

External Examiner's Report on the Dissertation of Marie Peterková Hlouchová
"Gods with solar aspects during the Old Kingdom"
Submitted in 2020 at the Czech Institute of Egyptology

I. Brief summary of the dissertation

Compilation and examination of the evidence for gods with solar connections in the Pyramid Texts and other Old Kingdom sources.

II. Brief overall evaluation of the dissertation

My philosophy is that a PhD dissertation should demonstrate a professional capability for doing research, organizing data, and interpreting and presenting results. In my view, this dissertation does all that, although better in some aspects than others.

III. Detailed evaluation of the dissertation and its individual aspects

The dissertation examines evidence for five gods with solar connections in the Old Kingdom. Nearly every place one or more of these gods could be mentioned has been catalogued, a worthy achievement in itself. The author explains initially what she intends to do and how she intends to do it, and the body of the dissertation adheres to that plan.

The author's research is thorough and well-documented. Secondary sources are cited only to expose previous interpretations of the evidence, which the author then weighs against her research and evidence. As far as I can tell, there are no significant pieces of evidence overlooked in the research, and the author has been careful to credit secondary sources when appropriate.

The author's English is very good. Although there are occasional constructions and usages that a native speaker would not have used, the author's language is never a barrier to understanding the argument being made. Good use is made of tables and illustrations, both always germane to the argument being made and not merely space-fillers.

The primary contribution of the dissertation is the amassing of evidence for "solar" gods in the Old Kingdom in one place, which has not been done before for the five gods examined, not as a whole and, for some of the individual gods, not previously. There are a few revelations of significance, such as the relative rarity of Atum outside the Pyramid Texts, although in the larger view, that makes sense given the primarily "theological" role of the god.

One thing that could have perhaps been included, in a summary chapter, is a discussion of the larger implications of these data, as they appear to the author. See my question in IV.

IV. Questions for the author

What do you think your research tells us about Old Kingdom solar gods that we didn't know before? What in the character of each of your five gods influenced, in your opinion, the kinds of media in which they do or do not occur (e.g., Pyramid Texts, private names, etc.)?

V. Conclusion

I recommend the submitted dissertation with the tentative grade of **pass**.

[19/2/20]

[James P. Allen]