

Decoding Ancient History

Everyone knows Singapore as the Lion City and the story behind of a Palembang prince, Sang Nila Utama, sighting a lion on this island that was first published 200 years ago in John Leyden's translation of the Malay classic Sejarah Melayu. But few people have actually read the Sejarah Melayu to realise the fairytale-like claims of Singapore's supposed medieval founder as a descendant of Alexander the Great, and the son of an Indian king who tried to conquer China and a princess from underwater; or that the creature he purportedly saw was not described as a lion, but a chimera with a red body, black head, white breast, and was a little larger than a he-goat. And barely anyone remembers the days when respectable residents of Singapore scoffed at suggestions that Singapore's name has anything to do with the Felis Leo. Decoding Sejarah Melayu daringly challenges the assumption that the Sejarah Melayu records Singapore's pre-modern past, which has been held since Sir Stamford Raffles arrived in 1819 and declared himself at the "ancient Capital of the Malay kings". It seeks to grasp what is the Sejarah Melayu and how its accounts of Singapore as Temasek and Singapura were written, critically re-examines key historical text such as the Malay epic Hikayat Hang Tuah, Tomé Pires' Suma Oriental and 14th century Chinese travelogue Daoyi Zhilue, and makes an expansive study into other sources in Malay, Javanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Siamese, Arabic, Portuguese, Dutch, French, and the English language to discover clues to ancient Singapore's long hidden past. This is a book that will profoundly change understandings of Singapore's history and identity.

A critical introduction to modern French philosophy, from one of the liveliest contemporary practitioners.

The Routledge History of Madness and Mental Health explores the history and historiography of madness from the ancient and medieval worlds to the present day. Global in scope, it includes case studies from Africa, Asia, and South America as well as Europe and North America, drawing together the latest scholarship and source material in this growing field and allowing for fresh comparisons to be made across time and space. Thematically organised and written by leading academics, chapters discuss broad topics such as the representation of madness in literature and the visual arts, the material culture of madness, the perpetual difficulty of creating a classification system for madness and mental health, madness within life histories, the increased globalisation of knowledge and treatment practices, and the persistence of spiritual and supernatural conceptualisations of experiences associated with madness. This volume also examines the challenges involved in analysing primary sources in this area and how key themes such as class, gender, and race have influenced the treatment and diagnosis of madness throughout history. Chronologically and geographically wide-ranging, and providing a fascinating overview of the current state of the field, this is essential reading for all students of the history of madness, mental health, psychiatry, and medicine.

Get ready to witness and unlock the first messages left from the ancient civilizations who vanished without even being known to exist until now! These messages detail maps and sagas of a once worldly empire who traded in goods of unimaginable quantities from all over the American continent too far off lands. Detailed is symbology to understand the vast network of hidden caves, of ancient goods storage and transport routes. Of treasure and artifacts of great importance left in hidden locations throughout time awaiting rediscovery so the world may once again know of this magnificent empire 13,000 years ago. Our early explorers quickly discovered they were not the first to conquer the farthest shores of earth. Modern man gazed upon ancient images and monuments of long ago pioneers already decaying from great age. We

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have all contemplated what secrets they kept locked in a maze of limitless configurations of beauty and synchronicity. Such industrious and indelible creations were certainly made to convey meaning. What connection does a global network of rock carvings and mega structures mean to our history? Well the answer will surprise you! Chris Hegg has dedicated his life to finding out these answers. At age 45, Chris has moved beyond the stumbling decades of logging and failures of comprehension, to gain ever increasingly small victories in their understanding. Now at a fever pitch in symbol decipherment Chris has uncovered the most startling facts of individual symbol meanings that reveal amazing stories of courage, inhospitable lands, and global travel unimaginable when he first started this quest. A much deeper innate secret lay rooted in the symbols however; they were the first Universal Language of Man! Thought as just "rock art" by archeologists; petroglyphs, megaliths, and geoglyphs are all related comprising a single ancient language. This language is known in biblical stories and now confirmed by scientific methodology. This book is dedicated to that first Universal Language. To be reborn so the secrets lost to us can be discovered once more. Finally a tool capable of peeling away the layers of our forgotten past to read firsthand accounts of the struggles of man on a global scale over 13,000 years ago! The stories are a tribute to our perseverance and domination in a harsh world conquered thousands of years before Columbus. "

