



CyberScribe August 2012, number 203

Good heavens, another month has passed and it's time for your new digital issue of the CyberScribe. The CyberScribe very much enjoys searching for these types of stories from Egypt. Sometimes they are breaking news, sometimes they are very much old information newly released, and of course sometimes they fall into the realm of hearsay and speculation. The CyberScribe hopes that you find some interest and some pleasure from reading the items he finds for you.

Remember, even though it would be great fun, the CyberScribe tries not to talk about things that are politically sensitive in Egypt. The Internet is alive with stories that generally turn out to be speculation, and even worse, incorrect.

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.

Well, let's see what the CyberScribe was able to excavate during the last thirty days.

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Speaking of excavations, one of the most honored names in Egyptology would have to be Flinders Petrie. Although many of his ideas have been modified by newer discoveries, and some of his ideas are now seen to be incorrect, there is no doubt that he, more than any other individual, began modern Egyptology.

The CyberScribe thinks that relatively few people today know that he abandoned Egyptology out of frustration with its bureaucracy, and moved to Palestine for his final years. It was there, seventy years ago, that he died and was buried in a modest cemetery on Mount Zion.

The item below (abbreviated for space reasons) documents an interesting episode where a group of people recently gathered to remember him.

Very curiously, Petrie only partially attended the ceremony. Read on from this item that appeared in the 'Times of Israel' ([tinyurl.com/cnzlze7](http://tinyurl.com/cnzlze7)) for an explanation of the previous sentence.



'More than a hundred people gathered in Jerusalem to remember Sir Flinders Petrie, one of the fathers of modern archaeology, in the lovely,

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little-known cemetery on Mt. Zion where most of him was buried 70 years ago this week.

‘A towering figure in the study of Egyptology and biblical history, the brilliant, driven and eccentric Briton is no longer a household name. But a memorial for Petrie organized by the Israel Antiquities Authority on Monday at the Protestant Cemetery, just outside the walled Old City, nonetheless drew a capacity crowd of local archaeologists, Bible scholars and aficionados of the ancient past.

‘Petrie’s modest grave — which houses all of his body except for his head — is marked simply with his name and an *ankh*, the Egyptian hieroglyph for “life.”

‘Petrie “established that every single find is important” and could be used to decode history, archaeologist Gabriel Barkay told those gathered at the cemetery.

“He looked at the layers of a site as if they were the pages of a fascinating history book,” he said. “There were none like him, and there have been none like him since.”

‘Petrie was gripped, like others of his time, by the history of ancient Egypt, and after first using his knowledge of surveying to carry out an accurate measurement of Stonehenge he set off by ship to measure the Great Pyramids. He arrived in Cairo in 1880, made his home in an empty tomb, and ended up spending much of the rest of his life exploring the lost civilization of the Pharaohs.

‘Neglect on the part of local authorities and the booming market in ancient Egyptian artifacts in the West, he found, were leading to the wholesale plundering and destruction of priceless antiquities.

‘While digging, he was known for extreme frugality. “His clothes confirmed his universal reputation for being not merely careless but deliberately slovenly and dirty,” one visitor noted in the early 1890s. “He was thoroughly unkempt, clad in ragged, dirty shirt and trousers, worn out sandals and no socks.... He served a table so excruciatingly bad that only persons of iron constitution could survive it.” In the stifling heat of the tombs at Giza, it was said, he became somewhat notorious for working completely naked.



Petrie with his famous ‘biscuit-tin camera’ at Tel al-Ajjul, Gaza, 1933. (photo credit: Courtesy of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London)

“Then came the last, and longed-for scene, for our months of toil had whetted our appetites — the unwrapping of Horuta,” Petrie wrote of one dig at a royal tomb. “Bit by bit the layers of pitch and cloth were loosened, and row after row of magnificent amulets were disclosed, just as they were laid on in the distant past. The gold ring on the finger which bore his name and titles, the exquisitely inlaid gold birds, the chased gold figures, the lazuli statuettes delicately wrought, the polished lazuli and beryl and carnelian amulets finely engraved, all the wealth of talismanic armory, rewarded our eyes with a sight which had never been surpassed to archaeological gaze.”

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‘Petrie was chiefly an Egyptologist, but also made several forays for digs at biblical sites in Turkish Palestine. Today, some of his ideas would raise eyebrows. In 1917, for example, when the British captured Palestine from the Turks, he suggested that the entire population of Jerusalem’s Old City be transferred some distance away to enable an excavation.



