The Story of TUTANKHAMUN & THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Plus:
Tut Seminar
Egypt & Libya:
A Photo Diary
This issue of News & Notes focuses on one of the single most exciting archaeological discoveries ever made — Howard Carter's excavation in 1922 of the tomb of Tutankhamun. This is one of those iconic images that virtually defines the essence of archaeology to the general public: the expedition in the desert, the inner tomb doors with seals still intact, the glint of gold everywhere, and Carter’s famous response when asked whether he could see anything inside the tomb: “Yes, wonderful things!”

I like to think that there are other “wonderful things” about this epochal discovery. When one thinks about the standards of fieldwork in the early 1920s, it is extraordinarily impressive that Carter resisted the temptation to break into the tomb as quickly as possible to gain access to the treasures within. Instead, to his everlasting credit, Carter showed the steely self-control to work meticulously — recording everything in his path, slowly and systematically clearing his way toward the royal sarcophagus. It is easy to focus on that climactic moment of discovery; but we should not overlook the fact that Carter spent a full ten years excavating this one, relatively small tomb. These ten years are the difference between scholarship and treasure hunting. As a result, we know the archaeological context of each find; this is invaluable information that would not have survived if the artifacts had simply been scooped up in the excitement of the moment, without proper recording.

It is equally important to remember that the finds recovered from Tutankhamun’s tomb (and other sites) are not just aesthetically outstanding works of ancient art, they are above all artifacts — objects of material culture that can give us tremendous insights into the economic, religious, ideological, and political life of ancient Egyptian civilization. The histories of the objects themselves tell extremely important stories. Nowhere can we see this more clearly than in the monumental statue of Tutankhamun on permanent display in the Oriental Institute’s Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. This statue, one of a pair discovered at the temple complex of Medinet Habu, shows clear evidence of ancient modification or re-carving. After Tutankhamun’s untimely death, his successors — first Ay and then Horemheb — tried to rewrite history and appropriate for themselves the essence of pharaonic power expressed in these statutes. Ay and Horemheb left the actual image of Tutankhamun intact, but they tried to efface the recently deceased boy-king’s name and replace it with their own cartouches in what we can only call one of the earliest recorded cases of identity theft. Fortunately, enough of the original survived that through meticulous analyses, Egyptologists can effectively identify the modified statue as having originally been Tutankhamun. However, the modifications themselves offer fascinating and rare insights into the high-stakes struggle for power in Egyptian royal succession. And these insights, although perhaps not glistening with gold, are equally “wonderful things.”

Cover image: Detail of first coffin of Tutankhamun. When Carter raised the coffin from the sarcophagus, he was puzzled by its great weight. As he discovered, it was a set of three nested coffins, the innermost of solid gold weighing 110 kg. This detail of the outer coffin shows Harry Burton’s concern with artistic framing of images. The black background visible at the top of the image provides a striking contrast to the gold. Photo credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Archives of the Department of Egyptian Art. Full article on page 3
The Ancient Near East in the Time of Tutankhamun is a self-guided tour of the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery that places Tutankhamun in the greater context of the ancient world. The visitor will find a series of “stops” throughout the museum composed of objects, or groups of objects, that are roughly contemporary with Tutankhamun. The objects are highlighted with a special label, while an accompanying brochure gives an outline of the political and cultural events of the region. We are planning to experiment with “pod-cast” technology that allows visitors to download a spoken version of the text onto MP3 players. The special labeling will be in place through the end of the year.

Wonderful Things! The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun, The Harry Burton Photographs is presented in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Gallery for Special Exhibits from May 26 to October 8, 2006. The exhibit is composed of fifty-five of the superb black-and-white images taken by Harry Burton, the official photographer for the excavation. The exhibit presents the famous images of the tomb, but also puts them in the context of the history of photography in archaeology, and how the Burton photographs were so central to the fame of the tomb.

By Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director, & Emily Teeter, Curator of Special Exhibits

A selection of the “Tutankhamun embalming cache” exhibited in the Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. This material was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by Theodore Davis in 1907. The cache consisted of about fifteen large jars that were filled with materials used during the embalming of the king, and also dishes that were used for the funerary banquet held in conjunction with the king’s burial. Photo: Paul Zimansky

This carefully posed and dramatic image shows Howard Carter with a brush, bent over the nest of coffins that are positioned over the sarcophagus. Burton’s careful lighting of the scene makes the detail of the coffins very visible. In contrast, the wood shoring above Carter is reduced to a pattern of shaded lines. Carter’s uncharacteristically informal dress reminds the viewer of the team’s difficult working conditions. Photo credit: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Archives of the Department of Egyptian Art
The style of the Burton photographs is very different from that employed by other roughly contemporary archaeological photographers. Although their overall goal was the same — to document an excavation and its results — the Burton photographs clearly reflect his fine-arts rather than purely scientific background. Born into a large working-class family in England in 1879, he was befriended by Robert H. H. Cust, a distinguished art historian. The pair went to Florence, where Burton was immersed in a circle of connoisseurship. There he was trained as a photographer specializing in images of paintings and sculpture. He brought this expertise to the field of Egyptology.

The photographs of the tomb fall into several categories: those which document general views of the tomb and groups of objects; details of objects while they were still in situ; and studio photography of individual objects. It is in the more formal setting of the studio that one readily notices Burton’s technique. Objects are carefully posed and lighting is carefully controlled, often creating subtle but striking contrasts. He used electrical lighting rather than a flash to avoid the smoke created by the flash powders, and also because electrical light was more even in tone and less harsh. His darkroom was established in nearby Tomb 55, whose contents had already been moved to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. He worked with two different glass plate negative formats: 13 x 18 cm and 18 x 24 cm.

The Burton photographs were fodder for the public’s interest in the tomb. Clearly, Carter and Burton recognized the power of the images, and one can identify carefully posed compositions, such as Carter peering into the burial shrine (in other images, other members of the excavation team were added to the composition), or that of Carter poised with a brush over the nest of coffins.

Every step of the archaeologists’ painstakingly detailed work in and around the tomb was documented by Burton, one of the first large-scale excavations to be so thoroughly recorded. In the eight years spent clearing the tomb, Burton took more than 1,400 photos. The dramatic and artistic images clearly convey the excitement and the tension of the work; indeed, many of the photos have become as famous as the artifacts themselves.

The photographs are shown at the Oriental Institute Museum through a loan agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. An exhibition catalogue produced for us by the Metropolitan Museum will be available from the Suq.
family in Cairo, where he was engaged in the monumental task of copying the inscriptions on the hundreds of coffins in the Cairo Museum.

Breasted, too, might have been standing with Carter and Carnarvon had he received this letter from Lord Carnarvon in time:

Dear Professor Breasted,

I learnt some time ago you were in Egypt, but also in Cairo heard that you were on a boat on the Nile. Two days after opening the cache or tomb I learnt you had been through Luxor. I wish I had known for I might then have persuaded you to stop a day and see a marvelous sight. Still there is another sealed door to be opened and I hope I shall then have the pleasure of seeing you there.4

Breasted had spent a weekend with Lord and Lady Carnarvon in London in 1919 on his way to the Middle East to investigate ruins and sites that would be appropriate to excavate, and was impressed with their friendliness and simplicity.5 It was then that, with support from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Breasted’s dream of the work in which the Oriental Institute might be involved unfolded as he took a year off from his position at the University of Chicago to travel around the fertile crescent. He was also authorized by the university to purchase antiquities for the Haskell Museum, the original location of the Oriental Institute.

