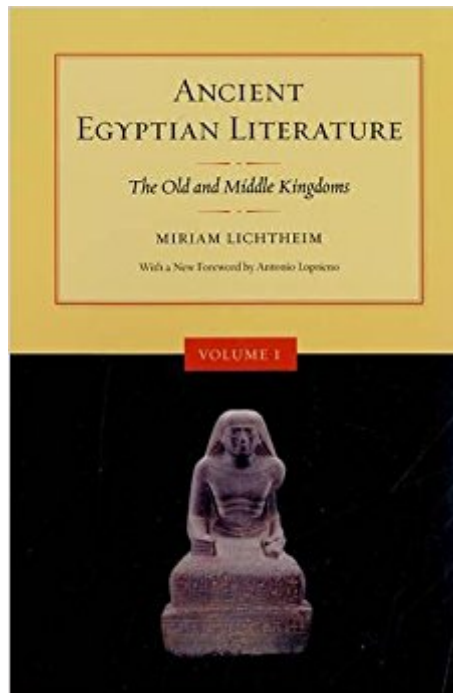


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Ancient Egyptian Literature: Volume I: The Old And Middle Kingdoms



Synopsis

First published in 1973 and followed by Volume II in 1976 and Volume III in 1980; this anthology has assumed classic status in the field of Egyptology and portrays the remarkable evolution of the literary forms of one of the world's earliest civilizations. Volume I outlines the early and gradual evolution of Egyptian literary genres, including biographical and historical inscriptions carved on stone, the various classes of literary works written with pen on papyrus, and the mortuary literature that focuses on life after death. Introduced with a new foreword by Antonio Loprieno. Volume II shows the culmination of these literary genres within the single period known as the New Kingdom (1550-1080 B.C.). With a new foreword by Hans-W. Fischer-Elfert. Volume III spans the last millennium of Pharaonic civilization, from the tenth century B.C. to the beginning of the Christian era. With a new foreword by Joseph G. Manning.

Book Information

Series: Ancient Egyptian Literature (Book 1)

Paperback: 300 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 2nd Revised edition edition (April 3, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520248422

ISBN-13: 978-0520248427

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #227,936 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > World Literature > African & Middle Eastern #45 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > African #91 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Middle Eastern

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Praise for the first editions: "Concise, lucid, and altogether interesting. The notes on the individual texts are unfailingly illuminating." - Books Abroad (now World Literature Today)

I don't know about "plot". This is a collection of documents written for a variety of purposes not a story. What it did do was astonish me that the leaders of even the earliest of the Egyptian leaders displayed wisdom and intelligence to a degree I did not expect. Miriam Lichtheim did a marvelous job of presenting each piece before you read it so you know what you are looking at.

I took an Egyptian History class at Indiana University. Every week we had a writing assignment due and I often used this book to cite information and provide points for my arguments and assumptions. This book is very helpful and it is fascinating for anyone who is curious about Egyptian History. The stories can be a bit convoluted at times and many require rereading to understand but overall, this is a great book for anyone interested in Egyptian History.

This is a wonderful, but somewhat too brief, survey of literature from the Old Kingdom to the Middle Kingdom. Texts such as The Maxims of Ptahhotep and selected passages from several versions of the Pyramid Texts are included. In fact, many of the didactic writings of OK to MK are included, which makes this book invaluable for anyone interested in ancient Egyptian conceptions of morality and correct behavior.

The thoughts, hopes and fears of men and women from the time of the very beginning of the written word, speak to us in this book and tell us the beginning of the story of a great civilization that lasted for three thousand years.

A good book about Egypt

This is a must have. If you're interested in ancient Egypt, then you should get their ancient texts in full form and not just a commentary made by authors in books. This is as close to ancient Egyptians and their thought as we'll ever get.

When I was learning to read Middle Egyptian, it was Lichtheim who kept me on track. She has a wonderful gift for translation. Her translations, while very close to literal, somehow manage to carry the atmosphere of the original without sounding as bizarre as a literal translation would.

A very nice translation and a very good selection of text considering each period. Very good.

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