

**Fay, B. 2005. Spaziergang durch das Ägyptische Museum Berlin/A stroll through the Egyptian Museum Berlin**

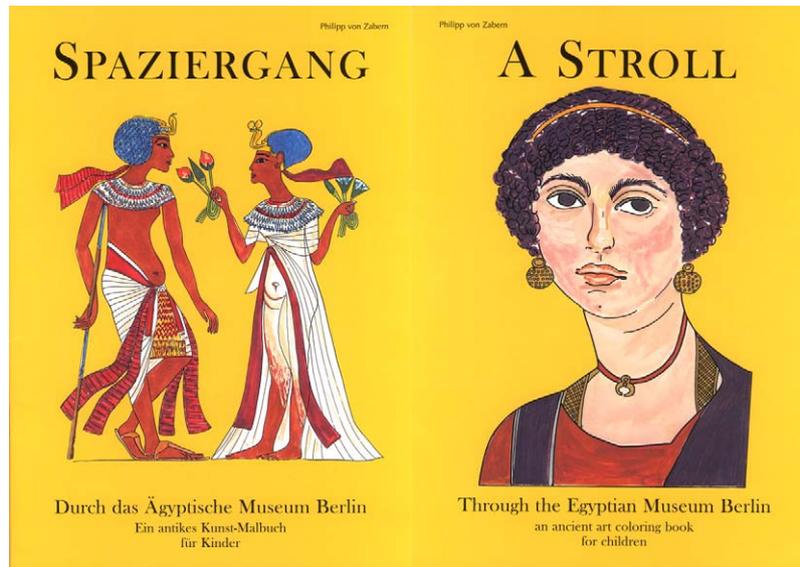
**Fay, B. 2006. Gesichter aus dem Römischen Ägypten Fayum Porträts/Ancient faces from Roman Egypt: Fayum portraits**

**Fay, B. 2001. Tutanchamun/Tutankhamun**

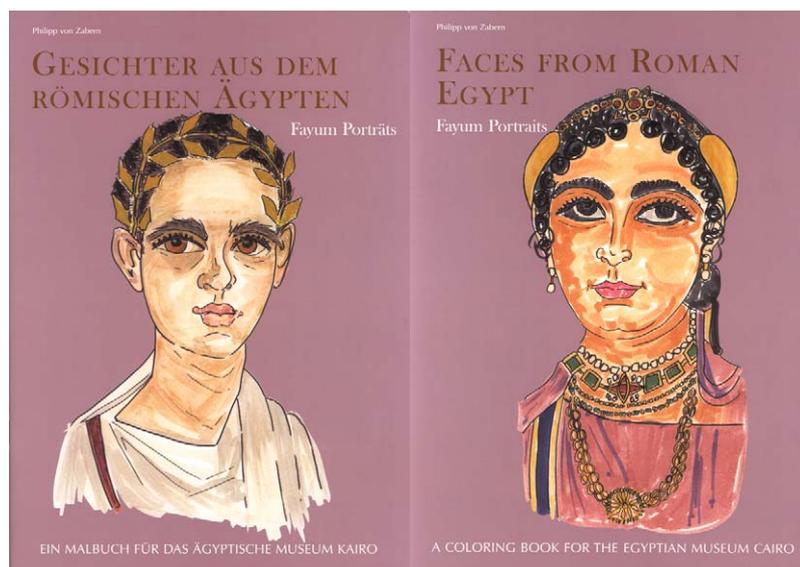
**Brunner-Traut, E. 2004. Tiergeschichten aus dem Pharaonenland**

**All published by: Mainz am Rhein, Phillip von Zabern**

Book reviews by S. Ikram

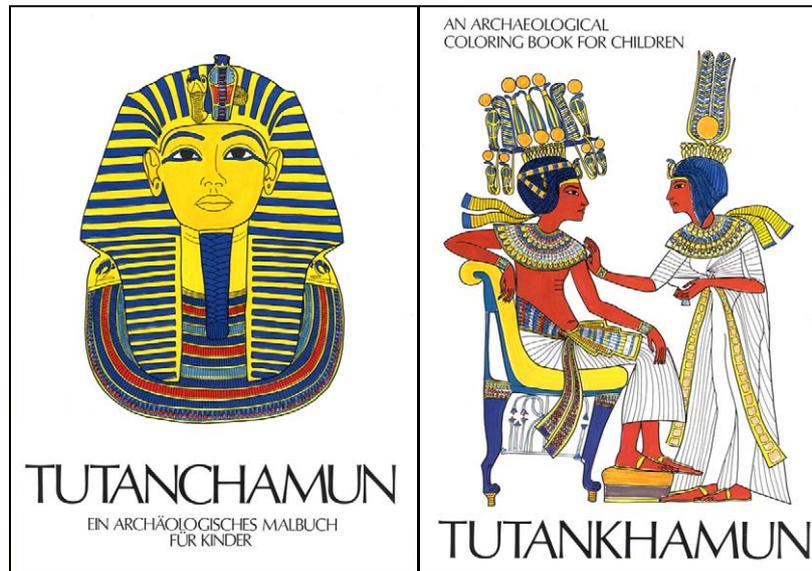


Children are generally interested in ancient Egypt and study it in school. Yet, there seem to be an insufficient number of books that address their needs. No more! Phillip von Zabern have put out several books that can appeal to children on many levels, whilst furthering their knowledge of ancient Egypt. Several of these are by the distinguished Egyptian art historian, Biri Fay, and others by the notable Egyptologist, Emma Brunner-Traut.

