



July 2012, number 202

It's time for a new digital issue of the CyberScribe. We hope you are enjoying seeing the CyberScribe column in your mailbox every month. Egypt today is very much in flux, but there are still interesting things going on in some of the excavation sites, and in some of the museums.

The CyberScribe searches the Internet for you and tries to bring you, the members of the North Texas Chapter of ARCE, the very best and most interesting articles and announcements concerning Egypt. Because the political climate is so unstable, the CyberScribe will not comment on recent politics, but his focus will be on the types of material our chapter members probably find more enjoyable.

Remember, back issues of the CyberScribe can be accessed by going to Nigel Strudwick's site at the Newton Institute. Check the North Texas Chapter of ARCE's webpage for details.

And don't forget, there's always some silly thing at the end of the CyberScribe to remind us that there are some very strange people out there.

So what did the CyberScribe find in the news from Egypt this month?

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Hopefully you remember seeing the piece illustrated below and the discussion of it, which appeared in the last issue of CyberScribe number 201.

Christie's auction house was given the chance to sell this magnificent artifact, and they indeed did so. Here is part of their description of the piece, and if you want to read the entire Christies article, contact CyberScribe.



An Egyptian painted votive linen, New Kingdom, late dynasty XVIII-early dynasty XIX, circa 1300-1200 B.C. 19 in. (48.3 cm.) wide. Estimate \$80,000-120,000 U.S.

'On June 8, Christie's Antiquities sale will offer an extremely rare Egyptian painted votive linen from the 18th-19th Dynasty (circa 1300 -1200 B.C.). The Egyptian painted linen votive textile has ten columns of crisp, black hieroglyphics explaining in great detail the image below, rendered in still-vibrant hues of russet, blue, green and gold on a white background. Recovered in 1906 from a shrine in the hills of Western Thebes, the panel depicts a scene of the goddess Hathor in the form of a cow with an earlier Pharaoh, Neb-hepet-Re Mentu-hotep, both being venerated by a priest and his family. The work dates from the New Kingdom, 18th-19th Dynasty (circa 1300-1200 B.C.), and of the surviving textiles from that shrine, the present one is perhaps the finest, both in terms of the quality of the painting and its state of preservation. It has been in the collection of the Heckscher Museum in Huntington, N.Y., since the 1950s, and has been widely published and

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exhibited. It is being sold to benefit the museum's art acquisition fund.'

The CyberScribe did not find any information on the buyer might have been, because such information is seldom released. The CyberScribe can hope that someone purchased it with the idea of placing it in some public institution, such as a museum. It would be a terrible cultural loss if it disappeared into some private collection, not to be seen again for decades.

Of course an auction is a place to sell things, and it was indeed sold. The presale estimate suggested it would bring between \$80,000 to \$120,000. The CyberScribe was not at all surprised to see that the sales price rose quite a bit above those numbers. And in fact, the final price was \$782,500! In case you're wondering, no, the CyberScribe was not the winning bidder.

And as long as the CyberScribe is discussing auction results, he needs to remind his readers to check back to the June issue of the CyberScribe, where he discussed an upcoming sale of some very interesting items that Howard Carter kept in his personal possession. He donated most of his materials to the museum at Oxford University, and for some reason he retained these items. The sale took place at Bonhams' Books and Manuscript auction on June 12th.

Well, the final auction results for his materials fell far short of the sum spent for the painted linen cloth discussed above. The auction's final number for these fascinating items and papers was \$169,573! The CyberScribe will repeat the complaint above, which is to hope that this collection is now in the hands of someone who will donate it to, or loan it to, some institution such as a university or museum.

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Our next item for consideration is a series of new discoveries at the necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa across the river from Aswan, Egypt. Perhaps some of you have visited the previously discovered and excavated tombs at this magnificently beautiful and awesome burial site high on the cliffs overlooking Aswan. The tombs are only reached by climbing long and tiring flights up ancient stone stairways.

Recently archaeologists have been re-examining the old tombs and excavating further, with some very wonderful results. The article and the pictures which accompany it, come from the important Internet source, the "Daily Mail" (<http://tinyurl.com/7ahoeg4>). Although the article below does not give as much information as we might wish, the CyberScribe hope you will enjoy it:

"The wooden sarcophagus (below) was unearthed by archaeologists at the necropolis of



The wooden sarcophagus found at the necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa.

