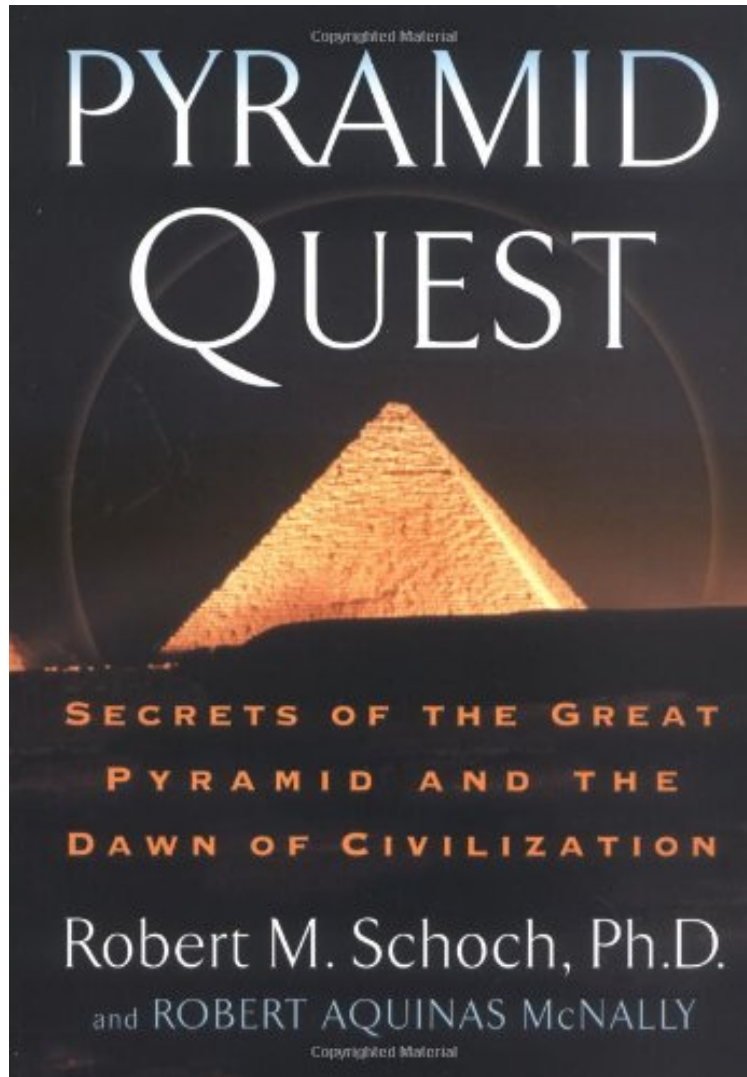


# Pyramid Quest: Secrets of the Great Pyramid and the Dawn of Civilization

*Robert M. Schoch, Robert Aquinas McNally*  
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**Robert M. Schoch, Robert Aquinas McNally : Pyramid Quest: Secrets of the Great Pyramid and the Dawn of Civilization** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pyramid Quest: Secrets of the Great Pyramid and the Dawn of Civilization:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Another "Alternative Camp" View on the Secrets of the Great Pyramid and the Dawn of CivilizationBy SailormanThis is another of a series of similar books that I have read from the "alternative camp", or those researchers and authors like Robert Bauval, Graham Hancock, and John Anthony

