

# Appendix 2

## Glossary

**archetype** — a model or pattern that influences human attitudes, beliefs and behaviour

**Book of the Dead** — Egyptian funerary texts consisting of about 200 spells to assist the deceased in the afterlife. Over half the spells were derived from the earlier Pyramid Texts and Coffin Texts.

**burial chamber** — the room in which coffins were placed in a tomb

**cartouche** — an elliptical outline representing a length of rope that encloses the names of royal persons in hieroglyphs

**cataract** — rapids or a rocky area on the Nile River

**Coffin Texts** — funerary texts that were inscribed inside the coffins of Middle Kingdom high officials. See also **Book of the Dead**.

**cosmic gods** — gods who represent the forces of the universe: the sky, sun, moon, earth, water and air

**cult centres** — towns where local gods and goddesses were worshipped

**Duat** — the ancient Egyptian word for the place where humans live after they die. Other names used were netherworld, afterworld, underworld, sky world and Land of the Gods.

**dynasty** — a succession of rulers of the same line of descent

**Ennead** — the nine gods of the Heliopolitan creation myth

**funerary texts** — spells to assist the deceased in the afterlife. See also **Book of the Dead**.

**hieroglyphs** — an early form of writing using phonograms, logograms and determinatives arranged in horizontal and vertical lines

**khol** — a mixture of ground galena (a black mineral), sulphur and animal fat that was used as eye make-up. It also alleviated eye inflammations and protected the eyes from the glare of the sun.

**khol stick** — a short stone stick used to apply khol around the eyes

**Land of the Gods** — see Duat

**mummification** — the preservation of the physical body after death

**obelisk** — a needle-like stone monument, the tip of which is shaped like a pyramidion

**Ogdoad** — a group of eight deities that the priests at Hermopolis (cult centre of Thoth) identified as the primeval actors in the creation myth

**opening of the mouth** — a ceremony performed on a mummified body to restore the senses

**papyrus** — an aquatic plant that grows in marshes along the Nile. The species of papyrus grown during pharaonic times is now extinct.

**pharaoh** — name given to the kings of ancient Egypt

**pharaonic period** — the period during which Egypt was ruled by pharaohs (3000 B.C.–A.D. 395)

**phoenix** — a mythical bird that dies and is reborn. The heron is similar in form to the phoenix.

**priests and priestesses** — in the Old and Middle Kingdoms, lay men and women who served in the temples, worshipping and caring for the deities. By the New Kingdom, the priesthood was a separate class of officials comprised exclusively of men. Priests were not necessarily well versed in religious doctrine, nor did they always work full-time in a temple.

**Pyramid Texts** — hieroglyphic texts written on the inner passages of pyramids and the walls of the pharaoh's burial chamber. They were intended to help the pharaoh travel through the afterworld, to secure the regeneration and eternal life of the king.

**pyramidion** — the capstone of a pyramid or obelisk

**sarcophagus** — a stone container encasing one or more coffins (derived from a Greek word for “flesh-eating”)

**scribe** — a person who writes documents. Clerks, copyists and learned men who held positions in the bureaucracy were scribes.

**serekh** — a *serekh* is a hieroglyphic symbol of a “palace façade” and consists of a rectangular frame surmounted by the Horus falcon. Within the rectangle is the king's “Horus name”.

**sky world** — see Duat

**sun disk** — a circular form representing the sun, worn on the heads of deities and often encircled by a snake

**under world** — see Duat

**vizier** — the executive head of the Egyptian bureaucracy; represented the pharaoh in most matters, except in military and religious pursuits

**weighing of the heart** — a ceremony performed in the Land of the Gods to determine if a deceased person would enjoy eternal life