Qubbet el-Hawa in Aswan, Egypt. Believed to contain the body of a person of some rank, it boasts extraordinarily delicate features, well preserved by the sands of time.

"The piece was found by a team from the University of Jaen, in Spain, who have been carrying out digs at the site since 2008. Since starting a fresh excavation in January, they have also discovered 20 mummies and uncovered a tomb dating from around 1830BC.

"The dig is being led by Professor Alejandro Jiménez Serrano, who is working alongside 16 staff from Jaen, as well as universities in Granada and London. He said that his team came from a number of different disciplines, which allowed a broad focus.



The necropolis at Qubbet el-Hawa just (across the river from Aswan) where the sarcophagus was found. (Note the very long stairways)

"It had also allowed them 'to develop new techniques such as RTI or scanning in 3D which helps read hieroglyphic texts with greater accuracy,' he added. The team had already found two smaller tombs in earlier digs.

"Qubbet el-Hawa necropolis was in use from 2250BC and provided a last resting place for some of the country's most important officials. A string of 40 tombs cut into a rocky cliff face, the burial ground also forms one of the best vantage points of the city of Aswan."





Tombs first used in 2250 BC for some of Egypt's most important citizens

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Even with the unrest in Egypt politics, famous sites are still being worked upon, such as the excavations currently underway at Deir Al-Barsha by a team from Belgium. Although the place had been extensively looted in antiquity, there were some surprising new discoveries that were especially important in furthering the understanding of the Middle Kingdom, a time period that is little known.

An article recently appeared in the weekly English language version of Al-Ahram ([tinyurl.com/6pru9ys](http://tinyurl.com/6pru9ys)) and discussed these finds. The text below is slightly condensed, but the CyberScribe hopes you will find it of interest.

“Everything began as normal at this spring's archaeological season at the Deir Al-Barsha necropolis in Minya, which lasted from March to May. As usual, teams of workmen, archaeologists and restorers were busy on all parts of the site, digging and clearing the tombs of the village nomarchs (provincial governors) and searching for artifacts or monumental remains that could tell them more about the history of this particular period of ancient Egypt.

“The site of the Deir Al-Barsha necropolis in the sandy gravel desert is famous for its rock-hewn tombs dating from the Middle Kingdom. Although part of the necropolis was investigated at the beginning of the 20th century by the American archaeologist George Reisner, no plans or detailed accounts of these excavations were ever published. Time has since taken its toll of the necropolis, and it was almost totally covered by sand.

“In 2002 a Belgian archaeological mission from Leuven University started a magnetic survey there in an attempt to gain some insight into the overall organization and social stratification of the necropolis. The survey discovered several anomalies that suggested the presence of burial shafts and tombs. It also provided a record of several hundred pits dug by grave robbers.

“During their routine excavation of the southwestern burial shaft in the tomb of the nomarch Ahanakht I, who was the first Middle Kingdom governor of the Hare nome or province, the Belgian excavators found they were looking at an important burial dating from the beginning of the Middle Kingdom era. It was filled with a large number of funerary objects, which were still in situ, and these helped explain how the ancient Egyptians practiced their funerary rituals.

“(Although) the Ahanakht I tomb had been discovered before in 1915 by Reisner, it had now been completely assessed -- especially the southwestern part of Ahanakht I's tomb where the actual burial was found. Willems explained that Reisner's diary made it clear he was under the impression that this shaft had been robbed, which was why he stopped his excavation at that point.

“Moreover, he said, the burial chamber was filled to the roof with rocks, something that can only be explained by assuming that the robbers deliberately threw these into the chamber. Much of the wooden tomb equipment was unfortunately crushed in the process. “Yet many funerary gifts were not noticed by the tomb robbers,” Egyptologist Haro Willems said.

“The objects the mission found include dozens of alabaster model vessels, offering tables and head rests as well as faience libation vases and a variety of copper vases, plates and model offering tables. There were also some unique ritual objects, hitherto known only from ancient depictions.

““It is for the first time in more than a century that a relatively well preserved burial of this kind has been found,” Minister of State for Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim said. He went on to explain that,

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although the burial was robbed at least twice in antiquity and had suffered extensive damage since, a large part of the funerary collection was found well preserved at its original position.



