

ROBERT RITNER's recent research and publications have concentrated largely upon the interpenetration of religion and magic throughout ancient Egyptian history. Ritner lectured at the Milwaukee Public Museum and at the Dallas Museum's Ramses the Great exhibit on "Shattered Dolls and the Angry Dead," tracing the use of "voodoo dolls" and human relics to effect control over others, whether in state and private curses or in personal love charms. At an invitational seminar on religion and philosophy at Yale University, Ritner's discussion of "Horus on the Crocodiles" (now published in *Yale Egyptological Studies* 3) analyzed amuletic equivalents of "Saint Christopher medals" for protection during travel, emphasizing their magical healing techniques, temple sponsorship, and religious orthodoxy. Ritner spoke in November at the Oriental Institute's symposium on "The Temple as Microcosm," provided "An Introduction to Ancient Egypt" for the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, acted as consultant and lecturer for the Field Museum's exhibit and symposium on "Inside Ancient Egypt," and identified "so-called predynastic hamster-headed figurines in London and Hanover" as dynastic cursing figures (of humans) at the Philadelphia meetings of the American Research Center in Egypt. In March Ritner led the Institute's tour of Egypt together with Gretel Braidwood. In addition to the publication of the Yale and Philadelphia lectures, studies published or in press include the investigations of Demotic and hieratic ostraca "Poll Tax on the Dead" and "O. Gardiner 363: A Spell to Avert Night Terrors," as well as reviews of volumes on Egyptian medicine, Ptolemaic taxation, Greco-Egyptian syncretism, and Demotic wisdom literature. Ritner is completing revisions of his forthcoming volume on *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian*

*Magical Practice* (to be published by the Oriental Institute), and continuing his role as senior lecturer in Egyptology and associate editor of the Demotic Dictionary Project.