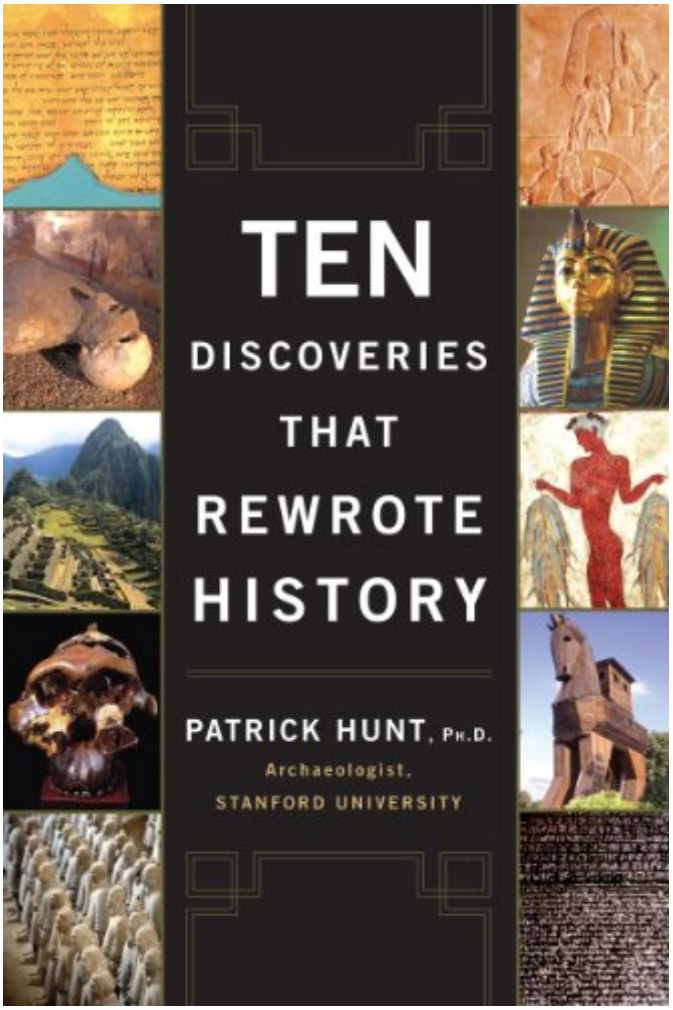
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Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History



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Synopsis

The worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest archaeological finds and what they tell us about lost civilizations Renowned archaeologist Patrick Hunt brings his top ten list of ancient archaeological discoveries to life in this concise and captivating book. The Rosetta Stone, Troy, Nineveh's Assyrian Library, King TutÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Tomb, Machu Picchu, Pompeii, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Thera, Olduvai Gorge, and the Tomb of 10,000 WarriorsÃ¢â ¬â •Hunt reveals the fascinating stories of these amazing discoveries and explains the ways in which they added to our knowledge of human history and permanently altered our worldview. Part travel guide to the wonders of the world and part primer on ancient world history, Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History captures the awe and excitement of finding a lost window into ancient civilization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It would be rather difficult for a person who is not familiar with archeological events to list the top ten great discoveries. That is why this book, Ten Discoveries that Rewrote History, by Patrick Hunt, is a great help. The author not only lists these discoveries for us but also points out their historical

significance and the circumstances surrounding their discoveries.Several of these discoveries are generally familiar to us from newspapers, like Tutankhamen (Tut) Tomb, Machu Picchu, the Rosetta Sone, Pompeii, and Troy. Others are vaguely familiar like Akrotiri, Nineveh, LeakyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s work, the tomb of 10,000. Interestingly, several of the most famous archeological events were discovered accidentally - pure serendipity! Others required much effort and extensive spending . It is difficult to discuss all of them here but two stand out as very significant. Take the Rosetta Stone, which was accidentally discovered by NapoleonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s forces while cleaning the Nile river in 1799. The writing on this stone enabled the deciphering of the hieroglyphic language thus opening up the ancient history of the Egyptians which was a mystery for 2000 years. But TutÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s tomb was considered the greatest discovery of the 20th Century and also the most rewarding. In a US tour in 1976 it attracted over 8 million visitors and brought over $100 million in income.There is little doubt that archeological exploration has been increasing steadily since archeology became an official discipline in the 18th century. Greater awareness has been one of the factors behind this. Nations have been taking pride in exploring their cultural and architectural history. But archeological projects require funds and this has been a handicap. Many believe that funds are more usefully invested elsewhere, e.g. in medical care and in fighting poverty. As in other projects, politics are becoming instrumental in setting budgets and priorities .Meanwhile, there has been a mystifying attachment to old archeological events and artifacts. At the state level we find Greece and Egypt in legal fights with English and other museums demanding the return of of some of their archeological objects that were captured in the old colonial days when controls were absent. Even at the family level we find people taking pride in buying and owning remains of old columns or artifacts even if they go back to more than 3500 years. Thankfully, this has now become illegal in most countries.Fuad R QubeinAug. 2017

Great little summaries of historical discoveries around the world. The ten here are of course the author’s favorites, but he makes a compelling case for each one.

