Since for translation purposes appropriate Akkadian forms were placed side by side with Sumerian forms designated as *marû* and *ḫamṭu*, these terms can legitimately be used to designate Akkadian verbal forms, and hence by extension, Hebrew verbal forms as well. Whether one agrees with this conclusion depends on whether or not one accepts the author's main thesis that the Hebrew prefix conjugation originally consisted of two morphologically distinct forms.

In the reviewer's opinion more space should have been devoted to this central question because the case as put is not wholly convincing. Too much weight is given to the theories of Rössler and hardly any mention is made of contrary opinions as, for example, that of A. Bloch who has seriously questioned Rössler's conclusions.[1] Indeed recent studies have tended to deny categorically the existence of a *yaqattal* or second prefix conjugational form in Northwest Semitic in general.[2] Until evidence for this form can be more readily shown, Siedl's hypothesis must remain a hypothesis, though undoubtedly an interesting and thought-provoking one.

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Late Pleistocene Vertebrates From Archaeological Sites in the Plain of Kom Ombo, Upper Egypt. By C. S. CHURCHER. "Royal Ontario Museum Life Sciences Contributions," no. 82. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, 1972. pp. 172. $10.00.

Interest in the native fauna and flora of ancient Egypt goes back to the early work of Georg Schweinfurth, Ludwig Keimer and Max Hilzheimer. Apart from occasional discoveries of mummified animals and of elephant bones from the Fayum Neolithic, the first major paleontological contribution was provided by C. Gaillard (*Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat. Lyon*, vol. 14, mémoire 3 [1934], pp. 1–125), who not only described an array of mummified fauna from the historical period, but published the sizeable assemblage collected by Edmond Vignard from the then undatable Sebilian of Kom Ombo. Further prehistoric faunas from the Nile Valley south of Edfu, at Qau, and near el-Fashu were discovered by K. S. Sandford and W. J. Arkell (OIP 17 and 18 [Chicago, 1933–34], pp. 92 and 131). But the fossil record remained incomplete and inadequate to compare with the late prehistoric rock drawings recorded along the Nile Valley margins and in the Red Hills by Hans Winkler (*Rock Drawings of Southern Upper Egypt*, Egypt Explor. Society, 2 vols. [1938–39], pp. 44 and 40, pls. 51 and 61). Nor did the fossil material faunas provide adequate documentation for the wealth of birds, fish and mammals depicted on the mobile art and tomb frescoes of the Predynastic and Dynastic periods.

The excavations of P. E. L. Smith on the Kom Ombo Plain in 1962–63 were fortunate in uncovering rich faunal remains at several of the late Paleolithic (ca. 15,000–10,000 B.C.) Sebilian, Sebekian, Silsilian, Menchian, and Halfan sites. Altogether, as reported in this meticulous yet digestible analysis, these represent 3 taxa of fish, 1 reptile, 22 birds, and 14 mammals. The sum of 40 species or genera constitutes a cross-section of the fauna once occupying the Nile and its subsidiary watercourses, the fringing, riverine woodland, the savanna of the seasonally inundated lowland, and the desert hills and plains beyond (see K. W. Butzer and C. L. Hansen, *Desert and River in Nubia* [Madison, 1968], chap. 4). The aquatic or semi-aquatic forms include Nile catfish, Nile perch, African barbel, a soft-shelled turtle, pest rat, hippopotamus, and a host of water fowl. Wild cattle (*Bos primigenius*) and possibly a buffalo (*Homoioceras* or *Syncerus*) were present in the woodland fringe, with Dorcas gazelle, Bubal hartebeest, Nubian ass, Barbary sheep, Cape hare, and the inevitable hyenas ranging back well into the savanna and deserts beyond. Particularly fascinating is the record of shore, wading, and diving

[1] *ZDMG* 113 (1963): 41–50. See now A. Fitzgerald, *ZAW* 84 (1972): 90–92.

