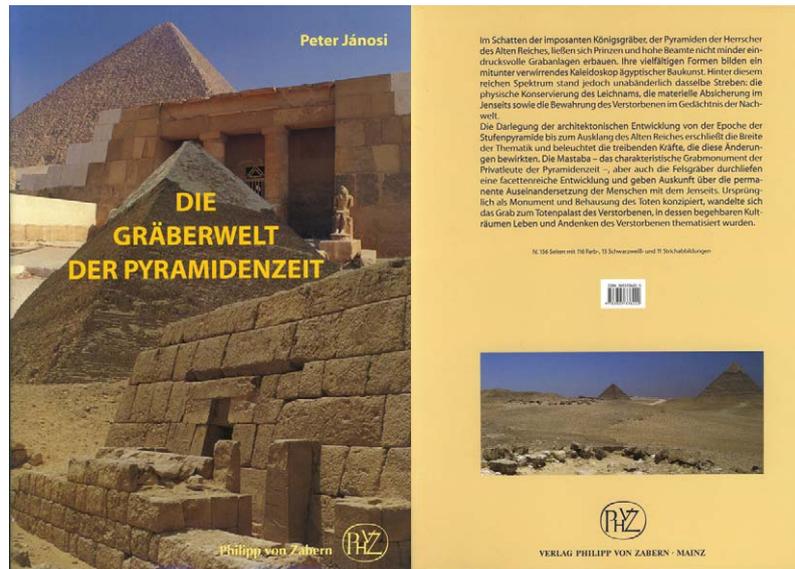


Jánosi, P. 2006. Die Gräberwelt der Pyramidenzeit. - Mainz am Rhein, Verlag Philipp von Zabern

Book review by W. van Haarlem



This book on Old Kingdom funerary architecture is composed along the following lines, after a Preface:

1. Origin of the mastaba (p. 3). The concept of the Old Kingdom tomb as a subterranean 'living' quarter with the cult quarter as superstructure is rooted in the 2nd Dynasty;
2. Tombs in the 3rd Dynasty (p. 15). The emphasis here is on Saqqara. Both royal and private burial practices are treated here side by side. Twin mastabas are the new feature here;
3. 4th Dynasty Necropoleis (p. 33). On tombs in Meidum and Dahshur, but mainly Giza; centralized planning of the mastaba cemeteries is the main characteristic here;
4. Rock tombs in Dynasty 4 (p. 66). The Giza rock tombs are singled out and their parallels and differences with mastabas discussed. The culmination is the huge tomb of Queen Khentkaus;
5. 5th Dynasty tombs (p. 79). The individual factor became more important *vis-à-vis* the centralised royal influence, as opposed to the previous period. The tomb structures become increasingly complicated, like the complex of Rawer in Giza. Courts and statue rooms are an important element now;
6. Rock tombs of the 5th and 6th Dynasties (p. 120). Rock tombs in provincial necropoleis all the way to Aswan dictate the developments now, mirroring the political theatre;
7. In the Aftermath (p. 134), transitional developments in tomb building, foreshadowing Middle Kingdom accomplishments, are highlighted.

The book concludes with a map and chronological chart (p. 141 ff), abbreviations and bibliography, notes and a list of figures. It is however, most unfortunate that an index is missing. This would have been a considerable addition to the book. However, the drawings and (colour-) photographs are excellent. Moreover, the author is well-documented and convincing in his account of the tomb development in the Early Dynastic and the Old Kingdom, mainly concentrated on Saqqara and Giza.

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