



# 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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HIS GOOD NAME:  
ESSAYS ON IDENTITY AND SELF-PRESENTATION IN  
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 Ibromyi.



# 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<br>The Prophecy of Neferti: Dystopian Literature and Ancient Egyptian Cultural and Social Identity ..... | 93 |
|--|----|

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

### Material Culture

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| JAMES P. ALLEN<br>An Honored Boss ..... | 125 |
|---|-----|

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| VALÉRIE ANGENOT<br>Bak, Servant of Aten: An Embodied Statement of Faith ..... | 131 |
|---|-----|

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| KATHRYN A. BARD<br>Monuments of Memory at a Middle Kingdom Harbor on the Red Sea ..... | 157 |
|--|-----|

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

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| JOYCE HAYNES<br>Was Viceroy Huy and Taemwadjsy at Jebel Barkal? ..... | 185 |
|---|-----|

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| AMBER HUTCHINSON<br>Nonroyal Participation and Self-Presentation in New Kingdom Provincial Cults ..... | 199 |
|--|-----|

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| KEI YAMAMOTO<br>Treasurer Senwosretankh, Favored of Amenemhat III ..... | 249 |
|---|-----|

### The Natural World

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| MARGARET MAITLAND<br>Fishing and Fowling for Pleasure versus Produce: Ancient Egyptian Representations of Social Status<br>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  
Timothy Harrison  
Jennifer Hellum  
James H. Hoffmeier  
Rexine Hummel  
Salima Ikram  
Beth Ann Judas  
Janice Kamrin  
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Claude Obsomer  
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Carol Redmount  
Caroline Rocheleau  
Carolyn Routledge  
Lisa Sabbahy  
Sarah Schellinger  
Thomas Schneider  
Roberta Lawrie Shaw  
Peter Sheldrick  
Vince Tobin  
Josef Wegner

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

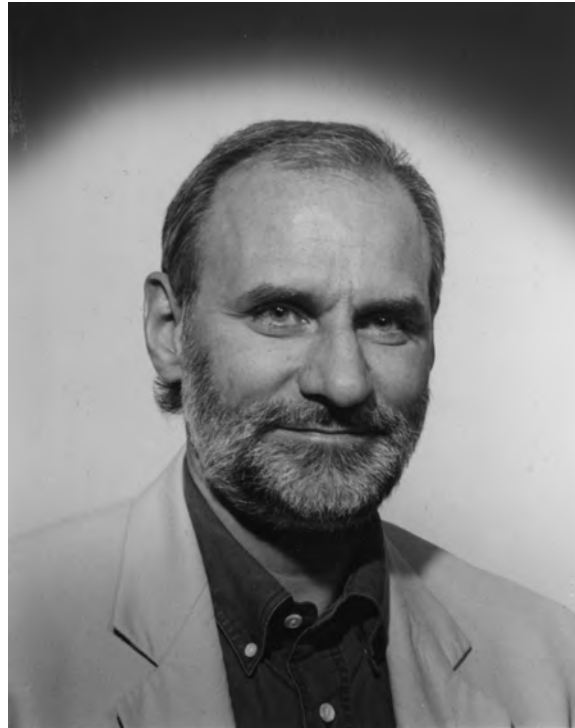


Figure 1. As the Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Toronto, 1989. Photo courtesy of Barbara Ibronyi.

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 stelae 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 stelae, 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

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1976

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1978

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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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## 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 Aegyptiaca   |
| MVCAE                       | Material and Visual Culture of Ancient Egypt   |
| NEA                         | Near Eastern Archaeology   |
| NINO                        | Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten  |
| NSSEA                       | Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities  |
| 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>   |

# SUBJECT INDEX

*Page numbers in italics indicate illustrations.*

- Aaqenenre Ipepi, offering table of (Cairo JE 39605 = CG 23073), 251
- Abydos. *See also* *Nécropole des Chanteuses*; Osiris-Khentia-mentiu temple; Wah-Sut
- Djer, tomb of, 61, 205
- Hekareshu Hill, 204
- importance of site of, 55
- Kenamun, shrine of, 205
- landscape of, and rebirth of Osiris, 61–65
- mahats* or commemorative chapels, 61, 62, 63, 64
- Nécropole du Centre*, 57, 202
- Nécropole du Nord*, 202, 203
- nonroyal participation in provincial cults at North Abydos, 200–205, 212
- North Abydos, 55–56, 200–205
- Osireion, 12n26
- Peet's Cemetery S, 169
- Portal Temple of Ramesses II, 55, 62–64, 66, 202–4
- Reniseneb stela and cult of Osiris at, 129
- Sety I, Temple of, 61
- Shunet es-Zebib*, 56, 57, 64
- stelae of Ramesses IV at, 292–93, 312, 313n67, 315
- Thutmose III, chapels of, 55, 66n59, 204
- tomb of Osiris, as site of, 60, 61
- Umm el-Qa'ab, 61, 62, 64, 204–5
- Votive Zone, 55–56, 62, 64, 202–3, 204, 212
- Account of the Pleasures of Fishing and Fowling, 270, 272, 276, 278
- Account of the Sporting King, 270
- Admonitions of Ipuwer, 99–100n59. *See also* Dialogue of Ipuwer in ancient sources index
- afterlife. *See also* burial shrouds; Duat; Shetayt
- access, importance of, 4–5
- Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 3–8, 4, 5, 7
- Prophecy of Neferti, failure to carry out rituals for dead in, 97
- solar-Osirian unity, 9–11
- women's aspirations for, tied to those of husbands and male relatives, 54
- Ägyptisches Museum Berlin. *See also* Bak, naos-stela of 1054 (stela), 206
- 2296 (cube statue of Senenmut with Neferure), 289–90
- 7732 (stela), 125n5
- 31011 and Inv. No. 99/66, Kat. Nos. \*237 and \*295 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 231
- P. Ramesseum A/Berlin 10499, A–H (Tale of the Eloquent Peasant and Tale of Sinuhe), 164n8, 168
- Ramesseum D/Berlin 10495.I–X (onomasticon), 164n8, 169
- Aha/Bes and Ahat/Beset (deities), 15–16
- Ahanakht (scribe/receiver of stolen goods), 120
- Ahat-statuettes, Ramesseum tomb no. 5, 165
- Ahmose-Nefertari (deity), 4
- akh*, 144–45, 145
- Akhenaten (Amenhotep IV; king)
- Bak, naos-stela of, 133, 134, 135, 144, 148–53, 149, 150
- couple relief from Jebel Barkal and, 185
- damaged inscriptions and, 287, 290
- royal titulary and identity of, 314
- akhet*, as chamber or space, 10, 142–47, 145
- Akhetaten, 143–44
- akhet*-horizon, 139, 141, 142, 148
- Akhmenu temple of Thutmose III, Karnak, 311, 314
- akh*-power, 137
- Aldred, Cyril, 133, 138n40, 148, 150n118
- Alexander the Great, 335, 338, 339, 340, 342
- Alexander IV of Macedon, 335
- Ali, Mohamed S., 171
- Allen, George, 6
- Allen, James P., 31, 125
- Allen Memorial Art Museum, No. 43.302 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 217n23, 237

- Allon, Niv, 90n43  
 Alte, Monique, 138n41  
 Altenmüller, Hartwig, 15n26, 278  
 Amarna princesses, depiction of, 144–45, 145  
 Amarna royal tomb, sunrise scene, 260  
 Amarna style, 133–34, 148–53, 185  
 Amduat, 10n5, 19n65, 60, 64  
 Amenemhat I (Ameny; king), reign of, in Prophecy of Neferti, 98–99, 102  
 Amenemhat II (king), annal inscription of, 277  
 Amenemhat III (king), xii, 149n113, 159, 254, 255, 331n53, 332  
 Amenemhat IV (king), 332  
 Amenemhat, tomb of (Beni Hassan 2), 48, 53, 171n63  
 Amenhotep I (king), 3, 4  
 Amenhotep III (king)  
   Bak, naos-stela of, 132, 134, 149n116, 153n136  
   Elkab, chapel at, 206–7  
   at Luxor, 311, 314  
   nonroyal participation in provincial cults and, 203, 206–7  
   titulary of, 342  
 Amenhotep IV (king). *See* Akhenaten  
 Amenhotep (scribe of seal of Treasury), 158  
 Amenhotep, son of Pentaweret (tomb robber), 108, 109, 110, 111, 114  
 Amenemipet, son of Paser I (viceroy), 195  
 Amenmesse (“counter-king”), 311, 314  
 Amenmose (chief supervisor of treasury/receiver of stolen goods), 117  
 Amennefer (overseer of army), 118, 119  
 Amenpanefer (tomb robber), 104, 117, 121–22  
 Amenwa, Deir el-Medina tomb robbing family of. *See* Deir el-Medina gang  
 Ameny (Amenemhat I), reign of, in Prophecy of Neferti, 98–99, 102  
 Ammit the Devourer (deity), 179–80  
 Amun (deity)  
   burials in temple precincts of, 66  
   in cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, 300–303, 306–12  
   damaged inscriptions of name of, 287, 289, 290  
   exterior inscriptions of royal name and, 332  
   *khener* and, 58n20  
   nonroyal participation in provincial cults of, 206, 208  
   Ptolemaic royal names and, 336, 338, 339, 342  
   receivers of stolen goods, women attached to estate of Amun as, 119  
   singers/chantresses of, 59, 66  
   Theban temple of, 59  
 Amun-Re (deity), 59, 189, 192, 291, 319–20, 342  
 Amun-Re-Kamutef (deity), 320  
 Anath (deity), 16  
 Angenot, Valérie, 131  
 animal theory, 259  
 animals. *See* natural world; *and entries under specific animals*  
 Ankhehsaf (in tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 214–16  
 Ankhesenamun (queen of Tutankhamun), 148  
 Ankhu (overseer of the audience-chamber of Senwosret I), 158  
 Ankhu, son of Reniseneb (stela of Reniseneb), 125, 127, 128, 129  
 Anubis (deity)  
   animal observation and management in Egypt and, 260, 264  
   on burial shrouds, 178, 179, 180, 183  
   nonroyal individual, on statuette of, from Osiris temple enclosure, Abydos, 201  
   Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 8  
 Anuket (deity), 207, 208  
 Apep-snake, 132n6, 139, 141, 154  
 Apis bull, 265n66, 336, 343, 343–44, 344  
*apotropaia*, 15–16, 165, 166, 178, 204  
 Aristotle, *Politics* and *Metaphysics*, 276, 281  
 Arnold, Dieter, 249  
 aromatase excess syndrome, 150  
 Arsinoe I, II, and III (Ptolemaic queens), 338  
 Arythotep (mother of Netjernakht), 48, 50  
 Aset/Isis (royal mother), robbing of tomb of, Valley of the Queens, 108, 112–13  
 Asherah (deity), 16  
 Assmann, Jan, 9n1, 25, 26, 53, 99, 144n86, 147  
 Astarte (deity), 16  
 Aswan  
   construction of Aswan High Dam, 261  
   tomb of User, governor of Elephantine, 194  
 Asyut  
   tomb of Djefaihapy I (1/P10.1), 47, 49  
   tomb of Iti-ibi-iqer, 279

