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**MFA**  *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*  
**Hirsch Library Research Guide**



**Monumental Statue of the Pharaoh Ramesses II Enthroned**  
Unknown Egyptian

Egypt, New Kingdom, 1279-1212 BC  
 Granodiorite, without base: 59 3/4 x 23 1/2 x 30 in. (151.8 x 59.7 x 76.2 cm)  
 base: 1 5/8 x 29 x 4 3/4 in.

Museum purchase funded by the Caroline Wiess Law Foundation

Ramesses II, known as Ramesses the Great, was celebrated for his military victories. He ruled Egypt for more than 60 years, building countless temples and monuments to his glory. Thousands of statues in his own image were created to proclaim his power and divinity. He was believed to be descended from the sun.

This Pharaoh Enthroned is exceptional for its association with one of Egypt's most important and famous rulers, grand yet elegant shape, and beautiful carvings.

**Online Resources:**

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

**Articles:** (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

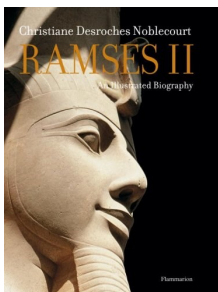
[Ranke, Hermann. "The Origin of the Egyptian Tomb Statue." \*The Harvard Theological Review\* 28, no. 1 \(1935\), 45-53.](#)

[Bull, Ludlow. "Fragment of a Statue of Ramesses II." \*The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin\* 1, no. 7 \(1943\), 219-221.](#)

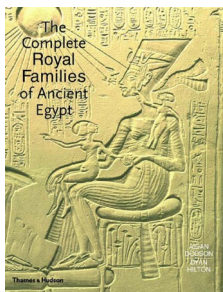
[Peck, William H. "A Seated Statue of Amun." \*The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology\* 57 \(1971\), 73-79.](#)

[Simpson, William K. "Egyptian Sculpture and Two-Dimensional Representation as Propaganda." \*The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology\* 68 \(1982\), 266-271.](#)

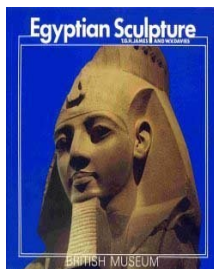
**Print Resources:**



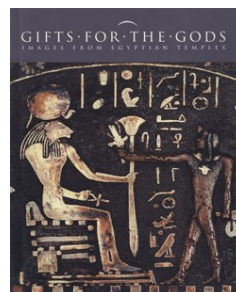
[Ramses II: An Illustrated Biography](#)



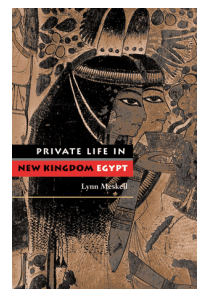
[The Complete Royal Families of Ancient Egypt](#)



[Egyptian Sculpture](#)



[Gifts for the Gods: Images from Egyptian Temples](#)



[Private Life in New Kingdom Egypt](#)

## Bibliography

### General Surveys of Egyptian Art

[Boström, Antonia. \*The Encyclopedia of Sculpture\*. New York: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004. NB 50 .E53 2004](#)

[Gardner, Helen, Fred Kleiner, and Christin J. Mamiya. \*Gardner's Art Through the Ages\*. 12th ed. Belmont: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. N 5300 .G25 2005 Ref.](#)

[Janson, H. W., and Penelope Davies. \*Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition\*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007 Ref.](#)

[Stokstad, Marilyn, and David Brinkley. \*Art History\*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. N 5300 .S923 2008 Ref.](#)

### Egyptian Civilization

[Baines, John, and Jaromír Málek. \*Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: Checkmark Books, 2000. DT 60 .B34 2000 Ref.](#)

[Kemp, Barry J. \*Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization\*. London: Routledge, 1989. DT 61 .K44 1989 Reserve](#)

[Wilkinson, Toby A. H. \*Lives of the Ancient Egyptians\*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2007. DT 83 .W658 2007](#)

### Egyptian Rulers

[Aldred, Cyril. \*Egyptian Art in the Days of the Pharaohs, 3100-320 BC\*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1985. N 5350 .A56 1985 Ref.](#)

[Clayton, Peter A. \*Chronicle of the Pharaohs: The Reign-by-Reign Record of the Rulers and Dynasties of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1995. DT 83 .C53 1995 Reserve](#)

[Freed, Rita E. \*Ramses II, The Great Pharaoh and his Time\*. Denver: Denver Museum of Natural History, 1987.](#)

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### Funerary Traditions in Ancient Egypt

[El-Shahawy, Abeer. \*The Funerary Art of Ancient Egypt: A Bridge to the Realm of the Hereafter\*. Cairo: Farid Atiya Press, 2005. DT 62 .T6 E52 2005](#)

[Spencer, A. Jeffrey. \*Death in Ancient Egypt\*. New York: Penguin Books, 1982. DT 62 .T6 S64 1982](#)

[Taylor, John H. \*Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt\*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. BL 2450 .D43 T39 2001 Reserve](#)

### Egyptian Art and Sculpture

[Michalowski, Kazimierz, and Norbert Guterman. \*Art of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: H. N. Abrams, 1969. N 5350 .M61423](#)

[Robins, Gay. \*The Art of Ancient Egypt\*. London: British Museum Press, 1997. N 5350 .R63 1997](#)

[Schäfer, Heinrich, and Emma Brunner-Traut. \*Principles of Egyptian Art\*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974. N 5350 .S313 1974](#)

[Smith, William S., and William K. Simpson. \*The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: Penguin Books, 1981. N 5350 .S5 1981 Reserve](#)

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "Ramses II" and "pharaoh" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

*Art, Egyptian*  
*Art objects, Egyptian*  
*Egypt--Antiques*  
*Egypt--Civilization*  
*Egypt--History*

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfa.org