“Long-range desert travel by donkey or camel was a daring venture in the ancient world, and losing your way could prove just as fatal as losing your waterskin ...”

Recent exploration has revealed an amazing network of ancient roads and paths crossing the forbidding Saharan desert. This evidence broadens scientific horizons and launches a fascinating new field of archaeological research.

Frank Förster & Heiko Riemer (eds.)

Desert Road Archaeology
in Ancient Egypt and Beyond

AF R I C A  P R A E H I S T O R I C A  2 7

Köln: Heinrich-Barth-Institut, 2013
584 pages, hardcover and half-linen-bound
ISBN 978-3-927688-41-4
Price 78.- Euro, plus package and postage

Foreword by Steven E. Sidebotham

Introduction

Heiko Riemer & Frank Förster   Ancient desert roads: Towards establishing a new field of archaeological research

Methods, approaches, and historical perspectives

Olaf Bubenzer & Andreas Bolten   Top down: New satellite data and ground-truth data as base for a reconstruction of ancient caravan routes. Examples from the Western Desert of Egypt

Heiko Riemer   Lessons in landscape learning: The dawn of long-distance travel and navigation in Egypt’s Western Desert from prehistoric to Old Kingdom times

Heidi Köpp   Desert travel and transport in ancient Egypt. An overview based on epigraphic, pictorial and archaeological evidence

Klaus Peter Kuhlmann   The realm of “two deserts”: Siwah Oasis between east and west

Meike Meerpohl   Footprints in the sand: Recent long-distance camel trade in the Libyan Desert (northeast Chad/southeast Libya)

Frank Förster, Heiko Riemer & Moez Mahir, with an appendix by Frank Darius   Donkeys to El-Fasher or how the present informs the past

Roads and regions I: Egypt’s Western Desert, and Bayuda

John Coleman Darnell, with the assistance of Deborah Darnell   The Girga Road: Abu Ziyâr, Tundaba, and the integration of the southern oases into the Pharaonic state

Corrina Rossi & Salima Ikram   Evidence of desert routes across northern Kharga (Egypt’s Western Desert)

Laure Pantalacci   Broadening horizons: Distant places and travels in Dakhla and the Western Desert at the end of the 3rd millennium

Frank Förster   Beyond Dakhla: The Abu Ballas Trail in the Libyan Desert (SW Egypt)

Stan Hendrickx, Frank Förster & Merel Eyckerman   The Pharaonic pottery of the Abu Ballas Trail: ‘Filling stations’ along a desert highway

Andras Zboray   Prehistoric trails in the environs of Karkur Talh, Jebel Uweinat

Heinz-Josef Thissen   Donkeys and water: Demotic ostraca in Cologne as evidence of desert travel between Oxyrhynchos and Bahariya Oasis

Per Storemyr, Elizabeth Bloxam, Tom Heldal & Adel Kelany   Ancient desert and quarry roads on the west bank of the Nile in the First Cataract region

Angelika Lothwasser   Tracks in the Bayuda desert. The project ‘Wadi Abu Dom Itinerary’ (W.A.D.I.)

Roads and regions II: Cyrenaica, Marmarica, Sinai, Arabian Peninsula

Steven Snape   A stroll along the corniche? Coastal routes between the Nile Delta and Cyrenaica in the Late Bronze Age

Thomas Vetter, Anna-Katharina Rieger & Heike Müller   Water, routes and rangelands: Ancient traffic and grazing infrastructure in the Marmarica

James K. Hoffmeier & Stephen O. Moshier   “A highway out of Egypt”: The main road from Egypt to Canaan

Claire Somaliglio & Pierre Tallet   A road to the Arabian Peninsula in the reign of Ramesses III

Roads and regions III: Egypt’s Eastern Desert

Ian Shaw   “We went forth to the desert land…”: Retracing the routes between the Nile Valley and the Hatnub travertine quarries

Kathryn A. Bard, Rodolfo Fattovich & Andrea Manzo   The ancient harbor at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis and how to get there.

Adam Bülow-Jacobsen   Communication, travel, and transportation in Egypt’s Eastern Desert during Roman times (1st to 3rd century AD)