

The CyberScribe thought it might be very appropriate to start this column off by asking and answering what seems like a very obvious question: why should we bother to save all of those old things in places like Egypt or Greece. The news story below is from "the Guardian" ([tinyurl.com/776wtrg](http://tinyurl.com/776wtrg)) is a thoughtful statement that addresses this question. As time goes forward, it becomes more and more expensive to maintain these ancient sites, but the people of today have an obligation to pass these world heritage items along to future generations:

'In the British Museum on a Sunday afternoon, ancient faces look back at children and adults alike. Inside their glass cases, pharaohs and priests are unfazed by the crowds. And crowds there always are, for these are the painted coffins and carved masks of the ancient Egyptians, relics of a culture that has entranced the world for thousands of years.

'Ancient civilization is part of the world's heritage, and in recent times it seemed nothing could seriously threaten that inheritance. Tourists visited such sites as Giza in Egypt and Olympia in Greece safe in the assumed knowledge that we were seeing wonders that would always be available to admire.

'Yet the instability of the world in 2012 is a threat to the apparently tranquil monuments of antiquity. In Greece, anxiety and alienation as the weakest economy in the eurozone faces terrible pressure to transform its way of life had a troubling reflection at Olympia last week, where a museum of the ancient Greek games was raided by thieves. Perhaps this was coincidence, but it is the second recent museum robbery in Greece. Meanwhile in Egypt, tourism levels have plummeted since the revolution, and hotels are half-empty.

'This is where the word "tourism" becomes in itself pernicious. People who visit Egypt to see ancient art are certainly tourists, in the country that was at the heart of the very idea of modern tourism. But this word has unfairly come to imply a selfish, shallow form of consumer spending, economically valuable to poor countries but irrelevant to the higher concerns of national self-determination and democratic change.

‘To reduce the problems of the Egyptian tourist industry to these cold terms is wrong. Many people visit Egypt with a passionate longing to gaze on the eyes of Tutankhamun and stand at the foot of the Great Pyramid. More practically, the revenues from tourism help keep Egyptian sites and museums going. To say these places are only of interest to "tourists" would be tragic and miserable.

‘Both Greece and Egypt are guardians of sites and objects of the highest importance to the entire world. If Unesco has any value it is surely to scrutinize the fate of antiquities in times like these. And if we shrug and write off antiquity as the stuff of tourism and scholarship, "irrelevant" to these extraordinary times, we are already well on the way to barbarism.’

The next news item is a new look at a story the CyberScribe as discussed before, the desperately needed restoration and stabilization of the step pyramid at Saqqara. Although it is not visible from the outside, the interior of this oldest pyramid has been partially quarried away the entire structure is in danger of collapse inward.

A number of ideas have been put forward in the effort to avoid this catastrophe, and one of these is currently underway. It involves very innovative technology, and though interrupted for a while by the Egyptian revolution, the rescue effort is again underway.

A news source named “Wales online” ([tinyurl.com/ck9dl74](http://tinyurl.com/ck9dl74) ) offers a look at one of the people involved and provides an update on the progress made (abbreviated):



Egypt's Pyramid of Djoser

'Deep in the world's oldest pyramid, real-life Indiana Jones Peter James faced the prospect of thousands of tons of rock crushing him at any time. The former Royal Navy lieutenant commander – dubbed Indiana James by his team – was at the bottom of a 29-metre shaft where he was fighting to save the 4,700-year-old structure.

'The 68-year-old said: "If you went there in the dark and did not know what you were doing you would just fall down the shaft and splat at the bottom. And there must be a thousand meters of tunnels underneath."



Peter James

‘After millennia in pitch-blackness the rooms of the Pyramid of Djoser have been flooded with electric light powered by outside generators. The civil engineer and his colleagues arrived last year tasked with stopping the building, sometimes known as the Step Pyramid, from falling down.

