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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Foreward vii

Juan José Castillos 1
Upper and Lower Egypt in the Predynastic Period

Tamás Mekis 9
Two Hypocephali and Some Other Ptolemaic Finds from Theban Tomb (Kampp) -43-

Gary Milakovic 39
A Note on the Emergence of Royal Elements during the Reign of Den

Frédéric Payraudeau 47
Le dieu et ses jambes: Sur deux titres sacerdotaux rares du Premier millénaire (Statue Caire JE 36992)

Peter Robinson 59
Some Observations on the Route to the Afterlife from Late 18th Dynasty Royal Tombs

Caroline M. Rocheleau 79
A Sixth Shabti Jar Belonging to Hori

Vincent Arieh Tobin 91
Gender Symbolism in the Egyptian Pyramid Texts

Bart van Assche 113
Ahmose Sapair: Discussing the Identity of a Deified Prince

Book Reviews: 123

review of Kathryn A. Bard. *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*, by Amber Hutchinson
review of Aidan Dodson. *Amarna Sunset*: by Peter Robinson
review of Carolyn Graves-Brown, ed., *Sex and Gender in Ancient Egypt: 'Don your wig for a joyful hour'*, by Sally Katary
review Ursula Kaplony-Heckel, *Land und Leute am Nil nach demotischen Inschriften Papyri und Ostraka*: by John Gee
review of James Patterson & Martin Dugard, *The Murder of King Tut*, by Ed Meltzer
review of *Desert Animals in the Eastern Sahara*. Heiko Riemer, Frank Förster, Michael Herb & Nadja Pöllath, eds. by Charles S. Churcher
review of Robert K. Ritner, Jr., *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period*, by John Gee
review of Pamela Rose. *The Meroitic Temple Complex at Qasr Ibrim* by Sarah M. Schellinger
review of Eugen Strouhal, *The Memphite Tomb of Horemheb Commander-in-Chief of Tutankhamun*, IV, Human skeletal remains by Peter Sheldrick
review of Jordi Vidal, editor. *Studies on War in the Ancient Near East*. by Nicholas Wernick

cal errors are few. It is well illustrated with 5 coloured Figures, 156 black and white line drawings, shaded sketches and half-tone photographs, 14 tables, 19 maps, 4 charts and a Chronology Chart for Egypt. Various items require comment

Comments by Chapters: 1 - Mainly on Nile Valley. 2 - 'ovicaprine' with no identified horns or cores, bears considerably on the Nile Valley. 3 - The absence of petroglyphs of ass (*Asinus*) fragments in most sites is curious as wild ass is known to have inhabited the northern savannas of Egypt before they dried out (see Huyge, Chapter 12). P.104 states, "...from this region (Nile Valley) ... no faunal assemblages are known," but a generous one is known from Kom Ombo, see Gaillard[21] and Churcher.[22] P. 86, Fig. 5 confuses shades of grey for occupation stages, vegetation, sand sheets and heights of land, and refers readers to another publication[23] for a coloured key. P. 87, hartebeest are not as dependant on available water as are bovines (see Haekel 6). P. 91, "a single bone of a Barbary sheep" when Tab. 3 shows 9 specimens from 3 levels - so at least 3 individuals. 7 - P. 157, 'Nubia Formation Sandstone', NOT 'Nubian sandstone'. P. 170 - ichthyofauna (sp). 8 - Figs 4 and 5 have exchanged legends. Legends not accurate. 9 - Legends and explanations to the figures are weak and some are inaccurate. 10 - Legends incomplete or weak. Animals named or listed in Figs 2-5 are not interpreted which reduces their value. P. 250, Why do 163 bone pieces imply at least 8 individuals? How sure is the identification of garganey? The Nile mussel (*Chambardia rubens arcuata*) is a fluviatile taxon and may be imported from the Nile Valley: also it may be a misidentified *Etheria elliptica*. 11 - Why should seated giraffe be hamstrung when it is a normal resting posture? Fig.11 - "waterfowl in flight and at rest" - I see none that are in flight and most are crudely depicted ostriches. They are called "storks" in the text, but all their bills are too short. 13 - Tomb frescos and panels together may provide a better bestiary than a record of animal husbandry or dining. Most of the carved panels relate to the Nile Delta or Valley and not to the desert savanna or bushveld.