It was November 26, 1922. British Egyptologist Howard Carter was peering through the newly opened corner of the second sealed doorway of a tomb. Beside him stood his assistant Arthur Callender, and Lord Carnarvon, who had employed Carter for many years to excavate in his concession in the Valley of the Kings in the hopes of finding treasures for his collection of Egyptian artifacts. Carter describes this scene in his popular book, published soon after the first season of 1922/23.1

There are only three references to James Henry Breasted, founder of the Oriental Institute, in Carter’s book, but the story of Breasted’s involvement in the opening and clearing of the tomb of Tutankhamun is told in Charles Breasted’s biography of his father,2 in the biography of Howard Carter by T. G. H. James,3 and in the many letters in the archives of the Oriental Institute. It is a story worth retelling.

At the very moment that Carter and Carnarvon were getting their first glimpse of Carter’s discovery, James Henry Breasted was sailing up the Nile with his family on a houseboat, and had stopped at Luxor on November 22 very briefly without leaving the boat. Carnarvon had learned that Breasted was living with his family in Cairo, where he was engaged in the monumental task of copying the inscriptions on the hundreds of coffins in the Cairo Museum.

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“Can you see anything?” asked Lord Carnarvon.

“Yes, wonderful things!” replied Howard Carter.
Breasted had already met Howard Carter years before in 1905 when he was on his way to copy texts on monuments in the Sudan and stopped in Upper Egypt where Carter was then the inspector-in-charge for monuments in that region.

Carnarvon’s letter caught up with Breasted in Aswan and on his return down the Nile he anchored at Luxor to find that Carter had left for Cairo and Lord Carnarvon had gone to England in order to prepare for his return for the opening of the door. But Breasted could not wait for Carter’s return and he crossed to the West Bank to get a glimpse of the site of the discovery. The opening had been closed up with rubble and was guarded by Carter’s assistant, Arthur Callender, who sat with a rifle across his knees.

The next day Carter returned from Cairo to Luxor and came directly to Breasted’s boat to describe the discovery. Had Carter discovered a royal tomb or had he uncovered a cache of royal furniture buried again after the extensive robberies in the time of Ramesses IX? The answer was to be found in the seals on the doorways which Carter asked Breasted to read. In examining the photographs and the plaster sections preserved from the doorways, Breasted was able to state that all the seals belonged either to Tutankhamun or to the then-current cemetery administration. The doors had been resealed soon after the burial when a robbery in progress had been discovered. This was not a cache but a royal tomb. Carter was able to correct his own first impression that had been reported in the *The Times* of London, that one of the seals was dated to the time of Ramesses IX.

Breasted was impressed with Carter’s careful attention to detail, and to his plans for the preservation of the fragile objects that had to be removed from the antechamber before the doorway to the burial chamber itself could be opened. Carter was fortunate to be able to persuade the excavators in Luxor from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to help in the enormous task. He was also very fortunate to obtain the services of Harry Burton, their renowned photographer, and to find a chemist on leave from the Egyptian government, Mr. Alfred Lucas, to assist in the conservation. He set up a laboratory and a workroom in an adjacent tomb for preserving and recording the precious objects as they were removed from the antechamber and carried to these laboratory facilities.

Breasted immediately wrote a long letter to Mr. Rockefeller, describing these early exciting days of the discovery. As he later wrote to his son Charles, “In general I have reached this conclusion: the tomb has become a real force of immense influence and help in our efforts to secure adequate support for scientific work in the ancient East.”

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Breasted again confirmed that the seals were only those of Tutankhamun and the cemetery administration. Breasted wrote his son shortly after the opening, mentioning that Carter has made a marvelous discovery and then been obliged to carry on the most difficult archaeological work and run a ceaseless social function at the same time, and it has broken him down. When I saw him the day before the opening, he seemed like a wreck, and looked more dead than alive. The important point is this. Nothing must be written or published which indicates that I set him right, or in the least degree re-
reflecting on him. If his first view of the date of the ancient robbery of the tomb is mentioned, it must not be called his view, but merely "first impressions" or "first reports," and kept quite impersonal."9

Carnarvon and officials from the Egyptian government and their Antiquities Service were of course also present. In the same letter to Charles, Breasted continued:

"The most impressive photo I have seen is one looking through the newly opened sealed doorway, showing the corner of the golden catafalque and the two statues of the king still on guard on either side of the door. It was made while I was at work in the tomb and I afterward saw the print. It is simply superb. It has not yet been published, but will doubtless come next week in the Times."

Carnarvon had given The Times the exclusive right to handle all the press releases. All other correspondents had to wait for the daily Times pictures and story to be released before they could adapt the information in their own cables. The resentment of the many correspondents to this exclusive contract led to complaints to the Egyptian government.

There were also problems caused by the throngs of important visitors interrupting the archaeological work of removal and preservation. Breasted was to play a significant role in the next season in trying to help Carter continue his meticulous work in the tomb.

Breasted returned to the Cairo Museum with Gardiner to continue work on the coffin texts. He sent his family home from Port Said and followed them home to Chicago by way of Europe and London. The 1922/23 season for work in the Valley of the Kings was drawing to a close. The death of Carnarvon in April from an infected mosquito bite led to still other difficulties. Carter had assumed the concession would continue in the name of Lady Carnarvon and that he would be in charge. Before he left for England he was assured by the Department of Antiquities directed by Pierre Lacau that he was to continue in the "clearing" of the tomb. No mention was made of further excavation.

Carter returned to Luxor early in the fall of 1923 in order to begin the delicate task of removing the shrines that surrounded the sarcophagus, so that the long anticipated opening of the sarcophagus itself could take place early in 1924. Breasted did not return to Egypt until December 1923. He had stopped in New York as a guest of the Rockefellers, and to his immense joy received the news that Rockefeller would continue to support his work at the Oriental Institute for another five years. The epigraphic survey of Egypt that Breasted had dreamed of was becoming a reality. Breasted invited his former student Harold H. Nelson to come from Beirut to be the first director of what was to become Chicago House. Breasted also wanted to make a trip to the Sinai in connection with future work there and he persuaded his son Charles to take charge of the trip and come to Egypt with him.

Charles, a recent college graduate and aspiring writer, obtained credentials from the Chicago Daily News and the Christian Science Monitor to report on the opening of the sarcophagus. With other journalists, Charles did not consider The Times monopoly binding, but in order to protect his father he used an assumed name as his by-line in his releases.

Breasted went immediately to Luxor at Carter’s request to give advice in the complex problem of removing the shrines from the sarcophagus. As he wrote to his wife on January 25, 1924,

We then strolled up to the tomb, where Carter called off the men and spent the whole afternoon going over the situation with me. He is far from the point where he can open the sarcophagus. He has lifted the roofs of the first three of the canopies or shrines. These roofs were in sections joined by heavy tongues alternately of wood and metal; but on reaching the fourth shrine the roof proves to be of a single piece, over three meters long. It must weigh many tons; for you must understand that these shrines covering the sarcophagus are massively built of wood which ranges from a minimum
of two inches to about ten centimeters (nearly five inches) in thickness.

