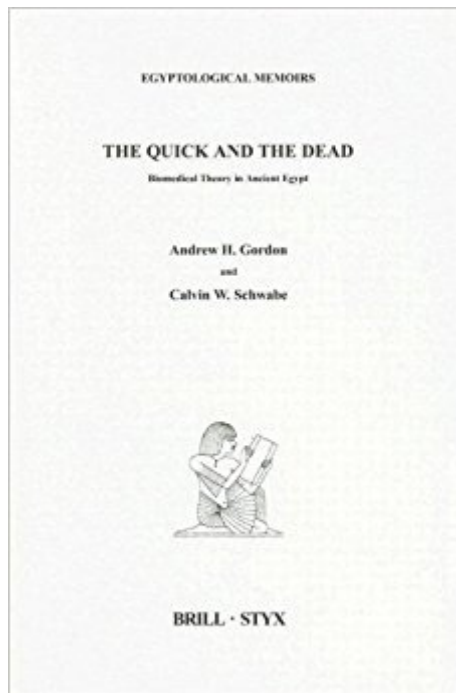


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The Quick And The Dead: Biomedical Theory In Ancient Egypt (Egyptological Memoirs,)



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.

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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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