Že kot otrok je znal vse evropske jezike, ko je potem začel študirati se orientalske. Pri 19 je bil univerzitetni profesor. Pri 38 se je odpravil v[Egipt](http://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egipt), kar so bile njegove sanje. Tvegal je življenje da je dokončal svoje pionirsko delo s katerim je spremenil nas pogled na stari [Egipt](http://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egipt), njegove piramide, svetišča in grobnice. Kar je odkril v Egiptu je osupnilo svet. Skupaj samo šestimi slikarji (ki jih je dobil od kralja) je začel prerisovati hieroglife s sten in ji preučevati ter preverjati svoje teorije. Prav ti slikarji so mu bili v večjo pomoč kot si je mislil, ker jih je naučil branja [hieroglifov](http://sl.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hieroglifov&action=edit&redlink=1) so mu zelo pomagali pri prevajanju.

Toda cena ki jo je Champollion plačal za svoje odkritje je bila visoka osemnajst mesecev po vrnitvi v francijo je umrl. Razlog njegove smrti naj bi bila kap. V resnici pa si nikoli ni opomogel od dveletnega potovanja v osrčju Egipta. Urmrl je komaj 42 let star in ko je umrl je bila skrivnost pojasnjena.

Kamen Rosetta je temen kos granita.

Pisalo se je leto 1798. V Egiptu je se je Napoleon bojeval proti Angležem, z namenom da bi osvojil deželo. Enkrat julija 1798 (nekateri pravijo, da se je to zgodilo leta 1799) je v kraju Rashid četa vojakov pregledovala obrabmni zid. Mladi poveljnik Bouchard je v zidu zagledal velik črn kamen, ki se je zelo razlikoval od ostalega zidu. Takoj je o svoji najdbo obvestil arheologe, ki so spremljli Napoleonovo vojsko.

* **The Rosetta Stone**Then one day in 1798, while General Napoleon Bonaparte was leading his French Republican army into Egypt to occupy it, on accident a lieutenant named Bouchard was supervising fortifications at Rashid (Rosetta), on the west bank of the Nile Delta, about 35 N.E. of Alexandria, and noticed a black basalt stone that had been built right into the wall. He reported the stone to the archaeologists that had accompanied Napoleon's army and low and behold, it became one of the greatest discoveries in the 18th century.
* The stone was 3 ft 9 in. (114 cm) long and 2 ft 4 1/2 in. (72 cm) wide, and partly broken. It had three horizontal bands with inscriptions carved in 2 languages, Egyptian and Greek, with 3 different scripts on each band: hieroglyphics, demotic script, and koine Greek. The Greek section, which was already known, indicated that all 3 texts contained the same message. The inscriptions, apparently written by the priests of Memphis, summarize benefactions given to Ptolemy V Epiphanes (205-180 BC) and were written in the ninth year of his reign in commemoration of his accession to the throne. When the French surrendered to Britain in 1801 the stone was brought to Britain and it now remains at the British Museum in London.
* This was definitely a monumental discovery and scholars in Europe were very excited. They began by working on the demotic section and locating certain names alongside the Greek text. But they made little headway until in 1816 when an English physicist named Thomas Young realized that the hieroglyphs had a sound value rather than being just symbols.