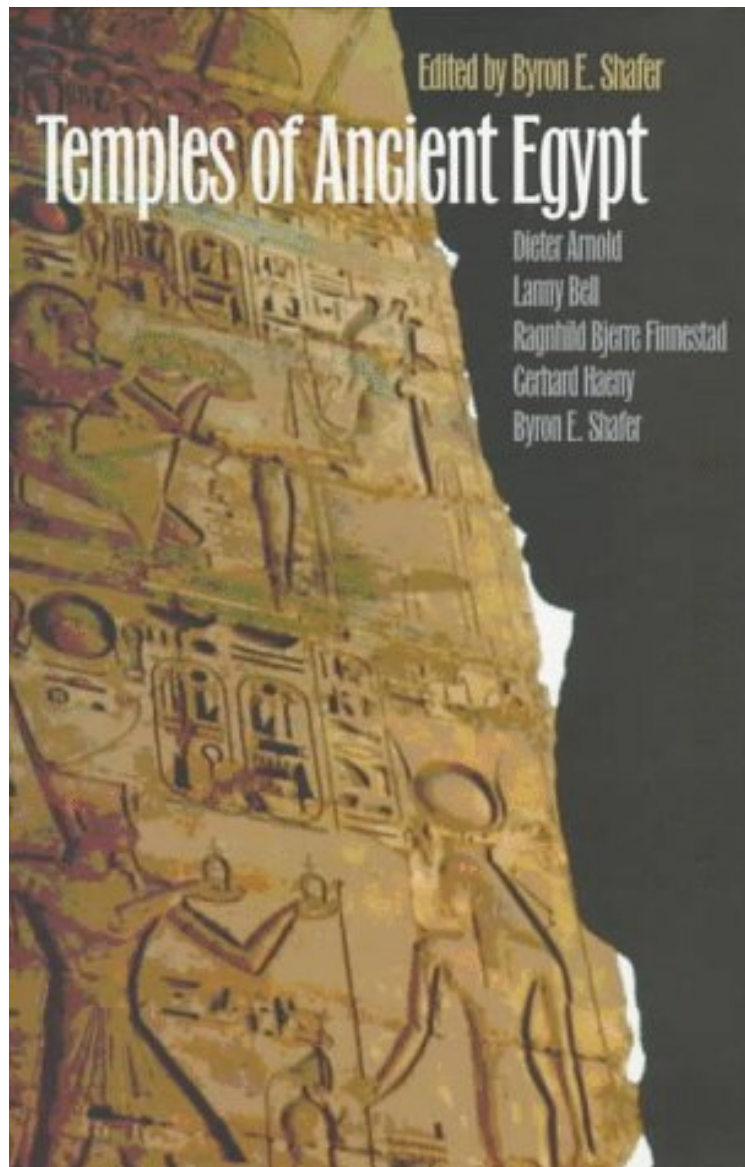


(Ebook pdf) Temples of Ancient Egypt

## Temples of Ancient Egypt

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**From Brand: Cornell University Press : Temples of Ancient Egypt** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Temples of Ancient Egypt:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important pieces of the overall picture By DAJBooks composed of chapters by different scholars often cover their subjects rather spottily, as did Religion in Ancient Egypt: Gods, Myths, and Personal Practice, which Shafer also edited. This book has that flaw too, but not to the same extent. Shafer's introduction, covering the overall purpose and important rituals of Egyptian temples, helps a good bit in that

respect. The subsequent essays are undeniably important for anyone studying temples in depth, but not necessarily for people who want a general introduction. Dieter Arnold studies the early evolution of temple architecture from the beginning of Egyptian history to the Middle Kingdom. Gerhard Haeny discusses New Kingdom "mortuary temples" and questions the validity of that term. Lanny Bell discusses Luxor Temple as an example of the New Kingdom "divine" (non-mortuary) temple, focusing on a vivid description of the Opet Festival. Ragnhild Bjerre Finnestad discusses how temples in the Ptolemaic and Roman periods adapted the Egyptian traditions of earlier times. Finnestad and especially Haeny tend to get bogged down in rebutting the arguments of other scholars, so Shafer's, Arnold's, and Bell's essays may be the most accessible for those looking for a starting point for understanding the Egyptian temple. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The Real Meaning of Temple By Friend of Ancient Egypt I read this book from two perspectives: 1) being an architect 2) being a serious Egyptophile studying teaching about Egypt for years. It is a highly scholarly work containing academic information of Egypt that may seem out of context to the casual reader, for example: knowing the transliteration script of hieroglyphs and having previous knowledge of Egyptian deities. As cumbersome as this may be to some, it is an engaging series of essays. This work describes the human elements of ritual and the physical world the ancients created to define their place in the cosmos. Architecture defines a culture. Each of the authors admit, however, that there is so much symbolism within any given society, so much diversity and connotation, that a completely accurate portrait of any building is impossible. But their extensive and informed analysis is enlightening. The beauty of this book is that it tells the tale of rituals, offerings and links to the divine as we have always known it, and practice it, in our own individual and collective subconscious, and how the Egyptians were the first to develop these systems. The role of these buildings is set in the backdrop of the culture they came from, the significance of temple architecture to the creation myths of Egypt and how the concept and practice of worship have come full circle into our own world today. This book is an eye-opener I wish existed back in college. The previous writings of Mircea Eliade, Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung and even Joseph Campbell on the subject of Egyptian symbolism are dated by comparison to this work. A great book on the nature of ancient spirituality, piety and concepts of the divine. A must read for any serious Egyptophile (probably mandatory reading now for all budding Egyptologists!). 19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. For the avid Egyptophile By Brian V. Hunt Shafer, et al have compiled a very well written and extremely in-depth examination of the meaning and importance of temples in ancient Egypt. All the sections were fascinating but I especially found Lanny Bell's treatment of Luxor temple (derived from his many years of work there), Gerhard Haeny's section on Mansions of Millions of Years, and Finnestad's chapter on Ptolemaic temples (really a discussion of the context of this period of temples) to be especially engaging. All of these added greatly to my understanding of the topics they addressed. I would recommend this to any serious Egyptophile with the caveat that it is all written largely in scholarly terms. They don't entirely assume prior knowledge but without some foundation in Egyptological literature, readers might find this interesting but a bit thick.

In *Temples of Ancient Egypt*, five distinguished scholars Dieter Arnold, Lanny Bell, Ragnhild Bjerre Finnestad, Gerhard Haeny, and Byron E. Shafer here summarize the state of current knowledge about ancient Egyptian temples and the rituals associated with their use. The first volume in English to survey the major types of Egyptian temples from the Old Kingdom to the Roman period, it offers a unique perspective on ritual and its cultural significance. The authors perceive temples as loci for the creative interplay of sacred space and sacred time. They regard as unacceptable the traditional division of the temples into the categories of "mortuary" and "divine," believing that their functions and symbolic representations were, at once, too varied and too intertwined.

"Perceptive interpretations and refreshing new evaluations are the hallmarks of *Temples of Ancient Egypt*. This book should be essential reading for anyone eager to study current views on Egyptian religion." *Egyptian Archaeology* "If one cares about ancient Egyptian culture or if one is studying architecture, religion, or language, *Temples of Ancient Egypt* will be interesting." *Choice* "This is an exciting book to read. The contributors are all scholars who have reached the peak of their interpretive and analytical powers; who know their material very well, and at first hand; and who have interesting, sometimes rather novel, ideas to communicate. Shafer's introductory essay is well researched and useful. *Temples of Ancient Egypt* is a valuable and important book." David O'Connor, New York University