



EGITTO  
ANTICO

# L'ACQUA NELL'ANTICO EGITTO

*Proceedings of the First International Conference  
for Young Egyptologists*

«L'ERMA» di BRETSCHNEIDER

# EGITTO ANTICO



EGITTO ANTICO

Collana diretta da Alessia Amenta

Volume III

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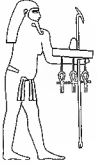
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR YOUNG EGYPTOLOGISTS

Italy, Chianciano Terme  
October 15-18, 2003

*under the Patronage of*

PRESIDENCY OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
TOWN OF MONTEPULCIANO



L'ACQUA  
NELL'ANTICO EGITTO

vita, rigenerazione, incantesimo, medicamento



edited by

ALESSIA AMENTA  
MARIA MICHELA LUISELLI  
MARIA NOVELLA SORDI

«L'ERMA» di BRETSCHNEIDER

ALESSIA AMENTA - MARIA MICHELA LUISELLI - MARIA NOVELLA SORDI  
L'ACQUA NELL'ANTICO EGITTO  
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists* has been realized with the aid and friendly support of numerous institutions, to whom goes our deepest gratitude. Therefore here we would like to thank officially:

Terme di Chianciano  
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri  
Regione Toscana  
Comune di Chianciano Terme  
Comune di Sarteano  
Comune di Montepulciano  
Associazione Albergatori di Chianciano Terme  
Monte dei Paschi di Siena - Chiusi  
APT Chianciano Terme Val di Chiana – Agenzia per il Turismo  
Toro Assicurazioni – Chianciano Terme  
DAS  
Laboratorio di Analisi e Ricerche Mediche Alpha di Anna Maria Fè & C.  
Dies – The New Pharmacommunication

For the printing and publication of this volume we are greatly indebted and very grateful to the economic support, as well as to the generosity particularly of two institutions: the *Comune di Montepulciano* (Siena), in the person of his Mayor Piero Di Betto, who from the beginning showed his sincere interest for the *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists*, and the *Ägyptologisches Seminar der Universität Basel* (Switzerland), under the direction of Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno, whose deep and sensible attention towards the young scholars of Egyptology has been for our initiative a precious support.

## FOREWORD



The Town of Montepulciano contributed to the *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists*, held in Chianciano Terme on 15-18 October 2003, not only or simply out of “ospitality”. The title of the conference, “L’acqua nell’antico Egitto: vita, rigenerazione, incantesimo, medicamento”, related closely both to the location chosen for the conference and to the year in which it was held, which was officially proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly as the “International Year of Fresh Water”.

The link with our region was in a way even more intimate, since the name of the Valdichiana, a vast and well watered area, means literally “daughter of water”.

The idea of organizing such an international event was mainly that of three “young” Egyptologists, Alessia Amenta, Maria Michela Luiselli and Maria Novella Sordi, who succeeded in bringing this exceptional event to pass after a year of intense teamwork. The aim of the organisers was to send out an invitation to all “young” Egyptologists around the world, and they wished also to make such a conference a regular event, a sort of showcase in the international world of scholarship. This was an additional reason why our Town decided to sponsor the conference. This conference is indeed a wonderful way of promoting Montepulciano as an important cultural centre, not just in Italy but also abroad. And that is not all: the youth of the promoters and of the researchers strikes a chord in Montepulciano’s strong and longstanding commitment to supporting the development of young people.

We can certainly claim that this commitment has always been present since when our predecessors in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century specifically asked Ignazio di Loyola to set up a Jesuit Council, an innovative organisation at that time in all educational fields.

Scientists from all over the world joined the three days conference, whose scientific value has also been supported by an internationally renowned committee.

We really wish to take once again part to such a useful experience which will undoubtedly prove more and more successful every year, considering Egypt's appeal to everyone around the world.

PIERO DI BETTO  
The Mayor of Montepulciano  
Montepulciano, 15 March 2004

## PREFACE

The *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists* was our proposal to the necessity of an exchange between “young” scholars of Egyptology belonging to academic and museum institutions from all over the world, in order to let them be for the first time protagonists of an international scientific meeting. The conference has taken place in Chianciano Terme (Siena), from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2003, in the *Parco dell’Acqua Santa* of Chianciano Spa.

The chairs of Egyptology in the world have paid in the last years in the context of academic activity great attention to the problems of their “young” scholars, by organizing for them different meetings. To the traditional section dedicated to the *junge Ägyptologie* of the *Ständige Ägyptologenkongferenz*, which gathers together every year the whole German speaking Egyptology, in the different countries followed other initiatives with the similar aim, namely the promotion of and the support to young Egyptologists, to their scientific growth and interpersonal exchange. We refer here only to some of these new initiatives: the *Central European Conference of Young Egyptologists*, organized by Warsaw University and which in May 2004 took place for the third time; the *Current Research in Egyptology*, that has been organized in January 2004 for the fifth time in the United Kingdom; the *Basler Ägyptologischer Nachwuchspreis*, which in 2001 asked all young Egyptologists to present a scientific egyptological article to the *Ägyptologisches Seminar* of Basle University.

