

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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by

JOSHUA AARON ROBERSON

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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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wife Suzie Roberson I offer my most profound thanks—through late nights, early mornings, and countless discussions of what must surely have seemed the most excruciating of academic minutiae, she was always there. Thank you.

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*³ 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>

APPENDIX 1
TABLES

Table 1. Seriation of Earth scenes.¹

Scene number	Cenotaph of Seti I	Merneptah	Tawosret	Rameses III	R.III sarcophagus, <i>et al.</i>	Rameses IV	Rameses VI	Rameses VII	Rameses IX	Dyn. 21 Funerary Papyri	Osorkon II	Pedamenopet	Mutirdis	Padihorresnet	Padineith	Horitra	Tjahorpta sarcophagus	Nakhtnebef sarcophagus	Ramesseum cartonnage
2	X*	X	X	X*		X	X										X		
19	X*	X*	X	X*			X		X										X
47	X						X		X										
75	X*						X		X										
20		X	X	X*			X												
22		X	X	X								X			X				
38		X	X	X*			X										X		
65		X	X	X*															
68		X	X	X*			X			X									
25				X			X												
45				X									X						
55				X			X						X	X					
56				X			X												
69				X															
70				X			X						X?	X					
8					X		X			X		X	X						
12					X			X	X										
26					X		X				X								
41					X														
52					X				X										
57					X														
1							X												
3							X			X		X	X						
4							X			X		X	X		X				
5							X			X		X	X*		X	X		X	
6							X			X		X			X	X		X	

1. Heavy borders demarcate the introduction of new scenes. Items marked with an asterisk [X*] are probable reconstructions of destroyed scenes, based on known parallels and preserved texts (see individual scene entries in ch. 5).

Table 2. Concordance of text plates in Piankoff 1953.

I, 1–6 (text I)	R6.B.1.51.47
I, 7–9 (text II)	R6.B.1.51.48
II, 1–7 (text III)	R6.B.1.2.43
II, 8–III, 4 (text IV)	R6.B.1.38.44
III, 5–IV, 2 (text V)	R6.B.1.51.49
IV, 3–4 (text VI)	Scene 51, R6 caption 3
IV, 5–6 (text VII)	Scene 51, R6 caption 2
IV, 7–8 (text VIIIa)	R6.B.1.68.50
IV, 9–V, 1 (text VIIIb)	R6.B.1.68.51
V, 2–5 (text VIIIc)	R6.B.1.68.52
V, 6–VI, 8 (text IX)	R6.B.1.38.45
VI, 9–VII, 3 (text X)	R6.B.1.38.46
VII, 4–5 (text XI)	R6.B.2.70.57
VII, 6–7 (text XII)	R6.B.2.70.58
VII, 8–VIII, 3 (text XIII)	R6.B.2.20.54
VIII, 4–6 (text XIV)	R6.B.2.20.55
VIII, 7–8 (text XV)	R6.B.2.20.56
VIII, 9 (text XVI)	Scene 19, R6 caption 8
IX, 1–2 (text XVII)	Scene 19, R6 caption 7
IX, 3–5 (text XVIII)	R6.B.2.19.53
IX, 6–X, 1 (text XIX)	R6.B.3.24.59
X, 2–4 (text XX)	R6.B.3.26.60
X, 5–8 (text XXI)	R6.B.3.26.61
X, 9–XI, 4 (text XXII)	R6.B.3.40.62
XI, 5–7 (text XXIII)	R6.B.3.47.63
XI, 8–XII, 1 (text XXIV)	R6.B.3.47.64
XII, 2–3 (text XXV)	R6.B.4.5.66
XII, 4–5 (text XXVI)	R6.B.4.5.68
XII, 6–7 (text XXVII)	R6.B.4.7.71
XII, 8 (text XXVIII)	R6.B.4.6.70
XII, 9 (text XXIX)	R6.B.4.7.72
XIII, 1–2 (text XXX)	R6.B.4.47.73
XIII, 3–6 (text XXXI)	R6.B.4.3.65
XIII, 7–10 (text XXXII)	R6.B.4.6.69
XIV, 1–5 (text I)	R6.B2.1.75.75
XIV, 6 (text II)	R6.B2.1.75.76
XIV, 7–9 (text III)–XV, 1 (text IV)	R6.B2.1.75.77
XV, 2–7 (text V)	R6.B2.1–2.28.79
XV, 8–9 (text VI)	R6.B2.1.53.74
XVI, 1–4 (text VII–VIII)	R6.B2.1.77.78
XVI, 5–9 (texts IX–X)	R6.B2.2.10.80
XVII, 1–6 (text XI)	R6.A2.1.15.35
XVII, 7–XVIII, 3 (text XII)	R6.A2.2.18.36
XVIII, 4–9 (text XIII)	R6.A2.3.43.41
XIX, 1–4 (text XIV)	R6.A2.2.49.37
XIX, 5–9 (text XV)	R6.A2.3.33.39
XX, 1–4 (text XVI)	R6.A2.2.58.38
XX, 5–9 (text XVII)	R6.A2.3.63.42
XXI, 1–7 (text I)	R6.A.1.74.12
XXI, 8–9 (text IIa)	R6.A.1.74.13
XXI, 9–XXII, 1 (text IIb)	R6.A.1.74.14
XXII, 1–3 (text IIc)	R6.A.1.74.15

