

s'agir ici d'une espèce de manifeste rédigé peu après la mort du roi, sans doute à l'initiative de son fils *Ramsès IV pour faire ressortir les mérites du fondateur de la dynastie et étayer les titres au pouvoir de son successeur²⁰. Ce but de propagande avait peut-être aussi inspiré l'auteur du conte de Sinuhe²¹.

¹ Jean Sainte Fare Garnot, L'Appel aux Vivants dans les Textes Funéraires Egyptiens, RAPH 9, 1938. – ² Joachim Spiegel, Die Idee vom Totengericht in der ägyptischen Religion, LÄS 2, 1935. – ³ Goedicke, in: MDAIK 21, 1966, 1–71. – ⁴ Urk. I, 51–53. – ⁵ Hellmut Brunner, Die Texte aus den Gräbern der Herakleopolitenzeit von Siut, ÄF 5, 1937, 30, Anm. 1; 35. – ⁶ Adriaan de Buck, Het typische en het individuele bij de Egyptenaren, Leiden 1929, 21–23. – ⁷ Janssen, Autobiografie; Jakob Polotsky, Zu den Inschriften der 11. Dynastie, UGAÄ 11, Nachdr. d. Ausg. Leipzig 1929, 1964; cf. déjà pour L'Ancien Empire Edel, in: MDAIK 13, 1944, 1–90. – ⁸ Un exemple typique nous est donné par la biographie d'*Ahmose, fils d'Abina, voir Claude Vandersleyen, Les Guerres d'Amosis, MRE 1, 1971. – ⁹ Junker, Giza XII, 91–94. La plupart des textes sont réunis dans Urk. I; cf. Edel, in: ZÄS 79, 1954, 11–17; 83, 1958, 3–18; 85, 1960, 18–23; 92, 1966, 96–99; idem., in: MIO 1, 1953, 210–226 et 327–336; 2, 1954, 183–188; idem., in: Fs Grapow, 51–75. – ¹⁰ Brunner, op.cit.; Vandier, Mo'alla; idem., La Famine dans l'Egypte Ancienne, RAPH 7, 1936. – ¹¹ Beni Hasan, I–IV; Urk. VII; Hans Wolfgang Müller, Die Felsengräber der Fürsten von Elephantine aus der Zeit des Mittleren Reiches, ÄF 9, 1940. – ¹² Entre autres à Hatnoub: cf. Hatnub. – ¹³ Hermann, Stelen, 124–149. – ¹⁴ Entre autres la biographie d'Amenemhet, Gardiner, in: ZÄS 47, 1910, 87–99. – ¹⁵ Davies, Amarna 1–6; Sandman, Texts from Akhenaten. – ¹⁶ Otto, Biogr. Inschr. – ¹⁷ Hermann Grapow, Sprachliche und schriftliche Formung ägyptischer Texte, LÄS 7, 1936, 31–35. – ¹⁸ Urk. I, 51–53. – ¹⁹ Vandier, Mo'alla, 171 sq. – ²⁰ Schaedel, Listen des pHarris, 68. – ²¹ Posener, Littérature et Politique, 87–115.

Lit.: Hellmut Brunner, Grundzüge einer Geschichte der altägyptischen Literatur, Grundzüge 8, Darmstadt 1966, 20–21. 41–42. 64. 93; Otto, in: HdO I, 2^e, 179–188; Günther Roeder, Aus dem Leben vornehmer Ägypter von ihnen selbst erzählt, Voigtländers Quellenbücher 17, Leipzig 1912; Georg Misch, Geschichte der Autobiographie I, Bern u. Frankfurt ³1949–50, Einl. (trad. en anglais sous le titre A History of Autobiography I, International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction, London 1950).

B. v. d. W.

El-Birba s. Thinis.

Birjawaza. Herr von Damaskus unter *Amenophis IV.-Echnaton, mit dem Schutz der

Provinz Upe und von Kumidi als des Gouverneursitzes betraut. Gegner des *Aitakama von *Qadesch und des *Aziru von *Amurru (EA 151, 189), mit denen er um die Orte von Amqa kämpft (Abfall des *Arzawija von Ruhizzi in eigenem Brief EA 197). Seine Gegner waren auch die Könige von Bosra und Hulan (unbek. Lokalisierung), Biridaswa von Janu-ammu (EA 19617) sowie die Söhne des Labaja, gegen die er dem Ba'lu-UR.SAG (= *Ba'lu-mehir) (von Tenni) half¹. Eigene Briefe EA 194–197.

