



Egypt in England and America: the cultural memorials of religion, royalty and revolution

E Chaney, Adriana Corrado, Maurizio Ascari

Research output: Chapter in Book/Report/Published conference proceeding › Chapter




Abstract


My interest in the cultural memory of ancient Egypt evolved from my work on the Grand Tour. Most British travellers first encountered ancient Egypt in Rome, where in particular the obelisks and their hieroglyphs inspired curiosity concerning the civilization that had produced them. Egypt was already familiar from ancient literature and the Bible. Henry VIII passed an 'Egyptian Act', banning gypsies from England and conversely Shakespeare's Cleopatra was the 'Gypsy' whore. In parallel with its Roman image as decadent ran the Old Testament legacy of Egypt's 'ancient wisdom' associated with the name of Hermes Trismegistus. The latter was discredited in the seventeenth century but following decipherment of hieroglyphs, Victorian travellers were stunned by their encounter with pre-classical visual culture of such superb quality and longevity. Freud argued that Moses was an Egyptian who derived his idea of monotheism from the sun-worshipping Pharaoh Akhenaten. His grandson, the painter, Lucian Freud, was influenced by the cultural memory of Moses and Monotheism. I developed this material in a review of a book on Freud and Antiquity (in Psychoanalysis and History); a paper introducing the British School at Rome's Mellon-funded Roma Britannica conference and further for my lecture on 'Lord Arundel and the Obelisk of Domitian' at Arundel Castle and finalized it for the November 2006 conference on 'Mediterranean Paths, Images, Places and Civilizations' at the Università della Svizzera Italiana. (forthcoming in the proceedings to be published by the British School at Rome). I am delivering a version of this at the London School of Economics in their conference on 'Facts and Artefacts: What Travels in Material Objects?' (funded by the Leverhulme Trust and ESRC:17 December 2007).

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English
TITLE OF HOST PUBLICATION	Sites of Exchange: European Crossroads and Faultlines
EDITORS	Adriana Corrado, Maurizio Ascari
PLACE OF PUBLICATION	Amsterdam
PUBLISHER	Editions Rodopi B.V.
PAGES	39-75
NUMBER OF PAGES	37
ISBN (PRINT)	90 420 2015 6
PUBLICATION STATUS	Published - 2006

Fingerprint


Dive into the research topics of 'Egypt in England and America: the cultural memorials of religion, royalty and revolution'. Together they form a unique fingerprint.

 Lucian Freud
ARTS & HUMANITIES





 Roma
ARTS & HUMANITIES

Memorial

 Royalty
ARTS & HUMANITIES

 Hieroglyphs
ARTS & HUMANITIES

Fgypt

 ARTS & HUMANITIES	 ARTS & HUMANITIES
 Monotheism ARTS & HUMANITIES	 Ancient Egypt ARTS & HUMANITIES

View full fingerprint >

Cite this



Chaney, E., Corrado, A., & Ascari, M. (2006). Egypt in England and America: the cultural memorials of religion, royalty and revolution . In A. Corrado, & M. Ascari (Eds.), *Sites of Exchange: European Crossroads and Faultlines* (pp. 39-75). Editions Rodopi B.V..

Powered by [Pure](#), [Scopus](#) & [Elsevier Fingerprint Engine™](#) © 2020 Elsevier B.V.

We use cookies to help provide and enhance our service and tailor content. By continuing you agree to the [use of cookies](#)

[Solent University data protection policy](#)

[About web accessibility](#)

[Solent University contact form](#)

The Middle Kingdom (2040-1782 BCE) is considered ancient Egypt's Classical Age during which the culture produced some of its greatest works of art and... The era that began with the fall of Herakleopolis to Mentuhotep II was an era of great artistic gains and stability in Egypt. A strong government fostered a climate in which a great deal of creative activity took place. The greatest monument of this period was at Thebes, on the western bank of the Nile, at a site called Deir el-Bahri. Ancient Egypt. Author: History.com Editors. Contents. Predynastic Period (c. 5000-3100 B.C.). Archaic (Early Dynastic) Period (c. 3100-2686 B.C.). Old Kingdom: Age of the Pyramid Builders (c. 2686-2181 B.C.). First Intermediate Period (c. 2181-2055 B.C.). Middle Kingdom: 12th Dynasty (c. 2055-1786 B.C.). Second Intermediate Period (c. 1786-1567 B.C.). New Kingdom (c. 1567-1085 B.C.). Third Intermediate Period (c. 1085-664 B.C.). From the Late Period to Alexander's Conquest (c.664-332 B.C.). PHOTO GALLERIES. For almost 30 centuries—from its unification around 3100 B.C. to its conquest by Alexan