Saba, a charismatic shaman gifted with amazing powers, is from a fisher tribe living in forested isolation around the great eel lake and northern coast of Ireland. She is rescued from a perilous attack and becomes the lover of Fion, the headstrong leader of a Bronze Age clan. Inspired yet haunted by her partly Inuit ancestry, Saba incurs tribal jealousy and hatred. The dynamic which involves Saba, Fion and an exotic array of personalities in devastating conflicts for power and gender domination, is imbued with the primal psychic energy of a harsh and earthy age. If like them, we combine our outer and inner perceptions of a more than human world, the mysteries come alive as in dreaming, where the boundaries which surround the 'self' are dissolved. This seminal epic of Old Europe spans the Newgrange and Maltese temple rituals, Akkadian, Kretan and Eastern cultures. Those who enjoyed Jean Auel's Earth's Children series should find 'Saba's Choices' an enthralling read.

This insightful book is intended for foreigners who visit China or are working and living in China, as well as for foreigners whose work is closely related to China. It includes knowledge of the country's recent past and acquaints readers with the six masters who are considered idols for many Chinese, including almost all of China's important political leaders. The chapters also give an insight and a feel for present day China. The book illustrates the lives of these six masters of China Studies, men who "woke up" China from her sleep, gave special meaning to Chinese culture, and inspired political leaders who are still alive in the hearts of the Chinese people. The Story of China Studies contains translations of "The Icy Mirror," which is Chinese physiognomy, and "A Talk on Verses for Singing," a guidebook for reading and appreciating a unique form of Chinese verses called "Cí."

Biblical texts create worlds of meaning and invite readers to enter them. When readers enter such textual worlds, which are strange and complex, they are confronted with theological claims. With this in mind, the purpose of the IBT series is to help serious readers in their experience of reading and interpreting by providing guides for their journeys into textual worlds. The focus of the series is not so much on the world behind the text as on the worlds created by the texts in their engagement with readers. Nowhere is the world of the biblical text stranger than in the apocalyptic literature of both the Old and New Testaments. In this volume, Stephen Cook makes the puzzling visions and symbols of the biblical apocalyptic literature intelligible to modern readers. He begins with definitions of apocalypticism and apocalyptic literature and introduces the various scholarly approaches to and issues for our understanding of the text. Cook introduces the reader to the social and

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historical worlds of the apocalyptic groups that gave rise to such literature and leads the reader into a better appreciation and understanding of the theological import of biblical apocalyptic literature. In the second major section of the book, Cook guides the reader through specific examples of the Bible's apocalyptic literature. He addresses both the best-known examples (the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation) and other important but lesser known examples (Zechariah and some words of Jesus and Paul).

"From the golden splendor of King Tut's tomb to the engineering marvel of the Great Pyramids, no other civilization in history has fascinated us like ancient Egypt. But the world of the pharaohs is as mysterious as it is intriguing. Discover in these beautifully illustrated pages how the art of this great empire can be the key to understanding the rites, religion, and daily life of ancient Egyptians" -- provided by publisher.

Publisher Description

The authors present clues locked within artifacts, woven into oral tradition, encrypted in ancient writing, and embedded in the land itself which help to decipher some of ancient history's most intriguing cases.

Waiting to be rediscovered in the British Library is an ancient manuscript of the early Church, copied by an anonymous monk. The manuscript is at least 1,450 years old, possibly dating to the first century. And now, *The Lost Gospel* provides the first ever translation from Syriac into English of this unique document that tells the inside story of Jesus' social, family, and political life. *The Lost Gospel* takes the reader on an unparalleled historical adventure through a paradigm shifting manuscript. What the authors eventually discover is as astounding as it is surprising: the confirmation of Jesus' marriage to Mary Magdalene; the names of their two children; the towering presence of Mary Magdalene; a previously unknown plot on Jesus' life (thirteen years prior to the crucifixion); an assassination attempt against Mary Magdalene and their children; Jesus' connection to political figures at the highest level of the Roman Empire; and a religious movement that antedates that of Paul—the Church of Mary Magdalene. Part historical detective story, part modern adventure, *The Lost Gospel* reveals secrets that have been hiding in plain sight for millennia.