- Aten and Atenist theology, 135, 137, 142n68, 143–48, 287, 289, 290
- Atum (deity), 6, 324
- Austin, William L., 222
- Ayad, Mariam F., 25
- ba*
- Bak naos-stela, text of, 137
- bird form of, 12, 14n30
- Dialogue of a Man and His Ba, 167, 272
- double *ba*, 14
- [*h3t*]-corpse, separation from, 11n16
- of Osiris, 137
- baboons, 140, 165n15, 182, 260, 264
- Baines, John, 34n30, 85, 86, 87
- Bak, naos-stela of (Berlin 31009), 131–56
- artistic influence of, 148–51, 149, 150
- dating of, 133–34
- description of, 131–32, 132
- as double image of chthonic element pushing sun, 139–42, 140, 141
- identity/biography of Bak, 134–35
- images of, 132, 136, 140, 141, 147
- lost possible parallel object, 132, 133, 134, 136
- meaning of, 142–48, 145, 147
- overdetermination in, 131, 139, 152, 153–54
- physical appearance of Bak, 133–34, 135, 138–39, 142
- as self-portrait, 131, 135, 138–39
- Taherit on, 132, 135, 136, 147–48
- terms and definitions, 152–56
- text of, 135–38, 136, 147n105
- Bak (scribe), on tomb of Senet, 271
- Bakhtin, Mikhail, 84, 97n35
- Baqt (mother of Khnumhotep II), 49
- Baqt III, tomb of (Beni Hassan), 271
- Bard, Kathryn A., 157
- Barguet, Paul, 18n58
- bau* of Iunu, 322, 324, 326, 332
- Baud, Marcelle, 7
- Baxandall, Michael, 155
- Beckerath, Jürgen von, 56n9
- Beni Hassan
- Baqt III, tomb of, 271
- Tomb 2 (Amenemhat), 48, 53, 171n63
- Tomb 3 (Khnumhotep II), 48, 49–52, 270, 271, 276, 277, 279
- Tomb 14 (Khnumhotep I), 47, 52
- Tomb 21 (Nakht I), 47
- Tomb 23 (Netjernakht), 48, 50–51, 52, 53
- wrestlers from tombs at, 29
- Benveniste, Emile, 89n37
- Berenike I (Ptolemaic queen), 338
- Berlin Library, 167, 179n15
- Bes/Aha and Beset/Ahat (deities), 15–16
- Bianchi, Robert Steven, 72
- Biblical Hebrew compared to Egyptian narrative literature, 83, 84, 88, 90, 91
- Billing, Nils, 16–17n51, 18
- blackmail and tomb robbing, 117–18
- Bleiberg, Edward, 285
- blending, conceptual and visual, 131, 139n56, 148, 152, 154
- blue lotus, used as wine flavoring, 6n13
- blue painted pottery, 204–5, 209–10
- Blumenthal, Elke, 93n3, 166n31
- Book of Caverns
- ithyphallic figure in, 12
- Osiris equated with Duat in, 11–12
- Shetayt in, 12–14, 13, 14n30, 16–21
- Book of Gates, 11
- Book of Nut, 13–14n28, 18, 20–21
- Book of the Day, 18n62
- Book of the Dead (BD). *See also* ancient sources index
- burial shrouds with images drawn from, 177–83
- Panehsy, tomb of, 4–6, 5, 8
- Shetayt and, 17n52
- Book of the Earth
- birth of the hours in, 15n43
- crocodiles and, 17n57
- Ramesses VI, sarcophagus chamber, 12
- Re addressing Osiris in, 11–12n19
- Shetayt in, 12, 14, 16n51, 17, 19
- Book of the Heavenly Cow, 17
- Book of the Night, 18n62
- Book of the Temple, 166
- Book of the Two Ways, 10
- Book of Transformations, 179n15
- Borchardt, Frank, 98–99, 100
- Borchardt, Ludwig, 201
- boundary stelae, 134n23

- Brand, Peter J., 291  
 Braverman, Irwin M., 150n120  
 Breasted, James Henry, 217  
 bribes/payment for silence and tomb robbing, 117  
 British Museum. *See also* the ancient sources index  
   BM EA 215 and 252 (stelae), 125n4  
   BM EA 1194 (statue of Maya), 205  
   BM EA 2292 (statue of Nebre), 146, 147  
   BM EA 6707 (shroud of girl named Cleopatra), 176n5  
   BM EA 10470/16 (Book of the Dead of Any), 141, 180  
   BM EA 10471/8 (Book of the Dead of Nakht), 180  
   BM EA 24568 (necklace), 178n14  
   Nebamun, tomb of, 270  
   T. BM EA 5647 (writing board), 95  
 Brooklyn Museum  
   35.2000 and 16.60 (statues of Amarna princesses), 144n91  
   37.24E (stela of Setju), 286  
   37.1811E (late Ptolemaic burial shroud), 179n18  
   37.2634E (statue of Sety, scribe and treasurer), 286, 286–87  
   67.68 (statue of Senenmut), 285, 287–90, 288  
 Brovarski, E., 222n66  
 Bruce, Lenny, xiii  
 Brugsch, Heinrich, 132  
 Budge, E. A. W., 31  
 Budka, Julia, 204, 209–10  
 Bukhaaf (tomb robber), 116, 120  
 burial practices, significance of, 55  
 burial shrouds  
   BM EA 6707 (shroud of girl named Cleopatra), 176n5  
   Brooklyn, 37.1811E (late Ptolemaic shroud), 179n18  
   damage to, 176n3  
   Louvre N 3076 and AF 6440 (shrouds), 176n4, 181n23  
   MFA 54.993 (shroud of Tasheritwedjahor), 179  
   nets associated with, 178  
   Penn Museum 36-2-1 (partial shroud), 175, 180, 181, 183  
   Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts 42291 1a 5749 (painted shroud with skeleton), 181n23  
   red shrouds, 177, 178n7  
   ROM 910.21.2 (shroud fragment), 175, 181  
   ROM 2019.17.179 (partial Ptolemaic shroud for a child), 175–83, 176, 177, 180, 182  
 Burridge, Alwyn, 150n120  
 Cachette de Karnak, 286–87  
 calendar, and animal observation/management, 259–65  
 Calendars of Lucky and Unlucky Days (Cairo JE 86637; BM P. Sallier IV Rt.), 261, 263  
 California Museum of Ancient Art (CMAA) CMAA002-E0020 (stela of Reniseneb), 125–29, 128  
 Canadian Institute of Egypt (CIE), 12  
 cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, 291–315  
   ancestors, emulation of, 312–13  
   changes to Ramesses' cartouche names, 292, 292–93  
   chronological implications of, 313–14  
   on columns, 295–96, 296–99  
   compared to cartouches elsewhere at Karnak and Luxor, 310–12, 311  
   decorative program of Hall and later interventions, 293–94  
   early marginal inscriptions, 294–95  
   first iteration, twelve great columns, 306  
   historical context, 291  
   horizontal orthographies, 302, 302–3  
   large format cartouches, 303–5, 304–6, 308–10, 308–10  
   smaller columns, 308, 308–9, 309  
   titulary and royal identity, 314–15  
   twelve great columns, 304–7, 304–7  
   usurped by Ramesses VI, 303, 304, 308, 309–10, 310, 312  
   variant forms and orthographies, 299–300, 305  
   vertical orthographies, 300–302, 301  
 Çatalhöyük, figurines from, 71  
 celibacy, mandatory, of female singers/chantresses, 59n26  
 Černý, Jaroslav, 109, 113, 117n51  
 Chabas, F., 30  
 chantresses and singers in Egypt, 58–59. *See also* *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos  
 Cheops. *See* Khufu

- Cincinnati Art Museum, No. 1971.28 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 217n23, 232
- clapnetting, 178nb8–9, 244, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279
- Clarke, Joseph P. (Jo O’Cleirigh), xii
- Cleopatra I (Ptolemaic queen), 338
- Cleopatra III (Ptolemaic queen), 339
- Cleopatra (girl named on burial shroud BM EA 6707), 176n5
- Cleveland Museum of Art, Nos. 1930.734-738, 1930.136 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 217n23, 232–33
- Coffin Texts (CT)
- afterlife in, 10
  - Bak, naos-stela of, 137n33
  - Renisenib, stela of, 127
- coffins, re-use of, 122n77
- color symbolism, 5n12
- conceptual and visual blending, 131, 139n56, 148, 152, 154
- conch shells, at *Saww*, 160–61
- Connell, R. W., 34, 35
- Constantine I (Roman emperor), 287
- Conway, Kellyanne, 93
- Cooney, Kara, 61
- Coptos, inscriptions from, 292, 312
- Corcoran, Lorelei, 178
- crocodiles, 12, 14, 17n57, 20n79, 262, 272, 276, 277, 279
- Dagi, tomb of (TT 103), 47
- Dahshur. *See also* Senwosret III (king), pyramid complex of
- pyramid complex of Amenemhat III at, 331n53
  - Tomb 2 (Khnumhotep), 249, 255
  - Tomb 11 (Khentykhetyemsaf), 251
  - Tomb 17 (Sobekemhat, treasurer), 249, 250, 251, 255
  - Tomb 18 (Vizier Nebit), 249, 255, 322n26
  - Tomb 34 (Senwosretankh, treasurer), 249–55
- Dallas Museum of Art, 1965.28.M (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 238
- damaged inscriptions and art work, 285–90, 286, 288
- Daoud, Khaled, 221–22, 224
- Darnell, John C., 19n64
- Dasein*, 263–64
- David, Arlette, 139n55
- de Meulenaere, Herman, 205
- de Morgan, Jacques, 249
- deictics, 84. *See also* narrative literature in Egypt
- Deir el-Bahari
- burials in temple precincts at, 66
  - damaged/rewritten inscriptions at, 287, 288
  - temple of Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II, 317n4, 331–32, 333
- Deir el-Bersha, tomb of Djehutyhotep (tomb 2), 48, 49, 50, 269, 277, 278–79
- Deir el-Medina
- blessed dead, stela identifying deceased as, 67n62
  - ostrakon with wet nurse (EA5806) from, 27
  - tomb of Inherkauy (TT 359), 139, 141
  - tomb of Irinufur, 180
- Deir el-Medina gang, 103–22
- chronology of activities of, 112
  - identity of robbed tomb, 108, 112–13
  - interrogation of/depositions from, 106–7
  - methodological approach to, 104–5
  - objects stolen/recovered, 109–10, 113–16, 114
  - papyri referencing, 104
  - as prisoners, 105n11
  - receivers of stolen goods, 111n36, 115, 116–21
  - recovery of stolen material from, 105–6
  - summaries of texts regarding, 107–12
  - terminological issues, 105–7
- Dembitz, Gabriella, 313n68
- Den (king), 269
- der Manuelian, Peter, 86n22
- Derchain, Philippe, 269
- Detroit Institute of Arts, 30.371 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 233
- Dévaud, E., 31n13
- Di Biase-Dyson, Camilla, 86n18
- Dialogue of a Man and His Ba, 167, 272
- Diamond, Kelly-Anne, 29
- Díaz Hernández, Roberto A., 89n37
- didactic/wisdom texts, 30, 32
- Discourse of Sasobek, 164n8, 168
- divine birth, depictions of, 153n156
- Djadjaemankh, 88
- Djed-bastet-iu-ef-anekh, coffin of, el-Hiba, 180
- djed*-pillars, 165n20, 166n32, 179
- Djedshepses (in tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 216n17



- Djefaihapy I, tomb of (Asyut 1/P10.1), 47, 49  
 Djehuty (deity). *See* Thoth  
 Djehuty, tomb of (TT 110), 208  
 Djehutyhotep (wife of Ukhhotep II, son of Senbi I), 47, 49  
 Djehutyhotep (wife of Ukhhotep III), 48  
 Djehutyhotep, tomb of (Deir el-Bersha 2), 48, 50  
 Djer (king), tomb of, Abydos, 61, 205  
 Dodson, Aidan, 221  
 Doomed Prince tale, 90  
 Doxey, Denise, 33, 47  
 Drioton, Etienne, 7  
*dt*, 259, 263  
 dual-sexing or third-gendering of Nubian A-Group figurines, 70, 72, 75–79, 76  
 Duat  
   characterization of, 9  
   identification of burial space with, 10  
   Osiris as personification of, 11–12  
   Shetayt and, 20, 21  
 The Duties of a Vizier, 33n25  
 dystopian literature, Prophecy of Neferti as, 93–94, 97–101  
  
 eastern horizon, dual characterization of, 16n48  
 Egypt, ancient. *See* identity and self-presentation in ancient Egypt  
 Egyptian Museum Cairo. *See also* Tutankhamun (king), funerary assemblage of  
   CG 728 (statue of nonroyal individual), 201  
   CG 885 (statue of Viceroy Setau), 206  
   CG 20093 (stela), 125n5  
   CG 20336 (stela), 125n5  
   CG 20396 (stela), 126  
   CG 20435, 125n4  
   CG 20459 (stela), 125n5  
   CG 20809 = JE 43461 (stela), 125n5  
   CG 23009 = JE 28460 (offering table of Senwosret III), 251  
   CG 23073 = JE 39605 (offering table of Aaqenenre Ipepi), 251  
   CG 25224 (writing board), 95  
   CG 34046 (stela), 206  
   CG 34098 (stela), 191n23  
   CG 58075 (papyrus), 171  
   JE 6016 (coffin), 140  
   JE 39749 (votive statue of Viceroy Nehy), 208  
   JE 49729 (colossal statue of Akhenaten), 149, 150  
   JE 61884 (pectoral of Tutankhamun), 139n55  
   JE 86637 (calendar of lucky and unlucky days), 261, 262  
   TR 10/3/25/15 (stela 1174, *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos), 57, 59  
   TR 10/3/25/16 (stela 1177, *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos), 57, 59  
   TR 11/11/24/2 (stela 1173, *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos), 57  
 Elephantine  
   courtyard house 86b, 171, 173  
   female figurines from, 210–11  
   House 26, 210  
   House 55, 210, 211  
   House 61, 210  
   House T22A, 208  
   Khnum, temple of, 207–11  
   nonroyal participation in New Kingdom provincial cults at, 207–11  
   rock inscriptions, Hassawanarti and temple of Khnum, 208–10  
   Satet, temple of, 207, 208, 211  
   Structure H84, 172, 173  
   torso from, 208  
 Elias, Norbert, 276  
 Elkab, nonroyal participation in provincial cult at, 205–7, 212  
 Eloquent Peasant, Tale of, 90n44, 164n8, 167, 168, 279–80  
 Ennead gods, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  
 enunciation, 131, 139, 142, 154  
 epithets and titles. *See also* royal name  
   for elite women in Middle Kingdom tombs, 50, 51–53  
   Mutirdis, gendered epithets for, 25–28  
   *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos, 58–59  
 Eschweiler, Peter, 167n41  
 Esna, 178  
 exterior inscriptions of royal name, 317–33  
   Amenemhat III and Amenemhat IV, Renenutet and Sobek temple of, Medinet Madi, 332  
   meaning and significance of, 331–33  
   Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II, temple of, Deir el-Bahari, 317n4, 331–32, 333

