

Book Talk –
Madelon
Maupin

PRINCIPIA
LIFELONG LEARNING

Engage.
Travel.
Learn.

The Daredevil Archaeologist
Who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples
from Destruction

**EMPRESS
OF THE NILE**

LYNNE OLSON

New York Times bestselling author of
MADAME FOURCADE'S SECRET WAR

1

The Louvre
in the 1940's

2

Napoleon and Egypt

- Napoleon entered Egypt in 1798, capturing Alexandria and Cairo.

*Painting by Jean Leon Gerome:
Napoleon and his
Military/General Staff in Egypt.*



3

Napoleon and Nelson battle for Egypt

- Britain and France fight in “The Battle of the Nile”. France loses to England under Admiral Nelson.
- Britain takes the Rosetta Stone out of Egypt to London
- But France ends up with the most Egyptian artifacts in Paris



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Christiane Desroches' Education

- Classes at the Louvre in Egyptology. Graduated in 1935 after showing great proficiency in Egyptian hieroglyphics.
- Then a Ph.D. in Philology from the Sorbonne



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Nazis at the Louvre



6

Christiane's discoveries in Edfu

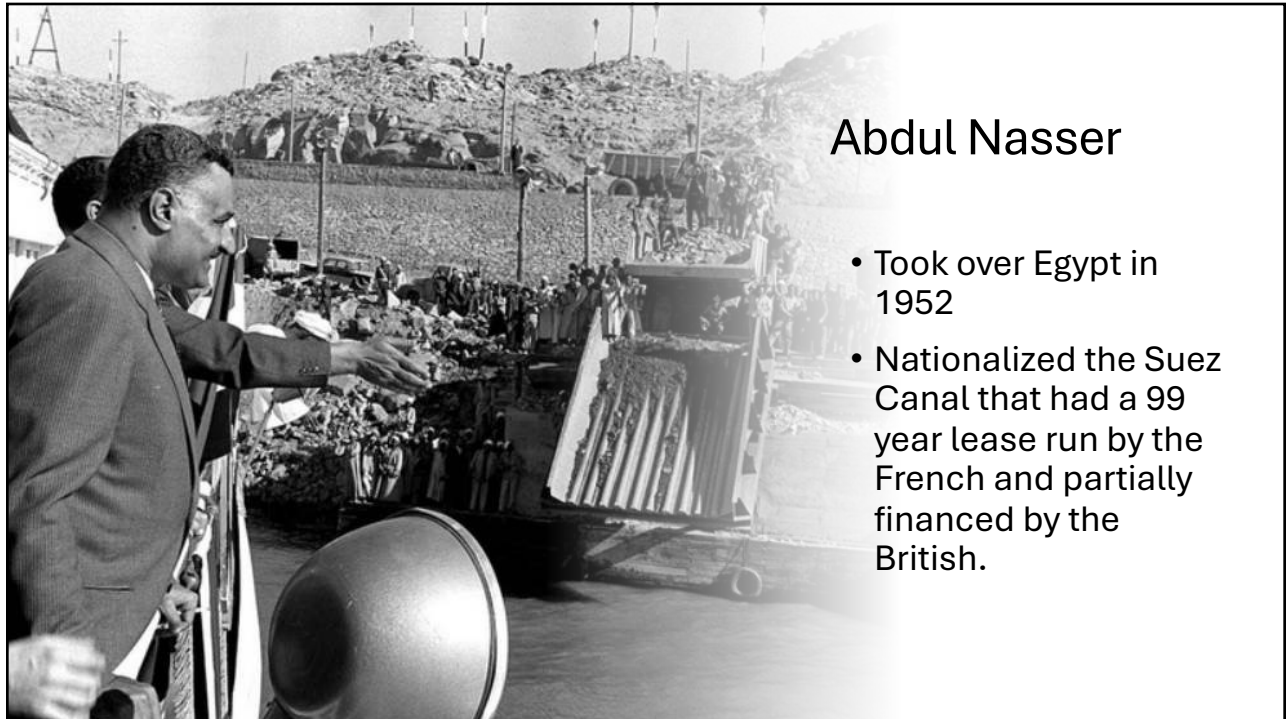
- A copper basin and ewer* set, discovered by Christiane in Edfu, now on display at the Louvre.
- *Ewers were used to pour water over someone's hands who is about to eat a meal.



