
Book Review

The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian Royal Titulary

Hussein Bassir

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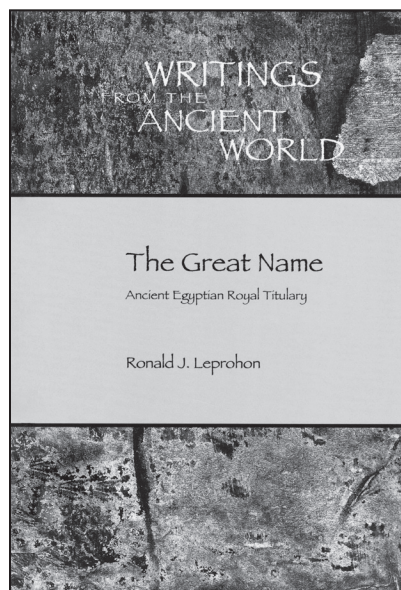
Author: Ronald J. Leprohon

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Ancient Egyptian royal titulary is a very interesting subject, although some may think that there is nothing new to be added to the corpus of scholarly literature about this topic. This excellent volume proves that this is not the case. In ancient Egypt, names had symbolic meaning, were given to endure and exist eternally, and played an important role in defining the self and characterizing the individual identity in Egyptian society. Egyptian names, whether royal or non-royal, belong to a very rich field of study and highlight the Egyptian language, literature, history, social and economic trends, royalty, nobility, titles of honor, actual titles, self-presentation, individualism, and the concept of identity. The institution of kingship and its principal figure, the pharaoh, are the main

structure upon which the whole state and society were based on in ancient Egypt. Among the most important symbols of authority and power is the titulary that the king assumed for himself at the time of his coronation, thereby associating him with the divine world.

The Great Name: Ancient Egyptian Royal Titulary by Ronald J. Leprohon, Professor of Egyptology at the University of Toronto, is a comprehensive approach to the subject of ancient Egyptian royal titulary. The main previous studies on the topic are Gauthier, Quirke, Clayton, Von Beckerath, and Dessoudeix. Gauthier (1907-1916), Von Beckerath (1999), and Quirke (1990). They do not offer translations in French, German, or English. Clayton (1994) does not present or translate all royal names,

while Dessoudeix (2008) offers only a French translation. Therefore, what new does this book present? Leprohon, in contrast to previous studies, includes all Egyptian kings' names for around three millennia from Dynasty 0 (ca. 3200 BCE) to the last Ptolemaic ruler in the late first century BCE with translations in English. This book does not include a transcription of the royal names in hieroglyphs; however, if it did, it would add essential information and make it unique among the publications on the same topic.

After the preface, the book is composed of a lengthy and informative introduction. Leprohon here explains in detail his approach to the topic. He sheds light on audience and previous scholarship of the subject matter, the sources that he uses, and his notes on the translation. In a concise and elaborate section, he offers mindful insights on names and their importance in ancient Egyptian culture, introducing and citing fundamental Egyptian verbs, terms, epithets, and phraseology related to names from Egyptian sources, and the desire of their holders to be remembered. Then after some introductory remarks on the composition of royal names and who chooses and proclaims the titulary of the king, he discusses at length the five names of the king: the Horus Name, the Two Ladies' Name, the Golden Horus Name, the Throne Name, and the Birth Name.

The author introduces each historical period in the other chapters of his book in a brief and informative essay. The names of the kings are presented in chronological order. However, Leprohon's corpus does not include the names of queens except for the ruling queens, such as Nitocris, Sobeknefru, Hatshepsut, Tawosret, Arsinoe II, Berenike II, Cleopatra I, Cleopatra II, Berenike, and Cleopatra VII. Moreover,

only the names of the Kushite Pharaohs of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty who ruled over Egypt are included.

The author employs the traditional transliteration of English-speaking scholars, using Gardiner. In addition to the map of Egypt, the book's illustrations include Figure 11: Fivefold titulary of the Eighteenth Dynasty King, Tuthmose I; and Figure 14: and Serekh of the First Dynasty King, Djet. This volume also contains a chronological table, abbreviations, bibliography, indices of names of kings, deities, personal names, subjects, sources, three appendices of royal names, an alphabetical list of kings, and Greek-Egyptian equivalents of royal names. At the end, the book presents concordances containing texts in Urkunden IV and texts in Kitchen and Ramesside inscriptions.

Leprohon developed an interest in ancient Egyptian names over many years, and he translated more than one-thousand names in this volume. As an outstanding philologist, the author uses Egyptian grammar to defend the other choices of the rendering of some royal names that he offers. In order not to confuse the reader, the author prefers to give one rendering, rather than several choices. His history unfolds in a fairly clear and straightforward linear manner. This book deals with the structure and historical development of royal names, and presents new insights into the reading and interpretation of Egyptian royal names.

The Horus Name was the first of the king's full five-fold titulary in the First Dynasty, established by the Middle Kingdom and utilized by Egyptian kings thereafter. Then the Golden Horus Name appeared during the reign of King Den, followed by 'The One Who Belongs to Upper and Lower

Egypt' and the Two Ladies' Name in the mid-to late First Dynasty, during the reigns of Adjib and Semerkhet, respectively. King Radjedef of the Fourth Dynasty is the first king to introduce the epithet 'Son of Re' in the royal titulary. The cartouche first appeared during reign of King Sanakht in the Third Dynasty. According to Leprohon, citing Bonhême 1978, the Great Name, "rn=f wr" or rn=s "wr" and "rn", may refer 'to each royal name separately as well as the full five names' (p. 8), and "nxbt" probably refers either to 'the Horus Name alone or the complete titulary' (p. 9), while "rn mAa" 'Real Name' only occurs in a text from the reign of Queen Hatshepsut. Leprohon points out that because of its solar associations, the Throne Name was for sacred matters, while the Birth Name was for mundane administrative affairs.

The book is comprehensive, straightforward, simple in structure, easy to read, and well organized. The list of names provides a great deal

of information clearly and in a few brief words. This book is an important addition to the field of Egyptian philology, and the author, as well as the editor of the volume, Denise M. Doxey, Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, are to be commended for an excellent effort. In addition to its outstanding scholarship, this book will also be useful as a reference book and handy textbook on ancient Egyptian royal names for students and scholars of Egyptology, the ancient Near East, ancient history, and ancient literature. It is appropriate to describe the book of *The Great Name* as a great book as well. In the preface, the author wishes that his book would be used as 'a springboard from which more work can be done on the topic.' This book, indeed, stimulates many ideas on this very interesting topic.