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Howard Carter (1874–1939) was an English archaeologist and Egyptologist, now renowned for discovering the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamun. Published between 1923 and 1933, this three-volume study contains Carter's detailed account of the sensational discovery, excavation and clearance of Tutankhamun's tomb and its treasures. The tomb was almost fully intact when discovered and remains the most complete burial discovered in the Valley of the Kings. Each volume of Carter's book is richly illustrated with over 100 photographs of the tomb and objects found in it, showing their original state and how they appeared after reconstruction. Carter's meticulous recording and conservation techniques are faithfully documented in his account, providing a vivid and engaging description of the work which occurred during the excavation of this famous site. Volume 2 describes the second and third seasons, including the opening of the pharaoh's triple coffin and the examination of his mummy.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01815-9 - The Tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen, Volume 2

Howard Carter

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# The Tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen

*Discovered by  
the Late Earl of Carnarvon  
and Howard Carter*

VOLUME 2

HOWARD CARTER



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108018159](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108018159)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1927

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01815-9 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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# THE TOMB OF TUT·ANKH·AMEN

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A PORTRAIT OF TUT·ANKH·AMEN

The beaten and burnished gold mask of the young king  
representing him at the age of death—about 18 years old.

(See Plate LXXIII)

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# THE TOMB OF TUT·ANKH·AMEN

*DISCOVERED BY THE LATE EARL OF  
CARNARVON AND HOWARD CARTER*

By

HOWARD CARTER

*Hon. Sc.D. (Yale University) ; Correspondent*

*Real Academia de la Historia, Madrid*

WITH APPENDICES BY

DOUGLAS E. DERRY, M.B., Ch.B. : A. LUCAS,  
O.B.E., F.I.C. : P. E. NEWBERRY, M.A. : ALEX-  
ANDER SCOTT, F.R.S., Sc.D.Camb., D.Sc.Edin.,  
AND H. J. PLENDERLEITH, M.C., Ph.D.

## *Volume II*

*With 153 Illustrations from Photographs by*

HARRY BURTON

*(Of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)*

CASSELL AND COMPANY, LTD  
London, Toronto, Melbourne and Sydney

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01815-9 - The Tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen, Volume 2

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*First Published 1927*



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AS this volume deals with our work of the second, third and fourth seasons upon the tomb of Tut·ankh·Amen, I shall not trouble the reader with any repetition of the dramatic incidents that rendered the first part of the discovery memorable, further than is needed for a general idea.

It will, no doubt, be remembered from the first volume and the accounts published all over the world, describing how, after many years of toil, we at last reached our goal in the discovery of a step cut in the bed-rock beneath the entrance of the tomb of Rameses VI, which proved to be the beginning of a stairway that led down to the tomb of Tut·ankh·Amen.

Great was our feeling of awe when we made the discovery, cleared the stairway and steep descending passage, and entered the Antechamber, when we beheld in that hypogeum for the first time the splendour of the Imperial Age in Egypt, fourteen centuries before Christ. The gorgeousness of the sight, its sumptuous splendour, made it appear more like the confused magnificence of those counterfeit splendours which are heaped together in the property-room of some modern theatre, than any possible reality surviving from antiquity.

The effect was bewildering, almost overwhelming. Moreover, the extent of the discovery had taken us by surprise.

It is true that we had expected to find the tomb of

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Tut-ankh-Amen in the Theban Valley, for reasons already pointed out in the first volume, but our supreme surprise was to find it, for all intents and purposes, intact. Unlike the other royal tombs in the Valley which had all been completely plundered, only a few fragments of their furniture being left, this tomb was for practical purposes intact, save for the early depredations of a few metal robbers. To this fact our great surprise and good fortune were due. Had the tombs of the great Pharaohs of the Theban Empire been found in a similar condition, the tomb of Tut-ankh-Amen would have seemed of comparative insignificance, except that the art of his period would still have remained an outstanding feature.

