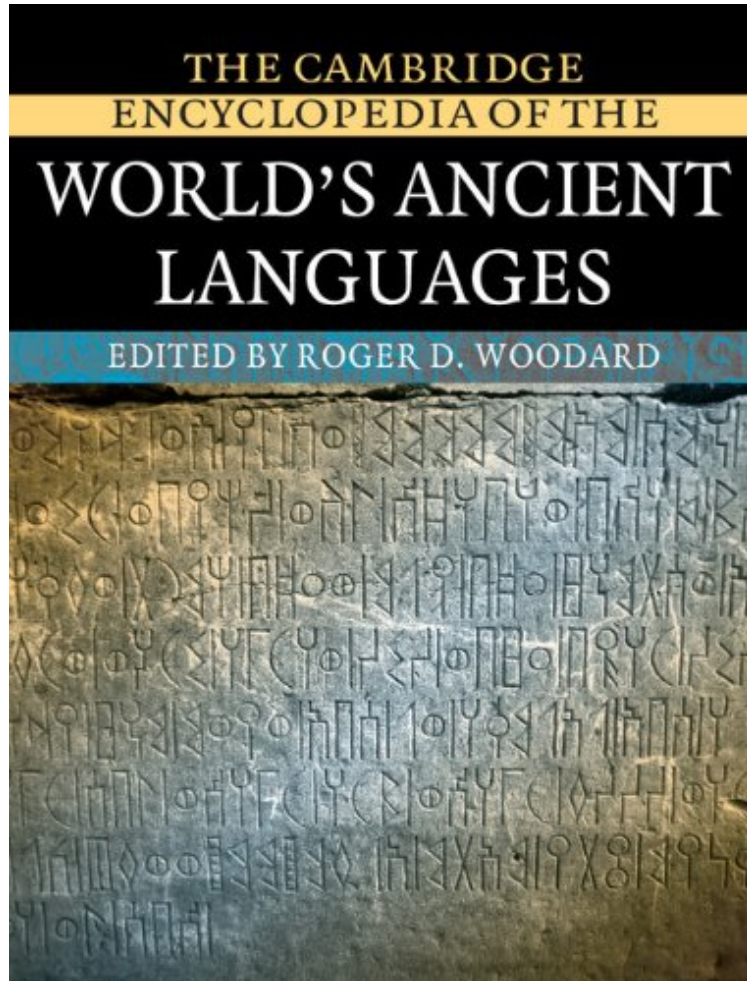


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# The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages

*From Roger D Woodard*

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**From Roger D Woodard : The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Filled with short reference grammars by the best scholars on almost all ancient languages of note. By Larry Rogers Logographic. Expensive and big but really really worth it. Filled with short reference grammars by the best scholars on almost all ancient languages of note. There is no book like it, nor do I think there has ever been. If you're on a budget, plan to get this one as soon as possible, if you are interested in many ancient languages and want something tangible to which you can have frequent and prolonged recourse. \*\*Not as rigorous in the science and discipline of linguistics as I personally would like, but one ought not strain oneself while

reaching for the stars. The authors did the very best they could and linguistics is a new science.\*\*5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fan-tucking-fabulousBy Theodore KeerI read the glowing reviews before purchasing this. Even then, it is better.The encyclopedia has chapters on 41 attested ancient languages, as well as one on the Afro-Asiatic (with a description of Proto-Semitic) and Indo-European families, as well as an introduction, and a final chapter on language reconstruction. (Forty-five in total.) As noted by other reviewers, it is heavy on the Semitic and Indo-European languages (none of which you would wish left out), but also includes chapters on Sumerian, Elamite, Hurrian, Urartian, Etruscan, Early Georgian, Ancient Chinese, Old Tamil, Mayan and Epi-Olmec. A second edition should consider including Proto-Bantu, and Old Japanese and Korean (as have been mentioned), as well as other (proto-)languages with enough documentation to merit a chapter. (The matter is addressed in the introductory chapter.)The format of the book is similar to Comrie's *The World's Major Languages*. Languages are given as full a linguistic sketch as possible as well as having their histories and writing systems described and a bibliography given. The chapters average about 30 pages. The book contains several years' worth of reading material. Most of the chapters I have only paged through, but the one on Etruscan suggests you will not find a more comprehensive yet sober reference work available than this.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. cui benefits?By CustomerThe book requires another book to read it, explaining all the information contained into it (fricative, nouns, and while you are trying to read it, suddenly you find out that the is an Old Hittite, Medium Hittite and Recent Hittite, but which one are we talking about? The book I am sure is of interest to the people who wrote it, but I thought I could read it and I cannot. A huge disappointment

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2006 The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages is the first comprehensive reference work treating all of the languages of antiquity. Clear and systematic in its approach, the Encyclopedia combines full linguistic coverage of all the well-documented ancient languages, representing numerous language families from around the globe. Each chapter focuses on an individual language or, in some instances, a set of closely related varieties of a language. Providing a full descriptive presentation, each of these chapters examines the writing system(s), phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon of that language, and places the language within its proper linguistic and historical context. The Encyclopedia brings together an international array of scholars, each a leading specialist in ancient language study. While designed primarily for linguistic professionals and students, this work is invaluable to all whose studies take them into the realm of ancient language. Roger D. Woodard is the Andrew V. V. Raymond Professor of Classics at the State University of New York, Buffalo. He previously served on the faculties of Classics and/or Linguistics at the University of Southern California, Johns Hopkins University and Swarthmore College. Among his other books are *Greek Writing from Knossos to Homer: A Linguistic Interpretation of the Origin of the Greek Alphabet* (Oxford, 1997) and co-author of *Ovid's Fasti* (Penguin, 2000). He is a member of the Linguistic Society of America and the American Philological Association.

"Woodard has done the scholarly world a great service. [...]This book fills a distinct void...Highly recommended." Library Journal"Written and organized clearly and concisely, this scholarly work contains a wealth of information about the languages of antiquity...Essential." ChoiceAbout the AuthorRoger D. Woodard is the Andrew V. V. Raymond Professor of the Classics at the University of Buffalo. Among his other books are *Greek Writing from Knossos to Homer: A Linguistic Interpretation of the Origin of the Greek Alphabet* (1997, Oxford); *Ovid's Fasti* (with A. J. Boyle, 2000, Penguin); and *On Interpreting Morphological Change* (1990, Gieben).