



The Ancient Egyptian Language: An Historical Study

By James P. Allen

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This book, the first of its kind, examines how the phonology and grammar of the ancient Egyptian language changed over more than three thousand years of its history, from the first appearance of written documents, c.3250 BC, to the Coptic dialects of the second century AD and later. Part One discusses phonology, working backward from the vowels and consonants of Coptic to those that can be deduced for earlier stages of the language. Part Two is devoted to grammar, including both basic components such as nouns and the complex history of the verbal system. The book thus provides both a synchronic description of the five major historical stages of ancient Egyptian and a diachronic analysis of their development and relationship.

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Review

Advance Praise: "A major contribution to our understanding of the development of Ancient Egyptian throughout its recorded history, richly exemplified and with a wealth of original insights. Essential reading."
--Mark Collier, University of Liverpool

"... represents the cutting edge of Egyptological linguistics and is certain to be of interest to all researchers working in the field." --Sami Uljas, University of Basel

"This new history of Egyptian-Coptic--the first synthesis of its kind in nearly two decades--presents a rich material and many innovative analyses, benefiting from the author's profound expertise in the earlier textual corpora of Egyptian." --Dr. Andréas Stauder, Swiss National Science Foundation / University of Basel

About the Author

James P. Allen is the Wilbour Professor of Egyptology at Brown University. He is a former curator of Egyptian art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and president of the International Association of Egyptologists. His previous publications include *Genesis in Egypt: The Philosophy of Ancient Egyptian Creation Accounts* (1989), *Middle Egyptian: An Introduction to the Language and Culture of Hieroglyphs* (2000, 2010), *The Heqanakht Papyri* (2002), *The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts* (2005) and *The Debate between a Man and His Soul* (2010).

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