

Editorial Note

With its first issue appearing in 2017 and its sixth issue published here, *Aegyptiaca. Journal of the History of Reception of Ancient Egypt* is a young journal that is still developing. The beginnings seem promising: Its reception has been as international as the circle of authors, with more than 35,000 downloads so far and an increasing number of excellent papers being submitted to us. Thanks to the continued backing of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), which has already supported the start-up phase, the journal is now in the process of being restructured and expanded. In the future, *Aegyptiaca* will also be published in a dynamic HTML version in which the articles can be cited precisely, and most importantly which will enable us to integrate digital media into the articles (so-called “enhanced publication”). Books, images, audio and video files will be made accessible via special databases. We are supported in these tasks by the staff of the Heidelberg University Library, which will continue to host the journal. This close and proven cooperation with the Heidelberg University Library, and as such with the specialist information service Propylaeum, will be further expanded.

This issue of *Aegyptiaca* will already take the first steps towards our new way of publishing: however it will differ slightly to previous issues in that we will not immediately go public with a completed issue. Rather, a core issue will be published first, to be completed within the next few weeks thereafter. The 2021 edition will be consecutively numbered only once all papers have been added. Thus, the reviews of the sixth issue will initially be published as an “Early-View-Version” without page numbers. Of course, as before, all papers will be permanently citable, have a DOI and be searchable via all relevant Online Public Access Catalogues. *Aegyptiaca* remains open access, conducts peer review and does not charge authors any fees.

This issue presents freely themed papers as well as the proceedings of a meeting held at the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung in Munich on 20 and 21 September 2021. This meeting was focused on the grand narratives, topoi, or traces of memory, seeking their heuristic value. The question was posed: can we do without them in our research into the history of reception of pharaonic Egypt, or are not all scholarly accounts implicitly subject to grand narratives? We have tried to answer this general question by looking for thematic or intertextual references between our particular research and by examining our

research methods for their historical-philosophical presuppositions. Which philosophical lines of tradition can be traced back to antiquity and did they bring about different histories of effect? To what extent is Egyptology part of the tradition of the history of reception, and guided by interests that do not only stem from the subject logic itself? Do we encounter “antiquity” differently from ancient Egypt; do we form different concepts and use different forms of understanding?

This conference has highlighted that it is essential for the study of the history of reception of ancient Egypt to understand itself as part of a broader cultural studies discussion, and not to settle into the narrow limits of a special interest. It is much easier for reception history to be open to discussions about postcolonialism or the historical claim to truth than it is for classical historical studies. Leaving aside the question of whether the researcher can even attempt to show what actually happened “wie es eigentlich gewesen ist”, a constructivist element is essential to the research into the history of reception; the respective image of Egypt is not questioned as to whether it corresponds to a supposed ancient Egyptian reality. Hayden White’s reflections on metahistory and discourse analysis in the sense of Michel Foucault are part of the methodological background of the subject discussions, as is the orientation towards practices of truth that lead to reliable and intersubjectively verifiable results.

As the papers published so far in *Aegyptiaca* show, expert detailed studies are interwoven with cultural theoretical considerations in this field of research. The aim is to understand the intrinsic value of the encounters or confrontations with pharaonic Egypt and not to regard them as precursors to Egyptology. Even more critically, Egyptology can also be understood as part of the history of reception, although under fundamentally different conditions.

This is the first issue of *Aegyptiaca* edited by Julia Budka and Florian Ebeling and published by the LMU Munich, Faculty for the Study of Culture, Egyptology and Coptic Studies. We look forward to an exciting future for this journal and for the study of the history reception of ancient Egypt, and we encourage all colleagues to submit their papers to our journal.

Julia Budka and Florian Ebeling