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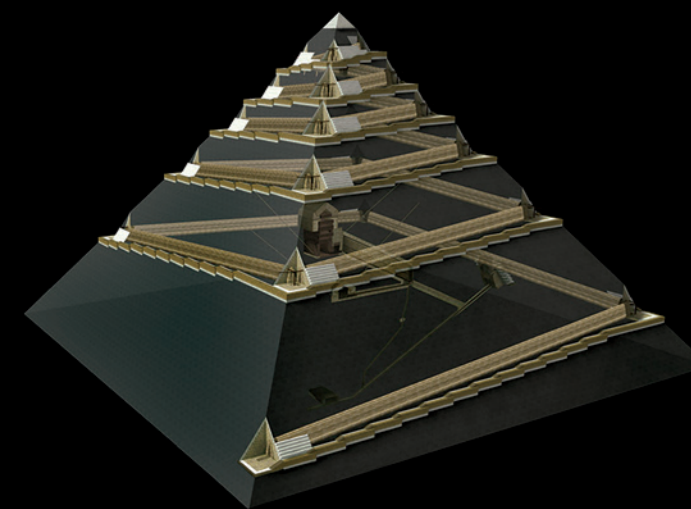


NINE YEARS AGO, French architect Jean-Pierre Houdin became obsessed by the centuries-old mystery of how the Great Pyramid was built. For ten hours a day, he labored at his computer to create exquisitely detailed 3-D models of the interior of the Great Pyramid. After five years of effort, the images rotating on his computer screen provided evidence of an astonishing secret. Corkscrewing up the inside of the Great Pyramid is a mile-long ramp, unseen for 4,500 years. The pyramid was built from the inside. This revelation casts a fresh light on the minds that conceived one of the wonders of the ancient world.

The Secret of the Great Pyramid moves between the ancient and the modern. The ancient story chronicles, step-by-step, how a nation of farmers only recently emerged from the Stone Age could construct one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. To execute something as complex and massive as the Great Pyramid, Egypt needed architects, mathematicians, boat builders, stone masons, and metallurgists. It took twenty years to build the Great Pyramid. By the time its capstone was laid in 2560 B.C., the innovations born of the building quest had transformed agrarian Egypt into the world's most modern, most powerful nation.

As we follow the progress of Hemienu, the innovative architect who planned, organized, and oversaw construction of the Great Pyramid, we also follow Houdin working to discover how and why the ancient architect designed the pyramid as he did. Houdin works as a forensic architect, aiming to reconstruct the lessons Hemienu had learned from

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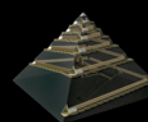
THE SECRET OF THE GREAT PYRAMID

HOW ONE MAN'S OBSESSION LED TO THE SOLUTION OF ANCIENT EGYPT'S GREATEST MYSTERY

BOB BRIER
JEAN-PIERRE HOUDIN

Smithsonian Books

THE SECRET OF THE GREAT PYRAMID



BOB BRIER
JEAN-PIERRE HOUDIN



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THE SECRET OF THE GREAT PYRAMID

“Bob Brier has written a fascinating account of what is sure to be a very controversial theory, and told readers everything they could ever want to know about pyramids. Great fun for Egyptophiles.”

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author of *Temples, Tombs, and Hieroglyphics*

“A serious attempt at a new explanation for one of the oldest Egyptological mysteries. Brier and Houdin tackle challenges both ancient and modern in search of the truth about the construction of the Great Pyramid.”

—PETER DER MANUELIAN,
Giza Archives Project Director, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

“In an era too often subject to hype and misinformation about the mysteries of the ancient world, Egyptologist Bob Brier and engineer Jean-Pierre Houdin bring a technologically sound and fascinating theory and a tradition of powerful scholarly research to answer a question that has fascinated humanity since the dawn of recorded history: how did men build the Great Pyramid? Written engagingly, veering between modern science and ancient history, this book is a fascinating read for anyone who has ever wondered about the last of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Great Pyramid at Giza.”

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author of *Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt*

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Continued from front flap

construction of three previous pyramids and to visualize his blueprint for the massive stone building. In the process, Houdin also discovers the answers to other questions that have bedeviled Egyptologists for centuries: such as what was the purpose of the mysterious Grand Gallery and when did the Pyramid crack? Along the way, Houdin receives the support of the pathbreaking French software company, Dassault Systèmes, which helps him validate his theory virtually—a first in archaeology!

The story of genius and obsession in the ancient and modern world, this archaeological mystery will appeal to anyone who has ever been captivated by this magnificent edifice.



PHOTO: PAT REMLER

BOB BRIER is a world-famous Egyptologist who has conducted research on pyramids and tombs in fifteen countries. A senior research fellow at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, he is the author of seven books, including *The Murder of Tutankhamen*, and hosted the *Great Egyptian* series for the Learning Channel.



JEAN-PIERRE HOUDIN left his Parisian architecture firm in 1999 to devote himself to solving the mystery of the Great Pyramid. He has been awarded the Montgolfier Prize for his research.

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