We soon realized, however, that our first duty was to record, clear and preserve the contents of the Antechamber before attempting any other task. The objects in this chamber were in such dangerous contact that their removal, without causing damage, must be, we saw, a task of some difficulty. It took the greater part of the first season to transport them to the laboratory, where the work of recording, preservation and packing was eventually carried out. It was only after this chamber had been cleared that we were able to penetrate and solve the mystery of the inner sealed door.

Though a shrewd guess anticipated what might be beyond that mysterious sealed door—guarded by two imposing sentinel figures of the king, black and gold, armed with mace and staff—little did we expect the impressive sight revealed as, stone by stone, the masonry blocking the doorway was removed. First, to all appearance, a wall of gold met our gaze, affording no clue to its meaning, until, as the aperture be-

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came larger, we realized that what was barring our view was an immense golden shrine, and that we were now at the entrance of the actual burial chamber of the king.

An almost incongruous miscellany of objects and furniture, caskets and beds, chairs, footstools, chariots and statues, filled the Antechamber. These were heterogeneous enough, yet exhibiting, in not a few instances, a kindly art full of domestic affection, such as made us wonder whether, in seeking a tomb of a Pharaoh, we had not found the tomb of a boy. From strange ceremonial couches fashioned in the form of uncanny beasts—demon deities comparable to Greek satyrs—Thoueris, “The Great One,” the favourite of the people, in shape partly hippopotamus, partly crocodile and partly feline, personifying “Protection”; Hathor, “The Abode of Horus,” in the form of a cow, the goddess of pleasure and love, the mortal and immortal nurse; and “The Terrible Goddess of War,” or it may be of “The Chase,” fashioned like a lion or, perhaps, to be more accurate, a cheetah—from these we passed into the severely simple Burial Chamber occupied almost entirely by its great sepulchral blue and gold shrine.

It would be difficult to describe our emotions when for the first time the light of our powerful electric lamps flooded the Burial Chamber—“That silent seat of a Lord of the West”—illuminating as it did the walls on which were painted representatives of Amen-tî, the catafalque drawn on a sled by the chief nobles of the land, King Ay before the Osiride Tut-ankh-Amen, and lighting up the immense shrine overlaid with gold, and inlaid with brilliant blue faience tiles, nearly filling up the entire area of the chamber—a

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space of only one or two feet separating it from the walls on all four sides, while its great roof reached almost to the ceiling.

When we found the first step, when we opened and obtained our first glance at the crowded wonders in the Antechamber; when this sealed door leading to the Burial Chamber was broken through, and when we saw, for the first time in the history of archæology, one of the great sepulchral shrines under which the Pharaohs of Egypt were laid—these, unless my memory misleads me, were the thrilling moments of the first part of the discovery.

There are moments, usually rare and always brief, when life may be vividly stirred by some series of impressive incidents that successively confront us. To these we look back with pleasure, whilst memory loves to contrast their comparative effect on the mind. Such experiences occasionally come to the archæologist to lighten his labours and reward his toil; and, glancing back now at the second season's work, it seems that our interests were never more deeply stirred than when concentrated on the contents of that simple sepulchre. The task, however arduous, then became enthralling. Our first duty was the removal of the various objects around the shrine, to be followed by the dismantling of the latter with its nest of shrines, shielding in their centre the great yellow quartzite sarcophagus.

Around the emblems, symbols, furniture and monuments associated with Egyptian sepulture, especially when seen for the first time, there always hovers the spirit of mystery and awe, and it was when the lid of the noble sarcophagus was gradually raised, revealing the magnificent outer coffin of the king

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## *Preface*

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within, that one of these supremely moving moments was again ours. But life is full of painful disappointments, and it was here that our labours of that winter were destined to be brought to an untimely end.

We had resumed our operations as early in the autumn of 1923 as the heat rendered practicable, in order to have the longest possible period for work in the cooler weather of the winter and spring, but we reckoned in vain, for our object was frustrated by the unfortunate misunderstanding, or rather series of misunderstandings, to which it is now necessary briefly to refer.