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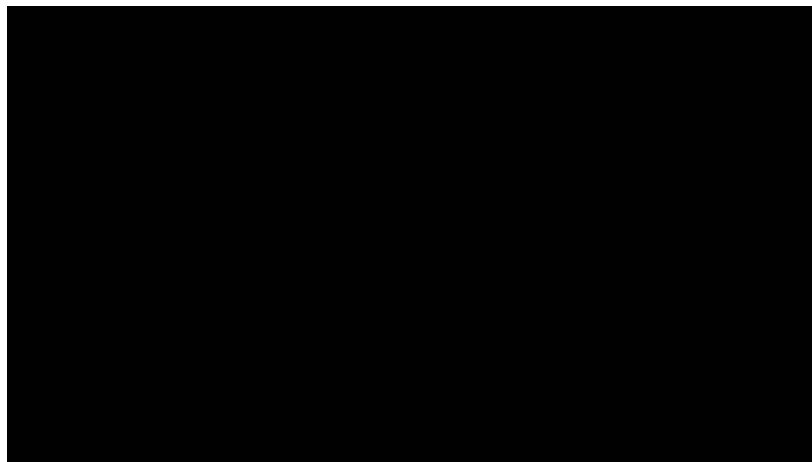


Abdul Nasser

- Took over Egypt in 1952
- Nationalized the Suez Canal that had a 99 year lease run by the French and partially financed by the British.

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MM at Aswan Dam 2025



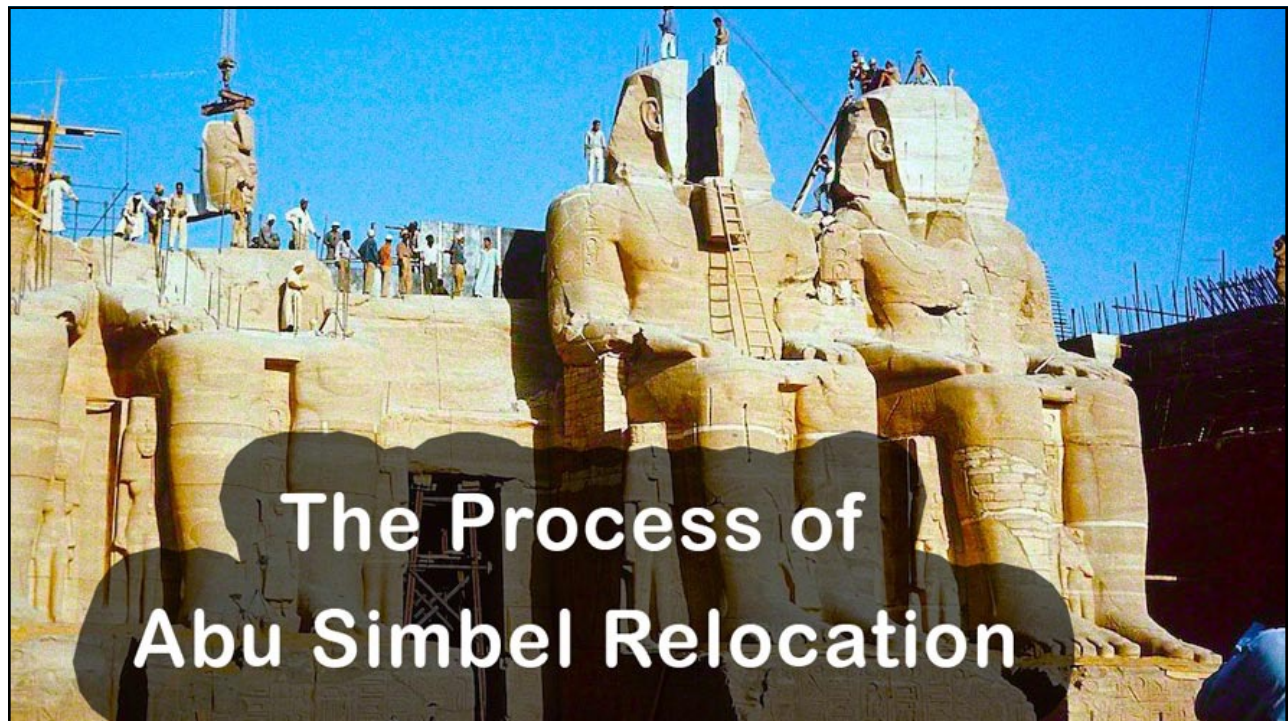
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PUBLICITY TO SAVE THE TEMPLES

