



# HIS GOOD NAME

Essays on Identity and Self-Presentation  
in Ancient Egypt  
in Honor of Ronald J. Leprohon

Eds. Christina Geisen, Jean Li, Steven Shubert, and Kei Yamamoto

HIS GOOD NAME

MATERIAL AND VISUAL CULTURE  
OF ANCIENT EGYPT

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ANCIENT EGYPT IN HONOR OF RONALD J. LEPROHON

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Ronald J. Leprohon with his son Thomas in 2016. Photo courtesy of Barbara Ibronyi.



# Contents

Tabula Gratulatoria .....	x
Ronald Jacques Leprohon: An Appreciation .....	xi
Bibliography of Ronald J. Leprohon .....	xv
Foreword: Patterns of Identity and Self-Presentation .....	xix
Acknowledgments .....	xxi
Abbreviations .....	xxiii

## Afterlife

SUSANNE ONSTINE	
Panehsy's Afterlife and the Underworld of TT16 .....	3
SILVIA ZAGO	
Once Again on Shetayt: a Reappraisal of the "Mysterious One" in the New Kingdom Netherworld Books .....	9

## Gender

MARIAM F. AYAD	
On Being Generous as Only a Woman Can Be: On Mutirdis's Choice of Epithets .....	25
KELLY-ANNE DIAMOND	
Masculinities and the Mechanisms of Hegemony in the Instruction of Ptahhotep .....	29
DENISE DOXEY	
His Beloved: Elite Women in Middle Kingdom Tombs .....	47
JEAN LI	
Identity and Burial Practices in the <i>Nécropole des Chanteuses</i> at Abydos .....	55
SABRINA R. RAMPERSAD	
Life Cycle, Third Gendering, and Identity in Nubian A-Group Figurines .....	69

## Literature and Text

JACQUELINE E. JAY	
Who Tells the Story? Objective Narration versus Subjective Discourse in Egyptian Narrative Literature .....	83



MARY-ANN POULS WEGNER	
The Prophecy of Neferti: Dystopian Literature and Ancient Egyptian Cultural and Social Identity .....	93

NIGEL STRUDWICK	
“And Many Men of the Land Rob Them as Well, and Are (Our) Companions”: The Deir el-Medina Gang and the Involvement of Wider Society in Late New Kingdom Tomb Robbery .....	103

### Material Culture

JAMES P. ALLEN	
An Honored Boss .....	125

VALÉRIE ANGENOT	
Bak, Servant of Aten: An Embodied Statement of Faith .....	131

KATHRYN A. BARD	
Monuments of Memory at a Middle Kingdom Harbor on the Red Sea .....	157

CHRISTINA GEISEN	
A Glimpse into the Life of a Late Middle Kingdom Business Man: The Possessions of the Unknown Owner of Ramesseum Tomb No. 5 .....	163

GAYLE GIBSON	
The Place of Silence: Musings on a Partial Ptolemaic Burial Shroud Recently Rediscovered in the Royal Ontario Museum .....	175

JOYCE HAYNES	
Was Viceroy Huy and Taemwadjsy at Jebel Barkal? .....	185

AMBER HUTCHINSON	
Nonroyal Participation and Self-Presentation in New Kingdom Provincial Cults .....	199

GREGORY MUMFORD	
Concerning the Identity of Niankhnisut, His Rediscovered Tomb Chapel, the Affiliated Decorative Program, and Other Thoughts .....	213

KEI YAMAMOTO	
Treasurer Senwosretankh, Favored of Amenemhat III .....	249

### The Natural World

ROBYN GILLAM	
Calendar of the Animals: Animal Observation and Management as a Marker of Time in Everyday Life .....	259

MARGARET MAITLAND	
Fishing and Fowling for Pleasure versus Produce: Ancient Egyptian Representations of Social Status in Relation to Animals and the Natural Environment .....	267

**The Royal Name**

EDWARD BLEIBERG  
What's in a Name? Iconoclasm and Damaged Inscriptions on Egyptian Sculpture .....285

PETER J. BRAND AND JEAN REVEZ  
The Cartouche Names of Ramesses IV in the Great Hypostyle Hall of Karnak: A Case of Royal Identity,  
Legitimation, and Historical Memory .....291

ADELA OPPENHEIM  
Exterior Inscriptions in the Pyramid Complex of Senwosret III at Dahshur and Other Temples of the  
Old and Middle Kingdoms .....317

