Make No Mistake
Documenting Life Since the Ancient Egyptians

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Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University
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Knowledge is Power.
Listen all of you!
The priest of Hathor will beat twice any of you who enters this tomb or does harm to it.
The gods will confront him because I am honored by his Lord.
The gods will not allow anything to happen to me.
Anyone who does anything bad to my tomb, then the crocodile, hippopotamus, and lion will eat him.

— Cuneiform inscription from the tomb of Hetepy
Rosetta Stone,
The British Museum

Discovered by one of Napoleon’s officers during the Egyptian campaign of 1799, the hieroglyphs of the Rosetta Stone were deciphered by Jean-François Champollion. He compared the figures to the demotic and Greek scripts also inscribed on the Rosetta, and so uncovered the secrets of the signs of ancient Egypt.
To write…
To learn…
To express…
To read…
To recall…
To document…

To gossip…

Kilroy was here.

And so it is written…
(I Corinthians 15:45)

Documentation of

Deeds
Marriage certificates
Drivers licenses
Death certificate

etc.
Bust of Queen Nefertiti from Amarna and detail, painted limestone and plaster
Dynasty XVIII, c. 1352-1336 BC, c. 1345
Ägyptisches Museum, Berlin
stone
clay
papyrus
parchment
paper
microcard
microfiche
microfilm
electronic file
   - different files and drives
codex
book
copy by hand
moveable type
printing
electronic file printing
reading online
Codex Amiatinus (Florence), for Pope Gregory II in 692
lifetime output

Wolfgang Mozart 1756-1791
Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750
William Shakespeare 1564-1616
Anne Frank 1929-1945

Diaries and letters of famous
(and infamous) people
Ramesses II with his feet, Queen Nefertari and their son Amun-hebhepeset and detail, dorate Dynasty XII (Rameses III, 1279-1213 BCE)
Fundazione Museo della Civiltà Egitiana, Luxor

CHEST FOR TUTANKHAMUN’S SANDALS. CARVED AND PAINTED WOOD.
FROM THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN, VALLEY OF THE KINGS. DYNASTY XVIII. CAIRO MUSEUM.
Preserve, Preserve, Preserve
libraries
archives
museums
hoarders/pack-rats

Destroy, Destroy, Destroy
book burnings
tearing down of statues
document shredding
phones dying

Artists
Dancers
walk like an...
ballet notation
square dance notation

Chemists
Cartographers
Educators
Musicians
Make no mistake…

It is impossible to record everything, especially in beautiful detail.

There are lives to live, people to see, places to go, and times to eat and drink.

But make a mark, now.