The choice of the subject proposed by the *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists* offered the possibility to deepen a fundamental theme of pharaonic society. In the same time, it aimed to make aware to one of the most urgent problems of ancient and modern societies: water as principle of every source of life.

Our initiative had therefore the aim to become part of the wide range of events and activities which mark the year 2003 in particular, proclaimed

by the United Nations General Assembly as the “International Year of Freshwater”.

“Water is a basic right for every human beings: without water there is no future. Water is democracy”, according to Nelson Mandela’s famous speech, delivered during the Second World Forum in Johannesburg.

The 1992 colloquium on water, organized from the *Association internationale pour l'étude du droit de l'Égypte Ancienne* (the proceedings have appeared in the series *Bibliothèque d'Étude* of the IFAO, n. 110), has for the first time explored the ancient Egyptians’ attention to the watering and water supply problems, as well as the Egyptian contribution to the much wider panorama of the ancient Mediterranean countries.

The *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists* comes alongside this initiative by studying the relevance and function of water in ancient Egypt from magic to religion, from literature to historical evidence. As a result, we have singled out four main subjects, which correspond to the four sections of the conference: the first section, “Water and Literature”, has been opened by a paper of Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno. The second section, “Water in ancient Egyptian History and Culture”, dealt with the problems concerning the watering systems and water supply was introduced by a paper presented by Prof. Dr. Mario Liverani, as well as with the magic character of water, whose issues were introduced by a lecture of Prof. Dr. Yvan Koenig. The third section, “Water in ancient Egyptian Religion”, has been opened by a paper presented by Dr. Susanne Bickel and, finally, Dr. Martin Bommas’ paper has opened the fourth section, namely “Water in ancient Egyptian Ritual and Cult”. Prof. Dr. Alessandro Roccati has then officially closed the Conference.

Numerous posters were also presented. They investigated other aspects of the conference subject and they are published in this volume in a specific chapter.

During the closing plenary session has been announced that the *Second International Conference for Young Egyptologists* will be organized by the University of Lisbon (Portugal) in 2006. We would like to thank Prof. Luís Manuel de Araújo (Dept. of Egyptology of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Lisbon) for having thus gathered the sense of our project and for having proposed with enthusiasm the organization of the second edition of the Conference. Thanks to this our initiative has become a cyclic event. Our gratitude is also for Aline Gallasch-Hall, coordinator of the conference in Lisbon.

The conference organization received the support of numerous persons and institutions, to whom we would like to express our deepest gratitude. We are particularly grateful to our scientific committee, constituted by Prof. Dr. Hartwig Altenmüller, Prof. Dr. John Baines, Prof. Dr. Mario

Liverani, Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno and Prof. Dr. Alessandro Roccati, for having answered with enthusiasm to our idea and for having followed with sincere interest the organization and realization of the Conference. Our particular thank goes also to the generosity of Dr. Susanne Bickel and Dr. Martin Bommas, who not only accepted our invitation to present an opening paper at the conference, but they even have contributed to the present volume with an article taken from their paper.

Finally, our warmest thank is for all the participants to the *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists* and for their enthusiastic response to our invitation. The peaceful and relaxed atmosphere during the whole of the conference has contributed to tighten human relations among us and has given to the conference a serene and constructive course with interesting discussions.

The professional competence of all participants in respecting the deadline for submitting articles for the publication of these proceedings, as well as their collaboration has helped and favoured us in the tiring editing work of this volume, thus permitting his publication in such a short time.

Arrivederci a Lisbona!

ALESSIA AMENTA  
MARIA MICHELA LUISELLI  
MARIA NOVELLA SORDI



## PREFACE

The image chosen for the *First International Conference for Young Egyptologists* powerfully evokes the particular meaning of water for ancient Egypt. It happens also to carry a strong personal message. As a graduate student, and hence a young Egyptologist, I spent much time seeking to interpret such images of fecundity figures carrying offering tables and water vessels. These figures, whose presence is pervasive in Egyptian temples and widespread in other forms of decoration, include a few who are shown with bodies covered with water lines, as if they consisted entirely of water. The figures began by symbolizing a wide range of aspects of fertility and ended by being largely identified with Egypt's primary aquatic phenomenon, the inundation as the life-giving aspect of the Nile. They are depicted in formalized or implied aquatic environments in the base areas of temple decoration. Such environments are also widespread in other Egyptian artistic domains. This prominence of the aquatic extends to the great significance of purity and to the salient role of water in much ritual. Thirst, or scarcity of water, was the symbol of deprivation, notably in the arid next world, which was feared as a desert. The Egyptians sought optimistically to overcome this polarity, which is so evident in their environment, by planting and watering trees in front of tombs in the low desert. Water could be a danger because it harboured untameable animals and shipwreck. The unhappy might cast themselves suicidally into the Nile.

