

EDWARD WENTE lectured on "Funerary Beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians" at the University of Pennsylvania in September 1980 in conjunction with the University Museum's special exhibition "The Egyptian Mummy: Secrets and Science." In this lecture he attempted to explain why, despite constant tomb robbing, the Egyptians continued and even expanded the role of mummification. A religious answer was proposed in which it was suggested that the unique relationship of Re and Osiris, associated with two concepts of divine time, played an important part in extending the practice of mummification. (Mr. Wente's presentation will be appearing in the Fall 1981 issue of *Expedition*.) In his research into Egyptian religion, he is completing an article dealing with certain formulas that appear in the Book of Amduat and the Book of Gates, which first appear in royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings. According to his study these illustrated compositions were originally composed as works of practical theology for use by initiated commoners during one's lifetime and only secondarily were they adapted as royal funerary texts.