

Biot, in a work(1) founded on accurate measures, and calculations replete with sagacity, has determined that it represents, according to an exact geometrical projection, the state of the heavens as it was 700 years before Christ; but he is extremely cautious in not coming to any conclusion that it was sculptured at this period.

In fact, all these efforts of genius and knowledge, in so much as they affect the epoch of the monuments, have been rendered superfluous, since terminating where they should naturally have begun (if the first observer had not been blinded by prejudice,) pains have been taken to copy and restore the Greek inscriptions engraved on these monuments; and particularly, since M. Champollion has attained the art of deciphering those expressed in hieroglyphics.

It is now certain, and the Greek inscriptions agree with the hieroglyphics in proving, that the temple in which the zodiacs have been ensculptured were built whilst the country was under the domination of Rome. The portico of the temple of Dendera, according to the Greek inscription on its entablature, was dedicated to the health of Tiberius.(2)

On the planisphere of the same temple we read the title of *Autocrator* in hieroglyphic characters;(3) and it is probable that it refers to Nero. The small temple of Esne, the origin of which is placed at latest between 2700 or 3000 years before

(1) See M. Biot's work, *Researches on many points of Egyptian Astronomy applied to the astronomical monuments found in Egypt.* Paris, 1823, in 8vo.

(2) Letronne. *Researches into the History of Egypt, during the domination of the Greeks and Romans*, p. 180.

(3) Letronne. *Researches*, p. 38.