

Richard Jasnow and Karl-Theodor Zauzich

The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth

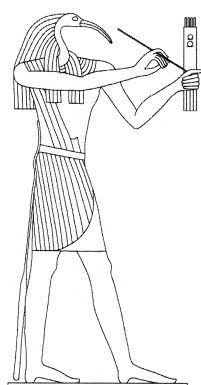
Richard Jasnow and Karl-Theodor Zauzich

The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth

A Demotic Discourse on Knowledge
and Pendant to the Classical Hermetica

Reprint of the First Edition
with New Arrangement of the Plates

Volume 1: Text



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To the Memory of our Fathers
Alexander Jasnow (1918–1997)
Karl Zauzich (1911–1941)

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Composition of the Book of Thoth

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Table 2: Illustrating Relationship of Witnesses to the Substantial
Unplaced Sections of the Book of Thoth

Abbreviations

Bibliographic Abbreviations

ÄA	Ägyptologische Abhandlungen, 1960–.
ÄAT	Ägypten und Altes Testament, 1979–.
AEL	Miriam Lichtheim. <i>Ancient Egyptian Literature. A Book of Readings</i> . 3 volumes. Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London: University of California Press, 1973–80.
ALE	Dimitri Meeks. <i>Année Lexicographique Égypte ancienne</i> . Volumes 1–3 (1977–1979). Paris: Cybele, 1998.
ANRW	W. Haase and H. Temporini, editors. <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt</i> . Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1972–.
ASAE	<i>Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte</i> . Cairo, 1900–.
BdE	Bibliothèque d'Étude. Cairo, 1908–.
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i> . Cairo, 1901–.
BSFE	<i>Bulletin de la Société Française d'Égyptologie</i> . Paris, 1949–.
CD	W. E. Crum. <i>A Coptic Dictionary</i> . Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1939.
CdE	<i>Chronique d'Égypte</i> . Bulletin périodique de la Fondation Égyptologique Reine Élisabeth. Brussels, 1926–.
CED	J. Černý. <i>Coptic Etymological Dictionary</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976.
CRIPEL	<i>Cahier de Recherches de l'Institut de Papyrologie et d'Égyptologie de Lille</i> . Lille, 1973–.
DLE	Leonard Lesko et al. <i>A Dictionary of Late Egyptian</i> . 5 volumes. Berkeley and Providence: B. C. Scribe Publications, 1982–1990.
DVS	Janet Johnson. <i>The Demotic Verbal System</i> . SAOC 38. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 1976.
EG	Alan Gardiner. <i>Egyptian Grammar: Being an Introduction to the Study of Hieroglyphs</i> . 3rd edition, rev. London: Oxford University Press on behalf of the Griffith Institute, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1957.
Glossar	W. Erichsen, <i>Demotisches Glossar</i> . Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard, 1954.
GM	<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i> . Beiträge zur ägyptologischen Diskussion. Göttingen, 1972–.
HP	Georg Möller. <i>Hieratische Paläographie. Die ägyptische Buchschrift in ihrer Entwicklung von der fünften Dynastie bis zur römischen Kaiserzeit</i> . 3 volumes. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs, 1909–12.
JARCE	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i> . Boston, 1962–.
JEA	<i>The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i> . London: 1914–.
JJP	<i>The Journal of Juristic Papyrology</i> . New York and Warsaw, 1946–.
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i> . Chicago, 1942–.
Karnak	<i>Cahiers de Karnak</i> . Centre Franco-Égyptien d'Étude des Temples de Karnak. Cairo, 1975–.
Kêmi	<i>Kêmi</i> . Revue de Philologie et d'Archéologie Égyptiennes et Coptes. Paris, 1928–.
KHWB	Wolfhart Westendorf. <i>Koptisches Handwörterbuch</i> . Heidelberg: Carl Winter Universitätsverlag, 1965–77.

