A History of World Egyptology is a ground-breaking reference work that traces the study of ancient Egypt over the past 150 years. Global in purview, it enlarges our understanding of how and why people have looked, and continue to look, into humankind's distant past through the lens of the enduring allure of ancient Egypt. Written by an international team of scholars, the volume investigates how territories around the world have engaged with and have been inspired by ancient Egypt and its study and how that engagement has evolved over time. Each chapter presents a specific territory from an institutional and national perspective, while examining a range of transnational links as well. The volume thus touches on multiple strands of scholarship, embracing not only Egyptology, but also social history, the history of science and reception studies. It will appeal to amateurs and professionals with an interest in the histories of Egypt, archaeology and science.

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A History of World Egyptology

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To the memory of
Warren Royal Dawson
(1888–1968)
pioneer of Egyptological history
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This volume has been a long time in preparation. The suggestion for this book was made to Salima by our estimable and patient commissioning editor, Beatrice Rehl, along with Egyptologist Janet Richards. Having decided that this had to be a group effort, Salima discussed it with Andrew and Peter Lacovara (who later left the editorial group as a result of other commitments), and, with the addition of Aidan to the editorial team, the project was formally started in 2013. The intention was to provide, for the first time, a truly international history of Egyptology, in which the development of Egyptology within multiple countries and different national contexts was highlighted, rather than being drowned out by the ‘great powers’ of the subject that so often dominate historical discourse.

As is inevitable with a work embracing some two dozen contributors, the original intention of publishing the book within three years of inception proved to be chimeric. We are thus most grateful for the patience of the ‘early contributors’ while others battled conflicting priorities to deliver their parts of the jigsaw puzzle.

As for the arrangement of pieces, apart from placing Egypt first, on the basis that it must open any history of Egyptology – not only because it is Egypt, but because the first researches into its past were from within, while the pharaohs still ruled – we have arranged the chapters broadly geographically, to avoid any implications of a hierarchy among Egyptological nations. On the other hand, as somewhere had to be chosen to follow Egypt in the sequence, we have selected France, since its establishment of the first university chair primarily concerned with ancient Egypt gives the work its ‘Year Zero’, 1831.

The apparently simple alternative of an alphabetical listing foundered on the nature of European politics over our period of 1831–1976, which has also resulted in a number of unavoidable overlaps between certain chapters, in particular...
those covering former constituents of the Austrian (later Austro-Hungarian) Empire. The creation, dissolution and reorganisation of many polities during this period left an apparently simple alphabetical approach replete with problems. It is for this reason that we have included four maps of Europe showing the continent’s political make-up in the crucial years of 1831, 1914, 1923 and 1976. These are marked with the key locations mentioned in the text, together with, where appropriate, the different names by which these places have been known over the past two centuries. South and Central America are not represented as active involvement in the field from the region came later than the scope of this book.

We have ended with an extremely influential ‘territory’ in the history of the reception of ancient Egypt around the world: that of film. Although these productions can be found risible (or worse) by the professional Egyptologist, films are for many people their first window into worlds beyond their own, and perceptions derived from, for example, the various Mummy and numerous Cleopatra films are thus in some ways just as important as those derived from Egyptological scholarship.

Our intention has been, as far as possible, to produce a ‘book’, rather than a set of standalone essays, although with a multiple-author volume this has its limitations. We have accordingly aimed to include plentiful cross-references, and to make the ‘tone’ as consistent as possible, covering not only academic Egyptology, but also ancient Egypt’s presentation to, and wider reception by, popular society. The latter has been particularly important for the subject in some countries, where minimal governmental support has resulted in key advances being driven ‘bottom up’ by private individuals and groups, rather than ‘top down’ by official institutions. However, the nature of Egyptology in some countries, and choices made by authors, mean that this approach has not consistently permeated every single chapter; similarly, while some chapters are broadly chronological, others are rather more thematic. Nevertheless, all provide an unprecedentedly detailed account of the ways in which Egyptology has come to be studied, and some of the roles that ancient Egypt has played, around the world, making this a solid reference work.

Given the many countries, languages and time periods involved in Egyptology’s history, the enormity of the subject means that we make no claims to completeness. However, we hope the following chapters address the subject in a way that sheds light on how a vibrant area of research, and more general interest in ancient Egypt, have reflected and influenced social changes and developments around the world over the past two hundred years. As we look to the future, Pharaoh’s reach does not seem to be diminishing.

Apart from the direct contributors, our thanks are also owed to a wide range of friends and colleagues who have contributed in innumerable ways. Gratitude is also due to our respective spouses, Meghan, Dyan and Nicholas, for putting up with both us and this volume over the past six years, including late-night international editing sessions, minor nervous breakdowns and computer meltdowns. Inshallah it has all been worth it!

Andrew Bednarski
Aidan Dodson
Salima Ikram
A NOTE ON ACADEMIC TITLES

In general, academic titles are given in their original language. Such titles varied significantly both between territories and over the time covered by this volume. For example, while in North America, the term ‘professor’ is used both generically for ‘university teacher’, with grades of ‘Adjunct Professor’, ‘Assistant Professor’, ‘Associate Professor’ and (full) ‘Professor’, in Europe it has historically only been used for the latter, with different terms for lower levels. In the United Kingdom, the term ‘Special Lecturer’ was in the past applied to non-salaried university teachers (i.e. akin to American ‘adjuncts’), with Junior Lecturer, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and Professor being the usual cursus honorem of permanent teaching staff.

In Germany, and the many German-influenced systems in Europe, ‘Professor’ has similarly marked the most senior academics, with the prefix ‘Ordinary’ denoting the holder of a permanent chair, and ‘Extraordinary’ one of a personal chair only. Below this, the term ‘docent’ is often used, but the level of seniority varies between territories. The German system also has the position of ‘Privatdozent’, generally qualified through a higher doctorate (‘habilitation’) to teach, but in a non-salaried post, i.e. akin to a US ‘adjunct’. It also lays down levels of qualification required by a given level of university teacher. In contrast, the UK system has no such explicit requirements, with, indeed, a number of full professors having been appointed with no academic degree at all!

NOTE

1 Although during the twenty-first century there has been a move in some institutions to adopt American-style titles in certain circumstances, especially that of Associate Professor.
ABBREVIATIONS AND
CONVENTIONS USED
IN TEXT

KV  King’s Valley (official number of tomb in Valley of the Kings)
p  Papyrus (followed by name of collector or collection/inventory number)
TT  Theban Tomb (official number of tomb at Western Thebes)

The following symbols are used to indicate that an individual so-marked has an entry in a given biographical dictionary:

¶ Digitale Bibliotheek voor de Nederlandse Letteren; www.dbnl.org.
MAPS

Map 1. Egypt and Nubia, showing principal sites mentioned in the text (Aidan Dodson)
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