

## External Examiner's Report on the Dissertation of

Diana Míčková

“Translation, analysis and interpretation of texts of the inner side of the outer sarcophagus from the tomb of priest Iufaa at Abusir ”

Submitted in 2023

at the Charles University, Faculty of Arts , Czech Institute of Egyptology

### I. Brief summary of the dissertation

The thesis consists of the publication of the hieroglyphic texts engraved on the inner walls of the outer sarcophagus of the tomb of Iufaa at Abusir, discovered in 1995 by the Czech mission led by L. Bareš. The main interest of these inscriptions is that they contain hitherto unpublished texts of great interest in terms of Egyptian mythology, as well as new attestations of texts relating to the gods of Pharbaithos. Each text, provided in hieroglyphic transcription, is accompanied by a transliteration and a translation.

### II. Brief overall evaluation of the dissertation

Diana Míčková's thesis is distinguished by the exceptional effort made to understand, translate and analyse texts that have no known parallels, involving a number of hitherto unparalleled divine actors. The author has achieved a very advanced level of overall understanding of the texts, which makes it possible to grasp the overall logic of the sarcophagus decoration. This requires a mastery of Egyptian philology in all its aspects (graphic system, grammar, phraseology) as well as an in-depth knowledge of Egyptian religion and its rich textual traditions. The large number and the wide range of new texts to be studied necessarily imply that certain aspects can still be studied in greater depth, but the essential work has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

### III. Detailed evaluation of the dissertation and its individual aspects

#### 1. *Structure of the argument*

The thesis is easy to read because it is clearly structured and logically organised. In addition, the author sticks to his line of argument without digressing, which makes the text flow smoothly.

#### 2. *Formal aspects of the dissertation*

The formal presentation of the thesis is correct and does not call for any particular comments. The bibliographical apparatus is satisfactory. Typos and omissions in the text are relatively rare. (eg. p. 16 : « *ḥrj-sšt3 nswt sšt3.f nb* » > *ḥrj-sšt3 nswt m sšt3.f nb* (cf. *Abusir XVII*, p. 93 ; p. 21 : in a retrograde <direction> ; p. 265 : Brookly > Brooklyn ; p. 270 : Cooppens > Coppens).

In my opinion, it would be preferable to unify the method of referencing by putting all the



is really correct.

- Transliteration and translation

For some signs or sequences, the transliteration can be improved (or at least questioned).

E.g. :

- p. 49

**Text accompanying Bastet**



{n} hm n=j ph.tj=k

so turn your strength from me!

Instead of *ph.tj* (which is not totally excluded), the transliteration of  is preferably *zt* « attack, strength » (cf. *hm zt.k* in Pap. Bremner-Rhind, 31,19).

— p. 70-71, col. 13



h<sub>nw</sub>.t<sup>(14)</sup> dw3 t<sub>n</sub> r<sup>c</sup> sq3 t<sub>n</sub> h<sub>nw</sub> m m3=f r<sup>c</sup>  
<m> h<sub>nw</sub>=f

Mistress, Ra praises you, He of the *henu*-  
barque<sup>92</sup> exalts you when he sees Ra <in> his  
barque.<sup>93</sup>

This sequence should read : *sq3 t<sub>n</sub> h<sub>nw</sub> m mfh.f*. The *Henu*-bark on its sledge exalts you (*mfh* : sledge TLA 69350)

— p. 70-71, col. 16



h<sub>nw</sub>.t<sup>(16)</sup> snb t<sub>n</sub> h3 h{jb}<nw>.t m grh<sup>97</sup>

Mistress, may you be healthy, ho, mistress in  
the night!

<sup>97</sup> For reading  as *grh*, see e. g. Kurth 2010: 174 or Wilson 1997: 1104. The night could symbolise danger, or it could also refer to some ritual activity.

As the second sign is the sky (and not the night sky), I would suggest : *rmn(t) pt* « the one who supports the sky » LGG IV, 670 b-c., which fits with the context of the beginning of the text (Your four columns will be the four supports of the sky, making Maat ascend to Ra!).

In some cases, I am unable to understand the translation.

E.g. : p. 48 Texts accompanying Sekhmet, The translation of *p{w}3 hrw* « loud of voice » (col. 5) needs to be justified.

- Commentary

Although generally very relevant, the commentary can be improved on certain points by drawing on more comprehensive sources.



otherwise known to be in the Horbeit / Shédenou area. On these toponyms, see J.-P. Corteggiani, "La 'butte de la Décollation' à Héliopolis", BIFAO 95, 1995, pp. 141-151, but the meaning of "decollation" given to *wḏ'* by Corteggiani does not seem to be corroborated by the lufâa inscriptions, as it clearly refers to judgment.

#### 4. *Personal contribution to the subject*

The candidate's contribution is extremely valuable, and we can only praise the work she has done on these abundant and difficult texts, which she has managed to turn into a useful edition rich in perspectives for the study of Late Period religion.

#### IV. **Questions for the author**

I will invite the candidate to respond to the reading suggestions I have made above.

I would also like to ask her what steps she now considers essential before publication of her work.

#### V. **Conclusion**

Diana Míčková's work is impressive for the wealth of unpublished data it presents and analyses. She has succeeded in producing an edition that comes close to the final state of the publication. She offers the scientific community a set of new texts that will considerably advance our knowledge of Egyptian myths and the theology of the Heliopolitan region.

**I provisionally classify the submitted dissertation as *passed*.**

September 27th, 2023

Laurent Coulon