

## SUMMARY

### **Documents on the History of the Priestly Families from Memphis and Letopolis in the Late Period**

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The present publication is based on the thesis *Documents on the History of the High-Priestly Family from Memphis (IV–I Centuries BC)* submitted to the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the special field *Historiography, source studies and methods of historical research* in 2013 (the paper is the first dissertation written in the Russian Federation on hieratic, hieroglyphic and demotic texts from the Ptolemaic period).

This augmented edition deals with documents belonging to the families of the Memphite and Letopolite priests in the IV–I centuries BC. The aim of the research is to examine the previous discussions of the documents in question and collate every inscription with its original or high-quality image(s). The investigation results in an improved hieroglyphic transcription and transliteration of the texts, verification of their dating, Russian translations and comments, compilation of indexes of royal names, titles and occupations, toponyms, a prosopographical reference-list of the priestly families and a systematization of the historical data.

#### **Part 1: Research and Translation**

The volume consists of the Introduction, seven chapters, Conclusion, Abbreviations, and Bibliography.

**The Introduction** defines the objectives of the research, its chronological frame and a methodological principle, points out the value and significance of the research and highlights its scientific novelty. The complex approach to the text study is postulated as the main methodological principle, i.e. the source itself, and all the evidence that comprises it are of prior importance; the minor lines are not to be discarded as well as to extract partial information and give translations of only the perfectly clear passages is unacceptable. For this reason, not the individuals named in the records, but the sources themselves are treated as the structural items. The reason for selecting the corpus of records and the importance of its study are based on four factors. Firstly, today, about two hundred years after the first publication of the documents under study, not every record is adequately reproduced in hieroglyphs. Moreover, the regular misrepresentation of a text by scholars has invoked doubts about its interpretation given in the earlier editions. Secondly, the translations based on an improved copy of the texts would reflect the latest stage of the language study. Accordingly, a number

of earlier translations into European languages should be revised; practically all documents discussed in this publication have been unknown to Russian readers. They will provide new socio-cultural evidence of Ptolemaic Egypt to further enhance the development of Russian Egyptology and Oriental studies in general. The third point consists in the assumption that all new research connected with textual criticism should effectively add new knowledge of the peculiarities of the language, in this particular case – of Late Egyptian. The final point is the publication of the artifacts as any fundamental research should be based on reliable sources.

The methodological principles of the study are based mainly on the four classic precepts of René Descartes: accept only indubitable items, divide every question into parts, start with the simplest item and ascend to the more complex, review thoroughly without any omission.

### **The main achievements of the study:**

- decipherment of the early copies of the poorly preserved or missed monuments;
- the first edition of the hieroglyphic transcription of the papyrus fragments;
- the first publication of a number of sources;
- the first publication of images of well-known sources;
- use of infra-red and ultraviolet photos for reading the texts on the stelae;
- comparative analysis of the texts involving the records from all stages of Egyptian language which form the author's database, the *Corpus*;
- typesetting the hieroglyphic inscriptions aided by the author's text-editor, the *Hieroglyphica*, an online software toolset.

**Chapter I** (“Priesthood of Memphis and Letopolis”) centers on the general questions concerning the origin of the dynasties, the history of the priestly families and the social status of their members. Prosopographical registers given in alphabetical (Cyrillic) order comprise information from *PP III/IX*, kinship and life spans of the individuals. A descendancy chart with the genealogical data illustrates the familial relationship of the Memphite and Letopolite dynasties. The dates occurring in the documents are given in chronological order. The genres of the funerary literature featured in the records under study are discussed.

**Chapter II** (“Sources”) deals with study of the records and covers a wide range of topics. The first part (“History of Finding and Research”) offers a glimpse into the history of acquisition, gives the provenance of the sources and bibliographical notes of the collectors and antiquaries. The review of previous scholarship indicates both the strong and weak aspects of every work. The monuments are also classified by their visual features.

**Chapters III – VI** (“High priests of Memphis”, “High priests of Letopolis and the Memphite Serapeum”, “Priests of the Memphite temples”, “Secondary sources”).

The corpus of the documents under study consists of approximately one hundred classified sources: records belonging to the Memphite and Letopolite line, supplementary and outstanding documents discussed in connection with the history of the priestly elite from the first and second nomes of Lower Egypt. The study of every document, presented as a separate article, includes a description of the source, bibliography, transliteration and translation of the record supplied with textual comments.

**Chapter VII** (“Varia”) aims to help readers comprehend the specifics of the records under study, for example comments to the reading of selected names together with disputing the transliteration ‘b’ for the scepter-sign in the title of High priests of Memphis. A step-by-step rendering of one hieroglyphic inscription focusing on its phonetic peculiarities is given as a kind of training material. Lists of new or rare hieroglyphic signs with their phonetic values and an inventory of pronouns and prepositions are the results of the linguistic analysis of the sources. The indexes of the place-names, priestly titles and honorific designations are cumulative for the entire corpus of the sources.

**Conclusion** summarizes the findings and goals for further study.

## **Part 2: Catalogue and List of Names**

**The Catalogue** contains 296 images and hand-copies of the inscriptions under discussion.

Line-by-line reproduction of the demotic inscriptions on the stelae Ash. 1971.18, BM 392 and the statue’s pedestal Louvre E 3036 is based on high resolution photos of the monuments. The transliteration of the texts is supplied.

**The List** includes writing of all personal names.

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I have not included here the notes discussed in my articles devoted to the inscriptions of the Memphite priestly dynasty, published in *Lingua Aegyptia* in full, nevertheless the transcriptions and translations of the inscriptions have been partly altered when compared with the earlier versions.