Nested one inside the other the walls of these shrines are hardly a hand-breadth apart, except the outside one and the second one, between which enough space was left for the timber frame holding the pall. The sides of the pall, that is the fabric all around the side walls, has fallen to the floor by its own weight, and still lies there between the walls of the outside and the second shrine, except along the front side where it has been possible to pick it up and rescue it. This has been impossible along the other three sides where the walls of the outside shrine and the second one are still in position. Carter’s problem is now the great weight and size of the fourth shrine roof, which is holding him up. Immediately under it is the sarcophagus, over two and a half meters long, that is about eight feet two inches.

I fear we shall be seriously delayed before it is opened. The walls of all the shrines are heavily overlaid with gold, and the roofs and ceilings likewise; that is, every square inch inside and out shines with gold. Except the outside shrine they all bear religious texts, but at present it is impossible to get at those texts and copy them. We know that they contain the story of the destruction of man, and other similar compositions, but thus far there have been no historical texts.

There you have the substance of the situation. Gardiner and I are thus kept roosting here, dependent on the physical situation of the tomb. Carter is coming over here on next market day, that is day after tomorrow; and we are to meet for a discussion of the whole situation and the arrangement of some program.10

By the time Charles joined him there, Breasted had succumbed to the flu with a recurrent fever which kept him in bed for at least four weeks. He was able to work on the Edwin Smith Surgical papyrus, Oriental Institute business, and was kept informed of the progress at the tomb by Gardiner, Carter, and Charles. He was finally convinced to give up the projected trip to the Sinai and hoped he would be well enough to present at the opening of the sarcophagus scheduled for February.

Charles describes these weeks of waiting:

[Breasted] was being frequently interrupted by visits from Carter and his various collaborators, in their concern over the fact that the growing stream of official government visitors to the tomb and the government’s increasingly unreasonable demands were rapidly bringing their work in the Valley to a virtual standstill. My father’s room and mine on the ground floor of the Winter Palace Hotel became the clearing house for most of the complications and difficulties which now began to overtake Carter and his discovery.11

Breasted was well enough to be present at the official opening of the sarcophagus on February 12, 1924. The heavy cracked lid of the sarcophagus was raised with block and tackle while Burton the photographer took movies of the procedures. The ropes seemed to stretch under the weight of the lid which was suspended over the sarcophagus high enough for the official spectators to take turns looking inside. When the shrouds were carefully rolled back and removed, the outer coffin of the King was revealed. Carter provides a vivid description of this revelation:

The lid of the sarcophagus was heard to groan a little as it was lifted, and to move slightly to one side as it was raised, and then we saw the King face upturned. We were not allowed to approach the couch, and in the row of sightseers there was considerable grumbling that they were not being allowed to get closer. By this time we had lost touch with the outer coffin. It was something to see the magnificent gold coffin.

In a vivid description of this revelation:

Enclasping the body of this magnificent monument are two winged goddesses, Isis and Neith, wrought in rich gold work upon gesso, as brilliant as the day the coffin was made. To it an additional charm was added, by the fact that, while this decoration was rendered in fine low bas-relief, the head and hands of the king were in the round, in massive gold of the finest sculpture surpassing anything we could have imagined.12

When Breasted returned to his hotel, he wrote a long account of the ceremony, quoted in full in Charles Breasted’s biography:

What we saw was the outer coffin, some seven feet long and thirty inches high, cunningly wrought by the sculptor with the aid of the lapidary and the goldsmith, into a magnificent portrait figure of the King lying as if stretched out upon the lid like a crusader on his tomb slab.13

Before any more work on the coffins in the sarcophagus could take place, Carter had to carefully remove and preserve the shrines from the burial chamber to make room for lifting the suspended lid to the ground. He planned to allow the press to see the coffin the next morning and in the afternoon he wanted to invite the wives and families of the scientific and technical men to see the magnificent gold coffin.

Among other demands, the Minister of Public Works had stipulated that all visitors to the tomb must be approved by him. That very day Carter received a telegram from the Minister...
explicitly refusing to allow the wives and families of the archaeologists to enter the tomb. Police were sent to prohibit unauthorized entries.

Carter’s collaborators were insulted and refused to continue to work. So Carter posted a notice that the tomb would be closed immediately. He locked the tomb, leaving the lid suspended. The government forbade him to re-enter the tomb unless he agreed to all its terms. He was warned that the authorization issued to Lady Carnarvon would be cancelled if he did not comply.

Carter assumed the difficulties would soon be resolved. He was mistaken. He applied to enter the tomb to lower the lid of the sarcophagus. The government refused, blamed him for carelessness, cancelled his authorization, and announced that it would take over the work in the tomb on February 22.

On February 23 Breasted wrote from Luxor to his wife:

Things are happening fast here. This afternoon the Egyptian government is forcing open the tomb and taking possession of it. Poor Carter is terribly blue. He spends hours in my room discussing the situation. The result was inevitable — almost insurmountable difficulties caused by Carnarvon and besetting a man (Carter) with no tact or ability to handle such a situation. Charles is spending the day in the valley and will come back with a big story for the News. I hope you are seeing his dispatches. He hopes to make enough to keep him going next winter — presumably at Cornell.¹⁴

Since Carter would not accept the government’s terms and refused to turn over the keys to the padlocks on the tomb’s doors, the government on February 22 forced open the tomb doors and the tomb was no longer under Carter’s administration. The headlines in the Chicago Daily News over Charles Breasted’s by-line tell the story:

EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS FORCE ENTRANCE TO TOMB OF KING TUT
Padlocks Sawed Through and Way Made to Burial Chamber When Carter Refuses to Bow to Government’s Ultimatum Report from Crypt Says No Damage Has Been Done by Cessation of Work, as Rope Has Held Lid of Pharaoh’s Sarcophagus

BY CHARLES BREASTED
SPECIAL CABLE
To the Chicago Daily News Foreign Service. Copyright 1924, by The Chicago Daily News Co.

Luxor, Egypt, Feb. 23. — It is well known that King Tutankhamun’s tomb was broken into in ancient times, but yesterday came the first official breaking in, sponsored and abetted by the Egyptian government.

Word was received in Luxor Thursday night that government officials would enter the tomb on Friday at 2 p.m. The forecast proved correct and the entrance was effected as scheduled.

POLICE SQUADRON RE-ENFORCED

At 11 a.m. yesterday I found that the special police squadron posted in the Valley of the Kings to keep Howard Carter and his associates out of the tomb had been greatly reinforced in preparation for the afternoon events.
Excitement and tension were evident everywhere, for as a climax to the long interchange of contradictory and hostile statements and attacks between the antiquities service of the Egyptian government and Mr. Carter, the Cairo authorities, after Mr. Carter’s refusal to accept their ultimatum laying down the conditions under which he could resume work, cancelled his concession, thereby automatically ending the London Times contract and assuming governmental possession of the tomb.

Carter had spent almost all of his career searching for this tomb. Was this cancellation of his rights to continue the end of his involvement? Was it true, as many thought, that all along the Egyptian government had wanted to take credit for the excavation and discovery of the tomb?

The events that followed, including Breasted’s involvement, reflect three major factors. First, Egypt had proclaimed independence and the newly elected prime minister, Saad Zaghlul Pasha, was a member of the fiercely nationalist party. Second, journalists, both Egyptian and foreign, made strong complaints to the government, objecting strenuously to the terms of the exclusive news monopoly Carnarvon had given to The Times. Third, and perhaps the most telling, Carter himself “was already saddled with the reputation of being a difficult, stubborn, unreasonable person.”

