

# THE LOST PHARAOHS

LEONARD COTTRELL





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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the gentlemen mentioned in the introduction, I would like sincerely to thank Professor H. W. Fairman, of Liverpool University, who read my chapters on the Amarna period, Professor Cerny of University College, London, and Sir Alan Gardiner, who read the book in manuscript. All these scholars gave me valuable corrections and suggestions, but I wish to make it clear that they are not responsible for my opinions or for any errors which may have crept into the book.

For the purposes of consistency, the chronology I have used throughout is that suggested by the late Professor Glanville. I am grateful to Sir Alan Gardiner for reading and commenting upon my two chapters on Tutankhamun's tomb. But I particularly desire to state that my account of the difficulties which Carter had to encounter were derived partly from Charles Breasted's book, and partly from the newspapers and journals which appeared at the time of the discovery. It formed no part of the information supplied to me by Professor Newberry or Sir Alan Gardiner.

My thanks also to the late Zakaria Goneim, former chief inspector of Antiquities for Saqqara, and to Labib Habachi, chief inspector of Antiquities for Upper Egypt, for their help and companionship during my visits to their country. I am also indebted to the BBC, which made it possible for me to visit Egypt, and kindly gave permission to use some of the material originally broadcast in my feature programs, of which they hold the copyright.

Finally, my grateful thanks to the authors and publishers of the books listed at the end of this volume, from some of which quotations have been made, with the hope that many readers of this book will be led to the original sources which inspired it.

L.C.



## A NOTE TO THE LEARNED

This is a book for the amateur by an amateur. It does not claim to be erudite, though factually it is as accurate as I can make it. My main object has been to interest the many thousands who would like to know more about Ancient Egypt, but are bewildered by the multitude of learned works, many of them on highly specialized branches of Egyptology, which confront them in the reference libraries.

This is not said to forestall criticism. Twenty-four years' experience in the writing of British Broadcasting Corporation documentary programs has taught me that a "popular" approach to a subject is no excuse for inaccuracy. So wide is the radio audience that I cannot hope that the smallest error will go undetected. On the other hand, erudition is not always accompanied by imagination. One of the penalties of profound learning is that, sometimes, the Egyptologist becomes so absorbed in the minutiae of his subject that in time he may become insensible to the wonder and beauty which first drew him to it. To this occupational disease, the amateur is, happily, immune. He shares with thousands of other ordinary folks the awe and delight which, during the second world war, drew thousands of Allied soldiers to the Egyptian Museum at Cairo.

Public interest in things Egyptological is widespread. I discovered this when I wrote and produced for the BBC a dramatic feature on the life of Eighteenth Dynasty Pharaoh Akhenaten, the "Heretic King." For weeks afterward letters arrived on my desk, not only from professional Egyptologists, but from men and women in many walks of life, all showing the keenest interest in and knowledge of the subject. One long and learned letter, politely correcting my chronology of the reign of Amenhotep III, came from an eleven-year-old boy! Similar reactions followed other programs on Ancient Egypt: "The Tomb Robbers of Thebes," "The Lost Pharaohs," "The Tomb of Tutankhamun," and "Mother of Cheops (now known as Khufu)." It was this evidence of popular interest which encouraged me to embark upon this work; that, and the kindly promptings of my learned friends, Sir Alan Gardiner, and that wise and gentle scholar, the late Professor Newberry, who died, alas, before this book was finished.

If further justification is needed for another book on Egyptology, it is this: Until recently, Egyptian archaeology was

financed principally by men of wealth. Out of their pockets came the funds not only for excavation but for what was often equally expensive, the scientific publication of the findings. Today, when both excavation and publication are costlier, scholars can no longer rely on wealthy patrons. Now, archaeologists must depend increasingly on state subsidies.

Egyptologists as a class are shy birds, hating publicity and rightly sensitive to anything which might vulgarize the science to which they have devoted their lives. Some of them may read this book. May I suggest to them that any book which honestly tries to present their work to a wider audience than that of the university lecture room may be of some service to Egyptology?