

Roman art in turn was transformed into that of Byzantium." This is an ambitious aim but one which represents the highest goals of archaeological research and interpretation, and there could be no one better qualified to face it than Professor Hanfmann.

The book is divided into five chapters reflecting the plan of the study. It begins with "Sardis, Croesus and the Persians"—the native and eastern elements in the early period; then, the spread of Greek culture in the area, two chapters on the period of Roman dominance, and a final section on the early fourth century.

The treatment is generally a kind of survey or review of the buildings and sculpture of the respective periods throughout the several cities, very much up to date, of course, in mentioning discoveries and scholarly treatments. In this respect if no other it would be extremely valuable to the student and interesting even to the more general reader. The descriptions of the newly discovered material, as well as of the older and more familiar, evoke a vivid picture of the atmosphere in these cities, as well as of the peculiarities and qualities of the individual monuments.

In this evocation itself is achieved in considerable measure the purpose of the book; the reader sees for himself the changing character of the cities, the play of the various cultural traditions in the shifting scenes of life. And the author's frequent comments calling attention to this or that indication of such interplay help to keep the picture alive and in focus. But in a sense this manner of presentation prevents a complete realization of the aim: there is so much information and detail in so limited a space that there is no room for the deeper and more reflective interpretation. Such an interpretation should be based, moreover, on the intellectual and religious environment, which could thus reveal the author's personal understandings of the deeper levels of consciousness and civilization. For one or two random examples, his tantalizing comments on the peculiarly east-Greek use of frieze-sculpture on wall surfaces he might have related more funda-

mentally to Asiatic aesthetic than he does in his hurried references to such influences, and I should be much interested to know more fully his thoughts about the colonnaded spaces of the great Ionic temples of the Anatolian coastal region as compared to those of the Persian hypostyle halls. And in the highly illuminating and suggestive chapter on the social role of sculpture in the Roman cities one would like to have read more of his views on how this might relate to Oriental traditions.

All this is to say that one wishes that Professor Hanfmann would produce still another book, as no doubt he intends to do. The volume at hand however does stand on its own feet as an authoritative study in its own right, and is characteristically stimulating and fruitful in suggesting new ideas. It is handsomely printed, with excellent and usually fresh illustrations. Altogether it is a great credit both to George Hanfmann and to Thomas Spencer Jerome.

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Tell el-Dab'a II: Der Fundort im Rahmen einer archäologisch-geographischer Untersuchung über das ägyptische Ostdelta. By MANFRED BIETAK. Vienna: Verlag der Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Denkschriften der Gesamtkademie, 1975. Pp. 236 + 47 pls.

This sumptuous book is not only the best-illustrated archaeological report on Egypt in several decades, but it also represents a milestone in the conception and execution of Egyptological research. It is only one of four volumes on the Austrian excavations of 1966-69, planned to appear over a three-year period.

The first, by Labib Habachi, will discuss the site in connection with Qantir and the previous discoveries there; the second volume, but earliest to appear, is reviewed here; the third contribution, by Joachim Boessneck, will cover the animal bones; and the fourth, again by Bietak, will present the

unique layer-by-layer stratigraphy and the chronology of Tell el-Dab'a in full detail.

The organization of volume 2 is focused on the identification of Tell el-Dab'a and nearby Qantir as the locus of both the Hyksos capital Avaris and the Ramesside residence Pi-Ramesse. The site has proved to have traces of Early Dynastic occupation, extensive evidence of repeated urban settlement from the Middle Kingdom through the Second Intermediate Period, massive Ramesside ruins, as well as some Ptolemaic vestiges. The Hyksos levels (Middle Bronze II) significantly rest on the fire-scarred remains of the Middle Kingdom town, and the site was conspicuously abandoned during the Eighteenth Dynasty. The Ramesside city was up to 3 km² in extent, including a royal palace, residences of major dignitaries, and several temple complexes (including one for the Sutech cult). During the Twenty-first Dynasty, Tell el-Dab'a was superseded by Tanis (Djanet) as the royal residence and in fact remained unoccupied from the eleventh to the third century B.C. Volume 4 will report on the exemplary urban archeology at the site itself, and the task set here is to reconstruct the physical, economic, and political organization of the eastern Delta in Dynastic times. The strategy has been to establish the context, prior to elucidating the content.

