Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections

Editorial Introduction

The connections between ancient Egypt and other cultures transcend time. The *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* itself is proof of this. That some number of us would devote our lives and other resources to discover, understand, and preserve the evidence of pharaonic culture demonstrates that the influence exerted by the Egypt of antiquity endures into the present day. These endeavors come about through the efforts not only of individuals but also of institutions, even governments, further testifying to the strength of this diachronic relationship, deeply rooted in a fascination with ancient Egypt that stretches back to the days of its living contemporaries.

We have been Egyptianized.

In this special fascicle, the *JAIE* presents a sampling of the diverse means by which Egyptomania—broadly defined as the phenomenon of interest expressed in/inspiration drawn from ancient Egypt—has manifested from the 1700s to the present.

S. J. Wolfe chronicles a "multi-media" exhibition by which, in the mid-19th century, many Americans became familiar with the far-away land of the Nile, while E. Cummins examines the challenges that modern curators face when trying to present Egypt in its geographical—namely, African—context. Besides the historical, geographical Egypt there is also a fantastical one, and J.-M. Humbert explores the roles that these two Egypts have played upon European and American opera stages. Although most often associated with Western Europe and North America, an interest in Egypt manifests also in Eastern Europe; M. Odler and L. Hudáková take an uncommon look at Slovak travelers who brought to the Nile a different, noncolonial worldview. The very different experiences of British and American travelers in Egypt are recounted and analyzed by T. Baber in the context their encounters with Egypt's most macabre "souvenirs": mummies and their parts.

K. van der Spek demonstrates how Egyptologists are so eager for antiquity that they routinely ignore and disrupt important modern-era stratigraphy, and he offers ideas as to how archaeological investigations can embrace the modern Egyptian world. And Egyptian ruins can turn up in unexpected places—including coastal California, as M. C. Hamilton and J. M. Nixon reveal.

Books on subjects related to the fascination with Egypt continue to proliferate. Two recent ones are reviewed in *JAIE* 8. M. Müller reviews the first installment of J. Thompson's multi-volume history of Egyptology, and S. Allen critiques R. Mairs and M. Muratov's examination of the role of dragomans in Egypt in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. And lastly, N. Doyle finds in three very old books new evidence for the history of the word "Egyptomania."

The Editors