

From the exhibition: Coffin for Tutankhamun's Viscera – specifically designed to hold the boy-king's mummified internal organs.



TREASURE TROVE

Museum of Art Welcomes Spectacular King Tut Exhibition

No one could dispute the fact that the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale has started the new millennium in grand style. *Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes* revealed sacred treasures in 2003. *Diana: A Celebration* offered an intimate look at the iconic Princess of Wales last year. Now, in a major cultural coup, the museum is preparing to open its third blockbuster exhibition in as many years: *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs*.

The second of just four U.S. venues during the exhibition's 27-month tour, the museum will welcome King Tut and his extended family from December 15 through April 23, 2006. Group tickets are already on sale; public sales will begin in mid-October.

"No name in antiquity is shrouded in more mystery and, at the same time, is better known than King Tut," says Irvin Lippman, executive director of the museum. Lippman worked at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., when the last major exhibition of King Tut's treasures premiered there 25 years ago. "At that time, this exhibition of Egyptian antiquities set a new model for a must-see event at an art museum," he notes. The tour attracted some eight million visitors and set traveling exhibition attendance records.

"Our fascination with King Tut continues, and now the international spotlight once again shines on the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale as one of the hosts of Tutankhamun's resplendent return to the United States in a greatly enlarged exhibition

enriched with new scholarship," Lippman says. "We thank Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities for sharing these treasures in what promises to be an unforgettable exhibition."

Glittering with Gold

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs will include 50 major objects excavated from Tutankhamun's tomb, including his royal diadem – the gold crown discovered encircling the head of the king's mummified body that he likely wore while living – and one of the small gold and precious stone inlaid coffins that contained his mummified internal organs.

More than 70 objects from other royal graves of the 18th Dynasty (1555 B.C.-1305 B.C.) will be showcased as well, including those of pharaohs Amenhotep II and Thutmose IV and the rich, intact tomb of Yuya and Tuya, parents-in-law of Amenhotep III and great-grandparents of Tutankhamun. Yuya and Tuya's tomb was the most celebrated historical find in the Valley of the Kings until Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's undisturbed burial chamber in 1922. All of the treasures in the exhibit are between 3,300 and 3,500 years old.

The exhibition will draw visitors back in time with inventive design and innovative technology, allowing viewers to explore and experience the world of King Tut. They will come face to face with his contemporaries, see and hear about the fascinating times in which the young

king lived and learn how his short reign changed history. The exhibition also will feature *National Geographic* images and film footage about the golden age of the pharaohs.

As viewers progress through the galleries, they will see objects presented in the context of the social and political backdrop of the time in which their owners lived and ruled. Each gallery focuses on a specific theme, such as "Daily Life in Ancient Egypt," "Traditional Religion" and "Death, Burial and the Afterlife," building toward the final galleries where King Tut's treasures will be on view. This includes a gallery dedicated to the five items in the tour that were found on the pharaoh's body when Carter entered the tomb in 1922. The room also includes the visual effect of superimposed items on a projection of Tut's body to depict where they were positioned when the coffin was opened.

Remarkable Research

The final gallery of the exhibition features scans of Tut's mummy that were obtained as part of a landmark, five-year Egyptian research and conservation project, partially funded by *National Geographic*, that will CT-

scan the ancient mummies of Egypt. The scans were captured through the use of a portable CT scanner, which allowed researchers to see through the mummy's wrappings and compile the first three-dimensional picture of Tutankhamun, which is also on display.

"Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, Tutankhamun has captured the hearts of people around the world. Buried with him were treasures beyond the imagination, giving us a glittering glimpse into the past," says Zahi Hawass, secretary general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities and director of the Giza and Saqqara Pyramids. "It has been almost 30 years since the golden artifacts of the boy-king last left their home in Egypt. Now Tutankhamun is back, giving a new generation the chance to learn firsthand about the life and magic of this ancient monarch."

"Egypt's ancient treasures are among the world's greatest cultural legacies, and we're delighted that U.S. audiences will have an opportunity to view some of the most important artifacts from Tutankhamun's tomb and other famous sites," notes Terry Garcia

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TUT TALES

The Museum of Art is offering a series of lectures by distinguished presenters leading up to the opening of the King Tut exhibition. Highlights include:

October 6

WHY TUT WAS NOT BURIED IN A PYRAMID

Join Egyptologist Dr. Stephen Thompson to find out more about the discovery of the tomb and why Tut wasn't entombed in a pyramid like his predecessors in the Valley of the Kings.

October 20

RELIGION AND MYTHOLOGY

Stephen Thompson returns for a virtual who's who of Egyptian mythology – a guide to key deities that will help you identify them and their ceremonies as portrayed on some of the objects in the exhibition.

October 27

THE AMARNA PERIOD

Tutankhamun's father, Amenhotep IV, decreed that his people worship one god, not many. Tut restored multiple gods. Egyptian art, however, retained elements of the old and the new. Stephen Thompson offers insights about the exhibition's examples of pre- and post-Amarna art.

