

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SYMBOLIC PERCEPTIONS OF NEW KINGDOM WATERCRAFT:
BUILDING BOATS FROM GODS

By

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A Thesis submitted to the
Department of Anthropology
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts

Degree Awarded:
Spring Semester, 2004

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To my family– especially my father.
You continually inspire me with your
creativity, generosity, and intellect.
I love you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Several individuals assisted me in bringing this thesis to fruition and deserve my gratitude. First and foremost, I am grateful to my committee members. To my advisor and friend Cheryl Ward, whose commitment, enthusiasm, and wisdom guided and inspired me not only while working on my thesis but during my tenure at Florida State University. I hope it was worth the wait. To Richard H. Wilkinson, whose extensive knowledge on ancient Egyptian symbol and ritual proved to be an invaluable resource. Thank you for your insight and flexibility. To Daniel J. Pullen, whose knowledge about ancient Egypt and command of English grammar provided necessary comments and suggestions, thank you for your inexhaustible patience. To Michael A. Uzendoski, whose erudition and experience in the field of cultural anthropology has helped focus my own interests, thank you for your support.

I acknowledge the positive influences of Karen J. Meech, Frank Romer, the late Janet Mattei, Mike Mattei, William A. Parkinson, Nicolas A. Hopkins, Shannon Burkes Pinette, and Jon Solomon, as these individuals have encouraged and guided me through the formative years of my academic career. I also thank John W. Olsen for providing my first introduction to archaeology. I offer my appreciation to my fellow graduate students— Claire Nanfro and Kevin Pittle and friends— Bryan Dove and Lindsay St. Romain, your intellect and camaraderie helped me become a better student and person. Finally, my deepest thanks go to my family. To Louis Lippiello for his avid interest and editing skills, Barbara M. Lippiello for her constant encouragement and much needed ego-boosting, Keryl L. Koffler, who is and always will be my role model, and Jenette Lippiello, Gregg Koffler, and Cory Lippiello, for providing welcomed distractions.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- BD Faulkner, R. O., 1994 (reprinted 1998), *The Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Book of Going Forth by Day*. J. Wasserman (ed.). San Francisco.
- BM British Museum
- FBD Faulkner, R. O., 1972 (reprinted 2001), *The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead*. C. Andrews (ed.). Austin.
- FCT Faulkner, R. O., 1977, *The Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts*, Vol. II. Warminster.
- FPT Faulkner, R. O., 1969, *The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts*. Oxford.
- Sp. Spell
- Utt. Utterance

ABSTRACT

In ancient Egypt a proclivity existed for constructing analogies between divinities or corporeal elements of divinities and earthly objects. This thesis examines the specific relationship between analogous god parts and boat parts in Spell 99 from the *Book of Dead*. I provide a general discussion on the prevalence of watercraft in cosmology followed by an analysis of the individual elements of the *mhnt* boat described in Spell 99. I develop a predictive model for the relationship between corporeal elements of the gods and boat parts based upon primary and secondary associations of form, the location of the deity in mythical geography, and the boat part's placement relative to the deckline. Applying the anthropological theories of mimesis and liminality I attempt to demonstrate the use of sympathetic magic by the deceased to obtain power over that which he fears, in the process revealing core values of ancient Egyptian culture. I determine that the *mhnt* boat represents a microcosm of the ancient Egyptian cosmos and functions as a source of power for the deceased over impotency, chaos, and mortality.