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Demotic Accounts

Thesis

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Summary

From the old kingdom onwards, accounts went through many phases of development and evolution until the late and Graeco-Roman periods, when the demotic accounts came to existence. Demotic accounts was one of the administrative tools used in the administration of the various institutions, which seems to have been used from the 26th dynasty until the 2nd century AD., when the use of demotic for everyday documentation began to disappear.

Recording accounts was the responsibility of scribes in ancient Egypt. These scribes were supposed to be knowledgeable of all the basics of accounting and mathematics. When recording accounts, scribes used to apply many techniques and methods, whether in recording the entries of the account or in the balancing of the account. This work of scribes has left various types of accounts varied according to their content from monetary accounts, to in kind, ... etc. Furthermore, demotic accounts presented a very precise vocabulary and terminology and heading formulae. Demotic accounts was, not only a very important tool for the ancient Egyptian, but also it is very significant and informative for Egyptologists, as they contain many significant and useful indications and information. However, the value of demotic account documents for the economy and social history of the Egyptians was often doubted and underestimated. As such, this study aims to shed lights on this type of documents.

At the very beginning, chapter one discusses the general characteristics and features of demotic accounts, including the evolution of accounts through the different periods of the ancient Egyptian history, its nature and general structure, the different methods applied in demotic accounts, and the scribes and writing grounds of demotic accounts. Demotic accounts vary according to their content and the institution that issued them into many different types; these types will be mentioned and discussed in chapter two. In chapter three, the focus will be on the Terminology of accounts in demotic. After that, in chapter four, the different types of heading formulae in demotic accounts will be examined in some detail. To this chapter, some notes on the closing formulae and the date of demotic accounts will be supplemented. Then chapter five examines the role of accounts in the life of the ancient Egyptians, whether in the administrative, religious, social, and political life. Eventually, this study ends with a summary of its main and prominent conclusions.

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