Excavating at Memphis, Egypt. In the layers of an ancient site Petrie saw ‘the pages of a fascinating history book’ (Courtesy of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London)

‘Petrie was also an acquaintance of Francis Galton, the genetic and racial theorist who coined the term “eugenics,” sending him skulls and skeletons for his research. Petrie once wrote that the government should control the birthrate, that the “best stocks” of humans should be given incentives to breed and that the reproduction of the lower classes should be restricted.

‘He left Britain for the last time in 1934 and eventually moved to Jerusalem. Now an old man, his furious pace began to slow, and when he was hospitalized in 1940 with malaria he contemplated the end of his life.

‘Petrie had willed his head — “as a specimen of a typical British skull,” according to his biographer — to the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and when he died on July 29, 1942, the doctors in Jerusalem duly cut it off and prepared it for shipping. But the world war, then at its height, made that impossible, and Petrie’s cranium, with its stern brow, long beard and swept-back hair,

remained in a jar in Jerusalem for some time before finally making its way back to Britain.

‘At the college, which had just been bombed by the Nazis, no one seems to have paid the head much attention. The jar’s label eventually fell off and its contents were forgotten.

‘In 1989, archaeologist Shimon Gibson went to the college armed with photos that he hoped would help him identify Petrie’s head, Gibson told the crowd at this week’s memorial. An assistant took a bearded head out of a jar, Gibson said. A telltale scar on the right temple confirmed that it was the archaeologist.

‘The assistant opened Petrie’s eyes, Gibson recalled. They were blue.

“‘Though I was born only 16 years after his death, I like to say that I met Flinders Petrie,” Gibson said.’

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The CyberScribe has been fortunate enough to become friends with quite a few Egyptologists. One of those is Nigel Strudwick, an old friend, and he has been generous enough to give this column a publishing exclusive.

A few years ago, Nigel was approached by some filmmakers who were engaged in a project in Egypt. He said he was only somewhat interested in their project until he found out that they had been given access to the famous Deir el-Bahari tomb, which had once contained a large number of new kingdom royal mummies. Discovered by local natives, the mummies were being stripped of their ornaments, but the local police managed to catch them, and forced them to disclose the location of the tomb. Of course the tomb is completely empty at this time, but very few people have ever been given access to this extraordinary place, the entrance of which is hidden among the fractured surface blocks in the cliff just south of Hatshepsut and Montuhotep’s mortuary temples.

Nigel has generously allowed the CyberScribe permission to publish a number of his photographs taken in and around this famous tomb.



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In addition, the CyberScribe asked him to write a short bit to accompany the pictures. Read on, and enjoy!

### ‘The Royal Cache

‘There aren’t many things I can remember about the early years I got interested in Egyptology. There’s even debate in my mind as to which book started it off (one of Barbara Mertz’s). But I can remember one day coming across the story of the royal mummies, and then putting in a request for Smith’s *The Royal Mummies* to my local public library in Epping and, much to my astonishment, getting it a few weeks later. I was totally absorbed in it. One of the many highlights of my second trip to Egypt (1977) was seeing the mummies in the museum before Sadat had them taken off display. Looking on the faces of these people about whom one read and wrote was astonishing. Ever since then I had always wanted to see where they came from—the tomb of Amenhotep II was pretty easy, but although we had been shown the site of the cache, it hadn’t been opened for years. I was tempted to go when it was being excavated by the Russian-German mission in the 1990s, but never did.

‘In 2010, a Canadian TV company approached me about their series ‘*Museum Secrets*’, one program of which was to cover the Cairo Museum. They wanted me to talk about the coffin of Ramesses II, but the real carrot they dangled was that they were going to get the cache opened to show whence the coffin came.

‘Well, it all came to pass in mid June 2010. After a reconnaissance, we went up there one morning. Workmen were assembled, and with suitable roping to look dramatic, down the ladder we went (it was about the same depth as TT99, but a fixed and not a rope ladder!). The brick doorway was broken down, and there I was in a place about which I had read so much, seen excavation reports, and watched the account in Shadi Abdel Salam’s *Al-Mumiya* (AKA *Night of the Counting of Years*).

