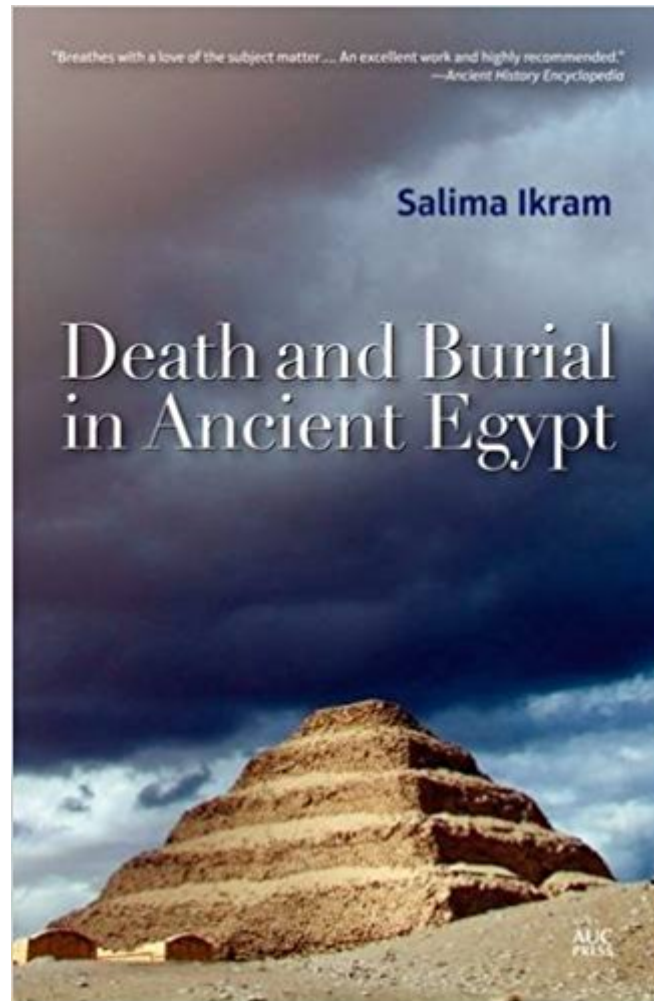




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Death And Burial In Ancient Egypt



Synopsis

Death, burial, and the afterlife were as important to the ancient Egyptians as how they lived. This well-illustrated book explores all aspects of death in ancient Egypt, including beliefs of the afterlife, mummification, the protection of the body, tombs and their construction and decoration, funerary goods, and the funeral itself. It also addresses the relationship between the living and the dead, and the magico-religious interaction of these two in ancient Egyptian culture. Salima Ikram's own experience with experimental mummification and funerary archaeology lends the book many completely original and provocative insights. In addition, a full survey of current development in the field makes this a unique book that combines all aspects of death and burial in ancient Egypt into one volume.

Book Information

Paperback: 252 pages

Publisher: The American University in Cairo Press; 1 edition (June 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9774166876

ISBN-13: 978-9774166877

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #255,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Egypt](#) #200 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Archaeology](#) #469 in [Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Archaeology](#)

Customer Reviews

"Considering the book's wide scope, scientific reliability and comprehensible text, it is very well-suited for anyone wishing to learn more about ancient Egypt in a limited time. It provides a good overview for both lay-people and students of archaeology."--PalArch, Netherlands Scientific Journals

Dr. Salima Ikram's *Death and Burial in Ancient Egypt* is among the best works on the subject presently on the market. Dr. Ikram's work breathes with a love of the subject matter and, refreshingly, lacks the academic jargon which mars so many otherwise fine books on this subject. Dr. Ikram has recreated the mummification process in modern-day laboratories and so brings a practical, as well as scholarly, approach to the subject. This book takes a reader from the early history of ancient Egypt through the beliefs and funerary practices of the people and includes the

development of the mastaba tombs and the later pyramids. An excellent work and highly recommended."--Ancient History Encyclopedia"After a general introduction, Ikram provides six chapters that address Egyptian ideas regarding the afterlife, human and animal mummification, funerary artifacts, the tomb itself, and mortuary cults. The text is both scholarly and lucid, and the choice of illustrations is entirely apposite and not merely decorative. This is a splendid volume for all students of ancient Egypt, and it cannot be recommended too highly."--G. R. G. Hambly, University of Texas at Dallas

For ancient Egyptians, death was part of the journey of life. The tombs, mortuary temples and mummies the Egyptians produced were a celebration of life and a means of continuing it for eternity. Death and Burial in Ancient Egypt transports us to a different world, to reveal the religion and funerary beliefs of one of the world's greatest civilizations. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The accompanying course offered by Dr. Melinda Nelson-Hurst at Tulane University is an amazing course that I'd highly recommend to any Tulane students with an option to study any of Dr. Nelson-Hurst's Egypt-related course offerings. The text was very easy to read, especially considering the intellectual density of the information. Specifically, the author doesn't waste words, sentences or paragraphs on fluff or on writing more intended to show off the author's extensive vocabulary and extensive command of the English language (rather than teach the coursework in a succinct manner). Very well written book. Difficult course, but well worth taking.

Answered so many questions I had as well as offered much more information. Nice reference book for my collection.

Salima Ikram is an experienced Egyptologist whom has written many excellent books and is a constant contributing author for KMT magazine. This book is basically a shortened version of her earlier, much larger, and more scholarly work "The Mummy in Ancient Egypt" -- Mummy in Ancient Egypt: Equipping the Dead for Eternity -- co-authored with Aidan Dodson, another prolific writer of Egyptian works. For beginners "Death and Burial" is a good start into the subject. However, there is much material at hand that covers Egyptian mummification and burial practices just as well, if not better. Bob Brier's book "Egyptian Mummies" -- Egyptian Mummies: Unraveling the Secrets of an Ancient Art -- contains essentially the same information on the embalming process with

some major exceptions, he actually mummified a modern human in the manner of the ancient Egyptians. His mummy research is still the cornerstone for Egyptian methodology and his modern mummy is still being studied today. As one of the world's top experts in the field, Brier's style brings a vein of humor to the subject that most readers will find as a fresh relief from the "stiff" writing styles of most Egyptologists. He even has a short chapter "The Mummy in Film" which ends his volume well. All three books are good. Ikram's masterwork is definitely her earlier "Mummy" which stands as a premier for burial practices and an excellent reference that I'm sure most Egyptologists have at hand. If I had to choose a starter book, Brier would win with a close second by Ikram. One drawback for some is that all of these books have no color photography. This does not detract from their content but it would have made them even more appealing to a wider audience. If you enjoy Ikram's "Death & Burial" you'll want to see her earlier work and read Brier's book as well.

If you are interested in mummification, this is definitely the book to have. Salima Ikram writes well, and the stories she has to tell are just amazing. The discussion of making mummies includes not just the way humans are treated, but also animals, something that until the work of Dr. Ikram has been really difficult to find out about. She has photographs of things you won't find elsewhere (without a lot of looking through much more difficult to find sources), and a useful appendix and excellent index. My one regret is that the photographs are all in black and white (and for a few of them the lack of contrast indicates that they were transferred from colour images). I would love to have the beautiful colour photos I am sure she has access to. But that would make this a much more expensive volume. The quality of the information, the images that she does use, and the lively writing all added together make this a must for someone with great curiosity about ancient Egypt.

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