Belgian archaeologists cleaning the newly discovered shaft inside Ahanakht I's tomb (top); a collection of copper vases and plates used in funerary rituals

“Willems told the Weekly that the position of the funerary items enabled Egyptologists to envision how ancient Egyptians practiced their religious rituals in detail. He went on to say that the ancient Egyptians might first have installed the sarcophagus

in the burial chamber, and then begun the purification ritual and offering processes.

“Mohamed Ismail, the director of Foreign Missions Affairs at the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA), said the coffin discovered in the burial was in poor condition, yet early studies carried out by the Belgian mission revealed that the coffin remains were inscribed with texts showing that it was the burial of a man called Djehutinakht. Ismail said this was important because the inscriptions in the Ahanakht I tomb also mentioned his father, who was named Djehutinakht. This man had an offering place in the tomb, which suggests that Ahanakht I buried his father in his own tomb.

““Djehutinakht is known to have been the last nomarch of the Hare Nome of the First Intermediate Period. It can now be concluded that this person was buried here,” Ismail said.

“The coffin is inscribed with a series of Coffin Texts, which are among the most important religious texts of the Middle Kingdom and form a link between the royal Pyramid Texts of the Old Kingdom and the famous

“Ahanakht thus far being the first owner of a coffin decorated with these inscriptions, the coffin of Djehutinakht adds an important chapter to the history of the Coffin Texts: “it may be the earliest representative of the Middle Kingdom,” Willems said.”

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Staying in the mummy mood, the CyberScribe would like to make you aware of a new set of very interesting artifacts. Luxor National Museum is going to display materials from an unusual site, one that tourists seldom visit. The area is known as Draa Abul-Naga and is located on the west bank at Luxor. These newly displayed artifacts were found at the bottom of an overlooked burial shaft. The tomb contained quite a variety of grave goods, even a set of arrows with a feather fletching still intact.

With only a small bit of editing, here is the article which appeared in the weekly English edition of Al Ahram ([tinyurl.com/7mu7q2x](http://tinyurl.com/7mu7q2x))

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“After almost 10 years in storage at the Luxor antiquities inspectorate, these objects will take their place in the permanent collection of the Luxor Museum. They were found in the tomb of Djehuty, the overseer of works at Thebes during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut.



“The artifacts include the very well-preserved sarcophagus of a Middle Kingdom warrior named Iker, which means "the excellent one". The sarcophagus was found in the courtyard of Djehuty's tomb in 2007, along with five arrows made of reeds, three of them still feathered. Clay vases and bouquets of dried flowers were thrown inside the Djehuty tomb, along with a faience necklaces, gilded earrings and bracelets.

““These artifacts were carefully selected from the collection unearthed at Djehuty's tomb," said Mohamed Ibrahim, minister of state for antiquities. Djehuty's tomb was discovered in 2003 by a Spanish-Egyptian archaeological mission. Their excavations revealed many new details about an unusual time in Egypt's ancient history.

“The tomb walls are beautifully decorated with scenes featuring the annual pilgrimage to Abydos, hunting in the desert and in the marshes, and funerary rituals. One of the most interesting scenes shows a harpist with two singers standing behind him and with the lyrics of their song engraved above the figures. This scene shows the onset of the realistic style typical of the period, with the harpist depicted with a round fat belly and haunches. A painted wooden tablet showing the figures of the deceased nobleman and Pharaoh Tuthmosis III enjoying a day's duck hunting, their faces looking forward and not, as was usual in Pharaonic art, in profile, was also found.”

When tourists go to see the Temple of Deir el-Bahari, they are dazzled by the great Temple of Hatshepsut, and if they are curious, they will also see the ruins of a temple built by Montuhotep, located to the left as you face the main temple. But no one sees the temple of Tuthmosis III.

There is a very good reason for this, as this latter temple was completely destroyed, apparently by an ancient landslide caused by the collapse of the cliff behind the temples. From time to time beautifully decorated and painted pieces of stone from the ruined temple have appeared in museum exhibitions. The quality of the carving and painting is most impressive. What a beautiful place this temple must've been before the collapse of the cliff that destroyed it.

Polish teams have been at work at the main temple of Deir el-Bahari for quite a few years and have done enormous amounts of reconstruction and preservation. They have also been finding pieces of the collapsed and crushed temple of Tuthmosis III, which was immediately next door.



