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Books of enduring scholarly value

Egyptology

The large-scale scientific investigation of Egyptian antiquities by Western scholars began as an unintended consequence of Napoleon's invasion of Egypt during which, in 1799, the Rosetta Stone was discovered. The military expedition was accompanied by French scholars, whose reports prompted a wave of enthusiasm that swept across Europe and North America resulting in the Egyptian Revival style in art and architecture. Increasing numbers of tourists visited Egypt, eager to see the marvels being revealed by archaeological excavation. Writers and booksellers responded to this growing interest with publications ranging from technical site reports to tourist guidebooks and from children's histories to theories identifying the pyramids as repositories of esoteric knowledge. This series reissues a wide selection of such books. They reveal the gradual change from the 'tomb-robbing' approach of early excavators to the highly organised and systematic approach of Flinders Petrie, the 'father of Egyptology', and include early accounts of the decipherment of the hieroglyphic script.

Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt

Napoleon's military expedition to Egypt in 1798 famously included various scientists and savants, among whom was the author of this three-volume work, published in French in 1802 and in English in 1803. Vivant Denon (1747–1825) was a dilettante and diplomat under the Ancien Régime, but survived the Revolution thanks to the patronage of the painter David, and met Napoleon through the salon of Josephine de Beauharnais. He accompanied the army, excavating and sketching, sometimes even during battles. The publication of this lively, illustrated account is regarded as the chief stimulus for the so-called 'Egyptian Revival' style of architecture, interior design and even costume. Volume 2 finds Denon travelling down the Nile into Upper Egypt, and fretting because General Desaix, his mind focused on an approaching battle, would not give him an escort to visit Abydos. This disappointment was compensated for when the army arrived at the marvellous ruins of Thebes.



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Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt

In Company with Several Divisions of the French Army, during the Campaigns of General Bonaparte in that Country

VOLUME 2

VIVANT DENON
TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR AIKIN





CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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> www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108080217

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This edition first published 1803 This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-08021-7 Paperback

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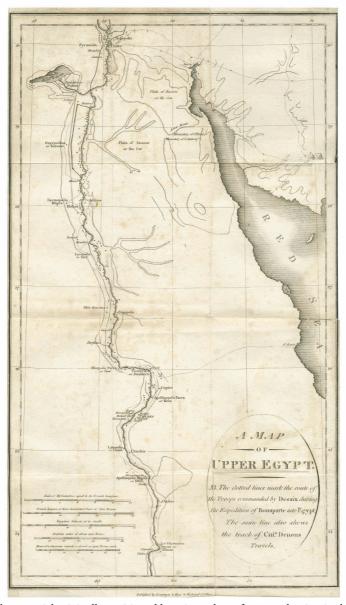
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ВΥ

VIVANT DENON.

EMBELLISHED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

TRANSLATED
BY ARTHUR AIKIN.

IN THREE VOLUMES. VOL. II.

London:

PRINTED FOR T. N. LONGMAN AND O. REES, PATERNOSTER-ROW; AND RICHARD PHILLIPS, 71, ST. PAUL'S.

By T. Gillet, Salifbury Square.

1803.