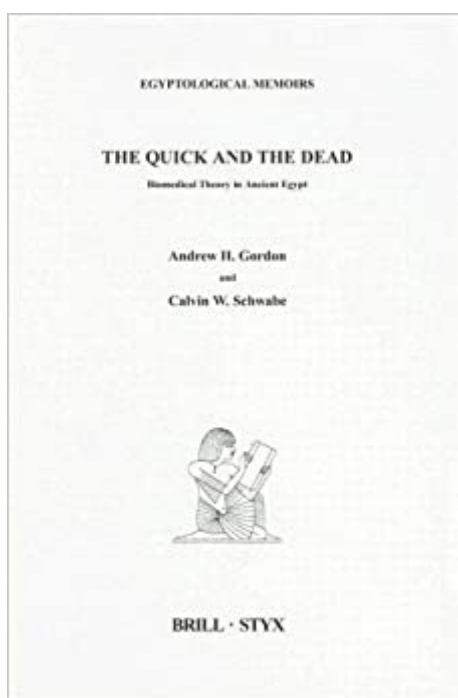


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The Quick And The Dead: Biomedical Theory In Ancient Egypt (Egyptological Memoirs,)



Synopsis

This volume uses a cross-disciplinary approach to examine the origins of ancient Egyptian medicine in the domestication, care and sacrifice of cattle. Ritual cattle sacrifice in Egypt led to a rudimentary understanding of animal anatomy and physiology, which was then applied to humans. Two original theories developed from this comparative medicine: Life as movement, especially seen in the fasciulations of excised limbs, and the male's role in reproduction. Discussions include Egypt as a cattle culture, the ka as an animating force, "living flesh," the possible animal origins of the ankh, djed and was hieroglyphs, the bull's foreleg and the Opening-of-the-Mouth ritual, Egypt's healing establishment, and veterinary medicine as it relates to the origin of human medicine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andrew H. Gordon, Ph.D. in Egyptology, University of California at Berkeley (1983), M.S. in Paleontology, University of Rochester (1970), has published on Egyptian archaeology, history, lexicography and religion. Calvin W. Schwabe, D.M.V. (1954), Auburn University; M.P.H., Sc.D. (1956), Harvard University, is Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and of Agricultural History. Among his publications are *Veterinary Medicine and Human Health* (Williams & Wilkins, 1984) and *Cattle, Priests and Progress in Medicine* (University of Minnesota, 1978).

For anyone interested in the origins of Egyptian beliefs this is a must. The possible origin of the ankh

is just one example. The link between biology and Egyptian beliefs is intriguing.

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