This is a fascinating read. Knew about most of these but all. Interesting to see why he chose these specific events.

Interesting, informative, but not put together well.

Ten Discoveries That Rewrote HistoryPatrick Hunt is a global archaeologist who teaches

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Classics and ArchaeologyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• at Stanford University. His research was featured in various history and science magazines and the History Channel. He lives in northern California with his wife, and spends several months a year abroad pursuing historical and archaeological research. The ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœContentsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ of this 226 page book list the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœIntroductionÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢, the ten chapters, and a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœSelected BibliographyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢. This book resulted from a popular course at Stanford University. Our understanding of ancient history is influenced by a few major discoveries. Archaeology tells about the past when there are no history records. This is a very readable and interesting popular history book.Chapter 1 tells about the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1797 Egypt. It allowed reading the ancient Egyptian written language. Champollion is credited for its decipherment. Chapter 2 tells about the discovery of Troy in present day Turkey in 1870 using the description in the Iliad. It was no longer a myth. The rediscovery of Troy (Ilion) helped to create modern archaeology, science not grave robbery. Chapter 3 discusses NinevehÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Assyrian Library found near Mosul in 1849. It found many works like the Epic of Gilgamesh and the Law Code of Hammurabi. The former had an account of a great flood like in Genesis. Chapter 4 tells about the discovery of King TutÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Tomb in 1922. It had never been looted and contained many treasures. Tut died young; a bad leg fracture could have caused a fatal infection.Chapter 5 tells about the discovery of Machu Picchu in the Peruvian High Jungle in 1916. It is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, one of the most perfect examples of Inca architecture. Chapter 6 discusses Pompeii, discovered in 1748. The eruption of Vesuvius buried Pompeii in two days. It preserved Roman architecture and artifacts. The fields around Pompeii were rich and fertile from aged lava soil. The eruption buried the town in a few hours so the remains are intact and complete. Chapter 7 tells about the Dead Sea Scrolls found in 1947. They provided information on biblical manuscripts. They were hidden during the Jewish revolt against Roman rule in 70 AD. This discovery was complicated by political conflicts.Chapter 8 is about Thera, an island in the Aegean Sea. In 1969 archaeologists discovered a whole city buried by volcanic eruption around 1920 BC. Did this event result in the story of Atlantis by Plato? The uncovered buildings were sophisticated. Chapter 9 discusses the Olduvai Gorge in East Africa. Louis and Mary Leakey discovered a hominid skull from around 1.7 million years ago. They were not primates and not humans. The discovery of a complete fossil skeleton said to be over 3.2 million years old was a huge find. Chapter 10 discusses the Tomb of 10,000 Warriors found in central China when farmers were digging a well during a drought. These terra-cotta warriors are detailed with individual features that represented ten different Chinese ethnic groups. This is the largest

mausoleum in the world. It records the advanced metallurgy of China from 22 centuries ago.This is worth reading for general information. The Selected Bibliography has a list for each chapter if you want more information.

I enjoyed this book, but much of what it covers was told by C. W. Ceram in "Gods, Graves, and Scolars" in 1951 and subsequent editions. Admittedly this book brings those stories up to date and adds a few discoveries that occurred after Ceram wrote. This book, though, does not have the exciting readability of Ceram's work. Hunt seems to be a scientist trained to write reports and this book, while it has some engaging moments, reflects the 'reportage' type of writing more often than not. So, while I recommend it, I strongly recommend that Gods, Graves, and Scholars be read before (or in conjunction with) it.

Thank you Patrick Hunt for writing this book! From the first page to the last it was breathtaking! I couldn't put it down, I've heard about these discoveries but never so many with so much detail and so well written!

I am a fairly educated individual and admittedly an anthropology guru. Not to mention when it comes to books about history, they are frequently dry and repetitive, little fun to read and merely present raw facts. Patrick Hunt, however, weaves eloquent tales of discovery with hard facts and ancient evidence to create a learning adventure.I can only say this infrequently, but this was quite a page-turner! I highly recommend this book to adventure connoisseurs, history buffs, and anyone intrigued by pieces of out human legacy.

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