

## **Chasing Chariots: Proceedings of the first international chariot conference (Cairo 2012).**

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This large format paperback book constitutes the conference proceedings of the First International Chariot Conference in Cairo in 2012, and therefore as one would expect there is a variety of articles, writing styles, article lengths and topics, all tied around the main theme of chariots. The book is illustrated with a combination of line drawings, black and white, and colour photographs. Each article has a reference list and note section providing plenty of further reading.

Most of the articles are based on ancient Egyptian chariots with the exception of the chapters by, Gökce et al "On Uratian Chariots" discussing chariots in ancient Turkey, Genz "The introduction of the light, horse-drawn chariot and the role of archery in the near east at the transition from the middle to the late bronze ages: Is there a connection?" which discusses the role of archery through the ages in Egypt, the Levant and Anatolia, and Raccidi "Wagons and carts in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium BC Syrian Jazirah: A study through the documentation" which was a detailed study of Syrian chariots through written material and art and Sacco's article comparing the use of chariots in Egypt and Assyria first looking at the difference in military approach, and then in religious doctrine surrounding the king. Although these were interesting, as an Egyptologist I found them difficult to relate to Egyptian chronology and place them within the more familiar Egyptian time-frame.

As one would expect in a book on chariots there were two articles related to Tutankhamun, one by Brock discussing a possible chariot canopy based on new studies of Tutankhamun's chariot (inv. 123) and the other providing an update on the six chariots of Tutankhamun by Crouwel. During the New Kingdom and in particular the Amarna period chariotry was increasingly popular and this is demonstrated by a number of chapters on this period including; a study of the diplomatic role of charioteers in the Ramesside period by Abbas, and Herslund's discussion on daily use and ownership of chariots is complemented well by Köpp-Junk's article about the physical use of chariots, looking at speed and road conditions. Sabbahy produced a "Depictional Study of Chariot use in New Kingdom Egypt" which looked at the changes in depictions of chariots, focusing especially on the Amarna period when the usage of chariots changed to being a common form of transportation for royalty and the elite.

The volume also included some extremely detailed articles on the chariots themselves with Calvert discussing the decoration on the chariot of Thutmosis IV, Sandor providing an account of the springs and tyres offering theories on particular usage, and Sasada writing on the bit-wear on the horse burial at Buhen which contained some rather graphic illustrations.

Texts discussing chariots were also covered and Manassa investigates 'The Hymn to the King in his chariot' which appears on ostraca in Edinburgh and Turin, which both probably came from Deir el Medina and Spalinger in a rather lengthy piece looks at charioteering in the Doomed Prince and how it relates with the battle of Qadesh scenes of Ramses II before moving on to Thutmosis III's Mergiddo campaign and Thutmosis IV's Konosso inscription.

Prell describes archaeological evidence of workshops of the chariot of Qantir-Piramesse based on the excavation of stone and metal tools, and Veldmeijer Et al give a detailed report on the conservation work on the Tano Chariot from the Egyptian Museum Cairo.

Essentially this book provides information on all aspects of chariot construction, usage, depiction and conservation using a wide range of archaeological, textual and pictorial evidence. At times, due to the technical nature of the articles it could be hard going meaning this book is more of a “dipping in” rather than a “read from cover to cover” book.

The paperback book is expensive but the Sidestone Press website has an online version which is free to read and has a nominal charge to download. Whilst not necessarily a must for every Egyptologists bookshelf it is a useful book for anyone studying New Kingdom warfare, charioteering or transportation and provides an interesting overview of work currently being done in this area.