

Echoes of Eternity

Studies presented to Gaballa Aly Gaballa

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For abbreviations, see: *Lexikon der Ägyptologie*, Bd. 7: Nachträge, Korrekturen und Indices, begr. v. Wolfgang HELCK u. Eberhard OTTO, hrsg. v. Wolfgang HELCK u. Wolfhart WESTENDORF. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 1992; add. <http://aaew.bbaw.de/tla/servlet/S04?f=h016>.

Preface

It is with great pleasure that I humbly contribute to this volume dedicated to the eminent Egyptologist Prof. Dr Gaballa Aly Gaballa, Professor of Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern History, former dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and former secretary general of the High Council of Antiquities. In short, a man who dedicated his career to Egyptology.

My pleasure does not only emanate from my participation with a paper in this volume, but also because I was one among other scholars in Egypt and in Germany, who prompted the carrying out of this volume as a token of love and gratitude.

I first met Professor Gaballa 39 years ago, when I was still a student in my final year. He was just back from England with his Ph.D. It was in Luxor, during the department's yearly trip. I was assigned to describe to the group of students, the architecture and function of the whole Karnak Temple, under the critical eye of my professors. It is then, that he asked: "who is that girl who did such a great job?" On our way back from Luxor, since we both lived in the same suburb, he offered to drop me off on his way home. It meant a lot to me: A Ph.D. professor and I, just a student!! It was such an honour!!

In fact, since then, I have become a great admirer of his personality and of his knowledge. Although I did not have the chance to have him as a teacher during University Academic Years, he was always generous in offering his advice. We gradually built up a very close professor-student relationship. He was a great encouragement to me because I was challenged to live up to his expectations. His opinion meant a lot; especially that he was ready to think that girls were a lost cause, as he used to tell me, when he was in the mood to tease.

I have always, and still do, consider him a friend, an older brother, as well as an academic adviser.

I witnessed all stages of his academic and administrative career, as associate professor then professor, as head of the department of Egyptology, then Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology, and lastly his public role as secretary general of the High Council of Antiquities with the gigantic responsibility of the Antiquities of Egypt. Then back to the faculty, after reaching the end of his administrative career, he filled the gap he had left when in the High Council of Antiquities. Again his students could gather around him, as they used to, exchanging friendly talks or scientific discussions.

In fact, he is always there for me, for his colleagues and for his students, advising and guiding us to the right path, helping us either, academically, or even on the personal level. Accordingly, his support surpasses sometimes the academic level to the individual and personal one.

When I was appointed in a leading position, as head of the department of Egyptology, then as Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology, he encouraged me, stood by me and always helped me take the right decisions, whenever the situation was somewhat awkward.

He always dealt with such situations wisely and quietly, never showing his true feelings so as not to aggravate the situation.

His charismatic personality is very attractive. When he talks people are bound to listen. As head of the committee of Archaeology in the High Council of Culture, in which I participate, he always comes out with very interesting scientific opinions and topics of discussion or topics for general lectures that would interest both the specialized and the audience at large. He has really been, and still is, an effective and inspiring leader to all of us.

I will not miss, on this occasion, remembering professor Gaballa's closest and dearest friend, late Professor Mohamed Morsi; how often did I hear them laugh loudly in the office, and how deeply did he grieve for him. They were a good example of true and sincere friendship.

We all feel indebted to Professor Gaballa: the Man, the Friend, the Scholar, the Leader. Finally, I would like to thank all the scholars who contributed to this volume. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Orell Witthuhn and the series of *Philippika. Marburger altertumskundliche Abhandlungen*, who financed and published it.

Ola El-Aguizy

Gaballa A. Gaballa – A Path of Struggle and Accomplishment

Ola El-Aguizy / Mohamed Sherif Ali

The name of Professor Doctor Gaballa shines in the field of Egyptology, not only in Egypt, but also worldwide. He spent his life working with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm to reach the highest scientific goals.

