

# The Ancient Egyptian Books of the Earth

by Joshua Aaron Roberson

Wilbour Studies



Brown University

Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies

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# THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BOOKS OF THE EARTH



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Die Finsternis vertrieben  
durch verzehrende Glut.  
Durch Gefahr führt unser Weg  
und Bilder von Bestien.  
Überall reißt die Erde auf  
Selbst in die Unterwelt dringt durch Spalten Licht,  
versetzt die Herrscher in Angst und Schrecken.  
—Einstürzende Neubauten, *Sonnenbarke*

So dark and deep and nebulous it was,  
Try as I might to force my sight below,  
I could not see the shape of anything.  
“Let us descend into the sightless world,”  
began the poet (his face was deathly pale):  
“I will go first, and you will follow me.”  
—Dante, *Inferno*, Canto IV.13–15



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# ABBREVIATIONS

## GENERAL

BD	Naville, Édouard, ed. <i>Das Aegyptische Todtenbuch der XVIII. bis XX. Dynastie aus verschiedenen Urkunden zusammengestellt</i> , 3 vols. (Berlin: A. Asher, 1886).
BE	Book of the Earth
BM	British Museum (accession number).
CG	Catalogue Générale du Musée du Caire, Cairo.
CT	De Buck, Adriaan, ed. <i>The Egyptian Coffin Texts</i> (8 vols.; Chicago: University of Chicago Oriental Institute Publications, 1935–61).
EA	British Museum reference number prefix
KV	Valley of the Kings (tomb number)
LE	Late Egyptian
ME	Middle Egyptian
MMA	Metropolitan Museum of Art (accession number)
OE	Old Egyptian
PT	Sethe, Kurt, ed. <i>Die altägyptischen Pyramidentexte nach den papierabdrücke und photographie des Berliner Museums</i> (Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1908–1922).
Sin.	Sinuhe; Blackman, A. M., ed. <i>Middle-Egyptian Stories</i> (Bruxelles: Édition de la fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth, 1972), 1–41.
TT	Theban tomb (tomb number)
<i>Urk.</i> IV	Sethe, Kurt. <i>Urkunden der 18. Dynastie</i> (Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1906–9).

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

<i>AäG</i>	Edel, Elmar. <i>Altägyptische Grammatik</i> , 2 vols (Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1955–64)
<i>AEPT</i>	Faulkner, Raymond O. <i>The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1969)
<i>AEPTS</i>	Faulkner, Raymond O. <i>The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts, Supplement of Hieroglyphic Texts</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1969).
<i>ARg</i>	<i>Archiv für Religionsgeschichte</i>
<i>AME</i>	Allen, James P. <i>Middle Egyptian. An Introduction to the Language and Culture of Hieroglyphs</i> (Cambridge: University Press, 2000)

