

The Amarna Letters

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The El-Amarna Correspondence (2 vol. set)
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Amarna Studies
Amarna Letters from Palestine, Syria, the Philistines and Phoenicia
The Amarna Scholarly Tablets
The Amarna Letters
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The Tell-el-Amarna-letters
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The Verb in the Amarna Letters from Canaan
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the acknowledged master of these texts is william moran who produced a complete re edition of the tablets in french in 1987 the amarna letters is a revised version of this done into english open it and hear these voices from a vanished empire speak after three and a half millennia times literary supplement

the el amarna correspondence offers a completely new edition of the amarna letters based on personal inspection and reading of all the extant tablets this edition includes new transcriptions and a translation along with an extensive introduction and glossary of the amarna letters

the amarna letters are a collection of clay tablets found in the ruins of el amarna egypt in the 1880s the city of el amarna was built by the pharaoh akhenaten during his religious reforms in the 1340s bc but was then abandoned after he died and egypt reverted to worshiping the old gods these letters provide a unique glimpse into a period of egyptian history that the egyptians themselves attempted to erase after akhenaten s heir tutankhamen died his successor ay was only able to hold the throne for a few years before horemheb seized it and attempted to reunite the egyptians by erasing all records of akhenaten s reforms which included erasing akhenaten s name from almost every record in egypt by this period el amarna appears to have already been mostly abandoned and therefore egyptologists were able to reconstruct the strange story of akhenaten s reign in the middle of the new kingdom era the amarna letters were recovered from the royal archives in el amarna where they appear to have been archived after having been translated for the royal court the letters are inscribed on clay tablets in cuneiform the dominant form of writing in mesopotamia canaan and the neighboring cultures in anatolia and cyprus at the time the shape of the cuneiform logograms used is akkadian the parent form of the later neo babylonian neo assyrian and ugaritic forms of cuneiform however the language used in the letters is not pure akkadian the letters are between various members of the egyptian royal court and many different cities and nations across the middle east including babylon assyria mitanni and cyprus and therefore the language within the letters is not consistent within the letters from canaanite cities all of which were subject to egypt at the time several transliterated names are also used which appears to be a direct precursor to the later development of ugaritic cuneiform by 1200 bc which was an abjad similar to the canaanite script that was developed by 1000 bc however used cuneiform logograms instead of alphabet like letters the surviving letters were mostly about trade and diplomacy however do include a great deal of information about what was happening in the middle east at the time in particular they demonstrate how limited egypt s actual control of its canaanite holdings was where the governors of cities were constantly requesting military help to defend themselves against each other the marauding habirus and the hittite backed amorites in northern canaan the amarna letters were written during the mid 1330s bc during the reigns of the pharaohs amenhotep iii and akhenaten although it is not always clear when in their respective reigns the letters were written or even which pharaoh was on the throne at the time

in this volume are collected all of the writings moran devoted to the amarna letters over more than four decades including his doctoral dissertation which has been one of the most widely cited unpublished works in ancient near eastern studies a citation index makes professor moran s comments on individual texts readily accessible

the amarna archives include not only letters but also texts relating to the education of scribes in egypt syllabaries lexical lists literary texts and other educational exercises although the recent translation of the letters by william moran the amarna letters johns Hopkins 1992 has brought our understanding of this important corpus up to date the other texts have not been included in his volume they have been waiting for renewed study in the context of literary and scholarly peripheral and core akkadian texts the original publications are obsolete and many of the texts are poorly copied this book provides new editions of all the amarna tablets not included in moran s volume i e ea 340 361 368 372 377 379 381 some of these are fragments whose genre is a matter of debate

suggestions for their attribution will be offered this new edition includes transliterations translations a brief commentary cuneiform copies and photographs the introduction provides an overview of the corpus and is intended to serve as an impetus for further research into some of the more difficult issues yet to be examined

