A step-by-step guide to reading Maya glyphs

The only comprehensive introduction designed specifically for those new to the study, Translating Maya Hieroglyphs uses a hands-on, step-by-step approach to teach readers how to translate ancient Maya glyphs.

Scott A. J. Johnson describes how to break down a Mayan text into individual glyphs in the correct reading order, and then explains the different types of glyphs and how they function in the script. Finally, he shows how to systematically convert a Mayan inscription into modern English. More than a reference, this volume functions as an introductory foreign-language textbook. Chapters cover spelling, dates and numbers, basic grammar, and verbs, while worksheets and exercises reinforce the material. Helpful appendices provide quick reference to vocabulary, glyph meanings, and calendrical data. Glyph blocks and phrases drawn from actual monuments illustrate the variety and scribal virtuosity of Maya writing.

Scholars have made great strides in deciphering hieroglyphs in the past four decades. Translating Maya Hieroglyphs brings this knowledge to a broader audience, including archaeologists and budding epigraphers.

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