

The Amarna Letters

Amarna Letters from Palestine, Syria, the Philistines and Phoenicia The El-Amarna Correspondence (2 vol. set) The Amarna Letters The Amarna Letters The Tell-el-Amarna-letters The Chronology of the Amarna Letters Amarna Studies Selections from the Tell-el-Amarna Letters The Cambridge Ancient History: Amarna letters from Palestine; Syria, the Philistines and Phoenicia The Amarna Scholarly Tablets The Amarna Letters Old Testament Parallels Handbuch Der Orientalistik Tutankhamun's Armies Amarna Letters Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland 1177 B.C. Hebraica The Chronology of the Amarna Letters Syria and Egypt Cambridge University Press Anson F. Rainey Jacob Lauinger William L. Moran Edward Fay Campbell William L. Moran Percy Stuart Peache Handcock Shlomo Izre'el Scriptural Research Institute Victor Harold Matthews William M. Schniedewind John Coleman Darnell Eric H. Cline William Rainey Harper Edward Fay Campbell (Jr.) William Matthew Flinders Petrie

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the el amarna correspondence offers a completely new edition of the amarna letters based on personal inspection and reading of all the extant tablets this edition includes new transcriptions and a translation along with an extensive introduction and glossary of the amarna letters

during egypt s eighteenth dynasty ca 1550 1292 bce the new kingdom pharaohs campaigned repeatedly in syria and the levant establishing political control over much of the region as a result of these conquests the rulers of levantine city states sent letters written in akkadian in

the cuneiform script on clay tablets to the egyptian pharaohs so too did the kings of the other great geopolitical powers of the time assyria babylonia hatti and mittani maintain an active diplomatic correspondence with egypt's pharaohs beginning in the nineteenth century ce local farmers and later archaeologists working at akhetaten modern tell el amarna the one time egyptian capital discovered remnants of this correspondence mostly dating to the reigns of amenhotep iii ca 1388-1350 bce and his son and successor akhenaten ca 1350-1333 bce with some dating to tutankhamun ca 1333-1323 this is a period of increasing friction as the great powers sought to extend their borders the amarna letters thus illuminate a pivotal point in egypt's foreign relations during the late bronze age even though they provide us with a narrow window of only about thirty years (ca 1358-1325 bce) they are an important witness to the general nature of egypt's diplomatic relations during the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties this new digitally borne edition of the amarna letters offers the first complete collection of the letters with responsible transliterations that have been checked against available photographs and hand copies clear and consistent translations and an up to date and extensive bibliography as such it is and will remain an essential resource

the acknowledged master of these texts is william moran who produced a complete re-edition of the tablets in french in 1987 the amarna letters is a revised version of this done into english open it and hear these voices from a vanished empire speak after three and a half millennia times literary supplement

in this volume are collected all of the writings moran devoted to the amarna letters over more than four decades including his doctoral dissertation which has been one of the most widely cited unpublished works in ancient near eastern studies a citation index makes professor moran's comments on individual texts readily accessible

the amarna archives include not only letters but also texts relating to the education of scribes in egypt syllabaries lexical lists literary texts and other educational exercises although the recent translation of the letters by william moran the amarna letters johns hopkins 1992 has brought our understanding of this important corpus up to date the other texts have not been included in his volume they have been waiting for renewed study in the context of literary and scholarly peripheral and core akkadian texts the original publications are obsolete and many of the texts are poorly copied this book provides new editions of all the amarna tablets not included in moran's volume i.e. ea 340, 361, 368, 372, 377, 379, 381 some of these are fragments whose genre is a matter of debate suggestions for their attribution will be offered this new edition includes transliterations, translations, a brief commentary, cuneiform copies and photographs the introduction provides an overview of the corpus and is intended to serve as an impetus for further research into some of the more difficult issues yet to be examined

