

PREFACE

This collection of studies on palaces in Ancient Egypt is the result of a conference on Ancient Egyptian palaces organised by the Austrian Academy, the University of Würzburg and the Egypt Exploration Society from the 12th to the 14th of June 2013 in London for which the undersigned would like to thank Eva Lange-Athinodorou from the University of Würzburg and Christopher Naunton from the EES. The incentive for this meeting was to create a kick-off-conference for a project on Ancient Egyptian Palaces, granted to the undersigned by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF Grant P 25945-G21) to which I am most grateful. The meeting was an appraisal of what kind of information – archaeological and textual – we have in order to develop strategies to understand the architectural and functional variations and recognise schemes of building canons for palaces in Ancient Egypt. This platform was also used to deepen our knowledge and understanding of Ancient Egyptian architectural terminology and of palace administration. All the combined evidence shows that there was indeed a variability in function, in architecture and in the physical situation of palaces in Ancient Egypt. Besides a common space programme such as the succession of courtyard, portico, vestibule, throne room and the intimate part of the palace, one may observe a variability of the number of aisles or of columns present as well as in the thickness of walls. This fact points to hierarchical rules concerning the importance of the building. As the architecture is often preserved only in its foundations, it is important to learn what kind of walls were load-bearing, what the size of division walls is and which kind of walls once carried columns. All these first observations have to undergo an evaluation process before one can think of discovering a building canon.

The keynote lecture by Alexander Tzonis – a renowned specialist of architectural theory of the Delfts University – was designed to bring in a different voice about palatial architecture and its functions from Late Roman times until the enormous palace Louis XIV built in Versailles. It is followed by an introduction to Egyptian Palaces by the undersigned serving at the same time as a contextualising preface for the volume. It is pursued by an essay of Eva Lange-Athinodorou (University of

Würzburg) who confronts textual information with archaeological evidence.

This general section is followed by articles of what we know about Predynastic and Early Dynastic palaces. Günter Dreyer (DAI Cairo) displays his thoughts on the royal palace at the dawn of Egyptian civilisation, Renée Friedman (BM London) and Richard Bussmann (UCL) on the Early Dynastic palace at Hierakonpolis, and Ulrich Hartung (DAI Cairo) on a labyrinth-like building of enormous extent which he and his predecessors have excavated in Buto, dating to the Early Dynastic Period.

The next section deals with Old Kingdom Palaces or buildings which may have a relationship to this category. Felix Arnold (DAI Cairo) presents remains of a recently discovered building preceding the pyramid temple of the Bent Pyramid of Snofru which may still refer to the buildings present in the Early Dynastic valley precincts. Clara Jeuthe (IFAO) shows the remains of the Late Old Kingdom governor's palace at Balat in the Dakhla Oasis, Dietrich Raue (University of Leipzig) critically discusses a building which is seen as a kind of a governor's residence of the Late Old Kingdom at Elephantine and Miroslav Verner (University of Prague) analyses the Old Kingdom Royal Palace as evidenced from the texts of the Abusir papyri.

The Middle Kingdom section deals with Palace cemeteries as preserved at Bubastis and Tell el-Dab'a as shown by Eva Lange-Athinodorou. In a substantial contribution the administration of palaces of the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period is presented by Stephen Quirke (UCL). More information on the Middle Kingdom Palace in Bubastis will follow by Manfred Bietak in a second volume dealing with palaces (in the meantime see *Egyptian Archaeology* 44, 2014, 4–7; *MDAIK* 70/71, 2016, 49–57.).

The final section discusses New Kingdom palaces. Julia Budka (University München) talks about palaces in Nubian towns, the big palace precinct at Malqata and the palaces of the 17th and early 18th Dynasties at Deir el-Ballas are presented by Peter Lacovara (The Ancient Egyptian Archaeology and Heritage Fund) and the Temple Palaces by Rainer Stadelmann (DAI Cairo).

More contributions on Egyptian palaces will follow in the second volume which will deal mainly

with Ancient Near Eastern Palaces as outcome of a palace workshop at the 10th ICAANE, held in 2016 in Vienna with contributions on the campaign residences of the Middle Kingdom in Uronarti, the Hyksos Palaces in Tell el-Dab‘a, the Thutmosid palace at Tell el-Dab‘a and the El-‘Amarna palaces. This second volume will also discuss the difference and mutual influence of Oriental and Egyptian palaces. Hopefully, these two volumes will contribute to a better understanding of the architectural canon

and diversity of palaces in Ancient Egypt and the difference in concept to Ancient Oriental palaces.

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