

## New Kingdom Egypt: A World 3500 Years Ago A Selected Bibliography

A united, sophisticated, very ancient Egypt, and one governed by single rulers is in existence for more than fifteen hundred years by the start of its still ancient era now referred to as the New Kingdom. The kingdom comprises a time span variously represented by scholars. For example, its dates are given as 1570 to 1070 BCE (Roberts) and 1567 to 1085 BCE (Quirke). Yet, there seems to be agreement the era lasted about 500 years—approximating the amount of time between Columbus' contact with the Caribbean and today. The period incorporates three dynasties, the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> inclusively.

Called Ṭa'meri or K'mt by its people, Egypt in antiquity included such New Kingdom personalities very recognizable today as Hatshepsut, Thutmose III, Akhenaten, Nefert-iti, and Tutankhamen. The period is described by Egyptologist Alison Roberts in her book, Hathor Rising, as a time when strong women were inextricably bound up with the Pharaoh's rule. Stephen Quirke identifies it as an age marked by spectacular luxury in his Who Were the Pharaohs?

The resources listed here are selected from the library's collection to highlight a range of material available on the period and its people. The annotations are meant to be critically informative expressions (a few are merely summaries) by this author unless otherwise noted.

### **Akhenaten: pharaoh of Egypt—a new study / Cyril Aldred. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, c1968. DT 87.4 A25 1969**

Aldred discusses the New Kingdom king, Akhenaten (husband to Nefert-iti and father-in-law to Tut-an-akh-Amun), for the general reader with what he believes “to have been the proper sequence of events within their cultural context” by employing a re-examination of the archeological record, using past and more current interpretations of the physical evidence, paying careful attention to the time period, and by making a critical accounting minus irrelevant comparisons to other kings and other times. A distinct study well presented, documented, and illustrated.

### **Akhenaten and the religion of light / Erik Hornung; translated from the German by David Lorton. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, c1999. BL 2443 H6613 1999**

At the unexpected close (now revived) of the 55-year old Eranos Conference, Erik Hornung expands on the history of the archeological discovery and the dogma of Akhenaten, the former Amenhotep IV, the New Kingdom ruler and teacher of an ultimately failed restrictive new religion/religious expression based on the Aten or “light that is the sun” (rather than the sun disk) as royal god and ruler of the world. Excellent chapter notes at the end of the text announce a separately published bibliography.

### **Ancient Egypt in Africa / edited by David O'Connor and Andrew Reid. (Encounters with ancient Egypt) Portland, Oregon: Cavendish Publishing, 2003. DT 61 A615 2003**

The editors contribute to a series compiled from conference proceedings hosted by London University's Institute of Archaeology with papers of notable scholars who reopen the discussion of Ancient Egypt's 'racial' and cultural-geographic

African origins based on advances in archaeological and anthropological practice and interpretation (although generally excluding the earliest dynasties) with some interesting new discussions; and still, the predictable critiques of Martin Bernal's work and the ostensible postmodern re-evaluation/refitting favoring a possible and more palatable north/east African genesis over a central/sub-Saharan African origin for Egypt are tiresome.

**Book of the pharaohs / Pascal Vernus and Jean Yoyotte; translated from the French by David Lorton. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2003. DT 58 V4713 2003**

A translated volume of alphabetically arranged nouns of Ancient Egyptian significance—chiefly proper names, both personal names and geographic names (many are regrettably and unnecessarily entered under the expressive Greek convention when Egyptian names are very accessible within the text)—each with explanations, some cross references, and some cited sources, and includes a curious selection of a few illustrations, a bibliography, maps, and chronology.

**The complete Tutankhamun: the king, the tomb, the royal treasure / by Nicholas Reeves. London: Thames and Hudson, 1990. DT 87.5 R43 1990**

An accessible, rather detailed history, genealogy, biography and photographic chronicle of the discovery and the objects of the 'boy king' Tutankhamun's tomb as originally uncovered by Howard Carter, former young assistant to archaeologist, Flinders Petrie who was later given high post in the Antiquities Service by Gaston Maspero.

