
Hieroglyphics

by Tom Payne, based on research by Jean-François Champollion¹
(<http://www.math.bas.bg/ml/iad/dremat/dmathen.html>)

The following are representations of two Egyptian "cartouches" from the Greco-Roman period. A cartouche is an oblong set of hieroglyphic characters that represents a name, a word or a phrase. One of these cartouches represents the name of the Queen "Cleopatra." Your task is to figure out which one means "Cleopatra," and what the other one probably means (Hint: the other cartouche is the name of another famous character from Ancient Egyptian history). This is exactly the kind of work that archeological linguists do when they attempt to interpret writings in ancient languages.



Be sure to explain your reasoning in detail. Good luck!

¹ Sometimes called "the father of Egyptology," French linguist Jean François Champollion (1790-1832) pioneered decipherment of the ancient scripts of Egypt, thereby making full study of that nation's early history and culture possible.