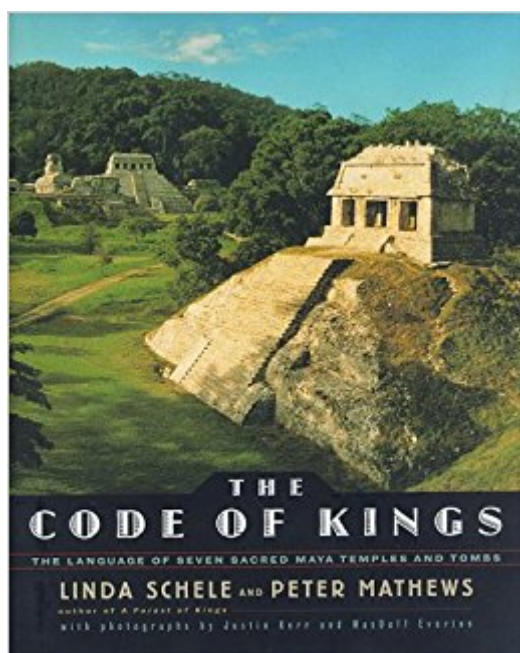


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The CODE OF KINGS: THE LANGUAGE OF SEVEN SACRED MAYA TEMPLES AND TOMBS



Synopsis

Building on her classics "A Forest of Kings" and "The Blood of Kings", Linda Schele and her world-renowned team take readers on a brilliant and visually dazzling guided tour of the seven most popular and significant Maya ruins. Photos & line art throughout. 8-page color photo insert Tie-in publicity with author's lectures. Internet publicity. .

Book Information

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Scribner (March 18, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068480106X

ISBN-13: 978-0684801063

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 7.7 x 1.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #889,704 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Mayan](#) #312 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Ethnic & Tribal](#) #1090 in [Books > History > Americas > South America](#)

Customer Reviews

Building on what was already known and on some ideas from other scholars, Schele (The Blood of Kings, LJ 10/15/93) and Mathews (archaeology, Univ. of Calgary) used the syntactic approach to break the Maya glyph code, making it possible to learn about Maya customs and beliefs where scholars previously had to guess about the meaning of what they found. Here the authors deal with the glyphs and the architecture of seven sites to explain their uses. The names of some are well known, even though their true purpose and function were not understood in the past. Some questions remain unanswered, but there are also new insights into the beliefs of the Maya. This well-illustrated tour of Maya ruins also has a key to pronunciation and a glossary of gods and supernaturals that add interest for the casual reader. Recommended. ?Marilyn K. Dailey, Natrona Cty. P.L., Casper, Wy. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Mayan civilization, with its hieroglyphic writing and dazzling city ruins, is among the most spectacular in the world. Mayanists Schele and Mathews explain the recently deciphered script and give a vivid guided tour through the cities. Focusing on seven of the most famous buildings in

Mayan archaeology, these experts show how the Maya used glyphs to literally inscribe their architecture with accounts of their history and sacred myths. The buildings described include the palace at Tikal, a shrine to the celebrated "Great-Jaguar-Claw," who, like George Washington to Americans, symbolized his city for centuries; and King Pakal's tomb, whose construction and inscriptions this patron of the arts, obsessed with preserving his memory for posterity and his soul for the afterlife, spent his last years overseeing. Stories of the text-covered monuments of Mayan kings will intrigue serious readers who seek depth of coverage on this civilization but will also appeal to those who simply want to dip into archaeology's mysteries. Philip Herbst

If you love archeology, if you love architecture, if you are blown out by civilizations that were as sophisticated as any - you will love this book. Linda Schele and Peter Matthews write with the authority of insiders. They were among the first of the international teams to study the language of the ancient Maya and their culture. The authors tell the stories of the seven cities with the passion of writers. Highly recommend this book!

The font is way too small, and the black and white pictures are too grey and grainy to be viewed clearly. There's about 2 inches of blank white space at both the top and bottom of the page, and then the print is tiny font in the middle. Some of the pages are also not very well printed so the font appears to fade in and out to a pale grey which, when combined with the size of the print, make it almost impossible to read.

I like the book a lot but the way the pages are set up it's really hard to follow. It will show a picture of a mural on one page then two pages later is the description that runs into the third page. It would have been a whole lot better if it were all on the same page or at least the opposite page when both are opened. Also the text is so freaking small it makes your eyes hurt. If you wear glasses then maybe it's better but I don't know.

I also have "Forest of the Kings" sibling book to this one. The publisher appears to be both greedy and lazy by making the book smaller than it should be--without changing the layout for the best page usage. The result is tiny 7-8 pt typeface and small art with a waste of whitespace on the top and bottom. We have a large book--shrunk. This work deserves a better layout.

GREAT!

great for research

Great book.

excellent

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