**Egypt: architecture, sculpture, painting in three thousand years. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. rev. Greenwich, Conn.: Phaidon Publishers, Inc., 1961. N 5351 L313 1961**

This substantial volume is about half text and half numbered plates of chiefly large black and white photos of solitary pieces from the Thinite Period (the time of Menes rendered as the Early Dynasty) through the Ptolemaic Period of Ancient Egypt—ca.3000 to 260 BCE. The absence of approximated dates with each image hinders instant contextual reference requiring turning to the back of the text for the discussion of the related period and the exquisite descriptions of plates.

**Hatshepsut / by Evelyn Wells. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, 1969. DT 87.2 W4**

Among precious few scholarly English language titles devoted to the subject of Hatshepsut, the New Kingdom's female king is this casual text that reads in parts like a biographical fiction with substantial bibliography, index and illustrations.

**Hatchepsut [sic]: the female pharaoh / Joyce Tyldesley. London: Penguin Books, 1998. DT 87.15 T95 1998**

The unconventional spelling of her name and the peculiar cover illustration aside, a story of this significant 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty king is presented in its complexity for the "non-specialist reader...with an objective and unbiased account of [her]] life and times..." that of her immediate family, and that of her memory as reported after her death as well as from the scholars who study her. (Introduction quoted)

**The Hyksos: a new investigation / by John Van Seters. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, c1966. 932.01 V363h**

A re-examination of the period of foreign rule (the Second Intermediate Period) prior to the rise of the New Kingdom, as identified by the ancient Egyptians, is undertaken to support an interpretation of the Hyksos (Greek term) period as a dynasty of Amurrite (also Amorite) rulers, and to attest to the high level of cultural achievement by these Phoenician-Palestinians who were already resident in Egypt's delta region.

**In the shadow of the Pyramids: Egypt during the Old Kingdom / text by Jaromir Malek, photographs by Werner Forman. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986. Quarto DT 61 M29 1986**

A compact text gives illustrative coverage of the most advanced civilization of antiquity, documents certain established conventions (practiced from the Old through the New Kingdom periods) of structural and visual expressions viewed in color and close-up photography, and unexpectedly, reveals some seldom seen images and perspectives.

**Life of the Ancient Egyptians / by Eugen Strouhal, with photographs by Werner Forman. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. DT61 S92513 1992**

Czech anthropologist and archaeologist, Eugen Strouhal, in thematic chapters updates the seminal texts on 'everyday life in Ancient Egypt' with information gathered as a result of modern scientific techniques applied to what remains of the life of the ordinary Egyptian (as opposed to that of kings, priests and attendants) from ruins of town-sites, recovered documents—including the literary, instructional and medical texts—along with the works of early researches. Contains many predictable and a few lesser seen illustrations.

**Mathematics in the time of the pharaohs / Richard J. Gillings. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1972. 510.932 G415m**

From a premise that ancient Egyptians achieved great heights in science and mathematics because of two elementary concepts—knowledge of the twice-times table and the ability to find two-thirds of any number, integral or fractional—Gillings presents the structure of Egyptian mathematics as taken from 'mathematical' papyri of the Middle Kingdom through the New Kingdom and vigorously dismisses now legendary mathematical properties attributed to the Great Pyramid.

**Nefertiti: Egypt's sun queen / Joyce Tyldesley. London: Penguin Books, 1999. DT 87.45 T95 1999b**

The disappearance of this late New Kingdom queen (wife to the religious reformer/'heretic king,' Akhenaten) as determined by her sudden absence in the historic record is a motivation for the research undertaken by Tyldesley as a clarifying rediscovery of Nefertiti's life amid the vagaries and insufficient documentation. The title is among several published by this writer and lecturer on Egyptian archaeology.