<i>LÄ</i>	Wolfgang Helck, Eberhard Otto, and Wolfhart Westendorf (editors). <i>Lexikon der Ägyptologie</i> . Seven volumes. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1975–1992.
<i>LEM</i>	Ricardo Caminos. <i>Late-Egyptian Miscellanies</i> . Brown Egyptological Studies 1. London: Oxford University Press, 1954.
<i>Lexikon</i>	Penelope Wilson. <i>A Ptolemaic Lexikon</i> . Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 78. Leuven: Uitgeverij Peeters en Departement Oosterse Studies, 1997.
MIFAO	Mémoires publiés par les membres de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie orientale du Caire. Paris and Cairo, 1889–.
<i>OLP</i>	<i>Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica</i> . Louvain, 1970–.
<i>OMRO</i>	<i>Oudheidkundige Mededelingen uit het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden</i> . Leiden, 1920–.
<i>RdE</i>	<i>Revue d'Égyptologie</i> . Cairo and Paris, 1933–.
<i>SAK</i>	<i>Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur</i> . Hamburg, 1974–.
<i>SAOC</i>	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, Chicago, 1931–.
<i>Wb.</i>	Adolf Erman and Hermann Grapow. <i>Wörterbuch der ägyptischen Sprache</i> . Seven volumes (and five volumes <i>Belegstellen</i>). Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs; Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1971.
<i>ZÄS</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde</i> . Leipzig and Berlin, 1863–.
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i> . Bonn, 1967–.

General Abbreviations

adj.	adjective
add.	addendum
ca.	<i>circa</i> , about, approximately
cf.	<i>confer</i> , compare
col(s).	column(s)
det.	determinative
ed(s).	editor(s)
e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> , for example
par.	parallel
pl(s).	plate(s)
p(p).	page(s)
vb.	verb
vol(s).	volume(s)

Abbreviations in the Designations of Papyri

B	Berlin
C	Copenhagen
F	Florence
L	Louvre
PC	Papyrus Carlsberg. These papyri are housed in the Carsten Niebuhr Institute at the University of Copenhagen.
PSI	= papyri in the collection of the Istituto Papirologico 'G. Vitelli' in Florence
V	Vienna

(V.T.)	(Vulture Text)
Y	Yale = papyri in the collection of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University in New Haven

Symbols

⸀ ⸁	encloses partly damaged text
[]	encloses text lost in break
...	damaged or unread text
< >	encloses reconstruction due to scribal omission
/	line change
//	caesura. We indicate such a pause in a line in order to clarify the sense. We have used this symbol mainly in the section of the Book of Thoth preserved in B02.
•	“Verse”-point
Bold Font	In the transliterations and translations bold indicates a rubric.

Locations of Transliterations and Translations with Commentary of the Papyri

B01	169–212	B10	398
B02	170–309	B11	318–331 and 474–481
B02 fragment B	289–292	B12	398–399
B02 fragment F	295–301	B13	399–400
B02 other unplaced fragments A–R	358–360	B14.1	435–437
B03	289–308	B14.2	437–439
B03.1	295–304	C01	367–382
B03.2	294–299	C02	294–311
B03.3	294–301	C02.1	400–402
B03.4	360	C02.2	402–403
B03.5	190–196	C02.3	332–336
B03.6	361	C02.4	403
B03.7	361	C03	333–342
B03.8	361–362	C03.1	403–404
B03.9	285–288	C04.1	161–169
B03.10	191–211	C04.2	167–178
B03.11	362	C04.3	146–149
B03.12	362–363	C04.4	404–413
B03.13	363	C04.5	413
B03.14	363–364	C04.6	413–414
B03.15	364	C04.7	433–435
B04	232–330 and 474–481	C04.8	143–157
B04.1	214–230	C04.9	152–163
B04.2	232–263	C04.10	414
B05	191–235	C04.11	414–415
B06	367–389	C05	415
B06.1	384–389	C06.1	152–159
B06.2	385–389	C06.2	274–278
B06.3	393–395	C06.3	151–159
B06.4	389–390	C07.1	364–378
B06.5	390–391	C07.2	415–416
B06.6	392	C07.3	416
B06.7	392–393	C07.4	416
B07	364–377	C07.5	385–389
B08	393–395	C07.6	416
B08.1	395	C07.7	416
B08.2	396	C07.8	417
B08.3	171–187	C07.9	417
B08.4	396	C08	170–182
B08.5	268–272	C09	150–163
B09	397	F01	366–382
B09.1	397–398	F01.1	365–376

