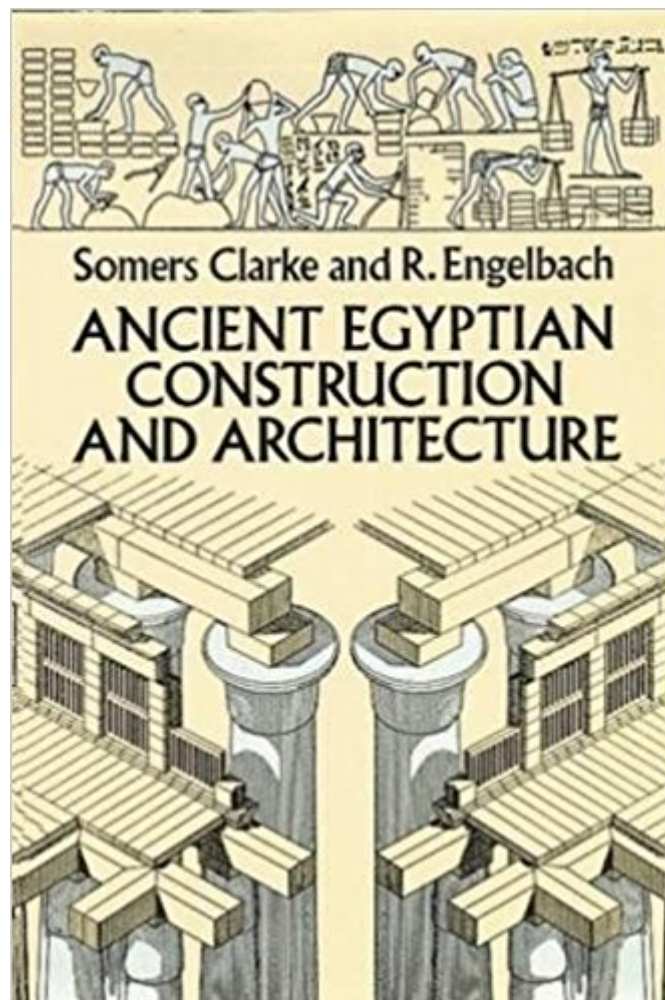




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Ancient Egyptian Construction And Architecture (Dover Books On Architecture)



Synopsis

When this book was first published in 1930, there was no shortage of excellent books dealing with the architectural styles of ancient Egypt; no book of any significance, however, discussed in detail the actual construction methods used to erect some of the world's most colossal and enduring structures. This profusely illustrated volume remedied that situation by providing the first important description and analysis of Egyptian building practices, which differed radically from those of classical, medieval or modern architecture. Based on thirty years of research and investigation, much of it firsthand, the present work offers a detailed examination of Egyptian quarrying methods, transportation of stone, foundations, mortar, techniques for dressing and laying blocks of stone, pyramid construction, facing, sculpturing and painting masonry, brickwork, Egyptian mathematics and much more. Nearly 270 photographs and other illustrations bring the text to life, providing superb pictorial documentation of actual sites and excavations, quarries, building plans, architects' diagrams and elevations and a myriad of construction details. Also presented are such evocative materials as a map for gold miners in the time of Seti I, photographs of tool marks left by ancient quarry workers, mason's guidelines on a column in the Great Hall at Karnak, a scene of workmen polishing a sphinx and other small details that bridge the centuries and remind us that flesh-and-blood human beings sweated and toiled to accomplish the marvelous technical feats so well described here. For any student of ancient Egypt, this will be an enlightening and fascinating survey. For architects, engineers, and students of the history of technology, the book offers a revealing picture of early techniques of monumental construction. 125 photographs. 144 line illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well written but nearly 86 years old. Accurate ,but I'm looking for additional material uncovered in the last 86 years as well.

Clarke and Englebach are very well versed in typical accepted means of architecture in Ancient Egypt. Though without color Photos this book has many illustrations which do in some cases help you get a sense of the immensity of some of the projects the ancients undertook. One particularly striking section refers to an unfinished granite obelisk at Aswan. The time involved in such a project is staggering. They do a good job summing up what the committees on Ancient Egypt have all decided is the norm but advance no further, putting in very few original thoughts. The book is also seventy years old, so many of the unexcavated sites they refer to have now in fact been excavated. The authors go out of their way on several occasions to assure the reader that "pyramid cranks" should be disregarded in all forms. They however fail to explain why. Their persistant knocking of the so called pyramid cranks becomes rather annoying because whenever there is a mystery the authors waste no time in assuring us that these cranks are wrong, even if no one knows who is right, the authors don't even venture theory in many cases. But don't get me wrong, this is a good book and will help anyone get acquainted with how most structures were built and what methods they used for quarrying and so forth. Unfortunately again, whenever there is an unanswered question, Clarke and Englebach seem more ready to spout rhetoric rather than entertain any original thought. I really recommend this book even if I have some complaints because as far as actual documentation of construction, this book does go a long way.

A useful sourcebook that enables me to have a character cringe as he looks up at the stone architraves that might (had they but known it millenia ago) break off - stone being less flexible than wood - and fall on his head. Dover has done a good job reissuing older books in facsimile form. This is one that would be better if it could be updated in the light of several decades' discoveries, but it is good as it is. Not a page-turner, but then it isn't supposed to be.

This book is rated the classic reference on Ancient Egyptian building techniques. It covers all

aspects of construction from mathematical procedures to the ways the Ancient Egyptians drilled granite and other hard stones. Various buildings and pyramids are picked out as examples for diverse techniques as well as for the purpose of providing insight into how they were built. Although getting out of date with more information having been gathered during the past 60-odd years, it is well worth reading and having as a handy reference.

A fabulously entertaining book, chock full of info found on sites in the 20's before sites were reconstructed. A "keeper" for the Egyptophile who wants some in-depth info...definitely not a book for casual reading.

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