

Review

Patrizia PIACENTINI; Christian OSENIGO (eds.):
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The present book, edited by Patrizia Piacentini and Christian Orsenigo, both from the Università Degli Studi di Milano, is the result of the first session of the International Congress Egyptian Archives / Egyptological Archives held at the University of Milan on the 9th and 10th of September 2008, and it consists of fifteen different contributions which have as common thread the modern concept of archives, whether or not it was seen this way by the ancient Egyptians. This session counted with the participation of a large number of members of AIDEA – *Association Internationale pour l'Étude du Droit de l'Égypte ancienne*.

The introduction of the book is written by Patricia Piacentini (pp. 9 to 12) and in it is made the presentation of the congress as well as a characterization of the work with a brief comment on each contribution.

Subsequently are the fifteen articles: the first is called *Discours inaugural de la première session du congrès*, and was written by Maryvonne Chartier-Raymond (pp. 13 to 14), followed by *On the inefficiency of bureaucracy* authored by Christopher Eyre (pp. 15 to 30). In third place the article by Alexandra Philip-Stéphan, *Les archives judiciaires égyptiennes: la mémoire du crime et l'oubli du criminel* (pp. 31 to 43), after which comes one of Katalin Anna Kóthay, *Le passé, le présent et le future des archives d'Illahuoun. Méthodes, résultats et*

perspectives de recherché (pp. 45 to 60). Schafik Allam wrote *Using administrative archives in pharaonic Times* (pp. 61 to 70), *Un Dossier testamentaire provenant d'archives privées? [...] Naunakhte et la langue du testament à l'époque ramesside* is authored by Arlette David (pp. 71 to 82), Patricia Piacentini e Christian Orsenigo present *The discovery of the tomb of Mose and its 'judicial' inscription* (pp. 83 to 102), follows *La terminologie concernant les archives dans les textes du Nouvel Empire* of Marcella Trapani (pp. 103 to 114), Alessandro Roccati wrote *Due 'archivi' coevi a confronto: Deir el-medina e Ugarit* (pp. 115 to 125), the following article *La place des scribes des temples dans l'administration lagide du troisième siècle. Confrontation des archives papyrologiques et de la documentation épigraphique* is carried out by Gilles Gorre (pp. 127 to 141), Stéphanie Wackenier presents *Exécuter et surveiller: le rôle du basilicogrammate dans les archives de l'Héracléopolite au premier siècle av. J.-C.* (pp. 143 to 155), *Des Lésônes en action dans le temple de Soknopaios à Soknopaiou Nêsos à l'époque ptolémaïque* is authored by Marie Pierre Chaufray (pp. 157 to 168), then *Le préfet d'Égypte et le fonctionnement des archives publiques* of Barbara Anagnostou-Canas (pp. 169 to 186), *Contenu et intérêt historique des archives du conseil municipal d'Hermoupolis sous Gallien* written by Marie Drew-Bear (pp. 187 to 195) and finally *Performativité du nom divin en Égypte de l'Antique à nos jours* of Fayza Haikal (pp. 197 to 217).

The first article, *Discours inaugural de la première session du congrès*, authored by Maryvonne Chartier-Raymond, vice-president of AIDEA, corresponds to the opening speech of the congress and in it we learn that the idea of a work on the Egyptian archives had been released four years earlier by Willy Clarysse and hence emerged issues as what are Egyptian archives and what they comprise.

Chartier-Raymond summarizes two possible perspectives: one that understands all matters concerning the remains of ancient Egypt as an archive; the other that points as archives all the results of investigations in Egypt as well as the work produced by the researchers who study this civilization.

The author also refers to the work of AIDEA and its future projects.

Christopher Eyre wrote *On the inefficiency of bureaucracy*, an article with a comprehensive approach in which the author seeks to understand what happened with the administrative texts after they've been written and more specifically if they were consulted and read. The author refers to the numerous traces of the writing of administrative texts as opposed to the scarcity of traces of their consultation.

Basing his analysis in different situations, such as the process of Mose, Eyre tries to understand the functioning of the Egyptian bureaucratic state. Eventually he concluded that there are no traces of an archive or reference system and even their possible consultation.

The next article by Alexandra Philip-Stéphan, *Les archives judiciaires égyptiennes: la mémoire du crime et l'oubli du criminel*, demand, based on three different types of documents (letters, biographical inscriptions and official documents - dating from the V to the XVIII Dynasty) illustrate the notion of legal archive in ancient Egypt.

She brings out two different concepts: 'the memory of the crime', i.e., the desire to establish in a perennial way the facts, and at the same time 'the oblivion of the criminal' as a way of concealing facts that attempt to Maat.

Katalin Anna Kóthay, in the article *Le passé, le présent et le future des archives d'Illahuoun. Méthodes, résultats et perspectives de recherche*, focuses on a particular archive collection from Illahun (an area also known as Lahun or Kahun) that comprises two groups: the Berlin papyrus and the papyrus of London.

Kóthay reconstructs the history of the research on the Illahun archives since the late 19th century until the last three decades, focusing on three main themes: the classification of the documents, the issues rose by the texts and the use of the lexicon.

Schafik Allam wrote *Using administrative archives in pharaonic Times*. This article is the first of a group dedicated to the New Kingdom.

