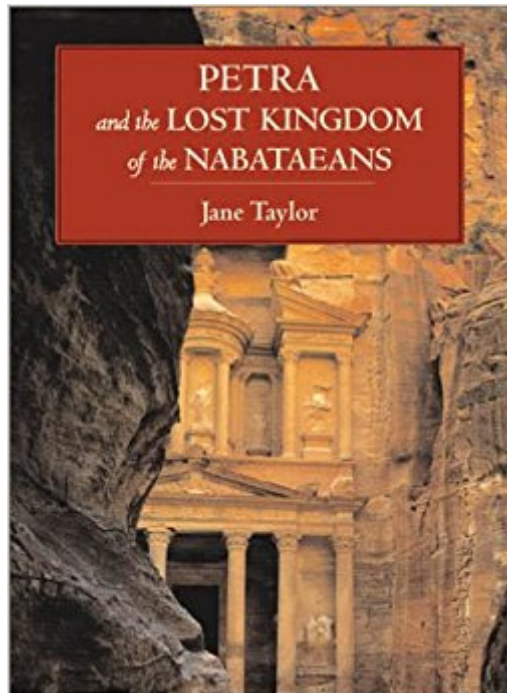


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Petra And The Lost Kingdom Of The Nabataeans



Synopsis

The Nabataean Arabs, one of the most gifted peoples of the ancient world, are today known only for their hauntingly beautiful rock-carved capital--Petra. Here, in the wild and majestic landscapes of southern Jordan, they created some of the most prodigious works of man in the vast monuments that they chiseled from the sandstone mountains. The very scale of their achievement is breathtaking, but beyond mere magnitude is their creative vision, for they transformed the living rock of Petra into an enduring architectural masterpiece. For nearly two thousand years, their civilization has been lost and all but forgotten. Yet the Nabataeans were famous in their day--Herod the Great and his sons, and a kaleidoscope of Roman emperors, were keenly aware of their power and wealth. Often victims of Greek, Roman, or Herodian duplicity, murder, and power politics, the Nabataeans were major players in the drama of the Middle East in biblical times. This richly illustrated volume recounts the story of a remarkable but lost civilization and the capacity of its people to diversify their skills as necessity demanded. It describes their nomadic origins, the development of their multifaceted culture, their relations with their now famous neighbors, and the demise of their kingdom. It looks at their continued, if unrecognized, survival as Christians and farmers under the Byzantine Empire and into the early years of Islam.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Writer and photographer Taylor (High Above Jordan) has created a beautifully illustrated work covering the history of the Nabataeans, an Arab people who lived in the area of present-day southern Jordan and northern Saudi Arabia from about the third century B.C.E. until the sixth

century C.E. The Nabataeans remain largely forgotten and are known today mainly for their spectacular rock-hewn city of Petra, located in the rugged mountains of southern Jordan. Taylor provides an intimate look at Nabataean life and culture based on archaeological evidence and written records of the period. She thoroughly examines the development and architecture of Petra and describes the Nabataean domination of the Middle Eastern spice trade, as well as giving detailed information on their changing religious practices over the centuries. For several centuries, Nabataean culture flourished and adapted to many outside influences, including Roman rule. The Nabataean civilization gradually declined beginning in the third century C.E. as overland caravan trade routes ceased to be used. Taylor's clear, incisive writing and copious photographs bring the ancient world of the Nabataeans to life. Highly recommended for archaeology and history collections in academic libraries. Elizabeth Salt, Otterbein Coll. Lib., Westerville, OH Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Writer and photographer Taylor has created a beautifully illustrated work covering the history of the Nabataeans, an Arab people who lived in the area of present-day southern Jordan and northern Saudi Arabia from about the third century BCE until the sixth century CE...Taylor's clear, incisive writing and copious photographs bring the ancient world of the Nabataeans to life. Highly recommended. (Elizabeth Salt Library Journal 2002-08-01) For anyone who wants to know more about Jordan's most admired landmark--basically, a narrow canyon chiseled into a kind of Middle Eastern Main Street, from its fancy façades to its recessed rooms--or the people who created it, this book offers excellent photography. (Christopher Reynolds Los Angeles Times 2002-09-08) This is an excellent book for the intelligent reader seeking an introduction to this field. The author, a writer and a photographer, has done a fine job, reflecting her love of the subject matter...The book, skillfully written, richly illustrated, and reasonably priced, will serve well its purpose to promote updated knowledge of a fascinating ancient Arab culture beyond the limited circle of professional scholars. The author and the publishers should be congratulated for this achievement. (Joseph Patrich Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2005-10-01)

The typeset in the book is too small making it difficult to read. It also read too much like a textbook. She has one chapter near the end which is about the day to day life of a woman late in the empire, I wish the whole book was written more like that chapter. We are going to Jordan in a month, I did learn some basic things about the Nabateans but overall this book was not that good.

As an architectural historian and researcher who has worked in Petra for fifteen years, I was thrilled to see a book of this caliber on the market. Books on Petra and/or the Nabataeans typically target the tourist market and either do not address its history accurately or they may do so in a way where that information is incorrect, obsolete or just boring. The research that went into this book is obviously up-to-date and relevant but as importantly, this is one interesting and beautiful book; Jane Taylor comes from a strong journalistic background and it shows! This book contains beautiful photographs, laid-out in a straightforward manner all coming together in one invaluable book. I would strongly recommend this book to scholars, students, teachers and all of those interested in this amazing part of our Mediterranean and global heritage.

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