Following the introductory section, the first major part deals with the "paleogeography" of the eastern Delta: general relationships between settlement and terrain; the stability and dynamism inherent to rivers; clues to reconstructing abandoned Nile branches from the modern micro-topography; methods of dating of such ancient streams by written documents, architectural patterning, and dated archaeological remains; discussion of the reconstructed courses: the Pelusiac and Tanitic branches, the Heliopolitan and Butic canals, the Wadi Tumilat basin, the Bahr el-Baqar drainage system, and the general mapping of archaeological sites; and specific dating of these branches by means of the associated settlements. This sixty-five-page section deals effectively with

geomorphologic problems, develops models for interpretation, illustrates landscape facets by a wealth of color and black-and-white photos, reproduces the key topographic map of the *Description de l'Égypte* at full scale, reconstructs the detailed history of the Pelusiac Branch on two multicolored folding maps at 1:100,000, and, finally, presents the composite palaeogeography and archaeology of the eastern Delta in three colors at 1:200,000 in a large coverpocket map. With this background, Bietak places Tell el-Dab'a and Qantir, including the new 1:5000 topographic map (by J. Dorner, H. König) and a site reconstruction, into its former setting on the Pelusiac Branch. The abandonment of the site at the end of the Ramesside period is explained by the rapid deterioration of the Pelusiac Branch in Twenty-first Dynasty times, due to piracy of its waters by the Tanitic Branch at Bubastis. As a result, the harbor became unusable for marine traffic, and the minor water networks of the Bahr el-Baqar to the east no longer afforded protection for the agricultural hinterland. Hence the selection of Tanis at the head of the Tanitic subdelta as a new maritime harbor and administrative center.

The second major component of Bietak's study attempts to integrate the geomorphologic data base and the archaeological framework of the Nile Delta with the written documents. The various deltaic reconstructions derived from Dynastic sources are as good as the data allow, going well beyond A. H. Gardiner's previous effort (*Ancient Egyptian Onomastica* [Oxford, 1947], vol. 2, pp. 153-71). The brief discussion of the classical authors also adds a fresh reconstruction on the basis of Ptolemy's information. These materials are then integrated into an exacting temporal-spatial reconstruction of the Delta nomes from the Old Kingdom to Strabo. Finally, the entire corpus of inscriptions having any bearing on Avaris and Pi-Ramesse and their setting (including an excursus on the Exodus) is presented and painstakingly evaluated. The reader can decide for him- or herself whether the case has been made beyond a reasonable doubt.

Altogether, this ranks as one of the finest historical-geographical studies yet accomplished in Egypt. Had research of comparable vision and thoroughness been focused on Memphis and several Upper Egyptian sites during the nineteenth century, our whole understanding of ancient Egypt would have been different. At this time, one can only hope that the research strategies implemented by Bietak will be emulated by other scholars so that optimal results can be derived from that which remains.

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The Report of Wenamun. By HANS GOEDICKE.

The Johns Hopkins Near Eastern Studies. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975. Pp. 192.

In the latest volume of this rapidly expanding series, Hans Goedicke has brought his full ingenuity to bear on one of the most problematical of all Late Egyptian texts: the report of Wenamun about his journey to the Levant to procure timber for the sacred bark of Amun in Thebes.

Taking up a suggestion by the late Dr. J. Černý that this report is a genuine administrative document rather than a literary work of fiction, he argues that the extant version is a copy made some one hundred years later, perhaps in preparation for a similar undertaking. This would make it an invaluable eye-witness account from one of the darkest periods of Egyptian history, and as such a gold mine of information on the international relations of that time.

With this prospect in mind, Goedicke re-translates the entire text line by line with the originality one has come to expect from this author, examining each word for whatever insights it might provide into the status of Wenamun, the international position of Egypt, and the social and political conditions in the Eastern Mediterranean world at the time of his journey. The result is a fascinating and highly stimulating book of equal interest to Egyptologists and those specialized in the

study of the Old Testament and the environment of ancient Israel.

It is hardly possible to do justice to a book of this type within the framework of a brief review. Its value lies in the innumerable new interpretations of individual passages, some of which may very well prove to be controversial. However, such controversy can only further our understanding of this problematical text, and one can only commend the author for the courage with which he has put forward his interpretations. May the two following observations serve as a token of the reviewer's appreciation of Goedicke's book.

On p. 79, the author notes the various explanations given for the Semitic loan word *m-r3-k3*, derived by A. Erman and others from the root *mlk* ("royal present"), and compared by Sir Alan Gardiner to Hebrew *berákáh* ("gift"). More recently, Manfred Görg has suggested a connection with Babylonian *mulágu* (Ugaritic *mlg*), denoting a kind of dowry ("*mrk* [Wb. II, 113] = kan. *mlg*?,” *GM* 13 [1974]: 13-15).

On p. 123, he deduces from the fact that Zeker-ba'al speaks standing rather than sitting in the midst of his people that the meeting was informal. The practices described in the Homeric epics, which are not that far removed in time and space from the report of Wenamun, suggest exactly the opposite: anyone who spoke in the assembly had to step forward and was given a scepter by the herald (e.g., Od. II, 35-38), while speaking from one's chair was unusual and required special notice (Il. XIX, 76-77, with the comments of Ameis-Hentze ad loc.).

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Ancient Egyptian Literature. Vol. 2. *The New Kingdom.* By MIRIAM LICHTHEIM. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1976. Pp. XIV + 239. \$10.

In 1973, Miriam Lichtheim published the first volume of the most comprehensive