Allam chose Deir el-Medina to illustrate the idea that in ancient Egypt existed many archives scattered across the territory. "[...] in pharaonic Egypt any community in with some local authority normally deposited excellent administrative documents in archives located nearby." (P.70) To fulfill this idea, the author reports us the case of Naunakhte's testament which have been archived in his village,

Deir el-Medina. However, the location of such archive is still a question that remains open since there is no actual data about it.

Unlike what Eyre says in his article, Allam believes that the meticulous record of different legal situations served for future reference.

Un Dossier testamentaire provenant d'archives privées? Naunakhte et la langue du testament à l'époque ramesside is the article by Arlette David dedicated to the study of the documents that compose what she calls the 'archive' Naunakhte – a modern gathering of a set of texts dating from the XX Dynasty, from Deir el-Medina. According to David we are facing an authentic testament of which she makes an analysis of linguistic aspects and a comparison with other possible testaments.

The analysis consists of four parts: Introductory statement; Narrative preamble; Apparatus; Meta technical commentary.

The article by Patricia Piacentini and Christian Orsenigo, *The discovery of the tomb of Mose and its 'judicial' inscription*, is dedicated to the discovery and study of the tomb of Mose and it is divided into two parts: 'The discovery of the tomb through the archives of Victor Loret' and 'From the discovery of the 'court' inscription to the 'rediscovery' of the tomb'. Therefore, the authors address not only the discovery of the tomb, with special focus on the application of the judicial Mose, but also to the work done about them.

The article is enriched with a wide range of images of the tomb and the notes of Loret.

Marcella Trapani presents an article, *La terminologie concernant les archives dans les textes du Nouvel Empire*, developed within a research about the archives in the New Kingdom, focusing on the expressions used to designate them in literary, administrative and legal texts. The gathering is illustrated through the various texts analyzed.

Alessandro Roccati wrote *Due 'archivi' coevi a confronto: Deir el-medina e Ugarit*, where he examines the historical, social and linguistic background of two locations: Deir el-Medina and Ugarit. Although different in many aspects, these settlements have in common the fact that they were custodians of important and numerous written documents.

Roccati divides his analysis into five parts: linguistic innovation, textual innovation; Multilingualism; Literary innovation and cultural convergence of diverse structures.

La place des scribes des temples dans l'administration lagide du troisième siècle. Confrontation des archives papyrologiques et de la documentation épigraphique is carried out by Gilles Gorre and takes us to Ptolemaic Egypt by focusing its study on the role and status of the Egyptians in this period, with special emphasis to the administrative staff, in this case, the scribes of the temple.

By analyzing the different issues of the question the author studies some families of Theban scribes. The analysis is done in three parts: the presentation and documentation of the lineage, function and responsibilities performed and review and reinterpretation of titles and functions.

The article ends with the genealogy of the studied families of the scribes.

Stéphanie Wackenier presents *Exécuter et surveiller: le rôle du basilicogrammate dans les archives de l'Héracléopolite au premier siècle av. J-C.* In the context of analysis of the practices of Lagide power in the administration of the Heracleopolitane nome, the author focuses on the role of basilicogrammate, a royal scribe.

To better understand the attributes of these employees, Wackenier parses the archives of four *basilicogrammate* at three different points: 'typology and nature of the documents preserved in the archives of basilicogrammate'; 'the basilicogrammate is the controller of the opening resources and barns'; 'this development of administrative practices is indicative of the nature of the position of basilicogrammate and its relations with the strategist'.

The article concludes with four annexes.

In the article *Des Lésônes en action dans le temple de Soknopaios à Soknopaiou Nêsos à l'époque ptolémaïque*, Marie Pierre Chaufray dedicated herself to the study of the archives of the temple of Soknopaios Soknopaiou Nêsos in the Ptolemaic period, focusing on the role of Lesonis, elements that occupied a central role in the priestly hierarchy. These archives allow us to understand their role in the admin-

istration of the temple and the temple's own connection to the central government.

An attachment with a comparative study of the papyri Oxf. Griffith 39 and Amb. II 33 closes the paper.

The article of Barbara Anagnostou-Canas, *Le préfet d'Égypte et le fonctionnement des archives publiques*, brings us to the context of Roman administration in Egypt where the keeping of official and private documents was an ongoing concern.

Anagnostou-Canas analyzes the position and action of the governors of the province, their role in ensuring the performance of the archives and also refers to the functioning of the archives themselves.

Contenu et intérêt historique des archives du conseil municipal d'Hermopolis sous Gallien is the article of Marie Drew-Bear, where she presents her work on a set of papyri belonging to the city council of Hermopolis Magna. The author is the responsible for a critical reprint of this archival ensemble that presents the political and social life of this site in the last years of Gallien (3rd century AD).

Performativité du nom divin en Égypte de l'Antique à nos jours of Fayza Haikal closes the volume. This article was written in the context of a research project on the cultural transmission of ancient Egypt to contemporary Egypt and its impact on spirituality and its manifestations.

The author analyzes the belief in the power and action of the divine name, using several examples, in two distinct parts: prayer in ancient Egypt and the prayer of Jesus, his Egyptian origins and its comparison with the Muslim *dhikr* or the remembrance of the name(s) of god.

This work, that we can say is composed of several works, is a valuable contribution not only for the study of the archives in Ancient Egypt in its various facets, but also, more or less directly, to the study of law and judicial and administrative structures. Its time scope is also a great asset.

Thus we can consider that this is a book whose contribution goes beyond the most obvious and allow us not only to obtain new knowledge but also deepen those we already have.