STEVEN BLAKE SHUBERT  
Seen in Translation: Concepts of Hellenistic Kingship in the Egyptian Ptolemaic Royal Titulary ..... 335

Subject Index ..... 347

Ancient Sources Index ..... 369

# Tabula Gratulatoria

Katherine Blouin  
Jennette Boehmer  
Meredith Brand  
Peter Der Manuelian  
Stephen Ficalora  
Cédric Gobeil  
Katja Goebis  
Lyn Green  
Thomas H. Greiner  
Krzysztof Grzymiski  
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Jennifer Hellum  
James H. Hoffmeier  
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Caroline Rocheleau  
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Sarah Schellinger  
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Peter Sheldrick  
Vince Tobin  
Josef Wegner

## Ronald Jacques Leprohon: An Appreciation for His Contributions to Egyptology

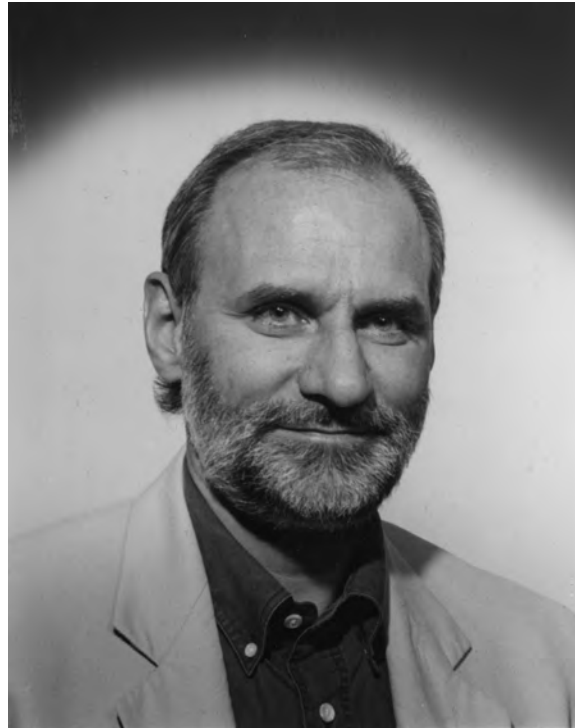


Figure 1. As the Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Toronto, 1989. Photo courtesy of Barbara Ibronyi.

Ron has spent most of his career with the University of Toronto and has been an indispensable part of Toronto's Egyptological community for almost fifty years. His thirty-five years of official service as an employee of the University were celebrated in September 2018. His legacy is to have touched the lives of countless members of the Egyptological community in a positive manner with respect and kindness. This volume is presented as a tribute and celebration of Ron's time and commitment over many years, contributing his counsel, his wisdom, his Egyptological knowledge and understanding to a myriad of individuals in the University and in the wider community. We have all benefited from having known and worked with Ron and want to express our appreciation for a long and fruitful contribution to our community with these essays.

Within Egyptology Ron is known as an expert on the Middle Kingdom and for his interest in Egyptian names, both royal and private, and the epithets attached to them. He published *The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian Royal Titulary* in 2013 in the Writings from the Ancient World series produced by the Society of Biblical Literature. It is touchingly dedicated to his father Bernard D. Leprohon and sister Diane O. Leprohon, who passed away within a month of each other in 2012. Ron's roots are in Montreal, where he was born on 15 June 1950. He grew up with a large extend-

ed family in Quebec, speaking both his father's native French and mother's native English. He remembers his father taking him to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and being fascinated by the Greek vases there. He got his first taste of teaching in Grade 4, when his overwhelmed public school teacher had him teach the English lessons. Shortly thereafter he transferred to Collège Mont-St-Louis, where he completed the *cours classique* in 1967, with an emphasis on French, Latin, and History.

Ron switched instructional language when he enrolled in Loyola College in Montreal for his bachelor's degree. His focus there was history and his interests eventually led him to the ancient world. While in high school he taught himself to play guitar by watching musicians, and he played in a rock and roll group and a band at his church. Upon graduation, Ron had the difficult choice of deciding to continue with his music by going out on the road in a folk duo, or attending the University of Chicago to study Egyptology. Needless to say, Egyptology won. His course in life was set, though his love of music and playing the guitar has continued throughout Ron's life.