Rufus Churcher

Robert K. Ritner, Jr., *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period*, [Writings of the Ancient World 21] (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009). ISBN-13: 978-1-58983-174-2. xx + 622 pp. $59.95.

For twenty years, the Society of Biblical Literature's series, *Writings of the Ancient World* has made available affordable and accurate translations of ancient texts that prove invaluable to students and professionals, especially ancient historians and biblical scholars who might not be proficient in the various languages. This book continues that series with translations of a number of texts from the Libyan period - the Egyptian time period contemporary with the bulk of the biblical narrative. Professor Ritner is generally a capable scholar, but has been known to badly misread the texts that he was proportedly publishing,[24] so his translations and particularly his transliterations need to be checked against the original glyphs. The work under consideration shows that still to be the case.

21 Gaillard, "Contributions à l'étude de la faune préhistorique de l'Égypte," 1-125.

22 Churcher, *Late Pleistocene Vertebrates*,

23 Kuper, R., and S. Kroperlin. "Climate-controlled Holocene occupation in the Sahara: Motor of Africa's evolution." *Science* **313(2006)**: 803-807.

24 Kerry Muhlestein, "The Book of Breathings in Its Place," *FARMS Review* 17/2 (2005): 482-86.

Professor Ritner translates nearly three hundred texts in his anthology but numbers them rather oddly so that it seems as though there are only about two hundred. Most of this material is conveniently available in the more comprehensive work of Karl Jansen-Winkeln[25] and Olivier Perdu[26] neither of which does Ritner mention. Anyone who uses Ritner's work will want to have Jansen-Winkeln at his elbow. For example, Ritner's translation of the settlement text of Henuttawy (C) from the Tenth Pylon of Karnak (pp. 138-43) is missing significant portions of the text, which may be found in Jansen-Winkeln.[27]

The translations are adequate. Hyper-Polotskian translations often leave the impression that the text has been translated but not into English. The translator seems to have avoided the worst excesses of the Polotskians but the translations are still often awkward and mechanical. This is one of Ritner's few positive contributions to the field, one not written with the primary intent of attacking someone, and he seems thoroughly bored. It is disappointing that Ritner's considerable verbal gifts vanish when he is not writing vitriol.

Professor Ritner seems proud that his was the first Egyptological volume in the series *Writings of the Ancient World* to provide transliterations of the texts (p. 9). This would have been a real achievement if the transliterations were on the facing pages of the translations like those of the other volumes of the series. Alas, such was not the case. Five pages of straight transliteration (pp. 88-92, 349-53) followed by six or seven pages of translation (pp. 92-98, 353-58) becomes ludicrous besides useless. The pinnacle is ten pages of straight transliteration (pp. 468-77). Think of the paper and ink wasted on pages that will scarcely be read! Without them the volume would have been much shorter, and probably significantly less expensive. Inclusion of the transliterations might have been helpful if the transliterations were accurate. Ritner's transliterations are generally an idealized view of the text as though they were written in the correct Middle Egyptian of a thousand years previously. But they were not, so the text in the transliteration often does not reflect what is written the hieroglyphs, and Ritner's transliterations suppress or distort numerous features of the contemporary language. Throughout the book brackets are so commonly misplaced that it is a wonder that they were included at all.