The author of the bestselling *Your Inner Fish* gives us a brilliant, up-to-date account of the great transformations in the history of life on Earth. Over billions of years, fish evolved to walk on land, reptiles transformed into birds that fly, and ape-like primates changed into humans who walk on two legs, talk and write. This is a story full of surprises. If you think that feathers arose to help animals fly, or lungs to help them walk on land, you'd be in good company. You'd also be entirely wrong. Neil Shubin delves deep into the mystery of life, the ongoing revolutions in our understanding of how we got here, and brings us closer to answering one of the great questions – was life on earth inevitable...or was it all an accident?

Decoding Ancient History A Toolkit for the Historian as Detective Pearson College Division

Explore Zodiac killer; a journey that dissects the Zodiacs 340 cipher. Anticipate glimpses into a serial killers mentality. Serial lust for blood, fame, and discern the unknown. From true events, never solved. Interact, and entice your hemispherical position. Embrace symbolology from a narcissistic riddler. Allow your own potentials to apply. Learn the 340

cipher, and its construction. From the history of a surrealistic mad man and, his victims. Too the finer points of this unsolved mystery. One of the top ten unsolved crimes in America. A compilation of brain teasers unlike any other. If you enjoy the ones that force you to think? And love a mental grasp that retains constant depth. You'll be elated with this flow of questions, answers, and forced speculation. You'll be involved throughout the endeavor. Even you could click in the final clue, with this fully open construction of work.

This may sound incredible, but how would you like to understand exactly what the "Sin" in the allegory of Eve in the garden of Eve really means? Who were the sons of God of Genesis 6:4 that gave children to the daughters of men? Where did these sons come from, and what happened to those children? Wouldn't it be wonderful to know who were the people of the land of Nod, where Cain found his wife after slaying his brother Abel in Genesis 4:9-17? This incident had a lot to do with Genesis 6:4. All of these are very important time periods in our ancient ancestors' history that we learned little or nothing about. In Decoding Major Stories of the Bible, all of this is revealed. You'll also learn exactly who is Jesus the Son of God. I searched all of my adult life for this information, in my effort to try and understand the confusion in some of the allegories presented in the Bible. Jesus said the truth will set you free, and I'm free. I understand the true history of our ancient ancestors and how it has affected our planet through the years. Many around the world are beginning to realize that our understanding of ancient history is greatly flawed, and if you don't understand your past, it's impossible to understand the future.

IN HIS OWN WORDS: "Mysteries haunting mankind intrigue me the most, and I like writing about them." DECODING GOD—as the name suggests, the book is about explaining the mysterious god phenomenon that prevails in our society. I've taken a simple & direct approach to explaining the god phenomenon by taking help from research work done by others. This book is written in such a way that everyone can understand it, irrespective of his or her background in the subject. The book has been made concise so that it remains interesting to read. Furthermore, this book does not deal with the denial or acceptance of the existence of god but rather with the extent of god's influence. It is this phenomenon that I question. --- ANDY

The world's greatest archaeological finds and what they tell us about lost civilizations Renowned archaeologist Patrick Hunt brings his top ten list of ancient archaeological discoveries to life in this concise and captivating book. The Rosetta Stone, Troy, Nineveh's Assyrian Library, King Tut's Tomb, Machu Picchu, Pompeii, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Thera, Olduvai Gorge, and the Tomb of 10,000 Warriors—Hunt reveals the fascinating stories of these amazing discoveries and explains the ways in which they added to our knowledge of human history and permanently altered our worldview. Part travel guide to the wonders of the world and part primer on ancient world history, Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History captures the awe and excitement of finding a lost window into ancient civilization.

