

The Asyut Project

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The Tomb of the Dogs at Asyut

Faunal Remains and Other Selected Objects

with contributions by
Jochem Kahl and Günter Vittmann

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Preface

Numerous publications, regardless of being scientific or popular books and articles, TV programmes and films in relation to Ancient Egypt may have created a kind of illusion that we know a lot about Ancient Egypt. Some ask me whether there is still something left to discover in Egypt, when I mention our fieldwork in Egypt. Perhaps we know quite a lot about Ancient Egypt, yet there is still even more that we do not know. One of these could be about animals in ancient Egyptian cults. What we surely know is that animals played their roles in the theology of Ancient Egypt. However, what is far less certain are details such as which species are exactly connected with certain gods, from where they came to archaeological sites (if we find their carcasses), how they reached the sites, who brought them there, how were they kept, how did they end their lives and so on. I hope that this book may contribute towards filling a missing piece of this intricate puzzle, not only of animals in Ancient Egypt, but also of its human history.

The author would like to acknowledge the help and support of the following people (honorific prefixes omitted) and institutions involved in this project. Without their support, this book would not have been completed; all errors in this work, however, are mine alone. The author wishes to express her gratitude first to the project directors, Ursula Verhoeven (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), Jochem Kahl (Freie Universität Berlin) and Mahmoud El-Khadragy (Sohag University), who offered invaluable and continuous support. Also the Supreme Council of Egyptian Antiquities and their inspectors have always been helpful to our project.

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Chiori Kitagawa