F01.2	385–389	L01.7	423–424
F01.3	417–418	L01.8	407–412
F01.4	418	L01.9	424–425 and 494–496
F01.5	418	L01.10	404–409
F01.6	365–375	L01.11	474–481
F02	419	L01.12	481–483
F03	419–420	L01.13	483–485
F04	420	L01.14	485–488
F05	420–421	L01.15	488–490
F06	214–223	L01.16	491
F07.1	421	L01.17	491
F07.2	421	L01.18	492
F07.3	421–422	L01.19	492
F07.4	161–164	L02	366–388
F08	422	V01	143–166
F09	171–185	V01.1	426
F10	166–174	V02	426–428
F11	407–412	V03.1	428–429
F12	150–160	V03.2	429
F13	147–159	V03.3	429
F14	366–380	V03.4	430
F15	422–423	V03.5	430
L01	171–239 and 473–492	V04	152–175
L01 (V.T.) = L01 (Vulture Text) . .	332–358	Y01.1	431
L01.1	225–244 and 485–488	Y01.2	432–433
L01.2	250–266	Y01.3	433–435
L01.3	261–276 and 483–485	Y01.4	435–437
L01.4	261–288 and 481–485	Y01.5	437–439
L01.5	289–310	Y01.6	439
L01.6	318–326 and 475–481	Y02	407–413

Locations of Transliterations and Translations with Commentary of the Major Papyri (B02, B04, and L01) according to Column

B02

Column 1	169-182
Column 2	182-189
Column 3	190-201
Column 4	201-213
Column 5	213-224
Column 6	224-232
Column 7	232-239
Column 8	240-249
Column 9	250-260
Column 10	260-267
Column 11	268-273
Column 12	273-282
Column 13	285-288
Column 14 or "14"	289-293
Column 14	294-304
Column 15	304-310

B04

Column 1	214-230
Column 2	232-247
Column 3	241-263
Column 4	260-273
Column 5	286-289 and 294-304

Column 6	296-310 and 312-317
Column 7	312-317, 275-285, 474-479
Column 8	318-328 and 475-479
Column 9	328-330 and 476-481

L01

Column 1	171-196
Column 2	190-212
Column 3	203-229
Column 4	225-239 and 485-488
Column 5	233-245
Column 6	250-266
Column 7	261-276 and 483-485
Column 8	285-288 and 481-483
Column 9	289-293
Column 10	294-310
Column 11	474-479
Column 12	476-481

L01 (V.T.) = L01 (Vulture Text)