The poor formatting can at least be explained by noting that Professor Ritner simply dumped material on Bob Buller who tried to pull together "a coherent manuscript" out of the mess that Ritner gave him (p. 10). Buller has spent an enormous amount of work on this volume and the fact that it is as good as it is says much to Buller's credit. Buller should be exonerated for the continuous type-setting problems such as not placing the transliterations and translations on facing pages, or the ubiquitous breaks of lines in the middle of the words. Professor Ritner should have caught some of those. It was simply beyond Buller's skill to make a silk purse out of the sow's ear that he had been given.

The book appears in print a decade out of date. Only four works in the bibliography date after 1999. At one point, Ritner says that a book that came out five years before his did was too late to be considered (p. 193). Ritner only lists it as "Wilson 2005" but does not include it in the bibliography and so leaves follow-up impossible. Several times Ritner says that the "dimensions [are] not given" (pp. 66-67) even though they are in a book that he lists in his bibliography (p. 601) and published by the Oriental Institute where he works, but apparently could not bother to use as a basis for the

25 *Inschriften der Spätzeit* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2007-2009)

26 *Recueil des inscriptions royales saïtes. Volume I: Psammétique I^er^* (Paris: Éditions Cybele, 2002)

27 Jansen-Wilkeln, *Inscriften der Spätzeit*, 1:177-82

inscriptions that he published from it.

The numerous historical errors will lead those who are not specialists on Third Intermediate Period studies astray. Here are a sampling:

- Ritner provides a helpful genealogy of Ankhefenkhonsu (p. 16) showing the High Priest Menkhepere (conventionally 1035-986 B.C.) ten generations apart from Sheshonq I (924-889 B.C.). This would mean that if Ritner has reconstructed the genealogy correctly, then for ten generations, the men in this genealogy were consistently having children at the average age of eleven. Either Ritner's reconstruction is incorrect or the chronology of the Third Intermediate Period needs to be expanded on the order of a century.

- Ritner often assigns rulers incorrectly. This is attributable to a number of reasons. Sometimes it simply reflects the uncertain nature of work on the Third Intermediate Period. Sometimes it reflects the inability or unwillingness to stay current in an active field. Sometimes it reflects carelessness. A few examples from the first seventy pages will suffice:

- An inscription of Sheshonq VIa (Janssen-Winkeln's VII) is attributed to Sheshonq I (p. 34).
- An unattributable inscription is attributed to Osorkon II (p. 36).
- An inscription of Petubastis I is attributed to Sheshonq III (p. 37).
- An inscription of Takeloth III is attributed to Osorkon III (p. 39).
- An inscription of Osorkon II is attributed to Osorkon III (p. 40).
- Inscriptions from different rulers are combined (p. 51).
- An inscription of Sheshonq IV is attributed to Osorkon III (p. 57).
- An inscription likely of Osorkon II is unattributed (p. 59).
- A unattributable inscription of early Dynasty 22 is attributed to Osorkon I (p. 61).

For this reason, Ritner's book needs to be used very carefully and everything should be double-checked.

While the Twenty-First through Twenty-Fourth Dynasties can properly be called the Libyan period, and there is certainly Libyan influence, Ritner has a tendency to see influence when it is not actually there. Two examples will suffice. Ritner labels one individual a "Libyan Dynast" and reads his name "*Pk-w3-iw-š3*(?)" (p. 79). He has misread the name, which is *Pkw3r3wr*, an odd spelling for the well-attested Egyptian name *P3-krr*. In one of the priestly annals, his insertion of the title "chief of the Ma" is simply his own invention surreptitiously inserted into a lacuna (p. 53).

The preceding has been a mere sample of the hundred of errors that plague the volume. There seems little point wasting paper by listing all of them.

In the end, this book constantly reminds the reader of Breasted's *Ancient Records*, a groundbreaking translation effort making many texts available for the first time in English, which unfortunately is out-of-date and in desperate need of revision. Breasted's work took at least half a century to achieve that feat, but Ritner's needed merely to roll off the press. While Egyptologists may find Professor Ritner's numerous mistakes amusing, no historian or biblical scholar should rely on his work. In that sense the volume defeats its purpose.

John Gee