- Pepy I, pyramid complex of, 318–19, 321, 325, 326n38, 331  
 Senwosret I, Amun-Re temple of, Karnak, 319–20, 321, 325, 326n39, 331, 332, 333  
 Senwosret I, pyramid complex of, Lisht, 332  
 Senwosret II, pyramid temple of, Lahun, 331n53  
 Senwosret III, pyramid complex, Dahshur, 318, 319, 320–31, 321–25, 327, 328, 333  
 Unis, valley temple of, 331  
 Eye of Horus, 182  
  
 faience female figurines, 211  
 Falcon of the West, 178–79  
 Faras, inscriptions about Huy/Taemwadjsy from, 194, 196  
 Fattovich, Rodolfo, 157, 160  
 Fauconnier, Gilles, 154  
 Faulkner, Raymond O., 44  
 Feleg, Rosa Erika, 300n32, 303n44  
 female figurines  
     from Elephantine, 210–11  
     faience, 211  
     Ramesseum tomb no. 5 finds, 165n14, 166  
     *rpyt*-female image, 17  
 fertility. *See* pregnancy, regeneration, and fertility  
 Fields of Iaru, 4, 8  
 Firth, C. M., 73, 75  
 Fischer, Henry George, 127  
 fishing and fowling scenes, 267–82  
     Account of the Pleasures of Fishing and Fowling, 270, 272, 276, 278  
     Amenemhat II, annal inscription of, 277  
     animal hierarchy and, 280–81  
     clapnetting, 178nb8–9, 244, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279  
     contact with/separation from animals, environment, and dirt, 272–74, 273, 274  
     controlled elite versus unruly laborers in, 274–77, 275  
     Discourse of the Fowler, 278  
     Djehutyhotep, tomb of (Deir el-Bersha tomb 2), 277, 278–79  
     Iti-ibi-iqer, tomb of, Asyut, 279  
     juxtaposition of elite and nonelite practices, 267–68, 268, 269, 281–82  
     Khnumhotep II, tomb of (Beni Hassan 3), 270, 271, 276, 277, 279  
     in literary texts, 267, 269, 270, 276–81  
     mastery, authority, and ownership displayed in, 278–81  
     Nekhhebu, mastaba of, Giza, 267, 268, 274–75, 279  
     Niankhnisut, tomb-chapel of, Saqqara, marsh scene, 213, 214–17, 215, 217, 218, 222–24, 227  
     overdetermination of, 154  
     pleasure, leisure, and aesthetic appreciation in, 270–71, 271  
     Sahure (king), pyramid temple of, 269, 277  
     Senbi I, tomb of (Meir tomb B1), 273, 274  
     “single-combat” versus mass harvesting methods, 274, 276–77  
     as tomb chapel decoration, 268–70, 281  
     Ukhhotep II, tomb of (Meir B2), 275, 276, 277  
     Ukhhotep III, tomb of (Meir B4), 273, 277  
     Ukhhotep IV, tomb of (Meir C1), 270  
     visual blending in, 154  
     women appearing in, 50, 52, 53, 54  
 Fitzwilliam Museum, no. E.63.1896 (snake wand), 165n25, 166  
 Fogg Art Museum, 1934.17–18 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 217n23, 231  
 foreign presence/threat in Prophecy of Neferti, 96, 101–2  
 Förster, Frank, 280  
 Foster, Jack, 83  
 Foucart, George, 7  
 Four Sons of Horus, 179  
 fowling. *See* fishing and fowling scenes  
 Fox, M. V., 32  
 Freed, Rita, 149n116  
 Freud, Sigmund, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, 153  
 Frood, Elizabeth, 201  
 funeral procession in tomb of Panehsy and Tarenu (TT 16), 5, 7, 8  
 “funerary,” defined, 9n1  
 funerary texts and images, in tomb of Panehsy and Tarenu (TT 16), 3–8, 5, 7  
  
 Gabolde, Luc, 319n13  
 Gabolde, Marc, 142n71, 144, 192n32, 193  
 Gardiner, Alan H., 167n41, 170

- Gardiner signs  
 A28, 181  
 C2, 300  
 C10, 300  
 C12, 300  
 D28, 180  
 D55, 178  
 F12, 301  
 F31, 301  
 H6, 300  
 M18, 180  
 M22, 303  
 N5, 300  
 N35, 301  
 N36, 301  
 O34, 301  
 S3, 301  
 S29, 302  
 S38, 300  
 S45, 178  
 U6, 302  
 U21, 301  
 W15, 180  
 X1, 302
- Geb (deity), 6
- Gebel el-Ahmar, quartzite cliffs at, 131–32
- Geisen, Christina, xx, 87n26, 163
- Gempaaten* temple, East Karnak, 131, 149, 150
- gender. *See also* female figurines; Instruction of Ptah-hotep, conceptions of masculinity in; *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos; Nubian A-Group figurines; pregnancy, regeneration, and fertility  
 afterlife, women's aspirations for, tied to husbands and male relatives, 54
- Akhenaten, double-gendering in representations of, 151, 152
- complexities of, in global cultures, 76, 77
- cosmic order, female partners contributing to maintenance of, 148
- dearth of early Egyptological analysis on women, 57
- Middle Kingdom tombs, elite women mentioned/pictured in, 47–48, 47–54
- modern gender constructions, influence of, 29
- Mutirdis, gendered epithets for, 25–28
- Prophecy of Neferti, lack of gender inversion in, 100
- receivers of stolen goods, women as, 119  
 sex and, 77
- Gestalt, 131, 140–41, 152, 154–55
- Gibson, Gayle, 175
- Gillam, Robyn, 259
- Goecke-Bauer, Maren, 107n20
- Goelet, Ogden, 300n32
- Golden Horus/Horus-of-gold name (of king), 320, 326, 335–36, 340, 342–45
- gold/yellow, color symbolism of, 5n12
- graffiti, 199, 200, 207, 216–17, 218, 227, 270–71, 323
- Great Hymn of the Aten, 259
- Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak. *See* cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak
- Greenwood, Carol Elizabeth, xiv
- Griffith, F. Ll., 31
- guardian figures  
 Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 5, 5–8  
 Ptolemaic burial shroud for a child (ROM 2019.17.179) and, 177
- Guchardi, Anne Marie, 175
- Guides to the Hereafter genre, 10n5
- Gunn, B., 31
- Hagen, F., 33
- Halfa Degheim grave 16B, Cemetery 277, 72, 74, 75, 77, 79
- hand as sexual tool in perpetuation of cosmic order, 145n93
- Hapetnebes (deity), 64
- Hapy, Hymn to, 262
- Haraga, cemeteries A and B, 169
- Harpur, Yvonne, 218n28, 221
- harvest season in Egypt, 262–63
- Hathor (deity), 50–54, 181–82
- Hatshepsut (female king), 10n5, 62, 153n156, 191n26, 287, 289, 290. *See also* Maatkare
- Hatshepsut (principal wife of Thutmose III and mother of Amenhotep II), 192n37
- Haynes, Joyce, 185
- Heath, Dunbar Isidore, 30
- Hebrew compared to Egyptian narrative literature, 83, 84, 88, 90, 91
- Hedjhotep (deity), 164
- Heel, Koenraad Donker van, 107n20
- Heidegger, Martin, *Being and Time*, 263–64

- Hekanakht Papers, 174  
 Hekareshu Hill, North Abydos, 204  
 Heket (deity), 62  
 Henut-Mestjet (deity), 65  
 Herb, Michael, 269, 280  
 Herdt, Gilbert, 78  
 Herib (wife of Netjernakht), 48, 50  
 Herihor (high priest of Amun and “king”), 294  
 Heron of Plenty, 178–79, 183  
 Herzberg, Anne, 207  
 Hetepet (wife of Amenemhat), 48, 53  
*h3t* bird, 260–61n14  
*h3t*-corpse, 11, 19  
 hieroglyphs. *See also* cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak; Gardiner signs  
   damaged inscriptions, 285–90, 286, 288  
   decline in knowledge of, 287  
 hippopotamus, 180, 182, 222, 243, 270, 272n33, 279, 280  
 Hirsch, Jacob, 217  
 Homer, *Odyssey*, 84  
 Honolulu Museum, Obj. No. 2896 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 217n23, 224n82, 236  
 Horakhty (deity), 135, 137. *See also* Re-Horakhty  
 Horemheb, tomb relief of, Saqqara, 192  
 Hori (overseer of army), 118  
 Hori (scribe/receiver of stolen goods), 120n66  
 Hori, son of Amenwa (tomb robber), 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 114  
 Horus (deity), 60–63, 179, 338, 339, 344  
 Horus name (of king), 293, 304, 318, 320–22, 321, 326, 329, 331–32, 335–36, 340, 344, 345  
 Horus-of-gold/Golden Horus name (of king), 320, 326, 335–36, 340, 342–45  
*htmyt* (Place of Destruction), 20–21  
 Hudáková, L'ubica, 54  
 human and animal studies (HAS), 259  
 Hutchinson, Amber, 199  
 Huy (mother of Queen Merytre), 192n37  
 Huy (viceroys)  
   Elkab, statue at, 206  
   Faras, inscriptions about Huy/Taemwadjsy from, 194, 196  
   Jebel Barkal relief, identification with, 192–97  
   tomb of (TT40), 187n11, 187nn13–14, 190, 191, 194–95, 196  
 Hyksos, 102, 251  
 Hypostyle Hall, Great, Karnak. *See* cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak  
 Iamu (official), statue fragment of (Portal Temple of Ramesses II, North Abydos), 203  
 Ibronyi, Barbara Elizabeth, *xiii*, *xiv*  
 identity and self-presentation in ancient Egypt, *xix–xx*. *See also* afterlife; gender; literature and texts; material culture; natural world; royal name; *and entries under specific texts, objects, and sites*  
   construct, identity as, 69  
   correlation between audience and, 199  
   modern versus ancient concepts, *xix*  
   royal titulary and pharaonic identity, 314–15  
 Idi (daughter of Djefaihapy I), 47, 49  
 Idiaat (mother of Djefaihapy I), 47, 49  
 Igegy (deity), 8  
 Igeret (realm of the dead), 19  
 Ihet (deity), 181, 183  
 Ikhnofret, biography of, 88. *See also* Iykhernofret  
 Ikram, Salima, 221  
 Ilin-Tomich, Alexander, 251  
 images of human form, Egyptian beliefs about, 285–86  
 Imeny-Seneb, biography of, 88  
 Inherkauy, tomb of (Deir el-Medina TT 359), 139, 141  
 Instruction of Ptahhotep  
   conceptions of masculinity in, 29–46  
   courtly context of, 32–34, 42  
   education as mechanism of hegemony, 33–34  
   equals, appropriate interaction with, 39  
   failure to adhere to, 46  
   gender hierarchy and hegemony, 35  
   literary versus historical approach to, 32n18  
   methodological approach, 30–31, 46  
   modern masculine norms and, 29, 36  
   multiple enactments of masculinity in, 29–30, 34–35, 35, 39, 44  
   performance and acceptance of masculinity, 45  
   power structure in ancient Egypt and, 46  
   purposes of, 30, 46  
   subordinate and marginalized masculinities, 40n76  
   subordinates, hegemonic masculinity in interaction with, 36–39, 46  
   superiors, complicit masculinity in interaction with, 39, 40–44, 46

