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Michael Dee, Christopher Bronk Ramsey, Joanne M. Rowland:  
Evaluating the effectiveness of radiocarbon studies of the Old Kingdom 1

*Recent radiocarbon studies of the Old Kingdom have produced dates that are significantly offset from historical estimates. As part of the Egyptian Chronology Project at the University of Oxford, the procedures and results from many of these studies are currently being examined. The data are being modelled using Bayesian statistics and the key methodologies, from sample collection to pre-treatment, are being evaluated. The insights gained are enabling the performance of radiocarbon dating to be optimised for Dynastic sites. This update includes simple archaeological and statistical approaches that have already proven successful. Eventually, the Oxford Egyptian Chronology Project aims to combine existing and new measurements to give a precise radiocarbon-based chronology for ancient Egypt.*

Joanne M. Rowland:  
Building bridges between radiocarbon, relative and historical chronologies:  
the case of early Egypt 10

*The chronology of Pre- and Early Dynastic Egypt remains one of the most flexible, yet complex issues in our understanding of early Egypt. A recent compilation of radiocarbon measurements showed that in excess of a third of all dates published relate to Pre- and Early Dynastic contexts. Furthermore, more than two-thirds of the radiocarbon dates prior to the First Dynasty have been obtained during the last 20 years, as compared with only half of the First and Second Dynasty dates. This is as reflective of the increase in research into the Predynastic as it is of our application of scientific dating methods. As part of the Egyptian Chronology Project at the University of Oxford, a new series of radiocarbon measurements is being made on Egyptian material, focussing primarily on the period from the First–Twentieth Dynasties, with a number of samples currently being selected for the First and Second Dynasties. Subject to relative dating, the lack of historical documentation allows these dates to influence the chronology of this formative period to a much greater extent than from the Third Dynasty onwards.*

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Miroslav Verner:

The system of dating in the Old Kingdom

23

*The paper discusses the so far available pieces of evidence of chronological dates in the Old Kingdom written documents, the evolution of the Old Kingdom dating system and the meaning of *rnpt m-ht sp*.*

John S. Nolan:

Lunar intercalations and “cattle counts” during the Old Kingdom: the Hebsed in context

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*During the Old Kingdom, civil years were named after events called „cattle counts“. If these events occurred every other year, as has been traditionally maintained, then two Hebsed festivals in the Old Kingdom would have been delayed. However, if the „cattle count“ were skipped in accordance with intercalary lunar years, in a 3–3–2–3–3–2 pattern, then the dates of Old Kingdom Hebsed festivals agree with the regnal year dates of those from the Middle Kingdom on. This pattern may be confirmed by the known civil year names from the reign of Djedkare Isesi, letters to the vizier Senedjemib Inti, and the Hebsed reliefs from the Niuserre Sun Temple at Abu Ghurab.*

Hratch Papazian:

Perspectives of the cult of Pharaoh during the third millennium B.C.: a chronological overview

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*This article outlines and analyses the nature of the cult of the living Pharaoh by tracing the development of royal ka-foundations through the third millennium B.C. The purpose is to highlight and discuss the differences that can be discerned in the organization of non-mortuary royal cults in the Early Dynastic and the early part of the Old Kingdom on the one hand, and in the late Old Kingdom on the other. Although the fundamental principles that governed the service of Pharaoh's cult remained constant for the most part, the administration of those cults and their affiliated ritual centers appears to undergo a transformation over the course of the third millennium. Such a variation in the character of the royal cult should neither be regarded as an isolated phenomenon, nor studied within its own restricted context, because the evolution appears congruent with the broader administrative initiatives that were enacted during the late Old Kingdom with wide-ranging consequences on the nature of the royal economy itself. Ultimately, those innovations constituted the basis of economic policies prevalent in subsequent periods of Egyptian history.*

Patrizia Piacentini:

Scribal titles in the third millennium B.C.: innovations, continuity and transformations