As is well known, the late Earl of Carnarvon was deeply interested in Egyptian archæology, his work will never be forgotten, and it had been his practice for many years to entrust to me the superintendence of his excavations in Egypt. And whilst I wish to repeat my feelings expressed in my first volume in the dedication to my beloved friend and late colleague, I must here add my gratitude to Almina, Countess of Carnarvon, for her generous co-operation in the continuance of this work which is devoted to his memory.

It was in the year 1914 that we obtained a concession from the Egyptian Government to excavate in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings. This concession, as is usual in such cases, was for one year only, renewable annually, and it was still in force in November, 1922, when the tomb was discovered.

It may here be said that, although the concession gave rights to the concessionaire, they were not clearly defined, and to this absence of complete clarity may be attributed a part at least of the trouble that occurred.

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In accordance with the concession (especially the Clause 12 B therein) Lord Carnarvon was justifiably under the impression that all rights of publication with regard to the results of the undertaking were secured to him. Because of that, and with the object of simplifying the distribution of news for which there was an enormous Press demand, he entered into an agreement with *The Times*; for so great and far-reaching was the excitement caused by the first news of the discovery, that almost at once it became evident that, to avoid constant interruption, and consequent danger to the work, some means must be found of issuing news to the world's Press through a single organization.

The contract was not a money-making proposition on either side, since the transaction represented a financial loss so far as *The Times* was concerned, and the money received by the expedition was devoted to the very heavy expenses of the work.

But unfortunately the agreement made with *The Times* gave rise to considerable friction both with the Press and the Egyptian Government.

After the regrettable death of Lord Carnarvon in April, 1923, it was desired that the *déblaiement* of the tomb should be continued in his memory, and by the desire of the family it was arranged that I should continue the operations. As the result of negotiations with the Department of Antiquities, Almina, Countess of Carnarvon, was authorized to continue Lord Carnarvon's enterprise up to November 1, 1924.

When, therefore, I arrived in Cairo on October 8, 1923, the problem before me was how to carry on, with the least possible friction, the absorbing work I

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had undertaken. Unhappily, however, neither the Press nor the public realized the time and concentrated labour that the *déblaiement* of the tomb entailed. Gradually troubles began to arise. Newspapers were competing for “copy,” tourists were leaving no efforts untried to obtain permits to visit the tomb; endless jealousies were let loose; days, which should have been devoted to scientific work, were wasted in negotiations too often futile, whilst the claims of archæology were thrust into the background. But this is no place for weighing the merits of a controversy now ended, and it would serve no good purpose to relate in detail the long series of unpleasant incidents which harassed our work. We are all of us human. No man is wise at all times—perhaps least of all the archæologist who finds his efforts to carry out an all-absorbing task frustrated by a thousand pin-pricks and irritations without end. It is not for me to affix the blame for what occurred, nor yet to bear responsibility for a dispute in which at one moment the interests of archæology in Egypt seemed menaced.

How such storms arise is never quite clear. In such conflicts there always enter causes which are intangible, while the spirit of mischief is active in most human affairs. To expect at such times complete fairness and impartiality is to ask too much. Moreover, a man may inherit obligations which it is his obvious duty to carry out, although he personally has not incurred them, and he is certainly not responsible for the acrimony that may be imported by varying sentiments, political and otherwise.

From what has been said it will be readily inferred that much valuable time was wasted over a contro-

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very singularly remote from the calm spirit which should guide research.

By what follows it will be seen that it became easier to work under the new conditions, especially when the rights of both parties were meticulously defined, and original claims of very old standing were forfeited for the good cause.

At the crisis of the irritating situation which developed between the Egyptian Government and myself, Professor Breasted and Sir John Maxwell, and at a still later period Mr. H. E. Winlock, kindly intervened on my behalf. But matters remained so difficult that their friendly efforts were almost fruitless. However, after a long series of lectures beginning in America and ending in Madrid, I returned to Egypt in December, 1924, where I was most cordially received by the new Prime Minister, Ziwar Pasha, and his Cabinet. H.E. Ziwar Pasha expressed the wish that I should continue my work and reopen the tomb. Naturally gratified, I replied I was most anxious to do so, and that Almina, Countess of Carnarvon, was equally desirous that our work should be resumed, but, I added, as her representative, loyalty to her and the work must be my first obligation. A suggestion was made that an equitable solution might be found in the offer to resume the concession on the basis of that which had been previously framed through the kind offices of Mr. Winlock and Maître Georges Merzbach Bey (acting on my behalf), in negotiations with H.E. Abdel Hamid Pasha Bedawi, Conseiller Royal, and the Director-General of the Department of Antiquities.