Lists the scholarly publications including research and review journals, books, and monographs relating to classical, Hellenistic, Biblical,

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Byzantine, Medieval, and modern Greece. The 11 indexes include article title and author, books reviewed, theses and dissertations, books and authors, journals, names, locations, and subjects. The format continues that of the second volume. All the information has been programmed onto the disc in a high-level language, so that no other software is needed to read it, and in versions for DOS and Apple on each disc. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Die gesammelten Aufsätze von Dietmar Rothermund, Professor emeritus der Geschichte Südasiens, Universität Heidelberg, umfassen Themen der Indischen und der Globalen Geschichte, darunter einen Vergleich der Herrschaftsstile von Akbar und Philipp II von Spanien, eine Skizze Mumbais, das sich vom Fischerdorf zur Metropole entwickelte, eine Untersuchung der Nachhaltigkeit asiatischer Gesellschaften und ihrer Umwelt. Weitere Themen sind der Hinduismus und seine Politik und Wirtschaft und eine Studie der Erinnerungskulturen post-imperialen Nationen. Es geht dabei um sechs Nationen, die ihre Kolonien nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg verloren haben; ferner ein Aufsatz über die nationalen Traditionalismen in Asien und einige andere Themen. Die 10 Beiträge sind in der Zeit von 1997 bis 2014 geschrieben worden.

Cosmic Leap' is the second volume of 'Saba's Choices' picking up where 'Mother Lake' left off... Saba, a charismatic shaman gifted with amazing powers, is from a fisher tribe living in forested isolation around the great eel lake and northern coast of Ireland. She is rescued from a perilous attack and becomes the lover of Fion, the headstrong leader of a Bronze Age clan. Inspired yet haunted by her partly Inuit ancestry, Saba incurs tribal jealousy and hatred. The dynamic which involves Saba, Fion and an exotic array of personalities in devastating conflicts for power and gender domination, is imbued with the primal psychic energy of a harsh and earthy age. If like them, we combine our outer and inner perceptions of a more than human world, the mysteries come alive as in dreaming, where the boundaries which surround the 'self' are dissolved; could Saba help humans elsewhere choose dreams of rapport with the greatest force of life. This seminal epic of Old Europe spans the Newgrange and Maltese temple rituals, Akkadian, Kretan and Eastern cultures. Those who enjoyed Jean Auel's Earth's Children series should find 'Saba's Choices' an enthralling read.

Discover the true meaning and the origins of the zodiac in E.R. Winstanley's new book, Pathways to the Zodiac. Why was it formed and by whom? Has the mystery about the architects of Stonehenge and other similar structures been solved? Does the Sphinx still remain an enigma? The deities of the ancient world made an indelible impact upon the lives of the various tribes who wandered throughout Mesopotamia and Europe. Their beliefs and rituals have been handed down through the centuries, from Melchizedek, the Lord of the Zodiac, to the Knights Templar and Freemasons, to the current era. We all have been linked together and follow the pathways of our ancestors through the creation of the zodiac. About the Author: E.R. Winstanley grew up in England and now resides in Boston, Massachusetts. Publisher's website: <http://www.strategicpublishinggroup.com/title/PathwaysToTheZodiac.html>

Profiles fifty-two major world leaders throughout history and examines the creative and tyrannical aspects of the exercise of power. The book brings to the fore the invisible and realistic aspects of ancient Indian science by comparing it with the potential of modern science. It also gives factual explanations for the underlying causes and history behind the decline of advanced Indian civilization as well as the hidden aspects of political ideology and deception. The main purpose of this book is to try to introduce Indian society as a deer musk with its invisible potential and real facts.

