

*Il Decifratore e l'abate. Il carteggio tra gli Champollion e Costanzo Gazzera*, ed. Silvia Einaudi (Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2019)

Following the publication of Jean-François Champollion's famed *Lettre à Dacier* in 1822, he continued to evolve his system and to interact with other scholars concerning his claims. The present collection contains three sets of letters: first, those from Champollion to Costanzo Gazzera in Italy (a vigorous advocate of Champollion's work); second, letters from Gazzera to Champollion; and third, letters from Gazzera to Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac, Jean-François' elder brother and strong support. The letters cast additional light on the early years of the period during which Champollion's methods and arguments began to coalesce into the emerging field of Egyptology. The collection concludes with useful capsule biographies of the scholars mentioned in the letters. It will certainly be an indispensable source for future work on the origins and development of Egyptology.

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