* type is depicted. Yahuda (1934) gives the source as "on the wonderful mural relief of the temple of Hatschep-sut in Dair-al-Bahri" (p. 8) and the legend under his picture is "Seven cows grazing in the 'Garden of Amon' in the meadow under frankincense-trees". Actually there appear to be nine head of cattle, the one in the foreground being a bull!

LONGHORNED ZEBU STOCK.

Stegman von Pritzwald (1924) gives a figure (fig. 15, p. 56) which undoubtedly shows the Longhorned Zebu in Egypt during the New Kingdom (1580-945 B.C.*). Epstein (1933) reproduces the picture in question, and as his figure lends itself better for photography, it is shown here as Fig. 3. Stegman von Pritzwald gives the source of his picture as W. M. Müller, but the original is not indicated.

Neffgen (1904), in his description of the Veterinary Papyrus of Kahun, refers to three ancient types of cattle in Egypt, viz.:—“Longhornrasse” (clearly Hamitic Longhorn), “Kurzhornrasse” (Brachyceros), and “Hornlosen Tiere.” The same classification has been adopted by Carlier (1912) in his description of cattle in *L'Élevage au Kivu*,† but a classification based on the skull characteristics as a whole, rather than on the horns alone seems preferable.

Whereas there are also certain marked differences in the general body conformation of the Egyptian cattle (at any rate between the Longhorn and Shorthorn), the Kivu cattle (see Carlier, figs. 520, p. 778, and 527, p. 786) are apparently uniform except for the horn. This is what can be expected after the intermingling of centuries. A notable difference is that while the Egyptian cattle are humpless, those of the Belgian Congo have cervico-thoracic humps of apparently muscular tissue. The dewlap is also strongly developed in the cattle of Kivu. The influence of the Longhorned Zebu in this connection is significant.

An interesting feature of the Egyptian paintings is that cattle of the same type are selected, not crosses which must have been available.

Thanks are due to Miss D. Armstrong for drawing my attention to Yahuda's publication and to Mr. T. Meyer for the excellent photographs.

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* Yahuda, p. xvii.

† And is also used by Edm. Leplae in describing the native cattle of the Belgian Congo (*Organisation et Exploitation des Elevages du Congo Belge*, 2nd Edt., 1933).

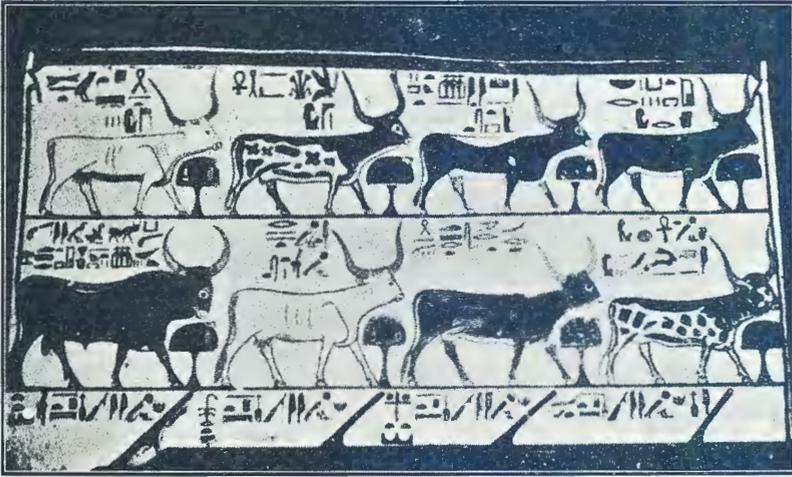


Fig. 1.

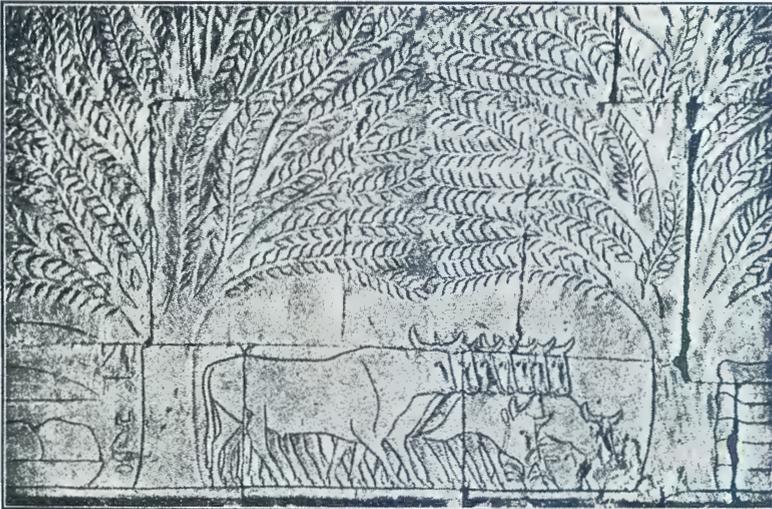


Fig. 2.

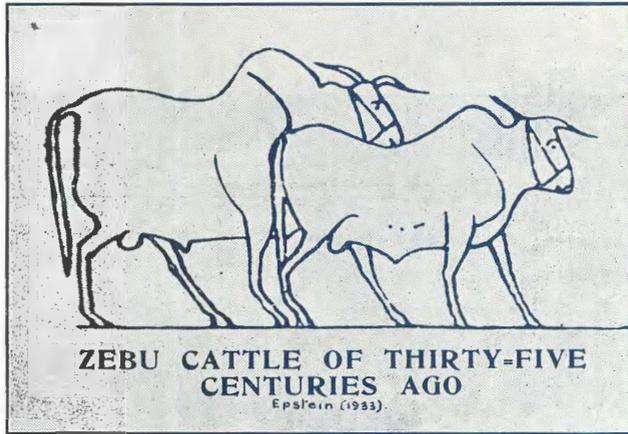


Fig. 3.