THE VALUE OF ARCANE AND INDECIPHERABLE TEXTS

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WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

- Reconnect with our collective past
- Glean forgotten knowledge
- Better understand our own histories
- Satisfy our intellectual curiosities
- For the sake of posterity
Discovered by chance in 1799 by one of Napoleon’s soldiers.

Heralded as one of the more important archaeological finds throughout human history.

Literally rewrote our understanding of ancient Egyptian history.
Decryption of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs was only possible due to the discovery of the Rosetta stone.

The stone gave us a primer for:
1) Egyptian hieroglyphs (top)
2) Demotic Greek (middle)
3) Ancient Greek (bottom)
OLMEC WRITING

- The Cascajal block
- Believed to be carved between 1,100 to 900 B.C.
- Oldest known form of writing in the western hemisphere
- Predates the civilizations of the Aztecs and Mayans
Rongorongo

- Rebus based proto language found on Easter island
- Few pieces remain and only 15,000 glyphs are in existence today
- No context is available to interpret these glyphs
- Developed entirely independently of any other known language system
ANCIENT GRAFFITTI

- Believed to be carved in the 9th century by Scandinavians or Russians
- Not discovered until 1964-75
- Akin to modern day vandalism
THE VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT

- 240 page handwritten and illustrated
- Book of unknown text.
- Possibly from northern Italy
- Believed to be written during the Renaissance by Francis Bacon
- Despite numerous attempts to decipher, it has remained a mystery for over 600 years.
The quest for knowledge is a magnanimous endeavor.

Decoding just any one of these texts may prove beneficial for our understanding of world history.

Knowledge is power.
REFERENCES


CAT TAX