- ASAE* *Annales du Service des Antiquités d'Égypte*  
*BÉ* *Bibliothèque Égyptologique*  
*Belegstellen* Erman, Adolf and Hermann Grapow, eds. *Wörterbuch der Ägyptische Sprache: Die Belegstellen*, 5 vols. (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1940–55)  
*BIFAO* *Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale au Caire*  
*BiOr* *Bibliotheca Orientalis*  
*BSFE* *Bulletin de la Société Française d'Égyptologie*  
*CAJ* *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*  
*CCD* Crum, W. E. *A Coptic Dictionary* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1929–39)  
*CdÉ* *Chronique d'Égypte*  
*CDME* Faulkner, Raymond O. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian* (Oxford: Griffith Institute, 1996)  
*CRAIBL* Comptes Rendus des Séances de l'Académie d'Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres  
*DE* *Discussions in Egyptology*  
*Expedition* *Expedition: The Bulletin of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania*  
*GEG*<sup>3</sup> Gardiner, Alan H. *Egyptian Grammar. Being an introduction to the study of hieroglyphs* (3rd rev. ed.; London: Oxford University Press, 1957).  
*GEL* Liddel, H. G. and R. Scott. *A Greek-English Lexikon* (9th rev. ed.; Oxford: Clarendon, 1996)  
*GM* *Göttinger Miszellen*  
*HGHwb* Hannig, Rainer. *Großes Handwörterbuch Ägyptisch-Deutsch (2800–950 v. Chr.)* (Mainz: von Zabern, 1995)  
*HÄWb* Hannig, Rainer. *Ägyptisches Wörterbuch I: Altes Reich und Erste Zwischenzeit* (Mainz: von Zabern, 2003)  
*HDECT* Van der Molen, Rami. *A Hieroglyphic Dictionary of Egyptian Coffin Texts* (Leiden: Brill, 2000)  
*HMEG* Hoch, James. *Middle Egyptian Grammar* (Mississauga: Benben, 1997)  
*IOS* Israel Oriental Studies  
*JARCE* *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*  
*JEOL* *Jaarbericht van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Gezelschap "Ex Oriente Lux"*  
*JESHO* *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*  
*JLEG* Junge, Friedrich. *Late Egyptian Grammar: An Introduction* (translated from the German by David Warburton; Oxford: Griffith Institute, 2001)  
*JNES* *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*  
*JSSEA* *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*  
*JWAG* *Journal of the Walters Art Gallery*  
*KRI* Kitchen, Kenneth A. *Ramesside Inscriptions: Historical and Biographical*. 8 vols. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1968–99)  
*LÄ* Helck, Wolfgang, Eberhard Otto, and Wolfhart Westendorf, eds. *Lexikon der Ägyptologie*, 7 vols. (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1972–92).  
*LÄGG* Leitz, Christian, ed. *Lexikon der Ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen*, 7 vols. (Leuven: Peeters, 2002)  
*LEG* Černý, Jaroslav and Sarah Israelit Groll. *A Late Egyptian Grammar* (4th ed.; Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993)  
*LingAeg* *Lingua Aegyptia*  
*MÄS* Münchner Ägyptologische Studien  
*MDAIK* *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo*  
*MIO* *Mitteilungen des Institut für Orientforschung*

<i>MMA Bulletin</i>	<i>The Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York</i>
MMAF	Mémoires publiés par les membres de la Mission archéologique française au Caire
<i>MMJ</i>	<i>Metropolitan Museum Journal</i>
NAWG	Nachrichten von der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OIC	Oriental Institute Communications
OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
<i>OLP</i>	<i>Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica</i>
OMRO	<i>Oudheidkundige Mededelingen uit het Rijksmuseum van Oudheiden te Leiden</i>
<i>PM</i>	Porter, Bertha and Rosalind Moss. <i>Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts</i> , 8 vols. (2nd ed.; Oxford: Clarendon, 1960–2000)
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
<i>RAIN</i>	<i>Royal Anthropological Institute Newsletter</i>
<i>RdE</i>	<i>Revue d'Égyptologie</i>
<i>RdSO</i>	<i>Rivisti degli Studi Orientali</i>
<i>SAK</i>	<i>Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur</i>
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization
<i>SPAW</i>	<i>Sitzungsberichte der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften</i>
<i>TGABD</i>	Allen, Thomas George. <i>The Book of the Dead or Going Forth by Day: Ideas of the Ancient Egyptians concerning the Hereafter as Expressed in Their Own Terms</i> (SAOC 37; Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1974)
<i>VA</i>	<i>Varia Aegyptiaca</i>
<i>VO</i>	<i>Vincino Oriente</i>
WAW	Writings from the Ancient World
<i>Wb</i>	Erman, Adolf and Hermann Grapow, eds. <i>Wörterbuch der Ägyptischen Sprache</i> , 7 vols. (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1955)
<i>WO</i>	<i>Die Welt des Orients</i>
<i>WZKM</i>	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>
YES	Yale Egyptological Studies
<i>ZÄS</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache and Altertumskunde</i>
<i>ZDMG</i>	<i>Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>