Could an ancient prophet hold a present key that will reveal the future? Jeremiah was an Old Testament voice, but he still speaks to our day. Alone and living in a time of chaos, he was a prophet and Levitical priest whose fellow priests and prophets wanted him dead. In fact,

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everyone wanted him dead--the political leaders, his neighbors, and even his family. At twenty-three years old Jeremiah was told to speak truth to power and not to worry what the consequences may be. God told him that people love to praise the Lord but refuse to do what He says. In spite of the judgments cascading upon the heads of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Lord promised a new covenant with Israel and Judah that would revolutionize their walk with Him. In *Decoding the Prophet Jeremiah* you will discover the following: The warnings from God in Jeremiah's day are for our generation as well. Even when you feel betrayed by everyone, there is still hope. God keeps His covenant and will never leave you or forsake you. This book is a clarion call to all believers. We need to see the bigger picture: it is not about us but about God's heart and God's kingdom. God is looking for warriors who are about advancing His kingdom by storming the gates of hell and setting His sons and daughters free from the clutches of the greatest narcissist of all time. Mark Biltz unpacks two books of the Bible written by the prophet Jeremiah: the Book of Lamentations and the Book of Jeremiah. Biltz has uncovered fascinating Hebraic codes within Lamentations, making this a truly unique message for readers. This book will encourage you to persevere in your faith despite cultural shifts and pressures, much like what the prophet Jeremiah did.

This is the true story of an abduction and a rescue by benevolent extraterrestrials, various direct contacts Elena Danaan had throughout the years with UFOs and visitors from other worlds. This book includes as well an illustrated descriptive of 110 different alien races involved with our planet, detailed information about groups and alliances in this galaxy and precious information, as well as a map of the sky with locations of alien life. This book contains also beautiful messages of hope for humanity. This book has been expected for a long time. It brings support and understanding to all those who have been through the ordeal of alien abduction, answering many questions.

Time stands at the heart of human experience. In this book, new investigations illuminate the gamut of human engagement with time in antiquity.

In ancient Egyptian history, some dynasties prospered, and some faded out of existence. They are traditionally divided into thirty-two pharaonic dynasties; they are classified into "kingdoms" and "intermediate periods" from these dynasties. Manetho, the third-century Egyptian priest, gives us the first thirty dynasties, which he published in *Aegytiaca*, now lost to ravages of time. These likely stems from the Ptolemaic rule in Egypt. The Ptolemaic Dynasty and the 31st dynasty form the remaining two. While widely used and valuable, the system does have its weaknesses. Some dynasties only governed part of Egypt and endured concurrently with other dynasties based in other cities. The Seventh might not have been at all, the Tenth appears to be a succession of the Ninth, and there may have been one or numerous Upper Egyptian Dynasties before the First Dynasty. The privilege of "Pharaoh" is utilized for those leaders of Ancient Egypt who governed after the alliance of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt by Narmer throughout the Early Dynastic Period, circa 3100 BC. However, the specific title "Pharaoh" was not employed to direct Egypt's kings by their peers until the dominion of Merneptah in the 19th Dynasty, c. 1200 BC. Along with the name Pharaoh for later rulers, an Ancient Egyptian sovereign titulary was used by Egyptian kings, which prevailed relatively consistent during Ancient Egyptian history, originally featuring a Horus name. Egypt was steadily administered, at least in part, by domestic ruler-pharaohs for nearly 2500 years, until it was overcome by the Kingdom of Kush in the late 8th century BC, whose kings embraced the classical pharaonic

titular for themselves. Following the Kushite victory, Egypt underwent another independent constitutional rule before being subdued by the Achaemenid Empire, whose governors also assumed the title of "Pharaoh." The last regional Pharaoh of Egypt was Nectanebo II, Pharaoh before the Achaemenids defeated Egypt for a second time. Achaemenid control over Egypt ended abruptly through Alexander the Great's triumphs in 332 BC, after which it was controlled by the Hellenic Pharaohs of the Ptolemaic Dynasty. Their government and Egypt's sovereignty came to an end when Egypt became a Rome province in 30 BC. Augustus and succeeding Roman dictators were styled as Pharaohs when in Egypt until Maximinus Data in 314 AD. The dates provided in this list of pharaohs are estimated. They are based fundamentally on Ancient Egypt's established chronology, often based on the Digital Egypt for Universities database generated by the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, but other dates taken from other professionals may be designated separately.