¹ Erwähnung EA 55, 45 (Akkizzi von Qatna). – Zur Lesung des Namens B. vgl. Thureau-Dangin, in: RA 37, 1940, 171. W. H.

Birket Qarun (بركة قارون; Karte 2a u. b). Remnant of ancient Lake Moeris, artificially maintained at about 45 m below sea level with area of 214 km². Occupies natural depression (to –53 m) eroded by chemical weathering and colian deflation during Pleistocene, connected to Nile Valley by narrow divide breached at *Hawara – el-*Lahun (rock floor at –18 m)¹. Linked to *Nile in late Pleistocene when lake shorelines developed at 42 m, 34 m, 28 m and 22.5 m (above sea level) (with Middle and Late Paleolithic artifacts)². After a period of desiccation a new, Nile-fed lake re-established well before 7000 B.C. (unadjusted C¹⁴ dates 6150 and 6120 B.C. on basal sediments)³, maintaining level above 17 m in 7th millennium (C¹⁴ dates 5550 and 5190 B.C. contemporary with *Fajjum "B"-type industries)³ and of 22 to 24 m from the Fajjum "A"-period (C¹⁴ dates 4440, 4145⁴, 3910 and 3860 B.C.³, corrected by Stuiver-Suess formula⁵ to ca. 5900–5000 B.C. calendar years) through the Pottery Neolithic and Predynastic to OK³. Geological-archeological evidence is corroborated by the ancient crocodile, *Re-Methyer and *Osiris cults of Fajjum⁶, by the legend of Moeris as the primeval ocean and origin of life (*Nun)⁷, and the OK basalt quarries related to probable quays at 18 to 22 m near *Qasr es-Sagha and *Dimeh, with the latter site (*Soknopaios Nesos) reduced to a peninsula with a 16 m shoreline⁸. Level fluctuated according to season and strength of Nile floods. The Hawara entrance may have been silted up during low floods of First Intermediate period, cutting off much of water supply⁹, perhaps until MK pharaohs cleared the *Bahr Jussuf channel between Hawara and Lahun¹⁰. The colossi of *Biahmu (courtyard pavement at 18 m, enclosing stone walls 22 m, top of

pedestals 24.5 m)¹¹ indicate mean low level (modern annual fluctuation range 0.6–1.2 m)¹² of Lake Moeris below 18 m at time of *Amenemhet III, but Thermutis temple at *Medinet Madi suggests below 13 m, potentially allowing minimum of 400 km² of cultivable ground below a waterhead of 24 m. Fishing has been prominent throughout historical times (*Fischerei; *Fische, religiös)¹³, and royal fowling activities are indicated by the 5. Dyn. appointment of *Ti and by MK and NK harims near Lahun and *Gurob¹⁴. Possibly above 25 m when *Herodotus found the colossi of Biahmu partially submerged¹⁵, and claimed an outflow of water to the Nile Valley during the low water season, a suggestion that relative elevations make inherently probable (even with a maximum lake level of 20 to 21 m – compared with a low Nile level of 18 m at Beni Suef)¹⁶, despite the counter-argument of Kees (*Be- u. Entwässerung)¹⁷. Artificially reduced to –2 m under *Ptolemaios I and II who constructed control sluices at Lahun¹⁸ first mentioned by Strabo¹⁹. Up to 800 km² of cultivated land were added as result of large-scale irrigation²⁰ along southern and northeastern margins of the Fajjum. Lower Nile floods and silting of the Hawara entrance reduced lake to –7 m by 2. cent. A.D.²¹ and minimum of 198 Fajjum settlements in Byzantine times²² compare with only 100 in A.D. 1315²³, 69 in 1799²⁴.

