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der ägyptischen Frühzeit und des Alten Reiches

Herausgegeben von
Eva-Maria Engel
und Jochem Kahl

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Keep out!

Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom
Cylinder Seals and Sealings in Context

Edited by
Eva-Maria Engel, Anke Ilona Blöbaum
and Frank Kammerzell

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PREFACE

Clay sealings and cylinder seals with inscriptions are known to the Egyptological community since the late Nineteenth Century. For the Early Dynastic Period, the inscriptions became a cornerstone for the reconstruction of administration and “history” of that period. Other aspects of the artefacts, like their shape and the containers they were attached to, were mostly neglected for several decades. Fortunately, this approach changed, as the contributions in this volume prove.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) funded the project *Verwaltung in Ägypten: die erste Hälfte des 3. Jahrtausends* at Humboldt University Berlin, meant to study seal impressions at three different sites in Egypt. We are grateful to the DFG for not only supporting this project, but also a workshop held at the university from June, 20th to 21st 2019, which provided an opportunity to exchange the latest results on Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom seals and sealings from different perspectives. Therefore, we had a rather lively two days during which we had many helping hands: we would like to thank Tilmann Kunze, Ines Köhler, Nadine Marcinczik, and Kristina Hülk. Although administration was the focus of the project, its modern equivalent often had to be tackled as well: Without the help of Karin Lippold who organized all aspects of project and workshop, we would have been lost in the said administration.

The present volume not only contains presentations given during the workshop, but also additional and expended articles. They cover the whole range from the, so to speak, natural habitat of sealings in tombs and settlements to the interpretation of early inscriptions up to methodological, typological, and technical questions.

As for the publication of this manuscript, we are indebted to Tilmann Kunze who created the layout, Miriam Manske who provided a number of diagrams and drawings, Andrea Sinclair who proofread the English-language texts, Jochem Kahl who accepted it for publication in the MENES series, and Jens Fetkenheuer from Harrassowitz Publishers who looked after the technical procedure. We would like to thank all of them.

The Editors