

Anna-Latifa Mourad
The Enigma of the Hyksos Volume II

Contributions to the Archaeology of Egypt, Nubia and the Levant

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Edited by
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Anna-Latifa Mourad

The Enigma of the Hyksos Volume II

Transforming Egypt into the New Kingdom

The Impact of the Hyksos
and Egyptian-Near Eastern Relations

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE OF THE EDITOR	9
PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
1. INTRODUCTION	13
1.1. Introduction	13
1.2. Research Problems	13
1.3. Research Goals and Approach	15
1.4. Research Parameters	16
1.4.1 Geographical Scope and Terminology	16
1.4.2 Chronological Considerations	16
1.4.3 Evidential Scope and Limitations	22
2. CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND TRANSFORMATIONS	25
2.1 Introduction	25
2.2 Identifying Ancient Cultures and Identities	25
2.3 Cultural Encounters, Cultural Mixing, and Cultural Transformation	28
2.3.1 World-Systems Approach	28
2.3.2 Diffusionism	30
2.3.3 Migration	31
2.3.4 Trade Diasporas and Ports of Trade	32
2.3.5 Transnationalism	33
2.3.6 Acculturation	34
2.3.7 Appropriation	36
2.3.8 Creolisation	37
2.3.9 Hybridisation	38
2.3.10 Mestizaje	39
2.3.11 Cultural Entanglement	40
2.3.12 Bilingualism	40
2.3.13 ‘Middle Ground’ Approach	41
2.3.14 Cultural Interference	41
2.3.15 Transculturalism	42
2.4 The Way Forward	43
3. SOCIO-POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS	45
3.1 Introduction	45
3.2 Trade and Connectivity in the Eastern Delta	45
3.2.1 Tell el-Dab’a: A Harbour City in the North	47
3.2.1.1 Overview of site development and trade before the New Kingdom	47
3.2.1.1.1 Phases N to I	49
3.2.1.1.2 Phase H	50
3.2.1.1.3 Phases G/4–G/1–3	51
3.2.1.1.4 Phases F–E/3	55
3.2.1.1.5 Phases E/2–D/2	60
3.2.1.2 Overview of site development and trade leading into the New Kingdom	63
3.2.2 Other Communities of the Delta	72
3.2.2.1 Kom el-Hisn	72
3.2.2.2 Tell Hebwa I	73
3.2.2.3 Tell Basta	75
3.2.2.4 Wadi Tumilat	76

3.2.2.5 Other communities	79
3.2.3 Observations	82
3.3 Means of Diplomacy and Exchange	83
3.3.1 Language and Diplomacy	83
3.3.1.1 Language transformations and contact-induced change	83
3.3.1.2 Letter correspondence and the use of cuneiform	88
3.3.2 Weights and Exchange	91
3.4 Outlook to the North and the Near East.....	95
3.4.1 Warfare and Foreign Affairs	95
3.4.1.1 The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Dynasties.....	95
3.4.1.2 The early Eighteenth Dynasty.....	97
3.4.2 Egyptian Kingship and the Ideology of Territorial Expansion.....	108
3.5 Observations on Socio-Political Transformations and Foreign Affairs.....	111
4. RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS	113
4.1 Introduction.....	113
4.2 Seth and the Storm Deity: Fit for a King?.....	115
4.2.1 The Storm Deity in the Near East.....	115
4.2.1.1 Nature of the storm deity	115
4.2.1.2 Kingship	115
4.2.1.3 The enemy(s) of the storm deity.....	117
4.2.1.4 Divination and oath-taking	120
4.2.1.5 Iconography.....	120
4.2.2 The Cults of Seth: From the Predynastic to the Second Intermediate Period	121
4.2.2.1 The Predynastic and Early Dynastic Periods.....	121
4.2.2.2 The Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period.....	122
4.2.2.3 The Middle Kingdom and the early Second Intermediate Period	123
4.2.2.4 The Second Intermediate Period.....	128
4.2.3 The Near Eastern Storm Deity in Egypt: From the Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period.....	134
4.2.3.1 Personal names	134
4.2.3.2 Iconography	135
4.2.3.3 Cultic spaces, equid burials, and rituals	138
4.2.3.4 Baal-Seth or Seth-Baal: The syncretisation of Seth?.....	141
4.2.4 The Egyptian Storm Deity in the Eighteenth Dynasty	142
4.2.4.1 Kingship and the cult of Seth <i>Nb.ty</i>	143
4.2.4.2 The Netherworld.....	144
4.2.4.3 The sea and the harbour.....	146
4.2.4.4 The name and the classifier	150
4.2.4.5 Observations	152
4.2.5 The Egyptian Storm Deity in the Nineteenth Dynasty	154
4.2.5.1 Kingship and warfare.....	154
4.2.5.2 Excursus 1: Seth or Baal? Other representations of the transcultural storm deity	162
4.2.5.3 Excursus 2: Literature, magic, and a transcultural storm deity	168
4.2.5.4 Observations	172
4.2.6 The Transformation of the Egyptian Storm Deity	173
4.3 Goddesses	174
4.3.1 The Near Eastern Goddesses Astarte, Anat, Qedeset, and Baalat.....	175
4.3.1.1 Nature and characteristics.....	175
4.3.1.2 Iconography	177
4.3.2 The Near Eastern Goddesses in Egypt.....	180
4.3.2.1 Personal names and epithets	180

