

the oxford encyclopedia of ancient egypt a f donald b redford

the oxford encyclopedia of ancient egypt a f donald b redford stands as a monumental work in the field of Egyptology, offering an extensive and authoritative resource on the civilization of ancient Egypt. Edited by esteemed scholars A. F. and Donald B. Redford, this encyclopedia compiles a wealth of knowledge covering the political, social, religious, and cultural aspects of one of history's most fascinating civilizations. It serves as an indispensable reference for researchers, students, and enthusiasts alike, providing detailed entries that encompass archaeology, history, art, and language. The work reflects the latest scholarly research and offers comprehensive coverage from the prehistoric periods through the Ptolemaic and Roman eras. This article explores the significance, structure, content, and impact of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt, highlighting its role in advancing Egyptological studies and making the ancient world accessible to a broad audience.

- Overview and Editorial Background
- Scope and Structure of the Encyclopedia
- Key Themes and Topics Covered
- Contributions and Scholarly Impact
- Usage and Accessibility

Overview and Editorial Background

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt, edited by A. F. and Donald B. Redford, is a comprehensive academic work that synthesizes decades of Egyptological scholarship. The editors, both renowned experts in the field, aimed to create a single, authoritative source that consolidates knowledge about ancient Egypt's complex history and culture. The project involved collaboration with numerous specialists who contributed articles on specialized topics, ensuring accuracy and depth. This encyclopedia is recognized for its rigorous editorial standards and its balance between accessibility for general readers and scholarly detail for experts.

Editors: A. F. and Donald B. Redford

A. F. Redford and Donald B. Redford are distinguished Egyptologists with

extensive backgrounds in ancient Near Eastern studies. Their editorial leadership ensured the encyclopedia's content reflects both traditional and contemporary perspectives. Donald B. Redford's contributions, particularly in political history and historiography, complement A. F. Redford's expertise, resulting in a well-rounded and meticulously curated volume.

Publication and Editions

First published by Oxford University Press, the encyclopedia has undergone updates to incorporate new discoveries and evolving interpretations. Its publication marked a significant milestone in Egyptological literature, offering a centralized resource in contrast to scattered academic articles and monographs. The encyclopedia is often cited as a foundational reference in both academic research and public education.

Scope and Structure of the Encyclopedia

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt covers a wide chronological span, from prehistoric times through the Pharaonic periods and into the Ptolemaic and Roman eras. Its structure is organized thematically and alphabetically, making it user-friendly while allowing in-depth exploration of complex topics. Each entry is carefully crafted to provide context, detailed analysis, and bibliographic references for further study.

Chronological Coverage

The encyclopedia addresses all major periods of ancient Egyptian history, including:

- Predynastic and Early Dynastic Periods
- Old Kingdom
- Middle Kingdom
- New Kingdom
- Late Period
- Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt

This chronological approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of Egypt's development over millennia.

Thematic Organization

Entries are grouped by broad themes such as religion, art, literature, daily life, architecture, and language. This thematic categorization helps readers grasp the multifaceted nature of ancient Egyptian civilization and facilitates cross-referencing between related topics.

Key Themes and Topics Covered

The encyclopedia delves into a vast array of subjects central to ancient Egyptian studies. The coverage includes political structures, religious beliefs, funerary customs, artistic achievements, linguistic developments, and archaeological discoveries. Such breadth ensures that users gain a holistic view of the civilization's complexity and enduring legacy.

Political and Social History

Detailed entries explore the governance systems, notable pharaohs, administrative practices, and social hierarchies of ancient Egypt. The encyclopedia examines how political power evolved and how social classes interacted within the dynastic framework.

Religion and Mythology

Religious beliefs and mythological narratives form a core component, with comprehensive explanations of gods and goddesses, rituals, temple architecture, and the role of religion in daily life. The encyclopedia highlights the significance of funerary practices and the afterlife in Egyptian culture.

Art, Architecture, and Material Culture

Artistic styles, monumental architecture such as pyramids and temples, and everyday artifacts are extensively documented. Entries describe the symbolic meanings, craftsmanship techniques, and historical contexts of these cultural expressions.

Language and Writing Systems

The encyclopedia provides in-depth information on hieroglyphics, hieratic, and demotic scripts, including their development, usage, and decipherment. Linguistic studies are crucial for understanding Egypt's extensive written records.

Contributions and Scholarly Impact

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt has significantly influenced the study and popular understanding of ancient Egypt. Its multidisciplinary approach and scholarly rigor have made it a standard reference worldwide. The encyclopedia supports ongoing research by consolidating current knowledge and identifying areas requiring further investigation.

Academic Contributions

By gathering contributions from leading Egyptologists, the encyclopedia reflects the latest archaeological findings and theoretical approaches. It has been instrumental in shaping curricula, guiding research projects, and informing museum exhibitions.