‘An earthquake in 1992 shifted everything sideways, prompting a total of 200 tons of rock to collapse. For 19 years the whole structure could have tumbled at any time. Using technology developed by Peter’s firm – Newport based Cintec – it was stabilized with scaffolding and massive airbags. For three months before Christmas they have painstakingly filled cracks in the chamber with mortar to make it solid.

“It’s bloody frightening because it could collapse at any point on your head,” said Peter, who bears little resemblance to his Hollywood nickname-sake.

“It’s like working in a prison. It is very enclosed and it is kept at a constant humidity, so it gets a bit warm in there. It’s about 28°C.” The dad-of-one and grandfather-of-three has been warned about a curse on the tomb. “It is the

most dangerous job I have done in 28 years,” the former Cardiff Council buildings inspector said.

“If you’re claustrophobic it is even worse in there. I am a little bit claustrophobic. The nearer you get to a wooden box the more claustrophobic you get, though I am not too bad.”

‘Work was put on hold as the ongoing revolution swept the country. Looters did not touch the pyramid but they plundered computers from site offices – setting them back four months.

“I’m loving it,” he said. “It’s bloody marvelous. I was a building inspector at Cardiff Council so if someone had told me I would be doing pyramids one day I would have told them they were bloody mad.”

One of the statements seen frequently in books on ancient Egypt is that the West Bank at Luxor was once laced with canals that allowed construction teams to bring in building materials, and permitted riverboats to ferry the images of gods and the persons of pharaohs to the mortuary chapels at the base of the cliffs. The only problem with this is that there is currently no trace on the surface of any of these canals.

The item below from “NewScientist” ([tinyurl.com/8a5kq2f](http://tinyurl.com/8a5kq2f) ) relates a story of a new technique being applied to the question of West Bank canals. The technique involves the fact that different types of soil materials conduct electrical signals with varying amounts of electrical resistance. The CyberScribe once performed such exploration techniques while employed as a geophysicist in Michigan to locate buried and otherwise invisible bodies of sand and gravel. The technique is quick, inexpensive, and highly accurate.

The story below (abbreviated for space reasons) is from a news source called "NewScientist" ([tinyurl.com/8a5kq2f](http://tinyurl.com/8a5kq2f) ) and shows how electrical resistivity surveys may enter this old and difficult problem:

‘I’m kneeling in a narrow strip of green fields that separates the Nile river from Egypt's western desert, watching Angus Graham and his team hammer what look like huge metal tent pegs into the ground. A few fields away, the

ruined columns of the Ramesseum, mortuary temple of Pharaoh Ramesses II, rise above the wheat, overlooked by the amber cliffs that hide the royal tombs of the Valley of the Kings.

‘This area is dotted with some of the world's most impressive ancient remains, including the awesome Colossi of Memnon (pictured). But Graham, a field director for the Egypt Exploration Society in London, is interested in what's still hidden underground.

‘His tent pegs are actually probes that send weak electrical pulses into the ground to measure the earth's resistance. Called electrical resistivity tomography, the method can distinguish between bedrock (very resistant), waterlogged sediments (low resistance) and archaeological deposits (somewhere in between).

‘Together with British, Egyptian and French colleagues, Graham is looking for ancient water channels. Texts and pictures from nearby temples and tombs suggest that sites on both sides of the Nile were connected by canals and navigable by boat. Descriptions of the Beautiful Festival of the Valley, for example, state that statues of gods were taken by barge from the temple complex at Karnak on the east bank to visit the dead kings at their mortuary temples on the west bank.

‘These descriptions have never been tested, and Graham wants hard evidence. If the waterways existed, did they operate all year round or just during flood season? Were they also used to transport supplies, including the immense stones used to build the temples?

‘His previous work at Karnak has already changed ideas about the layout of the Nile's east bank. It had been assumed that the temple was always on the riverbank, as it is now, but with Judith Bunbury of the University of Cambridge, Graham has found that the Nile shifted course over the centuries. The temple was originally on an island in the river, which would have been submerged each year as the Nile flooded.

