Agnieszka Maciejewska, "Entry on: Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh by Clint Twist ", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Lisa Maurice. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/247. Entry version as of November 08, 2026.

Clint Twist

Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh

United Kingdom (2012)

TAGS: Alexander Helios Caesar Caesarion Cleopatra Selene II Cleopatra VII Egypt Iras (Handmaid) Mark Antony Octavian Rome





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2012
First Edition Details	Clint Twist, *Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh*. Ian Andrew, Diz Wallis, and Eloise A. Lambert, ill., Historical Notebooks Series, Dorking, Surrey: Templar Publishing, 2012, 32 pp.
ISBN	9781848770713
Genre	Biographies, Illustrated works, Instructional and educational works, Toy and movable books
Author of the Entry	Agnieszka Maciejewska, University of Warsaw, agnieszka.maciejewska@student.uw.edu.pl
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, mauril68@gmail.com

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Creators



Portrait, courtesy of the Author.

Clint Twist , b. 1953
(Author)

Clint Twist was born in 1953. He studied history and English at Cambridge University, then worked as a journalist and museum consultant before focussing on writing. He has published over 100 books for children, young adults and adults. Among his books for children there are titles such as *Marco Polo: History's Great Adventurer*, *Weird Animals Dictionary* and *1000 Things You Should Know About Oceans*. He usually writes about science, history and nature. In 2009 he received the Best Children's Illustrated Book Award for his book *Charles Darwin and the Beagle Adventure*. Apart from writing books, he is a book editor and writes articles. One of his edited works is *The Mythology Handbook: A Course in Ancient Greek Myths* (2009).

Sources:

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Bio prepared by Agnieszka Maciejewska,
agnieszka.maciejewska@student.uw.edu.pl

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Additional information

Summary

This book is a heavily illustrated biography of Cleopatra. The introduction shows Cleopatra as a popular icon through the ages. A chronological description of events opens with background information about Alexander the Great, the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt, and Cleopatra's death. The inclusion of a fictional diary enables the reader to imagine how Cleopatra felt. Numerous illustrations (paintings, engravings, sculptures etc.) enrich the reader's experience and provide additional information. As is typical for activity books, the book uses many illustrations. For example, there are historical maps that the reader unfolds or postcards that can open. These items provide the reader with additional information or trivia about fashion (types of crowns, wigs, jewellery etc.) or the culture of ancient Egypt (customs, rituals and etymology). The book includes a chronologically correct biography and notes on the most prominent historical figures that lived in the times of the Queen. The most important element of the book is the fictional diary of Cleopatra, fragments of which are dispersed throughout the book. The last entry explains the Queen's actions. She leaves her legacy in the reader's hands and declares that as long as she is remembered, her glory continues.

Analysis

The book presents a massive amount of information about Cleopatra's life and the myths that have grown around her person. It is a perfect example of presenting a biography in an attractive and enjoyable way that older children will appreciate. The variety and quantity of illustrations stimulate the imagination and help understand the times in which Cleopatra lived. The visual elements come from different periods, with examples of ancient, renaissance, baroque and modern art. The book shows the importance of cultural context when studying biography. The artwork shows changing points of view according to the age in which it was produced.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Alexander Helios Caesar Caesarion Cleopatra Selene II Cleopatra VII Egypt Iras (Handmaid) Mark Antony Octavian Rome

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Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Character traits Historical figures Knowledge Learning
Addenda	Ruth Martin, an established British author for children and editor of series for children, fiction and non-fiction, contributed to *Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh*. She is mentioned in the book as the person who enriched Twist's story by adding a fictional diary of Cleopatra. For more biographical details see Martin's page at: www.uk.linkedin.com/in/ruthhoopermartin.

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