Under the leadership of Mazu Daoyi (709-788) and his numerous disciples, the Hongzhou School emerged as the dominant tradition of Chan (Zen) Buddhism in China during the middle part of the Tang dynasty (618-907). Mario Poceski offers a systematic examination of the Hongzhou School's momentous growth and rise to preeminence as the bearer of Chan orthodoxy, and analyzes its doctrines against the backdrop of the intellectual and religious milieu of Tang China. Poceski demonstrates that the Hongzhou School represented the first emergence of an empire-wide Chan tradition that had strongholds throughout China and replaced the various fragmented Schools of early Chan with an inclusive orthodoxy. Poceski's study is based on the earliest strata of permanent sources, rather than on the later apocryphal "encounter dialogue" stories regularly used to construe widely-accepted but historically unwarranted interpretations about the nature of Chan in the Tang dynasty. He challenges the traditional and popularly-accepted view of the Hongzhou School as a revolutionary movement that rejected mainstream mores and teachings, charting a new path for Chan's independent growth as a unique Buddhist tradition. This view, he argues, rests on a misreading of key elements of the Hongzhou School's history. Rather than acting as an unorthodox movement, the Hongzhou School's success was actually based largely on its ability to mediate tensions between traditionalist and iconoclastic tendencies. Going beyond conventional romanticized interpretations that highlight the radical character of the Hongzhou School, Poceski shows that there was much greater continuity between early and classical Chan and between the Hongzhou School and the rest of Tang Buddhism than previously thought.

"Citadel to City-State serves as an excellent summarization of our present knowledge of the not-so-dark Dark Age as well as an admirable prologue to the understanding of the subsequent Archaic and Classical periods." -- David Rupp, *Phoenix The Dark Age of Greece* is one of the least understood periods of Greek history. A terra incognita between the Mycenaean civilization of Late Bronze Age Greece and the flowering of Classical Greece, the Dark Age was, until the last few decades, largely neglected. Now new archaeological methods and the discovery of new evidence have made it possible to develop a more comprehensive view of the entire period. *Citadel to City-State* explores each century from 1200 to 700 B.C.E. through an individual site -- Mycenae, Nichoria, Athens, Lefkandi, Corinth, and Ascrea -- that illustrates the major features of each period. This is a remarkable

account of the historical detective work that is beginning to shed light on Dark Age Greece.

This book presents a systematic design methodology for decoding the interior structure of the Antikythera mechanism, an astronomical device from ancient Greece. The historical background, surviving evidence and reconstructions of the mechanism are introduced, and the historical development of astronomical achievements and various astronomical instruments are investigated. Pursuing an approach based on the conceptual design of modern mechanisms and bearing in mind the standards of science and technology at the time, all feasible designs of the six lost/incomplete/unclear subsystems are synthesized as illustrated examples, and 48 feasible designs of the complete interior structure are presented. This approach provides not only a logical tool for applying modern mechanical engineering knowledge to the reconstruction of the Antikythera mechanism, but also an innovative research direction for identifying the original structures of the mechanism in the future. In short, the book offers valuable new insights for all readers who are interested in the Antikythera mechanism.

Read and interpret hieroglyphs as you learn about the intriguing world of the Ancient Egyptians. Decoding Egyptian Hieroglyphs interweaves a clear guide to deciphering this elegant picture language with vivid depictions of its origins and the people themselves. From farmers to pharaohs, uncover the beauty and mystery of the land that was Ancient Egypt.

This introduction to the Ancient Near East includes coverage of Egypt and a balance of political, social, and cultural coverage. Organized by the periods, kingdoms, and empires generally used in Near Eastern political history, the text interlaces social and cultural history with the political narrative. This combination allows students to get a rounded introduction to the subject of Ancient Near Eastern history. An emphasis on problems and areas of uncertainty helps students understand how evidence is used to create interpretations and allows them to realize that several different interpretations of the same evidence are possible. This introduction to the Ancient Near East includes coverage of Egypt and a balance of political, social, and cultural coverage.

