

THE NEW YORK AEGEAN BRONZE AGE COLLOQUIUM

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6:30 pm



Institute of Fine Arts
New York University
1 East 78th Street

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The Ahmose Tempest Stela An Ancient Egyptian Account of a Natural Catastrophe Chronological Implications and Archaeological Evidence

During the reign of Ahmose, founder of the Egyptian 18th Dynasty (New Kingdom), a highly destructive storm occurred. To commemorate his reconstruction efforts, Ahmose erected a stela at Karnak temple in Thebes, which recounts meteorological phenomena and devastations, then the restorations he undertook. While sudden and violent storms are recurrent features in ancient Egyptian life and literature, the Ahmose stela is unique in describing details of such a severe catastrophe which go beyond what is usually experienced by a regular storm and therefore might be the oldest description of a catastrophic event, such as the Thera eruption, which affected much of the Eastern Mediterranean. This inquiry offers not only a detailed analysis of this account but also a new contribution to the ongoing discussion on the absolute Egyptian chronology and its possible link to the now well-dated eruption of the volcano at Thera.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the Ancient Near East Seminar at Columbia University

Interested guests are always welcome

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