

The El-Amarna Correspondence

Handbook of Oriental Studies

Handbuch der Orientalistik

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The El-Amarna Correspondence

A New Edition of the Cuneiform Letters
from the Site of El-Amarna based on
Collations of all Extant Tablets

VOLUME 2

Collated, Transcribed and Translated by
Anson F. Rainey Z"L

Edited and Completed by
Zipora Cochavi-Rainey



BRILL

LEIDEN · BOSTON
2015

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The El-Amarna correspondence : a new edition of the cuneiform letters from the site of El-Amarna based on collations of all extant tablets / collated, transcribed and translated by Anson F. Rainey ; edited by William M. Scheidewind.

pages cm. – (Handbook of Oriental studies = Handbuch der orientalistik, section I, ancient Near East ; 110)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-90-04-28145-5 (hardback : alk. paper : set) – ISBN 978-90-04-28147-9 (hardback : volume one) – ISBN 978-90-04-28146-2 (hardback : volume two) – ISBN 978-90-04-28154-7 (e-book) 1. Assyro-Babylonian letters. 2. Assyro-Babylonian letters–Translations into English. 3. Akkadian language–Texts. 4. Tell el-Amarna tablets. 5. Egypt–History–Eighteenth dynasty, ca. 1570-1320 B.C.–Sources. 6. Palestine–History–To 70 A.D.–Sources. 7. Middle East–History–To 622–Sources. I. Rainey, Anson F., 1930-2011, translator. II. Schniedewind, William M., editor. III. Tell el-Amarna tablets. IV. Tell el-Amarna tablets. English.

PJ3886.E5S36 2014
492'.1–dc23

2014029901

This publication has been typeset in the multilingual “Brill” typeface. With over 5,100 characters covering Latin, IPA, Greek, and Cyrillic, this typeface is especially suitable for use in the humanities. For more information, please see www.brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 0169-9423

ISBN 978-90-04-28145-5 (hardback, set)

ISBN 978-90-04-28147-9 (hardback, volume 1)

ISBN 978-90-04-28146-2 (hardback, volume 2)

ISBN 978-90-04-28154-7 (e-book)

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*This Commentary is dedicated
to the memory of my husband and mentor
Anson F. Rainey*

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PREFACE

Throughout his five-decade academic career, Professor Anson F. Rainey dreamed of writing the definitive work on the El Amarna letters. Over the years, he visited museums over the globe, read all extant tablets, and aided by the advanced technology of the late 20th and 21st century, transliterated and translated the entire collection. In his last years, he assembled his new readings, several of which had already been published, and completed Volume I of his *magnum opus*, *The El Amarna Correspondence*.

Most regretfully, his life was cut short before he was able to finish this important undertaking. On his deathbed, therefore, he entrusted me with the task of compiling Volume II, which has been written in accordance with his specific instructions.

In presenting his readings of the El Amarna texts, I have shown how a number of them differ from the readings of some scholars and how others support those of different scholars. In addition, I have retained the collation he used and, when pertinent, have incorporated his hand-written, marginal notations from his personal library to his and others' works.

In order to remain faithful to his spirit and tone, I have often quoted from his books and articles. When presenting transliterations in Volume I, Rainey consistently recorded the exact location of the text on the tablet; I have, therefore, decided to follow suit, even adding the recognized symbols (*obv.*, *rev.*, *lo. ed.*, etc.) to the line numbers.

Finally, a list of the new traces of signs that Rainey observed during his research appears directly following the footnotes to each El Amarna letter.

I would like to thank Prof. Shlomo Izre'el for confirming my interpretations of some unclear readings, and Prof. Daniel Sivan, who encouraged me throughout the course of my work.

Special thanks go to the administration of Bet Berl College for financial support.

Dr. Zipora Cochavi-Rainey