Deir el-Bahari at sunrise. Remains of the Tuthmosis III temple, visible to the left of the temple of Hatshepsut, slightly elevated, photo: M. Dolińska

A short article with beautiful illustrations has been published by an Internet news source: 'Science and Scholarship in Poland' ([tinyurl.com/7bek4u8](http://tinyurl.com/7bek4u8)) and it talks about the Polish team making a three-



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dimensional reconstruction of the Temple of Tuthmosis III. Read on:

“Team of specialists led by Dr. Monika Dolińska consisting of researchers from the National Museum in Warsaw and Wrocław University of Technology is working on a virtual reconstruction of completely destroyed temple of Pharaoh Tuthmosis III in Deir el-Bahari in Upper Egypt.

““We are studying the remains of the temple of the greatest ruler of the eighteenth dynasty of New Kingdom. The mission objective is a comprehensive publication of the temple of Tuthmosis III and partial reconstruction of the relief and polychrome decoration” - said Dr. Monika Dolińska.

““Although after many years of research we know what of the temple premises looked like, still much remains to be determined. This time we were able to reconstruct doorpost decorations in several rooms in the west part, and greatly advance the reconstruction of scenes in the column room and public king worship rooms” - added Dr. Dolińska.

““The real challenge for the architects of Tuthmosis III temple was fitting the structure exactly between the two older temples. This season, taking advantage of participation of the University of Technology architects in the mission, we dealt with exactly this problem” - said Dr. Dolińska.



Previous vision of the temples built in Deir el-Bahari, from several years ago. Tuthmosis III temple building located in the middle, model: S. Miszczak, photo: M. Dolińska

“Virtual reconstruction of the temple has to replace an actual reconstruction, impossible due to

the rudimentary state of preservation of the wall decoration. Conservators from the National Museum in Warsaw reconstruct only the wall fragments forming the best preserved scenes. They also preserve the fragile polychrome of delicate reliefs.

“After this collapse, the temple was could no longer be used and was transformed into a quarry, and finally in the tenth century BC covered, for three millennia, by debris and sand sliding from the rocks.



Conservators at work, photo: M. Dolińska



The image of the kings head was originally placed at the entrance to one of the rooms of the temple, photo Z. Doliński



Offerings from the royal table - a block from the destroyed temple of Tuthmosis III, photo: Z. Doliński

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A Polish American expedition working at the city of Berenice, located on the Red Sea, have found some previously unknown major buildings. While excavating the main structures, they also uncovered quite a variety on odd bits, even the garbage left behind by the workmen. The city of Berenice was an important place for quite a long time, and the complex contains evidence of trade with ships carrying goods from India, Ceylon and South Arabia

The newly excavated structures are relatively young, when compared with most of the things we think about Egypt, and were constructed in the fifth century A.D.

The CyberScribe hopes you will enjoy the article presented below (abbreviated only slightly) which appeared in 'Science and Scholarship in Poland' ([tinyurl.com/84qdy73](http://tinyurl.com/84qdy73)):

“This was the fifth season of archaeological work conducted in this place by Iwona Zych from the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw and Prof. Steven Sidebotham from the University of Delaware.

“After geophysical studies supplemented this season with excavations, archaeologists identified a large building. In view of recent studies scholars tend to define the structure as a fort, built in the earliest, early Hellenistic (1st half of the third century BC) phase of Berenice.



Millefiori glass art with a floral pattern, depicting theatrical masks

“This year, archaeologists managed to discover the remains of a massive structure on a square plan, which can be interpreted as a corner tower of a larger structure. Tower footings were cut into the surface of natural rock. This allowed to accurately reproduce the structure plan.

“Scientists were surprised to find abandoned damaged tools and a piece of stone whetstone possibly used for sharpening metal tools, and a large animal shoulder blade with traces of wear on a wide top edge, probably used as a sand shovel.

“Another new discovery, of the team of archaeologists is a temple complex at the entrance to the port bay. Several religious buildings had been known in Berenice, but this was the first time archaeologists uncovered a temple that was a part of a larger cult complex.

“Inside the temple they recorded traces of ritual feasts or sacrifices of meat, and bouquets brought to the temple. Botanical analysis indicated that in addition to lotus, found in the region, Yemen iris had also been brought to the temple. The flower had to be imported in the form of bulbs or cuttings. "This find is of utmost importance, as it also indicates the ties of the worship to the South Arabian region" - archaeologists believe.

