

## **Abstract**

The work deals with landing facilities in ancient Egypt, both in the Nile Valley and in coastal areas. The aim has been to collect and interpret written, iconographic and archaeological evidence from the Early Dynastic to the Late Periods. The material is presented chronologically and individual groups of sources are arranged by type (written, archaeological and iconographic). The knowledge thus obtained has then been used to form a comprehensive overview of the development, function, importance and organization of harbour/port facilities in ancient Egypt.

The main problem of the study of landing facilities in ancient Egypt lies in the extreme fragmentation of sources which makes it impossible to provide a continuous picture of the development of the subject and which raises as many questions as answers. The best preserved group of sources is written evidence, followed by information obtained by archaeology. The least informative is iconographic evidence. Although the majority of these sources are relatively straightforward to interpret, there are cases where interpretation is speculative.

A fundamental question has arisen during this study. It is the relationship of the ancient Egyptians themselves to the facilities which undoubtedly played a significant role in the life of the inhabitants of the Nile Valley. Although it might seem that the relatively small amount of preserved data might reflect the small interest shown by the Egyptians in harbour/port facilities, other factors must be taken into account. These include difficulties experienced by archaeologists in areas with a high level of ground water and those connected with work in cultivated and densely populated areas. Also, a great deal of information might have been destroyed in the past. We can only hope that this situation will change in the future and that further research will provide more answers than controversial theories.