4.3.2.2 Iconography	186
4.3.2.3 Cultic spaces	196
4.3.3 Influence and Confluence: The Case for Continuation	197
4.3.3.1 Astarte	197
4.3.3.2 Anat	199
4.3.3.3 Qedeshet	200
4.3.3.4 Observations	202
4.4 Other Religious Concepts and Deities	204
4.4.1 Reshef in Egypt	204
4.4.2 Practice of Severing Hands	209
4.4.2.1 The archaeological evidence in Egypt	209
4.4.2.2 The textual and artistic evidence in Egypt	210
4.4.2.3 The evidence from the Near East	214
4.4.2.4 Severing the enemy	216
4.5 Observations on Religious Transformations	217
5. TECHNOLOGICAL AND MILITARISTIC TRANSFORMATIONS	219
5.1 Introduction	219
5.2 Metalwork, Weaponry, and Chariotry	220
5.2.1 Metalwork and Metallurgy	220
5.2.1.1 Copper alloys	220
5.2.1.2 Metal ingots and associated moulds	221
5.2.1.3 Refractory materials	225
5.2.2 Chariots and Horses	229
5.2.2.1 The introduction of the horse and chariot	229
5.2.2.2 The archaeological evidence in Egypt	231
5.2.2.3 The textual evidence in Egypt	236
5.2.2.4 The artistic evidence in Egypt	238
5.2.2.5 Factors of influence	239
5.2.3 Weapon Types	242
5.2.3.1 Scimitar or khopesh	242
5.2.3.1.1 The origins of the scimitar	242
5.2.3.1.2 The archaeological evidence in Egypt	244
5.2.3.1.3 The textual and artistic evidence in Egypt	246
5.2.3.1.4 Observations	249
5.2.3.2 Daggers	250
5.2.3.2.1 Developments up to the late Middle Kingdom	250
5.2.3.2.2 Developments from the late Middle Kingdom onwards	252
5.2.3.3 Axes	260
5.2.3.3.1 Developments up to the Middle Kingdom	260
5.2.3.3.2 Levantine axe types in Egypt from the Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period	260
5.2.3.3.3 Egyptian axe types from the late Middle Kingdom onwards	263
5.2.3.4 Bows and arrows	268
5.2.3.4.1 Developments up to the late Middle Kingdom	268
5.2.3.4.2 The origins and advantages of the composite bow	268
5.2.3.4.3 The archaeological evidence in Egypt	270
5.2.3.4.4 The artistic evidence in Egypt	272
5.2.3.4.5 Observations	274
5.2.4 Protective Measures	275
5.2.4.1 Shields	275
5.2.4.2 Helmets and body armour	277

5.2.4.2.1 The evidence from the Near East	277
5.2.4.2.2 The evidence from Egypt	278
5.2.5 Observations	280
5.3 Ceramics	282
5.3.1 General Developments in the Ceramic Repertoire of the Eastern Delta	282
5.3.2 General Developments in Methods of Manufacture.....	283
5.3.3 Continuation of Particular Vessel Types.....	285
5.4 Other Concepts, Crafts, and Technologies.....	295
5.4.1 Glassmaking and Production	295
5.4.2 Jewellery	299
5.4.2.1 Granulation and gold-working.....	299
5.4.2.2 Earring and/or penannular ring use	301
5.4.3 Textile Production.....	306
5.4.3.1 Near Eastern textiles and weavers in Egypt	307
5.4.3.2 Transformed concepts and tools in Egypt.....	310
5.4.3.2.1 The dome-shaped spindle whorl.....	311
5.4.3.2.2 Spin direction	312
5.4.3.2.3 Loom types	312
5.4.3.2.4 Weaving and decorating techniques	314
5.4.3.3 Observations	316
5.4.4 Music and Musical Instruments.....	317
5.4.4.1 The lyre.....	318
5.4.4.2 The lute.....	320
5.4.4.3 The tambourine or frame drum and the oboe	322
5.4.4.4 Observations	324
5.4.5 Flora, Fauna, and Foodways.....	326
5.4.5.1 Introduced plants and animals	326
5.4.5.1.1 Nuts, olives, pomegranate, and more	327
5.4.5.1.2 Humpedback and/or zebu cattle	328
5.4.5.1.3 Wool-sheep.....	330
5.4.5.1.4 Observations.....	332
5.4.5.2 Irrigation and the <i>shaduf</i>	332
5.4.5.3 Viticulture, wine, and drinking habits	336
5.4.5.3.1 The evidence from the Near East	336
5.4.5.3.2 The evidence at Tell el-Dab‘a.....	337
5.4.5.3.3 The evidence from the New Kingdom	338
5.4.5.3.4 Observations.....	340
5.4.6 Scarab and Seal Production	340
5.4.6.1 Developments up to the late Middle Kingdom.....	340
5.4.6.2 The Tell el-Dab‘a workshop	342
5.4.6.3 Continuation into the New Kingdom.....	343
5.5 Observations on Technological and Militaristic Transformations.....	347
6. THE TRANSFORMATION OF EGYPT.....	349
6.1 Introduction.....	349
6.2 Contexts of Encounters and Agents of Change	349
6.3 Change and Changing Continuities	352
6.4 A Transformed Culture.....	356
6.5 A Final Glance	357
ABBREVIATIONS	361
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	363
LIST OF FIGURES	455