- Instruction of Ptahhotep, *continued*  
 violence and aggression, absence of, 46  
 young men, as manual for, 32, 46
- Intefiqer and Senet, tomb of (TT 60), 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 271
- interpretants, 152, 154, 155
- Irinufer, tomb of, Deir el Medina, 180
- Irtierou, tomb of (TT 390), 25n1
- Isemi[*kh?*]af (in tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 214
- ished*-tree, 139
- Ishtar-Inanna (deity), 16
- Isis (deity)  
*akh*-effectiveness of, 144n89  
 on burial shrouds, 179  
 faience female figurines linked to, 211  
 at *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos, 60, 62–64, 66  
 nonroyal participation in provincial cult at North Abydos and, 204  
 Philae, Temple of Isis in, 287  
 Shetayt and, 18  
 singers/chantresses of, 59
- Isis/Aset (royal mother), robbing of tomb of, Valley of the Queens, 108, 112–13
- Iskander, Sameh, 300n32
- Israel Museum, 71.089.0339 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 236
- Iti-ibi-iqer, tomb of, Asyut, 279
- Iunria (receiver of stolen goods), 111n36
- Iykhernofret (treasurer), 250, 255. *See also* Ikhernofret, biography of
- jackals, 140, 180, 183, 260, 264. *See also* Anubis
- jackal-snake, on burial shrouds, 180, 183
- James, Janet, 66n59
- Jansen-Winkel, Karl, 26, 27, 144
- Janssen, Jac J., *Commodity Prices*, 120
- Jay, Jacqueline E., 83
- Jebel Barkal *talatat*-sized blocks with relief of couple, 185–97  
 birds and flowers, offerings of, 188–90, 189–91  
 description of, 185–87, 186, 188  
 garments and hairstyles, 187, 188  
 “Great One in the Harem of Amun,” female figure titled as, 192–93  
 Huy/Taemwadjsy, possible identification with, 192–95  
 possible travelers to Jebel Barkal, 196–97  
 Setau/Mutnofret, possible identification with, 192, 193, 196  
 staff of office (?) on male’s back identifying him as viceroy, 191–92, 192  
 vertical column, 191
- Jéquier, G., 31n13
- Johnson, Ray, 149n116
- Junge, Friedrich, 90, 207n71
- ka*  
 Bak, naos-stela of, 135  
 fishing and fowling tomb scenes and, 154  
 Khnum as shaper of, 62  
 Ptolemaic burial shroud for a child, *ka* gesture on, 180
- Kaires, Loyalist Teaching of, 280
- Kaiser, Werner, 133
- Kamrin, Janice, 50
- Kanawati, Naguib, 219n35, 221n51
- Karnak. *See also* cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak  
 Akhmenu temple of Thutmose III, 311, 314  
 Amun-Re temple of Senwosret I, 319–20, 321, 325, 326n39, 329n40, 331, 332, 333  
*Cachette de Karnak*, 286–87  
*Gempaaten* temple, East Karnak, 131, 149, 150  
 Khonsu Temple, 303, 311  
 obelisk of Thutmose IV, 311  
 temple of Maat, Montu enclosure, 105n11  
 Temple of Osiris Heqa-Djet, xii  
 White Chapel of Senwosret I, 329n40
- Kawashima, Robert, 83–84, 91
- Kayemnofret, tomb chapel of, Saqqara, 272–73
- Kenamun, shrine of, North Abydos, 205
- Kendall, Timothy, 185
- Khaemopet (scribe/receiver of stolen goods), 117
- Khaemwaset (vizier), 105
- Khaemwaset and Taemwadjsy, statue of, from Kawa, 187n14, 194, 195
- Khafre valley temple, 331n54
- Khakaure cartouche, 322, 323, 324, 326, 329
- Khasekhemwy (king), 56
- Khenemytwer, wife of Ukhhotep IV, 48, 49
- khener*, 58
- Khentykhetyemsaf, Tomb 11 of (Dahshur North), 251



- Khety (wife[?] of Netjernakht), 48, 51, 53  
 Khety (wife of Khnumhotep II), 48, 49, 50–51, 52  
 Khety, Teaching of, 270, 276, 277  
 Khnum (deity), 62, 119, 178n9, 207–9  
 Khnum, temple of, Elephantine, 207–11  
 Khnumhotep  
   biography of, 86n19  
   Tomb 2 of (Dahshur North), 249, 255  
 Khnumhotep (wife (?) of Ukhhotep IV), 48, 49  
 Khnumhotep I, tomb of (Beni Hassan 14), 47, 52  
 Khnumhotep II, tomb of (Beni Hassan 3), 48, 49–52, 270, 271, 276, 277, 279  
 Khonsu Temple, Karnak, 303, 311  
 Khufu, pyramid of, 143  
 Khufu's Court, Tale of, 270  
 Khuisobek, biography of, 88  
 Kitchen, Kenneth A., 107n16, 299, 314  
 Kjølby, Annette, 199  
 Koenen, Ludwig, 338  
 Koffka, Kurt, 154  
 Köhler, Wolfgang, 154  
 Kôm el-Hetân, 132, 134  
 Kopp, Peter, 210  
 Kozloff, Arielle, 149n116  
 Krauss, Rolf, 131, 132, 133–34, 138nn43–44, 152  
 KV. *See* Valley of the Kings  
 “Lady of the House,” as female title, 59, 63, 193, 195  
 Lahun  
   pyramid temple of Senwosret II, 331n53  
   structures at, 173, 174  
 Lange, H. O., 31n13  
 Leahy, Anthony, 25, 56, 57, 223n74, 225n93, 227n112  
 Legrain, Georges, 301  
 Leiden University  
   P. Leiden I 348, 211  
   V (stela), 125n4  
 Leitz, Christian, 20, 261n20  
 Leprohon, Bernard D., xi  
 Leprohon, Diane O., xi  
 Leprohon, Ronald J.  
   author appreciations of, 3, 9, 25, 29, 47, 55, 69, 83, 93, 103, 125, 131, 163, 175, 185, 199, 213, 249, 267, 285, 291, 317, 335  
   on fishing and fowling scenes, 268, 270  
   *The Great Name*, xi, xvii, 335  
   life and career, xi–xiv, xix  
   photos of, *v*, xi–xiii  
   on Ptolemaic royal names, ix, 335, 338, 342  
   publications list, xv–xvii  
 Leprohon, Thomas, *v*, xiii, xiv, 83  
 Li, Jean, xx, 55  
 Libyan period stelae, 65–66, 67  
 lion-headed goddesses at *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos, 60, 64–65  
 lions “yesterday and tomorrow” (in Book of the Dead of Any), 141  
 Lipson, Carol, 152n133  
 Lisht, pyramid complex of Senwosret I, 332  
 literacy in ancient Egypt, 33–34, 167  
 literature and texts. *See also* narrative literature; *and entries under specific texts*  
   fishing and fowling scenes in, 267, 269, 270, 276–81  
   silent reading in ancient Egypt, 87n26  
 Loprieno, Antonio, 32, 101  
 Lord, Albert, 83  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)  
   A.5141.47.109 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 214n6, 217n23  
   Nos. 47.8.3 and 47.8.5 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 236, 237  
 Louvre Museum  
   AF 6440 and N 3076 (shrouds), 176n4, 181n23  
   E 6247 (Viceroy Setau and wife), 187n11, 187n13, 189  
   N 522 (limestone plaque of Ramesses II), 141  
   N 5017 (Serket statuette), 178n14  
 love  
   “beloved” as female epithet in Middle Kingdom tombs, 53  
   passed from superiors to dependents, 53  
 Loyalist Teaching of Kaires, 280  
 Luria, S., 97n35  
 Luxor  
   cartouche names of Ramesses IV at, 311–12, 314  
   Opet festival, 58, 311  
 Lysimachus of Thrace, 338  
 maat  
   animal observation/management and, 265  
   concept of, xix

- maat*, *continued*  
 dystopian fiction and, 93, 98, 102  
 female partners contributing to maintenance of, 148  
 Instruction of Ptahhotep inculcating, 32, 46  
 Ptolemaic royal names and, 336  
 Ramesses III, cartouche names of, 291, 292, 314, 315  
 Maat (deity), 105, 109, 300–302, 306, 308, 310–12, 314, 315, 342  
*maat* feathers  
 in cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, 300, 302, 303, 306, 310  
 Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 5, 7  
 Ptolemaic burial shroud of a child, 179  
 Maatkare (name for Hatshepsut), 287, 288, 289. *See also* Hatshepsut  
 magic, 10n8, 15–17  
 magical objects and texts  
*apotropaia*, 15–16, 165, 166, 178, 204  
 from Ramesseum tomb no. 5, 163–65, 165, 168, 169  
*mahats* or commemorative chapels, Abydos, 61, 62, 63, 64  
 Mahmoud, Khaled M., 213n3, 220n44, 220n46, 222n66, 223n71, 225n95  
 Maitland, Margaret, 267  
 Maketaten (daughter of Akhenaten), 148n112  
 Malek, J., 222n66  
 Mallawi City Museum, statue of Amarna princess, 145  
*mammisiac* religion, 66  
 Manassa, Colleen, 18n63  
 Manchester Museum, Ramesseum finds  
 1787 (female figurine), 165n14, 166  
 1790 (Ahat statuette), 165n24  
 1792 (model food/vessels), 165n21  
 1794 (female figurine), 165n14, 166  
 1796-95 (magical rod), 165n18  
 1796-97 (clappers), 165n17, 166  
 1798 (female figurine), 165n14, 166  
 1798-1801 (*apotropaia*), 165n26, 166  
 1825 (zoomorphic figurine), 165n15, 166  
 1827 (zoomorphic figurine), 165n15, 166  
 1831 (model food/vessels), 165n21  
 1832 (paddle doll), 165n19  
 1834 (burnisher or mallet), 165n22  
 1838 (*djed*-pillar), 165n20, 166n32  
 1839 (zoomorphic figurine), 165n15, 166  
 Marfan's syndrome, 150  
 Mariette, Auguste, 56–57, 201, 202  
 Marlar, Michelle, 201–2  
 masculinity. *See* gender; Instruction of Ptahhotep, conceptions of masculinity in  
 Maspero, Gaston, 17n51  
 mastaba tombs. *See also* Niankhnisut, tomb-chapel of, Saqqara  
 Nebit (vizier), mastaba of, Dahshur North, 249, 255, 322n26  
 Nekhebu, mastaba of, Giza, 267, 268, 274–75, 279  
 Senwosretankh (treasurer), mastaba of, Dahshur North, 249–55  
 material culture. *See also* entries under specific objects and sites  
 “reading” of, 69  
 Mathieson, Ian, 223n74, 225n93, 227n112  
 Maximinus II (Roman emperor), 287  
 May and Meryt, tomb of, Saqqara, 189–91  
 McCutcheon, R. W., 87n26  
 meaning production, 140  
 medical conditions, representations of Akhenaten attributed to, 150–51  
 Medinet Habu  
 cemetery of Singers in Residence at Temple of Amun at, 58, 66, 67  
 tomb robbing and, 110, 120  
 Medinet Madi, Renenutet and Sobek temple of Amenemhat III and Amenemhat IV, 332  
 Medjay Nekhemhatef and Medjay Paqarer (receivers of stolen goods), 117  
 Mehyet/Mehit (deity), 60, 64–65  
 Meir, tombs at  
 B1 (Senbi I, son of Ukhhotep), 47, 273, 274  
 B2 (Ukhhotep II, son of Senbi I), 47, 49, 50, 275, 276, 277  
 B3 (Senbi II, son of Ukhhotep), 48, 48–49, 52, 53  
 B4 (Ukhhotep III, son of Ukhhotep), 48, 49, 273, 277  
 C1 (Ukhhotep IV, son of Ukhhotep and Henyberib), 48, 49, 270  
 Men (father of Bak and chief sculptor of Amenhotep III), 132, 134  
 “men of the crew” (workmen), as receivers of stolen