Carter had no choice now but to return to Cairo and ask his lawyer, F. M. Maxwell, to sue the Egyptian government in the Mixed Tribunals so that the proper salvaging of the tomb’s contents could be continued under his direction.

He telegraphed to Breasted, still in poor health in Luxor, to come to Cairo and act as mediator in an effort to settle the case out of court before the trial began. Both the Egyptian government and the trustees of Carnarvon’s estate agreed to the attempt at reconciliation, and so Breasted went down to Cairo to find a compromise agreement acceptable to both sides.

According to Charles Breasted’s account, the conditions in Cairo would be difficult. Carter’s lawyer had previously prosecuted the new Minister of Public Works, Morcos Bey Hanna, for treason, and had demanded capital punishment. Breasted submitted to the government a set of reasonable conditions which would permit Carter to resume work on the tomb. The trial was postponed and the government replied with a new contract to authorize Lady Carnarvon to continue the sponsorship of the tomb.

The conditions under which this new contract was offered by the government were not acceptable to Carter.
SUMMER 2006 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oriental Institute. All programs subject to change.

JUNE

18 | SUNDAY  
Egypt’s Golden Empire, Part I
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

19 | MONDAY  
Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist
Summer Art Camp
Monday 19–Friday 23
9:00 AM–1:00 PM daily
At the Lill Street Art Center
See page 18 for details

21 | WEDNESDAY  
Khorsabad: Capital of the Assyrian Empire
Adult Education Course
Wednesdays, June 21–August 2
7:00–9:00 PM
See page 15 for details

24 | SATURDAY  
Nubia: Kingdoms and Cultures of Ancient Africa
Adult Education Course
Saturdays, June 24–August 12
10:00 AM–12:00 noon
See page 15 for details

25 | SUNDAY  
Egypt’s Golden Empire, Part II
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

10 | MONDAY  
Nubia and the Ancient World
Teacher Program
Monday 10–Friday 21
1:30–4:30 PM weekdays
See page 17 for details

15 | SATURDAY  
Egyptomania, Chicago Style
Bus Tour
9:30 AM–4:00 PM
See page 18 for details

16 | SUNDAY  
Wonderful Things
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

17 | MONDAY  
Egyptian Exploration for Educators: Tutankhamun: The Golden Age of the Pharaohs
A Field Museum/Oriental Institute/Chicago Botanic Garden Program
Monday 17–Friday 21
9:00 AM–3:00 PM daily
See page 17 for details and location

23 | SUNDAY  
The Pharaoh Awakes
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

24 | MONDAY  
The World in the Time of Tutankhamun: A Week-Long Summer Seminar
Oriental Institute/Graham School of General Studies Seminar
Monday 24–Friday 28
9:00 AM–4:00 PM daily
See page 16 for details

29 | SATURDAY  
The Ancient Near East in the Time of Tutankhamun
Gallery Talk
1:30 PM
See page 18 for details

30 | SUNDAY  
Heads in the Sand
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

JULY

2 | SUNDAY  
Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush
Film
2:00 PM
See page 13 for details

8 | SATURDAY  
Wonderful Things: The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun
Gallery Talk
1:30 PM
See page 18 for details

9 | SUNDAY  
The Great Adventure
Film

The texts inscribed in coffins, sarcophagi, and tomb chambers during the First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom (ca. 2100–1650 BC) are one of the richest sources for the language and religion of ancient Egypt. Known mostly as Coffin Texts, they are usually contemporary in composition with the objects on which they were inscribed. During the first half of the last century, the Oriental Institute’s Coffin Texts Project recorded more than one hundred Middle Kingdom sources inscribed with these two kinds of texts. The newer Coffin Texts were published in the first seven volumes of this series. This volume completes the series with the publication of Middle Kingdom Copies of Pyramid Texts. In addition to the material recorded by the Coffin Texts Project, this volume includes texts from a number of sources previously unpublished or only recently discovered.
## SUNDAy Films

Showings begin at 2:00 PM in air-conditioned Breasted Hall and run 30 to 50 minutes, unless otherwise noted. Following the films, docents will be in the galleries to answer your questions.

Our June showings present *Egypt’s Golden Empire* (2001), the PBS series that explores ancient Egypt during the New Kingdom, when art, learning, and technology were propelled to new heights and Egypt became one of the first great empires in history. Underwritten by Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb in memory of Egyptologist Frank Yuco. Each film is 90 min.

**JUNE 18 EGYPT’S GOLDEN EMPIRE, PART I.**

**JUNE 25 EGYPT’S GOLDEN EMPIRE, PART II.**

**JULY 2 NUBIA AND THE MYSTERIES OF KUSH** *(2001)*. This film highlights the splendors of an ancient kingdom in what is now the country of Sudan, including visits to archaeological sites and reports on preservation.

On the following Sundays in July, we present screenings from the acclaimed BBC series, *King Tut: The Face of Tutankhamun* *(1992)*. COURTESY A&E Network.

**JULY 9 THE GREAT ADVENTURE.** The first episode retraces Howard Carter’s journey from rural England to the doorway of King Tut’s tomb.

**JULY 16 WONDERFUL THINGS.** Howard Carter unveils the tomb, revealing a vast treasure beyond imagination.

**JULY 23 THE PHARAOH AWAKES.** “Tutmania” sweeps the world, influencing fashion, art, and the movies.

**JULY 30 HEADS IN THE SAND.** Scientific studies confirm the pharaoh’s age and royal heritage, while his treasures are imperiled by modern civilization.

**AUG 6 NUBIA 64: SAVING THE TEMPLES OF ANCIENT EGYPT** *(1987)*. This Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix-winning film presents the unprecedented international campaign to salvage and reconstruct ancient monuments in Egypt and Sudan that were threatened by the building of the Aswan Dam. Presented in collaboration with Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs as part of The Spirit of the Silk Road initiative.

**AUG 13 THIS OLD PYRAMID (1992).** Egyptologist Mark Lehner and stonemason Roger Hopkins suggest how the pyramids were built by actually building one near the Great Pyramid at Giza. From the PBS Nova series. 90 min.

**AUG 20 OBELISK (1992).** Lehner and Hopkins join forces once again to construct a replica of an ancient Egyptian obelisk.

**AUG 27 NILE: RIVER OF THE GODS** *(1994)*. This film takes you on a journey down the Nile. Coursing 4,000 miles through three countries, it sustains some of the world’s richest wildlife habitats and has shaped the ways and beliefs of cultures since the beginning of recorded history. 102 min.

In September we feature screenings from the A&E series *The Great Pharaohs of Egypt* *(1997)* which uses archeological evidence, on-site footage, expert interviews, and computer recreations to tell the story of ancient Egypt’s greatest rulers.

**SEPT 3 EPISODE I** shows how the warrior Narmer united Egypt to become the first pharaoh and introduces the kings who built the pyramids at Giza.

**SEPT 10 EPISODE II** focuses on the military-minded rulers of the New Kingdom. It also explores the legacy of Hatshepsut, one of the most well known of the women who ruled as pharaoh.

**SEPT 17 EPISODE III** begins with Akhenaten’s ascension to the throne and then examines the many mysteries surrounding this controversial king.

**SEPT 24 EPISODE IV** provides an in-depth look at the reign of Ramesses II, whose foreign conquests and massive building projects left him remembered as Ramesses the Great. The film concludes with the life and tragic death of Cleopatra.

