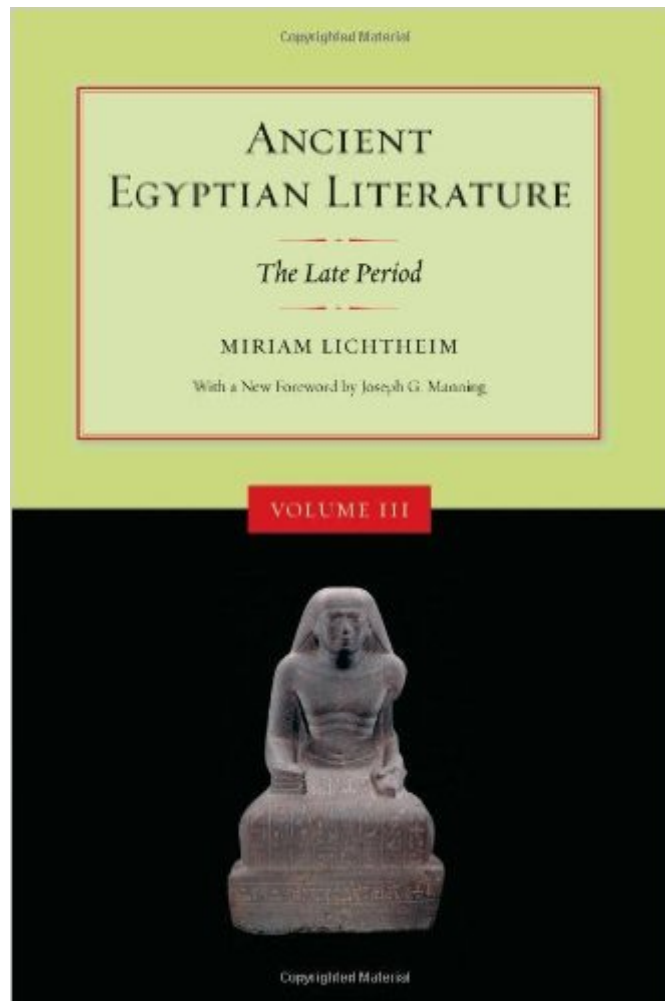


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Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume III: The Late Period



Synopsis

First published in 1973 and followed by Volume II in 1976 and Volume III in 1980; this anthology has assumed classic status in the field of Egyptology and portrays the remarkable evolution of the literary forms of one of the world's earliest civilizations. Volume I outlines the early and gradual evolution of Egyptian literary genres, including biographical and historical inscriptions carved on stone, the various classes of literary works written with pen on papyrus, and the mortuary literature that focuses on life after death. Introduced with a new foreword by Antonio Loprieno. Volume II shows the culmination of these literary genres within the single period known as the New Kingdom (1550-1080 B.C.). With a new foreword by Hans-W. Fischer-Elfert. Volume III spans the last millennium of Pharaonic civilization, from the tenth century B.C. to the beginning of the Christian era. With a new foreword by Joseph G. Manning.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have given Lichtheim's previous surveys of ancient Egyptian literature (Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume I: The Old and Middle Kingdoms Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume II: The New Kingdom) mediocre reviews, as I believe there are better anthologies on Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom literature out there. A weakness of these other anthologies is, however, that they only go as far as the New Kingdom. This leaves out over 700 years of Egyptian literature. In Ancient Egyptian Literature: the late period Lichtheim rectifies this. Over half the book is comprised of

biographical and royal inscriptions, many of which are very similar in text (including the "Htp di nsw" ['an offering the king gives (to) that he may give provisions of bread, beer, fowl, oxen, alabaster, linen, incense and unguent, and all things good and pure on which a god lives ...] and the "positive affirmations": ['I am one beloved of his city ...I have done what people love and gods praise ... I lived on earth as an intimate of god ...']. The detail and beauty of these prayers, however are moving - perhaps part of the reason for their repeated usage. The third quarter of the book has 5 hymns (or lamentations), unique to the late period, although in the "hymn to Khunum" there are echoes of the "hymn to Re," which I found interesting. I was most pleased with the final section on "demotic literature.

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