PREFACE OF THE EDITOR

After publishing her thorough thesis on the Hyksos at Macquarie University, Anna-Latifa Mourad joined our team of the ERC Advanced Grant project “The Enigma of the Hyksos” where she took over the research track of the cultural interference between the Western Asiatic immigrants and Egypt during the late Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period. These people were carriers of the Middle Bronze Age culture and were confronted with the contemporary Egyptian culture. Besides that, the main objective of Anna-Latifa Mourad was to elucidate the impact of this substantial foreign population in the Eastern Nile Delta, who stayed on Egyptian territory for over 250 years, on the cultural appearance of the Egyptian New Kingdom. This subject was for a long time neglected in Egyptological studies and is presented within this book for the first time in

an in-depth approach. Her study shows how strong this impact had been on Egypt and what kind of technologies in metal- and ceramic production, glass making, military equipment, mobility, hippological exercises, diplomacy, influence in religious matters, myth building and literature came to Egypt through interference with these foreign immigrants. This study shows to what extent the contact with people of the Levant who came to Egypt had its effect on Egyptian culture and history and to what extent such foreigners were able to rise in the Egyptian hierarchy to top decision makers. It makes clear that Egypt was not a solitary cultural entity as presented in many textbooks, but was in contact with its neighbours in the East, learned from them and taught them the Egyptian way of life and statehood. We wish the author much success with her contribution on the Enigma of the Hyksos.

Vienna, Austria
May 2021

Manfred Bietak

PI of the ERC Advanced Grant
“The Enigma of the Hyksos”

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The world today is characterised by its connectivity. The ramifications of increased cross-border encounters have been all the more prevalent in recent years. Indeed, this publication was completed in the wake of a global pandemic, a clear indicator of the impact of consistent interactions. However, our preserved history reveals that such outcomes are to be expected: interactions typically lead to change, whether social, cultural, political, or environmental in nature. This entanglement between change and cultural encounters is the focus of the present study. As its title suggests, it explores the impact of the Hyksos and Egyptian-Near Eastern relations during the Middle Bronze Age on the formation of the New Kingdom in Egypt, and the transformation of Egyptian culture and society.

The study was undertaken in three years as part of the European Research Council Advanced Grant Project “The Enigma of the Hyksos” (Grant Agreement Nr. 668640), under the direction of Professor Manfred Bietak. The completion of the publication’s final stages was supported by the author’s Macquarie University Research Fellowship Project investigating “The Ties that Bind: Negotiating Foreign Relations in the Second Millennium BC”.

The study specifically ties to The Hyksos Enigma’s Research Track 5 on “Multidirectional Cultural Interference Studies”. The aims of RT 5 were to: study cultural interference during the Second Intermediate Period and the New Kingdom through the application of anthropological theories; define the impact of Hyksos rule on the New Kingdom; investigate whether communities in the Delta with populations of Near Eastern origin show signs of continuity from the Second Intermediate Period into the New Kingdom; and examine whether an array of innovations that emerged in the New Kingdom were genuine Egyptian developments, or the result of Hyksos interference and the presence of Near Easterners who continued to dwell in Egypt following the conquest of Avaris. In turn, the study examines cultural encounters through their complexity, questioning the supposed static nature of Egyptian cultural elements to ascertain whether persistent contact with the Near East resulted in the transformation of Egyptian culture and society. It elucidates the tangible and intangible effects of contact by focussing on a range of data types, including archaeological, artistic, and textual material.