### Adult Education Registration Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>NON-MEMBERS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Khorsabad: Capitol of the Assyrian Empire</td>
<td>$169</td>
<td>$199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nubia: Kingdoms and Cultures of Ancient Africa</td>
<td>$199</td>
<td>$229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultures of the Silk Road</td>
<td>$199</td>
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<tr>
<td>The World in the Time of Tutankhamun</td>
<td>$595</td>
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**Grand Total**

☐ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is a separate check for $50 for an individual membership, $75 for a family membership, $40 for seniors, UC/UCH Faculty and Staff, and National Associates (persons living over 100 miles from Chicago within the USA).

☐ I prefer to pay by ☐ Check (payable to the Oriental Institute) ☐ Money order ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Account number: ___________________________ Exp. date: ___________ 3-digit security code: ___________________________

Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ City/State/Zip: ___________________________

Daytime phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Send to: The Oriental Institute Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
MEMBERS’ EVENTS

STARS AND TOMBS OF THE PHARAOHS
Saturday, September 9
10:00 AM
or
12:00 NOON
The Oriental Institute and the Adler Planetarium are pleased to present Stars and Tombs of the Pharaohs, an exclusive program for members featuring:

- Priority reserved admission to The Field Museum exhibition Tutankhamun: The Golden Age of the Pharaohs
- Lecture on ancient Egypt by an Oriental Institute scholar
- Viewing of Stars of the Pharaohs, the Adler’s StarRider Theater show
- Box Lunch

Fee: $60. Advance reservations are required and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit 6 tickets per membership. Contact the Oriental Institute Membership Office to register, or for more information: (773) 702-9513 or oi-membership@uchicago.edu.

“LOST” TOMBS AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDIVIDUALS IN LATE OLD KINGDOM EGYPT
Janet Richards, University of Michigan
Wednesday, September 27
7:00 PM

Don’t miss the inaugural Members’ Lecture for the 2006/07 academic year!

Speaker: Janet Richards is Associate Professor of Egyptology, Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Assistant Curator for Dynastic Egypt, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Since 1995 she has served as Project Director for the University of Michigan Abydos Middle Cemetery Project, Abydos, Egypt (full-scale archaeological investigation of late Old Kingdom provincial mortuary landscape).

The Members’ Lecture Series is made possible by the generous support of Oriental Institute members. Lectures are free and open to the public, with light refreshments afterward.

EXPLORING A NEW PAST
The Annual Oriental Institute Gala
Thursday, October 5
6:00 PM

Join us in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Oriental Institute building, as we move forward into new research following the completion of the ten-year museum renovation and expansion project. Look for your invitation this summer!
**ADULT EDUCATION COURSES**

The following courses are co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies. Each course offers Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information call Museum Education at (773) 702-9507.

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**KHORSABAD: CAPITAL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE**

Geoff Emberling  
**Wednesdays, June 21–August 2**  
**7:00–9:00 PM**

When the Assyrian King Sharrukin (Sargon II) took the throne in 721 BC, he made plans to build a new capital city from which he would rule an empire that stretched from the Assyrian heartland in northern Iraq to the Mediterranean coast. Known as Dur-Sharrukin (“Fortress of Sargon”) and in modern times more commonly known as Khorsabad, the huge city was built around a citadel containing temples, elite residences, and the magnificent palace of a king intent on ruling the known world. In this course, we look closely at the city of Khorsabad and the reign of King Sharrukin from 721 to 705 BC, when he was killed in battle in the Taurus Mountains of Anatolia. Read translated cuneiform sources including royal inscriptions and letters, and explore the spectacular palace reliefs at Khorsabad room by room using publications of the French expeditions of the mid-nineteenth century; records of Oriental Institute excavations of the 1920s and 1930s; and the colossal sculptures on view in the Yelda Khorsabad Court of the Oriental Institute Museum.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Geoff Emberling is Director of the Oriental Institute Museum. From 1999 to 2004 he directed archaeological excavations at Tell Brak in northeastern Syria. He was also Assistant Curator in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum in New York before his arrival at the Oriental Institute. This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday evenings from June 21 through August 2. Pre-registration is required.

**CPDUs:** 12  
**REQUIRED TEXT:**  

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**NUBIA: KINGDOMS AND CULTURES OF ANCIENT AFRICA**

Debora Heard  
**Saturdays, June 24–August 12**  
**10:00 AM—12:00 NOON**

The region known as ancient Nubia, which stretched from southernmost Egypt down the Sudanese Nile to present-day Khartoum, was home to a diverse range of cultures over many millennia. Best known for the kingdom of Kush (which conquered and then ruled Egypt as its 25th Dynasty), Nubia interacted throughout its history with the land of the pharaohs. Its contacts also extended to other regions of Africa, and stories of Nubian prowess and power even reached ancient Greece and Rome. This course explores the history of ancient Nubia, its interaction with ancient Egypt, and the fascinating succession of Nubian cultures from the earliest times to the present day.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Debora Heard, a graduate student in Nubian archaeology in the University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology, was curatorial assistant for the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery at the Oriental Institute. She holds a B.S. in political science from Tennessee State University, an M.A. in African American Studies from Temple University, and a law degree from Tulane University. This class meets at the Oriental Institute from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON on Saturday mornings from June 24 through August 12. Pre-registration is required.

**CPDUs:** 16  
**REQUIRED TEXTS:**  

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**CULTURES OF THE SILK ROAD**

Ilya Yakubovich  
**Thursdays, September 21–November 9**  
**7:00—9:00 PM**

In this course, journey along the historic Silk Road and discover the beginnings of today’s global society. Best known as the first network of trade routes to connect the Near East to China, the Silk Road was more than just a market for luxurious fabrics and wares— it was also as the information super-highway of its age. Threading across a treacherous landscape, the Silk Road enabled the spread of Islam and Buddhism, the growth of languages, the migration of populations and more. See how today’s archaeological discoveries are revealing the many cultures and civilizations that flourished along the Silk Road and investigate the lingering legacy of this legendary path. Course sessions feature video documentation and the instructor’s personal slides.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ilya Yakubovich is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Chicago’s Department of Near Eastern Language and Civilizations, and is the author of several scholarly publications about the languages, history, and culture of Central Asia. He has participated in expeditions to Silk Road sites and he collaborated in Berkeley’s Silk Road Database Project. The class meets at the Oriental Institute from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings from September 21 through November 9. Pre-registration is required.

**CPDUs:** 16  
**REQUIRED TEXTS:**  


This course is presented in collaboration with Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs as part of the city’s Summer 2006 The Spirit of the Silk Road initiative.
Enter the fascinating world of the ancient Near East in the time of King Tutankhamun, who reigned during the magnificent era of ancient Egypt’s New Kingdom. The University of Chicago’s Oriental Institute, renowned for its faculty, research, excavations, and museum collections, is your headquarters for investigating an epoch that has captivated human interest for thousands of years.

