

ANALYSIS OF THE EGYPTIAN STATE

IN CHARGE: John A. Wilson, *Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology*

Professor Wilson is engaged on a long-term study of the basic motivation of the ancient Egyptian state. The mechanics of government are moderately well known, and records of the dogma which the state issued to justify its power have come down to us in some quantity. There still remain problems of the well-springs of authority, the reasons for popular acceptance of authority, the interplay of religion and politics, and the extent to which state dogma diverged from the practical exercise of rule. As work proceeds on these questions, Professor Wilson hopes to provide a more satisfactory definition of an ancient state.