

BOOK REVIEWS

QUIRKE, S. (ed.): *The Temple in Ancient Egypt. New Discoveries and Recent Research*. British Museum Press, London 1997, ISBN 0-7141-0993-2, 241 pp., 47 plates b&w, 8 coloured plates, paperback edition, price 30,00 GBP.

This book dedicated to the memory of the Belgian Egyptologist Jan Quaegebeur consists of the contributions of members of the British Museum colloquium "the Temple in Ancient Egypt" held by the Department of Egyptian Antiquities on 21-22 July 1994. Sixteen papers are arranged thematically by the editor into the three sections: Temples for the royal cult, Temples for the cults of the gods and Temples of the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods. The texts are followed by the list of literature used by the authors. At the end of the book, 47 b&w and 8 coloured plates of the ancient Egyptian monuments are arranged. Maps, plans and other drawings are included within the texts.

In his study "The development of the pyramid temple in the Fourth Dynasty" (pp. 1-16), Rainer Stadelmann deals with the Old Kingdom pyramid complexes. He analyzes the arrangement of the funerary apartments inside the royal pyramids and those in the pyramid temples. He emphasizes the unity between the pyramid tomb on the one hand and its temple on the other hand. His interpretation and conclusions are based partly on his own research of the pyramids of Snofru at Dahsur as well as the other comparative material of this period.

Paper of Paule Posener-Kriéger titled "News from Abusir" (pp. 17- 23) is based on her study of the results of archaeological excavations of the Czech Egyptologists in recent decades at Abusir. Discoveries of the papyrus archives in the pyramid complexes of the Queen Khentkaus and that of the King Raneferef at Abusir allowed her to revise some of her previous interpretations of the Old Kingdom papyri found in the pyramid complex of Neferirkare at the same necropolis. She also discusses the so-called problem of Khentkaus, identity of the Old Kingdom queen known from Abusir and Giza as well.

Steven Quirke's article "Gods in the temple of the King: Anubis at Lahun" (pp. 24-48) is analytical and comparative study on fragments of the 12th dynasty hieratic papyrus from Lahun. They contain numerous references to the cult of the king Senusret II as well as the god Anubis. On the basis of the analysis of other textual records and comparative material of this period, the author proposes that there was rather one single temple complex with two cults, one for the king and one for the god, located in the pyramid temple of Senusret II then two separated cult places.

Christian Leblanc in "Quelques reflexions sur le programme iconographique et la fonction des temples de 'millions d'années' " (pp. 49-56) writes on the New Kingdom temples known as "Mansions of millions of years". They were built not only as the sacred places for the mortuary cults of deceased kings, but functioned also as the places of the union between the pharaohs and the local deities. The author discusses some religious and social aspects of this type of architectural monuments emphasizing the role of the king as guarantor of the cosmic and social principles of the order personified in the goddess Ma'at.

Betsy Bryan deals with the decoration of the mortuary temple of Amenophis III on the west bank of the Nile at Luxor. Her study "The statue program for the mortuary temple of Amenophis III" (pp. 57-81) contains analysis and interpretation of the fragments of statues known from the archaeological excavations. She suggests that the aforementioned program was related to the king's jubilee and his rebirth as the sun god. The statues may have functioned as protective gods for different rituals. The author compares the statues with some of the figures known from the New Kingdom sky-maps suggesting that the statues may have been used to create a sky map on a three dimensional scale placed in the mortuary temple of Amenophis III. A catalogue of the discussed statues and their fragments is arranged at the end of her study.

The contribution of Charles Bonnet and Dominique Valbelle "The Middle Kingdom temple of Hathor at Searbit el-Khadim" (pp. 82-89) concerns the study of this temple in the context of the rehabilitation of the site. The attention of the first author is concentrated on the archaeological study of the area and the monuments within. In his description, the author emphasizes the poor condition of the temple caused by erosion, earthquakes and by some activities of man and from this point of view the importance of the restoration works. His attention is devoted to the main architectural structures of the temple with the number of stelae and their fragments. The second author deals with the epigraphic study of the monuments, the analyses of the texts and their interpretation not only in context of the temple decoration, but also the function of the temple itself.

The study presented by Jaromír Málek "The temples at Memphis. Problems highlighted by the EES survey" (pp. 90-101) is based on the results of the research of the Egypt Exploration Society and their analytical study by the author himself. He deals with the development of the city of Memphis in the relationship to its temple of Ptah as well as the location of the Aten temple in Memphis.