‘Back in the wheat field, the probes are finally in position and the group tells me that life is now effectively back to normal for archaeologists. "Everyone's back," says Graham, including a US team working at Amenhotep III's palace, Malkata, a German team at the Colossi of Memnon, and French researchers across the river at Karnak.’

There was a brief flurry of interest in the news about the apparent discovery of an inscription at Karnak Temple naming a new and previously unknown pharaoh named Horus Merymaat. Little more than one day went by before a number of Egyptologists stepped forward with clarifications. It turned out that the “new” pharaoh was not new after all.

The abstract of a previously published paper published by Sebastien Biston-Moulin told the whole story.

Hr mry-mAa.t nswt bjty snxt-n-ra sA ra jaH-ms. The Horus Merymaat, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Senakhtenre, the Son of Re Ahmes

Abstract:

"Publication of two elements of a granary door bearing the name of King Senakhtenre Ahmose recently discovered near the temple of Ptah at Karnak. The inscriptions allow this king of the seventeenth Dynasty, previously only known through the coronation name in later King-lists, to be identified more precisely. They also finally resolve uncertainties about his birth name: Ahmose. The designations of Senakhtenre Tao I or Senakhtenre Siamun for this king must be abandoned. Suggestions for identifying the king's tomb in the Ramesside report of investigations in the Theban necropolis recorded in Papyrus Abbott must also be rejected. Only one king bears the birth name Tao: Seqenenre. That Ahmose is the son of Re name of Senakhtenre leads to the conclusion that this king must be a member of the Ahmoside royal family of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth dynasties, of which he is to date the oldest known representative. Finally, documents that bear only the son of Re name “Ahmose” can now be attributed to either Senakhtenre Ahmose or Nebpehtyre Ahmose."

Those of you who wish to read the actual report can go to this website: [tinyurl.com/7tc2ld2](http://tinyurl.com/7tc2ld2) and download a PDF file, although the paper is in French.

The paper contains high-quality illustrations of important stone blocks that prove the identity of the Pharaoh in question.







Fig. 2. Jambage (Photographie, © Cnrs-Cfeetk / J.-Fr. Gout ; Fac-similé, Chr. Thiers).

The color most pleasing to the human eye is generally believed to be the intense blue generally called cobalt blue. This is the color of many of the ancient Egyptian shabtis, amulets, jewelry items and a host of other things loved by the Egyptians.

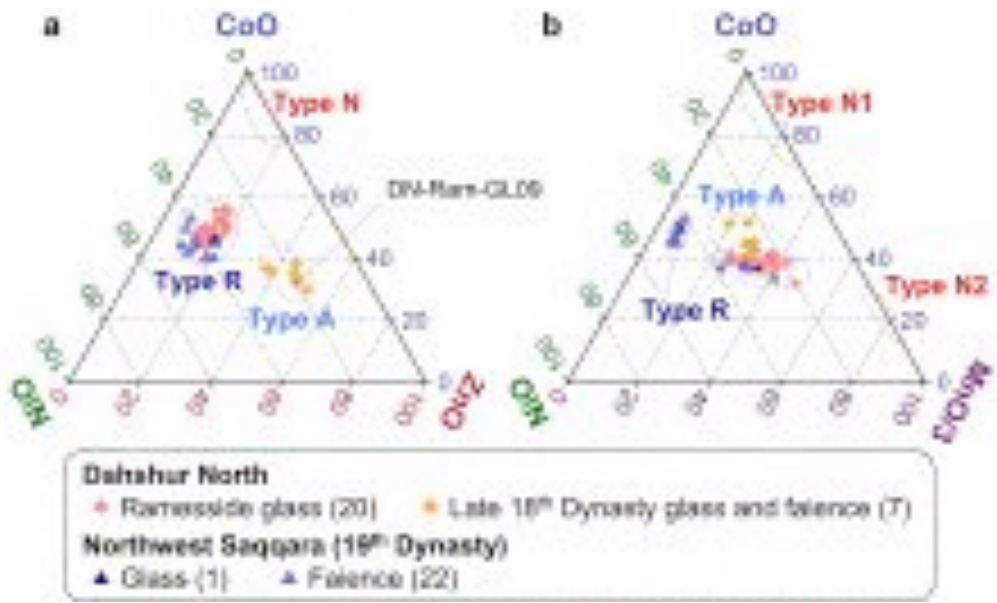
It was long believed that the cobalt source being used by the Egyptians to get this wonderful color came from a particular deposit of alum, but careful analysis of blue colorants showed that the blue color in later objects came from a different source.