- goods, 114, 121
- Menkauhor (king), 143
- Merenptah/Merneptah (king)  
Karnak and Luxor, usurped cartouches at, 311  
tomb of (KV 8), 20n80
- Mereryt (daughter of Ukhhotep IV), 48
- Meres (daughter of Khnumhotep II), 48, 49, 50, 51
- Meritamun (daughter of Ramesses II and Nefertari), 192–93n37
- Mersa/Wadi Gawasis (*Saww*), commemorative stelae and shrines at harbor of, 157–62, 159–62
- Mersi (daughter of Ukhhotep III), 48
- Mersi (sister of Senbi II/daughter of Ukhhotep), 48, 48–49, 52, 53
- Mersi (sister of Ukhhotep III), 48, 49
- Meryre I, tomb of, 134n24, 137, 143n81, 147n104
- Meryt and May, tomb of, Saqqara, 189–91
- Meskel, Lynn, 69, 77
- Mestjet (deity), 60, 65
- metaphor, visual, 140, 145, 148, 154, 155–56
- metonymy, 140n61, 155–56
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, MMA 22.2.35 and 26.7.1405 (statues of mothers/wet nurses), 27
- Meyrat, Pierre, 166n30
- Middle Kingdom tombs, elite women mentioned in, 47–48, 47–54
- Min (deity), 158–59, 161
- Mistress of the Animals motif and Shetayt, 16, 21
- “Mistress of the House,” as female title, 49, 51, 53, 203
- Montu (deity), 288, 289
- Montuwoaser, stela of, 280
- More, Thomas, *Utopia*, 97
- Morenz, Ludwig, 90n44
- Morkot, Robert, 192, 195n58
- Morris, Ellen, 100
- “mortuary,” versus “funerary,” 9n1
- Mose, son of Pentaweret (tomb robber), 108, 109, 110, 111, 114
- Moss, Rosalind L. B., 205, 206, 217
- Mumford, Gregory, 213
- mummies  
bodies turned into signs by, 152n134  
KV 55 (probably Akhenaten), 151  
of Ramesses III, 291n1
- Murnane, William J., 103, 303n44, 324n44
- Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (MAH), 19490-19491, 19627, and 2002-0005 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 216n14, 217n23, 234–35, 239
- Museum August Kestner  
1972.19, 1957.78, and 1954:40 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 235  
2931 (stela), 125n4
- Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston  
MFA 27.1160 (ostraca with Shetayt), 12n25, 17  
MFA 54.993 (shroud of Tasheritwedjahor), 179
- music, Hathor, and women in Middle Kingdom tomb scenes, 51, 52, 54
- Mut (deity), 59, 66, 208, 211, 289
- Mutirdis, gendered epithets for, 25–28, 27–28
- Mutnofret (wife of Viceroy Setau), 187n11, 187nn13–14, 189, 192, 193, 196–97
- Mutpipu (“Great One of the Harem of Amun”), 192n37
- Mut-Tuya/Tuya (wife of Seti I and mother of Ramesses II), 193n37
- the Mysterious One. *See* Shetayt
- nakedness, significance of, 273–74
- Nakht I, tomb of (Beni Hassan 21), 47
- Nakhtmin, son of Pentaweret (tomb robber), 108, 109, 110, 111, 114
- narrative literature, 83–92. *See also specific stories*  
Berlin Library, 167  
Biblical Hebrew compared, 83, 84, 88, 90, 91  
biographies, Middle Kingdom, 88–89  
biographies, Old Kingdom, 85, 87  
literacy in ancient Egypt and, 33–34, 167  
narrative verb forms in, 87–89  
objective (monologic) narrative versus subjective (dialogic) discourse in, 84–85, 91–92  
oral performance of, 87, 167–68  
oral-traditional epic versus written literary prose narrative, 83–84, 167  
from Rammesseum tomb no. 5, 164n8, 167–68  
third-person narrative tags, 85–87  
as written phenomenon, 85
- National Museums Scotland, A. 1958.46 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 234
- natural world. *See also* fishing and fowling scenes; *and entries under specific animals*  
hierarchy of animals, 280–81  
human and animal studies (HAS)/animal theory, 259



- natural world, *continued*
- Jebel Barkal relief, offerings of birds and flowers from, 188–90, 189–91
  - Mistress of the Animals motif and Shetayt, 16, 21
  - observation and management of animals, 259–65
  - Prophecy of Neferti, environmental catastrophe in, 96
- Nebamun, Theban tomb of (now in BM), 270
- Nebetmehyt (wife of Ukhhotep IV), 48, 49
- Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II (king), temple of, Deir el-Bahari, 317n4, 331–32, 333
- Nebit (vizier), Tomb 18 of (Dahshur North), 249, 255, 322n26
- Nebkau (wife[?] of Ukhhotep IV), 48, 49
- Nebmaatre (ruler/prince), 203
- Nebre, statue of (BM EA 2292), 146, 147
- Nebstu, stela of, *Saww*, 158–59, 159
- Nebwawy, stelae of (CG 34017, CG 34018, and EA 1199), 200–201
- Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos, 55–67. *See also* ancient sources index for texts on specific stelae
- chantresses and singers in Egypt, 58–59
  - context of, 56–58, 57
  - dating and depiction of gender on, 65–66, 67
  - deities mentioned, 57–58, 60–61
  - epithets and titles, 58–59
  - landscape of Abydos, and rebirth of Osiris, 61–65
  - Medinet Habu, cemetery of Singers in Residence at Temple of Amun at, compared, 58, 66, 67
  - Nécropole du Centre* and, 57
  - nonroyal participation in provincial cults and, 203
  - stelae of, 56, 59, 67n62
  - sun/solar worship and, 60–61, 64–65, 66
  - temple precincts, burials in, 66, 67
- Nécropole du Centre*, Abydos, 57, 202
- Nécropole du Nord*, Abydos, 202, 203
- Nectanebo II (king), 342
- Neferneferuaten (queen-king), 137n33, 144, 146
- Neferpesdjjet, Tale of, 90n44
- Neferti*. *See* Prophecy of Neferti
- Nefertiti (queen), 134n23
- Neferu (daughter of Ukhhotep IV), 48
- Neferure and Senenmut, cube statue of (Berlin 2296), 289–90
- Negiteru (receiver of stolen goods), 111n36, 119
- neh-h*-solar process, 137, 147
- Nehy (viceroys), votive statue of (Cairo JE 39749), 208
- Nekhbet (deity), 205–7, 305, 318–23, 321, 322, 326, 331, 332
- Nekhhebu, mastaba of, Giza, 267, 268, 274–75, 279
- Nephthys (deity), 18, 179, 187n11, 189, 204
- Nesmontu (chief steward), 255
- Nessobek, son of Hori (receiver of stolen goods), 119
- Nessobek, son of Seniry (receiver of stolen goods), 111n36, 119
- Netjernakht, tomb of (Beni Hassan 23), 48, 50–51, 52, 53
- Neuserre, blocks from Sun Temple of, 261, 262
- nhh*, 259, 263
- Niankhnisut, tomb-chapel of, Saqqara, 213–46
- blocks other than WAM marsh scene from, 217–19, 231–46
  - decorative themes and subthemes, 220–24
  - description of, 219–20
  - marsh scene (WAM no. 1931.99), 213, 214–17, 215, 217, 218, 222–24, 227, 237
  - missing portions of, 225–26
  - rediscovery of, 213
  - reuse of/later activity in, 226–27
  - titles, career, rank, and status of Niankhnisut, 224–25, 228–30
- Nile flood, 61, 261–62, 294, 341
- Nitocris (Divine Worshiper), 25
- Niuserre (king), valley temple of, 331n55
- nonroyal participation in New Kingdom provincial cults, 199–212
- agency and individuality, expressing, 199
  - at Elephantine, 207–11, 212
  - at Elkab, 205–7, 212
  - graffiti, 199, 200, 207
  - methodological approach, 200
  - at North Abydos, 200–205, 212
- Nubian A-Group figurines, 69–79
- arms. presence absence of, 72, 76, 78–79
  - defined and described, 70–72, 71
  - dolls, regarded as, 72
  - dual-sexing or third-gendering of, 70, 72, 75–79, 76
  - identity with people buried with, 72, 73–74, 74, 79
  - lifecycle stages of deceased and, 70, 72, 73–75, 74, 75, 79
  - traditional female designations of, 72
- Nut (deity)

- Book of Nut, 13–14n28, 18, 20–21  
 burial space identified with, 11–12  
 Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 6  
 Shetayt and, 18, 20–21
- obelisk of Thutmose IV, Karnak, 311
- O'Connor, David, 64
- offering chamber of Senwosret III, Dahshur pyramid complex, 329
- offering tables  
 of Aaqenenre Ipepi (Cairo JE 39605 = CG 23073), 251  
 of Senwosret III (Cairo JE 28460 = CG 23009), 251  
 of Senwosretankh (Tomb 34, Dahshur North), 250–55, 252–53
- offerings  
 of birds and flowers, Jebel Barkal relief, 188–90, 189–91  
 women accompanying Middle-Kingdom tomb owner receiving, 50–51
- oil heaters/makers, as receivers of stolen goods, 114, 120
- Ong, Walter, 85, 92
- Onstine, Suzanne, 3, 58, 203
- Opet festival, Luxor, 58, 311
- Oppenheim, Adela, 249, 317
- Orwell, George, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, 93, 94, 99
- Osgood, H., 30–31
- Osireion (Abydos), 12n26
- Osiride figures and statues, 177–79, 183, 319–20
- Osiris  
*akh*-effectiveness of Isis and, 144n89  
 Akhenaten/Atenist theology and, 137, 146, 151, 153  
 burial shrouds, Osiride figures on, 177–78, 179, 193  
 burial space identified with, 11–12  
 chantresses of, 59  
 as “Lord of Birth,” 57–58, 60, 65  
 at *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos, 57–58, 60–67  
 nonroyal participation in cult, at North Abydos, 201–5  
 Osirian Triad, 60–61  
 Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 6, 8  
 pregnancy and regeneration, association with, 11–12  
 Re and, 10n4, 14, 64, 146, 153  
 rebirth festival and landscape of Abydos, 60–65  
 Reniseneb stela and, 126, 127, 129  
 Shetayt and, 13n28, 19–21  
 solar-Osirian unity, 9–11, 14, 19, 21, 61, 64, 146
- Osiris-Khentiamentiu temple, Abydos  
*Nécropole des Chanteuses* and, 55, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66  
 nonroyal participation in cult at, 200–202
- ostraca  
 from KV40, inscribed for “The King’s Daughter, Taemwadjy,” 193  
 Prophecy of Neferti on, 95  
 with Shetayt (MFA 27.1160), 12n25, 17  
 social inversion depicted on, 100n59  
 with wet nurse (from Deir el Medina; EA5806), 27
- overdetermination, 131, 139, 152, 153–54
- Oxford Q. C. 1111 (stela), 125n5
- P450 isoform enzyme mutation, cranial abnormalities due to, 150
- Paanqen, son of Amenwa (tomb robber), 108, 109, 110, 111, 114
- Pabasa, tomb of (TT 279), 28
- Pacharu (*wab*-priest), 209
- Padiamenope, tomb of, 13n26
- Padi-Isis, sarcophagus of, 12–13n26
- Paennesewtawy, 187n11, 189
- Pais (blackmailer), 117–18
- Pakaempaweba (chief porter/receiver of stolen goods), 117
- Pakharu, son of Khari (tomb robber), 113
- Pakharu, son of Pentaweret (tomb robber), 108, 109, 111
- Pakhet, Priestess of, as epithet for women in elite Middle Kingdom tombs, 51
- Panakhtrestep (scribe/receiver of stolen goods), 120
- Panedjem (chief bowman), 118
- Panehsy (Amarna tomb 6), 143n81
- Panehsy (renegade), war against, 122
- Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 3–8, 4, 5, 7
- Parkinson, R. B., 29, 33, 87, 94, 95, 98n47, 168n42, 168n45
- Parry, Milman, 83
- Pasen, son of Amenwa (tomb robber), 108, 109, 110, 111, 114
- Paser I (viceroy and son of Huy), 195, 197n77