Study with scholars who are on the frontiers of research, changing the ways we look at the ancient world. Through lectures and lively discussions, you’ll discover a remarkable age of ancient internationalism — one that linked the land of the pharaohs with Nubia, Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and Israel in ways that transformed the ancient Near East. View rare art and artifacts from each of these ancient cultures in the completely renovated Oriental Institute Museum, displaying artifacts from the Persian Gulf to ancient Africa. Gain an insider’s perspective on Oriental Institute research projects ranging from the Hittite, Assyrian, and Demotic dictionaries to the preservation of ancient monuments by the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, Egypt. These five unique days of learning are augmented by two exciting special exhibits. Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs, a spectacular traveling exhibition at Chicago’s Field Museum, offers seminar participants a first-hand, expert-led encounter with 130 extraordinary objects, including a breath-taking array of treasures excavated from the tomb of Tutankhamun. At the Oriental Institute Museum, Wonderful Things: The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun, Photos by Harry Burton, presents a detailed and vivid history of the ten-year clearance of the tomb as it also explores the role of photography in archaeology.

SEMINAR INSTRUCTORS:
Geoff Emberling, Director, Oriental Institute Museum
Peter Dorman, Professor of Egyptology
Steven P. Harvey, Assistant Professor of Egyptian Archaeology
Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology and Editor of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary Project
John Larson, Oriental Institute Archivist
Seth Richardson, Assistant Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History
Emily Teeter, Curator of the Oriental Institute’s Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery
Theo van den Hout, Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages and Director of the Hittite Dictionary Project
Additional Oriental Institute faculty and staff members will appear as guest lecturers

FEE: $595 for Oriental Institute members, $645 for non-members. Tuition includes five days of seminar sessions, accompanying materials, reception and closing banquet, and transportation, admission, and expert-led visit to the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition at The Field Museum.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, July 14, 2006
TEACHER PROGRAMS

NUBIA AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

An Oriental Institute/Chicago Public Schools Recertification & Lane Promotional Credit Course

Monday, July 10–Friday, July 21
1:30–4:30 PM, weekdays

Bring the grandeur and glory of ancient Nubia into your classroom! The great African civilization that flourished in today's southern Egypt and northern Sudan is explored in lectures and gallery talks by archaeologists and museum educators. Hands-on workshops and discussion sessions focus on ways Nubian art and artifacts can become resources for integrating the museum, computer technology, and literacy goals into the social studies, science, and fine arts curriculum.

EACH PARTICIPANT RECEIVES:
• The award-winning Life in Ancient Nubia curriculum guide
• Maps and lesson plans for classroom use
• Ideas for student learning on the web
• Assessment strategies to document student achievement
• FREE access to classroom loan materials, such as posters and reproductions
• FREE bus transportation for classes to visit the museum in Fall 2006

FEE: $80, payable to the Oriental Institute. Fee includes 30 CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education and 2 Lane Promotional Credits from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). All materials included.

To register, please call Wendy Ennes at (773) 834-7606. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Preference will be given to CPS educators from the city’s south side, but educators from around the city are welcome to register.

This program is made possible by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation.

EGYPTIAN EXPLORATION FOR EDUCATORS:
TUTANKHAMUN: THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE PHARAOHS

July 17, 19, 21 at The Field Museum • July 18 at the Oriental Institute • July 20 at the Chicago Botanic Garden
9:00 AM–3:00 PM daily

Get a glimpse of ancient Egyptian life through the eyes of three world-class institutions in five days! Spend three days discovering the world of ancient civilizations at The Field Museum by exploring Tutankhamun: The Golden Age of the Pharaohs, Inside Ancient Egypt, and the Africa Exhibition. Travel back in time at the Oriental Institute Museum during a one-day workshop on the history, art, and archaeology of ancient Egypt. Then journey into the natural world at The Chicago Botanic Garden for a day where you’ll learn about the plants that played an important role in the lives of ancient Egyptians. Adaptable for grades K–12.

Earn 25 CPDUs, 2 Aurora University Graduate Credits, or 1 CPS Lane Credit.

FEE: $350 for members of participating institutions, $375 non-members. Additional $100 for graduate credit. To register, call The Field Museum at (312) 665-7500. For more information contact Monica Garcia at (773) 665-7513 or mgarcia@fieldmuseum.org. Participants responsible for their own transportation.

This program is presented in conjunction with the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition at The Field Museum. This is an exhibition from National Geographic organized by Art and Exhibitions International and AEG Exhibitions in association with The Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt and The Field Museum.

Tour Sponsor: Northern Trust
Chicago Sponsor: Exelon, Proud Parent of ComEd

From MUSEUM EDUCATION

The Museum Education Department of the Oriental Institute Museum is pleased to announce the launch of “Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History,” a new instructional web resource about ancient Iraq. This resource is designed for use by K–12 educators and students nationwide and includes:

• a searchable Learning Collection of teacher-selected artifacts from the Mesopotamian Gallery; a suite of student-friendly interactives and video clips; a series of informational summaries about life in Mesopotamia; and an in-depth online course on ancient Mesopotamia by University of Chicago scholars.

Museum Education is excited to share this new resource and expects it to engage students in new ways as they study the civilization of ancient Iraq. Please feel free to explore the Learning Collection, zoom in on artifacts, and enjoy the interactives. Teachers should contact us if interested in taking the in-depth online course for educators and learning new ways to integrate technology into the classroom. Make sure to explore “Dig Into History,” an interactive archaeological adventure for students.

Visit the site at: http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/

After you’ve had a chance to use our new resource, click on the “Feedback” link to tell us what you think!

“Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History” was created with the generous support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and University of Chicago partners Chicago Web Docent and The eCUIP Digital Library Project.
ART CAMP

BE AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTIST
June 19–23
or
August 7–11
9:00 AM–1:00 PM daily
Lill Street Art Center
4401 N Ravenswood Ave, Chicago IL 60640

Calling all Junior Egyptologists! Children ages 8–12 are invited to explore the spectacular arts of ancient Egypt at this summer day camp co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Lill Street Art Center. Let the Egyptian gods inspire you as you create paintings and jewelry like those found in the palaces and tombs of ancient pharaohs. Try your hand at Egyptian metalworking, pottery, and more. The camp, which takes place at the Lill Street Art Center, also includes a one-day visit to the Oriental Institute's Joseph and Mary Grimson Egyptian Gallery.

FEE: $235. All materials, supplies, and round-trip bus transportation to the Oriental Institute included. Pre-registration required. To register, call the Lill Street Art Center at (773) 769-4226.

GALLERY TALKS

WONDERFUL THINGS: THE DISCOVERY OF THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN
Emily Teeter
Saturday, July 8
1:30 PM

The tomb of Tutankhamun was among the earliest archaeological discoveries to be thoroughly documented with photography. Join Egyptologist Emily Teeter to explore an exhibition of spectacular images taken by Harry Burton as he documented the clearance of Tutankhamun’s tomb. Discover the role that photography played in the fame of the tomb and the stories of its “curse.”

Free. Pre-registration not required. Meet in lobby.

THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST IN THE TIME OF TUTANKHAMUN
Geoff Emberling
Saturday, July 29
1:30 PM

Accompany Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director, on a gallery tour highlighting the ancient Near East during the reign of King Tutankhamun. View rare artifacts as you discover a remarkable era of internationalism that linked the land of the pharaohs with ancient Nubia, Mesopotamia, Turkey, and Israel.

Free. Pre-registration not required. Meet in lobby.

This talk is presented in collaboration with Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs as part of the city’s Summer 2006 The Spirit of the Silk Road initiative.