The CyberScribe does not have access to the entire paper, although some of the critical pieces will be displayed below. For a general understanding of this interesting chemical problem, the paper's complete abstract is given below:

'Cobalt-blue colorant was first used in the 18th Dynasty in the New Kingdom of Egypt. The source of this cobalt was cobaltiferous alum from the Western Oases of Egypt. The use of this alum, especially in glass, was suddenly limited at the end of the 18th Dynasty. There is little evidence of the production of cobalt-blue glass in the Ramesside Period (the 19th–20th Dynasties) in the New Kingdom of Egypt. In this study, we brought a portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer to two archaeological sites located in the Memphite region and used it for onsite analyses of Ramesside cobalt blue-colored glasses and faïences. This method revealed that the compositional characteristics of the cobalt-blue colorant in these Ramesside glasses and faïences is different from the colorant derived from cobaltiferous alum used in the 18th Dynasty, based on the comparison of transition metal composition and alumina content with those of the cobalt blue-colored artifacts from the 18th Dynasty. This result suggests that a new cobalt source other than cobaltiferous alum from the Western Oases was utilized in Egypt during the Ramesside Period.



Examples of analyzed cobalt-blue artifacts from Dahshur North: (a) Ramesside glass, (b) late 18th Dynasty glass and faience.



Ternary diagrams of the compositional ratios of the transition metals in the cobalt-blue artifacts from Dahshur North and Northwest Saqqara: (a) ratios for CoO, NiO, and ZnO, (b) ratio for CoO, NiO, and MnO<sub>3</sub>.

And speaking of faience, that wonderful self-glazing material from ancient Egypt, which we somewhat incorrectly call faience, has proved to be a real problem. Few if any modern artists really know how to make faience of the same quality and perfection like those seen in so many museum collections. The material is made from natron and finely ground quartz, with a few minor other materials. The general formula has long been known, and many people have tried to replicate the beautiful, multicolored, and sometimes three-dimensional objects that were so common in ancient Egypt.

A modern artist, Gavin Gardner, has been addressing this problem and seems to have made some significant progress toward solving the problem of faience. A report in his own words ([tinyurl.com/7g8cbkc](http://tinyurl.com/7g8cbkc)) has recently appeared on a site called "Kickstarter", and a condensed version appears below:

'I'm Gavin Gardner, a Classically trained artist with a degree in sculpture from the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts in Old Lyme, Connecticut. I am excited to present this groundbreaking project to you! While flipping through various art books, I honed in on a medium known as ancient Egyptian faience. Faience is unlike any material in the world today and the complex methods of working with it have largely eluded scholars. Many so-called faience products are on the market, but they are not close in chemical composition, and nearly all processes fail to produce results anywhere near that of the ancient Egyptians. In fact, no one has created detailed sculptures in this material since ancient times.

'For four years I have conducted chemical testing, recreation experiments, and process experiments. Recently my recipes and techniques have worked! I have produced detailed figurative work in this material. In the process I have developed new ceramic techniques.