After a few conferences between these representatives of the Egyptian Government, and Maître



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Merzbach and myself, a solution was found, and a final concession drafted to which Their Excellencies the Minister of Public Works and the Prime Minister agreed.

But it was obvious that such problems required the most delicate and careful handling, inasmuch as several important and, to some extent, conflicting claims had to be considered. The question of the division of certain material found could not be disregarded, either from a world or a national point of view, and this became of extreme urgency when we had to deal with material so vast, so important and so diverse as the contents of Tut-ankh-Amen's tomb. With regard to the question of national importance we were of one mind; but another point now arose—that of the heavy work and expenses borne by the Carnarvon estate, and the benefits resulting to Egypt generally. Were these claims to receive acknowledgment and recognition? I am thankful to say that on this particular point an understanding was reached. Apart from the actual new concession in which we relinquished all such claims, the two following letters covering that point were exchanged between H.E. the Minister and myself:—

*LE CAIRE, le 13 Janvier 1925.*

*EXCELLENCE,*

*J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le 29 Décembre 1924, j'ai adressé une lettre à S. Ex. le Président du Conseil des Ministres dans laquelle j'ai proposé de reprendre le travail dans la tombe de Tout-Ankh-Amoun, sur la base des conditions générales établies par le projet d'autorisation qui a été communiqué à Almina, Countess Carnarvon, en Juin dernier, tout en demandant que la*

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*question de propriété des objets visés par l'art. 12. de la dite autorisation soit réservée jusqu'au jour où le travail sera terminé et où tous les objets contenus dans la tombe seront consignés au Musée du Caire. Mercredi dernier une réunion a eu lieu entre M. Lacau et Badaoui Pacha d'une part et Merzbach Bey et moi-même d'autre part, au cours de laquelle j'ai eu l'occasion de préciser ma pensée au sujet de cette autorisation.*

*Profitant du désir que tant S. Ex. le Président du Conseil que Votre Excellence ont bien voulu exprimer de voir reprendre les travaux en question, je me permets donc de vous soumettre que Almina, Countess Carnarvon, serait reconnaissante à Votre Excellence de vouloir bien lui accorder l'autorisation de les reprendre aux conditions qui lui avaient déjà été communiquées avec les précisions que le Contentieux du Ministère des Travaux Publics et le Service des Antiquités ont accepté d'incorporer dans la dite autorisation.*

*En recevant les assurances de Votre Excellence qu'elle n'a pas d'objection à accorder l'autorisation dans ces conditions, Almina, Countess Carnarvon, se fera un devoir de renoncer et de faire renoncer aux exécuteurs testamentaires, à toute action, réclamation ou prétention quelconque, tant en ce qui concerne le tombeau de Tout-Ankh-Amoun et les objets en provenant que du chef de l'annulation de l'autorisation et des mesures prises par le Gouvernement à la suite de cette annulation.*

*Confiant que dans un esprit de bienveillance Votre Excellence voudra bien accorder la dite autorisation, je la prie d'agréer, l'assurance de ma haute considération.*

(Signé) HOWARD CARTER.