BUS TOUR

EGYPTOMANIA, CHICAGO STYLE
Michael Berger
Saturday, July 15
9:30 AM–4:00 PM
Co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and The Field Museum

Board a bus with Egyptologist Michael Berger for a tour of Chicago as you’ve never seen it before! Discover how Egyptian art and design has influenced the look of architectural and historic sites throughout the city. Start with an orientation at the Oriental Institute, followed by a city-wide bus tour that includes lunch at a Middle Eastern restaurant. The tour involves some walking — wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Coach bus transportation, lunch, and handouts included.

FEE: $70 Oriental Institute and Field Museum members, $79 non-members. Pre-registration is required. Please call The Field Museum at (312) 665-7400 to register.

This tour is presented in conjunction with the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition at The Field Museum. This is an exhibition from National Geographic organized by Art and Exhibitions International and AEG Exhibitions in association with The Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt and The Field Museum.

Tour Sponsor: Northern Trust
Chicago Sponsor: Exelon, Proud Parent of ComEd

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE WORLD OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST: BECOME AN ORIENTAL INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers lead tours of our newly renovated galleries, go “on the road” with the Outreach Program, attend exclusive lectures and special field trips, assist professors with research projects, work in the Suq, the OI’s gift & book shop, and more!

NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSIONS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2006

For more information about becoming a volunteer, please call (773) 702-1845 or email Volunteer Coordinators Cathy Dueñas (cduedna@uchicago.edu) and Terry Friedman (etfriedman@uchicago.edu).

Sumerian statuette. Iraq: Tell Asmar, ca. 2900–2600 BC. Excavated by the Oriental Institute, 1933/34. OIM A12312
Against everyone’s advice including his own lawyer’s and Breasted’s, Carter rejected the government’s offer and refused to postpone the trial. Negotiations were broken off.

During the first hearings of the suit of the Carnarvon Estate v. the Egyptian Government, the government unexpectedly agreed to accept Breasted’s compromises provided that Carter would renounce his claims to any of the objects in the tomb. Breasted persuaded Carter to sign a brief declaration to this effect.

The government now countered with a demand that the lawsuit must be withdrawn. Carter again refused, and demanded a written guarantee that the new compromises be accepted.

The compromises would be accepted, said the government again, if Lady Carnarvon would also renounce all claims to any objects from the tomb. Breasted arranged for her lawyer to draw up a document renouncing all claims to the objects found in the tomb.

All demands on both sides had now been met with appropriate compromises, and both sides were ready to sign the agreement arranged by Breasted so that Carter could resume work on the tomb.

Before the signatures could be affixed to the documents, however, a government lawyer announced that at the trial on the previous day, Carter’s lawyer had characterized the Egyptian government breaking into the tomb as “like a bandit.” The government immediately broke off the negotiations.

Now that his diplomatic efforts seemed in vain, Breasted was discouraged and offered his resignation as mediator to Carter. Carter refused to accept it and urged Breasted to make a further effort. Breasted was willing to try if he were to be allowed to apologize to the Egyptian government for the unfortunate words spoken by Carter’s lawyer.

Morus Bey Hanna, the Minister of Public Works, refused to countenance any more attempts at mediation, and asked Breasted if he himself would take over the responsibility of the tomb. It was not the first time Breasted had been asked to take charge, but of course he refused.

On March 16 Breasted wrote to his wife expressing his discouragement but also telling of some unexpected benefits to the future work of the Oriental Institute in Egypt:

I have had a grueling eighteen days since the beginning of this unhappy tomb case. I had won a complete accord in the face of incredible discouragements and difficulties, and then the Government sent me a Crown Counselor to tell me that all negotiations were broken off because of the unfortunate language used by Carter’s lawyer. In my endeavor to heal the breach I wrote a letter to the Government expressing my regret at the indiscreet language employed by Carter’s counsel, F. M. Maxwell. The latter saw the letter as you will see by the enclosed papers, but now threatens to sue me for defamation of character. Sir John Maxwell [the lawyer for the Carnarvon Estate] however assures me he will not do so.

I feel very much exhausted by the experience, but it has nevertheless proven to be a valuable one. I have met on equal terms important and able men accustomed to handle large affairs, and have dictated the policy to be pursued. I have led and not followed. The Egyptian Government now owes to me a clear and unblemished title to the marvelous monuments in the tomb of Tutankhamon. They know it, and it has given me a position of influence here. The minister has twice offered me the tomb; but of course it was unthinkable that I should accept. He has also told me that any concession for work that I might want, I could have.17

Shortly after this letter was written, Breasted described these frustrating events to his friend George E. Hale, head of the National Research Council in Washington, D.C., and at the end of the letter mentioned the consequences
of his dealings with the Egyptian authorities:

I secured a permit to begin epigraphic work in Luxor on the great temples, including the right to build a house at Medinet Habu on the west side, the southernmost of the west side temples. I am now completing the plans for the house and I expect to see you as a guest in that house the next time you come out; for work will begin on it in a fortnight and it will be ready for occupancy by Nelson, one of my former students, now head of the History Department in the American University at Beyrut, who will have charge of the work. He will be assisted by a photographer and a skilled draughtsman, besides native helpers. This is a beginning on my larger epigraphic dream, of which we have often talked, and has been made possible by Mr. Rockefeller’s increased support. I think I can make it go without being on the spot very much and I can count on Gardiner’s invaluable support.18

Carter had signed a contract with an American agency to lecture on his discovery throughout America and Canada beginning in April, and so the season ended with the government in control of the tomb and no certainty of what or who would continue the clearing of the tomb and the complete opening of the sarcophagus. Carter left for his lecture tour, not knowing if he would ever return to finish the clearing of the tomb. He could, of course, return to his home on the West Bank where he had lived for many years.

Breasted advised Carter on what to expect on a lecture tour and when Carter arrived in Chicago he gave a private talk to Oriental Institute patrons, friends, and faculty. He was lionized, wined and dined, and returned to London with an honorary degree from Yale and a comfortable amount of money.

Carter had asked the field director of the Metropolitan Museum Expedition, Herbert E. Winlock, to continue in an effort to negotiate the return of the concession to Lady Carnarvon. Winlock had established excellent relations with the Antiquities Service over the many years the museum had excavated in Egypt. He urged Carter to return to Egypt in the fall and to continue the attempts at reconciliation. He felt that the newly elected government, more sympathetic to British interests, was anxious for Carter to continue his work with certain compromises that could be worked out. It was helpful that a new lawyer had been appointed when Maxwell had retired to England. But the Carnarvon estate refused to accept the conditions that would prohibit any division of the tomb’s contents.

Carter returned to Egypt with high hopes for a renewal of the concession. Lady Carnarvon finally agreed to the compromises which would give her some duplicates of the objects found in the tomb. And so the third season could begin with Carter in charge in January 1925. Carter was able in the next few seasons to complete his work in the tomb. He published reports on his work for these seasons,19 but the final technical report has never appeared, so Breasted’s promise to write the history section was never fulfilled.

The presence of James Henry Breasted in Egypt during the first two seasons of Carter’s work in the tomb of Tutankhamun was important. As a renowned Egyptologist and historian he was of enormous help to Carter with sound advice and help in reading hieroglyphs. His efforts at mediation in Cairo won the respect and the friendship of the Egyptian Antiquities Service.

His firm belief that Carter was the only one capable of finishing the enormous amount of work in the tomb for the benefit of Egypt certainly influenced the final outcome of the dispute. Breasted won valuable concessions for the epigraphic work in Luxor and for the building of the first Chicago House. Although the terms of Breasted’s compromises were not accepted in the spring of 1924, by that fall when Carter had returned to Egypt and the Carnarvon estate had relinquished its claims to the objects found, the new compromises were practically the same that Breasted had negotiated. They became the model for future contracts with the Egyptian government.