Column x+1	332-340
Column x+2	340-347
Column x+3	347-354
Column x+4	354-358

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Many have helped us in the course of our work on the Book of Thoth. We thank Professor Dr. Dietrich Wildung for the permission to publish the papyri from the Berlin Museum. Dr. Ingeborg Müller was of great assistance to us during our research there. *Diplomrestauratorin* Myriam Krutzsch masterly reassembled and conserved P. Berlin P 15531 (= B02), the chief witness of the Book of Thoth. Margarete Büsing took the excellent publication photographs of the Berlin papyri. Chief Curator Christiane Ziegler kindly allowed us to work on the Louvre papyri, while Curators Christophe Barbotin, Elisabeth Delange, and Marc Etienne expedited our study of the texts. Dr. Etienne also greatly helped our study of the Book of Thoth by communicating to us his discovery (together with Sophie Sagaÿ) of important new fragments of P. Louvre E 10488 (= which we designate L01), not published by Revillout. We have been able to position the fragments in their proper place in the photographs of P. Louvre E 10488. On computer Martin Zauzich skillfully added the new fragments to our photographic illustrations of L01. Since they came to our attention after the submission of the manuscript, the transliteration and translation of these new fragments are in the addenda. They are not otherwise mentioned or discussed in the body of the manuscript. Dr. Kim Ryholt made possible our collation of the papyri in the University of Copenhagen, and freely offered hospitality at The Carsten Niebuhr Institute and his insights into the Tebtunis papyri under his care. Both he and Dr. Joachim Quack brought to our attention numerous important papyri of the Book of Thoth in Yale, Florence, Copenhagen, and Berlin. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Dr. Quack for informing us about the hieratic fragment L02 (P. Louvre AF 13035 and P. Louvre E 10614), and sending to us an excellent hieroglyphic transcription, just before the manuscript was dispatched to press. We have therefore been able to incorporate this important witness into our edition at the last moment, even if we have not been able to provide quite as detailed a discussion as it deserves. The illustration and transcription of this hieratic text have been added on plates 80–83. We thank Dr. Martin Stadler for drawing the hieroglyphic transcription; he also contributed several useful observations and corrections. Professors Manfredo Manfredi and G. Bastianini in Florence graciously allowed us to work in the Istituto Papirologico «G. Vitelli» in Florence. Dr. Giovanna Menci helped us in every way there, providing much information and advice about the Book of Thoth papyri housed in that collection. Dr. Robert Babcock of the Beinecke Library gave permission to examine the fragments at Yale University, while Anne Marie Menta arranged for the publication photographs. The Keeper in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities W. Vivian Davies permitted us to search the collection of Demotic papyri at the British Museum for Book of Thoth texts; Curator Carol Andrews facilitated our study of the papyri in that museum. We are grateful to Professor Dr. H. Harrauer for the excellent photographs of the papyri in the Papyrussammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek. The Deutsche For-

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Karl-Theodor Zauzich would like to add a few words of his own: Im Jahre 1964 verschaffte mir mein Lehrer Erich Lüddeckens, dem ich so viel verdanke, die Möglichkeit, noch während meines Studiums für die „Katalogisierung der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland“ zu arbeiten, bei jenem auf Jahrzehnte angelegten Projekt, das es zahlreichen jungen Wissenschaftlern ermöglichte, originale Handschriften in vielen orientalischen Sprachen zu studieren. Dies ist der Platz, um dankbar an den Gründer und langjährigen Leiter der Katalogisierung Wolfgang Voigt zu erinnern, der es auf wunderbare Weise geschafft hat, auch die Sammlungen in der DDR in das Projekt einzubeziehen. Zu Beginn meiner Tätigkeit übergab mir Erich Lüddeckens einen großen Stapel von Fotos demotischer Papyri, die sich in der Papyrussammlung Berlin auf der Museumsinsel (Ost-Berlin) befanden und die er überwiegend selbst photographiert hatte. Mit großer Spannung und Erwartung machte ich mich sofort an eine erste Durchsicht und kann mich lebhaft an die Freude erinnern, mit der ich viele hochinteressante Texte der verschiedensten Gattungen entdeckte. Am erstaunlichsten erschien mir sofort der längste Text in einer schwierigen, aber sehr gleichmäßigen Handschrift mit einem mir in seiner Art vollkommen neuem Text, eben jene Handschrift des Thotbuches (unser Manuskript B02), die den Ausgangspunkt dieses Buches bilden sollte.