81

*This paper is a presentation of some results of the research on the scribal titles in the third millennium B.C., in the capital and in the provinces: the first known occurrences, the meaning that can change in the course of time, and the chronological, spatial and hierarchical distribution.*

Andrzej Ćwiek:

History of the Third Dynasty, another update on the kings and monuments 87

*Since the publication of Nabil Swelim's book on the history of the Third Dynasty in 1983 much has changed concerning the reconstruction of this period. Research stimulated by this important work provided scholars with new data and – invalidating much of its conclusions – gave new ideas of the number, the sequence and the names of the kings, and of the date and attribution of the monuments. However, also new accounts like those by J. von Beckerath (1997) and J. Málek (2000), seem to be outdated in several points. New archaeological discoveries and the re-evaluation of old material lead towards an up-to-date view in which the sequence Khasekhemui – Netjerykhet – Sekhemkhet – Sanakht (=Nebka) can be proven. One may plausibly estimate the length of their reigns, and suggest the attribution and identification of the mortuary complexes and other monuments. A view of the later Third Dynasty is more shadowy, but some questions at least may be cleared.*

Rainer Stadelmann:

Inscriptional evidence for the reign of Sneferu at Dahshur 104

*The paper focuses on quarry marks with exact dates which were unearthed during the excavation around the Red Pyramid executed by the German Institute of Archaeology under direction of the author in the 1980s. They prove that the construction of the pyramids continued throughout the year and not only during the time of the inundation as Herodotus wrongly was told. With the date of the 15th time of counting = regnal year 30 on the foundation stone of the south-west corner of the pyramid we have a singular date, the oldest date of construction in the world. Other dates of the 16th time of counting, the 17th and 24th time provide a clear sequence of regnal years. These dates confirm the long reign of Seneferu of about 45 to 48 years. Consequently the regnal years of his successors Khufu, Djedefre, etc. have to be reconsidered.*

Anna Wodzińska:

White carinated bowls and dating of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project site 111

*White carinated bowls (CD7) are the most abundant ceramic bowls from the site excavated by the Giza Plateau Mapping Project (GPMP). According to their shape they are very similar to the red carinated, so called Meidum bowls. Meidum bowls are well known time indicators for the Egyptian Old Kingdom. The present paper attempts to show that the dating criteria used in the case of the red carinated bowls can be also applied to the white carinated bowls. The rim parts of the CD7 bowls from the GPMP area called RAB were selected, drawn, measured and statistically analyzed.*

Jaromír Krejčí:

Several remarks on the Abusir pyramid necropolis: its minor tombs and their place in the chronology of the royal cemetery 124

*This contribution tries to bring some new remarks concerning the chronology of the kings who reigned during the period when the Abusir pyramid necropolis was flourishing. The theoretical*



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constructions were based on the study of the architecture and position of the non-royal, but also royal mortuary monuments on the site, especially that of the Ptahshepses mastaba.

Hana Vymazalová:

Some remarks on the w3g-festival in the papyrus archive of Raneferef 137

*The w3g-festival is mentioned several times in the documents of the Raneferef's mortuary temple archive. The dates associated with the festival provoked a discussion on the dating of the Old Kingdom, to which this paper aims to contribute.*

Hartwig Altenmüller:

Family, ancestor cult and some observations on the chronology of the late Fifth Dynasty 144

*An analysis of the decoration of the tombs of Seshemnefer I (G 4940), Seshemnefer II (G 5080) and Seshemnefer III (G 5170) at Giza and an investigation of the titles and names of the members of this family offer a new possibility for an exact dating of the tomb-complexes of the Seshemnefer-family. The investigation leads to the conclusion that tomb G 5080 of Seshemnefer II belongs to the beginning of the reign of Djedkare whereas the tomb of his son Seshemnefer III (G 5170) must be situated in the middle part of the reign of king Djedkare. The investigation aims to find out the relevance of a particular family string for the research of the chronology of the Old Kingdom.*

Tarek El Awady:

Kaswedja: an overseer of expeditions 162

*The paper discusses the newly discovered reliefs from the causeway of Sahure, depicting the king's officials, and the tombs of officials from the royal cemeteries published by H. Junker and others. The dating of these tombs which undoubtedly belong to Sahure's officials is problematic. The tomb of Kaswedja in Giza (G 5340) provides an example for the need to re-evaluate the dating in the light of the newly revealed material.*

Vivienne Gae Callender:

Queen Tatjet: an exercise in chronology 170

*A large (1,64 metre high) false door which is on display in one of the Old Kingdom rooms on the ground floor of Cairo Museum is the focus of this article. The monument had been found in an undisclosed location at Saqqara in 1888, but has been given little attention since that time. It features a woman named as Queen Tatjet – one of the least known of Egyptian queens – we are not even certain that we know the correct transcription of her name. Her approximate date is also unsure, and suggestions have been made that range from the Old Kingdom to the Late Period. This paper looks at the evidence connected with this woman and attempts to narrow the chronological horizon suggested for her.*

Juan Carlos Moreno García:

Building an elite image: considerations about some private monuments of the Old Kingdom (stelae CGC 57133, 57168 and 57188) 180

*This study of three stelae of the Old Kingdom (two of them unpublished) addresses some important issues concerning the self-presentation of modest members of the elite in their own monuments, as well as the use made of the means at their disposal (writing, imitations of the best production of the palatial workshops) in order to display their status and social position. But these objects were not only status symbols: they also transmitted the values, culture and the social and cosmological interpretation of the ordered world as elaborated by the palatial circles, they were “consumed” by the elite of the kingdom and knowledge thus progressively spread to a broader public.*

Mohamed Ismail Khaled:

Old Kingdom funerary domains: a question of dating 194

*This paper discusses the scenes of the funerary domains in the Old Kingdom and their potential for dating the tombs of officials from the Fourth to the Sixth Dynasties. Some dating criteria are established, and these enable us to re-date some of the published tombs.*

Miroslav Bárta, Aleš Bezděk:

Beetles and the decline of the Old Kingdom: climate change in Ancient Egypt 214

*The decline of the Old Kingdom pyramid builders era has been attracting significant attention not only from among Egyptologists. Traditionally, it has been taken for granted that socio-economic factors deeply rooted in ancient Egyptian society were the major contributing forces for this phenomenon. Among them may be named the following ones: crisis of identity, participation, penetration, legitimacy and distribution (following R. Müller-Wollermann). Recent finds of Poecilus pharao beetles at the Abusir South cemeteries dated to the reign of Pepy II show convincingly that already during his reign large areas of what is known today as the Abusir and Saqqara necropoleis were largely desertified. Implications of this evidence in the light of recent explorations into the history and palaeoenvironmental characteristics of the Sixth Dynasty will be considered.*

Teodozja Rzeuska:

Late Old Kingdom pottery from the West Saqqara Necropolis and its value in dating 223

*Pottery, the most numerous group of finds excavated on all archaeological sites in Egypt, is commonly used for the dating of distinctive contexts (sites, tombs, burials, houses, etc). Ceramics can be a valuable tool to create a chronology on three different levels: to establish a relative chronology of a site, to synchronize the chronology of a site and other sites functioning in the same period in Egypt, and finally to synchronize the chronology of Egypt and neighbouring*

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regions in the Mediterranean. Each analysis requires a different method and uses different type(s) of pottery.

Anthony Spalinger:

Chauvinism in the First Intermediate Period

240

*A discussion and analysis of early nationalistic feeling in Pharaonic Egypt. Emphasis is placed upon certain common images – whether they be literary topoi and/or icons is sidestepped – relating to kingship and monarch, especially during times of war and conflict. The time frame covered is mainly during the middle to late First Intermediate Period. On the other hand, key data from the Twelfth Dynasty are also covered. In this discussion the concept of “Thebes the Victorious” is a major theme that is brought to bear upon the socio-political nature of dynastic capitals and the concentration of power by one ruling house.*

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