- Pataikos (dwarf), 182
- Paulocik, Chris, 175
- Pay and Raia, tomb of, Saqqara, 187n16
- Peden, A. J., 313
- Peet, T. Eric, 169
  - Great Tomb Robberies of the Twentieth Egyptian Dynasty*, 103–4, 106–7, 109, 110, 112–13, 118
- Peggs, Kay, 281
- Pehsokar, tomb of, 171n63
- Peker, as site of tomb of Osiris, 61, 64
- Penimentetnakht (incense burner/receiver of stolen goods), 116
- Penn Museum
  - 36-2-1 (partial burial shroud), 175, 180, 181, 183
  - E14349 (statue of Amarna Princess), 144n91
- Penrenut (Scorpion Conjuror), 209
- Pentaweret, Deir el-Medina tomb robbing family of. *See* Deir el-Medina gang
- Penwenti (deity), 12
- Pepy I (king), pyramid complex of, 318–19, 321, 325, 326n38, 331
- Perhemetmeres (wife of Senbi I, son of Ukhotep, Meir Tomb B1), 47
- period eye, 131, 141n64, 150, 154–55
- personhood. *See* identity and self-presentation in ancient Egypt
- Petrie, W. M. Flinders, 163, 203, 204
- Petrie Museum, UC. 004 (statuette of Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Meritaten), 148, 149
- Philae, Temple of Isis in, 287
- Philip Arrhidaeus, 335, 338
- Piankoff, Alexandra, 19n64
- Pierce, Charles S., 155
- Pinch, Geraldine, 201, 210, 211
- Plato, *Republic*, 84
- Portal Temple of Ramesses II, Abydos, 55, 62–64, 66, 202–4, 300n32
- Porter, Bertha, 205, 206, 217
- Posener, Georges, 102
- Pouls Wegner, Mary-Ann, 62, 63, 64, 93, 204
- Prada, Luigi, 26
- pregnancy, regeneration, and fertility
  - Nécropole des Chanteuses* and, 57–58, 61, 66, 67
  - Nut associated with, 11, 18
  - Osiris associated with, 11–12
  - Shetayt and, 15–17, 18
- Prisse d’Avennes, Émile, 31
- Prophecy of Neferti, 93–102
  - audience, authorship, dating, and context, 94–96
  - cultural/social identity in Egypt and, 96–97, 99–100, 102
  - dead, failure to carry out rituals for, 97
  - as dystopian literature, 93–94, 97–101
  - environmental catastrophe and disruption of cosmic cycle in, 96–97
  - foreign presence/threat in, 96, 101–2
  - function of, as dystopian fiction, 100–101
  - oral ancestry of, 167
  - underlying fears in, 101–2
  - utopian anticipation in, 99
- Ptah (deity), 178, 335, 336, 339, 343–44
- Ptahhotep. *See also* Instruction of Ptahhotep, conceptions of masculinity in
  - as Fifth Dynasty vizier, 33
  - Teaching of, 31
  - tomb of, 222
- Ptolemaic burial shroud for a child (ROM2019.17.179), 175–83, 176, 177, 180, 182
- Ptolemaic royal titulary, 335–45
  - benefactor function, epithets indicating, 340–42, 341
  - Egyptian concepts and Greek terms, marriage of, 344–45
  - Hellenic origins and Greek epithets, 335, 340, 344
  - historical development of titulary, 335–36
  - legitimization of rule and, 336–39
  - Leprohon on, ix, 335, 338, 342
  - list of Ptolemaic rulers, 336–37
  - manifestation of the divine, king as, 342–43, 342–44, 343–44
  - military strength, epithets indicating, 339–40, 339–40
- Ptolemy I Soter (king), 335–36, 336, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343
- Ptolemy II Philadelphus (king), 335–36, 336, 338, 339, 341, 342, 343
- Ptolemy III Euergetes (king), 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 342, 343, 344
- Ptolemy IV Philopater (king), 335, 337, 338, 339, 341, 342, 342, 343
- Ptolemy V Epiphanes (king), 335, 337, 338, 340, 341, 342, 343

- Ptolemy VI Philomater (king), 335, 337, 338, 340, 342, 343, 344, 344
- Ptolemy VII Neos Philomater (king), 337
- Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II Physcon (king), 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344
- Ptolemy IX Soter II Lathyros (king), 335, 336, 337, 338–39, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344
- Ptolemy X Alexander I (king), 335, 337, 338–39, 340, 341, 342, 344
- Ptolemy XI Alexander II (king), 337
- Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysius “Auletes” or “Nothos” (king), 335, 336, 337, 339, 340, 341, 342, 344
- Punt/Bia-Punt trade, 157–59
- Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, 42291 1a 5749 (painted shroud with skeleton), 181n23
- Pyramid Texts (PT)
  - afterlife in, 10
  - akhet* as space in, 143
  - architecture of pyramids and, 10–11
  - Weret-Hekau in, 60
- pyramids. *See also* Senwosret III (king), pyramid complex of, Dahshur
  - Amenemhat III, pyramid complex of, Dahshur, 331n53
  - architecture of, and Pyramid Texts, 10–11
  - of Cheops, 143
  - Pepy I, pyramid complex of, 318–19, 321, 325, 326n38, 331
  - Sahure (king), pyramid temple of, 269, 277, 318
  - Sekhemkhet (king), pyramid enclosure of, 219
  - Senwosret I, pyramid complex of, Lisht, 332
  - Senwosret II, pyramid temple of, Lahun, 331n53
  - of Teti, 219
  - of Unas, 219
- Qubbet el-Hawa
  - Tomb 31 (Sarenput II), 48
  - Tomb 36 (Sarenput I), 48, 49
  - wrestling scenes at, 29n4
- Qudshu, 16
- Quibell, James E., 163
- Ragazzoli, Chloé C. D., 207
- Raia and Pay, tomb of, Saqqara, 187n16
- Ramesses I (king), 313–13
- Ramesses II (king)
  - cartouche names of Ramesses IV and, 292, 302, 303, 312, 314, 315
  - damaged inscriptions, 141
  - Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, completion of, 293, 294
  - limestone plaque, Louvre N522, 141
  - Portal Temple of, Abydos, 55, 62–64, 66, 202–4, 300n32
  - Ptolemaic royal names and, 340
  - Ramesseum (funerary temple), burials in temple precincts of, 66, 163 (*See also* Ramesseum tomb no. 5)
  - variant orthographies used for royal name of, 300
- Ramesses III (king)
  - assassination of, 291, 292, 314
  - cartouche names of Ramesses IV and, 292, 315
  - Great Temple of, Medinet Habu, 67, 191n26
  - insertions of texts into Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, by, 294
  - sarcophagus lid of, 18
  - tomb of (KV 11), 12n25, 20n80
- Ramesses IV (king). *See also* cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak
  - Abydos, stelae at, 292–93, 312, 313n67, 315
  - assassination of Ramesses III and legitimacy of, 291, 292, 314
  - changes to cartouche name, 292, 292–93
  - sarcophagus lid of, 18
- Ramesses VI (king)
  - cartouches of Ramesses IV at Karnak usurped by, 303, 304, 308, 309–10, 310, 312
  - tomb of, 12, 16, 17n51, 122n61
- Ramesseum tomb no. 5, 163–74. *See also* Manchester Museum, Ramesseum finds
  - Bes/Aha statuette from, 15
  - compared to other tomb finds, 169
  - dating of finds, 163–64
  - estate of tomb owner, 169–74, 170–72
  - occupation of tomb owner, 165–69
  - papyri and objects found in, 163–65, 165, 169
  - reuse of tomb and deposit of finds over generations, 164, 169
  - silent reading in ancient Egypt and, 87n26
- Rampersad, Sabrina R., 69
- Ranke, Hermann, 126, 289

- Ray (mother of Bak), 132, 134
- Re (deity). *See also* Amun-Re  
 in Book of Caverns, 11n19  
 in cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak, 300–303, 306, 307, 309, 310  
 Mehyet and, 60, 65  
 Nut as mother of, 21  
 Osiris and, 10n4, 14, 64, 146, 153  
 on Ptolemaic burial shroud for a child, 181  
 Ptolemaic royal names and, 336, 338, 339, 342, 343, 344
- reception and conception, semiotics of, 140, 141, 155
- Redford, Donald B., xii
- Re-Horakhty (deity), 6, 134, 143, 326, 328, 330. *See also* Horakhty
- Reisner, George, 70, 191
- Rekhmire (vizier), 279
- Renenutet and Sobek temple of Amenemhat III and Amenemhat IV, Medinet Madi, 332
- Renfrew, Colin, 200n3
- Reniseneb, stela of (CMAA002-E0020), 125–29, 128
- Rennutet (deity), 288, 289
- reuse of tombs. *See* secondary burials/reuse of tombs
- Revez, Jean, 291
- Rice, Michael, 138n42
- Richards, Janet, 158, 169, 202n19
- Richter, Barbara A., 207n68
- Riggs, Christina, 176n3
- Riqqa, cemeteries A and B, 169
- Ritner, Robert K., 339
- Robins, Gay, 33
- rock inscriptions  
 Elephantine, Hassawanarti and temple of Khnum, 208–10, 212  
 Elkab, 206–7, 212  
 of Ramesses IV at Wadi Hammamat and Coptos, 95n22, 292, 312
- Roehrig, Catharine, 52
- royal name. *See also* cartouche names of Ramesses IV, Great Hypostyle Hall, Karnak; exterior inscriptions of royal name; Ptolemaic royal titulary  
 columns, earliest appearance on, 318  
 damaged inscriptions, 285–90, 286, 288  
 defined and described, 317–18  
 identity of king and, 314–15  
 Leprohon's *The Great Name* and, xi, xvii, 335  
 significance of, 317
- Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)  
 ROM 910.21.2 (shroud fragment), 175, 181  
 ROM 2019.17.179 (partial Ptolemaic shroud for a child), 175–83, 176, 177, 180, 182
- rpyt*-female image, 17
- Sahure (king), pyramid temple of, 269, 277, 318
- Saleh, Heidi, 66
- Salvador, Chiara, 199, 207
- Saqqara. *See also* Niankhnisut, tomb-chapel of  
 Horemheb, tomb relief of, 192  
 Kayemnofret, tomb chapel of, 272–73  
 May and Meryt, tomb of, 189–91  
 Pay and Raia, tomb of, 187n16
- Sarenput I, tomb of (Qubbet el-Hawa Tomb 36), 48, 49
- Sarenput II, tomb of (Qubbet el-Hawa Tomb 31), 48
- Sargent, Lyman Tower, 97–98
- Satet, temple of, Elephantine, 207, 208, 211
- Satip (wife of Khnumhotep I, Beni Hassan Tomb 14), 47
- Satjeni (mother of Sarenput II), 48
- Satsobek (wife of Intefiqer), 47
- Sattjeni (wife of Sarenput I), 48, 49
- Satzinger, Helmut, 51
- Säve-Söderbergh, Torgny, 72, 73, 78
- Saww* (Mersa/Wadi Gawasis), commemorative stelae and shrines at harbor of, 157–62, 159–62
- Sayala  
 grave 3, Cemetery 136, 73, 74  
 grave 102, Cemetery 102, 73, 74
- Sayce, A. H., 31
- Sayed, Abdel Moneim, 157, 158
- Schäfer, Heinrich, 149n117
- Schipper, Bernd, 96n31
- scorpions, 178
- scribes, as receivers of stolen goods, 114, 120
- secondary burials/reuse of tombs  
 Niankhnisut, tomb-chapel of, Saqqara, 226–27  
 Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (IT 16), 3  
 Ramesseum tomb no. 5, 164, 169
- sed*-festival, 324–25
- Seele, Keith C., 112n39
- Seidlmayer, Stephan Johannes, 208, 209, 268–69
- Sekhemkhet (king), pyramid enclosure of, 219