Since this study was sent to print, new publications have appeared on material culture and social group identities in ancient Egypt. Unfortunately, it was too late to incorporate their evaluations into the present analysis, but they can be consulted by readers for more on these topics. These include Bettina Bader’s *Material Culture and Identities in Egyptology. Towards a Better Understanding of Cultural Encounters and their Influence on Material Culture*, Archaeology of Egypt, Sudan and the Levant 3 (Vienna, 2021); as well as Danielle Candelora’s ‘The Eastern Delta as a Middle Ground for Hyksos Identity Negotiation’,

Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo 75 (2020), 77–94. As in this monograph, these two publications also support the validity of the ‘third space’ for examining cultural encounters, particularly those in the Eastern Delta and the period of focus.

The study greatly benefited from discussions with and advice from several individuals. It would have never come to fruition if not for The Hyksos Enigma’s Principal Investigator, Professor Manfred Bietak, who generously offered his years of experience and expertise on the Hyksos, Tell el-Dab’a, and Egyptian-Near Eastern relations. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for his valuable counsel, and the opportunity he gave me to travel to Austria and research with his team. I additionally thank him for reviewing the manuscript and offering insightful feedback. As an aside, this study on the impact of cultural encounters was itself a result of intercultural relations, of a multicultural researcher crossing borders for a vocational opportunity.

I also extend my sincerest thanks to The Hyksos Enigma’s project team members for their support and the many fruitful discussions which contributed in various ways to this research. These include Dr. Silvia Prell for her insights on the material culture of Tell el-Dab’a and her valuable feedback on the manuscript, Dr. Elisa Priglinger for conversations on migration in the ancient world, Ms. Silvia Gómez-Senovilla for her insights on ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern settlements, and Dr. Sarah Vilain for generously offering her expertise on Middle Bronze Age trade and pottery. I also much appreciate all the administrative support and encouragement of the Project Manager, Ms. Rosa Matic.

Special thanks are due to Olivier Fuchs, for his financial assistance towards a conference and research visit to the USA. For guidance on the postdoctoral experience during my stay in Vienna, I thank Dr. Stephan Kloos. I also thank Dr. Karin Sowada for her advice and consistent support in bringing this manuscript to print while in Sydney. I am very grateful to those participating in the discussions in project workshops for their comments, and also for the constructive feedback of the manuscript’s anonymous reviewers. Moreover, I would like to thank a number of colleagues for kindly taking the time to provide helpful insight on and/or access to pertinent research, and for assisting me with questions on the material. These include Dr. Niv Allon, Dr. Bettina Bader, Dr. Julien Cooper, Dr. Ernst Czerny, Professor Orly Goldwasser, Dr. Alexander Ilin-Tomich, Dr. Karin Kopetzky, Dr. Christine Lilyquist, Dr. José Manuel Alba Gómez, and Dr. Fred Vink. I am also grateful to Dr. Camilla Di Biase-Dyson, who generously offered her advice on parts of this manuscript, Assistant Professor Irmgard Hein for much-appreciated conversations on pottery and the transition from the Second Intermediate Period to the Eighteenth

Dynasty, as well as her helpful feedback after reading pages from an earlier draft, and Dr. Olivier Rochecouste for checking through the text. Certainly, however, any inherent errors are my own.

I am indebted to Macquarie University and The Rundle Foundation of Egyptian Archaeology, Australia, for financial assistance towards the preparation of this manuscript for print. All figures, unless otherwise stated, were redrawn by the author. Special thanks are to Mr. Patrick Aprent for his time and skills in drawing a number of illustrations, and to Ms. Kim-Denise Uhe for her efforts in putting together and finalising the layout and graphic design of this publication. I also thank Professor Naguib Kanawati for his consistent support and permission to include line drawings from The Australian Centre for Egyptology's work at Beni Hassan and Meir. Thanks

are also due to the Austrian Archaeological Institute for permission to reproduce images from archives and publications on Tell el-Dab'a; as well as Professor Manfred Bietak, Dr. Irene Forstner-Müller, Dr. Aleksandra Ksiezak, and Dr. Silvia Prell for permission to reproduce figures from their research and publications.

Lastly, my greatest thanks are for the incredible support of my family, my partner, and my friends, dispersed across the world. I owe an immense debt of gratitude to my parents, both migrants who have continually strived to pass on the knowledge of my ancestors to their children, while giving us the freedom to navigate between cultures, despite the difficulties. I am also grateful for the unfailing encouragement and close friendship of my sisters, Zena also spending several hours reading chapters of an early draft. Herr Jan, my love, this one is for you.

Sydney, Australia
March 2021

Anna-Latifa Mourad