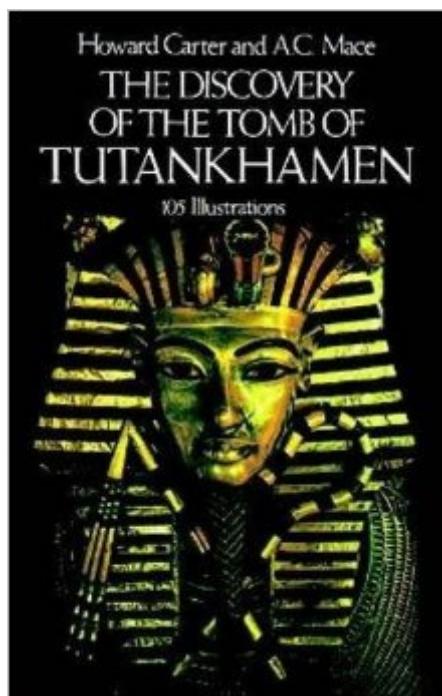


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The Discovery Of The Tomb Of Tutankhamen (Egypt)



Synopsis

November 4, 1922. For six seasons the legendary Valley of the Kings has yielded no secrets to Howard Carter and his archeological team: "We had almost made up our minds that we were beaten," he writes, "and were preparing to leave The Valley and try our luck elsewhere; and then â " hardly had we set hoe to ground in our last despairing effort than we made a discovery that far exceeded our wildest dreams." Join Howard Carter in his fascinating odyssey toward the most dramatic archeological find of the century â " the tomb of Tutankhamen. Written by Carter in 1923, only a year after the discovery, this book captures the overwhelming exhilaration of the find, the painstaking, step-by-step process of excavation, and the wonder of opening a treasure-filled inner chamber whose regal inhabitant had been dead for 3,000 years. 104 on-the-spot photographs chronicle the phases of the discovery and the scrupulous cataloging of the treasures. The opening chapters discuss the life of Tutankhamen and earlier archeological work in the Valley of the Kings. An appendix contains fully captioned photographs of the objects obtained from the tomb. A new preface by Jon Manchip White adds information on Carter's career, recent opinions on Tutankhamen's reign, and the importance of Carter's discovery to Egyptologists. Millions have seen the stunning artifacts which came from the tomb â " they are among the glories of the Cairo Museum, and have made triumphal tours to museums the world over. They are a testament to the enigmatic young king, and to the unwavering tenacity of the man who brought them to light as described in this remarkable narrative.

Book Information

Series: Egypt

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Unabridged Reprint edition (June 1, 1977)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486235009

ISBN-13: 978-0486235004

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #206,003 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 inÂ Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > General #109 inÂ Books > Travel > Middle East #141 inÂ Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Egypt

Customer Reviews

This book is not simply a description of the tomb or complicated archeological jargon, but was written to inform the curious while the tomb was being cleared. It still contains a sense of currency that captures a rare event in recovering the past. Starting with a biography of Lord Carnarvon who financed the expedition, then goes on to describe in subsequent chapters what they knew of King Tut at the time, and the background of the Valley of the Kings and a discussion on the theft of antiquities. Then about half way through begins the story of Carter's involvement. With a combination of the words and pictures it is possible to get a glimmer of what events were like for them. Even to his irksome view of people who interrupted the work by insisting upon a tour of the tomb, or his peevish rebuttal against those who consider an archeologists work akin to a day at the beach. Anyway, through it all it is an engaging book. Includes 105 photographs, however in black and white. It should be known that this account is not of the complete find and primarily concerns finds in the Antechamber, and not the Annex or Shrine. Still, the book is titled the "Discovery" so this should not come as a surprise.

Written for a curious public, this is Howard Carter's only published account of the finding of the tomb and clearing of the "Antechamber". It is easy for some, more than 75 years after its discovery to fault Carter for his handling of many of the objects from the tomb. Here you can read of some of the problems and his solutions first hand. Included are the photos Burton took during the clearance. Some of these are to be found nowhere else. The step by step emptying of the famous "Painted chest" is fascinating. You can actually see the condition of the objects deteriorate as the bottom of the box is reached.

If you love Epyptology, you'll love this book. Written like a diary, it will keep you on the edge of your seat, waiting for what's around the corner. A must read!

I have studied Egypt for many years and just happened upon this book. What I found inside was a completely different man than what I had expected. His love for his work, his humility in the face of great celebrity, his reverence for the dead boy king are touching and uplifting. How fortunate is history that two men such as Howard Cater and Lord Carnarvon were entrusted with this amazing discovery and how generous of the Metropolitan Museum of Art to send a photographer of Harry Burton's abilities to record all of this for us. I wish I could find a biography on Carter, for he is a complex and fascinating man.

I have the original hard copy volumes written by Howard Carter. I don't like to handle them too much as they are out of print now. This version is quite accurate and I thoroughly enjoyed being able to read through the history again.

I really enjoyed this book. This is the 1977 republication of Howard Carter's original 1923 publication on his discovery and opening of King Tutankhamen's tomb in Egypt's valley of the king's, timed for the 50 year anniversary of Carter's discovery. My only objection to this book is that in addition to the original prologue and introduction, there is another introduction that updates the story of Tutankhamen after 50 more years of study; so, the 2 introductions and prologue take up 75 pages before you get to the meat of the story. I admit I skipped the original introduction, which really just a short biography of Lord Cardowan, the person who put up the money for this endeavor. The actual story begins with a short narrative on the historical context of Egypt at the time of Tutankhamen's reign. This basically tells us what is known of his parentage and his claim to the throne of Egypt. It should be noted that this historical account is not extensive, as that is not the aim of the book. The story then turns to Carter's efforts in searching for the tomb. All of the archeologists at the time knew King Tutankhamen's tomb was still unaccounted for, but Carter's ability to read the unexplored terrain remaining in the valley of the kings put him in the position to make this find. The book goes on to describe the actual finding, opening, and documenting of the tomb itself. The descriptions and photographs of the treasures in the tomb, and the time consuming, painstaking efforts required to preserve their findings make for fascinating reading. As the actual 100 year anniversary of Carter's find approaches, go ahead and relive the excitement of the first hand account of the man who made the discovery.

3 years ago my parents took me on holiday to Egypt, which I was very angry about at first because it wasn't a 'proper holiday' (too much education involved). Now I look back on it as the most inspirational 2 weeks of my life. This book complements the travels perfectly. The book really shows how determined Howard Carter was to discovering Tut's tomb, and how close he got to never finding it at all. The book documents one of the greatest discoveries in the past century and will make you want to visit the tomb. Please read this book!!

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