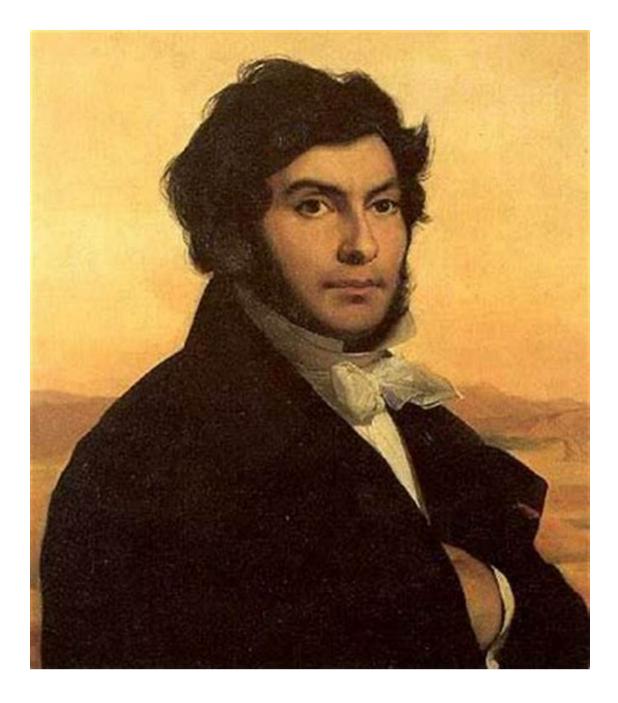
# The Life and Legacy of Jean-François Champollion: The Father of Modern Egyptology



Jean-François Champollion was a French philologist and Egyptologist who is considered the father of modern Egyptology. He was the first person to successfully decipher the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic script, which opened up a new world of knowledge about ancient Egypt.



#### Flinders Petrie: The Life and Legacy of the Father of **Modern Egyptology** by Charles River Editors 🚖 🚖 🚖 🚖 🌟 5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 21976 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 99 pages Lending : Enabled

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Champollion was born in Figeac, France, in 1790. He showed an early interest in languages, and by the age of 16, he had mastered Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Coptic. In 1807, he began studying hieroglyphics, and in 1822, he published his groundbreaking work, "Précis du système hiéroglyphique des anciens Égyptiens." This work laid the foundation for the modern understanding of hieroglyphics.

Champollion's work was not without its critics. Some scholars argued that hieroglyphics were simply a system of writing, and not a true language. However, Champollion's work eventually prevailed, and he is now recognized as one of the greatest scholars of all time.

#### **Champollion's Early Life and Education**

Jean-François Champollion was born on December 23, 1790, in Figeac, France. His father was a bookseller, and his mother was a devout Catholic. Champollion was a sickly child, and he was often bedridden. However, he was also a brilliant student, and he showed an early interest in languages.

At the age of 11, Champollion began studying Latin and Greek. He quickly mastered these languages, and he soon began studying other languages, including Hebrew, Arabic, and Coptic. In 1807, Champollion began studying hieroglyphics. He was fascinated by these ancient symbols, and he was determined to decipher them.

#### **Champollion's Decipherment of Hieroglyphics**

Champollion's work on hieroglyphics was groundbreaking. He was the first person to successfully decipher the ancient Egyptian script. He did this by comparing hieroglyphs with Coptic, a language that was still spoken in Egypt in the early 19th century. Champollion realized that hieroglyphs were not simply a system of writing, but a true language.

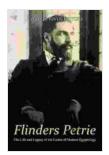
Champollion's work was published in 1822, and it quickly became a sensation. It opened up a new world of knowledge about ancient Egypt. Champollion's work also inspired other scholars to study hieroglyphics, and it led to a new understanding of ancient Egyptian history and culture.

#### **Champollion's Legacy**

Jean-François Champollion died in Paris on March 4, 1832, at the age of 41. He was buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery. Champollion's legacy lives on today. He is considered the father of modern Egyptology, and his work has helped us to understand the ancient Egyptian civilization.

Champollion's work is still used by scholars today. His grammar of the ancient Egyptian language is still the standard reference work, and his dictionary of hieroglyphs is still the most comprehensive. Champollion's work has also inspired many other scholars to study ancient Egypt.

Champollion was a brilliant scholar, and his work has had a profound impact on our understanding of ancient Egypt. He is one of the most important figures in the history of archaeology, and his legacy will continue to inspire scholars for generations to come.



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