After a year in Chicago, Ron returned to Canada to continue his graduate studies at the University of Toronto, receiving his MA degree in 1973. While a graduate student, he worked as a research assistant at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), and for the Akhenaten Temple Project, including fieldwork in Egypt in 1976. After the season he traveled to Kenya and Sudan and had the dubious honor of being one of the last tourists to Eritrea before the border was closed. After hearing Don Redford decry the lack of historical sources from the reign of Amenemhet III of the Twelfth Dynasty, Ron took up the challenge and received his PhD in 1980 for a thesis on the reign of this king. While finishing up his thesis in 1978–1979, Ron worked as the Education Officer for the traveling exhibition *Treasures of Tutankhamun* at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO). His guides to the exhibit were published by the AGO in both English and French (*The World of Tutankhamun* and *Toutankhamon et l'Égypte*, 1979). Ron's many public lectures and media experiences for the exhibition honed his eventual teaching style.

Upon graduation, Ron became a postdoctoral fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he worked on the collection of ancient Egyptian stela there. This work was published in two fascicles of the MFA Boston *Corpus Antiquitatum Aegyptiacarum* (CAA) in 1985 and 1991. In the middle of his fellowship, Ron accepted a position as the director of the newly established Canadian Institute of Egypt (CIE) in Cairo and spent two years (1981–1983) in Egypt. In 1982 he served as epigrapher with the Dakhleh Oasis Project (DOP) and continued his research on ancient Egyptian stela, publishing his results in the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities* (JSSEA) in 1983 and 1986. In 1982 Joseph P. Clarke (Jo O'Cleirigh) was painting an egg tempera mural at the Canadian Institute in Maadi reproducing scenes from the Temple of Osiris Heqa-Djet in Karnak. Ron felt he was taking the project entirely too seriously, and suggested that he include some humor in it. Hence the emblems of Cornwall (the chough bird and black and white flag of St. Piran) were added to an Egyptian nome standard held by Ma Pud (a fantasy character from Jo's plasticine village), who raised one hand with the peace sign.

After two years in Egypt, Ron accepted a position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies (NES) at the University of Toronto in 1983 and his teaching career began in earnest. Already as a graduate student



Figure 2. Unpacking the objects for the exhibition, *Treasures of Tutankhamun*, in Toronto, 1979. Photo courtesy of Barbara Ibronyi.



Figure 3. Receiving the Faculty of Arts & Science Outstanding Teaching Award, 2004. Photo courtesy of Barbara Ibronyi.

only from Ron's in-class presentations, but his counseling outside of class as well. For example, those struggling with research and writing would be told something to the effect: "Collect all the data in front of you, grab a cup of coffee, and keep staring at it. If there is a pattern to be found, sooner or later you will find it. If you have stared for a while and still don't find a pattern, well, there probably isn't any! Time to change your topic." In 2004 Ron received the Outstanding Teaching Award, from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Arts and Science.

Ron also contributed his formidable administrative skills to the University and the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA). He was made associate professor in 1988 and full professor in 1994. He was very much involved with the creation of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations (NMC) in 1996, merging the previously separate departments of Near Eastern Studies (NES) and Middle East and Islamic Studies (MEI). Ron was graduate coordinator and Department Chair of NES before the amalgamations and served two years as associate chair of the new NMC Department. For ten years (1983–1992) Ron served as a trustee of the SSEA. After 1993 he has been an indispensable help and support of the Toronto Chapter of the Society, including acting as master-of-ceremonies at a number of the annual symposia.

Many in Toronto will remember with fondness Ron's lectures for the SSEA; one particular favorite was published as "Love Your Wife with All Your Heart" (Ptah-hotep 21): The Concept of Family in Ancient Egyptian Literature," *KMT* 10.2 (1999), 51–55. Finally mention

from 1976–1980 Ron had gained experience teaching Egyptology in Toronto. Ron taught at all university levels, from first year university to PhD student. For a number of years, he instructed NMC 101 ("Land of the Pharaohs"), which is the basic introductory course on Egyptology that also emphasized the skills of critical analysis and writing. Another popular course of Ron's was NMC 382Y ("Ancient Egyptian Religion"), which at some point gained the prefix "Mummies, Myth and Magic." For this course Ron assembled a reader of ancient Egyptian texts so that students dealt directly with primary sources to form their own opinions rather than relying on the secondary literature. As well, Ron has regularly taught NML 340Y ("Intermediate Egyptian"), in which students who have learned the basics of ancient Egyptian grammar polish their skills on real Egyptian texts.

