

# READING THE PAST ...

## EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS



W.V.DAVIES

The hieroglyphic script of ancient Egypt is one of the oldest and most beautiful of the world's known writing systems. It was invented at the dawn of Egypt's dynastic history, towards the end of the fourth millennium BC, and was employed for over three thousand years, finally falling into disuse during Egypt's Coptic or Christian Period. This book explains the underlying principles of the script and describes its origin, development and uses, with due attention paid to its cursive derivatives called *hieratic* and *demotic*.



The University of California Press, 9 1/2" x 6 3/4", 64 pages, paperback, \$7.95.

## RUNES



R.I.PAGE

In Orkney, Shetland and the Scottish islands, in Ireland, in the Isle of Man and above all in Scandinavia, travelers still come upon great memorial stones, inscribed with the curious angular alphabet called runes. Rune-masters also cut their letters on other objects, including swords, brooches, pendants and rings.

This book tells the story of runes from the earliest Continental inscriptions of the late second century AD through to the Viking Age and to the related script used for the English language in Anglo-Saxon times. The author shows what a wealth of material about our early civilizations has been recorded in runes and suggests to the readers where they themselves may discover them.

## CUNEIFORM



C.B.F.WALKER

The cuneiform writing system flourished in the Near East from before 3000 BC to AD 75. This book surveys the development of the script from the earliest pictographic signs to the latest astronomical tablets and the process by which it came to be used for writing many different Near Eastern languages. Sample texts show how the script is analyzed into words and syllables and how to read the names of the most famous kings as they appear on monuments. The decipherment of cuneiform is explained, and — for the collector — some guidelines for identifying fake inscriptions are given.

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