Influence on Egyptology

The work's comprehensive nature and authoritative content have elevated standards for scholarly publications in the field. It bridges the gap between academic discourse and public interest, promoting a nuanced appreciation of ancient Egypt's complexity.

Usage and Accessibility

The encyclopedia is widely used in academic institutions, libraries, and by independent researchers. Its clear organization and detailed entries make it accessible to both specialists and informed laypersons. The availability of print and digital formats further enhances its reach and utility.

Target Audience

The encyclopedia serves a diverse audience including:

- Scholars and Egyptologists conducting in-depth research
- Students studying ancient history and archaeology
- Educators seeking reliable teaching resources
- General readers with an interest in ancient civilizations

Formats and Editions

Available in comprehensive multi-volume print editions as well as digital platforms, the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt ensures that information is accessible in various settings. Digital versions often include search functions and cross-referencing tools to enhance user experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt' by A.F. Donald B. Redford?

It is a comprehensive reference work that provides detailed information on various aspects of ancient Egyptian civilization, including history, culture, religion, and archaeology, edited by A.F. Donald B. Redford.

Who is A.F. Donald B. Redford in relation to 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt'?

A.F. Donald B. Redford is the editor of 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt' and a renowned Egyptologist known for his scholarly contributions to the study of ancient Egypt.

What topics are covered in 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt'?

The encyclopedia covers a wide range of topics such as ancient Egyptian history, art, language, mythology, religion, archaeology, and daily life, providing an extensive overview of the civilization.

How is 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt' useful for students and researchers?

It serves as a valuable resource by offering authoritative and well-researched articles that help students and researchers gain a deeper understanding of ancient Egyptian civilization and support academic work.

When was 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt' published and by which publisher?

The encyclopedia was published in 2001 by Oxford University Press, establishing itself as a key scholarly resource on ancient Egypt.

Additional Resources

1. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt* by Donald B. Redford

This comprehensive reference work covers all aspects of ancient Egyptian civilization, including its history, culture, religion, art, and archaeology. Edited by Donald B. Redford, the encyclopedia features contributions from leading Egyptologists, offering detailed entries on key topics and figures. It serves as an essential resource for students, scholars, and anyone interested in the ancient world.

2. *The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt* by Richard H. Wilkinson

Wilkinson's book provides an in-depth exploration of the deities worshipped in ancient Egypt, detailing their myths, roles, and iconography. The book features rich illustrations and archaeological evidence, making it accessible to both general readers and specialists. It complements encyclopedic references by focusing specifically on religious beliefs.

3. *The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt* by Toby Wilkinson

This narrative history traces the development of ancient Egyptian civilization from its prehistoric beginnings through its dynastic periods to its decline under foreign rule. Toby Wilkinson combines archaeological findings with historical texts to present a vivid and engaging account. The book is praised for its clarity and comprehensive coverage.

4. *Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume I: The Old and Middle Kingdoms* edited by Miriam Lichtheim

This volume collects translations of significant literary texts from the Old and Middle Kingdoms, providing insight into the culture, religion, and daily life of ancient Egypt. Miriam Lichtheim's introductions and notes help contextualize the texts for modern readers. It is an invaluable resource for understanding Egyptian thought and expression.

5. *The Art of Ancient Egypt: Revised Edition* by Gay Robins

Gay Robins offers a detailed study of the artistic achievements of ancient Egypt, analyzing sculpture, painting, architecture, and decorative arts. The book situates art within its cultural and religious contexts, explaining symbolism and stylistic developments. It is richly illustrated and suitable for both students and art enthusiasts.

6. *Chronicle of the Pharaohs: The Reign-by-Reign Record of the Rulers and Dynasties of Ancient Egypt* by Peter A. Clayton

This reference provides a chronological overview of Egypt's rulers, detailing their reigns, achievements, and historical significance. Peter Clayton's concise entries are accompanied by photographs and illustrations of monuments and artifacts. The book is a handy guide to the complex history of Egyptian dynasties.

7. *Temples, Tombs, and Hieroglyphs: A Popular History of Ancient Egypt* by Barbara Mertz

Barbara Mertz presents an engaging and accessible introduction to the civilization of ancient Egypt, covering its architecture, religious

practices, and writing system. The book is designed for readers new to Egyptology and includes numerous illustrations and maps. It balances scholarly information with storytelling to bring the past to life.

8. *The Egyptian World* edited by Toby Wilkinson

This collection of essays by various experts explores different facets of ancient Egyptian life, from social structure and economy to religion and art. Edited by Toby Wilkinson, the book offers a multidisciplinary approach that reflects current research trends. It is suitable for both academic and general audiences.

9. *Reading the Past: Ancient Egypt* by Richard H. Wilkinson

Wilkinson's book introduces readers to the archaeology and history of ancient Egypt through the examination of key artifacts and sites. It explains how modern discoveries have shaped our understanding of Egyptian civilization. The book is richly illustrated and written in an accessible style, making it ideal for students and enthusiasts alike.

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