



JOURNAL OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN INTERCONNECTIONS

Special Issue: Maritime Interconnections

A glance at the table of contents for this fascicle of *JAIEI* will reveal that it is a special theme issue. The authors of its articles were, in this case, specifically invited, and their papers represent aspects of important new research based on our growing understanding of the role played by Egyptian maritime and riverine interconnections and the mechanisms whereby those interconnections functioned. All the papers were submitted to the journal's standard double peer-review process, and *JAIEI* is delighted to carry them in this special issue.

First, Professors Kathryn Bard and Rodolfo Fattovich discuss the results of their research at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis and the fascinating evidence that has been discovered there regarding not only Egyptian connections with Punt but important and previously unknown Minoan involvement with this Red Sea-based point of contact.

Next, Professor Pearce Paul Creasman and Noreen Doyle investigate the practice of overland boat transportation during the pharaonic period. The various methods employed by the Egyptians overcame geographic limitations, had a profound effect on Egypt's nautical technology, and linked the Nile Valley with the Red Sea—a hub of connectivity. Creasman and Doyle's research underscores the importance of this terrestrial element of waterborne interconnection.

Returning to Minoan connections, Professor Shelley Wachsmann's intriguing article considers a single artifact—the silver boat model from the tomb of Queen Ahhotep (I)—alongside other relevant evidence. Wachsmann's study reveals important aspects of this artifact's significance as regards Egyptian and Minoan nautical interaction during the Hyksos period.

Finally, Professor Cheryl Ward brings us back to Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, where recently discovered ship timbers provide direct evidence for the distinctive approaches utilized by the Egyptians in the construction of their watercraft. She then discusses the application of that knowledge to the reconstruction—based on evidence from seagoing timbers, representations, models, and river hulls—of a seaworthy twenty-meter vessel that demonstrates the efficiency and effectiveness of Egyptian sailing technology.

The journal will return to regular publication of submitted articles with the next issue (2:4), but the editors invite comments on the present issue (e-mails may be sent to egypt@u.arizona.edu) and, if there is particular interest in this themed approach, this may be the first of a number of occasional themed issues based on new advances in specific areas or aspects of ancient Egyptian interconnections.

Sincerely,
The Editors