November 3

THE CURSE OF THE PHaraohs

Superstition has long held that some of the tombs of the pharaohs were protected by curses dooming intruders to death. Dr. David Silverman, curator of *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs*, presents a scholarly take on the persistent myth.

December 1

THE AFTERLIFE: THE DAILY LIVES OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DEAD

If you were a pharaoh or a member of the royal family, you had a little more to look forward to in the afterlife than a slave or a member of another socioeconomic class. This introduction to such beliefs and their evolution is presented by Dr. Richard Fazzini, chair of the Brooklyn Museum's Department of Egyptian, Classical and Middle Eastern Art.

December 15

TUTANKHAMUN REVISITED: A REMARKABLE SURVEY OF THE EGYPTIAN ROYAL MUMMY

Dr. Zahi Hawass, secretary general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, has spent more time studying King Tut's mummy and the artifacts from his tomb than anyone in modern times. Hawass also wrote the official companion book for *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs*. For this lecture he'll present an intimate look at Tut and the exhibition.

All programs take place at the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale (except the December 15 lecture, which will be at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts). For times, costs or more information, call (954) 525-5500, ext. 237; for reservations, dial ext. 239.

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Inlaid Pectoral Spelling Out the Name of the King, made of gold and semi-precious stones

King Tut: A Closer Look

BY DAVID P. SILVERMAN

The name King Tut has instant recognition in today's world, but prior to the discovery of his tomb in 1922 people were unfamiliar with this pharaoh, whose name had been omitted from many of the lists of rulers that the ancient Egyptians compiled. When Howard Carter found the tomb and began clearing it, he was able to show people around the world the wealth of material that the tomb housed and just how rich an ancient Egyptian royal burial could be, although a relatively small one.

Artifacts numbered in the thousands, and there were hundreds of golden artifacts, many of which had inlays of semi-precious stones. Scholars examined the objects, read the inscriptions and tried to learn more about his life. The information derived seemed to focus more on the art, religion and funerary beliefs than on the king's reign. His history is still not completely known, and aspects of his life remain enigmatic.

He was born during the Amarna Age, a time when the pharaoh Akhenaten, his probable father, had introduced quasi-monotheistic beliefs into ancient Egypt, replacing the traditional religion. Akhenaten also moved the administrative center (Memphis in the north) and religious capital (Thebes in the south) to Akhetaten (modern Tel el Amarna) in Middle Egypt, a site not previously associated with any other god. This area was the focus of his new religion.

It is here that his young prince, whom he named Tutankhaten – to honor the Aten, the deity of the new religion – was born and spent his early childhood. The prince, however, ultimately did not maintain the religious movement his father introduced. He ascended the throne (around 1333 BCE), while still a child. Guided by two officials of

the court, the general Horemhab and the god's father Aye (perhaps a relative of the young king), Tutankhamun restored the traditional gods and reestablished Thebes as the religious capital and Memphis as the administrative center. He also changed his name to Tutankhamun in order to direct attention to the restoration of the pantheon and the god Amun at its head.

His reign was short, only about nine years, and his premature death, possibly before he reached his twentieth year, did not allow for enough time for a traditional royal burial. His successor, Aye, hastily readied a small set of rooms and equipped them for the young king's eternal existence with many treasures he used in life as well as all of the things he might need in the Afterlife.

The chambers were located, atypically for the period, near the floor of the valley. The tomb did not remain intact through the ages, and in fact an intrusion occurred fairly soon; the robbery was discovered, however, and the inspectors of the necropolis hastily reorganized the contents and then resealed the tomb.

Not too long after, workmen constructing the tomb of a later pharaoh nearby built their huts over the young king's place of burial, thus obscuring it. It is possible that rare torrential rains washed through the Valley of the Kings subsequently and then made it impossible to find any trace of this tomb, and for these reasons it escaped detection for more than three millennia. ★

David P. Silverman, curator of the King Tut exhibition, is the Eckley B. Coxe Jr. Professor of Egyptology and Curator-in-Charge of the Egyptian Collection at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. He will present a lecture on "The Curse of the Pharaohs" on November 3 at the Museum of Art.

King Tut

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of *National Geographic*, one of the exhibition's organizers.

Locally, the exhibition is presented by Northern Trust in association with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. Other partners/sponsors include Broward County, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau, Marriott Hotels and Resorts, Comcast Spotlight, *The Miami Herald*, Starbucks and Holland America.

It is the centerpiece of an extensive cultural tourism marketing campaign being mounted by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It'll be nice to have King Tut where he really belongs – in Greater Fort Lauderdale for the winter," says Nikki Grossman, president of the CVB.

"We have already had reservations from tens of thousands of students coming to the exhibition," adds Irvin Lippman. "Many of the schools are coming from distant states, giving a whole new definition of what 'spring break' means to Fort Lauderdale.

"The power of 'cultural tourism' has been given a new powerful meaning here," he continues. "It is not just rhetoric, but a reality that will have lasting value – a residual value for decades to come, when people will speak of Fort Lauderdale as where they saw King Tut in that sunny Florida winter of '06." ★



Royal Canopic Bust – made of calcite