



Hieroglyphic writing was not intended to be secret or even misleading in the days of the Egyptian pharaohs. Despite this, the reading of Hieroglyphics, which was made up of a combination of pictures and symbols, resisted the most concerted attacks by both European and Middle Eastern scholars for over 2,000 years.

In 1799 the accidental discovery of the Rosetta Stone supplied the “crib” that years later allowed Jean-Francois Champollion to decipher a significant amount of Hieroglyphic text. Champollion's work, using solid cryptanalytic techniques, eventually led to the reconstruction of the entire language of ancient Egypt.

The year this book was published...

- Andrew Jackson was the 7th President of the U.S
- Davy Crockett was killed at the Alamo
- Charles Dickens wrote The Pickwick Papers
- Betsy Ross died. (b.1752)