



News & Notes

DIRECTOR'S LIBRARY
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

OCT 15 1976

The Oriental Institute

Issued confidentially to members and friends

No. 30: October, 1976

Not for publication

Queen Tiye Found !

The long-lost mummy of Queen Tiye has been found. Wife of Amenhotep III, mother of Akhenaten, and grandmother(?) of Tutankhamun, she had been lurking undetected, virtually under the noses of Egyptologists, for more than 75 years until Professors Edward F. Wente of the Oriental Institute and James R. Harris of the University of Michigan made their spectacular discovery.

The road to the discovery really began in 1898 when the French archeologist V. Loret came upon three nameless bodies in a side chamber of Amenhotep II's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. One of these was that of a middle-aged woman. Despite the passage of thousands of years her well-preserved face still wore a striking, haughty look, and her head was covered by long,

curly, brown hair that lent a certain sensuality to her face. But there was no clue to the identity of the woman.

Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered in 1922. In that tomb, in one of a series of miniature coffins, was a lock of Queen Tiye's hair, deposited as an affectionate memento to accompany the young king on his journey into the beyond. The connection between these two discoveries was overlooked until very recently, when Professors Wente and Harris began to prepare a book on the royal mummies of ancient Egypt. While grappling with the problem of the unidentified woman, the idea occurred to them that she might be Queen Tiye. How could they be sure? The lock of hair buried with Tut came to mind, and scientific tests comparing the lock



Queen Tiye: Before and after.

and the mummy's hair proved beyond doubt that the two belonged to the same person. Queen Tiye was found--and through a discovery of a refreshing degree of certainty.

Queen Tiye's mummy suffered indignities unworthy of royalty. Her abdomen and chest were torn open. The bandages that swathed her body were ripped to shreds. Nowhere was there a trace of the several coffins she must have been buried in originally. Her tomb has never been discovered. Perhaps it was never built; perhaps it has been destroyed.

What was the reason for the desecration of the mummy? Was it tomb robbers who opened Queen Tiye's abdomen so as to extract the costly magical amulets it contained? Or was the degradation the work of political enemies, inflamed by the passions stirred by her son, the heretic Akhenaten? All we know for certain is that someone, at some time, took the trouble to rescue the mummy and rebury it in this chamber of Amenhotep II's tomb, without any identification, beside two unknown companions. The motive for this reburial is a mystery, and the careless manner in which it was done raises further questions.

Reburial of kings in a safer place to protect their bodies from tomb robbers was an accepted practice in ancient Egypt, especially in times of decreasing law and order. Such a time came at the end of the 20th dynasty (around 1000 B.C.) when two mass reburials of former kings and queens took place. The most famous of these is the "Royal Cache," located near the mortuary temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri. When the cache was discovered in



The mummies of the sidechamber: Queen Tiye is on the right.

1881, it was found to contain the bodies of nine former rulers of Egypt. The second important reburial took place in the tomb of Amenhotep II, only a few feet from where Queen Tiye was found, in another side chamber of the tomb. Why wasn't Queen Tiye placed in this cache with the other royalty, which included her husband Amenhotep III and seven other kings? Why wasn't she given a new coffin and properly identified as was the usual case in these reburials? We will probably never know.

The place of Queen Tiye in history is uncertain, and opinions about her differ. But at least one prominent school of thought holds that she was a woman of great fortitude and determination (contemporary likenesses and now her mummy seem to bear this out), wielding enormous influence during the reign of her triumphant husband, Amenhotep III. Even after his death she may have been a potent political force in her own right as something of an elder stateswoman. We know that she lived into the reign of her notorious son Akhenaten, but the exact time and circumstances of her death are unknown.

In retrospect it is interesting that Loret chose to describe the unknown woman's face as "[having] a noble and majestic seriousness." Despite the ignominy Queen Tiye's mummy suffered and the anonymity in which it remained for three millennia, now, thanks to Professors Wente and Harris, the name of Queen Tiye will flourish again.

KING TUT '77

Despite the efforts of robbers in antiquity and archeologists in modern times, Tutankhamun's final resting place in the Valley of the Kings eluded discovery for more than three thousand years. Indeed, its location had already been forgotten a mere two hundred years after his death. The tomb of Ramesses VI was built almost directly over that of Tut, and the rubble tossed out in the construction of this new tomb completely obscured any remaining traces of the earlier tomb. It was not until 1922 that the British archeologist Howard Carter rediscovered the young king and the wealth of objects that accompanied him into the hereafter.

Chicago is fortunate to be one of the six cities in the U.S. that will receive the exhibition *TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN*. Fifty-five of the most beautiful and best-preserved objects from the tomb will be on display at Field Museum of Natural History. Co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and Field Museum, the exhibition will be here for four months, April 15-August 15, 1977. Many of the objects chosen have never before been on display outside of the Cairo Museum. Several days have been reserved for the special viewing of the exhibit by members of the Oriental Institute. In addition, members will receive priority admission

to the show throughout its duration, so that waiting time, if any, will be minimal.

