M. Verner, Abusir XXVIII. The Statues of Raneferef and the Royal Sculpture of the Fifth Dynasty, Prague 2017.

Czech archaeological team discovered in the mortuary temple of Raneferef in Abusir in the 1980s fragments of about a dozen of the statues of the king, including his six complete likenesses of various materials. The monograph presents a detailed description and discussion of Raneferef’s statues in the broader context of the royal sculpture of the Fifth Dynasty.


In 2019 Charles University, its Faculty of Arts, and the Czech Institute of Egyptology were celebrating the hundredth birthday of Czech Egyptology. For many years now Czech Egyptologists have been among world leaders in the field, making major breakthroughs (most recently the discovery of the tomb of the priest Kaires) and helping to set new international research trends. This book presents the most important discoveries of Czech Egyptologists and the range and variety of their activities.


The sun temples of the Fifth Dynasty are an unparalleled monument of ancient Egypt. Six temples were built in a quite limited time span in the middle of the Third Millennium BC but only two have been discovered so far. Where are, thus, the missing ones? This question, and many others, are addressed by the present book, which represents the first complete publication on the sun temples matter. The volume collects all the available archaeological and textual evidences as well as several tables, sheets and plates and photographs of the main related documents.


The superbly illustrated book was compiled in honour of Yvonne Harpur, the doyenne of the study of art and decoration of tombs from the pyramid age. A wide array of topics ranges from many in-depth studies of various two-dimensional motifs to the presentation of complete overviews of wall scenes. Many of the issues touch upon hitherto unpublished material and tombs only recently discovered.


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ABUSIR IN DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE

On 30th October 2019, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first lectures in Egyptology at Charles University, the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities – in close cooperation with Embassy of the Czech Republic in Egypt and the Czech Institute of Egyptology – organized a conference Abusir in a diachronic perspective. The event, held on the premises of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, was opened by dr. Mostafa Waziri (the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, SCA), H.E. Jan Fulík (the Ambassador of Czech Republic in Cairo), prof. Michal Pullmann (the dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University), and prof. Miroslav Bárta (the director of the Czech Institute of Egyptology and of the Czech archaeological missions in Egypt).

Eight members of the Czech Institute of Egyptology presented the results of their research, spanning from the very beginning of the Old Kingdom to the very late periods of Egyptian history and covering all the aspects of Egyptian science (from field archaeology to interpretation of religious texts). Among the participants of the conference were also scholars from the USA, Egypt, Germany and Austria (namely Mark Lehner, Peter Jánosi and Mohamed Ismail) who also closely cooperate with the Czech archaeological missions in Abusir. Representatives of many other Egyptian, European and American academic institutions attended the conference and joined the discussions both after individual talks and during coffee breaks.

The participation of Czech scholars on the event was supported from European Regional Development Fund-Project “Creativity and Adaptability as Conditions of the Success of Europe in an Interrelated World” (No. CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_019/0000734) and by the Charles University Progress project Q11 “Complexity and resilience: Ancient Egyptian civilization in multidisciplinary and multicultural perspective.”