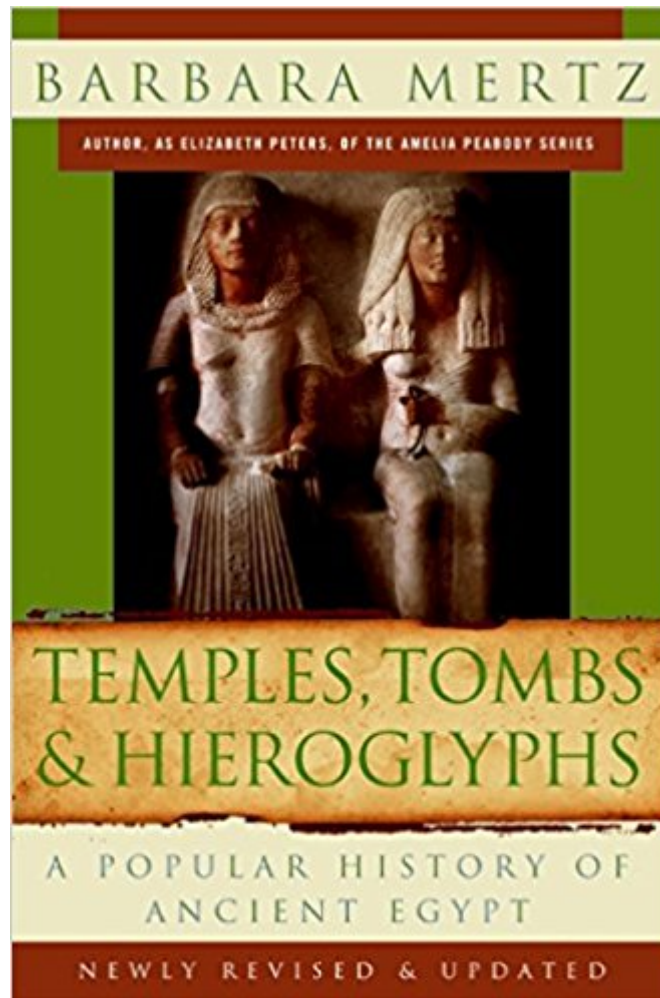




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# Temples, Tombs, And Hieroglyphs: A Popular History Of Ancient Egypt



## Synopsis

World-renowned Egyptologist Barbara Mertz explores the reality behind the bestselling fiction she writes (as Elizabeth Peters) and casts a dazzling light on a remarkable civilization. A fascinating chronicle of an extraordinary people—•from the first Stone Age settlements through the reign of Cleopatra and the Roman invasions—•Temples, Tombs, and Hieroglyphs brings ancient Egypt to life as never before. Lavishly illustrated with pictures, maps, and photographs, it offers tantalizing glimpses into Egyptian society; amazing stories of the pharaohs and the rise and fall of great dynasties; a sampling of culture, religion, and folklore; stories of explorers, scientists, and scoundrels who sought to unravel or exploit the ageless mysteries; and new insights into the architectural wonders that were raised along the banks of the Nile.

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks; 2nd Revised, Updated ed. edition (February 24, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061252778

ISBN-13: 978-0061252778

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #393,738 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #152 in [Books > History > Africa > Egypt](#) #281 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Egypt](#) #325 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Archaeology](#)

## Customer Reviews

This updated and revised version of Dr. Mertz's stunning collection of everything related to the civilization of ancient Egypt is brought to life through Lorna Raver's informative and entertaining narration. Presented as half textbook, half historical fiction, Raver finds a solid balance between the two genres. Her voice brims with mystery and the unknown as she, along with the listener, travels along the path that Mertz has meticulously paved from the earliest glimpses of the remarkable civilization to the very latest discoveries. Raver is solid and unwavering throughout, sounding as though she's enjoying the information she so clearly presents. She brings fun and excitement to a field that many consider to be overly analyzed and studied, offering a learning experience through an abundance of speculative fiction sure to capture the minds of even the youngest listeners.

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A successful combination of popular readability and sound scholarship. New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Firstly I must admit that I am not an expert on this subject. I learnt the basic stuff at High School and that's about it. My interest was sparked in Ancient Egypt after taking my daughter to watch 'The Mummy' and subsequently reading Bob Brier's book 'The Murder of Tutankhamen'. As it has been previously noted by other reviewer's this book is somewhat dated (originally published in 1964) but that does not detract from the wonderful narrative that the author weaves around the Pharaohs and their place in history. The author does not get bogged down in technical details and you never lose interest in the story. She has a knack of writing about these far away times and people as if it was yesterday and draws you into her story. Overall I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to obtain a decent overview of Ancient Egypt.