'In addition I have successfully created openwork faience cylinder rings. These are CRAZY challenging to create, and to my knowledge the ones I have made are the first since antiquity. They are extremely delicate to work with as they are approximately 1 mm thick, with pierced designs around the circumference. The ring below took literally hundreds of attempts, months and months of troubleshooting, recipe tweaking, etc. I figured the ring was a challenge and if I could make that, I could achieve anything in

sculpture! Here is a picture of the one I made, along with several other successful pieces.









This last image is in line with where I am headed. My goal is highly detailed, anatomically correct figure sculptures. A good way to explain my goal is "an Egyptian and western Classical fusion".

'This exciting project represents my dream to launch a new sculpture medium for collector's to enjoy and it represents the creation of a cohesive body of artworks in the most precious of materials! Sculpture is very laborious and requires time to do well. With laboratory and studio time combined, I will be spending 12 months on all works. My methods of sculpting are traditional. I begin with live models and construct a metal armature (analogous to a skeleton which is a support for the muscles of the body) to support the clay. Then I begin sculpting the figure anatomically. The sculptures alone can take months to be perfected. Afterwards I make

molds. From these molds the sculptures can be cast and otherwise reproduced. Lastly I will spend months on various kiln firings and tests to achieve the desired faience results!

‘There are many challenges in working with faience. Faience is a finicky material, it is thixotropic and almost impossible to work with. Obtaining high detail is again nearly impossible (without my methods at least). The firing process is very methodical and delicate as rapid temperature rise can lead to cracking.

‘Faience is highly fragile in the green stage and can be broken almost by breathing on it. In addition it contains massive quantities of floured silica , which is lethal if inhaled in certain doses over time. It is an EXTREME HEALTH HAZARD.’

And to close out this column, the CyberScribe will again present something to challenge your imagination and logical thinking.

As we all know, the United States government is and has been concealing all sorts of wonderful things, such as flying saucers and the like. The item below is proof positive that our government, the aided and abetted by the Smithsonian Institute, have been deliberately hiding what will surely be the most wonderful archaeological discovery in modern times.

What could this be, you ask. How about the discovery of ancient Egyptian burials in and around the Grand Canyon? There is now proof of chambers and caverns chock full of wonderful Egyptian artifacts. Of course, when asked, the Smithsonian denied everything. What would you expect from such a bunch of devious sources?

Where is the evidence for the statements? They appeared in a newspaper called the “Arizona Gazette”, and are presented, with a little condensation, below. Read on and see for yourself.



'Did Egyptians cross the Pacific Ocean and wander the American Southwest thousands of years ago? In the early 20th century, claims of such a discovery were made by two Smithsonian-funded archaeologists, who spoke of a thriving civilization tucked within a series of caverns carved into the side of a remote portion of the Grand Canyon. What did the archaeologists find? What evidence did they bring back? Hell, did these men even exist?

'A story on the front page of the April 5, 1909 edition of the *Arizona Gazette* recounted the discovery of a series of bizarre caves and artifacts in the Marble Canyon region of the Grand Canyon. The report claimed two Smithsonian-funded archaeologists, Prof. S. A. Jordan and G.E. Kincaid, are responsible for the find. As the article noted:

'Discoveries which almost conclusively prove that the race which inhabited this mysterious cavern, hewn in solid rock by human hands, was of oriental origin, possibly from Egypt, tracing back to Ramses. If their theories are borne out by the translation of the tablets engraved with hieroglyphics, the mystery of the prehistoric peoples of North America, their ancient arts, who they were and whence they came, will be solved. Egypt and the Nile, and Arizona and the Colorado will be linked by a historical chain running back to ages, which staggers the wildest fancy of the fictionist.

'Later in the article, a cross-legged idol resembling Buddha is described along with a large tomb filled with mummified humans: a veritable mash-up of Egyptian and East Asian cultures.

'Although this remote area of the Grand Canyon makes for perilous traveling, expeditions by private collectors and academics went forward. The site of Kincaid's discovery was roughly 42 miles away from El Tovar Crystal Canyon, and the *Arizona Gazette* article noted that the cavern's entrance was 1500 feet down a sheer cliff.