“Unique finds from the area of early Roman garbage dump, another place of study in Bernice, are



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two glass beads made in the millefiori technique (glass art with a floral pattern), depicting theatrical masks made in the first century AD. The garbage, including a well-preserved shell of coconut, was transported to Bernice from India. Archaeobotanical matter also contained remains of flowers that do not occur in this region. "Undoubtedly, they had to be imported and grown in pots or find they way to Berenice in the form of bulbs or seeds" - archaeologists speculate.

"Berenice on the Red Sea is an ancient port, entered by ships with the goods from India, Ceylon and South Arabia. The city was a refuge and a place of temporary residence for sailors, traders and people from the far corners of the world. It was the place where various languages and cultures were meeting."

When we see artifacts on display in museums, they have been generally selected for beauty in the displays. Most people probably realize that there are quite a few artifacts that are not well enough preserved for public displays. What you might not know is that once in a while pieces occur that have been damaged and repaired.

One such piece was recently studied at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada. It is a small bronze statuette of Isis in her standard pose, sitting down and originally holding a bronze representation of the god Horus as a young boy. The boy's statue is now completely gone, and the condition of the main statue suggested that it was time for some serious conservation work.

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948.34.41 Isis, before treatment, front and right side (photos: Susan Stock)

The article below written by Susan Stock and Franziska Schlicht, from the Royal Ontario Museum Conservation department, was published by the museum and is a very interesting view behind the scenes. The article ([snipurl.com/2448zwx](http://snipurl.com/2448zwx)) below should make quite fascinating reading:

“This Seated Isis, was brought to conservation in 1994 for examination and cleaning. It was clear that the head had been over-cleaned and the body was over-restored. The previous restoration had left the sculpture reclining, incorrectly, on a modern throne. Horus, as a young boy, would have sat across her lap, but he is missing.

“The first step was to remove all previous restoration to assess how much of the original existed and its condition. There were some spots of active corrosion, bronze disease, on the back of the head.

Much of the body required cleaning to remove surface repairs and filler; then, corrosion to reveal detail and shape. While removing corrosion from the body, the collar necklace and armlet were revealed. Although the head had been cleaned to the metal in most places, where there was corrosion, we found the patina underneath (chin) and fragments of the original gilding (uraei on bottom of headdress).

While removing old repairs, we saw that the bottom of her chest had been distorted; likely with the removal of the Horus child and also, that the metal on the left side of her legs was distorted. We believe this damage happened prior to burial.



Detail of upper torso after cleaning. Location of gilding



Detail of lifted chest area and extent of repairs (photo: S. Stock)

“Cleaning revealed a hard black dense corrosion product. Early x-ray diffraction study (Back, 1994) identified the product as tenorite, an unusual corrosion product on ancient buried bronzes. XRF (Dunnell, 2012) found copper, lead and iron in the mass. Extreme heat is required to form tenorite and it is possible that this piece was also exposed to fire.



Back of torso showing unusual black corrosion; patina; corrosion overburden (photo: F. Schlicht)

“Next steps, include further analysis to confirm composition of eyeliner and eyebrow inlays;

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as well as black corrosion on the back with a view to reconstructing the history of the object prior to burial.

“Reconstructing her past, a la CSI, I suspect that Isis was either found under a building which collapsed during a fire; or she was broken up for scrap and rescued from the melting pot.



Repairs removed prior to reconstruction ( photo: Franziska Schlicht)

Final repairs and re-touching will leave her in displayable condition. Stay tuned! She will be gorgeous!

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Have you ever heard the old story about water lilies grown from seed found in King Tut's tomb? Or perhaps the one about wheat seeds from the same tomb germinating and growing?

Or how about the famous Marysville garden pea, also supposedly grown from peas found in...guess where? Yup, King Tut's tomb. The CyberScribe is beginning to think that the tomb was actually the remains of a gardener's supply store selling seeds.

So what is the truth? Well, the truth is that all the stories are silly, because plant seeds have a relatively short life. If they were a few hundreds of years old it might be possible, but with these seeds, we are dealing with thousands of years of storage.

The most recent version of the story that the CyberScribe has seen was found in a source called the "Herald Net" ([tinyurl.com/7367780](http://tinyurl.com/7367780)). Read it and decide for yourself. Is this pea business true or, is it just another wild and silly tale? (Extensively condensed):



Lynn McKee's King Tut peas are growing nicely.



“As the story goes, King Tutankhamun's servants planted and harvested these peas, which then were secreted away in the pharaoh's tomb along with gold and silver to provide for the boy king in his afterlife.

