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Readers are travelers; they move across lands belonging to someone else, like nomads poaching their way across fields they did not write, despoiling the wealth of Egypt to enjoy it themselves.

—MICHEL DE CERTEAU

No one can look at these wonders without their eyes and breasts filling with wonder, and no one can attempt to describe them without realizing that it is beyond his power to do so.

—DIYA’ AL-DIN IBN AL-ATHIR
(d. 1239 CE)
Figure 1. The head of the Younger Memnon installed in the Egyptian Sculpture Room of the Townley Gallery. Engraving by C. Heath after F. Mackenzie, for Views of London (1825). © Copyright the Trustees of The British Museum.