Vom Jahre 1968 an durfte ich dann im Ägyptischen Museum in Berlin-Charlottenburg (West-Berlin) arbeiten, wo es darum ging, aus dem großen Schatz von uninventarisierten und gänzlich unbearbeiteten Papyrusfragmenten wissenschaftlich lohnende Stücke herauszusuchen und zu bearbeiten bzw. für eine Bearbeitung bereitzustellen. Gern erinnere ich mich an jene glücklichen Jahre einer fruchtbaren Zusammenarbeit mit den Kollegen Herwig Maehler und dem viel zu früh verstorbenen Dino Bidoli. Ich möchte die Gelegenheit nutzen, um den damaligen Direktoren der Sammlung Werner Kaiser und Jürgen Settgast zu danken, die meine Arbeit ermöglicht haben, sowie auch den Papyrus-Restauratoren Max Brzyski und seinem Nachfolger Jürgen Hofmann, die sie immer freundlich und kompetent gefördert haben. Mit Dankbarkeit und großem Respekt möchte ich hier auch erwähnen, daß der damalige Direktor des Ägyptischen Museums und der Papyrussammlung auf der Museumsinsel (Ost-Berlin), Dr. Wolfgang Müller, es mir erlaubte, regelmäßig in dem von ihm geleiteten Hause zu arbeiten. Im Interesse der Wissenschaft setzte er sich mutig über eine Anordnung seiner Regierung hinweg, die Kontakte mit Mitarbeitern der Staatlichen Museen Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz (West-Berlin) untersagte. Die Papyri in Ost-Berlin waren nach dem Krieg in die Sowjetunion transportiert und erst 1958 zurückgegeben worden. Weil es damals von Ost-Berlin bis Wladiwostok keinen Demotisten gab, hielt ich es für meine Aufgabe, die Sammlung demotischer Papyri zu sichten, zerbrochene Stücke zusammenzusetzen, fehlende Inventarnummern zu rekonstruieren usw. Da ich auch das uninventarisierte Material durchsehen und daraus viele Stücke inventarisieren durfte, konnte ich weitere Fragmente der erwähnten Handschrift des Thotbuches identifizieren.

In Würzburg zeigte mein Student und späterer Assistent Richard Jasnow sehr früh Interesse an dem „Book of Thoth“, auf das er durch zwei Einträge in Černýs Coptic Ety-

mological Dictionary aufmerksam geworden war. Im Jahre 1989 schenkte ich ihm bei einem besonderen Anlaß eine Kopie der Handschrift B02 und bot ihm die Zusammenarbeit bei der Edition des Thotbuches an. Was als Geschenk für ihn gemeint war, erwies sich mehr und mehr als ein Geschenk für mich selbst. Keinen besseren Mitarbeiter hätte ich mir wünschen können, der schließlich die Hauptlast getragen und das Manuskript allein geschrieben hat. In der mehr als 15jährigen Zusammenarbeit in Würzburg und Sommerhausen, aber auch in Paris und London, sind wir manchmal fast verzweifelt über den immensen Schwierigkeiten des Textes und seiner vielen Varianten, aber auch immer wieder mit Freude über die Schönheit und Gedankentiefe der Komposition belohnt worden. Als Älterer darf ich wohl sagen, daß wir durch Thot zu Freunden geworden sind.

Abschließend möchte ich den Studierenden meiner Demotisch-Klasse danken, mit denen ich gelegentlich einzelne Abschnitte des Thotbuches gelesen habe und die uns manche Anregungen gegeben haben, über die einzeln vermerkten hinaus.

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In 1997 Jasnow spoke on the Book of Thoth at a meeting of the Chicago-Stanford Seminar on Hellenistic Egypt at the University of Chicago. Discussions with the Demoticists there, especially with Professors Janet Johnson and Robert Ritner, were extremely helpful. Johnson's encouragement to go to Würzburg to study in 1984, and her aid in obtaining for Jasnow a DAAD fellowship, laid the groundwork for his involvement with the Book of Thoth. Jasnow wishes to thank Professor Johnson again here for her inspiring teaching of Demotic. Moreover, the experience gained by him as a graduate student working on Johnson's Demotic Dictionary Project, which permitted daily contact with such Demoticists as George Hughes and Mark Smith, proved invaluable for the Book of Thoth. Thomas Urban generously read through a draft of the manuscript, and offered many valuable comments on format and corrections to style. We have benefited greatly from his deep experience in producing Near Eastern language text editions.