- Sekhet, 279
- Sekhmet (deity), 60
- self-presentation. *See* identity and self-presentation in ancient Egypt
- Selqet, 211
- semiotics
- Bak, naos-stela of, 131, 135n27, 138n45, 140, 141n64, 146, 148, 149, 151, 152n134, 153–56
  - nḥh* and *dt*, presentation of concepts of, 263
  - visual semiotics, 131, 153, 155
- Semti the younger, biography of, 89
- Senankh (treasurer), 250
- Senbi I, son of Ukhhotep (tomb Meir B1), 47, 273, 274
- Senbi II, son of Ukhhotep (tomb Meir B3), 48, 48–49, 52, 53
- Senenmut, statue of (Brooklyn Museum 67.68), 285, 287–90, 288
- Senenmut with Neferure, cube statue of (Berlin 2296), 289–90
- Senet and Intefiqer, tomb of (TT 60), 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 271
- Sennedjem (overseer of army), 118
- Sennedjem, tomb of (TT 1), 140
- Sennuwy (wife of Djefaihapy I), 47, 49
- Senusret. *See specific entries at* Senwosret
- Senwosret (treasurer), 250
- Senwosret I (king), 159, 319–20, 321, 325, 326n39, 329n40, 331, 332
- Senwosret II (king), pyramid temple of, Lahun, 331n53
- Senwosret III (king)
- Amenhotep III and, 255
  - Bak, naos-stela of, 148, 150n118, 153n156
  - offering table of (Cairo JE 28460 = CG 23009), 251
- Senwosret III (king), pyramid complex of, Dahshur
- access to pyramid court and temple, 320n20, 330
  - antechamber, 322n24
  - burial chamber, 216
  - exterior inscriptions of royal name, 318, 319, 320–31, 321–25, 327, 328, 333
  - meaning of, 330–31
  - Nebit (vizier), tomb of (Tomb 18, Dahshur North), 322n26
  - offering chamber, 329
  - Senwosretankh (treasurer), tomb of (Tomb 34, Dahshur North), 249–55
  - solar references at, 323–25, 331
- Senwosretankh (treasurer), tomb of (Tomb 34, Dahshur North), 249–55
- Serabit el-Khadim, inscriptions of Ramesses IV at, 313n67
- Serket (deity), 178
- Serket statuette (Louvre N5017), 178n14
- Setau (viceroy)
- Elkab, statue from (CG 885), 206
  - Jebel Barkal relief and, 187n11, 187nn13–14, 189, 192, 193, 196–97
  - Louvre E 6247 (statue of Setau and wife), 187n11, 187n13, 189
- Setau (priest), tomb of, el Kab, 187n15
- Setekhmoose (scribe/receiver of stolen goods), 118
- Seth (deity), 338, 344
- Sethnakht/Tawosret, tomb of (KV 14), 20n80
- Setju, stela of (Brooklyn Museum 37.24E), 286
- Setna and the Mummies (Setna I), 90–91
- Sety I (king), 61, 293, 303, 312nn61–62
- Sety II (king), 294, 314
- Sety, scribe and treasurer, statue of (Brooklyn Museum 37.2634E), 286, 286–87
- sex/sexuality. *See also* pregnancy, regeneration, and fertility
- Amarna princesses, sexual stimulation of rising sun god by, 144–45
  - gender and, 77 (*See also* gender)
  - hand as sexual tool in perpetuation of cosmic order, 145n93
- shabtis, 66n59, 204–5
- Shahat, Amr, 303n44
- Shenoute (saint and monk), *Sermon of the Hieroglyphs*, 287
- Sherbiny, Wael, 10n4
- Shetayt (the Mysterious One), 9–21
- in Book of Caverns, 12–14, 13, 14n30, 16–21
  - in Book of the Earth, 12, 14, 16n51, 17, 19
  - images of, 13, 14, 18
  - magic and fertility, iconographic core in, 15–17
  - Nut and, 18, 20–21
  - Osiris and, 13n28, 19–21
  - proper identification of, 18–21
  - solar cycle, as feminine guardian of, 13–14, 16, 21
  - spatialization of deities and, 10–12, 21
- Shipwrecked Sailor, Tale of, 85–87, 92, 157

- shrouds. *See* burial shrouds
- Shu (deity), 6
- Shubert, Steven Blake, xx, 335
- Shunet es-Zebib*, Abydos, 56, 57, 64
- silent reading, 87n26
- Silverman, David, 175, 183
- simile, visual, 139
- Simpson, William Kelly, 53
- Sinuhe, Tale of, 85–87, 91–92, 97n33, 164n8, 167, 168, 280
- Siptah, sarcophagus lid of, 18
- sistra, singers/chantresses at Abydos with, 59
- Sitamun (daughter of Queen Tiye and Amenhotep III), 192–93
- Siwah, oracle at, 342
- skeleton figures on Ptolemaic burial shrouds, 180–81, 182
- Smith, Mark, 146
- Snefru (king)
  - Prophecy of Neferti situated at court of, 94, 98–99
  - Tale of Snefer [Snefru] and the Rowing Girls, 88
- Sobek and Renenutet temple of Amenemhat III and Amenemhat IV, Medinet Madi, 332
- Sobek Isis (daughter of Hori), 118
- Sobek of Krokodilopolis, 118
- Sobekemhat (treasurer), Tomb 17 of (Dahshur North), 249, 250, 251, 255
- Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA), xiii, xiv
- Sokar (deity), 19, 178
- solar cult. *See* sun/solar cult
- Sosibus (assassin of Berenike), 338
- Sponnesis (wet nurse), 26
- Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München
  - ÄS 5970 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 237
  - statue of Amarna princess, 145
- Stauder, Andréas, 88, 89
- Stefanović, Danijela, 51, 52
- Stock, Adam, 98
- stoutness, in Nubian A-Group figurines
  - age category, as indicative of, 74, 75, 76
  - as valued adult (?) characteristic, 73n24
- Strudwick, Nigel, 103
- sun/solar cult. *See also* Amun; Aten and Atenist theology; Re
  - Amarna princesses holding globes between their breasts, 145
  - animal observation and management in Egypt and, 259–60
  - crocodiles/snakes and, 17n57
  - Gebel el-Ahmar quartzite used in naos-stela of Bak and, 132
  - globe versus disc, sun as, 140n58
  - gold/yellow, color symbolism of, 5n12
  - Mehyet/Mehit and, 60
  - at *Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos, 60–61, 64–65, 66
  - neheh*-solar process, 137, 147
  - Nut, daily rebirth of sun from, 20–21
  - Prophecy of Neferti, disruption of cosmic cycle in, 97
  - Senwosret III (king), pyramid complex of, Dahshur, 323–25, 331
  - Shetayt and, 13–14, 16, 21
  - solar-Osirian unity, 9–11, 14, 19, 21, 61, 64, 146
- syllipsis, 156
- synecdoche, 140n61, 155–56
- Szpakowska, Kasia, 182
- Taemwadjsy (wife of Viceroy Huy)
  - Jebel Barkal relief, possible identification with, 192–97
  - statue of Khaemwaset and, from Kawa, 187n14, 194, 195
- Taherit (on naos-stela of Bak), 132, 135, 136, 147–48
- Takhat, wife of High Priest of Amun Nebwenenef, 192n37
- talatat* blocks. *See* Jebel Barkal *talatat*-sized blocks with relief of couple
- Tanis, temple precinct of Amun at, 66
- Tarenu and Panehsy, tomb of (TT 16), 3–8, 4, 5, 7
- Tatenen (deity), 11n17
- Tawosret, sarcophagus lid of, 18
- Tawosret/Sethnakht, tomb of (KV 14), 20n80
- Teaching of Khety, 270, 276, 277
- Teaching of Ptahhotep, 31
- Tefnut (deity), 6, 60
- Tell Edfu, 174
- Tell Hebua, 173
- Terrace, Edward, 133
- Teti (son of Niankhnisut), 214, 216

- Teti (king), pyramid of, 219  
 Tetisheri (scribe/receiver of stolen goods), 117  
 Theban stelae, 65  
 Theban tombs  
   Nebamun, tomb of (in British Museum), 270  
   TT 1 (Sennedjem), 140  
   TT 16 (Panehsy and Tarenu), 3–8, 4, 5, 7, 143n81  
   TT 51 (Userhet), 189  
   TT 60 (Intefiqer and Senet), 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 271  
   TT 103 (Dagi), 47  
   TT 110 (Djehuty), 208  
   TT 279 (Pabasa), 28  
   TT 359 (Inherkauy, Deir el-Medina), 139, 141  
   TT 390 (Irtierou), 25n1  
 Thebes, estate or temple of Maat at, 105  
 third-gendering or dual-sexing of Nubian A-Group figurines, 70, 72, 75–79, 76  
 Thoth (Djehuty; deity), 60, 179  
 Thutmose I (king), tomb of (KV 38), 10n5  
 Thutmose III (king)  
   Akhmenu temple of, Karnak, 311, 314  
   chapels of, Abydos, 55, 66n59, 204  
   damaged inscriptions and, 287, 289, 290  
 Thutmose IV, obelisk of, Karnak, 311  
 Thuyu (mother of Queen Tiye), 192  
 time, concepts of, and animal observation and management, 259–65  
 titles and epithets. *See* epithets and titles; royal name  
 Tiye (queen), 192, 193  
 Tjaihorpata, sarcophagus of, 13n26  
 Tjat (female sealer and wife (?) of Khnumhotep II), 48, 49, 50, 51, 52  
 Tjenet (daughter of Khnumhotep II), 48, 49, 50, 51  
 tomb robbing. *See also* Deir el-Medina gang  
   blackmail and, 117–18  
   bribes/payment for silence, 117  
   endemic nature of, 121–22  
   Panehsy and Tarenu, tomb of (TT 16), 7  
   Peet's *Great Tomb Robberies*, 103–4, 106–7, 109, 110, 112–13, 118  
 tombs, multiple purposes of, 3, 8  
 traders, as receivers of stolen goods, 114, 118–19  
 Traunecker, Claude, 149n115  
*Treasures of Tutankhamun* exhibit, Art Gallery of Toronto, xii, xiii  
 Tuna el Gebel House 21.23, 181  
 Turner, Mark, 154  
 Turner, Victor, 94  
 Tutankhamun (king), colonnade hall of Amenhotep III and, Luxor, 148n109  
 Tutankhamun (king), funerary assemblage of  
   golden shrine, pouring water panel, 148n109  
   opulence of, 113  
   pectoral (Cairo JE 61884), 139n55  
   second shrine (Cairo JE 60666), 12, 146, 147  
   Weret-Hekau in, 60  
 Tuya/Mut-Tuya (wife of Seti I and mother of Ramesses II), 193n37  
 Two Brothers, Tale of, 89–90, 260  
 two-ladies name (of king), 326, 330, 335, 336, 339, 340, 345  
 Udjahorresnet, statue of (Vatican Museum), 28  
 Ukhhotep II, son of Senbi I, tomb of (Meir B2), 47, 49, 50, 275, 276, 277  
 Ukhhotep III, son of Ukhhotep, tomb of (Meir B4), 48, 49, 273, 277  
 Ukhhotep IV, son of Ukhhotep and Henyberib, tomb of (Meir C1), 48, 49, 270  
 Umm el-Qa'ab, Abydos, 61, 62, 64, 204–5  
 Umm Mawagir, Kharga Oasis, courtyard 350, 171n64, 174  
*Umwelten*, 264  
 Unas (king), pyramid of, 219  
 Unis, valley temple of, 331  
 uraeus, 6, 60, 304, 308  
 User, governor of Elephantine, Aswan tomb of, 194  
 Userhet, tomb of (TT 51), 189  
*user-power*, 137  
 Valley of the Kings  
   KV 8 (tomb of Merenptah/Merneptah), 10n5  
   KV 11 (Ramesses III), 12n25, 20n80  
   KV 14 (tomb of Tawosret/Sethnakht), 20n80  
   KV 38 (tomb of Thutmose I), 10n5  
   KV 55 (probably mummy of Akhenaten), 151  
   KV20 (tomb of Hatshepsut), 10n5  
   KV40 ostraca, inscribed for “The King's Daughter, Taemwadjy,” 193  
 Valley of the Queens  
   Aset/Isis (royal mother), robbing of tomb of, 108, 112–13  
   QV 51, 112–13



- Vandier, J., 201  
 Vatican Museum, statue of Udjahorresnet, 28  
 Vernus, Pascal, 104n2, 117n53  
 Vienna 196 and 198 (stelae), 125n4  
 Vinson, Steve, 87, 92  
 Virey, Ph., 30–31  
 visual and conceptual blending, 131, 139n56, 148, 152, 154  
 visual metaphor, 140, 145, 148, 154, 155–56  
 visual semiotics, 131, 153, 155  
 votive beds, Mistress on the Animals-type goddess depicted on, 16n46  
 Votive Zone, North Abydos, 55–56, 62, 64, 202–3, 204, 212
- Wadi Gawasis/Mersa (*Saww*), commemorative stelae and shrines at harbor of, 157–62, 159–62  
 Wadi Hammamat inscriptions, 95n22, 292  
 Wadj (dwarf, in tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 216  
 Wadjet (deity), 305, 318–23, 321, 326, 331, 332  
 Wah-Sut (South Abydos)  
     birth-brick from female sector of mayoral residence, 15, 16  
     structures at, 173–74  
 Walsem, René van, 269, 271  
 Waraksa, Elizabeth A., 211  
 Ward, William A., 52  
 weavers, as receivers of stolen goods, 114, 120  
*wedjat* eyes, 181, 182  
*wehem mesut* papyri, 111  
 Weinrich, Harald, 89n37  
 Wenamun, Report of, 262–63
- Wennefer, stela of, 201  
 Wepa, wife of Djefaihapy I, 47, 49  
 Wepwawet, 180, 260, 264  
 Weret-Hekau (*Nécropole des Chanteuses*, Abydos), 60–61, 64–65  
 Wertheimer, Max, 154  
 Westcar, P., 88  
 wet nurses, 26–28  
 White Chapel of Senwosret I, Karnak, 329n40  
 Wilkinson, Richard, 60  
 William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, 34.14 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 236  
 Williamson, Jacqueline, 149n116  
 wisdom/didactic texts, 30, 32  
 women. *See* gender  
 Woolf, Virginia, 83, 91  
 Worcester Art Museum (WAM), 1931.99 (tomb-chapel of Niankhnisut), 213, 214–17, 215, 217, 218, 222–24, 227, 237  
 Worrall, Ed, 107n17  
 writing boards  
     British Museum T. BM EA 5647, 95  
     Cairo CG 25224, 95
- Yamamoto, Kei, xx, 249  
 Yameru, stela of, *Saww*, 159  
 yellow/gold, color symbolism of, 5n12  
 Yuya and Thuyu, tomb of, 193
- Žába, Ž., 31n13  
 Zago, Silvia, 9