Ron is noted for the lively manner of his teaching and lecturing. Some have described his image-heavy lectures as "stop motion animation." Ron himself often said the inspirations for his presentation style were the comedian Lenny Bruce and his work with TVOntario during the Tutankhamun exhibition. Ron not only worked hard on the material he presented, but practiced his delivery just as any performer would. Many students benefited not



Figure 4. On a train on the way to Beeton with Barbara and Thomas, 2001. Photo courtesy of Barbara Ibronyi.

should be made of Ron's immediate family. He married Carol Elizabeth Greenwood in 1974; they divorced amicably in 1984. He married Barbara Elizabeth Ibronyi in 1986. Their son Thomas is a dancer with the National Ballet of Canada.

Ronald J. Leprohon's most notable contributions to the field of Egyptology have been in: (1) his research on the Middle Kingdom, including Egypt's relations with Nubia, on Egyptian stelae, and in the development of the Egyptian royal titulary; (2) his administrative and service work at the University of Toronto and with the SSEA; and (3) his teaching and mentoring of students at the University of Toronto. Students were frequently infected by Ron's love of learning. Any student fortunate enough to have Ron read an essay would receive a manuscript annotated with detailed suggestions and corrections. One of Ron's most memorable phrases is "belt and suspenders," which refers to the typically Egyptian approach to multiple concepts that may seem redundant or even contradictory to the modern thinking. It was affectionately noted that Ron wore both belt and suspenders at the wedding of two of his former students. As Ron himself has noted, it is his students that he considers his greatest legacy.

## Publication List of Ronald J. Leprohon

1975

“The Wages of the Eloquent Peasant.” *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 12: 97–98.

1976

“East Karnak 1976: A Report.” *Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities* 6.4: 5–6.

1978

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1979

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## Foreword:

# Patterns of Identity and Self-Presentation

The wish to affiliate with a specific cultural, social, or ethnical group is as important today as it was in past societies, such as that of the ancient Egyptians. The same significance applies to the self-presentation of an individual within such a group. Although it is inevitable that we perceive other cultures through the lens of our own time, place, and value systems, we can certainly try to look beyond these limitations. The question of how the ancient Egyptians saw themselves and how individuals tried to establish and thus present themselves in this society are central pieces of the puzzle of how we interpret this ancient culture. In this regard, the work of Ronald J. Leprohon has made significant contributions to our understanding of the ancient Egyptians, their sense of identity, and their moral values. Leprohon has always emphasized a close look at the sources and has paid particular attention to how the ancient Egyptians presented themselves in terms of their names and their epithets and titles. Likewise, Leprohon has focused on how Egyptians used rhetoric, visual, and material culture as means to express their identities in a complex culture governed by explicit protocols of expression and implicit rules of behavior.

The contributions by Leprohon's friends, colleagues, and students reflect the trajectory of his scholarship and his impact as teacher and mentor. The following contributions tackle the ambiguous yet fascinating subject of identity from many different angles: the ways in which social and personal identities are constructed and maintained; and the manipulations of culture by individuals to reflect real or aspirational identities and the methods modern scholars employ in their attempt to say something about ancient persons.

Identity and personhood are complex ideas that may have been quite different in the ancient past. Often, our contemporary inclination is to think of ourselves as individuals who operate with agency and intent, yet our actions, and consequently our various identities and personhood, are formed and directed as much by consciously and unconsciously inculcated social rules and norms as by freewill. Identity and personhood are relationally constructed, socially constrained,<sup>1</sup> and for Egyptologists not easily accessed through the rather abundant, yet piecemeal evidence we have at our disposal. Egyptologists can name people, create genealogies, and describe the activities and responsibilities of individuals, but also can delineate the distinctive ancient Egyptian worldview and its relationship to other contemporaneous cultures. For example, the most important figure in Egyptian society was that of the king, whose main duty was to uphold *ma'at*, the ancient Egyptian world order and social values, and to expel chaos, the destructive force that stood in opposition to the ancient Egyptian belief system and to the society that maintained it. Likewise, every ancient Egyptian had to lead a life according to *ma'at* in order to be able to reach the never-ending afterlife. And it is especially, but not exclusively, through texts and iconography on monuments and funerary goods that the ancient Egyptians expressed their success in upholding *ma'at*. This evidence gives scholars insight into the self-presentation of individuals on the one hand, but also into the identity of the ancient Egyptian society in general.

