

Archaeological Research in the Valley of the Kings and Ancient Thebes: Papers presented in honor of Richard H. Wilkinson.

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This volume is divided into three parts; the first is a list of Richard Wilkinson's publications, part II lists the projects Richard Wilkinson worked on and part III are individual articles, each dedicated to him. Richard Wilkinson has had a varied career which includes involvement in University of Arizona Egyptian Expedition, the Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections, ARCE (Arizona chapter), Motif Alignment Project, the Western Valley of the Kings Project and the Tausret Temple Project. Each Project is presented by a different author who details successes and future research within the scopes of the individual projects. The first two parts of the volume really emphasise the importance of the work of Richard Wilkinson and the impact his research has had on the discipline of Egyptology.

Part III comprises sixteen articles representing original research by different researchers, with the rather loose theme of the Valley of the Kings and Thebes. The articles vary in topic, length and scope but are all valuable in the sense that there is something that will interest most readers as well as describing current research in this area of Egypt.

Bassir "The headless Statue of Queen Tausret from Madinet Nasr" is a beautifully illustrated article about a statue currently at the GEM storeroom in preparation for when the museum opens.

Boraiik "Private Funerary Stela from the Excavation in front of Karnak Temples" investigates a small funerary stela dated to the late Ramesside period which had been reused in the Roman baths in front of Karnak temple.

Brock "Some Observations on the Valley of the Kings in the Twentieth Dynasty" provides a close look at the two levels of decoration in KV9 in the Valley of the Kings, investigating the changes that were made to the tomb when it was altered by Ramses VI.

Doyle "Curious Nautical Details from the Eleventh Dynasty Temple at Deir el Bahri" focuses on a small fragment in the Yale Peabody Natural History Museum which originally came from the eleventh dynasty temple of Mentuhotep at Deir el Bahri. This fragment shows part of a scene of a boat and three men who were potentially holding steering oars. Doyle discusses the type of boat depicted and identifies it with boats depicted in the Old Kingdom and the New Kingdom but not in the Middle Kingdom.

Kawai "Some remarks on the Funerary Equipment from the Tomb of Amenhotep III (KV22)" is an introduction to some of the funerary objects in KV22 comprising a granite sarcophagus fragment, gilded wooden coffin fragments, shabtis and canopic equipment. There is also a discussion on the reburial of Tiye in KV22 based on a shabti inscribed with her name and a piece of graffiti dated to year 3.

Marinatos “The Debate over Egyptian Monotheism: Richard H Wilkinson’s perspective” provides a summary of the changing attitude to the so-called monotheism of Akhenaten over the last century. Starting with Evans and Breasted in the 1920s Akhenaten and his religion was viewed as just and moral and the grounding for Minoan religion and ultimately Christianity. After WWII the attitude changed and the term Monotheism was not often used to describe his religion which was viewed as doctrinal and tantamount to fundamentalism. Wilkinson’s view is also quoted which involves the categorisation of deities and how they are interchangeable as they all form different aspects of the same gods.

Valentin & Bedman “The tomb of the Vizier Amenhotep-Huy in Asasif (AT28): Preliminary results of the excavation seasons 2009-2012” provides an extensive report of the tomb of the Vizier, Amenhotep-Huy, dated to the reign of Amenhotep III. The tomb is similar to that of Ramose (TT55) in the sense it was traditional t-shaped tomb with the T formed as a large pillared hall. The author discusses the career of Amenhotep-Huy and his potential fall from grace resulting in his name, image and monuments being destroyed during the reign of Akhenaten.

Moore “The Lords of the West in Ramesside Tombs” investigates five tombs from the Ramesside period, three from Dra Abu El Naga and two from Deir el Medina, which all have scenes revering deified members of royalty primarily from the late seventeenth to the early eighteenth dynasty with a focus on the Ahmoside family.

Onstine “A Preliminary Report on the Clearance of Theban Tomb 16 in Dra Abu el-Naga” which highlights the robberies in the twentieth century as identified by the detritus left behind. Records of the tomb have also indicated that between the 1950s and 1980s bits of the wall decoration were hacked out.

Pinch-Brock “Shooting in KV55: New light on Early Photography” is an interesting article about the reuse of KV55 by Harry Burton as a place for processing his photographs. He had stuck black paper to the walls to turn it into a dark room and there were a few broken glass slides which they were able to reconstruct and identify the original photos. An unusual approach to this much written about tomb.

Pischicova “Karabasken and Kharakhamun as Precursors of Nespakashuty” a very descriptive and detailed article explains how the artistic imagery in the tomb of Nespakashuty is a combination of artistic characteristics introduced in the tombs of Karabasken and Kharakhamun, with the tentative suggestion that there was a connection between the three. There is also an elaborate description of the locations of all the tombs of people of note from the twenty-fifth dynasty.

Redford “Remarks on some Toponyms Associated with Tel-er-Rub’a in Light of Recent excavations” is a very brief article about Temple T at Tell er-Rub’a or Mendes which has uncovered some sarcophagi of sacred sheep which they have been able to identify with the place name dn Sni a place associated with shearing as it is written on the Mendes Stela.

Redford “An Interment of the Ptolemaic Period” is a study of the excavations in Asasif of TT374, the tomb of Amemopet, the scribe of the treasury of the Ramesseum. The tomb was reused in the later periods and the discovery of a seal bearing the name of the choachyte Pa-di-hor-wer-em-nbt and the discovery of an almost complete cartonnage mummy covering forming the collar aspect of the case

in elaborate colours and design of a type popular in early Ptolemaic period which has led the author to assume this burial belonged to this funerary priest.

Reeves “Love Letters from Luxor: Arthur Weigall and the Tomb of Yuya and Tjuyu” a rather charming article comprising six letters currently in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, between a young Arthur Weigall and his fiancée Hortense. These letters were written in February and March 1905 when he was working on the tomb of Yuya and Tjuyu and the letters are an intriguing account of excavating and protecting a tomb as well as an insight into the clear affection he had for his fiancée.

Sesana “The Temple of Millions of Years of Amenhotep II at Thebes: New Discoveries” describes recent excavations at the temple of Amenhotep II just north of the Ramesseum where burial shafts from the New Kingdom and third Intermediate period were discovered.

Strudwick “Ancient Robbery in Theban Tombs” this is the second in a series of three articles on tomb robbery in ancient Egypt and looks at how it changed from the beginning of the New Kingdom until the end of the period. It started out as rather opportunistic theft of portable objects and linen which were easily sold with the gold largely ignored. Then as the economy declined through the Ramesside period robberies were more violent with the coffins set ablaze as a means of removing the gold from them. In the later period the tombs were ‘robbed’ as part of a reburial project sanctioned by the government in order to swell the coffers. Using archaeological evidence as well as written records about tomb robbery an interesting time scale of changing motivations is presented.

Each reader will find something in this book that appeals to them and I think it is a “must read” for anyone interested in the archaeology of ancient Egypt. Easy to read cover to cover or to dip in as and when you want to.