These examples illustrate how water was not only central to ancient Egyptian civilization, as it is to all human life, but also distinctively thematized in a vast range of sources from antiquity. Yet until 2003 no conference of Egyptologists had focused on water. Nor had there been an international conference specifically intended for "young" Egyptologists. The organizers of the conference in Chianciano Terme in October 2003, Alessia Amenta, Maria Michela Luiselli, and Maria Novella Sordi, had the happy inspiration to address these two gaps together. The resulting meeting, which I was unfortunately unable to attend, offered both a significant



intellectual experience and a fertile ground for exchange and discussion among people from all over the world. The choice of a specific theme valuably focused discussion, yet the theme chosen enabled many to offer papers from different topical and disciplinary perspectives.

A vast amount of preparatory work, a little of which I could participate in from a distance, went into the conference and ensured its success. Not least among the tasks was the fund-raising that kept the cost to participants low. But the labour of a conference is not done when the last participant has left. With admirable dedication, the organizers have continued to work on the papers with great care, and have assembled them and prepared them for publication. The appearance of the proceedings in book form will contribute much both to research on the theme of the conference and to sustaining the event as a newly founded institution. It is most pleasing to hear that the First Conference, as it styled itself, will indeed be followed by a Second, in Lisbon in 2006.

JOHN BAINES  
Oxford, 11 March 2004

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

*Morning – Teatro Comunale di Sarteano (Siena)*

- 9:00 Opening Ceremony.  
11:30 Opening Lecture: Prof. Dr. ANTONIO LOPRIENO (Universität Basel, Switzerland)  
*Water in Egyptian Literature.*  
12:00 Dr. GÜNTHER LAPP (Universität Basel, Switzerland)  
*A New Program for Editing Hieroglyphs: Visualglyph.*  
12:30-14:45 Buffet-lunch in “Azienda Agricola Martignano” and visit to “Chiostro del Palazzo Cernini – XV sec.” of Sarteano.

*Afternoon Session – “Salone delle Terme” di Chianciano Terme*

“WATER IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN LITERATURE”

Chairman: Prof. Dr. ANTONIO LOPRIENO (Universität Basel, Switzerland)

- 15:30-16:00 RENATA LANDGRÁFOVÁ (Czech National Centre for Egyptology - Prague, Czech Republic)  
*Water in Ancient Egyptian Love Songs.*  
16:00-16:30 GIACOMO CAVILLIER (Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy)  
*Il p̄r-wr e il suo significato nella letteratura egiziana a sfondo bellico.*  
16:30-17:00 Dr. HANA NAVRÁTILOVÁ (Czech National Centre for Egyptology - Prague, Czech Republic)  
*The “Unwetterstele” of Ahmose as a Historical Text.*  
17:00-17:30 Coffee break  
17:30-18:00 ALINE GALLASCH-HALL (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)  
*The Water in the Corpus Hermeticum - One European View.*  
18:00-18:30 CARSTEN KNIGGE (Universität Basel, Switzerland)  
*“He keeps the Nile flowing, the field is full of his richness”. Some Remarks on the Hymn to the Nile and Inundation and Fertility in Post-New Kingdom Hymns and Related Texts.*

16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

*Morning Session – “Salone delle Terme” di Chianciano Terme*

“WATER IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE”

Chairman: Prof. Dr. YVAN KOENIG (Institute Catholique – Paris, France)

- 9:00-9:30 Prof. Dr. MARIO LIVERANI (Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy)  
*Sahelian and Near Eastern Features in Ancient Egyptian Irrigation System.*

- 9:30-10:00 ERNST KANITZ (Universität Wien, Austria)  
*La gestione delle risorse idriche nell'Egitto antico e nell'Egitto moderno: un confronto.*
- 10:00-10:30 NURIA TORRAZ BEZENET (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)  
*Diachronical Reconstruction of the Hydrographical Network Operating upon Mythical and Cultural Landscape in the 19<sup>th</sup> Nome of Upper Egypt.*
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-11:30 DR. ROSELYNE CEPKO (École du Louvre - Paris, France)  
*Amenemhat III et le divinités aquatiques: la politique royale dans l'oasis du Fayoum.*
- 11:30-12:00 BRYAN KRAEMER (University of Southampton, United Kingdom)  
*Faiyum and the λιμνη Μοιριος: A Computer Model for the "Land of the Lake".*
- 12:00-12:30 JULIA BUDKA (Humboldt Universität – Berlin, Germany)  
*The Third Cataract: Its Historical and Political Importance According to Royal and Private Rock Inscriptions at Tombos.*
- 12:30-14:30 Buffet-lunch