‘Here would have been the royal mummies, added late in the tomb’s history; there would have been Ramesses, Seti I, Thutmose III and so on. I was in the site of one of the great discoveries of Ancient Egypt—I felt a level of excitement I have really never felt anywhere else since my original trips to Egypt. This is what keeps you going as an Egyptologist. Here was history, the bodies of the pharaohs, the story of the dramatic robberies, almost certainly state-sanctioned, at the end of the New Kingdom, and I could just imagine the priests and their workmen roughly handing these coffins of the greatest figures of Egyptian history in their hurry to get them to their final repose. I could imagine Brugsch and company’s absolute astonishment at what they found—very well mapped into the emotions of Ahmed Kamal in *Al-Mumiya*.

‘We were actually underground for the best part of four hours, because of the requirements of the director and camera crew. I don’t know how many times I redid scenes for whatever reason, but I had the chance to wander about between takes and get familiar with the place. I was struck by how fragile the rock was, as I had been told by the excavator Erhart Graefe, and indeed there was at least one place where some stone had come out of the ceiling.

‘I could imagine where the original 21st dynasty burials of the Panedjem family were, from which had been taken various small items which ended up in places like the British Museum, whence everyone knew that something had been found, but they had no idea what.

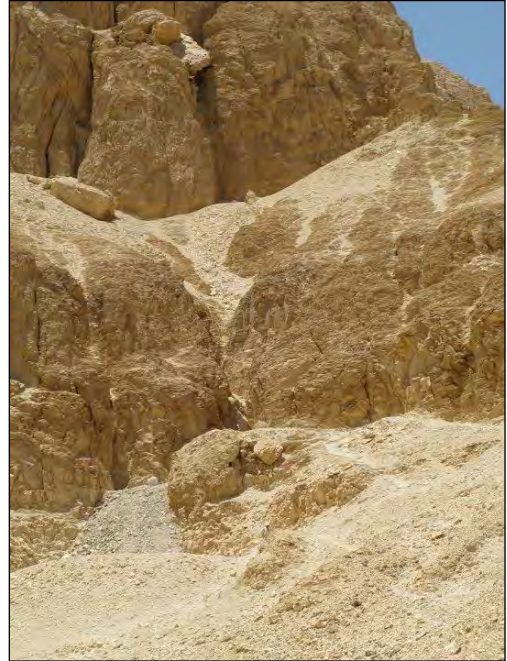
‘The atmosphere underground was remarkably comfortable, which cannot be said for above ground, where our Egyptian colleagues were standing around waiting for us in temperatures which must have been nudging 50C (122 F). In the end the inspectors understandably lost patience and called the operation to a close.

‘What a fantastic day! It was everything I expected and more. I felt very honored and

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privileged to have been on this sacred ground, and I'll always remember it.'

And here are the photos!