West whose views and theories on the age and origin of the sphinx, and the pyramids, differ from the orthodox view of most Egyptologists. Their basic position is that the sphinx and possibly the pyramids, are ancient; far more ancient than is commonly accepted by the scientific community, and that the sphinx and the pyramids are the product of an ancient and lost civilization far more advanced than the Egyptians. Schoch is a geologist and Ph.D. who was brought to Giza by John Anthony West and who together with West rocked the scientific community in the 1990's by dating the sphinx to as old as 10,500 B.C. by studying the damage to the sphinx's body and the sphinx enclosure and theorizing that it was caused by water erosion during a time some 7,000 years ago when the Nile valley received copious amounts of rainfall. McNally is a writer and a poet with an interest in ancient civilizations. Together they present an intriguing and captivating view of the "alternative camp" on prehistoric cultured societies; the age of the Giza plateau; its builders; mathematical constants such as pi and phi, as well as other secret knowledge, built into the pyramids; the celestial alignments of the pyramids, the great pyramid in particular; and the science of the construction of the pyramids. Almost a third of the book is appendixes intended to support this view and go into detail on the pyramid's internal and external dimensions, dimension ratios, geometry, and trigonometry. They trace the foundation of the Great pyramid to an Egyptian sacred site 7,000 B.C. and suggest that the pyramids were never used as tombs by rather for ritual training, initiations, and other mystical or cultic purposes. I'm bias because I love this kind of stuff, and although not the best book I've read by the "alternative camp", I found this to be a great read. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Noteworthy By Mark Gibbs A thoroughly captivating read. My only gripe is that the font is so small as to be uncomfortable to read, and half the book is appendices - published in an even tinier font. Presumably, this was done to keep the cost of the book as low as possible, but it's counter-productive IMO. Less hardy readers might soon give up on it, which would be a misfortune as this is a worthy book. Essentially, a scholarly presentation with a lot of dry detail and mathematical formulae, the author's purpose is to challenge conventional scholarship using their own methodology against them. The results are impressive. He apparently proves that the Sphinx was built thousands of years before the generally accepted date, and thus a highly developed civilization existed eons before the so-called beginning of recorded history around 3000 BCE. He considers the significance of the pyramids and Egyptian culture on Western esoteric lore and mysticism, and though he implies a continuous thread of ancient secret knowledge has been kept alive, like the rest of us, he hasn't quite managed to figure it all out yet. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very comprehensive By F S Frederick Dr Schoch's book goes into much greater detail about the Great Pyramid than any other book on the subject that I have ever read. I really liked it that he put much information into appendices instead of the text. I could pick out the appendices that interested me. In addition, the book is very well written. I'm not sure that I believe all of his conclusions, but he makes very compelling cases.

The Egyptologist acclaimed for re-dating the Great Sphinx at Giza sets his sights on one of the true mysteries of antiquity: the Great Pyramid of Giza. What is the Great Pyramid of Giza? Ask that basic question of a traditional Egyptologist, and you get the basic, traditional answer: a fancy tombstone for a self-important pharaoh of the Old Kingdom. This, Egyptologists argue, is the sole finding based on the data, and the only deduction supported by science. By implication, anyone who dissents from this point of view is unscientific and woolly-minded-a believer in magic and ghosts. Indeed, some of the unconventional ideas about the Great Pyramid do have a spectacularly fabulous ring to them. Yet from beneath the obvious terms of this controversy, a deeper, more significant question arises: how is it that the Great Pyramid exercises such a gripping hold on the human psyche- adding cryptic grace to the back of the one-dollar bill and framing myriad claims of New Age "pyramid power"? In *Pyramid Quest*, Robert M. Schoch and Robert Aquinas McNally use the rigorous intellectual analysis of scientific inquiry to investigate what we know about the Great Pyramid, and develop a stunning hypothesis: This ancient monument is the strongest proof yet that civilization began thousands of years earlier than is generally thought, extending far back into a little-known time. In tracing that story, we come to understand not only the Great Pyramid but also our own origins as civilized beings.

From Publishers Weekly Traditionally, scientists and other scholars have argued that Egyptians constructed the Great Pyramid in one remarkable burst of activity during the reign of Pharaoh Khufu (2551-2528 B.C.). Drawing on archeological and scientific scholarship in their third collaboration, geologist Schoch and writer McNally challenge this view and conclude that the foundation of the edifice can be traced to the earliest Egyptian empires, as far back as 7000-5000 B.C. Among their assertions are that the Great Pyramid may not have been a tomb (no mummy has ever been found inside), but served other cultic and mythological purposes, with both the external and internal areas serving different roles in different eras; between 1500 and 500 B.C., for instance, the pyramid was probably used for ritual training and initiation. Schoch devotes more than a third of the book to appendixes that provide details on such topics as the pyramid's external dimensions, its passages and chambers, and the dating of the structure. Although the book will be controversial for some, it contains such a wealth of information about ancient Egypt and the science of the construction of the pyramids that it may be the only guide to the Great Pyramid most readers will ever need. Bw illus. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Robert M. Schoch, a full-time faculty member at the College of General Studies at Boston University since 1984, earned his

Ph.D. in geology and geophysics at Yale University. Dr. Schoch has been quoted extensively in the media for his work on the Sphinx, and he was featured on the Emmy-winning documentary *The Mystery of the Sphinx*, hosted by Charlton Heston. Robert Aquinas McNally is the author of numerous books, and is a classically educated writer and poet.