'Conspiracy theorist John Rhodes claims to know the exact location of the caverns — the site is guarded today by a lone soldier carrying an M-16 and that the caverns are a museum for civilization's shadowy elites.

'No record exists of Kincaid or Professor Jordan within the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology, nor is there a paper trail at the Smithsonian

detailing the artifacts gathered on the expedition. When asked directly about Kincaid's claims, a Smithsonian Institute representative once said:

“Well, the first thing I can tell you, before we go any further, is that no Egyptian artifacts of any kind have ever been found in North or South America. Therefore, I can tell you that the Smithsonian Institute has never been involved in any such excavations.”

‘According to conspiracy theorists, the Smithsonian Institute went so far as to destroy artifacts to maintain this historical viewpoint.



An ancient Egyptian?

‘No data outside of the article substantiates the existence of Professor Jordan, and Kincaid's only other known reference comes in a March 12 article in the *Arizona Gazette*. The March 12 piece notes that Kincaid is in Yuma, Arizona. It mentions simply that he is an avid photographer who carries very high-end photography equipment. This is a particularly questionable tidbit, as no photos of Kincaid's discovery of the mummified bodies or a Buddha-like statue exist, let alone general photos of this portion of the expedition.

‘It is possible that Kincaid, if he existed, worked under a false name, as the *Arizona Gazette* articles mentions his hunt for "the mineral", a euphemism for gold. Theodore Roosevelt made the extraction of gold from the Grand Canyon illegal in 1908 when he deemed the canyon a national forest.’

Well, asks the CyberScribe, what evidence they actually publish? Read on:

‘The latest news of the progress of the explorations of what is now regarded by scientists as not only the oldest archaeological discovery in the United States, but one of the most valuable in the world, which was mentioned some time ago in the Gazette, was brought to the city yesterday by G.E. Kinkaid, the explorer who found the great underground citadel of the Grand Canyon during a trip from Green River, Wyoming, down the Colorado, in a wooden boat, to Yuma, several months ago.

‘According to the story related to the Gazette by Mr. Kinkaid, the archaeologists of the Smithsonian Institute, which is financing the expeditions, have made discoveries which almost conclusively prove that the race which inhabited this mysterious cavern, hewn in solid rock by human hands, was of oriental origin, possibly from Egypt, tracing back to Ramses. If their theories are borne out by the translation of the tablets engraved with hieroglyphics, the mystery of the prehistoric peoples of North America, their ancient arts, who they were and whence they came, will be solved. Egypt and the Nile, and Arizona and the Colorado will be linked by a historical chain running back to ages which staggers the wildest fancy of the fictionist.

‘Under the direction of Prof. S. A. Jordan, the Smithsonian Institute is now prosecuting the most thorough explorations, which will be continued until the last link in the chain is forged. Nearly a mile underground, about 1480 feet below the surface, the long main passage has been delved into, to find another mammoth chamber from which radiates scores of passageways, like the spokes of a wheel.

‘Several hundred rooms have been discovered, reached by passageways running from the main passage, one of them having been explored for 854 feet and another 634 feet. The recent finds include articles which have never been known as native to this country, and doubtless they had their origin in the orient. War weapons, copper instruments, sharp-edged and hard as steel, indicate the high state of civilization reached by these strange people. So interested have the scientists become that preparations are being made to

equip the camp for extensive studies, and the force will be increased to thirty or forty persons.

"First, I would impress that the cavern is nearly inaccessible. The entrance is 1,486 feet down the sheer canyon wall. It is located on government land and no visitor will be allowed there under penalty of trespass. The scientists wish to work unmolested, without fear of archaeological discoveries being disturbed by curio or relic hunters. A trip there would be fruitless, and the visitor would be sent on his way. The story of how I found the cavern has been related, but in a paragraph: I was journeying down the Colorado River in a boat, alone, looking for mineral. Some forty-two miles up the river from the El Tovar Crystal canyon, I saw on the east wall, stains in the sedimentary formation about 2,000 feet above the river bed. There was no trail to this point, but I finally reached it with great difficulty.

