PREFACE

This collaborative effort of several Egyptologists from the United States, Canada, Egypt, and England began, not as a publication project, but as an international symposium, sponsored by the Denver Museum of Natural History. That institution had invited several scholars to speak at the museum during the time that it was hosting the exhibition, *Ramesses II: The Great Pharaoh and His Times*. Barbara Stone, the Curator of Collections in Denver, organized the conference with a focus on kingship in ancient Egypt, since this topic was particularly relevant to the accompanying exhibition. In addition it represented an area of interest to the public and was a subject that was clearly in need of new investigation.

The symposium took place in Denver from October 30-November 1, 1987, and at its conclusion, all of those who attended the sessions agreed that the lecturers, whose areas of expertise included amongst others archaeology, language, ancient history, religion, anthropology, and art, had provided significant coverage of the fundamental aspects of kingship, within the confines of the conference. Ms. Stone, therefore, strongly urged the participants to consider the possibility of using their original oral contributions as the basis for a new publication on the subject of kingship. Each of the scholars, John Baines of Oxford University, Zahi Hawass of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, William J. Murnane of Memphis State University, Donald B. Redford of the University of Toronto, and David O'Connor and David P. Silverman, both of the University Museum and the University of Pennsylvania, agreed to reexamine the area for which he was responsible and to write a chapter for this new study. John Baines offered to contribute an additional chapter on the origin of kingship, and David O'Connor and David Silverman accepted the position of editors of the proposed volume.

The outcome of this collaboration is a publication that has a multi-level approach to the subject of kingship, a result which may have been influenced by the wide variety of interests and disciplines of the authors involved in the project. Some of the chapters represent general surveys of broad topics interspersed with some new and innovative ideas and concepts; other chapters approach particular aspects of kingship through interpretive analyses that
result in new insights and conclusions; and a few chapters concentrate on specific time periods of Egyptian history, revealing fascinating new details. The authors have examined the origin of kingship, how royal architecture relates to it, how the king and his office are referred to in the texts and art, and what the nature of the Ramesside rulers was. They have documented the changes in kingship that occurred in the volatile Eighteenth Dynasty, examined it in terms of the culture and the legitimation of rule, studied the extent of the divinity of the king, and have dealt with the pharaohs who built the pyramids in the Fourth Dynasty. The resulting study—*Ancient Egypt Kingship*—is a broad analysis of the subject that takes into consideration the nature not only of the office of kingship, but also of the individual in it and the society that created it.

The editors would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the participation of the many individuals who contributed in some way to the publication of this volume. Barbara Stone was the organizing force behind the project and was responsible for its inception. Without her interest and support, this publication would never have come into being. Stephen Phillips, Ellen Morris, Kellee Barnard, and Melissa Robinson, all Research Assistants in the Egyptian Section of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania provided valuable technical assistance in the preparation of the varying stages of the manuscripts. Jennifer Houser prepared several illustrations and was in charge of the word processing of all of the manuscripts. In addition, Ms. Houser worked tirelessly on the copy editing of the final version of the text, and the editors are extremely grateful to her for the exemplary quality of her work and her dedication to the project.

The editors would also like to express their thanks to each of the contributing authors for his participation and also for his patience in seeing the project through to completion. We are fortunate to have had the benefit of critical commentary of Professor Dr. Wolfgang Schenkel on a prepublication draft, and we appreciate his efforts. Dr. F.Th. Dijkema of E.J. Brill has been extremely helpful in all of the publishing details. In the initial manuscript, we have used a special word processing font, DyPalatino, with special characters designed by Dr. Peter der Manuelian, Museum of Fine Arts, and we appreciate his generosity in granting us permission to make use of the font. The final text has been set in Baskerville.