

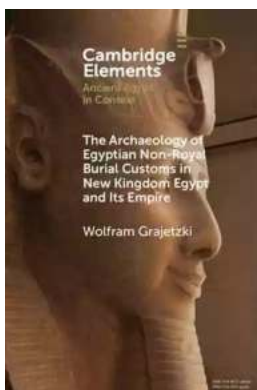
The Fascinating Archaeology of Non-royal Burial Customs in New Kingdom Egypt

Throughout ancient history, burial customs have always reflected the cultural and societal aspects of a civilization. In the case of ancient Egypt, the tombs and burial practices of the non-royal individuals provide a wealth of information about their beliefs and values. In this article, we will delve into the captivating world of Egyptian non-royal burials during the New Kingdom era.

The New Kingdom period in ancient Egypt (circa 1550-1077 BCE) marks a significant chapter of the country's history, characterized by periods of great prosperity and imperial expansion. While the pharaohs were undoubtedly the most prominent figures of this era, it is the ordinary people and their burial customs that shed light on the everyday lives and social structure of the time.

The Importance of Non-royal Burials

The non-royal burials from the New Kingdom are essential for archaeologists and historians as they provide a more inclusive perspective on ancient Egyptian society. These burial sites offer information about the general population, their beliefs, social hierarchy, and the diversity of funerary rituals.



The Archaeology of Egyptian Non-Royal Burial Customs in New Kingdom Egypt and Its Empire (Elements in Ancient Egypt in Context)

by Wolfram Grajetzki (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported



Unlike the grandiose tombs of Pharaohs, the resting places of non-royal individuals usually consisted of simpler structures. These tombs were often built in rock-cut or pit structures, providing insights into the economic conditions and social standing of the deceased.

A Journey into the Afterlife

The Egyptians believed in an afterlife, where the deceased would continue their existence in the same manner as their earthly life. For this reason, they took great care in preserving the body and providing all the necessary provisions for the journey into eternity.

Within these non-royal tombs, archaeologists have discovered artifacts such as shabtis, ushabtis, or funerary figurines. These figurines were sculpted in the likeness of the deceased and placed within the tomb to serve as servants in the afterlife. They were intended to perform all the laborious tasks the deceased might be required to do.

Additionally, these tombs often contained elaborate offerings such as food, drink, and various personal belongings. The inclusion of these items illustrates the Egyptians' belief that the afterlife required sustenance and comfort similar to the earthly realm.

Diversity in Non-royal Burials

One fascinating aspect of non-royal burials in New Kingdom Egypt is the diversity of burial customs and rituals across different social classes. The level of richness and intricacy in the burials often varied depending on the economic status of the deceased.

Those of higher social standing typically had more lavish burials, featuring finely crafted coffins, decorative masks, and ornate funerary art. These burials also had a higher likelihood of containing valuable jewelry and precious metals.

On the other hand, individuals from lower social classes often had simpler graves without much adornment. The lack of elaborate items suggests that these individuals didn't enjoy the same luxuries or social status as their wealthier counterparts. However, the presence of basic burial goods signifies the importance of an afterlife for all Egyptians, regardless of their societal position.

The Role of Women in Non-royal Burials

The examination of non-royal burials has revealed fascinating insights into the role of women in ancient Egyptian society. Contrary to popular belief, women held significant importance, and their burials provide clues to their status and achievements.

Unlike some ancient civilizations where women were buried separately or their burials received less attention, Egyptian women, both royal and non-royal, were laid to rest with great care and respect. They were often buried with their personal belongings and jewelry, demonstrating their individuality and social positions.

Moreover, the tombs of women often depict scenes of their daily lives and activities, showcasing their roles as mothers, wives, and members of society. These visual representations provide valuable insights into the lives of women in ancient Egypt, challenging the traditional perception of their societal contributions.

The Legacy of Non-royal Burial Customs

The study of non-royal burials in New Kingdom Egypt is instrumental in understanding the broader cultural and historical context of ancient Egypt. By examining the tombs and artifacts left behind, archaeologists can piece together a comprehensive picture of the society and the beliefs that shaped the lives of its citizens.

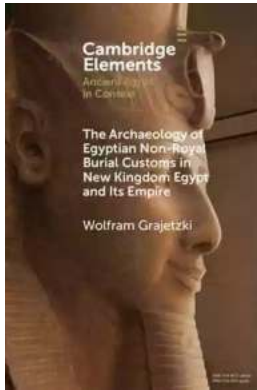
From the diversity in burial customs across social classes to the significant role of women in burial practices, non-royal burials offer a glimpse into the vibrant and nuanced aspects of ancient Egyptian society that might otherwise remain hidden.

As archaeologists continue to explore and uncover more non-royal burial sites in Egypt, our understanding of this remarkable civilization's culture and customs deepens. Each excavation brings us closer to unraveling the secrets held within these ancient tombs and sheds light on the rich history of New Kingdom Egypt.

The archaeology of non-royal burial customs in New Kingdom Egypt presents a captivating overview of the everyday lives, beliefs, and social dynamics of the time. Through examining these burial sites, we gain valuable insights into the diverse rituals and practices that shaped the afterlife journey of ordinary Egyptians.

By appreciating the significance of non-royal burials, we can acknowledge the contributions made by all members of ancient Egyptian society and foster a holistic understanding of their culture. The tombs and artifacts left behind serve as a testament to the lasting legacy of these ancient individuals and provide a fascinating glimpse into the vibrant world of New Kingdom Egypt.

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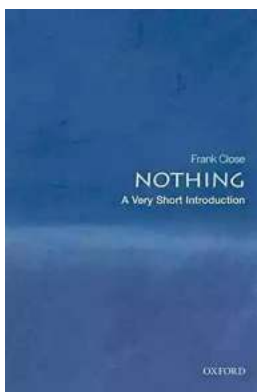
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This Element provides a new evaluation of burial customs in New Kingdom Egypt, from about 1550 to 1077 BC, with an emphasis on burials of the wider population. It also covers the regions then under Egyptian control: the Southern Levant and the area of Nubia as far as the Fourth Cataract. The inclusion of foreign countries provides insights not only into the interaction between the centre of the empire and its conquered regions, but also concerning what is typically Egyptian and to what extent the conquered regions were culturally influenced. It can be shown that burials in Lower Nubia closely follow those in Egypt. In the southern Levant, by contrast, cemeteries of the period often yield numerous Egyptian objects, but burial customs in general do not follow those in Egypt.



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