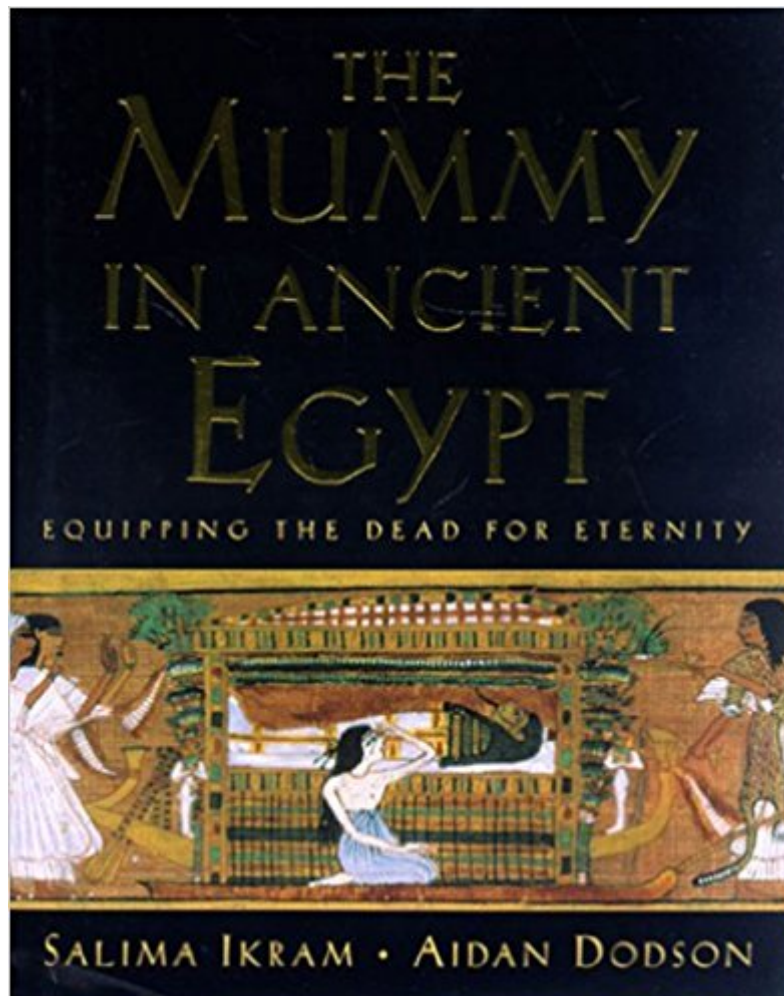




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The Mummy In Ancient Egypt: Equipping The Dead For Eternity



Synopsis

Mummies have gripped the popular imagination through highly publicized discoveries and macabre horror movies. But for the ancient Egyptians, mummification and a full set of magical "machinery" including a tomb, a sarcophagus, masks, amulets and canopic jars was essential to secure eternal life. This work comprises a survey of the entire panoply of Egyptian burial equipment over 3,000 years. Part 1 provides an overview of burial rites and tomb development, from the Giza pyramids to the Valley of the Kings and beyond. Great discoveries are documented, from Belzoni's early explorations to Tutankhamun's magnificent tomb and recent scientific detective-work using x-rays and CAT-scanners. Part 2 provides a detailed survey of changing burial practices during the pharonic era. The authors reveal the evolution of methods for treating the body. All important innovations are described, incorporating the latest research, some carried out by the authors themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Those who are interested in Ancient Egyptian mummification practices will find this book fascinating. Each aspect of the funerary practices is described in great depth, following its development through different periods of Egyptian history. It is a very detailed account, with lots of illustrations. Absolutely great analysis of the royal mummies; fascinating photos - which, I admit, might gross some people out, but that's what makes them so great.

This book delivers on what it promises--It is a readable and fascinating book on Egyptian funeral practices (mummies, sarcophagi, accoutrements, etc.), and how they changed over thousands of years. There is a useful appendix with a table summarizing how different aspects of funeral practice changed over the course of Egyptian civilization. The photography is excellent, though some of the illustrations of the mummies themselves are a bit spooky!

Like Dodson and Ikram's later book on tombs, this aims to be a comprehensive guide to mummies. The first chapter is an overview funeral rites and burial and the second gives a history of the interest in mummies in Western culture, from powdered mummy in the Middle Ages to CT scans today. The third chapter is an extensive description of the mummification process and how it developed through Egyptian history. Somewhat shorter chapters cover those burial goods that were kept close to the mummy: jewellery, wrappings, masks, coffins, sarcophagi, and canopic equipment (in which the mummy's removed organs were stored). Appendices list ancient Egyptian cemetery sites, royal mummy caches, and the burial sites and current locations of royal mummies. A page next to the bibliography even lists "mummies in the media": prominent examples of mummy-related fiction. The book is well rounded, though a couple of other books could still be useful supplements to it. Wolfram Grajetzki's *Burial Customs in Ancient Egypt* devotes more space to poorer and less typical burials, and *Mummies and Death* gives more information about modern examination of mummies.

This is a very interesting book with excellent illustrations and very informative. It is a hard book to put down. It is highly recommended even for someone who has a slight interest in the subject of mummification.

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