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0521840333 - Society and Death in Ancient Egypt: Mortuary Landscapes of the Middle Kingdom

Janet Richards

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SOCIETY AND DEATH IN ANCIENT EGYPT

MORTUARY LANDSCAPES OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM

In *Society and Death in Ancient Egypt*, Janet Richards considers social stratification in Middle Kingdom Egypt, taking as the point of departure the assumption that a “middle class” arose during this period. By focusing on the entire range of mortuary behavior, rather than on elite remains, she shows how social and political processes can be reconstructed. Richards demonstrates that the roots of the middle class can be traced to the later Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period. Combining information from excavations, ancient Egyptian texts, and decorative reliefs and statuary, the book weaves together a wide variety of sources that aid us in understanding how Middle Kingdom Egyptians thought about society and death and how their practices and landscapes relating to death revealed information about the living society.

Janet Richards is Associate Professor of Egyptology in the Department of New Eastern Studies and Associate Curator for Dynastic Egypt in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan. She is Director for the University of Michigan’s excavations in the Abydos Middle Cemetery and coeditor of *Order, Legitimacy and Wealth in Ancient States*.

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JANET RICHARDS

University of Michigan



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For Stuart

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