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November 2004

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Postscript

On July 27th, 2005, Karl-Theodor Zauzich received from Hilde Lüddeckens photographs from the papers of Professor Erich Lüddeckens. Among these was a photograph of P. Michigan 6128, which could be immediately recognized as belonging to the lengthy manuscript of the Book of Thoth in the Louvre designated by us as L01. The new fragment, for which we propose the designation L01.20, is parallel to B06+B06.1+B06.2, col. 2 (plate 34). This new parallel permits us to place exactly the hitherto unplaced B06.5 (plate 36); it belongs at the top of the column between the fragments B06.1 and B06 (plate 34). This discovery results in several changes in our understanding of B06, B06.1, B06.2, and B06.5, which we will publish elsewhere. We thank Professor Traianos Gagos of the University of Michigan with whom we have corresponded concerning this fragment.

R. J. and K.-Th. Z.

Foreword of the Reprint

The editors were naturally pleased when Dr. Barbara Krauss, the Director of Harrassowitz Verlag, proposed to reprint the 2005 *editio princeps* of the Book of Thoth. Over the years numerous scholars and interested laypersons had queried us as to where they might obtain a copy, but the book had rather quickly sold out. In addition to the text, this reprint of the *editio princeps* contains all the photographs published in the first printing, but altered slightly in size and rearranged in a few cases so as to fit into DIN A4 format. We emphasize that this is a reprint and not a revised edition of the Book of Thoth. Since there have naturally been many advances in the reconstruction since the 2005 publication, we have inserted an “N” on a few plates (but not all) in order to warn the user that the position of a fragment or column has been changed since the initial publication. The reprint may be perhaps best understood as a prelude to the forthcoming Volume Three of the Book of Thoth, which will present a revised transliteration, translation, notes, glossary, and digital facsimiles (incorporating changes made in the reconstruction since 2005), as well as editions of numerous „new“ fragments. Volume Three will take into account the considerable progress made on the understanding of the composition by the editors and other scholars since the publication of the *editio princeps* in 2005. However, the forthcoming volume will neither contain photographic images already published in this *editio princeps* nor will the commentary repeat points adequately made therein. The forthcoming Volume Three is intended rather to be used in conjunction with the 2005 *editio princeps* reprinted here. Our semi-popular volume, *Conversations in the House of Life* (Harrassowitz Verlag, 2014), offers a translation which reflects more closely our current understanding of the composition, but that volume omitted the transliteration and apparatus which would provide the evidence for the translation. The forthcoming Volume Three will supply these necessities, as well as an abundance of other aids which should help future scholars who, we hope, will advance our understanding of the Book of Thoth. In conclusion we wish to express our profound gratitude to Dr. Krauss, who has so often proven herself to be a friend of Thoth. The authors are also deeply grateful to Herr Jens Fetkenheuer for his expert technical help in the preparation of this special reprint edition.

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Select List of Reviews and Discussions pertaining
to the *Book of Thoth*

- Hoffmann, Friedhelm. Review of Jasnow and Zauzich, *The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth*. In *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 65 (2008), cols. 86–92.
- Jasnow, Richard and Karl-Theodor Zauzich, *Conversations in the House of Life*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2014.
- Kockelmann, Holger. Review of Jasnow and Zauzich, *The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth*. In *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 128 (2008), pp. 178–80.
- Leitz, Christian. “Die Geierweibchen des Thothbuches in den 42 Gauen Ägyptens.” *Revue d’Égyptologie* 63 (2012), pp. 137–86.
- Quack, Joachim. Review of Jasnow and Zauzich, *The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth*. In *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 101 (2006), cols. 610–15.
- . “Die Initiation zum Schreiberberuf im Alten Ägypten.” *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 36 (2007), pp. 249–95.
- . “Ein ägyptischer Dialog über die Schreibkunst und das arkane Wissen.” *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 9 (2007), pp. 259–94.
- . Review of Jasnow and Zauzich 2014. *Conversations in the House of Life: a new translation of the ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. In *Enchoria* 35 (2016–2017), pp. 215–230.
- Widmer, Ghislaine. Review of Jasnow and Zauzich, *The Ancient Egyptian Book of Thoth*. In *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 70 (2011), pp. 113–16.