- The Courier was UNESCO's magazine and ran a story in its October 1961 issue, on the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia. Desroches-Noblecourt wrote the article, "Floating Laboratories on the Nile."



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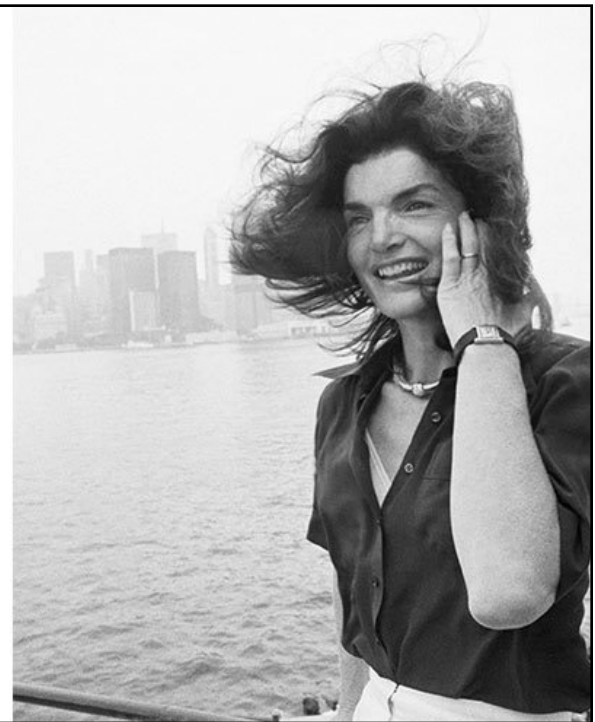
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Abu Simbel

Moving the faces of the
Ramsesses II colossi at
Abu Simbel (Unesco
image).



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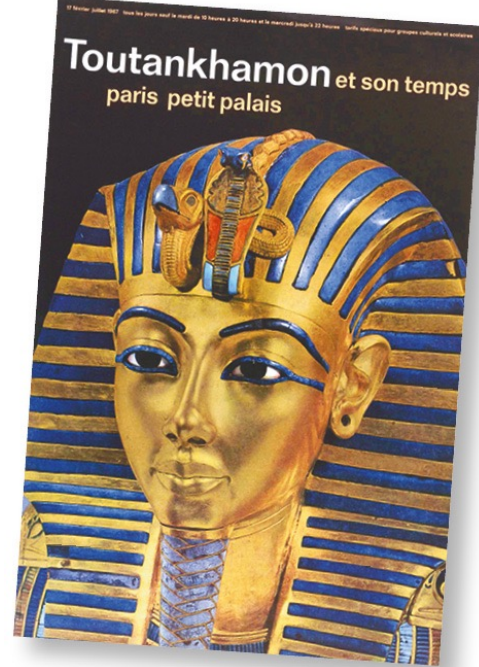


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1967 – King Tut Exhibit in Paris



The mummy of Ramesses II, restored on a visit to Paris in 1976.



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GEM MUSEUM -
Cairo/Giza

• KING TUT

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Christiane
Delroches-
Noblecourt

1913-2011



17



New archaeological find at Aswan

- Just some of the approximately 160 pottery vessels found at Aswan in and around the Old Kingdom tombs. Courtesy Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

- Saving Abu Symbol helped save FUTURE archaeological discoveries as well as what was already known.

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