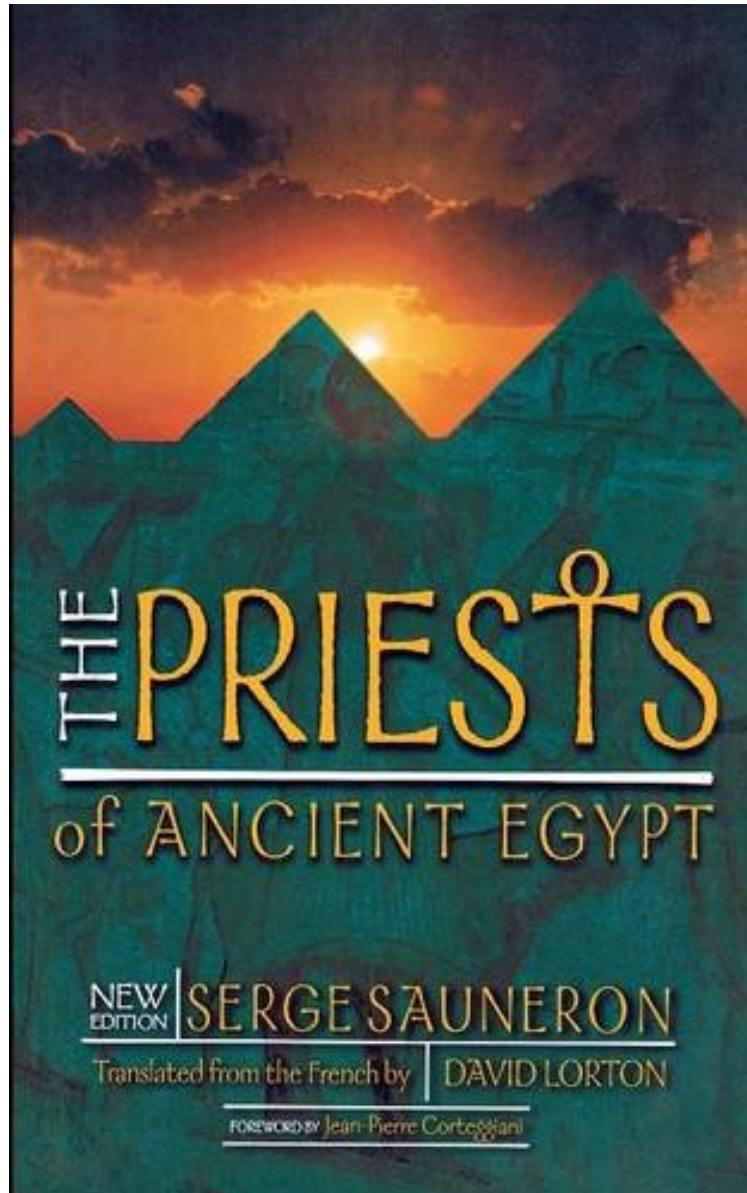


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The Priests of Ancient Egypt: New Edition

Serge Sauneron, David Lorton, Jean-Pierre Corteggiani
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Serge Sauneron, David Lorton, Jean-Pierre Corteggiani : The Priests of Ancient Egypt: New Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Priests of Ancient Egypt: New Edition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Priests of Ancient Egypt: New Edition by Serge Sauneron,

David Lorton, Jean-Pierre Corteggiani
By Joshua Silverman
This is one of the few books which emphasizes the duties of the priests and their functions in the sphere of ancient Egyptian religion. While most books on ancient Egyptian religion discuss the ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses and their roles in the mythologies of the ancient culture, Sauneron (I keep thinking of Sauron the White from Lord of the Rings when I read his name), instead chooses to place his focus on the daily life of the actual priests. The book is vast in its contents and touches on everything from the corruption in the priesthood and the bribery which inevitably happens in every vast religious organization, to the mundane in regards to dietary restrictions, cleanliness, fornication, and dress code. Some of the more elaborate chapters which I liked focused on the actual rituals of morning prayers, mid-afternoon prayers, and evening prayer rights. Because I've had to read an enormous amount of books on ancient Egyptian religion for my series, Legends of Amun Ra, I was still amazed to find out how little I knew about the actual priests themselves and their daily rituals. Most of what I've written about the Amun Priests for my series has been extracted from my imagination of what ancient priests would have acted like. But now, by reading *The Priests of Ancient Egypt*, my series could be more realistic with how priests actually conducted themselves. But, the best thing about this book is that it is not a dry or slow read like most non-fiction books. Sauneron makes the study of the priests and ancient Egyptian religion fun and exciting. His book was well balanced, neither praising the ancient priests nor lambasting them for odd practices and beliefs. My only complaint was that he used too many Greek translations instead of using the original Egyptian verbiage.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Readable and Packed With Great Information
By Della
Sauneron's book is a classic for a good reason: it's filled with interesting, well-written information. The work isn't dull and dry, like some scholarly books can be. I really loved how Sauneron took a balanced view of the priests. He neither glorified nor villified them, but rather laid out the information in an impartial way. My only complaint is the book's materials are of . . . less-than-great quality. I've had this book for only two weeks and already the covers are beginning to split at the corners. It doesn't affect the readability, but it sure does affect the book's portability! I don't want to carry it around when in this condition, lest I damage it even more. Still, five stars. Definitely worth your time.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. This book is both a hoot and a living history
By L. D. Bores
This is not dry reading. The author (or the translator or both) have a droll sense of what people are really like and his descriptions of 'evil-doers' in the priesthood are a riot. In so expressing himself with these observations of human foibles, he manages to make history come alive and his subject suddenly 'more human' thereby. A recommended read for any student of ancient Egypt, Phd or not. This book deserves a place on every Egyptophile's bookshelf.

The gods were everywhere in Ancient Egypt. Represented by statues, bas-reliefs, and funerary paintings, they even walked among the Egyptians in the person of Pharaoh, considered to be a living god, son of the divine Ra. What better way to understand that distant culture than by becoming familiar with the people who served those gods? Using as his sources the Egyptian texts and the testimony of classical authors, Serge Sauneron illuminates the role of the priesthood in Ancient Egypt. He recreates the system of thought of one of the great civilizations of antiquity, addressing such topics as priestly functions, the world of the temples, holy festivals, tombs, and pyramids. Sauneron describes the ceremonies of daily worship, considered vital in preventing the world's descent into chaos. He takes us deep into the sacred precincts of the temples home to the divine statues in which a part of the god was believed to dwell. One of the duties of the priests was to maintain these sacred effigies, to nourish, clothe, and protect them from attacks by evil spirits. This edition of *The Priests of Ancient Egypt*, an augmented version of the 1957 classic, was published in France in 1988, and has been translated authoritatively by David Lorton.

"Lorton's new translation fills a substantial need for students of Egyptian religion. The book is aimed at non-specialists as well as students and is written in a highly accessible style." Denise M. Doxey, Boston Museum of Fine Arts. *Religious Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 3, July 2001
"This 1957 classic originally written in French is finally made available in English, thanks to David Lorton's excellent translation. Widely illustrated in black and white, this book should be recommended reading for everyone." Frankie's Bibliography of Ancient Egypt.
Language Notes
Text: English, French (translation)
About the Author
David Lorton, an Egyptologist, is the translator of many books, including Erik Hornung's books *The Secret Lore of Egypt* and *Akhenaten and the Religion of Light*, both from Cornell.