The Decipherment of Ancient Maya Writing is an important story of intellectual discovery and a tale of code breaking comparable to the interpreting of Egyptian hieroglyphs and the decoding of cuneiform. This book provides a history of the interpretation of Maya hieroglyphs. Introductory essays offer the historical context and describe the personalities and theories of the many authors who contributed to the understanding of these ancient glyphs.

The history of Freemasonry before 1717 is shrouded in mystery but it is narrated in more than one hundred manuscripts. Their story mixes legendary elements with historical and biblical references in a confused and cryptic whole that has so far resisted any attempt at decoding. This book reveals the key to decoding and the story hidden by these and others Masonic manuscripts, revealing who the ancient Freemasons were and providing a new hypothesis on the birth of modern Freemasonry.

Studies the emergence of language, both in individuals and in civilization. Using Helen Keller as inspiration and illustration, the author points to how language emerges with a 'Big Bang' of human creativity and speech in each of us. The result is a new and radical view of language. Using a reader-oriented approach, Shadi Bartsch reconsiders the role of detailed descriptive accounts in the ancient Greek novels of Heliodorus and Achilles Tatius and in so doing offers a new view of the genre itself. Bartsch demonstrates that these passages, often misunderstood as mere ornamental devices, form in fact an integral part of the narrative proper, working to activate the audience's

awareness of the play of meaning in the story. As the crucial elements in the evolution of a relationship in which the author arouses and then undermines the expectations of his readership, these passages provide the key to a better understanding and interpretation of these two most sophisticated of the ancient Greek romances. In many works of the Second Sophistic, descriptions of visual conveyors of meaning--artworks and dreams--signaled the presence of a deeper meaning. This meaning was revealed in the texts themselves through an interpretation furnished by the author. The two novels at hand, however, manipulate this convention of hermeneutic description by playing upon their readers' expectations and luring them into the trap of incorrect exegesis. Employed for different ends in the context of each work, this process has similar implications in both for the relationship between reader and author as it arises out of the former's involvement with the text. Originally published in 1989. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These paperback editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

This book is the preliminary part of a great work titled «THE BOOK OF THE EGYPTIAN: The beginning of the basic Egyptology or a key to the understanding of history, philosophy and world religion». Usually, the introduction is made in the form of a brief preface or foreword, but I got a whole book as the first step in a multi-volume publication of the study. The purpose of this specific introduction as the beginning of serious research – is right at the level of the opening to inspire a reader, showing him in a clear visual and comprehensible form, the whole true mechanism of the hieroglyphic writing. To achieve this, I will completely dispel the myth created by the modern science that hieroglyphs do not convey any meaning (of words, the whole idea), but only individual sounds (letters), or their combination (syllables). This scientific myth will be finally deprived of the status of scientific knowledge, and the translation of the Phaistos disc, on the contrary, will be clearly shown, what is called «broken apart», and will be read in the ancient hieroglyphic language united by the principle of construction – in the language of the ancient Egyptians. I can say that it will not be two simultaneously existing systems of hieroglyphs translation, as well as two Egyptologies, one will be false, and the other – true! To prove the validity of the system of translation I wanted to give you immediately not only a complete translation of the text of the Phaistos disc, where the number of occurrences of each hieroglyph is not big (1 to 19 times), but the translation of the whole ancient Egyptian writing, because the number of times it is used in there is thousands, if not even millions. And each such use of each hieroglyph is translating in the same way, so it creates the full reading of the hieroglyphic texts – writing, which will be easily read by everyone with the dictionary of hieroglyphs in the future. The main reason why I wanted to do it – is because, at first, I read the ancient Egyptian texts and only then, by chance, came across with the hieroglyphs of the Phaistos disc. But then, I decided to set a different aim – to teach the reader to think, and not just to read hieroglyphs. Since we have no ancient Egyptian temple, and you're not its novice, the method of achieving the aims will be different than in the antiquity. First of all, I would suggest not a translation of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, but a complete translation of the Phaistos disc, and at the same time to give them a sort of test of common sense to modern science in the face of particular academies and universities of the world. Let them answer me the question, not knowing the translations of ancient Egyptian texts, – whether they think this translation of the Phaistos disc is correct? So when I completely publish «The Book of Egyptian», it will become clear who they are and where do they lead all of you. As they always test the students, it's a time to test them as well. Will they pass the test, I do not know, but any way, you, my reader, will get to know about it, (in the main manuscript) and will be able to

