Princess Ru and Papyrus: Stereotypes on ancient Egypt in graphic novels

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Summary/Abstract: The decipherment of the hieroglyphic script in 1822 marked a fundamental change in the views on ancient Egypt and due to the scientific research the knowledge on the subject substantially increased ever since. Despite the wide accessibility of the results of Egyptological studies, the image of Egypt in the popular culture often contains older conceptions, and some of them, like the myth of ancient and immense wisdom, are turned into stereotypes used in certain popular media. The paper deals with their presence in graphic novels. The origins of the stereotypes are reviewed and the reasons for their persistence analysed. I argue that the stereotypes on Egypt in graphic novels became early on a codified part of the communication within the “comic book culture” (M. Pustz), and therefore indispensable in this medium. As
representatives of different genres in the graphic novels, the series on adventures Papyrus by Lucien De Gieter, and the comic books Princess Ru by Đorđe Lobačev and Hatshepsut by Nikola Kokan Mitrović were chosen for the analysis.

### Contents

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Egyptian Timeline Have fun discovering Ancient Egypt in pictures and amazing facts. Egyptian Amulets. An amulet is an item that someone might wear or carry around with them in the belief that it will bring them good luck or protect them. Ancient Egypt had a number of animals that were local to the area and that they used as pets, farming, transportation, food and fat for cooking and oil. Egyptian Artifacts. The ancient Egyptian civilization lasted over 3,000 years and during that time they created many items that we can still see today. Ancient Egyptians used reed brushes and pens as writing implements. Some of the substances used for writing and painting included charcoal, iron oxide...
Papyrus scrolls were often stored in wooden chests, sacred statues and jars and have been unearthed from tombs. One famous example is a version of the Book of the Dead, a 52-foot long funerary scroll containing spells and incantations found in a coffin belonging to the wealthy construction foreman Kha and his wife Merit, who were entombed around 1386-1349 B.C. The anc... A young peasant in ancient Egypt, Papyrus is a mischievous boy, crafty and courageous. Protected by a magic sword, he saves the princess Theti-Cheri, whose protector and confidant he becomes. He will be extremely busy protecting his friend from the plots woven by the priests of Amon or by cheating princes trying to make her disappear. On the way to Abou-Simbel, Theti-Cheri and Papyrus will have to face two bands of plunderers who want to seize a treasure that is guarded by the four colossi of the temple of Ramses.