These terms were now carefully promulgated: all objects excavated were to be the property of Egypt; the personnel of all expeditions were to be approved by the Antiquities Service; and all scientific and archaeological work in the country was to be supervised by the Antiquities Service.

The objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun, carefully preserved, are all in the Cairo Museum. Some of them are now on loan to The Field Museum in Chicago and are currently on display. Although we will not see the famed golden mask of Tutankhamun, we will remember the role that James Henry Breasted played in the successful recovery of these wonderful things.20

2 Charles Breasted, Pioneer to the Past (Chicago, 1948).
4 Letter from Lord Carnarvon to Breasted, December 3, 1922, Oriental Institute Archives.
5 Letter from Breasted to his wife, September 15, 1919, Oriental Institute Archives.
6 Charles Breasted, op. cit., p. 381.
7 Letter from Breasted to Charles, November 11, 1923, Oriental Institute Archives.
8 Letter from Breasted to Charles, March 12, 1923, Oriental Institute Archives.
9 Letter from Breasted to Charles, March 12, 1923, Oriental Institute Archives.
10 Letter from Breasted to his wife, January 25, 1924, Oriental Institute Archives.
11 Charles Breasted, op. cit., p. 358.
14 Letter from Breasted to his wife, February 23, 1924, Oriental Institute Archives.
15 T. G. H. James, op. cit., p. 277.
17 Letter from Breasted to his wife, March 14, 1924, Oriental Institute Archives.
18 Copy of letter from Breasted to George E. Hale, March 19, 1924, Oriental Institute Archives.
20 The author expresses her gratitude for the help and advice of John Larson, archivist, and Hazel Cramer, volunteer in the photographic archives, who uncovered some of the relevant material.
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

For complete itineraries, contact the Membership Office at (773) 702-9513 or oi-membership@uchicago.edu.

Discover the ancient world on an unforgettable journey with Oriental Institute scholars…

WONDERS OF ANCIENT EGYPT
March 11–27, 2007
Led by Robert Ritner, Professor Egyptology

Since the early 1900s, the Oriental Institute has been one of the foremost academic institutions working in Egypt. From James Henry Breasted’s expeditions in 1905/07, to the establishment of the Epigraphic Survey in 1924, to present-day excavations at Abydos, we’ve had a continuous and distinguished record of research in the Nile Valley. Whether a novice explorer or a repeat visitor, the Oriental Institute’s unique experience and expertise in Egypt brings you a specially designed itinerary, calling upon our own in-country staff and colleagues to give you the latest information on research and preservation efforts currently underway. This tour includes visits to Memphis, Sakkara, Giza, Islamic Cairo, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Edfu, Luxor (with a visit to Chicago House), Karnak, Medinet Habu, and Dendera, as well as a four-night Nile cruise.

ANCIENT ISRAEL REVEALED
June 15–July 2, 2007
Led by Gabrielle Novacek, Ph.D. Candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology

On this tour, you’ll spend two weeks exploring the rich history of ancient Israel. A full week in Jerusalem highlights the Old City (including the City of David, Hezekiah’s Tunnel, the Jewish Quarter, Islamic monuments on the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mt. Zion, and more), with visits to the Rockefeller Museum, the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, and the Israel Museum (which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls). From Jerusalem, we travel to Sodom, Tiberius (visiting the great fortress of Massada, the site of Qumran, and the city of Jericho), Galilee, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

Still time to register!
EGYPT & LIBYA 2006
A PHOTO DIARY
By Maria Krasinski

This spring, the Oriental Institute presented a new travel program: **Ancient Egypt & Libya**. Escorted by Robert Ritner, Professor of Egyptology at the University of Chicago, the focus of the tour was to trace the linked history and cultures of ancient Egypt and Libya. Over the course of nearly four weeks, we traversed deserts, deltas, and mountains and skirted the Mediterranean coast to explore more than 10,000 years of human history.

We spent about a week in Egypt, touring the third-millennium BC pyramids at Abusir and Dashur; the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, where we saw examples of how distinctly Libyans were depicted on Egyptian historical stelas; the sites of Bubastis and Tanis, each like an open-air museum; and numerous monuments and tombs around Alexandria.

After side trips to the Byzantine pilgrimage site of Abu Menas and the World War II memorial cemetery at El-Alamein, we continued westward through the desert, finally crossing the border into Libya at Sallum.

The photographs shown here represent the three major Libyan regions we visited: Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, and the Fezzan. Some of the best-preserved ancient Greek and Roman cities in the world (including some exquisite mosaics) are found in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, while the Fezzan — engulfed by the Sahara — is home to ancient rock carvings and paintings believed to date to around 10,000 BC. It is but a mere sampling of the diversity of landscapes and artifacts contained within this intriguing country. With the rise of tourism in the region, one hopes that these sites will remain in such pristine condition, though evidence of increased traffic is already apparent.

Since re-opening to Americans in 2002, Libya has become a highly sought-after travel destination and we were pleased to be able to offer a thematically unique itinerary geared toward the scholarly specialty of our lecturer. However, the tour was not the Oriental Institute’s first endeavor to Egypt’s neighbor to the west. In the 1950s, the Institute under the direction of Carl H. Kraeling excavated portions of Ptolemais — present-day Tolmeita in Cyrenaica — including the Villa of the Four Seasons and Byzantine baths. Mosaics from the villa are currently housed in the on-site museum, while the dig house in which Kraeling’s team stayed is still intact (see photo, above right). One of the five cities of the Pentapolis (with Cyrene, Taucheria, Benghazi, and Apollonia), the extensive site is only about 10 percent excavated. Perhaps one day the Oriental Institute will resume the exploration.
Mosaic baths overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Sabratha, Libya

Part of the group in what remains of the Villa of the Four Seasons at Ptolemais, Libya, where the Oriental Institute excavated in the 1950s. Our guide Abdusalem Bazama holds the site plan. Photo by Khalim.

Byzantine mosaic, A.D. 527–565. Qasr Lebia, Libya

Petroglyphs, Wild Fauna Period. Wadi Methkandoush, Libya

Roman theater, A.D. 190. Destroyed by earthquake in 365, reconstructed in the 1920s by Italian archaeologists. Sabratha, Libya

View of Acacus Mountains, Libya

Detail of rock painting, Acacus Mountains, Libya
Tutankhamun's Tomb: The Thrill of Discovery
Text by Susan J. Allen with an introduction by James P. Allen
New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2006
Hardcover; 104 pages with 157 duotone illustrations
Members' Price: $22.45

This richly illustrated book of vintage photographs commemorates one of the most memorable episodes in the history of archaeology: the discovery and exploration of the tomb of the ancient Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun (Dynasty 18, ruled ca. 1336–1327 BC). These photographs, documenting every stage in the process of discovery, were taken by the renowned archaeological photographer Harry Burton. Burton was a staff member of the Metropolitan Museum Egyptian Expedition when he was “lent” to Howard Carter, the famed excavator of Tutankhamun’s tomb.

Carefully reproduced from Burton’s original prints, these beautiful black-and-white photographs are accompanied by new descriptive text written by two prominent Egyptologists with extensive knowledge of the history of Tutankhamun and the contents of his tomb.