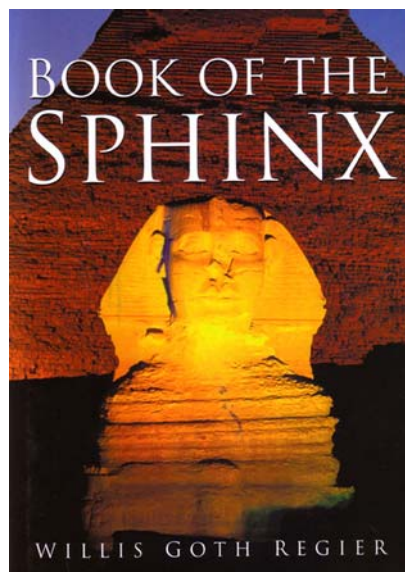


**Goth Regier, W. 2005. Book of the Sphinx. – Stroud, Sutton Publishing**

Book review by S. Ikram



If one picks up this book expecting a dry and thorough investigation into the history of the Great Sphinx of Giza, one would be in for a surprise. As the author states in his preface, this is a tribute to the Sphinx – not just the huge stone entity at Giza, but Oedipus's interrogator, and indeed other sphinxes in history, art, and literature. This book is more for those who suffer from Sphinxmania – perhaps a subdivision of Egyptomania, focusing on sphinxes.

This book is a romp through the world of the sphinx, inspired by the Sphinx at Giza. Herein we see cartoon sphinxes, paintings of sphinxes, extensive photographic records of the Giza Sphinx (a pity that some of the images are so small), political cartoons featuring the Sphinx, poems, ditties, and statues inspired by both Oedipus's sphinx and that of the Giza plateau

It is an unusual sourcebook with a good bibliography and collection of images relating to the Giza sphinx as well as others. Interspersed with sphinx trivia, the reader can also find reliable information about limited aspects of the archaeological sphinx. This is an entertaining book for anyone suffering from Sphinxmania, but not necessarily one for those dedicated to more stolid, solid, and serious archaeological tomes on the history of the Sphinx.

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