S. Ex. le Ministre des Travaux Publics,  
Le Caire.

Cambridge University Press

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*LE CAIRE, le 13 Janvier 1925.*

*Ministère des Travaux Publics,*

*Cabinet du Ministre,*

*No. 133-2/4.*

*MONSIEUR,*

*J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre en date de ce jour, par laquelle vous me faites savoir que Almina, Countess Carnarvon, demande à obtenir l'autorisation de reprendre les travaux dans la tombe de Tout-Ankh-Amoun aux conditions qui lui avaient été communiquées en Juin dernier, avec les précisions que Mon Contentieux et le Service des Antiquités ont accepté d'incorporer dans la dite autorisation.*

*Pénétré du désir sincère de voir reprendre ces travaux, je n'ai pas d'objection à accorder l'autorisation aux conditions précitées pourvu que Almina, Countess Carnarvon, renonce et fasse renoncer les exécuteurs testamentaires à toute action, réclamation ou prétention quelconque, tant en ce qui concerne le tombeau de Tout-Ankh-Amoun et les objets en provenant que du chef de l'annulation de l'autorisation et des mesures prises par le Gouvernement à la suite de son annulation.*

*Soucieux de marquer sa reconnaissance pour cette admirable découverte, le Gouvernement tout en ne s'estimant sous aucune obligation en ce qui concerne les objets trouvés dans la tombe se propose comme suite à la suggestion faite par M. Lacau au lendemain de la découverte, de donner dans sa discrétion à Almina, Countess Carnarvon, un choix de doubles aussi représentatif que possible de la découverte, pourvu que ces doubles puissent être distraits de l'ensemble sans dommage scientifique.*

*De plus, enfin d'éviter au fouilleur tout commentaire*

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*désagréable, s'il y a lieu de transporter la momie du Roi au Caire, c'est le Service des Antiquités seul qui se chargera de ce transfert et en prendra la responsabilité.*

*Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.*

*Le Ministre des Travaux Publics,  
(Signé) M. SIDKY.*

*Monsieur Howard Carter,  
Continental-Savoy, Caire.*

It was on this basis, and with good feeling on both sides, that the tomb was reopened and the work resumed on January 25, 1925.

Thus, as will be seen, the third season's work was necessarily brief. It began at the height of the tourist season, in consequence of which no serious work in the tomb could be contemplated. The public interest was great. Luxor was crowded with visitors, and of these not a few were intelligently interested in our researches, and anxious to see the tomb. But whilst the utmost was done to gratify their wish, one part of our work at least was continued, for between February 1 and March 31 of that winter, we were able to prepare the various objects already found, during the preceding season, in the Burial Chamber, for transportation to the Cairo Museum where they were immediately exhibited.

I have no desire to avoid criticism, nevertheless, I feel bound to refer to a small matter. I have been somewhat severely taken to task for slowness in my work. To such criticism I think one is justified in replying that, when one is dealing with fragile objects of different degrees of preservation and of universal importance, one may easily destroy in a minute that

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which a few days, or may be weeks, of careful and patient treatment can save. Moreover, antiquities that have to be transported to a museum must be adequately strengthened to bear the risks of the journey. There is often great danger in haste.

As a matter of fact we were singularly fortunate in most of our preservation work. Dr. Alexander Scott, who came out to Egypt (winter 1923–24) at our request, as consulting chemist, gave valuable aid in solving many of the complex problems that confronted us, and especially that of the very fragile linen pall. It had to be removed from its ancient wooden struts (*vide* p. 43) and transported to the entrance of the laboratory for relining by the expert hands of Professor and Mrs. Newberry. At the crisis, when my control ceased, the officials who took charge left this most interesting relic in the open inadequately protected, with the result that it almost entirely perished, and that consequently our efforts to save it were of no avail.

When the discovery was first made, Lord Carnarvon and myself found ourselves confronted by a piece of work of overwhelming magnitude, and it was at this critical moment that the Trustees and Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, most generously came to the rescue, and at their own sacrifice, lent us the services of Mr. Arthur Mace and Mr. Harry Burton. Up to the last two seasons much of our success in recording and dealing with the antiquities was due to the skill, wide experience and ungrudging help of Mr. Mace. Unfortunately his health, long strained by severe work, failed him in the summer of 1924, and we have, in consequence, been denied his invaluable assistance and encourage-

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ment, both in our labours in Egypt and in the compilation of this volume.