**Tomb Site**

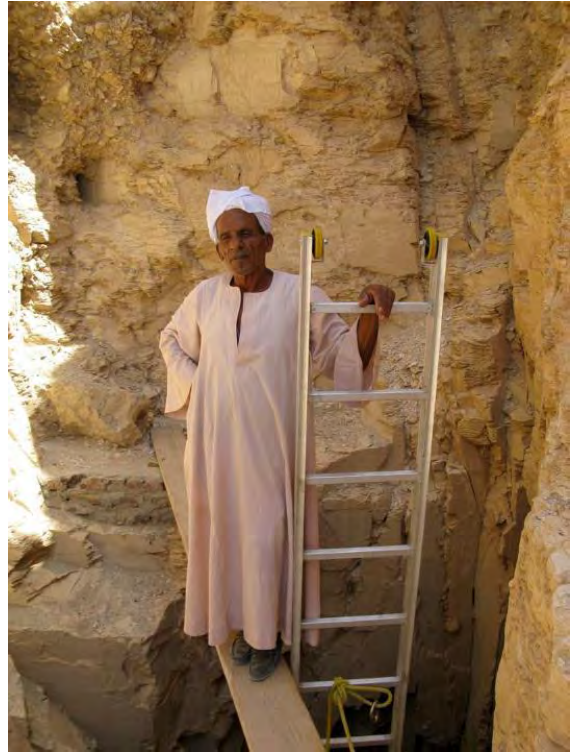


**Hatshepsut and Montuhotep's funerary temples seen from the cache site**





Entrance to the shaft that leads to the cache tomb



Shaft and ladders leading to the tomb







Film crew preparing to descend



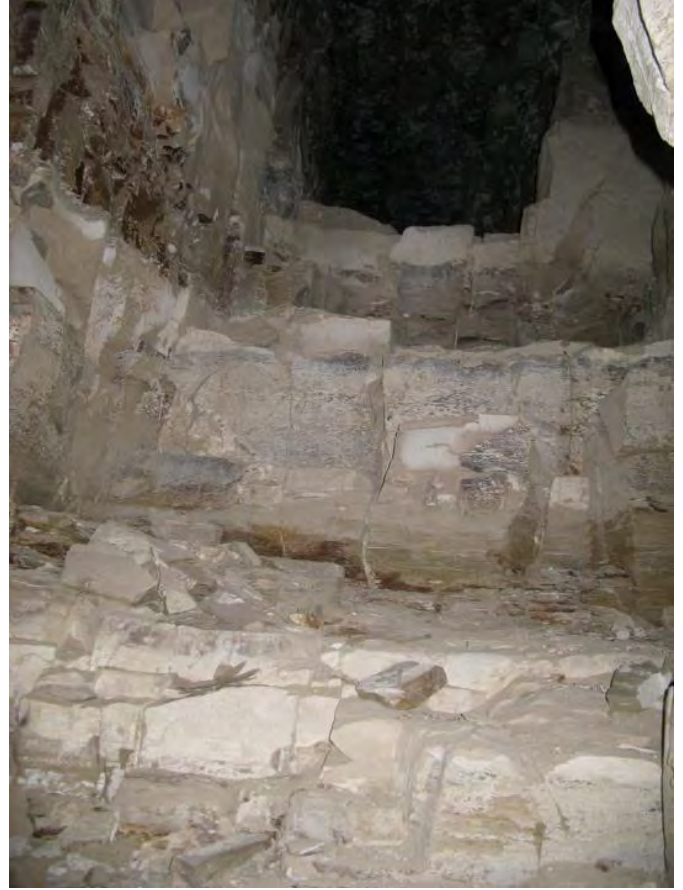
Bricks blocking the tomb entrance







Tunnel leading away from the entrance



Stairway leading into the interior chambers



Tunnel leading to the man chamber





Main chamber



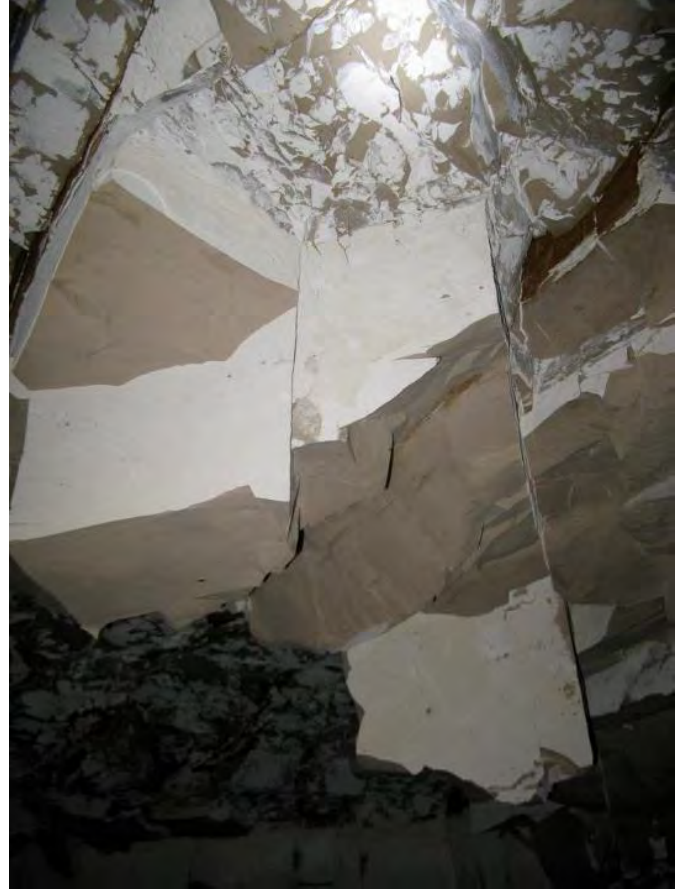
Main chamber



Visiting bear in main chamber



Tunnel



Dangerous ceilings



Dangerous rock in the ceiling



Ladder leading back to the surface





Nigel Strudwick and Inspector Abdel Rahman

Our great thanks to Nigel Strudwick!

