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that this is a sort of second-rate collection, even though this cannot be the author’s intention. Surely Montet’s Tanis publications, for example, range among the foremost source literature for the Third Intermediate Period, and should be treated as such.

A special section with chapter summaries and discussion questions for each chapter is an original feature, especially meant for the educational aspect. However, test questions would be a better qualification for these than discussion questions: there is not much to discuss concerning questions like ‘What are the different scripts that were used to write Egyptian’ or ‘How does the Ptolemaic Dynasty differ from earlier Egyptian dynasties’.

Contrary to many general survey books on ancient Egypt, the chronological chapters are not written by separate experts, but all by the author. This approach has its advantages, because now they are all written in a coherent, accessible style. A disadvantage is, that the author’s own field of research, which is the early period, makes the first chapters a bit unbalanced in comparison with the later chapters.

This book is primarily and expressly meant for teaching purposes and can certainly be used as such, regarding the clarity and the summary-style of the text.


Bonnet, Ch. D. & D. Valbelle. 2006. Pharaonen aus dem schwarzen Afrika. – Mainz, Philipp von Zabern

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The first chapter presents the wider contexts of the discovery: the settlement of Kerma’s palace, temples and cemeteries, as well as its history before, during and after the Egyptian domination. Chapter 2 reports on the more detailed context of the discovery: the historical sequence of the temple area where the untouched cachette was found. The Amun sanctuary there was later transformed into an Aton temple, and
then back into an Amun temple again. The cachette was situated in a 25th Dynasty addition to this temple. In the following chapter, the seven royal statues found in the cachette (of Taharqa, Tanutamun (2), Senkamanisken (2), Anlamani and Aspelta), are dealt with in great detail. A discussion of the question whether Egyptian or Kushite sculptors were involved in the production concludes this chapter. Chapter IV gives an account of the events of the 25th or Kushitic Dynasty, leading up from Taharqa and Tanutamun to the campaign of Psammetikhos II against the Kushites under Aspelta. During this campaign the destruction of the statues (they were all beheaded) and their subsequent burial in the cachettes must have taken place. The question whether they were just cleared away destruction debris or reverently buried is discussed; the latter interpretation is favoured. Chapter V is placing the cachettes or sacred deposits in perspective with the other cachettes found all over Nubia and Egypt, such as the Luxor and Karnak examples. Paragraphs on the import of Egyptian statuary in Nubia and the production and life cycle of temple statues conclude this chapter. This chapter gives an excellent, detailed and up-to-date overview of the state of affairs of these subjects. Especially the sections on the life cycle of statues are illuminating. Part VI is an appendix, with a chronology, a bibliography, a list of figure credits and acknowledgements. An index would not have been out of place, but it is usual in these kind of Von Zabern books not to be included. Usual too are the many colour plates of high quality. This is an exemplary publication, most lavishly illustrated and extensively documented.


S. Ikram

Third in the Egyptian Prehistory Monograph series out of Leuven University, ‘A Holocene Prehistoric Sequence in the Egyptian Red Sea Area: The Tree Shelter,’ edited by Pierre M. Vermeersch is the final publication of the fieldwork carried out in the Eastern Desert near the Wadi Sodmein. The book is divided into five main chapters followed by references. The first chapter covers the fieldwork. This includes the research history, the environment, stratigraphy, and Carbon 14 dating, and makes up the bulk of the volume. The book then segues into a series...