during egypt s eighteenth dynasty ca 1550 1292 bce the new kingdom pharaohs campaigned repeatedly in syria and the levant establishing political control over much of the region as a result of these conquests the rulers of levantine city states sent letters written in akkadian in the cuneiform script on clay tablets to the egyptian pharaohs so too did the kings of the other great geopolitical powers of the time assyria babylonia hatti and mittani maintain an active diplomatic correspondence with egypt s pharaohs beginning in the nineteenth century ce local farmers and later archaeologists working at akhetaten modern tell el amarna the one time egyptian capital discovered remnants of this correspondence mostly dating to the reigns of amenhotep iii ca 1388 1350 bce and his son and successor akhenaten ca 1350 1333 bce with some dating to tutankhamun ca 1333 1323 this is a period of increasing friction as the great powers sought to extend their borders the amarna letters thus illuminate a pivotal point in egypt s foreign relations during the late bronze age even though they provide us with a narrow window of only about thirty years time 1358 1325 bce they are an important witness to the general nature of egypt s diplomatic relations during the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties this new digitally borne edition of the amarna letters offers the first complete collection of the letters with responsible transliterations that have been checked against available photographs and hand copies clear and consistent translations and an up to date and extensive bibliography as such it is and will remain an essential resource

this book delves into the amarna letters a significant collection of diplomatic communications inscribed on clay tablets during the new kingdom of ancient egypt specifically in the mid 14th century bc these letters discovered at el amarna once known as akhetaten and established by pharaoh akhenaten offer invaluable insights into the interactions between egyptian officials and their counterparts in canaan and amurru uniquely they are composed not in egyptian hieroglyphs but in cuneiform script primarily akkadian which reflects a blend of local linguistic influences known as canaanite akkadian the archive comprises 382 tablets and fragments with 350 being letters and the remainder consisting of literary or educational texts notably one letter stands out for its length and is written in a late hurrian dialect the majority of these artifacts were first unearthed around 1887 by locals who clandestinely excavated them from the ruins before entering the antiquities market subsequent archaeological efforts revealed more tablets with flinders petrie playing a crucial role in recovering additional fragments the significance of these letters extends beyond mere historical documentation they are pivotal for understanding biblical contexts and semitic linguistics

this four volume reference work deals with the language of the amarna letters written by scribes who had adopted a peculiar dialect mixture of accadian and west semitic syntax in addition to the texts from canaan a few from alashia are included along with the texts from kamed el loz and taanach each of the first three volumes is written as a separate monograph together they treat the problems of morphology and syntax the first volume covers writing pronouns and

nouns substantives adjectives and numerals the second volume treats the verbal system and the third volume discusses particles and adverbs with a chapter on word order the fourth volume includes the bibliography and index to the set since these texts are the earliest witness to west semitic syntax they are an invaluable source for the historical study of the north west semitic family including biblical hebrew

the amarna letters are foundational documents for the study of late bronze age history and language in the ancient near east one of the most significant aspects of these letters has been the discovery of canaanite influence in the akkadian language of these letters this discovery has provided a wealth of linguistic knowledge concerning that period and its influence on subsequent ages though much has been written about the amarna letters until now there has been no comprehensive study of the personal names found in the cuneiform texts from el amarna dr hess fills the void with this comprehensive reference tool the main part of the book catalogs the amarna personal names providing necessary information for each name including attested spellings occurrences identification textual notes and analysis the author then offers a grammatical analysis of the names and glossaries of the seven languages attested in personal names in the letters glossaries of divine name and geographical name elements and an extensive bibliography complete the study this volume is essential for research libraries and for scholars and students working with the amarna letters or akkadian and northwest semitic languages

the amarna letters from canaan offer us a unique glimpse of the historical and linguistic panorama of the levant in the middle of the fourteenth century bce their evidence regarding verbs is crucial for the historical and comparative study of the semitic languages proper evaluation of this evidence requires an understanding of its scribal origin and nature for this reason the verb in the amarna letters from canaan addresses the historical circumstances in which the linguistic code of the letters was born and the unique characteristics of this system the author adduces second language acquisition as a proper framework for understanding the development of this language by scribes who were educated in centers on the cuneiform periphery in this way the book advances a novel interpretation the letters testify to a scribal interlanguage that was born of the local use of cuneiform and was affected by the fossilization and transfer processes taking place in these language learners this vision of the linguistic system of the letters as the learners interlanguage informs the main part of the book which is devoted to verbal morphology and semantics the chapter on morphology offers an overview of conjugation patterns and morphemes in terms of paradigms employing a variationist approach it also analyzes the bases on which the verbal forms were constructed next the individual uses of each form are illustrated by numerous examples that provide readers with a basis for discovering alternative interpretations the systemic view of each form and the various insights that permeate this book provide invaluable data for the historical and comparative study of the west semitic verbal system particularly of ancient hebrew ugaritic and arabic

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