the amarna letters are a collection of clay tablets found in the ruins of el amarna egypt in the 1880s the city of el amarna was built by the pharaoh akhenaten during his religious reforms in the 1340s bc but was then abandoned after he died and egypt reverted to worshiping the old gods these letters provide a unique glimpse into a period of egyptian history that the egyptians themselves attempted to erase after akhenaten s heir tutankhamen died his successor ay was only able to hold the throne for a few years before horemheb seized it and attempted to reunite the egyptians by erasing all records of akhenaten s reforms which included erasing akhenaten s name from almost every record in egypt by this period el amarna appears to have already been mostly abandoned and therefore egyptologists were able to reconstruct the strange story of akhenaten s reign in the middle of the new kingdom era the amarna letters were recovered from the royal archives in el amarna where they appear to have been archived after having been translated for the royal court the letters are inscribed on clay tablets in cuneiform the dominant form of writing in mesopotamia canaan and the neighboring cultures in anatolia and cyprus at the time the shape of the cuneiform logograms used is akkadian the parent form of the later neo babylonian neo assyrian and ugaritic forms of cuneiform however the language used in the letters is not pure akkadian the letters are between various members of the egyptian royal court and many different cities and nations across the middle east including babylon assyria mitanni and cyprus and therefore the language within the letters is not consistent within the letters from canaanite cities all of which were subject to egypt at the time several transliterated names are also used which appears to be a direct precursor to the later development of ugaritic cuneiform by 1200 bc which was an abjad similar to the canaanite script that was developed by 1000 bc however used cuneiform logograms instead of alphabet like letters the surviving letters were mostly about trade and diplomacy however do include a great deal of information about what was happening in the middle east at the time in particular they demonstrate how limited egypt s actual control of its canaanite holdings was where the governors of cities were constantly requesting military help to defend themselves against each other the marauding habirus and the hittite backed amorites in northern canaan the amarna letters were written during the mid 1330s bc during the reigns of the pharaohs amenhotep iii and akhenaten although it is not always clear when in their respective reigns the letters were written or even which pharaoh was on the throne at the time

in this newly revised and expanded second edition victor matthews and don benjamin have gathered key ancient documents from eastern mediterranean traditions that provide a literary backdrop for old testament writings

the force that forged an empire the furious thunder of thousands of hooves the clatter and sheen of bronze armor sparkling in the desert sun the crunch of wooden wheels racing across

a rock strewn battlefield and leading this terrifying chariot charge the gallant pharaoh the ribbons of his blue war crown streaming behind him as he launches yet another arrow into the panicking mass of his soon to be routed enemies while scenes like the one depicted above did occur in ancient egypt they represent only one small aspect of the vast complex and sophisticated military machine that secured defended and expanded the borders of the empire during the late eighteenth dynasty in tutankhamun s armies you ll discover the harsh reality behind the imperial splendor of the new kingdom and gain a new appreciation for the formidable egyptian army from pharaoh to foot soldier you ll follow the heretic king akhenaten his son tutankhamun and their three amana period successors as they employ double edge diplomacy and military might to defeat competing powers quell internal insurrections and keep reluctant subject states in line this vivid and absorbing chronicle will forever change the way you think about the glories and riches of ancient egypt

a bold reassessment of what caused the late bronze age collapse in 1177 b c marauding groups known only as the sea peoples invaded egypt the pharaoh s army and navy managed to defeat them but the victory so weakened egypt that it soon slid into decline as did most of the surrounding civilizations after centuries of brilliance the civilized world of the bronze age came to an abrupt and cataclysmic end kingdoms fell like dominoes over the course of just a few decades no more minoans or mycenaeans no more trojans hittites or babylonians the thriving economy and cultures of the late second millennium b c which had stretched from greece to egypt and mesopotamia suddenly ceased to exist along with writing systems technology and monumental architecture but the sea peoples alone could not have caused such widespread breakdown how did it happen in this major new account of the causes of this first dark ages eric cline tells the gripping story of how the end was brought about by multiple interconnected failures ranging from invasion and revolt to earthquakes drought and the cutting of international trade routes bringing to life the vibrant multicultural world of these great civilizations he draws a sweeping panorama of the empires and globalized peoples of the late bronze age and shows that it was their very interdependence that hastened their dramatic collapse and ushered in a dark age that lasted centuries a compelling combination of narrative and the latest scholarship 1177 b c sheds new light on the complex ties that gave rise to and ultimately destroyed the flourishing civilizations of the late bronze age and that set the stage for the emergence of classical greece

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Introduction

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