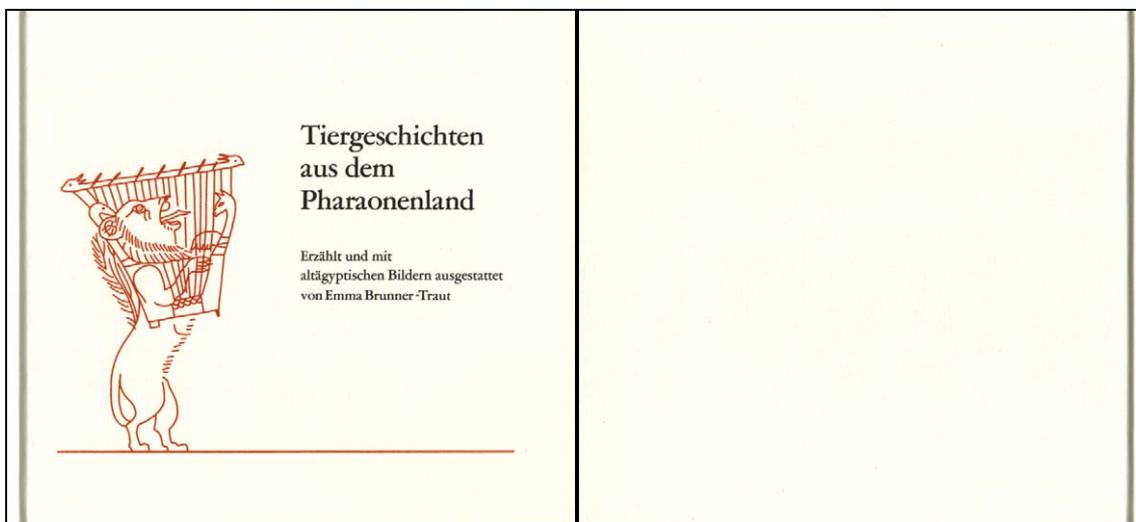


Von Zabern has a tradition of children's books. For example, Fay's wonderful book 'The Golden Serpent' ('Die Goldene Schlange'), already published in 1983, that is a retelling of my favourite Egyptian tale, 'The Shipwrecked Sailor'. The book is beautifully illustrated with scenes inspired by tomb and temple reliefs, with subtle colours, and engaging images. The translation is delightful: accurate and easy to follow, both by children and adults. The layout is superb with images on one side and text on another, with vignettes enlivening the text

page. The book is of a size that is easily grasped by small hands, yet does not get lost in an adult (or child's) shelf.



The trio of bi-lingual (German/English) books ('Spaziergang durch das Ägyptische Museum Berlin'/'A stroll through the Egyptian Museum Berlin'; 'Gesichter aus dem Römischen Ägypten Fayum Porträts'/'Ancient faces from Roman Egypt: Fayum Portraits'; and 'Tutanchamun'/'Tutankhamun') produced for children by Biri Fay provides a delightful romp through various aspects of ancient Egyptian culture, art, and history. These can be enjoyed by an extensive age-range, from the ages of five on up. The books are laid out in the form of double page spreads of images and text with one side in German and the other in English (which is also good for anyone who is trying to learn either language). One side is painted, and the other is left blank so that this can be coloured in. The text provides information about the object in question as well as tit-bits of information concerning ancient Egypt.



The most general of the three books is 'Spaziergang durch das Ägyptische Museum Berlin'/'A stroll through the Egyptian Museum Berlin' that provides overviews of facets of ancient Egyptian life, focussing on general ideas about how people lived, what they ate, where they lived, what they enjoyed doing, and making the Egyptians living, breathing individuals. 'Tutanchamun'/'Tutankhamun' is, as one might expect, about a specific king, and through him aspects of kingship and religion in ancient Egypt are explained. It includes images of objects found in the young pharaoh's tomb, but also pictures relating to the life of the king as he interacts with his subjects and the divine. 'Gesichter aus dem Römischen Ägypten Fayum Porträts'/'Ancient Faces from Roman Egypt: Fayum Portraits' is more focussed on the individuals' whose portraits are represented. Some of the text is very specific to the deceased, while other portions deal with the issues of portraiture, clothing, the

Romans in Egypt, and religion. All three books are enjoyable and well presented and are a less formal way of introducing children to the wonders of ancient Egypt.

Brunner-Traut's book, 'Tiergeschichten aus dem Pharaonenland', is the same size as 'The Golden Serpent', and is very user-friendly, both by children and adults. The book consists of seven very original stories inspired most of all by *ostraka* and papyri featuring animals, but informed by ancient Egyptian tales and history. This volume has more text than that of Fay, and is for slightly older children (and adults). The accompanying images are engaging and the stories delightful. All these books are to be highly recommended for children and anyone who has a weakness for ancient Egypt.

Fay, B. 2005. Spaziergang durch das Ägyptische Museum Berlin/A stroll through the Egyptian Museum Berlin. 24 pp. ISBN 978-3-8053-3630-7. Price € 5.90.

Fay, B. 2006. Gesichter aus dem Römischen Ägypten Fayum Porträts/Ancient faces from Roman Egypt: Fayum Portraits. 32 pp. ISBN 978-3-8053-3631-4. Price € 6.90.

Fay, B. 2001. Tutanchamun/Tutankhamun. 28 pp. ISBN 978-3-8053-2856-2. Price € 4.60.

Brunner-Traut, E. 2004. Tiergeschichten aus dem Pharaonenland. 72 pp. ISBN 978-3-8053-0327-9. Price € 10.20.