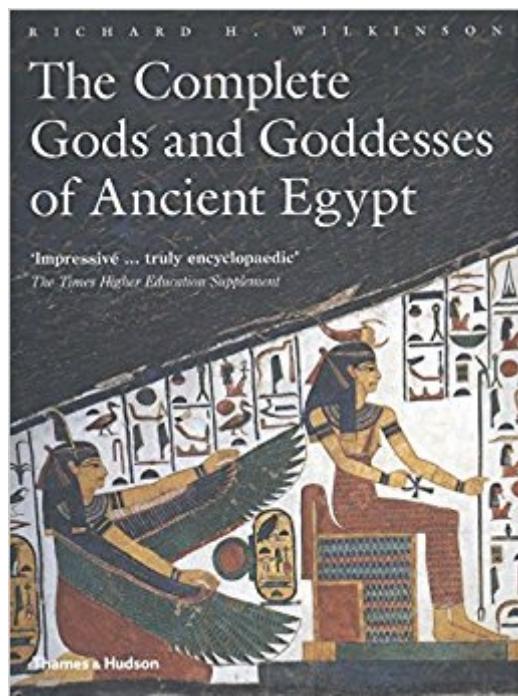


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The Complete Gods And Goddesses Of Ancient Egypt



Synopsis

A comprehensive guide to the deities of ancient Egypt: their origins and their central role in the lives of the Egyptian people. Worshipped for over three-fifths of recorded history, Egypt's gods and goddesses are among the most fascinating of human civilization. The lives of pharaohs and commoners alike were dominated by the need to honor, worship, and pacify the huge pantheon of deities, from the benevolent to the malevolent. The richness and complexity of their mythology is reflected in countless tributes throughout Egypt, from lavish tomb paintings and imposing temple reliefs to humble household shrines. This book examines the evolution, worship, and eventual decline of the numerous gods and goddesses from minor household figures such as Bes and Tawaret to the all-powerful deities Amun and Re that made Egypt the most theocratic society of the ancient world, and made Egyptians, according to Herodotus, "more religious than any other people." Now available in paperback, with hundreds of illustrations and specially commissioned drawings, this title remains the most comprehensive and authoritative guide to the deities that lay at the heart of Egyptian religion and society. 338 illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Egyptologist Wilkinson presents a clear, comprehensive and beautifully illustrated (in color and b&w) guide to the bewildering array of Egyptian deities-a complete catalogue of gods and goddesses supplemented by examinations of the history of Egyptian religion, the rise and fall of the gods, and the ways in which they were worshipped. Ancient Egypt was, Wilkinson writes, the most theocratic of any ancient culture; religion pervaded daily life for commoners as well as the pharaohs.

This volume underscores the richness of ancient Egyptian beliefs: literally scores of deities are discussed, grouped by appearance: male anthropomorphic, female anthropomorphic, mammalian, avian, etc. For each god or goddess, the author discusses its mythology, iconography and forms of worship. Amun, or Amun-Re, for instance, one of the major male anthropomorphic gods, is discussed as creator god, solar god and fertility god, among other roles; he was originally portrayed with the color red; and he was honored with temples at Karnak and Luxor. This is an excellent reference work for budding Egyptologists and anyone fascinated by the culture of ancient Egypt. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wilkinson's gorgeously illustrated book adds new dimension to popular literature on ancient Egypt, for it is a handy dictionary of divinities and a comprehensive analysis of the land's theology and religious history. Readers will be drawn in by the copious fine reproductions of classic Egyptian art--some familiar, such as the dual portrait of Nefertiti and Akhnaten, but most not, including the intriguing gold-painted wooden images of the sky-cow Isis-Mehet. Most of the photographs are black-and-white, but of such high quality and detail that they are more than merely serviceable. And once readers open the book to look at the pictures, they well may stay to read the well-organized, comprehensive, clearly written text. In addition to history and theology, Wilkinson offers excellent sociological sections on everyday religion, including discussion of divination and offerings to the gods by ordinary people, and on the relationship of the ruling classes, especially the pharaohs, to the gods. A handsome, valuable general reference. Patricia MonaghanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A comprehensive collection of the major & minor gods & goddesses of ancient Egypt, classified by body type (ie, human, mammalian, avian, reptilian, etc). Beautifully illustrated with depictions of ancient artwork.

The author writes that the Egyptians had over 1400 gods and goddesses. A look at the index seems to confirm that perception. There were gods of hours, caverns, caves, wells as well as demons, genies, etc. Some of these deities are quite obscure while others are generally known like Amun, Isis and the Aten. The book is well-arranged and quite informative. Readers with an interest in ancient Egypt would be happy with reading this book.

More importantly my Granddaughter loves it. She is 11 years old and was doing a school project on ancient Egypt.

This is a very well organized book, presenting accurate information on Gods big and small, and their importance in the religion and history of Egypt. The illustrations and photos support the very informative text, making this book a superior reference book for students of Egyptology . At the same time, it is an attractive presentation of Ancient Egypt for all readers interested in the history of religions .

Wilkinson's treatment of the pantheon of Egyptian deities is truly encyclopedic. Beginning with deities of the pre-dynastic era, he not only provides information about the specific gods and goddesses, but the book is rich with prints of reliefs and statues of them. I am not an Eypologist, but I do teach a survey on ancient civilizations. This book has been of tremendous value in "filling in" minutiae and details of Egyptian religion and, by extension, Egyptian society. Recommended.

I first saw this book in the personal library of my writing teacher and friend, and used her copy for research into some neteru I was using in my novel. I was so impressed with the detailed descriptions of the major neteru and some obscure ones, that I wanted my own copy for future research. I recommend this as a must for anyone interested in the gods/neteru of ancient Egypt.

This book has everything you could want to know about the gods & goddesses of ancient Egypt. This book is very well organized. Beginning with several introductory chapters before going on the gods themselves. The gods are arranged alphabetically by type which include their iconography, history & evolution & lots of very helpful illistrations. A must for those interested in ancient Egypt.

This is a terrific analysis and discussion of the varied and complex religious development and influence of the ancient Egyptians. I have been fascinated with the connections among the religious traditions of mankind and have found many seminal concepts and ideas in this book. This is written in plain language and can be easily used for personal as well as reference in the field of religion and religious iconography. Beautifully photographed and helpful in understanding the incredible complexity of ancient Egyptian religious development.

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