“The King Tut peas have grown into a tall tale, debunked by experts, but kept alive as family tradition by Lynn McKee, 72, of Lake Stevens. The peas, like King Tut's legend, had been forgotten in the centuries between the pharaoh's death and the discovery of his tomb.





She keeps the seeds, along with a note and news article, tucked inside an old vase.



Lynn McKee and her King tut pea seeds.

“They were misplaced in the bottom of a clay pot and in the recess of memory until "Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs" opened in Seattle.

“The exhibit's publicity stirred McKee to search again for her father's pea seeds. She found them and a friend sowed the seeds. The friend was able to germinate several, now thriving plants.

“Although experts agree that the seeds likely originated in early 20th century English gardens, not in ancient Egypt, McKee and her friend hold onto the old story -- that McKee's father received seeds derived from some found in Tut's tomb.

“According to the legend, the seeds sat

undisturbed for nearly 5,000 years until Howard Carter found King Tut's tomb on Nov. 4, 1922. From there, the story says, Carter slipped some seeds out of Egypt back to England, where the plants germinated and propagated.

“The seeds were shared with .D. "Jarvin" Molstad in Calgary, Alberta. Molstad was McKee's father. An article explains how Carter found the seeds in a "hermetically sealed jar," and then delineates the chain of possession, from gardeners in England to Canada, from Carter to Molstad.

“The plants seemed to grow with an other-worldly vigor. Rising two inches or more a day, they outgrew Molstad's tall, 6-foot frame, McKee remembers. The purple flowers and peas never were sweet.

Bob Dawson, McKee's son, recalls visiting his grandfather and discussing and harvesting the King Tut peas. "They weren't very pleasant tasting, they were pretty bitter," Dawson said.

"It is sometimes said that Tutankhamen's Pea originated on the country souvenirs in the 19th and early 20th century, at the height of the Egyptian craze that captivated the West, including England.

“Despite all this, McKee and her friend are keeping a close eye on the quickly growing vines. Even if the seeds aren't from King Tut's tomb, they are growing after sitting in a jar for 40 years, which still is magical.

““They're damned old," McKee said.”

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And for a finishing bit. The CyberScribe is surprised at how few people are aware of the 'Mummy Equal Rights Protest' march! These poor old things have many reasons to be upset, and they have finally had enough. Gathering up all their complaints, hundreds of ancient Egyptian mummies carried protest signs and swarmed the streets from Death to Sinfai!

Here is a copy of the only illustrated version of the story that the CyberScribe could find. Read on and enjoy:



Mummies let on-lookers at Greeley's Square know exactly how they feel about Equal Rights.

## MUMMY EQUAL RIGHTS PROTEST IN GREELEY'S SQUARE

**Weona-** Hundreds of Ancient Aristocrats were gathered Tuesday in Greeley's Square to march for equal rights. The Mummies came from all four corners from Death to Sinfai baring flags and waving signs that demanded equal rights regardless of their history or dress. The protest was spurred on by the recent case of Danny Proctor vs. Liberty Shoes in which Mr. Proctor claims he was discriminated against and wasn't able to secure the job as shoe salesman due in most part to the fact of his Mummidium.

Mr. Proctor asserts that store manager, Croydon Waitley laughed when he saw him and then apologized for not having a latte on hand for the interview. And that he even tucked in one of his linens that had come loose and told Proctor that it would be impossible for a Mummy to sell shoes—but for him to try a doll shop.

Mr. Waitley, who was unavailable for comment did recently release a note to the press in which he states:

'In no way did I, intentionally or inadvertently, want to harm or in anyway offend Mr. Danny Proctor. I always offer interviewees or, friends for that matter that come into the store, coffees. And I was just righting the linen. I

have to admit I was mystified as I'd never had any Ancient Aristocrats apply for a position in my shop before.'

On Tuesday, many others had the chance of being mystified. Hundreds of Mummies filled Greeley's Square where they moaned, demanding not to be called 'rag dolls' and wanting the same opportunities as everyone else regardless of smell. In fact, the fresh Spring day mixed with their curious fragrances of ancient perfumes, incenses, herbs and onions was truly special.

'I still wouldn't buy shoes from them,' said Esther Currie, while not really knowing why.

