

Egypt and the Limits of Hellenism

By Ian S. Moyer

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In a series of studies, Ian Moyer explores the ancient history and modern historiography of relations between Egypt and Greece from the fifth century BCE to the early Roman empire. Beginning with Herodotus, he analyzes key encounters between Greeks and Egyptian priests, the bearers of Egypt's ancient traditions. Four moments unfold as rich micro-histories of cross-cultural interaction: Herodotus' interviews with priests at Thebes; Manetho's composition of an Egyptian history in Greek; the struggles of Egyptian priests on Delos; and a Greek physician's quest for magic in Egypt. In writing these histories, the author moves beyond Orientalizing representations of the Other and colonial metanarratives of the civilizing process to reveal interactions between Greeks and Egyptians as transactional processes in which the traditions, discourses and pragmatic interests of both sides shaped the outcome. The result is a dialogical history of cultural and intellectual exchanges between the great civilizations of Greece and Egypt.

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Egypt and the Limits of Hellenism By Ian S. Moyer Bibliography

- Rank: #2239739 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-07-07
- Released on: 2011-07-07
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review
"...the chapters are focused and well-written and add up to a clear, engaging, and lucid study. Everyone who writes about cross-cultural interaction in the ancient Mediterranean should read this terrific book." --BMCR

"...we see through careful marshalling of Egyptian evidence how limited is our understanding of these events when viewed with only the Hellenic eye. His is a compelling analytic model that it would profit classicists of every type to read with care." --Classical World

About the Author
Ian S. Moyer is Associate Professor in the Department of History, University of Michigan. His current research and teaching interests include ancient Greek history, especially of the Hellenistic period; the Late Period, Ptolemaic, and Roman Egypt; ethnicity and culture in the ancient world; historiography and ethnography; and ancient religion and magic. He is the author of several articles, and he has lectured on various topics related to his research for this book at universities in the United States and Europe.

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