'Above a shelf which hid it from view from the river, was the mouth of the cave. There are steps leading from this entrance some thirty yards to what was, at the time the cavern was inhabited, the level of the river. When I saw the chisel marks on the wall inside the entrance, I became interested, securing my gun and went in. During that trip I went back several hundred feet along the main passage till I came to the crypt in which I discovered the mummies. One of these I stood up and photographed by flashlight. I gathered a number of relics, which I carried down the Colorado to Yuma, from whence I shipped them to Washington with details of the discovery. Following this, the explorations were undertaken.

"The main passageway is about 12 feet wide, narrowing to nine feet toward the farther end. About 57 feet from the entrance, the first side-passages branch off to the right and left, along which, on both sides, are a number of rooms about the size of ordinary living rooms of today, though some are 30 by 40 feet square. These are entered by oval-shaped doors and are ventilated by round air spaces through the walls into the passages. The walls are about three feet six inches in thickness.

"Over a hundred feet from the entrance is the cross-hall, several hundred feet long, in which are found the idol, or image, of the people's god, sitting cross-legged, with a lotus flower or lily in each hand. The cast of the face is oriental, and the carving this cavern. The idol almost resembles Buddha, though the scientists are not certain as to what religious worship it represents. Taking

into consideration everything found thus far, it is possible that this worship most resembles the ancient people of Tibet.

"Among the other finds are vases or urns and cups of copper and gold, made very artistic in design. The pottery work includes enameled ware and glazed vessels. Another passageway leads to granaries such as are found in the oriental temples. They contain seeds of various kinds. One very large storehouse has not yet been entered, as it is twelve feet high and can be reached only from above. Two copper hooks extend on the edge, which indicates that some sort of ladder was attached. These granaries are rounded, as the materials of which they are constructed, I think, is a very hard cement. A gray metal is also found in this cavern, which puzzles the scientists, for its identity has not been established. It resembles platinum. Strewn promiscuously over the floor everywhere are what people call "cats eyes", a yellow stone of no great value. Each one is engraved with the head of the Malay type.

"On all the urns, or walls over doorways, and tablets of stone which were found by the image are the mysterious hieroglyphics, the key to which the Smithsonian Institute hopes yet to discover. The engraving on the tables probably has something to do with the religion of the people. Similar hieroglyphics have been found in southern Arizona. Among the pictorial writings, only two animals are found. One is of prehistoric type.

"The tomb or crypt in which the mummies were found is one of the largest of the chambers, the walls slanting back at an angle of about 35 degrees. On these are tiers of mummies, each one occupying a separate hewn shelf. At the head of each is a small bench, on which is found copper cups and pieces of broken swords. Some of the mummies are covered with clay, and all are wrapped in a bark fabric. It is worthy of note that all the mummies examined so far have proved to be male, no children or females being buried here. This leads to the belief that this exterior section was the warriors' barracks.

'Upwards of 50,000 people could have lived in the caverns comfortably. One theory is that the present Indian tribes found in Arizona are descendants of the serfs or slaves of the people which inhabited the cave. Undoubtedly a good many thousands of years before the Christian era, a people lived here which reached a high stage of civilization. The chronology of human history is full of gaps. Professor Jordan is much enthused over the discoveries and believes that the find will prove of incalculable value in archaeological work.

"One thing I have not spoken of, may be of interest. There is one chamber of the passageway to which is not ventilated, and when we approached it a deadly, snaky smell struck us. Our light would not penetrate the gloom, and until stronger ones are available we will not know what the chamber contains. Some say snakes, but other boo-hoo this idea and think it may contain a deadly gas or chemicals used by the ancients. No sounds are heard, but it smells snaky just the same. The whole underground installation gives one of shaky nerves the creeps. The gloom is like a weight on one's shoulders, and our flashlights and candles only make the darkness blacker. Imagination can revel in conjectures and ungodly daydreams back through the ages that have elapsed till the mind reels dizzily in space."

