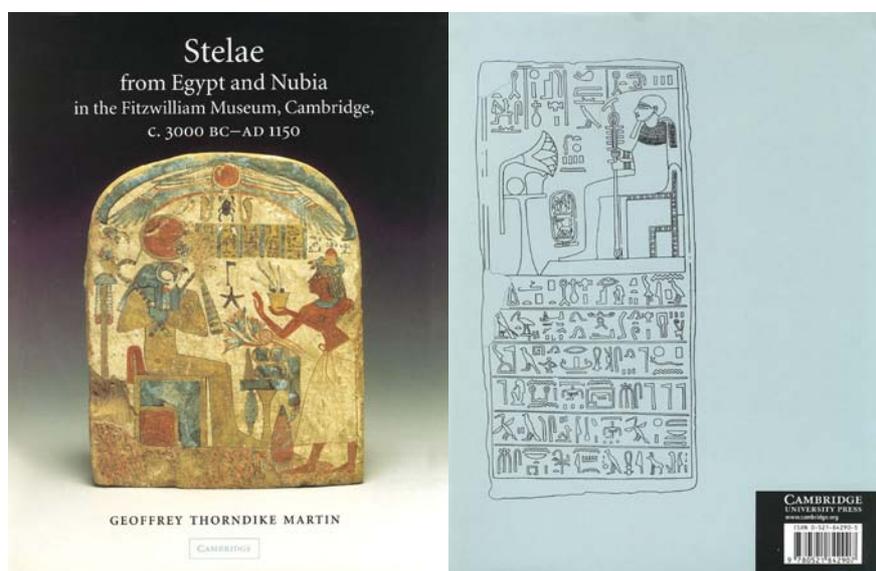


**Martin, G.T. 2005. *Stelae from Egypt and Nubia in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, c. 3000 BC–AD 1150*. – Cambridge, Cambridge University Press (Fitzwilliam Museum Publications)**

Book review by R. Nyord



This book is a catalogue of the collection of stelae from Egypt and the Sudan in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. The objects in the catalogue span a time-range all the way from Egypt's 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty to a modern forgery (cat. no. 127). The majority of the 127 stelae have hieroglyphic inscriptions, but the catalogue also includes stelae with texts in hieratic (cat. nos. 19 and 31), demotic (98) and Coptic (115–122), as well as Carian (100–103), Greek (104–114) and Cufic (123–126).

The majority of the catalogue text has been written by the author himself, but a number of other scholars have contributed to the text dealing with the inscriptions of individual objects in the catalogue, including S. Quirke (cat. nos. 19, 22, 30, 31), M. Marée (comment on cat. no. 30, also credited for suggestions for a number of readings etc. on other objects), J. van Dijk (cat. no. 36), K.A. Kitchen (cat. no. 43), J.F. Borghouts (cat. no. 78), J.D. Ray (cat. no. 98, 100–103), J. Reynolds (cat. no. 108) J. van der Vliet (cat. no. 109–113, 115–116, 120), S. Clackson (cat. no. 117–119), and G.J. van Gelder (cat. no. 123–126).

The presentation of each stela includes a black and white photograph and a facsimile line drawing, in addition to a text detailing the date, provenance (including mode of acquisition), material, dimensions and description of the object (including colours and traces preserved in the decoration), and a translation of the inscription. For the objects which have previously been published or referred to in published works, a bibliography is provided at the end of the catalogue text, and the textual comments on the inscriptions often include further relevant bibliographical references. With the exception of the demotic text on cat. no. 98 and the hieratic on no. 19, the inscriptions in hieroglyphic-based scripts are not transliterated.

The longer or more difficultly legible Greek and Coptic texts (cat. no. 108–120) are provided with a typeset transcription with textual notes. A typeset hieroglyphic transcription is given for cat. no. 19 (hieratic) and 30 (scratched hieroglyphs). The slightly differing choices concerning the inclusion of transliterations and typeset versions of the inscriptions can probably be ascribed partly to the individual preferences of the various different scholars responsible for the treatment of the individual inscriptions.

At the end of the catalogue there is a useful bibliography of published stela collections and commentaries, including information on the periods covered by each work. For the unpublished dissertation cited here as K.A. Dawood, 'The Inscribed Stelae of the Herakleopolitan Period from the Memphite Necropolis' (p. 192), see now Daoud (2005). The indexes to the catalogue comprises concordances of the catalogue numbers with Fitzwilliam Museum accession numbers and the numbering in the earlier publication of some of the stelae in Budge (1893), as well as indexes of royal names, deities (including epithets), titles, Egyptian personal and geographical names, Carian names, Greek, Coptic and Arabic names, provenances, and objects in museums as well as a general index.

The catalogue includes a number of interesting objects published here for the first time, of which only a select few can be briefly commented on here. The highly unusual limestone flake from Abydos dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and given no. 19 in the catalogue (Acc. No. E. 23.1926) has a very roughly pyramidal shape with a hieratic ink inscription on each of the four sides. The inscription on each side begins with the words *ḥw ndm*,



This catalogue provides an excellent and important publication of a sizeable collection of stelae, of which many are published here for the first time. The black and white photos and facsimile drawings give very good impressions of the objects. While one might wish for colour photographs of the painted objects to give a better impression of their colour schemes than the written description can provide (compare the photo on the dust jacket with the black and white photo on page 116), given the already high price of the book, this would probably not be economically feasible.

Martin, G.T. 2005. *Stelae from Egypt and Nubia in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, c. 3000 BC–AD 1150*. – Cambridge, Cambridge University Press (Fitzwilliam Museum Publications). 202 pp. ISBN 0–521–84290–5. Price £ 100.00/\$ 190.00 (hardback).

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