Born in Monoufia governorate on the 10th of February 1939, he completed his secondary studies and joined the Faculty of Arts of Cairo University in 1957 to graduate with honors in 1961 with a Bachelor degree in Egyptology.

He began his scientific career as an archaeologist in the 'Documentation Centre of Antiquities of Ancient Egypt', then, in the years 1962 and 1963 he was appointed as assistant in the department of Egyptology of the Faculty of Arts. He then returned to the 'Organization of Egyptian Antiquities' which sent him, soon after, to the United Kingdom to pursue graduate studies under Professor Fairman's supervision at the University of Liverpool. He received his Ph.D in 1967 for a brilliant thesis entitled "Narrative in Art in Ancient Egypt".

Back to Egypt, in the same year, the eminent scholar was appointed editor in chief of the 'Annales du Service des Antiquités Egyptiennes' and from 1967 to 1969 he was also a curator at the Cairo Museum. In 1969 he returned to Cairo University, to begin his academic career as a Lecturer in the Egyptology Department of the Faculty of Arts. In 1974 he was promoted to associate professor in the department, which had by then been severed from the Faculty of Arts to become the current Faculty of Archaeology. In 1979 he got his last academic promotion as full professor of that same Faculty.

Professor Gaballa then held a number of leading positions whether in this faculty or in the Ministry of Culture:

In 1981 he was appointed Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology. In 1994 he was appointed Head of the Department of Egyptology in the same Faculty. In 1996 he became the Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology. In 1997 he was chosen by the Ministry of Culture for the position of Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and thus became responsible for ALL Egyptian antiquities. He held this position for five years, two of them after the age of retirement because of the excellence of his services and the consideration His Excellency Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture, had for him.

Throughout his academic career, mostly spent teaching in Universities in and out of Egypt; he never stopped working for the welfare of archaeological studies, archaeological monuments and for enhancing the standard of studies in his Faculty where he also helped establish the French section for Egyptological studies. He also supervised a great number of MA and Ph.D. Theses, always choosing very special and interesting topics for his students, always adding something new to the field of Egyptology. He also lectured in foreign

universities such as the Mohamed Vth University in Rabat, Morocco, in the University of Kuwait, where he also collaborated in the creation of the department of Archeology, and in the University of West Florida in the United States.

Hundreds of Egyptologists working now in different fields of Egyptology, whether on the field, in museums or in the offices of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, acquired their knowledge of Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern History from his lectures. He was always an example and an inspiration to his students. They still keep very close and friendly relations with him.

On the field, Professor Gaballa participated in the excavations of the Faculty of Archaeology-Cairo University at the Giza Necropolis and headed the excavations of the same Faculty at Mit-Rahina (Memphis).

Besides his own scientific works, he also translated and revised very accurately the translation of many scientific publications.

Professor Gaballa headed many scientific, academic and executive committees during his years as Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities and signed many conventions and constructive projects for the benefit of Egypt's Antiquities. He also lectured all over the world on Egypt's history, its antiquities and the latest discoveries on different sites and on restoration policies. Moreover, he has been a member in different International Academies and Egyptological Societies. He is currently member of the International Committee for the development of the Turin Museum in Italy.

He was awarded a number of prizes and decorations in Egypt and abroad. In 1979 he was awarded "*the State Encouragement Award*" in History and Archaeology, and the Highest Medal for Science and Arts. In 2006 he was awarded "*the State Appreciation Award*" in Social Sciences. The French Republic awarded him in 1999 "*the Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite*", and in 2002 The German Government awarded him "*The Knight Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of Merit*". The same year the Austrian Republic awarded him "*Grand Silver Cross with Star of the Order of Merit*". Finally, in 2003 the Italian Government awarded him the "*Grand Cavalier of the Order of Merit*".

Back to Cairo University in 2002, he is currently Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Archaeology where he continues to guide and assist young researchers while he enjoys his colleagues respect, friendship and appreciation.

We are printing this volume to honour the path of this admirable and highly respected scholar, our professor and leader Professor Dr. Gaballa Aly Gaballa.