With regard to the fourth season, past experience had taught us that it would be well to resume our work on the tomb of Tut·ankh·Amen as soon as the decline of the great summer heat rendered it practicable. Our aim was to carry out the work with due scientific procedure, with the least possible interruption and, to meet the Egyptian Government's wishes, to open the tomb to the public as early as possible during the tourist season. For these reasons I left London in September, and began work early in October. The programme was, in scientific sequence, first to raise the nest of coffins within the sarcophagus, to open and examine them, and then to investigate the king's mummy—a task which took us nearly eight months; that is, until the end of May, 1926.

Throughout the examination of the royal mummy I was fortunate enough to have the invaluable aid of Dr. Douglas Derry, Professor of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine, Egyptian University, and of Dr. Saleh Bey Hamdi, Director of the Sanitary Services, Alexandria. It is to them that our thanks are due for the note upon the king's mummy included in this volume. For the chemical and preservation section of the work I had the continued advice and valuable assistance of Mr. A. Lucas, Government Chemist to the Cairo Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, still generously allowing me to retain the services of Mr. Burton for the purpose of carrying out his wonderful photographic records. The very skilful photographs he has made are of extraordinary beauty as well as of great archæological value.

With regard to the tourist side of the question,

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between January and March there were over 12,300 visitors to the tomb and some 270 parties to the laboratory.

Now with archæological work the reverse to that which is anticipated almost always occurs. The opening of those elaborate coffins, without causing them harm, proved an intricate undertaking. The procedure which we were obliged to adopt in the examination of the king's mummy was, to say the least, disheartening.

Judging from the external appearance of Tut-ankh-Amen's outer coffin, from the preservation of the royal mummies formerly discovered, and now in the Cairo Museum, after all the depredations they had suffered, one was led to expect that this untouched king would be in almost perfect condition. Unfortunately, that was not the case. We found him in a terrible state. There was every proof that care had been taken in his mummification; he was swathed in masses of the finest cambric-like wrappings; he was literally smothered with every kind of ornament and amulet; he was enclosed in a solid gold coffin; but, the very custom of those last burial rites proved his destruction.

The mummy as well as the gold coffin had been subjected to consecration unguents that had been poured over them in great quantity. Those unguents were of the nature of fatty matter, resin, and possibly wood-pitch, originally in a liquid or semi-liquid condition. In the course of time the decomposition of those unguents acted destructively upon the contents. The consolidated residue of the unguents also formed a hard black pitch-like mass, which firmly stuck both the mummy and its mask to the bottom of the coffin;

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and no amount of legitimate force could move them. The mummy had to be examined as it lay *in situ* in the coffin. Thus any systematic unwrapping for which we had hoped, was rendered impossible. The charred linen bandages, which fell to powder at the touch, had to be removed bit by bit. Moreover, the conditions rendered the use of X-rays impossible.

Nevertheless, though the undertaking was not such a clean piece of work as one would have wished, I am glad to say little, if any, data was lost, and all the objects were eventually preserved. The preservation of the latter, the ornaments and amulets, meant many months of work. It necessitated the experience not only of a chemist but of a jeweller. But for the anointing unguents, Tut-ankh-Amen, his wrappings and accessories, in that gold coffin, would have been practically as perfect as when first placed there.

Another of our difficulties was to extricate the gold coffin from the shell of the second coffin. The unguents poured over them had completely filled and consolidated the space between the two coffins, thus sticking them fast together. This problem was eventually solved, and we now have the two perfect and most wonderful coffins yet found.

It is of archaeological import to note that all three coffins were not only Osiride in form, but their decoration was of the feathered type. The king's mummy we found neatly made and fashioned to symbolize Osiris. Covering the head and shoulders was a magnificent mask of beaten gold. The outer wrappings were embellished with heavy gold trappings which had somewhat suffered from the action of the unguents. Enclosed within the wrappings were 143 objects, comprising a diadem, daggers, girdles, personal jewel-



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lery and amulets. Three of these objects introduced an astonishing feature. They were of iron, which I believe is the first authentic purposed introduction of that metal into Egyptian civilization. It coincides approximately with the period when iron began to overtake bronze in Syria. Another most important historical fact was revealed by the king's mummy—his age at death, and his remarkable structural resemblance to his father-in-law, Akh-en-Aten, which throws light on his probable parentage. It is also of interest to note that there was neither a true heart-scarab upon the body, nor as yet have we found any trace of documents in the way of papyri, either of religious or of literary kind.

