

changed between the fourteenth and the twentieth century—a mere moment in bacterial time.

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Rosalie David (ed.), *Egyptian mummies and modern science*, Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press, 2008, pp. xxi, 304, £60.00, \$100.00 (hardback 978-0-521-86579-1).

This book edited by Rosalie David, the world-famous Egyptologist, contains the most up-to-date collection of contributions on the scientific methodologies applied to Egyptian mummy studies, carried out by the research team of Manchester University. The background to this work is to be found in the pioneering studies directed by Rosalie David since the 1970s on the Egyptian mummified remains at the Museum of Manchester, whose results were first reported in the 1979 volume *The Manchester Museum Mummy Project*. Other volumes appeared later, *Evidence embalmed: modern medicine and the mummies of ancient Egypt* in 1984, and *Science in Egyptology* in 1986, the latter collecting together the results of the two symposia held at the University of Manchester in 1979 and 1984, where international and multi-disciplinary specialists discussed the most relevant topics of the field. In the last twenty years work has progressed with the application of new analyses and techniques of modern medicine to Egyptian mummies studies.

The book is divided into five parts, each containing chapters assigned to different experts in the field. An up-to-date bibliography rounds off the collection. Part one by Rosalie David provides some background information on the first scientific and multidisciplinary study of the mummies, the Manchester Museum Mummy Project. This project, from its early phase in the 1970s continued until 2003, the year in which a centre dedicated to biomedical Egyptology,

the KNH Centre at the University of Manchester, was established, representing a model for similar projects in other countries. The author introduces the reader to the field, and provides a brief summary on mummification practices in ancient Egypt, from prehistoric times to the Roman Period.

In the second part of the book the diagnostic techniques used in modern medical practice are discussed in their application to the study of human and animal mummies. After a historical background, the specialist of each discipline illustrates the methods and results that can be obtained through imaging studies, including conventional X-ray, modern Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Ultrasound (US), then endoscopy, histology, immunohistochemistry and DNA analysis; a selection of analytical methods for studying organic matter in archaeological sites, and the materials and techniques used for facial reconstruction are reviewed. In addition, this section is enriched with reports on dental diseases in the ancient Egyptian population and with a brief summary of the palaeopathological findings in literature, with particular relevance to ancient Egypt.

The third part is entirely devoted to pharmacology. Egyptian medicine is examined by comparing the information provided by the written sources with archaeological and palaeopathological evidence. The *longue durée* debate on the use of intoxicants and drugs in ancient Egypt is summarized, presenting the most recent conclusions of the research. The fourth section introduces the formation and role of the International Ancient Egyptian Tissue Bank, which collects tissue samples from Egyptian mummified remains, representing a unique resource for a wide range of studies. A survey on the conservation treatments for Egyptian mummies is also provided.

In the fifth and last part of the book the future possibilities of biomedical Egyptology, with particular regard to the KNH Centre at the University of Manchester, are briefly presented.

In conclusion, the results of modern studies on Egyptian mummies, collected and clearly set out in this work, represent an invaluable point of reference for specialists and students alike.

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Thomas Rütten, *Geschichten vom Hippokratischen Eid*, Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 2008, CD-ROM, €20.00 (978-3-447-05679-3).

It is difficult to think of a medical text historically more significant than the Hippocratic Oath. With this CD-ROM, Rütten retraces some of the “histories” (*Geschichten*) of this document. Rather than concentrating on issues of authorship and dating, so prominent in existing scholarship, Rütten focuses on the reception of the Oath through six historical periods: ancient (until c.AD 500), medieval (until c.1450), Renaissance (until c.1580), early modern (until c.1650), modern (until c.1850) and contemporary (to 2008). For each period the CD-ROM presents an outline of the reception of the Oath, a text of the Oath representative of that period, as well as information divided into three thematic categories: ‘Justice and Injustice’ (*Recht und Unrecht*), which deals with ethics and law; ‘Text and Understanding’ (*Text und Verständnis*), which deals with philological questions; and ‘Kitsch and Art’ (*Kitsch und Kunst*), which deals with aesthetical questions.

The text chosen for each period (for example, the text of papyrus Oxyrhynchus xxxi 2547v for the ancient period, and the text edited by Jacques Jouanna for the contemporary period) is reproduced, transcribed, translated into German, and can be read in parallel with the introductory paragraphs. The thematic sections focus in more detail on aspects of the reception history of the Oath. For instance, the ‘Justice and Injustice’ section tells the story of the

late-nineteenth-century French doctor Watelet who was condemned for violating patient confidentiality (article 378 of the French penal code) by writing in the newspaper *Le Matin* how the painter Jules Bastien-Lepage had died from testicular cancer rather than the speculated syphilis. The ‘Text and Understanding’ section contains, *inter alia*, a discussion of François Tissard’s first printed edition of the Oath in Greek (1508), which was accompanied by a Latin interlinear translation; and the ‘Kitsch and Art’ section presents poetic Latin translations of the Oath as well as an extremely kitsch T-shirt adorned with the text of the Oath, sold as a souvenir in Greece.

The CD-ROM is lavishly illustrated: in addition to reproductions of texts found in manuscripts, rare books, and modern editions, one will find paintings (e.g., Eustache, Alexander and his doctor, 1648/9), portraits (e.g. that of Jules Bastien-Lepage), photos (e.g., Jane Roe a.k.a. Norma Mc Corvey, and Ludwig Edelstein), sculptures (e.g., a second-century statue of Hygeia), and manuscript illuminations (for instance, the delightful drawing of foetuses in the womb found in a Brussels manuscript). By right-clicking on the reproduction, the reader will be redirected to a detailed caption. The user of this CD-ROM will also be able to listen to a musical rendering of the Oath by Mauricio Kagel (1894).

The aim of this CD-ROM is to be an educational tool, and certainly, a multi-layered approach to the Oath has a substantial teaching potential. However, one is not sure who exactly Rütten’s intended audience is: law and medicine students may not be able to deal with abbreviated references to ancient texts, and classics students may not be familiar with legal and medical concepts. A high-quality website, with links to further material—and there is a lot of information regarding some aspects of the Oath’s history on the web—might have been more successful than the CD-ROM format. In the absence of such a website, this CD-ROM offers a German-speaking audience a didactic introduction to