Tourism, Textiles, Finance, & Food: Ancient Egypt Then and Now

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Egypt: Travel and Tourism in the Ancient World
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Modern Age of Travel begins
4000 B.C.E.
Sumerians (Mesopotamia, Babylonia) invent money, cuneiform writing and the wheel; also the concept of tour guide

First Unified nation along the banks of the Nile
3000 B.C.E. – 1200 B.C.E.
Egyptian’s mining copper and extracting turquoise in Sinai
3000 B.C.E.
Pharaoh's begin to build elaborate artifacts
2700 B.C.E.

Taking advantage of the quality building stone along the Nile, they begin to build the great pyramids such as the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the Sphinx, the three pyramids at Giza, and pyramid complex at Abusir.

Sturdy river craft navigate the Nile and surrounding seas
2700 B.C.E.

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2700 B.C.E.
Men of Government are the first travellers
2500 B.C.E.

Left inscriptions and momentos marking their passage, for instance, “I have reached Elephantine...” (left by a chamberlain to Amenemhet II)
Prince Harkhuf travels three times to trade in Sudan
2300 B.C.E. – 2200 B.C.E.

Sometime between this period he traveled three times to Sudan.
Enscribed in his tomb: “...open up the way to this country...did it in seven months and brought back all kinds of goods and rare presents...” On a third trip brought back such items as ebony oil, incense, leopard skins, elephant tusks...

A king of Ur travels on first road
2050 B.C.E.

Roads did not really come into their own until built up by the Roman empire.
Caravansaries (inns) are established (Caravansary)
2000 B.C.E.
A place for travellers and merchants alike to take shelter and barter for goods and services.

Phoenicians begin maritime trading and navigating over the entire Mediterranean Sea.
2000 B.C.E. – 332 B.C.E.
They may have sailed as far north as the British Isles, along the Western Coast of Africa and to the Azores.
Large number of "tourist" flock to these Egyptian wonders, coinciding with religious festivals. But their reasons, their motivations were varied. They were curious. Left evidence: "Hadjmahes, scribe of the treasury, came to make an excursion and amuse himself on the west of Memphis together with his brother, Panakhthi, scribe of the Vizier. (Casson, Travel in the Ancient World, p. 3)"
Colossi of Memnon at Thebes
500 B.C.E.

Have on the base of their pedestals of Greek tourist that traveled there in the 5th century.

Textiles
Dr. Katherine Shaw
Egyptian Linen

- Linen is a cellulosic fiber derived from the flax plant.
- Linen textiles are some of the oldest fibers found in the world.
- Linen sometimes used as currency.
- Mummies were also wrapped in linen cloths.

(Tortora & Eubank, 2010)

Loincloths & Skents
Skirt Length

- Old Kingdom
- Middle Kingdom
- New Kingdom

Women also wore a tight-fitting colorful dress, often called a sheath dress. Research suggests this was a wrapped garment with a bead net dress worn over it. (Tortora & Eubank, 2010)
Make-up served both cosmetic and health purposes.

Jewelry

- Jewelry was extremely popular throughout the history of the Egyptian nation.
- Often indicated the individual’s social position and level of wealth.
- Even the poor adorned themselves with as much jewelry as possible.
Discovery of King Tut’s Tomb

• The discovery of King Tut’s tomb in 1922 played a large role on the fashions in the western world.
• Primary influence of the Art Deco design.

40 Years Later

• Hollywood’s 1963 version of Cleopatra
• Do you see any fashion trends of the 1960’s that have Egyptian influence?
Fashion in Egypt Today

Finance
Professor Axton Betz
Financial Fraud

• Various forms of financial fraud increasing internationally
  – Advanced fee scams
  – Credit card fraud
  – Phishing
  – Etc.

• Financial fraud has been in existence for a long time in various forms

Ancient Egypt & Fraud

• Scribes who kept pharaoh’s books
  – Inventoried grain, gold, etc.
  – Theft
    • Solution: 2 scribes
      – If numbers differed, punishable by death (Wells, 2000)
Financial Fraud a Concern in Egypt

- Need to raise consumer awareness regarding fraud (American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, n.d.)
- Examples
  - Credit card fraud
  - Online bank fraud
  - Advanced fee scams

Credit Card Fraud in Egypt

- $62 million stolen via stealing credit & debit card info online (Dannies, 2009)
- Security and communication between businesses and credit card companies problematic
Online Bank Fraud

• 53 arrested, including U.S. and Egyptian nationals in 2009
• Sent phishing e-mails to Bank of America and Wells Fargo customers
• E-mails looked like they came from banks
• Asked to enter personal info, such as bank account numbers and passwords
• Phishing e-mails created and sent in Egypt (Stone, 2009)

Advanced Fee Fraud in Egypt

• Scam artists promise large amounts of money
• Need to pay to get promised money
• Scam artist keeps money victim sends in; victim never sees any money (Williams, 2011)
Food
Professor Kathy Rhodes

References

Casson, Lionel, Travel in the Ancient World, (London: Allen and Unwin, 1974 (various))