*Afternoon Session – “Salone delle Terme” di Chianciano Terme*

“WATER IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE”

Chairman: Prof. Dr. MARIO LIVERANI (Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy)

- 14:30-15:00 Prof. Dr. YVAN KOENIG (Institute Catholique – Paris, France)  
*L'eau et la magie.*
- 15:00-15:30 Dr. MARCELO CAMPAGNO (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)  
*Fighting in the Water. On “Ordeals”, Kinship and State in The Contendings of Horus and Seth (Papyrus Chester Beatty I).*
- 15:30-16:00 Dr. KERRY MUHLESTEIN (Brigham Young University - Hawaii, Hawaii)  
*Death by Water: The Role of Water in Ancient Egypt's Treatment of Enemies and Juridical Process.*
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30-17:00 ALESSIA FASSONE (Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy)  
*Canopo e le sue acque: il fiume, il lago, il mare. Vita e religiosità in età tardo-faraonica e greco-romana.*
- 17:00-17:30 Dr. ROBERTO GOZZOLI (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom)  
*Inondazione e pioggia come segno di predilezione divina durante la XXV e XXVI dinastia.*
- 17:30-18:00 Dr. RENATA TATOMIR (The Sergiu Al-George Institute of Oriental Studies - Bucharest, Romania)  
*Coincidentia oppositorum et conjunctio oppositorum: The Mental Category of Water in Ancient Egyptian Mental Universe.*
- 18:00-18:30 BRETT HEAGREN (University of Auckland, New Zealand)  
*Water Related Diseases in Ancient Egypt.*

17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

*Morning Session – “Salone delle Terme” di Chianciano Terme*

“WATER IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION”

Chairman: Dr. MARTIN BOMMAS (Universität Basel, Switzerland)

- 9:00-9:30 Dr. SUSANNE BICKEL (Universität Basel, Switzerland)  
*Creative and Destructive Waters.*

- 9:30-10:00 BENOIT CLAUS (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)  
*Osiris et Hapi: Crue et régénération en Égypte ancienne.*
- 10:00-10:30 Coffee break
- 10:30-11:00 ELIANA M. LABORINHO (Universidade Novade Lisboa, Portugal)  
*Nun, the Primeval Water According to the Coffin Texts.*
- 11:00-11:30 HOLGER ROTSCH (Universität Heidelberg, Germany)  
*The Primeval Ocean Nun and the Terminology of Water in Ancient Egypt.*
- 11:30-12:00 ANGELIQUE CORTHALS (University of Oxford, United Kingdom)  
*The Procession of the New Year in the Staircases at Edfu and Dendara.*
- 12:00-12:30 MLADEN TOMORAD (University of Zagreb, Croatia)  
*Egyptian Cults of Isis and Serapis in Roman Fleets.*
- 12:30-14:30 Buffet-lunch

*Afternoon*

Excursions to the “Etruscan Museum” in Chianciano Terme, “Etruscan Museum” in Sarteano and to “Porsenna’s Labyrinth” in Chiusi.

20:30 Official Dinner

18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

*Morning Session – “Salone delle Terme” di Chianciano Terme*

“WATER IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RITUAL AND CULT”

Chairman: Prof. Dr. ALESSANDRO ROCCATI (Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy)

- 9:30-10:00 DR. MARTIN BOMMAS (Universität Basel, Switzerland)  
*Situlae and the Offering of Water in the Divine Funerary Cult: A New Approach to the Ritual of Djeme.*
- 10:00-10:30 RITA LUCARELLI (Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden, The Netherlands)  
*A Libation Text in the Book of the Dead of Gatseshen.*
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-11:30 KATE LISZKA (University of Pennsylvania, USA)  
*The Question of “Votive Water Clocks”*
- 11:30-12:00 AARON SMITH (University of Auckland, New Zealand)  
*Kinship, Water and Ritual: The Ablution Rite in the Coronation Ritual of the Pharaoh.*
- 12:00-12:30 DR. AUGUSTO COSENTINO (Università degli Studi Messina, Italy)  
*Il battesimo nei testi di Nag Hammadi.*
- 12:30-13:00 EML. BUZOV (New Bulgarian University of Sofia, Bulgaria)  
*The Role of the Heart in the Purification.*
- 13:00-14:30 Buffet-lunch

*Afternoon Session – “Salone delle Terme” di Chianciano Terme*

“WATER IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RITUAL AND CULT”

Chairman : Prof. Dr. HARTWIG ALTENMÜLLER (Universität Hamburg, Germany)

- 14:30-15:00 DR. REGINA HÖLZL (Museum of Fine Arts - Wien, Austria)  
*Libation Basins from the Old to the New Kingdom: Practical Use and Religious Significance.*