XXII, 3–4 (text II d)	R6.A.1.74.16
XXII, 4–6 (text II e)	R6.A.1.74.17
XXII, 6–7 (text II f)	Scene 74, caption 4
XXII, 7–8 (text II g)	R6.A.1.74.18
XXII, 9–XXIII, 6 (text III)	R6.A.1.25.2
XXIII, 7–XXIV, 3 (text IV)	R6.A.1.25.3
XXIV, 4–9 (text V)	R6.A.1.25.4
XXV, 1–3 (text VI)	R6.A.1.56.8
XXV, 4–8 (text VII)	R6.A.2.13.19
XXV, 9–XXVI, 3 (text VIII)	R6.A.2.14.20
XXVI, 4–6 (text IX)	R6.A.2.14.21
XXVI, 7–XXVII, 1 (text X)	R6.A.2.14.22
XXVII, 2–7 (text XI)	R6.A.2.66.23
XXVII, 8–XXIX, 7 (text XII)	R6.A.3.35.26
XXIX, 8–XXX, 5 (text XIII)	R6.A.3.16.24
XXX, 6–9 (text XIV)	R6.A.3.16.25
XXXI, 1–5 (text XV)	R6.A.4.30.28
XXXI, 6–XXXII, 1 (text XVI)	R6.A.4.30.29
XXXII, 2–XXXIII, 2 (text XVII)	R6.A.4.31.30
XXXIII, 3–8 (text XVIII)	R6.A.4.72.31
XXXIII, 9–XXXIV, 5 (text XIX)	R6.A.5.32.32
XXXIV, 6–XXXV, 1 (text XX)	R6.A.5.76.33
XXXV, 2–4 (text XXI)	R6.A.5.76.34
XXXV, 5–6 (text I)	R6.A.1.25.5a
XXXV, 7–8 (text II)	R6.A.1.25.5b
XXXV 9–10 (text III)	R6.A.1.25.6
XXXV, 11–12 (text IV)	R6.A.1.25.7

Table 3. Concordance of Book of the Earth texts in Hornung 1990b.

p. 64, Zweite Szene (pl. 116c)	R7.A.1.37.2
pp. 64–65, Dritte Szene (pl. 117a–b)	R7.A.1.61.3
p. 65, Fünfte Szene (pl. 116b)	R7.A.2.12.5
p. 66, Siebente Szene (pl. 117a)	R7.A.1.62.4
pp. 66–67, Achte Szene (pl. 117b–c)	R7.A.1.29.1
p. 68, Neunte Szene (pl. 118a)	R7.B.1.34.7
pp. 68–69, Neunte – Zehnte Szene (pl. 118b)	R7.B.1.59.8
p. 69, Zehnte Szene (pl. 118b–c)	R7.B.1.59.9
pp. 69–70, Elfte Szene (pls. 118c–119a)	R7.B.1.11.6