I love it when historians are so confident of their material that they can write as if they had been there. Barbara Mertz is a consummate storyteller, as her dozens of fiction bestsellers under two pseudonyms attest. Here, she turns her seemingly casual mastery to her original career of Egyptology, and the result is a wonderfully readable book that still manages to teach detailed ancient Egyptian political history across thousands of years in a scholarly fashion. This new edition shows signs of significant updating, as well as her trademark humor from the standpoint of greater experience than in the first writing. As "Red Land, Black Land" is a detailed look -- as much as can be done given current knowledge -- at the lives of ordinary ancient Egyptians, "Temples, Tombs and Hieroglyphs" provides the history at the better-known levels of Egyptian kings and priests. It reads very quickly -- and how often are you able to break out laughing when reading nonfiction ancient history? If you have any interest in ancient Egypt, read this book.

I think Justine J on September 2, 2007 wrote the best review and and comment answer I have ever seen here! I'm not sure what my puny efforts will add to anyone's knowledge of the book....so I will simply say that I loved the book, loved Barbara Mertz's sense of humor and her acerbic wit, her tremendous sense of Egypt...and her knowledge. The world will miss her terribly! This book is one that I wanted for a long time (NO I have no excuse!) and am counting it money well spent. She truly

does bring ancient Egypt to life with glimpses into Egyptian society; wonderful stories of the pharaohs and the rise and fall of great dynasties; she really does cover 5000 years in a format that weaves back and forth from peasant to pyramid, from Pharaoh to the Nile and really leaves you gasping for more. I think that I too will be rereading this book, and often! I also highly recommend Dr. Mertz's "Red Land, Black Land" for a complete look at ancient Egypt.

Writing under the pen name Elizabeth Peters, Barbara Mertz started the Amelia Peabody series of tongue-in-cheek Victorian archaeological thrillers in 1975. But 11 years before then this trained Egyptologist published the first edition of "Temples, Tombs & Hieroglyphs". Like many other books this traces the history of ancient Egypt from the pre-dynastic to the Ptolemies. But Mertz brings her sense of humor to lighten what can be a dry series of lists of kings. She brings to life highpoints in the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms, as well as the chaotic periods in between. Moreover, she lifts the veil and lets the reader in on many of the scholarly disputes, like those over the woman pharaoh Hatshepsut and the role of Nefertiti in the succession to her heretical husband Akhenaton. It's also nice to see someone reveal the egomaniac Ramses II for what he was, a poor leader who lost the second Battle of Kadesh, and who covered his weaknesses by pasting his image everywhere. For anyone who has read the Peabody books, including the depiction there of Sir William Flinders Petrie (and his approach to feeding his staff), Mertz' homage here to the founder of modern Egyptology is interesting. In her forward to this Second Edition, Mertz says she thought she wouldn't have to do much to revise the earlier work. But then, she adds, taking into account four decades of new discoveries proved to be a challenge. There are places in this book where she discusses post-1964 work, but the addition of the new material is seamless, with no sense of things just stuck in. This is a delightful introduction to the fascinating history of ancient Egypt.

Barbara Mertz brings the history of Egypt to life with her expertise. She also presents it with a sense of humor which is not dry or textbook style which keeps interests going.

Excellent. It is a great overview of a complex culture based on an overriding religion and, for the most part, a strong, unbending series of dictatorships. Ms Mertz has the gift of communication. The audio of the book is worth the money.

I have been interested in Egypt virtually all my life, and have read many books about it over the years. The reason I bought "Temples, Tombs & Hieroglyphs" is because I knew that Barbara Mertz

was the author Elizabeth Peters of Amelia Peabody fame - and Amelia Peters is a favourite of mine. Dr Mertz combines her wealth of knowledge with her personal style of writing, which makes reading this book just sheer pleasure to read. The book is informative, easy to read and, as already stated, pleasurable to the very end. She provides a reading list for those readers who want to pursue the subject further, and I for one, will be ordering some of these very shortly.

Man!!! I really love it! I love History especially Egypt. Never thought of the author to be that famous. Wish I could read Amelia Peabody series one day and just keep surprising me with the early delivery. Keep on doing like that!!!

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