The studies in this volume comprise a host of evidence, methodologies, and approaches to understanding identity. They generally fall into two major categories: studies that offer insight into an ancient Egyptian individual, refining our picture of a past that is too often populated by anonymity, and highlighting personal agency of actors, and studies that contribute to the trajectory of cultural development in Egypt among different social groups.

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1. Oliver J. T. Harris and Craig Cipolla, *Archaeological Theory in the New Millennium* (London: Routledge, 2017), 53.

Within these two major subtopics of identity and self-presentation, the studies in this volume fall into a number of approaches and themes: The Afterlife, Gender, Literature and Text, Material Culture, The Natural World, and The Royal Name. While we have attempted to group the contributions into relatively simple categories, it is important to emphasize that the multifocal nature of all the studies in this volume reflects the complexities and intersectionality of patterns of identity and self-presentation in ancient Egyptian society.

Building on Leprohon's work, the following collection of essays presents an overview of the current state of our understanding on patterns of identity and self-presentation in ancient Egypt. The contributions in this volume reflect the wide-ranging approaches and methodologies used to explore the issues of identity and self-representation, subjects/themes that often appear in Leprohon's scholarship. The contributors range from his colleagues to most recent protégés, and are representative of his impact and influence on the field of Egyptology.

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Jean Li  
Steven B. Shubert  
Kei Yamamoto

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## Abbreviations

ÄA	Ägyptologische Abhandlungen
ÄAT	Ägypten und Altes Testament
AAWL	Abhandlungen der Sächsischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig, Philologisch-Historische Klasse
AAW <sup>Wien</sup>	<i>Anzeiger der Oesterreichischen Akademie de Wissenschaften, Wien</i>
ACES	Australian Centre for Egyptology: Studies
ADAIK	Abhandlungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo
ÄgAbh	Ägyptologische Abhandlungen
AH	Aegyptiaca Helvetica
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>Antiquity</i>	<i>Antiquity. A Quarterly Review of World Archaeology</i>
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
ARA	<i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>
ASAE	<i>Annales du Service des Antiquités d'Égypte</i>
ASAESup	<i>Annales du Service des Antiquités d'Égypte Supplements</i>
ASE	Archaeological Survey of Egypt
AV	Archäologische Veröffentlichungen/ Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Abteilung Kairo
BACE	<i>Bulletin of the Australian Centre for Egyptology</i>
BAR	British Archaeological Reports
BARCE	<i>Bulletin of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>
BD	Book of the Dead
BdE	Bibliothèque d'Étude
BES	<i>Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar</i>
BiAe	Bibliotheca Aegyptiaca
BiEg	Bibliothèque égyptologique
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>
BMA	<i>Brooklyn Museum Annual</i>
BMH	<i>Bulletin du musée hongrois des beaux-arts</i>
BMMA	<i>Bulletin of The Metropolitan Museum of Art</i>
BollSer	Bollingen Series
BSAE	British School of Archaeology in Egypt
BSFE	<i>Bulletin de la Société Française d'Égyptologie</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CahKarn	<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i>
CCE	<i>Cahiers de la Céramique Égyptienne</i>
CdE	<i>Chronique d'Égypte</i> . Bulletin périodique de la Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth. Brussels, 1925–.
CHANE	Culture & History of the Ancient Near East
CNIP	The Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Publications
CRIPeL	<i>Cahiers de Recherches de l'Institut de Papyrologie et d'Égyptologie de Lille</i>