draw your own conclusions about their intellectual level. Therefore, I recommend you to take this message of the book, at least with the attention, because not every day the science gets a ready revelation, designed in the form of scientific study. And here the attention and common sense will help the reader to re-look the original, pure, uncomplicated meaning of the Hieroglyphs, which through the veil of delusion will finally begin to appear in their true, original and vibrant colors – and finally, get from the nether world – into the realm of the living!

Traditional religious history preserves a rarely acknowledged secret that Christianity developed from at least three ancient roots: a Western structural root derived from Mediterranean Greek culture, an Eastern spiritual root from Anatolia and Persia, and a literary Jewish historical root, which masked the other roots and supported the idea that Christians had taken the place of Jews in relationship with God by entering a new covenant with Jesus. Each root contributed something special to the development of Christianity as follows: Supported by pagan iconography and rhetoric, the Western root imprinted Christianity with Greek spirit in a Hellenistic universe. The Eastern root filled the Greek construct with magic, focused humanity on a divine mission, and infused popular reverence for goddesses into Christian beliefs about the Virgin Mary. The literary Jewish root played two contradictory roles: Jewish scripture served as the reliable witness that proved Jesus to be both God and savior; and double-edged moral lessons in the Old Testament explained catastrophic events in the first century A.D. as divine judgment against Jews, supporting beliefs by early pagan converts to Christianity that Romans were good, Jews were bad, and God abandoned Jews for treacherously murdering Jesus. Two thousand years ago, Mediterranean cults included practices and beliefs that modern Christians associate exclusively with Christianity. People worshipped divine mothers who gave birth to dying and resurrecting gods on December 25. Saviors miraculously healed faithful followers and guided them to lead moral lives. Some cults baptized their followers, some passed their sins and inner demons to pigs, and some waited for a complete destruction of evil during the imminent End of Days. Then, as now, people argued whether the end would come by fire or water and whether many or few souls would be saved. Numerous symbols and beliefs associated in modern times with Christianity already existed in pre-Christian Hellenistic cults: Madonna and child images, angels, God the Father, the cross as a symbol of life after death, and the gift of eternal life through the shedding of immortal blood. On temple walls, wise men offered gifts of incense and gold to newborn gods; and merciful mothers granted salvation to the poor in spirit who confessed, repented, and begged forgiveness for their sins. However, Jews generally rejected all these practices, symbols, and beliefs. Some Jews believed in physical resurrection, and some did not. Some believed in eternal life, and some did not. For most Jews, however, a righteous life required the following of God's laws. If a Jew sinned against another man, no automatic forgiveness from God was possible. Forgiveness required acknowledgement of wrongdoing, restitution, and then forgiveness from the wronged party. Applying Jewish ethics to problems at the Jerusalem Temple meant recognizing the corruption within the priesthood, refusing to tolerate the evil rule of Rome, and giving one's life if necessary to precipitate the Kingdom of God. Just as God always had responded to the prayers of suffering Jews in the Bible, he would do so again. Soon he would send a messiah to deliver Jerusalem from the evil power of Rome and to cleanse Judea from the polluting practices of pagan cults. Drawing from both visible and secret roots, Christians freed themselves from paying for salvation from mystery cults while preserving the ability to worship a virgin-born hero with all the trappings of a pagan solar deity. This book explores the roots of Christianity in seven parts. The first three parts provide an overview of religious beliefs, practices, and iconography in the ancient Greek world that influenced Western culture and religion. The fourth, fifth, and sixth parts describe how the West developed under Roman influence. Then the seventh part focuses on the life of Jesus and the emergence of Christian cults in the first century A.D.