Temple Deposits in Early Dynastic Egypt
The case of Tell Ibrahim Awad

Willem van Haarlem

‘The vast majority of the data presented is new, and it is all of the highest possible value to the subject area. … The book represents a very important contribution to knowledge in the field of Egyptology/Egyptian archaeology, as well as to the understanding of ancient complex societies in the broader sense.’
Prof. Mary-Ann Pouls Wegner, University of Toronto

‘[This] material is of importance for Delta research and for “provincial temples”. It … [will] make a nice contribution for specialists in the field, but also for people interested in general votive activities in Egypt.’
Prof. Dr. Julia Budka, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

This book offers an extensive discussion of the several types of deposits (mainly consisting of votive objects like human and animal figures, model boats and shrines, mace heads and jewellery) found in the Early Dynastic temple of Tell Ibrahim Awad, in the Eastern Nile Delta of Egypt. The introduction presents a general description of the site, its geographical and historical context and a specific description of the successive temple layers (between 3300 and 1950 BC). This is followed by a detailed discussion of the votives themselves (material, production, meaning, ritual presentation) and other objects (ceramics, animal bones, lithic tools and temple decorations) found in the deposits, the rituals with which they were associated and comparisons with finds from other sites in Egypt and abroad (Syria/Palestine and Mesopotamia). Images and a detailed catalogue of the objects are also included in the volume.

Willem van Haarlem studied Egyptology at the University of Amsterdam. In 1989, he became Curator of the Egyptian Department of the Allard Pierson Museum in Amsterdam. From 1991 to 2014, he was director of the excavations at Tell Ibrahim Awad in Egypt. In 2014, he earned a PhD from the University of Leiden.
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