

THE TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN

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Although the projects concerned with the exhibition of the fifty-six objects from the tomb of the Eighteenth Dynasty Pharaoh Tutankhamun officially began on April 1, 1976, work behind the scenes had already begun more than a year before. The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and the Field Museum of Natural History will co-sponsor the exhibition along with five other major institutions around the country. Organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the show will be in Chicago from April 15 to August 15, 1977, after opening at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. on November 15, 1976. It will be on view in this country for two years through the courtesy of the Cairo Museum and the Arab Republic of Egypt. Other locations will be the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Seattle Art Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Since Chicago is the only midwestern site of the exhibition, the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago, and the Field Museum

are planning several programs (some of which will be funded through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant) to reach a large audience and provide information about Tutankhamun specifically and ancient Egypt in general. A supplementary exhibit dealing with the Egyptian method of mummification is planned for the Field Museum, and a separate exhibit of Egyptian art of the New Kingdom (the period in which Tutankhamun lived) will be set up in the Palestinian Gallery of the Oriental Institute Museum. In addition, brochures are being prepared which will explain the Egyptian collection at the Field Museum and the ancient Near Eastern collection at the Institute.

Another facet of the program is Project Outreach, designed to explain the exhibit to colleges, schools, and museums within a 120-mile radius of Chicago. Advanced graduate students in Egyptology will visit these institutions and give an illustrated lecture. An extension of this program may be developed, if the need arises, to provide similar lectures for interested groups from inside and outside the Chicago area who wish to have more information when they visit the Exhibit. These lectures will be at the Oriental Institute or at the Field Museum.

In preparation for the Exhibit, the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago Extension Division, and the Adult Education Department of the Field Museum are sponsoring an eight-week course given by Dr. Charles F. Nims, "Tutankhamun and Egyptian Art of the Second Millennium." The course provides information necessary for an understanding of the art of Tutankhamun in its proper framework.

Beginning in January 1977, a series of five lectures at the Oriental Institute and six at the Field Museum will be given by distinguished Egyptologists from Europe and the United States. The lectures will be free and open to the public, and the topics will include ancient Egyptian furniture, jewelry, history, art, and even mummies.

For those who wish to see the environment from which the objects come, the two institutions are also planning several trips to Egypt during the months of January, February, and March 1977. These excursions will be open to members of both Museums, and each group of approximately twenty people will be accompanied by an Egyptologist associated with the Oriental Institute. Further information may be obtained by writing to Mr. Bernard Lalor, Membership Secretary of the Oriental Institute.