

PREFACE

In this, the second issue of Deir el-Bahari Studies, a Special Studies fascicle of the journal Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean (published by the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw), we present articles covering manifold aspects of human cognitive behavior in Deir el-Bahari and the neighboring areas. The area of Deir el-Bahari is the major focus of most articles, but they also cover its vicinity, including Sheikh Abd el-Gurna. The scope of some of the published topics, the study of religion, for instance, covers an even wider area.

The scope of the research and activity carried out within and beyond the Temple of Hatshepsut far exceeds the issues connected with the New Kingdom complex itself. They cover topics that range widely in space and time, being concerned with studies of particular periods or problems, rather than general theoretical statements. In this issue of Deir el-Bahari Studies, multidisciplinary contributions from specialists in complementary fields, such as architecture, restoration, archaeology, anthropology or linguistics have been encouraged. The published articles of this volume therefore include also important contributions to research on the past made by specialists, such as botanists (botanical remains from a recently discovered deposit temple offering), zoologists (analysis of animals represented in the temple decoration), bioarchaeologists (human remains from the burials discovered in the Temple) and medical specialists in X-ray and CT-scanning (a medley of mummies from the Third Intermediate Period cemetery in the ruins of Hatshepsut's Temple). This broad scope of the presentation will hopefully be appreciated by all those concerned with the archaeology and restoration of the monuments of West Thebes.

In a different take, the volume is fortunate in bringing together four studies to complement the examination of mummies coming from the Third Intermediate Period burials in the Chapel of Hatshepsut. These are: Cynthia May Sheikholeslami's study of the Montu priestly families as attested in the material, Frédéric Payraudeau's assessment of the funerary assemblages from the Chapel dated to the Twenty-second to Twenty-fifth Dynasties, and two linguistic approaches to the Rituals of Day and Night on the coffins of Heresenes and Nespaqashuty, by Erhart Graefe and Kenneth Griffin, respectively. Barring a separate volume dedicated to this material, this is the most comprehensive presentation so far of this funerary complex from the Deir el-Bahari temple site.

For the publication of the Studies thanks are due the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw. I would like to express my particular gratitude to Iwona Zych, whose role in the process of the editing and publication of this volume is greatly appreciated. I am also grateful to Ewa Czyżewska-Zalewska for her professional preparation of illustrations and the overall layout, and to Katarzyna Kapiec for her assistance in the process of collecting materials for the volume. Jan Kurzawa has done a brilliant job on the general presentation.

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