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Those of you who watch the news out of Egypt may be aware that there is a movement to merge the newly created Ministry of Antiquities with the Ministry of Culture, and in addition to remove the Minister of Antiquities from the Cabinet. Gaining an independent ministry position and a cabinet chair was one of the most important things Zahi Hawass initiated before the fall of the Mubarak government.

The reason for the independent ministry was to allow monies gained from tourism to be channeled into preserving and protecting the ancient sites. Under the old system, only a fraction of the money was ever available. This brief article which appeared in Al Ahram Daily ([tinyurl.com/c7ecjgy](http://tinyurl.com/c7ecjgy)) discusses this important problem.

‘Egyptian archaeologists have sent a petition to President Mohamed Morsi and Prime Minister Hisham Qandil asking them to not to merge the antiquities ministry with the culture ministry, and to maintain its cabinet status.

‘According to a press release, which the Ahram Online has a copy of it, the archaeologists' syndicate said: "For 30 years we lived under a corrupt system that was hostile to our cultural

heritage... It kept it under the control of outsiders who sold it cheaply.

‘We must keep the ministry independent in order to prevent its resources being consumed by other ministries which they will spend on everything except preserving and protecting Egypt's heritage, which has been suffering from neglect for decades.

‘The revolution took place and a new separate and independent antiquities ministry was created in the cabinet. This decision was welcomed by all archaeologists, curators and restorers who work in the field.

‘It does not make sense to retreat to a status that we were forced into by the old regime.

‘Our cultural and archaeological heritage must be protected and it deserves to be singled out for a separate and independent ministry that looks after its affairs.’

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As luck would have it, just as this CyberScribe column was being completed, a more recent article appeared in Al Ahram Online ([snipurl.com/24lpnjp](http://snipurl.com/24lpnjp)) and certainly brings good news with it. It now seems that the ministry of antiquities has been given its independence from the other ministries, and the new minister has made a number of important promises. Read on:

‘After taking the oath of office in front of President Mohamed Morsi, Minister of State for Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim, who is retaining his seat from former prime minister Ganzouri's cabinet, told Ahram Online that he will continue his efforts to preserve Egypt's archaeological heritage, as well as opening up more sites to increase tourism.

“A new strategy will be drawn up, to find other monetary resources besides the usual ones, in order to increase the ministry's income, which are

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currently dependent on tourism levels,” Ibrahim said.



**New minister of Antiquities, Mohamed Ibrahim**

‘The strategy will aim to increase the ministry’s resources, so that it will be on target to complete ongoing construction and restoration works at the scheduled time. These projects include the construction of the Grand Egyptian Museum overlooking Giza Plateau, which is due to be completed in 2015, and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Fustat in Old Cairo, due for completion in 2013.

‘Ibrahim also promised to cooperate with all the concerned ministries such as the ministries of tourism, foreign affairs, international cooperation, religious endowments and culture in an attempt to support tourism and promote Egypt’s cultural and archaeological heritage around the world. The minister told Ahram Online that he also plans to promote the establishment of archaeological exhibitions abroad, to generate more money for the ministry.

‘Ibrahim asserted that he will continue to work on returning Egypt’s stolen and illegally smuggled antiquities, as well as to tighten security at all archaeological sites, monuments and museums.

‘He will also continue the process of adjusting the status of the ministry’s temporary

contract staff to give them permanent positions, according to the schedule previously created.’

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Following close on the heels of the previous article was this one giving Zahi Hawass a chance to speak out and a chance to give his spin on current events, and the impact on archaeology of both the revolution and the current government.

Hawass remains a popular figure, and over the last couple of months the CyberScribe has frequently been asked “... what's happening with Zahi Hawass these days...” The article below will give the interested reader part of that answer.

The article was published in the Huffington Post ([tinyurl.com/9mvnkeq](http://tinyurl.com/9mvnkeq)) (abbreviated somewhat for reasons of space). As we all know, Zahi Hawass is not a shy man, and he jumps into this Egyptian mess with both feet. He always tells you where he stands, and it is very clear that he is preparing what he hopes to be the pathway leading back to his old position as Minister of Antiquities. Will he succeed? Never count Zahi out. Be sure and read the last sentence in this article.

‘Zahi Hawass’ ego hasn’t suffered since protesters forced him out of his influential post as Egypt’s antiquities steward 18 months ago, shortly after Hosni Mubarak was toppled from the country’s presidency.

“I am Egyptian antiquities,” he says.

