

Beiträge zum Alten Ägypten 3

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Altägyptische Kastenmöbel und
Zylinderkästchen mit Fächereinteilung

Form und Dekor von der 18. bis 26. Dynastie

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SUMMARY

The present book is subdivided into three parts (text, catalogue, plates). The introduction provides a general survey about the various groups of furniture, the status of egyptological research concerning the matter and aspects of ornamental analyses. The first part deals with the casket-furniture itself, presents definition, materials and their development in former periods of Old and Middle Kingdom, followed by boxes and chests of the New Kingdom. The standardisation of types occurred to their construction because other aspects like contents or use are not plausible. The main chapter presents the applied decoration and motifs which can be found on the various materials. Together with comparing sources like painting and texts the motifs are integrated into the Egyptian daily use. The analysis proved that box furniture mainly reverts to material imitation and appropriate elements of handicrafts like basketery and weaving used as inlays or drawings. Although most motifs are also common on other Egyptian minor art objects some specifics are worth to remark, and a new thesis concerning chests with gabled lids is pointed out.

The second part presents for the first time the group of cylindrical boxes with compartments, which were divided into two types. Form and decoration are treated in detail. They present original Egyptian elements (apotropaic symbols, floral motifs) in combination with animal combat scenes, which were well known in the whole Mediterranean area in that time. An excursus concerning the so called "international style" tries to interpretate this extraordinary chosen decoration. Aspects of find-contexts, their owners and use close this chapter.

The examination of boxes from the Third Intermediate Period is restricted to decoration elements. Innovative new constructions could be found in Egyptian furniture industry from 25th dynasty onwards, perhaps basing on foreign influence. The last part is dealing with aspects of the connection between form, decoration and contents of chests and boxes and so called "illustrated book-chests".