

Who was Who in Egyptology

Morris L. Bierbrier

Il Who was Who in Egyptology, edito per la prima volta nel 1951 da Warren R. Dawson e pubblicato dalla Egypt Exploration Society, è la raccolta delle biografie essenziali degli studiosi, collezionisti e viaggiatori che hanno fatto la storia dell'Egittologia, dal 1599 ad oggi, con l'esclusione dei viventi. L'opera, divenuta uno strumento di riferimento per la disciplina, è stata riveduta e ampliata in due edizioni successive prima da Eric Uphill, quindi da Morris Bierbrier, che ha aggiunto anche l'apparato fotografico.

La quarta edizione, attualmente in preparazione per cura dello stesso Bierbrier, è basata su informazioni e documenti d'archivio recentemente trovati, e comporta la correzione di dati precedenti e l'inserimento di nomi e fatti del tutto nuovi.

Who was Who in Egyptology, which was first produced by Warren Royal Dawson in 1951 and published by the Egypt Exploration Society, has now become a standard reference tool in the study of the history of Egyptology. This biographical compendium arose from the editor's interest in the lives of the travellers and scholars who together fashioned the new subject of Egyptology. Warren Royal Dawson (1888-1968) came from a comfortable middle class background but was prevented from going to university by the early death of his father. Instead he went to work in an insurance company but soon founded his own company in 1922 which was quite successful. In his leisure time, especially after he acquired a partner in 1929, he developed his outside interests in Egyptology, in which he was encouraged by Wallis Budge (1857-1934), as well as mummification and the exploration of the South Seas. He sought to go back to original sources and even collected letters of famous scientists and explorers. He loved exploring archives and catalogued letters and papers belonging to several organizations, notably correspondence in the Griffith Institute.