# ANCIENT SOURCES INDEX

| EGYPTIAN TEXTS   |            |   |  |
|--|------------|---|--|
| Account of the Pleasures of Fishing and Fowling            |            | spell 146   | 4–6, 5, 8                                      |
| A 2.1–3  | 270        | spell 149   | 179  |
| B 2.8  | 276        | spell 151   | 179  |
| B 2.9–10   | 272        | spell 153   | 179  |
| B 2.10–11  | 278        | spell 162   | 181  |
| B 4.3  | 270        | spell 163   | 182  |
|  |            | spell 167   | 182  |
|  |            | spell 188   | 178  |
| Amherst papyrus  | 103n1      | British Museum ( <i>See also</i> Ramesseum Papyri, <i>below</i> )                 |  |
| Berlin Library   |            | P. 10409 (L <sub>2</sub> )  | 31   |
| P. Berlin 3022 (Tale of Sinuhe)                            | 167        | P. BM EA 10052  | 103n1, 107n12, 113n45,<br>116, 117, 119, 121   |
| P. Berlin 3023 and 3025 (Tale of the Eloquent Peasant)     | 167        | P. BM EA 10053 Rt   | 103n1, 104–12, 114,<br>116–19, 121, 122        |
| P. Berlin 3024 (Dialogue of a Man and His Ba [Lebensmüde]) | 167        | P. BM EA 10053 Vs   | 103n1  |
| P. Berlin 3162 (Text 55, “Book of Transformations”)        | 179n15     | P. BM EA 10054 (Papyrus Abbott)   | 103n1, 104,<br>111, 112, 113,<br>117, 121, 122 |
| Book of Nut  |            | P. BM EA 10068 Rt   | 103n1, 104–13, 114, 116–22                     |
| 1:53–54 and 377–78 with §16–17 (Text E) and §20 (Text G)   | 20n81      | P. BM EA 10371 + 10435 (L1)   | 31n13  |
| 1:54 and 377–78 with §18–19 (Text F)                       | 21n83      | P. BM EA 10383  | 103n1, 116, 121                                |
| 1:55 and 378–79 with §21–24 (Text J)                       | 18n68      | P. BM EA 10403 (Papyrus Ambras)   | 103n1, 106,<br>111                             |
| 1:59 and 382 with §31 (Text L)                             | 14n28      | P. BM EA 10509 (L2)   | 31n13  |
| 55 and 378–79 with §21–24 (Text J)                         | 21n83      | P. BM EA 10684 (Ramesside Papyrus Chester Beatty IV)                              | 95   |
| 72–73 and 403 with §55–57 (Text Bb)                        | 18n68      | P. Sallier IV Rt. (Calendar of Lucky and Unlucky Days)                            | 261, 263                                       |
| 74 and 405 with §61 (Text Aa)                              | 21n83      |   |  |
| Book of the Dead (BD)                                      |            | Butehamun, amuletic papyrus of  | 17   |
| of Any (BM 10470/16)                                       | 141, 180   | Cairo, Egyptian Museum, P. Cairo CG 58075   | 171  |
| of Irtyuri (OIM E10486F)                                   | 180        | Coffin Texts (CT)   |  |
| of Nakht (BM 10471/8)                                      | 180        | 335   | 137n33   |
| of Neferrenpet (Brussels E 5043)                           | 180        | 1029–1185   | 10   |
| of Shemaynefer (OIM E25389Z)                               | 179n16     | VII, 313d B1C, B1–3L, and 391c B1L  | 127  |
| spell 59   | 180        | Dialogue of a Man and His Ba 85–103   | 272  |
| spell 63a  | 181        | Dialogue of Ipuwer. <i>See also</i> Admonitions of Ipuwer in <i>subject index</i> |  |
| spell 77   | 179        | 6.1–2   | 270  |
| spell 78   | 179        |   |  |
| spell 100  | 17n52, 179 |   |  |
| spell 101  | 179        |   |  |
| spell 110  | 178        |   |  |

|  |                        |                                       |             |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Dialogue of Ipuwer, <i>continued</i>                     |                        | Va, P.1.24                            | 99n55       |
| 9.2–3  | 281                    | VI                                    | 96          |
| 10.3–4   | 278                    | VIf–g, P.ll.29–31                     | 101n72      |
| Discourse of the Fowler 19–21                            | 278                    | VII                                   | 96          |
| Doomed Prince 4/1–2 [=LES 1]                             | 90                     | VIIc–d, P.ll.31–32                    | 101n73      |
| Ipy's Gurob letter dated to Year 5, <i>peret</i> season, |                        | VIIe, P.ll.32–33                      | 101n74      |
| lines 18–33  | 144n87                 | VIII                                  | 96          |
| Leopold-Amherst papyrus                                  | 103n, 104, 107n12,     | VIIIa, P.l.35                         | 101n75      |
|  | 110n29, 111, 112, 117, | X                                     | 96, 97      |
|  | 121–22                 | Xe, P.1.47                            | 100n63      |
| Mayer B papyrus  | 117–18, 122n81         | Xg, P.1.48                            | 100n64      |
| Meryre I tomb inscriptions                               | 137                    | XI                                    | 97          |
| <i>Nécropole des Chanteuses</i> , Abydos, stelae         |                        | XII                                   | 96, 97      |
| 1173   | 65                     | XIVe–f, P.ll.63–64                    | 101n76      |
| 1173 (Cairo TR 11/11/24/2)                               | 57                     | XVa–d, P.ll.66–68                     | 101n77      |
| 1174 (Cairo TR 10/3/25/15)                               | 57, 59                 | XVg, P.ll.70–71                       | 95n22       |
| 1175   | 60, 63                 | P. Leiden I 348                       | 211         |
| 1176   | 60                     | P. Turin 54003                        | 211         |
| 1177 (Cairo TR 10/3/25/16)                               | 57, 59                 | Petersburg 1116B                      | 95          |
| 1178 (Brussels 6251)                                     | 60, 65–66              | Philadelphia BM EA 10383              | 103n1       |
| 1180   | 59, 60                 | Prisse papyrus (P. Prisse)            | 31          |
| 1181   | 59, 60                 | 5, 10–13                              | 40          |
| 1182   | 59, 60, 63             | 5, 13–14                              | 39          |
| 1185   | 59                     | 6, 1–3                                | 36          |
| 1186   | 59                     | 6, 11–7, 3                            | 41          |
| 1189   | 59, 60                 | 8, 2–6                                | 42          |
| 1190   | 59, 60                 | 9, 3–7                                | 37          |
| 1191   | 59, 60                 | 11, 1–2                               | 38          |
| 1193   | 59                     | 11, 11–12, 2                          | 38          |
| 1194   | 59                     | 12, 6–9                               | 42          |
| 1195   | 57                     | 12, 9–13                              | 42          |
| 1196   | 57, 60                 | 13, 9–14, 4                           | 43          |
| 1197   | 57, 59                 | Pyramid Texts (PT)                    |             |
| 1224   | 57                     | 357, §585a                            | 143n75      |
| Prophecy of Neferti                                      |                        | 563 §1416c–1417b                      | 11n15       |
| 1.10   | 95n21                  | 565                                   | 178         |
| Ic, P.l.2  | 94n12                  | 600 §1657a–b                          | 11n11       |
| IIc, P.l.10  | 94n11                  | 1107–1109                             | 60          |
| IIIb–e, P.ll.18–19                                       | 101n71                 | Ramesseum papyri                      |             |
| IIIf, P.l.20 and IVa, P.l.21                             | 94n7                   | P. Ramesseum I/BM EA 10754.1–18 + 7b, |             |
| IIr, P.l.17  | 94n10                  | A–D (Discourse of Sasobek)            | 164n8,      |
| Im and Ik, P.ll.8 and 13                                 | 93                     |                                       | 168, 169n56 |
| IX   | 96                     | P. Ramesseum II/BM EA 10755.1–2       |             |
| V  | 96                     | (maxims)                              | 164n8       |

- P. Ramesseum III/BM EA 10756.1–13  
(text for mother and child) 164n9, 169, 170
- P. Ramesseum IV/BM EA 10757.1–6  
(text for mother and child) 164n9, 169n56
- P. Ramesseum V/BM EA 10758.1–6  
(medical prescriptions for vessels) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum VI/BM EA 10759.1–7  
(hymns to Sobek) 164n8, 168
- P. Ramesseum VII/BM EA 10760.1–11  
(mythological spells) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum VIII/BM EA 10761.1–14  
(headache prescriptions) 164n9, 166
- P. Ramesseum IX/BM EA 10762.1–3  
(house-protecting rituals) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum X/BM EA 10763.1–6  
(spells for protection of limbs) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum XI/BM EA 10764.1–2  
(love spells) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum XII/BM EA 10765  
(invocations to demons) 164n9, 166
- P. Ramesseum XIII/BM EA 10766  
(healing text) 164n9, 166, 169
- P. Ramesseum XIV/BM EA 19767  
(healing text) 164n9, 166
- P. Ramesseum XV/BM EA 10768  
(spells to protect the body) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum XVI/BM EA 10769.1–29  
(spells for protection against serpents  
and bad dreams) 164n9, 166
- P. Ramesseum XVII/BM EA 10770.1–5  
(protection during epagomenal days) 164n9,  
166
- P. Ramesseum XVIII/BM EA 10771.1–2  
(dispatches from Nubian fortresses) 164n8,  
168
- P. Ramesseum XIX/BM EA 10772.1–3  
(ritual or magical text) 164n9, 168
- P. Ramesseum A/Berlin 10499, A–H  
(Tale of the Eloquent Peasant and  
Tale of Sinuhe) 164n8, 168
- P. Ramesseum B/BM EA 10610.1–5  
(Ramesseum Dramatic Papyrus) 164n8, 168,  
170, 170–74
- P. Ramesseum C verso/BM EA 10752.1–6  
(spells against ghosts) 164n9
- P. Ramesseum C/BM EA 10752.1–6  
(dispatches from Nubian fortresses) 164n8,  
168
- P. Ramesseum D/Berlin 10495.I–X  
(onomasticon) 164n8, 169
- P. Ramesseum E/BM EA 10753.1–9  
(funerary liturgy) 164n8, 168
- Rochester MAG 51.346.1 103n1
- Setna and the Mummies (Setna I)  
3/9–10 90–91  
3/37–38 91
- Tale of Khufu's Court  
5.2–13 270  
5.5–7 270
- Tale of Sinuhe  
B, 1–3 91–92  
B 240–241 280  
R, 1–3 85
- Tale of the Eloquent Peasant  
B1 91–93 279  
B1 142–143 280  
B1 235–239 280  
B2 136–141 280
- Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor (ShS)  
1–2 85  
56–60 92n52  
111 86  
138 87n30  
143 87n30
- Tale of the Two Brothers  
1/1–2 89  
3/9–10 89
- Teaching of Khety  
4.3, 7.3, 9.2 276  
9.2, 21.4 270  
20.1, 21.1 277  
21.2–3 279  
21.4277
- Turin Necropolis Diary 104–12, 114, 118, 119, 121
- Wadi Hammamat WH114 95n22
- GREEK AND LATIN TEXTS
- Aelian, *On the Characteristics of Animals* 10.19 262
- Aristotle  
*Metaphysics* 1075a20–22 276

|                                 |     |  |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| Aristotle, <i>continued</i>     |     |  |     |
| <i>Politics</i>                 |     |  |     |
| 1254b16–2                       | 276 |  |     |
| 1254b24–26                      | 281 |  |     |
| Plato, <i>Republic</i>          |     |  |     |
| 393a                            | 84  |  |     |
| 393c                            | 84  |  |     |
| Plutarch, <i>Demetrius</i> 18.2 | 338 |  |     |
|                                 |     | Polybius XV.25   | 338 |
|                                 |     | Varro (Marcus Terentius Varro),<br><i>De Re Rustica</i> 1.17.1 | 281 |
|                                 |     | BIBLICAL TEXTS   |     |
|                                 |     | Genesis 22:13  | 91  |
|                                 |     | 2 Samuel 12:26–27  | 84  |