¹ Max Pfannenstiel, Die Entstehung der ägyptischen Oasendepressionen, AAWLM, Math.-Nat. Kl., 1953, Nr. 7, 335ff.; Georg Knetsch and Meyer Yallouze, Bulletin de la Société Royale de Géographie d'Égypte 28, Kairo 1955, 21ff. – ² Kenneth St. Sandford and W. J. Arkell, Paleolithic man and the Nile-Faiyum divide, OIP 10, 1929, 1ff.; Gertrude Caton-Thompson and Elinor W. Gardner, The Desert Fayum, London 1934, 2 vol.; Little, in: BIE 18, 1936, 201ff.; Huzayyin, in: Contes Rendues Congr. Int. Géogr. Lisboa 1949 (1950), v. 2, 731ff.; Shukri and Azer, in: Bulletin de l'Institut du Désert d'Égypte 2, 1, Héliopolis 1952, 10ff. – ³ Wendorf, Said and Schild, in: Science 169, Washington 1970, 1161ff.; Said and others, in: Archaeologia Polona 13, Warschau 1973, in press. – ⁴ Arnold and Libby, in: Science 113, Washington 1951, 111; Libby, in: Science 114, Washington 1951, 291ff. – ⁵ Stuiver and Suess, in: Radiocarbon 8, New Haven 1966, 534ff.; also Stuiver, in: Nature, 222, London 1970, 454f. – ⁶ Kees, Suchos, in: RE 4, 540ff. – ⁷ Kees, Moeris, in: RE; Hermann Kees, Ancient Egypt, Chicago 1961, 224f. – ⁸ (Caton-Thompson and Gardner, op.cit., 132f.); John Ball, Contributions to the Geography of Egypt, Kairo 1939, 215; Kees, op.cit., 223; Said et al., op.cit. – ⁹ Bell, in: AJA

75, 1971, 1ff., and in preparation. – ¹⁰ Ball, op.cit., 199ff.; Kees, op.cit., 223; Bell, in preparation. – ¹¹ Ball, op.cit., 206; Bell, in preparation. – ¹² Ball, op.cit., 234. – ¹³ Shafei, in: Bulletin de la Société Royale de Géographie d'Égypte 20, Kairo 1940, 283ff. – ¹⁴ Kees, Moeris, in: RE; Hermann Kees, Ancient Egypt, 226f. – ¹⁵ II 149; also Ball, op.cit., 207, 209, and Bell, in preparation. – ¹⁶ Ball, op.cit., 206ff., Bell, in preparation. – ¹⁷ Kees, op.cit., 222. – ¹⁸ Ball, op.cit., 212f. – ¹⁹ XVII. 1: 37. – ²⁰ Caton-Thompson and Gardner, op.cit.; Ball, op.cit., 210ff. – ²¹ Ball, op.cit., 218f. – ²² Kurt Wessely, Topographie des Faijum in griechischer Zeit, DAWW, Phil.-Hist. Kl., 50, 1904, 1ff. – ²³ Salmon, in: BIFAO 1, 1901, 30ff. – ²⁴ 1: 100000 maps of the French Expedition. K. W. B.

Bitterseen. Two connected depressions (Great and Small Bitter Lakes) of tectonic origin related to northern terminus of Gulf of Suez, and of great antiquity as indicated by adjacent and underlying Pliocene and Pleistocene beds of marine and terrestrial origin. The water surface along 38 km segment of the Suez Canal is 220 km² with a maximum depth of only 4 meters, separated from open sea by a 19 km marshy, sand-choked valley with maximum elevation 3–5 meters¹. A navigable, saline or brackish water body, fed in part by marine seepage, existed here ca. 600 B.C. when *Necho began construction of a canal completed (or reopened) a century later by *Darius I², and used as late as A.D. 767³ (*Kanal). Controversial topographic references for this part of the 8. L.E. nome in Exodus⁴ (*Altes Testament, *Gau, 8. u.äg.) include Etam (?part of fortification on high ground north of lakes), Pi-Hahiroth (house of swamps, ? on low ground west of lakes), Migdol Baal-Zephon (?fortified shrine northwest of Suez), and the Sea of Reeds (?Bitter Lakes or connecting valley to Suez)⁵. Dimensions of lakes have varied in response to sealevel oscillations, with conspicuous 1.5-meter shoreline⁶ possibly of Dynastic age⁷. With local mean tidal amplitude of 1.7 meters, southerly storm surges of 2 to 3 meters are possible and could have swept into the Bitter Lakes at times of higher world sea-level.

¹ Bourdon, in: Mémoires de la Société Royale de Géographie d'Égypte 7, Kairo 1925, 105ff. 109ff. – ² Herodotus II 158; Diodorus Siculus I 33.9; Strabo XVII, 1:25; Bourdon, op.cit., 23ff.; Posener, in: CdE 13, No. 26, 1938, 259ff. – ³ Bourdon, op.cit., 73ff.; Shafei, in: Bulletin de la Société Royale de Géographie d'Égypte 21, Kairo 1942, 231ff. – ⁴ 13: 20–14: 30. – ⁵ Albright, in: Fs Alfred Bertholet, Tübingen 1950, 1ff.; Noth, in: Fs Otto Eißfeldt, Halle 1947, 181ff.; Lucas Hendricus Grollenberg, Bildatlas zur Bibel, Gütersloh 1957,