[2] T. L. Fenton, "The Absence of a Verbal Formation **yaqattal* from Ugaritic and Northwest Semitic," *JSS* 15 (1970): 31–41; D. Marcus, "Aspects of the Ugaritic Verb in the Light of Comparative Semitic Grammar," (Ph.D. diss., Columbia University, 1970), pp. 75–104.

waterbirds. These include wintering forms such as spoonbill, goosander, merganser, snew, several ducks and geese, and crane; others, such as gray heron, flamingo, cormorant, and spur-winged goose, were probably resident in the valley, together with osprey, golden eagle and black kite as birds of prey.

This whole faunal spectrum was exploited by man, forming an integral part of several archaeological sites, although almost all of the avifauna comes from the occurrences of a single industry, the Sebekian, ca. 12,000 B.C. A case can, in fact, be made for year-round Sebekian occupation on the basis of both migratory waterbirds (January to March) and immature hartebeest (summer), although at least some Silsilian sites (ca. 12,500 B.C.) were only occupied seasonally, immediately following the flood season (J. L. Phillips and K. W. Butzer, *Quaternaria* 17 [1973]: 1–45). For all of the Kom Ombo sites, Churcher's monograph helps to document an early diversified riverine-specialized economy based on fishing, collecting and hunting.

Compared with the Predynastic and Dynastic faunas documented by Butzer (Abhandl. Akad. Wiss. Liter. Mainz, Math.—Naturw. Kl., 1959, no. 2, 46–122), the absence of wild boar, felids, and several jackals in Churcher's lists can best be attributed to the practicalities of hunting. However, the conspicuous absence of ostrich, giraffe, elephant, and both the black and white rhinoceros may have ecological reasons, and the absence of these "Ethiopian" forms in the glacial age climate of Egypt at that time should come as no surprise. It is interesting to see that wild cattle, which clearly were plentiful as late as New Kingdom times, constituted the most common protein of the late Paleolithic populations. Also curious is the continuing lack of any paleontological documentation for *Dama schaeferi* (M. Hilzheimer, *Zeitschrift Säugetierkunde* 1 [1926]: 140–69; L. Keimer, *MIFAO* 65 [1934]: 273–308).

Churcher is to be commended not only for a thorough and authoritative study. He makes every effort to explain the context of his materials, evaluates them in detail, and then compares and contrasts them with similar coeval faunas uncovered in Nubia during the 1960s and the rather different faunas of the Levant. Apart from its readability, the excellent synthesis helps guarantee that this will long remain the single most useful volume on later prehistoric faunas of northeastern Africa.

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Die Hohenpriester des Sonnengottes von der Frühzeit Ägyptens bis zum Ende des Neuen Reiches. By MOHAMED I. MOURSI. "Münchner Ägyptologische Studien," vol. 26. Munich and Berlin: Deutscher Kunstverlag, 1972. Pp. 186 + 16 pls. DM 29.

This doctoral thesis provides the much-needed catalogue of the high priests (*wr mꜣw*) of Heliopolis. It lists in chronological order fifty-seven bearers of this title from the First Dynasty to the end of the New Kingdom, followed by twenty officials holding this position between the end of the Twentieth Dynasty and the beginning of the Ptolemaic period.

The second part of the thesis is devoted to a brief discussion of the material collected so far (pp. 146–73). The author adopts W. Helck's interpretation of *wr mꜣ* as "he who sees the Great One" (i.e., the king), but argues convincingly that it was transferred to the solar cult of Heliopolis as early as the beginning of the Third Dynasty, when Djoser's vizier Imhotep became the first known *wr mꜣ* of Re. From the Middle Kingdom onwards, the title must be read *wr mꜣw* "Greatest of the Seers," without appreciable difference in the role or function of these priests. A discussion of their costume, their social position, and especially their political and religious roles concludes the book.

The main strength of this thesis lies undoubtedly in the brevity and precision with which the material is presented. Its value is enhanced by some previously unpublished monuments, and future investigations will probably unearth some additional references; at present, one can already add the *sḏꜣwty*