There are a number of special programs scheduled to complement the main show. The Oriental Institute will install a special exhibit in its museum featuring objects actually used in the embalming of King Tut and in his funerary banquet. These objects were considered too profane to be put into the tomb itself, so they were buried in a small hole not far away, undisturbed until their discovery in 1908 by Theodore Davis. The show will be entitled *THE MAGIC OF EGYPTIAN ART* and will have three themes in addition to the material from the cache: how the very writing of the Ancient Egyptians is a work of art, how the religion of the Ancient Egyptians is expressed through art, and how our historical ideas about the Amarna Age are influenced by the portraiture. This special exhibit will run concurrently with the main show.

Both the Oriental Institute and Field Museum have arranged a series of lectures dealing with Tutankhamun, his tomb, the art, archeology, and history of his time. Among the distinguished speakers in the Oriental Institute series are: Cyril Aldred, Bernard Bothmer, George Hughes, and Geoffrey Martin. It will begin in January and be held in Mandel Hall.

The Oriental Institute and Field Museum are fortunate to have received funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the supplementary exhibit and the lecture series. Under the same grant the two institutions will be sponsoring Project Outreach, a program designed to provide colleges, museums, and educational groups in the Chicago area with illustrated lectures on the tomb of Tut, the exhibition, and related topics. Speakers will be qualified Egyptologists from the Oriental Institute and will deliver their lectures at their audiences home location. In addition, there will be lecturers available at the Oriental Institute and Field Museum for groups coming in to view the two exhibits. For further information about these programs, please contact the Project Coordinator, Tutankhamun Exhibit, Field Museum of Natural History.

This fall, members can study the art of New Kingdom Egypt in depth through a course entitled *TUTANKHAMUN AND EGYPTIAN ART OF THE SECOND MILLENNIUM*. The course is offered by the Oriental Institute, Field Museum, and the University of Chicago Extension Division. The lecturer is Dr. Charles F. Nims, former director of the Epigraphic Survey in Egypt.

The programs mentioned so far aim to bring the splendors of Ancient Egypt to you here in Chicago, but we can do more--we can take you to Egypt. The Oriental Institute and Field Museum are co-sponsoring several trips to Egypt during the winter of 1976/77. The first of

these leave on December 29th and January 8th. Escape the snow and cold of Chicago's winter weather and cruise the River Nile, enjoying its sun and wonders. Each group of eighteen to twenty four members will be accompanied by a qualified Egyptologist associated with the Oriental Institute. All tours are for eighteen days and provide the participants with an in-depth survey of the archeological monuments of Ancient Egypt. [As far as we know there are still at least two mummies left in the side-chamber of Amenhotep II's tomb where Queen Tiye was found, though the Queen herself has been removed. This tomb will be seen on each tour.]



Before the discovery: The hole in the center of the picture is the entrance to the tomb of Ramesses VI. Tut lies, undetected, almost directly beneath.

WESTERN SUBURBS AFFILIATE GROUP

David P. Silverman will discuss the Tutankhamun Exhibit as the opening lecture of the Western Suburbs Affiliate Group of Oriental Institute Members. Dr. Silverman is the Project Egyptologist for the show. He will speak at 6:30 P.M., November 7 (Sunday), at the Unitarian Church in Hinsdale. For additional information, call 354-4285.

STAFF TELLS ALL ON TV

No, we don't have any soap operas to report on, but Oriental Institute staff members have been telling their stories on TV of late. This summer George Hughes was interviewed on WBBM-TV evening news about the Pyramid Power craze. Although about an hour's worth of film was shot, Dr. Hughes received but a sliver of air time, only enough to admit that he couldn't disprove the claim that hollow pyramid models would sharpen your razor (he uses an electric). Not to be outdone, WLS-TV countered with Bob Whiting explaining the intricacies of cuneiform tablets. And this week, early birds will be rising to watch Erica Reiner, director of the CAD, Peter Daniels, and Maureen Gallery discuss the Dictionary on the University of Chicago's *PERSPECTIVES*, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, October 4-6 on Channel 7 at 6:30 A.M.

TUT CALENDAR



Have a special preview of the *TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN* at home! The gift shop of the Oriental Institute now has in stock this beautiful engagement calendar for 1977, featuring striking color photos of all the objects in the exhibition. The calendar measures 7" by 9" and is spiral bound. It has been published especially for the exhibition by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and sells for a very reasonable \$3.75. This calendar will be especially suitable for gift-giving during the upcoming holiday season. Mail orders should be addressed to the "Suq" at the Oriental Institute. Please add 25¢ for postage. Illinois residents should also include 19¢ state sales tax.

GUSTAVUS F. SWIFT III, 1916-1976

We announce with sorrow the death of our Curator, Gustavus F. Swift III, on October 1, 1976. Regretably, considerations of time and space have forced this announcement to be brief, but a full biographical article on Dr. Swift will appear in the next *NEWS AND NOTES*. The Swift family has requested that any memorial contributions be made to the Oriental Institute Museum.

DIRECTOR'S LIBRARY
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The Oriental Institute
The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street · Chicago, Illinois · 60637



KING TUT ENGAGEMENT CALENDARS FOR 1977 ARE NOW ON SALE IN THE SUQ.

NEXT MEMBER'S LECTURE: NOVEMBER 10 (WEDNESDAY) AT 8:30 P.M. IN BREASTED HALL: C. J. F. DOWSETT WILL SPEAK ON ARMENIAN MINIATURE PAINTING OF THE 13TH CENTURY A.D.

PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ON SOME OF THE EGYPT TOURS.

FIRST CLASS MAIL