

Preface

THE BUILDING-CRAFT and techniques employed by the ancient Egyptians have always attracted Dieter Arnold's interest and enthusiasm. It is sincerely hoped that this compendium of articles – dedicated by friends and colleagues as a token of admiration for his wide-ranging and pioneering work in Egypt – will come up to his high standards and expectations. The welter of ideas expressed herein should be a source of pleasure to him, whilst also encouraging and challenging him to embark upon further fruitful work in Egypt as well as upon scientific research generally.

Contrary to the common practice adopted in commemorative publications, it was the editor's intention from the outset not to publish a bibliography or/and a list of achievements of the person honoured in this volume. It can be taken as granted that Dieter Arnold's many publications and books, as well as his field-work in Egypt, are well-known to scholars and need no separate cataloguing. Readers interested in further research will find, in the articles that follow, references to most of Dieter Arnold's publications that amply go to demonstrate the breadth and depth of his professional knowledge and calling.

Whilst preparing this volume, the editor received much welcome help and advice from colleagues and friends and that he gratefully acknowledges: in particular Dorothea Arnold, Adela Oppenheim and Manfred Bietak for useful comments and advice during the preparation of the book; Ernst Czerny for preparing the hieroglyphic font types; Liza Majerus for illustrating numerous figures as well as the cover design; Adrian Melman for his editorial contribution to the English-language manuscripts and texts in this volume; Angela Schwab for technical assistance and, last but not least, Béatrice Boileau-Hassoun for her patience and skilful preparation of the volume. We do appreciate the generous financial support that we have received from Jack A. Josephson (New York); the special grant from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Vienna; as well as a substantial sum from the Holzhausen Legacy Vienna, all of which have gone to enhance the quality of this present volume and to enable the Academy of Sciences in Vienna to publish this book.

The Editor

Note: The printing of this volume has come up against many delays due to financial problems and for technical reasons. That is why, in some cases, various articles might not always be up-to-date on the latest literature, the responsibility for this resting fully with the editor. Nevertheless, the reader will see that the opinions and results presented still testify to worthy and quality endeavour.