

p.42 (cont'd)

noted, are of considerable length Sinuhe returns to his narrative, which flows smoothly and uninterruptedly to its finish." ³ Note well: though annoyed by such roughness, Peet does not believe Sinhue therefore to be an editorial patchwork.

Of this sort of evidence concerning the native modes of ancient writing we cannot have enough. Yet hardly a beginning has been made. But until we have solid studies of the styles of ancient near Eastern writing, how can we speak with confidence about what is in and out of order, an editorial excrescence or an original "awkwardness" - from our viewpoint - in biblical writing?

3. T. E. Peet, A Comparative Study of the Literatures of Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia (1931), pp. 31f., 37f.