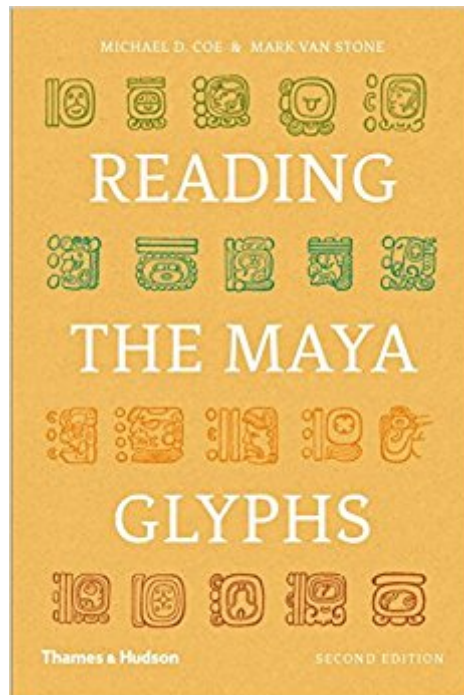




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# Reading The Maya Glyphs, Second Edition



## Synopsis

The breaking of the Maya code has completely changed our knowledge of this ancient civilization, and has revealed the Maya people's long and vivid history. Decipherment of Maya hieroglyphic writing has progressed to the point where most Maya written texts—whether inscribed on monuments, written in the codices, or painted or incised on ceramics—can now be read with confidence. In this practical guide, first published in 2001, Michael D. Coe, the noted Mayanist, and Mark Van Stone, an accomplished calligrapher, have made the difficult, often mysterious script accessible to the nonspecialist. They decipher real Maya texts, and the transcriptions include a picture of the glyph, the pronunciation, the Maya words in Roman type, and the translation into English. For the second edition, the authors have taken the latest research and breakthroughs into account, adding glyphs, updating captions, and reinterpreting or expanding upon earlier decipherments. After an introductory discussion of Maya culture and history and the nature of the Maya script, the authors introduce the glyphs in a series of chapters that elaborate on topics such as the intricate calendar, warfare, royal lives and rituals, politics, dynastic names, ceramics, relationships, and the supernatural world. The book includes illustrations of historic texts, a syllabary, a lexicon, and translation exercises. Illustrated in two colors throughout

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## Customer Reviews

Although most Mayan inscriptions have been deciphered within the last 30 years, very little has been written for the general reader interested in learning to read these ancient hieroglyphics. To remedy this, anthropologist Coe (Breaking the Maya Code) and calligrapher Van Stone have put

together this illustrated manual. After an introductory chapter on Mayan history and culture, an overview is given of Mayan script, phonetics, and morphology, which readers need to study carefully with the help of the syllabary and lexicon provided in the appendix. The authors then go on to introduce glyphs, elaborating on subjects like time, the Mayan calendar, royalty, places, titles, relationships, warfare, scribes and artists, ceramic texts, religion, and nature. Also provided are exercises, a discussion of formulae and tables for calendrical calculations, references to software programs, and suggestions for further study. Although no previous knowledge of Mayan culture or language is assumed, this is not a simple primer to take on a trip to the Yucatán. Some background reading, especially on the Mayan calendar and Mayan history, is needed to benefit fully from this manual. For academic and large public libraries. Lucille M. Boone, San Jose P.L., CA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Succeeds all fronts, featuring clear detailed, color contrasted drawings and numerous photographs and exercises."

Michael Coe is a great expert on Maya culture & writing. He was a member of the team that broke the Maya code. Read his book called "Breaking the Maya Code" where he outlines the process required of the team of diverse people to begin to understand the system of writing. Here he explains how the Maya wrote it. It is complicated and involves sounds, pictures, numbers & combinations with the emblems often moved around on different glyphs of the same word. This is complicated but fascinating. The book is slow reading but a great learning experience. If you are going to Central America or are just interested in the culture, language or writing of ancient cultures, this is a good book to read & use as a reference. There are other books on Maya glyphs but few who know more or write better than Michael Coe. RAG

What can I say? This is THE reference for the Mayan language, written by the acknowledged expert in the field. Excellent reference. I've been working in this field for almost 40 years (I'm the author of MayaDate). I'm absolutely amazed at how much we've learned over that period of time.

Superb book for anyone who wants to learn how to understand Mayan inscriptions.

WRITTEN BY A LEADING AUTHORITY. A GREAT ADDITION TO MY COLLECTION.

Thanks.

This was for a class that my son is taking. He enjoys the book and quotes it endlessly to me. Usually this happens when I ask why he is taking a class on hieroglyphics.

Being on a desert island with this book and Michael Coe (platonically) (though, I'm open...), would be great. This book, easily read...and for the armchair Mayanist, is not at all elementary. Coe assumes the reader is intelligent, this is nice...refreshing...and wonderful. Nothing new-agey here. It is actually simple...if you want to learn glyph, here's the book. But, a trip to the land itself would be grand.

I am an artist who wanted to take on a 20 year hobby of learning how to draw and read at least basic Maya glyphs. The book is easy to understand and read while still being intellectual (you are learning maya glyphs after all). The illustrations are great to reference in drawing, and I do think they are better than the illustrations printed in "How to Read Maya Hieroglyphs".

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