**Pharaoh's people: scenes from life in imperial Egypt/ T. G. H. James. London: The Bodley Head, Ltd., c1984. 932.014 J236p**

Former Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, Thomas Garnet Henry James, writes an enlightening historic perspective of the New Kingdom from the pictorial (rather than inscribed) record of the common people living within the more lofty and boastful pharaonic environment of 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty Thebes as an alternate and perhaps more reliable source of the Egyptian's factual daily existence—the author imparting a need for caution in the use of royal texts to gain balanced accounts of Egypt's ancient 'popular' history.

**Pharaoh's workers: the villagers of Deir el Medina/ edited by Leonard H. Lesko. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1994. DT 73 D47P47 1994**

Contributors set out to address the question of who the people were—by skill, compensation, class, sociology and everyday lifestyle—who worked to build the temples and colossi of New Kingdom Egypt through an examination of the well documented literary and archeological records from the settlement of craftsmen and workers in the Deir el Medina community of western Thebes that existed for over 400 years.

**The reign of Thutmose IV / Betsy M. Bryan. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, c1991. DT 87 B78 1991**

While there seems to be many uncertainties and some controversy about the extent of the reign of this lesser known king, here is a close consideration of catalogued items, translated inscriptions, and monuments attempting to evidence that which can truly be attributed to the grandson of the heralded military king Thutmose III and the grandfather to Akhenaten, Thutmose IV and his short reign—an impressive undertaking for such a shallow legacy.

**Searching for Ancient Egypt: art, architecture, and artifacts from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology / David P. Silverman, editor. Dallas, Tex.: Dallas Museum of Art; Philadelphia, Pa.: University of Pennsylvania Museum; Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, c1997. DT 61 U55 1997**

The curator-in-charge of the Egyptian Section of the museum brings together a collection of essays and a catalog documentary of collected ancient artifacts from all periods of Ancient Egyptian history comprising the exhibition of the university's renowned long record of study, expeditions, and projects in Egypt and Nubia. This indexed volume contains a chronology, glossary, bibliography, and beautiful close-up color and black and white illustrations.

**Thebes in the time of Amunhotep [sic] III / by Elizabeth Riefstahl. Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, c1964. 932.01 R443t**

This installment of the University of Oklahoma Press' "The Centers of Civilization Series" focuses study on cities of influence in Upper Egyptian Thebes, or more appropriately Waset, during New Kingdom Ancient Egypt—its people (royal and common), its constructions, destructions, its wealth, grandeur, power, and its history from late Old Kingdom.

<http://www.akhet.co.uk/index.htm>

The “‘Akhet Egyptology’ [apparently Akhet started many years ago on CompuServe] and ‘Scottish Egyptology’ site lists all Egyptological collections and resources housed in Scotland, including unique photographs of some of the exhibits. In addition to the Scottish guide the site includes a wide variety of different areas, such as coffin art and the Pharaoh Akhenaten. Of course there is also the obligatory links page.” A more informative site than the Cairo museum site although it is without references and citations.

<http://www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk/Welcome.html>

“A learning and teaching resource for higher education developed in UCL [University College London] at CASA [Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis] for the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology with 3000 pages created by Wolfram Grajetzki, 300 pages by Stephen Quirke and invited contributors 3d reconstructions of 14 archaeological sites by Narushige Shioda... aimed to assist teaching across all disciplines and was created in 2000-2003, managed by Stephen Quirke.” This is a very well organized site with an extensive topical index, images of items from the Petrie Museum to illuminate discussion, liberally referenced (notes, bibliographies/further readings), attestations, disputing positions, and general discussions—all very useful though generally limited to evidence from items found at the museum.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/index.shtml>

<http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg/era.html>

The Cairo Museum of Egyptian Antiquities has a disappointing ‘official’ site composed of a number of bad photographs of some of the important objects collected there—the photos selected from within the various periods and categories are too far away, or too small, or without much description if any. Among New Kingdom items presented are King Akhenaten’s collection, 3500 pieces from Tutankhamun’s tomb, and the royal tombs of Tuthmosis III, Tuthmosis IV, Amenhotep III and Horemheb.