

Science in the Study of Ancient Egypt

Egyptology has been dominated by the large quantity of written and pictorial material available. This amazing archaeology has opened up a wonderful view of the ancient Egyptian world. The importance of hieroglyphics and texts, and their interpretation, has led to other areas of archaeology playing much less prominence in the study of Egypt. Perhaps most notable in the relatively infrequent application of analytical science to answer Egyptian questions. This problem has been compounded by difficulties in accessing the material itself. In recent years, however, new research by a range of international groups has overturned this historic pattern, and science is now being routinely incorporated into studies of the history and archaeology of Egypt.

Science in the Study of Ancient Egypt demonstrates how to integrate scientific methodologies into Egyptology broadly, and in Egyptian archaeology in particular, in order to maximise the amount of information that might be obtained within a study of ancient Egypt, be it field, museum, or laboratory-based. The authors illustrate the inclusive but varied nature of the scientific archaeology being undertaken, revealing that it all falls under the aegis of Egyptology, and demonstrating its potential for the elucidation of problems within traditional Egyptology.

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and Joanne Rowland

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