The material discovered in this last season has been transported to the Cairo Museum, where most of it is already on exhibition. The king's mummy, re-wrapped, will remain in his tomb enclosed in his sarcophagus.

The thrilling experiences of the last season's work were many, but it seems now, as I look back, that it was when the last of the decayed bandages had been removed, and the young king's features were first revealed, that the summit of these moving impressions was reached. The youthful Pharaoh was before us at last : an obscure and ephemeral ruler, ceasing to be the mere shadow of a name, had re-entered, after more than three thousand years, the world of reality and history ! Here was the climax of our long researches ! The tomb had yielded its secret ; the message of the past had reached the present in spite of the weight of time and the erosion of so many years.

The Store-room of the Burial Chamber and the Annexe to the Antechamber have still to be examined.

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Although in a selfish world it may be easier to remember what we owe to others, than to convey to them the sense of our obligation, I feel that I must at this point express, however inadequately, my thanks to the many friends who have encouraged me with help and sympathy. They are far too many to enumerate. There is one old friend, of many years' standing—Mr. Percy White, who insists that any assistance that it may have been in his power to give me, has had its own reward, as a labour of love. I must nevertheless embarrass him with my warmest thanks for helping me in the compilation of this volume, although for his sake I will say no more.

I must, however, mention that both Dr. Alan Gardiner and Professor Newberry gave me every assistance in translating the various texts that we found, and that the identification of the botanical specimens is entirely due to my old friend and colleague, Professor Newberry.

Last of all come my Egyptian staff and the *Reises* who have served me throughout the heat and burden of many a long day, whose loyal services will always be remembered by me with respect and gratitude, and whose names are herewith recorded: Ahmed Gerigar, Hussein Ahmed Saide, Gad Hassan and Hussein Abou Owad.

Before ending this preface there is one subject to which I consider it my duty to refer. Where knowledge based on evidence ends, it may be said, as a general rule, that mystery begins. Of this the investigator is conscious in whatever direction his studies may lead him. Much must remain dark and obscure in the life of the ancient Egyptians, partly because the main idea behind the cults by which they

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are revealed to us, was to make clear to the living that which followed after death. The sentiment of the Egyptologist, however, is not one of fear, but of respect and awe. It is entirely opposed to the foolish superstitions which are far too prevalent among emotional people in search of “psychic” excitement.

It is not my intention to repeat the ridiculous stories which have been invented about the dangers lurking in ambush, as it were, in this tomb, to destroy the intruder. Similar tales have been a common feature of fiction for many years, they are mostly variants of the ordinary ghost story, and may be accepted as a legitimate form of literary amusement. But there is another and a serious side to this question which calls for protest. It has been stated in various quarters that there are actual physical dangers hidden in Tut-ankh-Amen’s tomb—mysterious forces, called into being by some malefic power, to take vengeance on whomsoever should dare to pass its portals. There was perhaps no place in the world freer from risks than the tomb. When it was opened, scientific research proved it to be sterile. Whatever foreign germs there may be within it to-day have been introduced from without, yet mischievous people have attributed many deaths, illnesses, and disasters to alleged mysterious and noxious influences. Unpardonable and mendacious statements of this nature have been published and repeated in various quarters with a sort of malicious satisfaction. It is indeed difficult to speak of this form of “ghostly” calumny with calm. If it be not actually libellous it points in that spiteful direction, and all sane people should dismiss such inventions with contempt. So far as the living are concerned curses of this nature have no place in

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01815-9 - The Tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen, Volume 2

Howard Carter

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the Egyptian ritual. On the contrary we are piously desired to express our benevolent wishes for the dead. That a similar spirit of wise charity should be absent in the loose-tongued gossips referred to, strongly suggests that, in some respects, our moral progress is less obvious than kindly people generally believe.

HOWARD CARTER.

*November, 1926.*

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