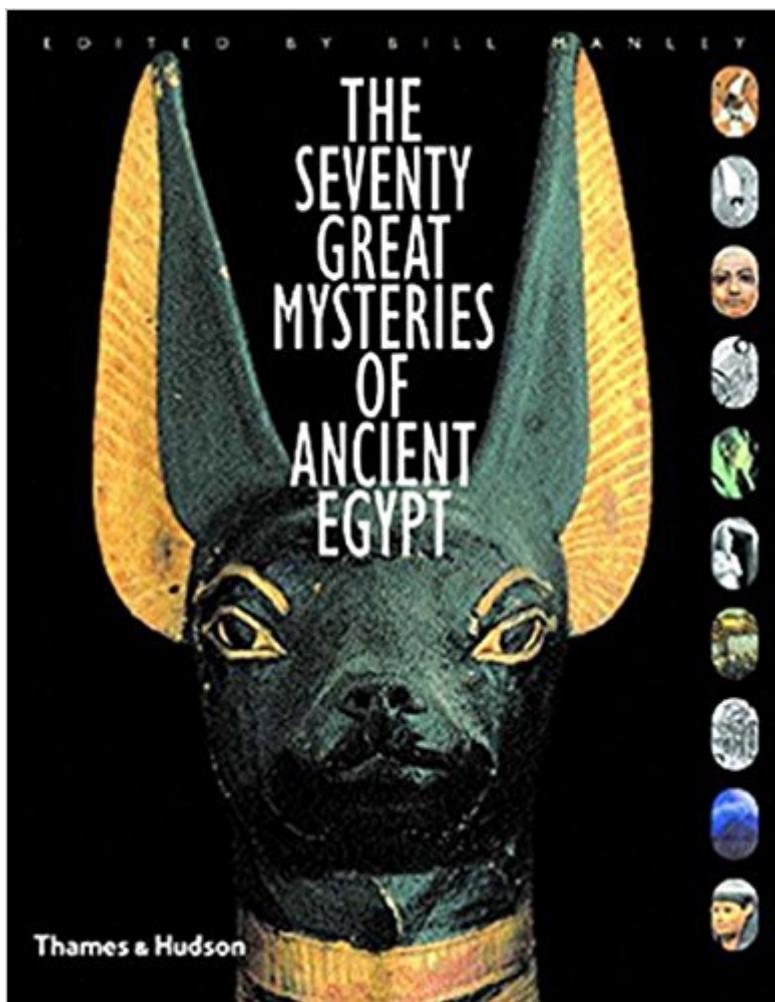


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The Seventy Great Mysteries Of Ancient Egypt



Synopsis

Ancient Egypt - so familiar and yet so distant. We know so much about it, but there are still many unresolved questions. What were the pyramids actually for? How old is the Great Sphinx? Did Moses learn his beliefs at the court of Akhenaten? Why did the beautiful queen Nefertiti suddenly disappear? This volume explores and explains 70 of the most intriguing mysteries of this ancient civilization.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Thames & Hudson; Not known edition (November 24, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0500051232

ISBN-13: 978-0500051238

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 1.3 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #373,879 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #299 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Egypt #744 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Archaeology #39276 in Books > Science & Math

Customer Reviews

Organized as 70 short, easily digestible essays by noted scholars, this engaging and lavishly illustrated survey covers all of ancient Egypt's greatest hits, including the pyramids, hieroglyphics and mummies, along with intriguing biographical material on such pharaonic celebrities as the courageous Ramesses (whose battle of Qadesh in 1275 B.C. is the first for which we have a detailed historical record), religious reformer Akhenaten and his queen Nefertiti, lady pharaoh Hatshepsut and, of course, Cleopatra. Alongside sensational subjects like assassinations and pharaonic incest are equally interesting background articles on Egyptian prehistory, technology, religion and literature. The authors discourage the "fantasy archaeology" behind suggestions about the extra-terrestrial or Atlantean provenance of Egyptian culture, but they include a generally indulgent, if non-committal, section on the possible concordance between Biblical stories about Egypt and the historical reality. Although written for laypeople in an accessible style, there is a fair amount of depth to the articles, which bring a wealth of archaeological, linguistic and textual evidence to bear on the controversies they explore. A few subjects, like the fecund Nile agricultural

system that underlay Egypt's ascendancy, receive skimpy coverage, while some of the denser pieces about the whereabouts of various pharaohs' tombs and corpses address mysteries that only an Egyptologist could relish. But the wide-ranging, skillfully written and conveniently browsable articles and the hundreds of ravishing color photos of art and architecture demonstrate anew why Egypt holds a continuing fascination. 434 illustrations with 344 in color. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Bill Manley has been a lecturer in Egyptology at the universities of London and of Liverpool. His publications include two best-selling books, *The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Egypt* and, with Mark Collier, *How to Read Egyptian Hieroglyphs*.

Wonderful read. I wouldn't recommend it as a first book, but something to enjoy after you've read Gardiner, or *The Complete Pharaohs*, or whatever intro book you like. It's not that the book requires background knowledge - they have an introductory few paragraphs that concisely summarize the background to the question, but putting the questions into a larger context is important with 3,000 years of history. The scholarship is very sound, with academic papers and general reading works listed among the bibliography (each question gets its own bibliography), yet each section is quite readable. It explores the usual questions - the pyramids, the palette of Narmer, the dating and attribution problems, but it is limited by the "shoehorning" aspect of including this in the "The 70 blah blah" series of Thames & Hudson (all of which are great, btw), and would benefit from an updated "Another 70 Mysteries" for skipped questions (notably in the areas of technology, everyday life, art historical and philological issues) and discoveries since 2003, the copyright date.

The book surprised me in that it was more in depth with some topics, and, as expected general information on most. The writing is easy to understand. Great value for the money.

great book

I would read anything this author wrote on Egypt and I only wish he had or would, write more. This book was wonderful, as is his "Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Complete Beginners" which I read and studied first, and his other book on hieroglyphs.

this book is well written with many beautiful photos . i received it promptly . my only complaint is that

it came with a different dust jacket as advertised . overall , i'm satisfied .

Enjoyed this summary of Ancient Egyptian history. A good basic book for folks interested in the highlights of archeological findings so far in Egyptology.

great

It got here really fast, and was in pretty good shape. It was a little old, but mostly taken care of.

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