CT	Coffin Texts
DemStud	Demotische Studien
EA	<i>Egyptian Archaeology</i>
EES OP	Egypt Exploration Society Occasional Publication
EU	Egyptologische Uitgaven
FIFAO	Fouilles de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire
GM	<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>
GOF	Göttinger Orientforschungen. Reihe 4, Ägypten
HÄB	Hildesheimer ägyptologische Beiträge
HdO	Handbook der Orientalistik
HES	Harvard Egyptological Studies
HSCL	Harvard Studies in Comparative Literature
IBAES	Internet-Beiträge zur Ägyptologie und Sudanarchäologie
ICS	<i>Illinois Classical Studies</i>
IFAO	Institut français d'archéologie orientale
JAIE	<i>Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections</i>
JAMA	<i>Journal of American Medical Association</i>
JANER	<i>Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>
JCOptS	<i>Journal of Coptic Studies</i>
JEA	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
JEH	<i>Journal of Egyptian History</i>
JEOL	<i>Jaarbericht van het Vooraziatisch-egyptisch. Genootschap Ex Oriente Lux</i>
JLA	<i>Journal of Late Antiquity</i>
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JRAI	<i>Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute</i>
JRAS	<i>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society</i>
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
JSSEA	<i>Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities</i>
KÄT	Kleine ägyptische Texte.
KRI	Kitchen, Kenneth A., <i>Rameside Inscriptions, Historical and Biographical VI. Monumenta Hannah Sheen dedicata 3</i> . Oxford: Blackwell, 1983.
KV	Valley of the Kings
LÄ	Helck, Wolfgang, Eberhard Otto, and Wolfhart Westendorf, eds. <i>Lexikon der Ägyptologie</i> . 7 vols. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1972–1992.
LAAA	( <i>Liverpool</i> ) <i>Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology</i>
LES	Late Egyptian Stories
LGG	Leitz, Christian et al., eds., <i>Lexikon der ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen</i> . 8 volumes. OLA 110–16 and 129. Leuven: Peeters, 2002–2003.
LingAeg	<i>Lingua Aegyptia</i>
LingAegSM	Lingua Aegyptia Studia Monographica
MÄS	Münchner Ägyptologische Studien
MDAIK	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo</i>
MEES	Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Society
MIFAO	Mémoires publiés par les membres de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie orientale du Caire

MKS	Middle Kingdom Studies
MMA	The Metropolitan Museum of Art
MonAeg	Monumenta Ægyptiaca
MVCAE	Material and Visual Culture of Ancient Egypt
NEA	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology</i>
NINO	Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten
NSSEA	<i>Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities</i>
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OEAЕ	<i>Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt</i> . Vol. 3. Edited by Donald B. Redford. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
OIMP	Oriental Institute Museum Publications
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
OM	Orientalia Monspeliensia
Or	<i>Orientalia</i>
PÄ	Probleme der Ägyptologie
PBA	Proceedings of the British Academy
PM I <sup>1</sup>	Porter, Bertha, and Rosalind L. B. Moss. <i>Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs and Paintings</i> , vol. I: <i>The Theban Necropolis. Part 1: Private Tombs</i> . 2nd ed. Oxford : Griffith Institute/Ashmolean Museum Oxford, 1960.
PM III <sup>2</sup> fasc. 2	Porter, Bertha and Rosalind L. B. Moss, <i>Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings. Vol. III. Memphis. Part 2. Saqqara to Dahshur. Fascicle 2 (III<sup>2</sup>. 575–776)</i> . 2nd ed. Oxford: Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, 1979.
PMMA	Publications of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Egyptian Expedition
PT	Pyramid Texts
RdE	<i>Revue d'égyptologie</i>
RITA	Kitchen, Kenneth A. <i>Ramesside Inscriptions, Translated and Annotated: Translations VI. Ramesses IV to XI, and Contemporaries</i> . Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.
RitesEg	Rites égyptiens
SAGA	Studien zur Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens
SAK	<i>Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur</i>
SAK Beihefte	Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur Beihefte
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization
SAWH	Sitzungsberichte der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften
SCR	Studies in Comparative Religion
SEANE	Studies in Egyptology and the Ancient Near East
ShS	Shipwrecked Sailor
SiE	Studies in Egyptology
StudAeg	Studia Aegyptiaca
SHR	Studies in the History of Religions
TT	Theban Tomb
TTS	Theban Tombs Series
UEE	Wendrich, Willeke, ed. <i>UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology</i> . Online: <a href="http://www.uee.ucla.edu">http://www.uee.ucla.edu</a> .
Urk	Sethe, Kurt, and Hans Wolfgang Helck, eds. <i>Urkunden des ägyptischen Altertums</i> . 8 vols. Leipzig and Berlin, 1903–1961.
USE	Uppsala Studies in Egyptology

VA	<i>Varia Aegyptiaca</i>
WAW	SBL Writings from the Ancient World
Wb	Erman, A., and H. Grapow, eds. <i>Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache</i> . 7 vols. plus 5 vols. Berlin: Belegstellen, 1926–1963.
WSC	Wisconsin Studies in Classics
WO	<i>Die Welt des Orients</i>
YES	Yale Egyptological Studies
ZÄS	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde</i>