‘That confidence served him well when he controlled the pharaohs’ treasures on Mubarak’s behalf, steering Egypt’s economically critical Supreme Council of Antiquities and the billions it helped reap annually, primarily from tourism and international exhibitions. The man who calls himself Egypt’s Indiana Jones has fewer friends these days, now that revolution and a corruption scandal have forced him from office. Protesters who picketed Hawass and his Indy-esque fedora in



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Tahrir Square shouted that he should “take it with him and go.”

‘He may yet be vindicated, however, if Morsi’s new government finds it can’t replace his golden touch. The stability of the fledgling democracy may even depend on it.

‘Hawass’ aggressive promotion often came on the heels of tragedy, in what appeared to be a deft strumming of public sentiment toward his homeland. In his absence, it remains unclear whether Egypt can make such economically crucial overtures to foreign tourists and whether the billions — and the goodwill — Hawass once brought in can ever come back without him.

‘For years, tourism had been the country’s largest economic sector. Still, by the first month of last year, as protests consumed Cairo, it had become clear that tourism alone would not be enough to keep the economy healthy. As the protests spread, the economy sank. The Tourism Ministry announced that revenue dropped by a third to \$8.8 billion in 2011, but industry observers say the damage has been much worse. In addition to months of violence and instability, Tourism Ministry officials believe a rise in anti-western political posturing and extremist Islamic attitudes has contributed to leering among would-be visitors.

Some 14.5 million visitors arrived in Egypt in 2010, many to tour the country’s historical sites. The billions they spent were vital to shoring up the country’s foreign reserves, which helped provide for such basic needs as wheat imports. In essence, Hawass was putting bread on the table. Of course, that also involved painting a picture of Egypt that was tourist-friendly and glossed over some of the country’s brutal realities. Hawass’ Egypt was the pyramids and the pharaohs, not social, political and economic inequities on the streets of Cairo.

He also was never focused only on branding Egypt — he was busy branding himself as well. He mandated that the King Tut exhibition sell copies of

his fedora and planned to launch an eponymous clothing line marketing shirts that his catalogue claimed, “Recall the rugged experience of excavating the ancient tombs in Egypt.”

‘If Hawass makes a comeback, it will be a tribute to his charismatic tenacity and to the willingness of the new government to compromise democratic ideals in order to secure the country’s economy. Hawass’s weakness may be that he is a remnant of the old regime, but, in some ways, this is also his strength. He is an accomplished autocrat with little interest in public opinion and a demonstrated passion for showmanship. While his return would be politically unpopular, it might prove to be economically expedient.

“Where is Zahi Hawass?” came close to becoming a Twitter meme before he resurfaced from his home in Giza the next afternoon. Hawass was so synonymous with the museum and so possessive of its image that his absence from the spotlight — if not the building itself — during a harrowing moment in the institution’s history marked a complete deviation from the blustering norm.

“The Egyptian people are calling for freedom, not destruction,” wrote Hawass “When I left the museum on Saturday [January, 29], I was met outside by many Egyptians, who asked if the museum was safe and what they could do to help. The people were happy to see an Egyptian official leave his home and come to Tahrir Square without fear; they loved that I came to the museum.”

‘According to Shalaby, this sudden populism struck a false note. “Hawass had never hidden his dislike for Egyptians and found them unworthy of their own heritage,” says Shalaby.

‘The incident seemed to highlight one of Hawass’s weaknesses — the fuzzy distinction between his personal and professional business relationships, giving his enemies within the museum, government and on the streets ammunition to mount the assault that would eventually result in his removal from government.

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“All the devils came for me,” says Hawass. “The accusations brought against me were just the talk of people who had hated me for years.”

‘By late February, a group of about 150 young Egyptian archeologists were opposing Hawass, publicly demanding opportunities in a field they claimed the toppled regime had ceded to foreigners. Hawass resigned on March 5, saying he was no longer capable of creating jobs and protecting sites from looters and attackers.

‘Hawass’ resignation didn’t last long. The interim government persuaded him to take up the newly created post of Antiquities Minister. This is when, as Hawass describes it, “The thieves I stopped before the revolution targeted me.” Not long after he assumed his new post, Atiya filed suit against him again, this time citing a law under which civil servants who failed to implement court rulings must be fired and jailed. ‘Though a court decree allowed him to maintain his position and avoid imprisonment, Hawass lost the case and, with it, his bid to dissociate himself from Mubarak’s cabal of profiteers. He had been found guilty of corruption.