Christine Favard-Meeks deals in her article "The temple of Behbeit el-Hagara" (pp. 102-111) with a monument located in the Nile Delta. The temple was dedicated to the funerary gods where the Osirian family was worshipped. The surviving remains of the temple are dated to the reign of Nectanebo II and the Ptolemaic period. The author presents the architectural description of the monument as well as its relief decoration.

In their contribution, Sue Davies and H S Smith deal with the "Sacred Animal Temples at Saqqara" (pp. 112-131). They pay attention to the general description of the temples as well as the organization of the life within the sacred area of the Anubeion, the Bubasteion and the Serapeion in north Saqqara where a number of sacred animals were worshipped in the temples and then buried in the adjacent cemeteries.

Susanne Woodhouse in her article titled "The sun, his four bas and the four winds in the sacred district at Sads: the fragment of an Obelisk (BM EA 1512)" (pp. 132-151) describes a fragment of a Graeco-Roman obelisk in the British Museum and analyses its decoration consisting of the reliefs and texts in context of the ancient Egyptian religion.

Dieter Kurth, one of the most experts at the temples of Ptolemaic and Roman Periods, gives his overview of this subject. His paper "The present state of research into Graeco-Roman temples" (pp. 152-158) is divided into three parts. The first consists of a description of the subject, the second contains a historical outline and present state of research and in the third part he deals with priorities for future research.

Jan Quaegebeur's contribution "Excavating the forgotten temple of Shenhur (Upper Egypt)" (pp. 159-167) is a description of the less known temple of the Roman period built at Shenhur. At first, he summarizes the history of this archaeological site and then goes on with the modern research at the temple by the Belgian and French archaeologi-

cal mission. It was concentrated on the complete excavation of the temple and the settlement and publishing the decoration and inscriptions of the temple.

In the article "Lessons from the Upper Egyptian temple of el-Qal'a" (pp. 168-178), Claude Traunecker deals with the history, architecture and research of the temple at el-Qal'a in Upper Egypt built in the Roman Period as well as the interpretation and iconography of some deities preserved in the decoration of the temple.

In the paper titled "Slaughtering the crocodile at Edfu and Dendera" (pp. 179-203), Penelope Wilson devotes her attention to one of the most frequent and important scenes occurring on the walls of the temples at Edfu and Dendera. She presents the translations and analyses of the series of texts accompanying these temple scenes as well as the list of Egyptian terms used for "crocodile".

In his contribution titled "A painting of the gods of Dakhla in the temple of Ismant el-Kharab" (pp. 204-215), Olaf E. Kaper deals with some deities represented on the walls of the temples discovered in the Dakhla Oasis in recent decades. The decoration program of these temples is discussed in the context of the local cult topography and occurrence of some deities in the Roman period scenes.

John Baines concentrates his attention on the temples from the Early and Graeco-Roman Periods of Egyptian history. Based on the archaeological and written records, his essay "Temples as symbols, guarantors, and participants in Egyptian civilization" (pp. 216-241) discusses the relationship between temples and kingship and deals with the development and significance of the temples in their social context.

The book under review consisting of collected studies is a very informative and valuable volume appreciated by the scholars interested in ancient Egyptian temples, but available also for those dealing with the architecture and religion of the ancient Egyptians.

Dušan Magdolen

TAKÁCS, Gábor: *Etymological Dictionary of Egyptian. Volume One: A Phonological Introduction*. Brill – Leiden, Boston, Köln 1999. ISBN 90-04-11539-0; Handbook of Oriental Studies, Dept. 1, Tome 48, ISSN 0169-9423, 471 pp.

Compiling an etymological dictionary certainly requires monumental and toilsome work. We have seen recently the first part of such a work, the objective of which is to summarize the results of the comparison of the Old Egyptian language with related language families spread in a great part of Africa and the Middle East. The dictionary will probably please all those who are oriented to historical linguistics.

The underlying book starts with a brief review of the development of historical egyptology and Afro-Asiatic comparative studies, mentioning contributions of the particular authors.

The following chapter contains a detailed classification of the Afro-Asiatic language family (with several variants of Semitic classification).

Another chapter tackles the problem of the position of Egyptian within Afro-Asiatic and among African languages with a list of possible lexical isoglosses and touches the question of the Egyptian homeland.

Following is the largest chapter that is dedicated to the consonant correspondences between Egyptian and Semitic and other Afro-Asiatic branches. Egyptian consonants