The Professor of Ancient Aristocratic Studies at Carivell University, Nicodemus Hayden couldn't disagree more. 'The Mummies have been persecuted since the beginning. Preserved yet persecuted. Their bodies were ground up and used as medicine, fuel, artists paint! They were sold to the highest bidder for 'observation sessions' in which a group would remove their protective linens and watch cruelly on as they would disintegrate. Is there resentment here because they were once Aristocratic? Yes. Is it wrong, pointless and rude to call an Ancient Aristocrat a rag doll? Absolutely. Do they deserve

equal rights? Of course, it is every creature's right on this planet!'

Still, many tend to disagree and feel the Aristocrats are just out to get a free ride, collect disability.

'Too lazy to get a job. Too Aristocratic. I've seen the way they are with the Bog Bodies, too. Never seen such discriminators as them Aristocrats. Give 'em a chance and they'll be the first to discriminate,' said a passer by.

But Mummy Eliphalet Beam insists that Mummies want to work and be in society. 'Even if it is under our circumstances; not a lot of light, a special temperature and completely wrapped in clean linens. We will work. We want to integrate.'

And many Mummies have already done just that, quietly without protests.

'My grandson married a lovely Mummy and she always makes these wonderful little cakes. And she is so smart. And older than me too, which I find more than a little fun! And her children, the languages they can speak! I couldn't have asked for a better granddaughter-in-law!' said Pearlle Knotts who attended the rally together with her family.



And, something that must be true...because the CyberScribe found it on the Internet:

# 6-oz. boy is a medical miracle, doctors!



**A TOT NAMED TUT:** "The male infant was delivered by C-section at 7:02 a.m. on January 2," confirms Dr. Moammar Hassad, who led a team of obstetricians. "He is breathing on his own and we have every expectation that he will survive."

ered the one-of-a-kind mummy. "It proves that the medicine of ancient Egypt was far more advanced than was previously imagined. "At a time when much of humanity was living in caves, the Egyptians were able to preserve a woman in such a sublime state that her uterus could carry a child to term three millennia later."

It was last March that archaeologists recovered the strange female mummy from a newly discovered necropolis about 17 miles outside Cairo. Although the mummy was not pregnant at the time, CAT scans and other tests showed that her physiology was unlike any ever before encountered. "In general, the Egyptians removed all internal organs, even the brain, prior to mummification," reveals Dr. Said. "But in this case, all her vital organs were in place, including the heart, lungs, and what turned out to be most significant, reproductive organs such as the ovaries and fallopian tubes." A still-unknown liquid permeates every cell of the mummy's body and appears to be what keeps her in an extraordinary state of preservation. "Although we've never been able to detect a heartbeat, it was almost as if she were in a state of suspended animation," notes Dr. Said. Scientists weren't the only ones intrigued by the mysterious beauty. Janitor Dobi Sitar admits that last spring, as the mummy lay on display at the National Academy of Archaeology, he violated her — and impregnated her, as *Weekly World News* reported in our October 8, 2002

issue. Sitar, who's since been fired and arrested on criminal charges, claims he was unable to resist the mummy's charms. "It was as if her voice was calling out to me," he said in an interview. Remarkably, scientists now suspect the peculiar mummy, whose name remains unknown, may have been meant for impregnation by those who preserved her. "The woman was about 24 at the time of her mummification and appears to have been the favored concubine of a court magician," says Dr. Said. "Tomb hieroglyphics refer to her as the 'sacred vessel' — implying that she was intended to bear a special child at some time in the future. "Mr. Sitar may not be exaggerating when he claims some irresistible higher power drew him to the sarcophagus that day." Just four days after Tut's birth, the Egyptian government took possession of the miracle tot and he has been bundled off to an undisclosed location. The Egyptian government is refusing to discuss the case with foreign reporters. "Because of the circumstances of Tut's conception, some devout Muslims consider Tut an abomination and they want him destroyed," says Dr. Said. "The government has taken him to a place where he can be raised and educated in a protective environment. It will truly be fascinating to see what becomes of him in later years. "Who knows, perhaps he is here to fulfill some unique destiny."

**3,000-YEAR-OLD MUMMY TO BE A MOMMY!**  
SONOGRAMS REVEAL A FAINT HEARTBEAT OF UNBORN CHILD IN MUMMY'S WOMB, SAY DOCTORS

**JANITOR Dobi Sitar is in jail on criminal charges for violating the mummy.**

**NEWS of the bizarre events leading to the mummy's impregnation were reported in the October 8, 2002 issue of Weekly World News.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY KERSH

See you back here next month...

(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).