After reading the above, the CyberScribe is struck nearly speechless. He will shortly be asking you to send him money so that he can outfit an expedition to verify the facts in the story. Also so he can steal all the neat stuff hidden there.

Maybe the CyberScribe will even be able to penetrate the unventilated passageway with the snaky smell? Or maybe he will send one of his helpers in, just in case it really is full of snakes.

PS: More true stuff from the Internet:

# WILL THE REAL STAND UP?



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Cleopatra, the Queen of the Nile, is renowned as the most beautiful and mysterious woman who ever lived. And her legend lives on today in the unlikelyst of hosts — a New Jersey baby and an Iowa woman who BOTH are believed by some to be the alluring Queen of Egypt.

**RED BANK, N.J. —** Cleopatra, the fabled Queen of Egypt and lover of Antony and Caesar, is alive and living in a double-wide trailer in a mobile home park.

A team of some of the most brilliant geneticists and biologists in the Middle East used DNA extracted from blood, hair and dandruff to clone a human egg and transplant it inside the womb of a volunteer mom to create an exact duplicate of the tragic beauty.

The experiments and historic breakthrough were disclosed in *Eternal*

*Life*, a Paris-based journal circulated among rogue geneticists and other world scientific community iconoclasts.

"With the success of this undertaking, humanity has opened the door to a brave new world destined to be ruled by the best and the brightest of past ages," Dr. Nakiya Bakir, a geneticist and scientific director of the astounding project,

was quoted as saying.

The project was reportedly funded by a shadowy group of Egyptian royalists dedicated to restoring the pharaohs to their former rule.

And the chance discovery of an ancient carpet that the strong-willed female pharaoh was wrapped in, then smuggled through enemy lines to be delivered to Caesar, made the restoration project possible.

"The young queen was apparently bruised and scraped, and lost some hair and blood in the process," Dr. Bakir explained.

"So when the ancient carpeting was discovered and identified in an antiques shop in Alexandria's Cashah — we were able to extract a sufficient amount of the queen's tissue to carry out our scientific endeavor."

According to the brilliant geneticist, the team worked in a secret laboratory in Alexandria for months before they successfully created four test tube embryos containing the lost queen's DNA.

Only one of the women who volunteered as hosts for the developing fetus managed to carry the baby to term.

Dr. Bakir described the host mother as a devout young woman who is devoted to the religion of ancient Egypt, and was convinced that her sacrifice would lead to restoration of the old gods and glory.

She was studying in the United States when she was impregnated, and dropped out of college to marry a handsome master plumber from New Jersey who was considerably older.

The scientist released a single photograph of mother and daughter (shown at left) to Egyptian newspapers. But the expert steadfastly has refused to divulge their names.

Dr. Bakir said she and her colleagues believe the gods selected the woman to become Cleopatra's mother, because the child would be safer in the United States.

The scientist said the dark-eyed girl, now nearly a year old, will be prepared "for her rightful role as goddess queen — pharaoh of Egypt. Plans are already underway to quietly spirit her to the Middle East, where she will be prepared to assume her governmental and religious duties when the time is right.

**GENETICIST**  
Dr. Nakiya Bakir



## New Jersey housewife says:

# MY BABY IS THE QUEEN OF EGYPT



**THIS** unidentified baby was cloned using DNA extracted from an ancient carpet that Cleopatra used to smuggle herself to secret lover Julius Caesar "on the sly," as depicted in the movie, *Cleopatra*, right.



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That's all for this month, says the CyberScribe. See you next time! Watch out for snaky caverns!

(The CyberScribe reminds you that if you ever wish to see the entire, unabbreviated, text of one of these stories, contact him and he will provide that access).