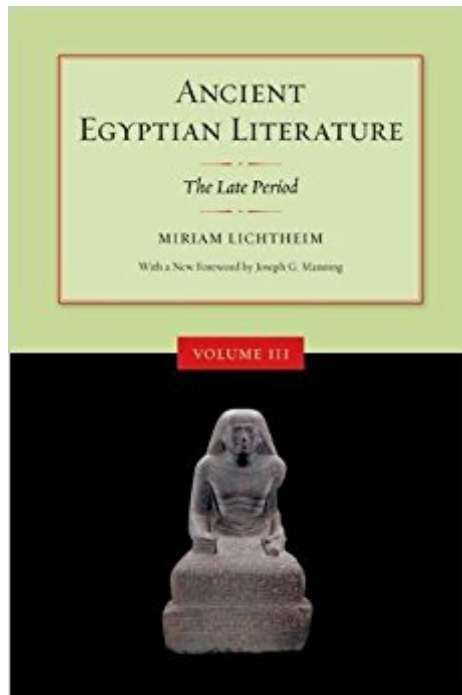


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Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume III: The Late Period



Synopsis

First published in 1973 and followed by Volume II in 1976 and Volume III in 1980; this anthology has assumed classic status in the field of Egyptology and portrays the remarkable evolution of the literary forms of one of the world's earliest civilizations. Volume I outlines the early and gradual evolution of Egyptian literary genres, including biographical and historical inscriptions carved on stone, the various classes of literary works written with pen on papyrus, and the mortuary literature that focuses on life after death. Introduced with a new foreword by Antonio Loprieno. Volume II shows the culmination of these literary genres within the single period known as the New Kingdom (1550-1080 B.C.). With a new foreword by Hans-W. Fischer-Elfert. Volume III spans the last millennium of Pharaonic civilization, from the tenth century B.C. to the beginning of the Christian era. With a new foreword by Joseph G. Manning.

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Customer Reviews

"Concise, lucid, and altogether interesting.... The notes on the individual texts are unfailingly illuminating." - Books Abroad (now World Literature Today)"

Praise for the first editions: "Concise, lucid, and altogether interesting. The notes on the individual texts are unfailingly illuminating." - Books Abroad (now World Literature Today)

I have given Lichtheim's previous surveys of ancient Egyptian literature (Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume I: The Old and Middle Kingdoms & Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume II: The New Kingdom) mediocre reviews, as I believe there are better anthologies on Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom literature out there. A weakness of these other anthologies is, however, that they only go as far as the New Kingdom. This leaves out over 700 years of Egyptian literature. In Ancient Egyptian Literature: the late period Lichtheim rectifies this. Over half the book is comprised of biographical and royal inscriptions, many of which are very similar in text (including the "Htp di nsw" ['an offering the king gives (to) that he may give provisions of bread, beer, fowl, oxen, alabaster, linen, incense and unguent, and all things good and pure on which a god lives ...] and the "positive affirmations": ['I am one beloved of his city ... I have done what people love and gods praise ... I lived on earth as an intimate of god ...']. The detail and beauty of these prayers, however are moving - perhaps part of the reason for their repeated usage. The third quarter of the book has 5 hymns (or lamentations), unique to the late period, although in the "hymn to Khunum" there are echoes of the "hymn to Re," which I found interesting. I was most pleased with the final section on "demotic literature." Here the influence of Greece (via the Ptolomies) is evident in the literature, its humor and proverbs reminiscent of "The Tale of Sinuhe" in its advice. In terms of the topic, I give the book 5 stars. I wish there was more focus on the "literature" of the Late Period, especially on the Ptolmiacs and less attention paid funerary stela and funerary inscriptions, for which I deducted a star. A wonderful resource nonetheless for those interested in ancient Egypt or the Hellenistic period.

This volume continues all of the virtues present in the first two anthologies by Lichtheim. Each work is given a skillful, readable translation, a helpful introduction and equally helpful endnotes (endnotes are presented immediately after each piece). Lichtheim is happy to guide readers toward other works and makes careful reference to her interaction with other translations. These volumes are not only a great presentation of ancient Egyptian literature, but also a gateway to a more thorough examination of ancient Egyptian history.

Dr Lichtheim was my Egyptian History professor at UCLA. She was the old fashioned sort who graded down from perfect. I was once the only student in her class to identify Thutmose III's vizier correctly. We had only seen the name in one tomb slide among many, but I, being an Egyptology groupie, had read MARA DAUGHTER OF THE NILE and PHARAOH so many times I almost had

them memorized and so I knew it was Rekhmire. I seem to recall her saying at the time that she was not satisfied with the translations available to us then, and that she planned on doing her own. And here they are. They are as solid, factual, scientific, and down to earth as the lady was herself. She certainly knew her stuff. I look now at the creampuff grades I got when I went back to college a few years ago, and the B's and C's I got from Dr Lichtheim are worth far more than the A's I got from everybody else. Get these books if you really want to know what we moderns can learn of what the writings say, without the filter of trying to make them too much like English poetry. May her ka shine forever :)

Wonderful book! I usually read a book, then give it to the local library or the local charity. But this one I am keeping in my library forever!

A good book about Egypt

Everything came as promised on time.

Love my product. Fast shipping!

A very nice translation and a very good selection of text considering each period. Very good.

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