

4 Scholarship

Individual Research

KLAUS BAER has been studying the archaic language of the inscriptions of Mehtjeh (early Fourth Dynasty, about 125 years older than any other connected texts from Egypt). The most important conclusions to emerge from his analysis of the materials are that Egyptian was originally a verb-subject-object language and that the tendency to shift a nominal subject forward (well known in the case of the nominal predicate) was only beginning in the case of the verbal predicate in these texts, but led to the typical verb-subject-object pattern by the end of the fourth dynasty. Mr. Baer was elected President of the American Research Center in Egypt.