‘In the immediate aftermath of the Cairo riots, hundreds of thousands of tourists had rushed out of Egypt. They hadn’t come back. The New York Times reported in late February that the occupancy rates in Luxor dropped as low as 4 percent, down from an average of 61 percent, even as popular beach resort Sharm el Sheik’s rate dropped to eight from 70 percent.

‘Democracy brought Islamic organizations previously known for the violence that led to a tourist exodus in the late 1990s back into everyday life. The Building and Development Party, which won 13 seats in the 2011 lower parliament election as part of a coalition of conservative Salafist groups, is the political wing of the El Gama’s El Islamiyya movement. In 1997, it claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack on foreigners visiting Hatshepsut’s temple in Luxor that claimed the lives of 48 tourists.

The tourist drought is just as evident outside Egypt’s urban core. Tribesmen and Bedouins have taken to squatting in the half-built resort complexes off the Halaieb We Shalafein highway, which runs down the Red Sea coast. Inside the all-inclusives that have remained open, Russian women in string bikinis and British couples have their pick of poolside lounge chairs. A creeping stillness is the only sign of revolution.

‘There’s a genius to Hawass’s costuming. By never stepping out of character, he has avoided stepping into the muck of regional politics. Despite being unceremoniously fired, Hawass has emerged from the revolution with less baggage than those who have seized power.

‘Morsi and the Supreme Council Of The Armed Forces, which ran Egypt’s interim government, dissolved parliament and recently abridged the list of executive powers, are both heavily scarred from battle. Neither receives positive coverage in the foreign press, Morsi because of the Muslim Brotherhood’s links to extremists and the SCAF because it is hardly outward looking (it recently released an ad advising Egyptians not to talk to foreigners because they might be spies).

‘Though many Egyptologists are reluctant to go on the record — access being necessary to their continued work — many complain privately that the sites around Egypt are now being mismanaged.

‘Whether or not its new democratic rulers call Hawass out of the bullpen will tell the world a great deal about the new Egypt. The regime will have to decide whether economic expediency warrants compromising the egalitarian ideals of Tahrir or if the ideals of the revolution trumps all. Zahi Hawass — excavator, salesman, Mubarak acolyte, disgrace — is unswayed and still confident of his place in this new order.

“The magic of antiquities in Egypt will never fade,” he says. “Because I am clean and honest, I will return.”



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In order to get those tourist dollars back, antiquities officials are adding new bait. They are busy opening new tombs, pyramids never open before, and reopening important sites that have been closed for years.

A recent article published in the Washington Post newspaper ([tinyurl.com/9zksonn](http://tinyurl.com/9zksonn)) (slightly condensed) is very hopeful that these new attractions will help jumpstart the tourism industry. There are even suggestions that two of the galleries inside the step pyramid at Saqqara will be available to tourists for the first time ever. ‘More than 4,500 years since the paint was first applied, the reds, yellows and blues still stand out on the walls of the tomb of Queen Meresankh III. Decorating the walls all around are paintings, reliefs and statues of Meresankh, draped in a leopard-skin cloak, standing beside her mother in a boat, pulling papyrus stems

through the water or being entertained by musicians and singers.

The tomb of Meresankh, whose name means lover of life, will be opened to the public for the first time in nearly 25 years later this year, while five other tombs of high priests — buried under the desert sands for decades — will be thrown open.

“We want to give people a reason to come back, to give them something new,” said Ali Asfar, director general of archaeology on the Giza plateau.

‘Meresankh was a woman whose life was intimately bound up in the pharaoh’s incestuous rule. Her tomb lies a stone’s throw east of the Great Pyramid of her grandfather Khufu. Her parents were brother and sister, and she married another of Khufu’s children — her uncle, Khafre who built the



Paintings and statues of Queen Meresankh III and members of her family inside her tomb at Giza in Egypt.

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second-largest pyramid here. But Meresankh died suddenly, before her mother, who gave her own burial chamber for her daughter's use.

‘American archaeologist George Reisner wrote of his delight at the discovery in 1927 as his team poked their heads through a gap at the top of the sand-filled doorway.

“Our eyes were first startled by the vivid colors of the reliefs and inscriptions around the northern part of this large chamber. None of us had ever seen anything like it,” he wrote in the magazine of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

‘On the other side of the Great Pyramid, the western cemetery houses the tombs of high priests, such as Kaemankh, the royal treasurer and keeper of the king's secrets. Mohie El Din said that climbing the ladder into Kaemankh's burial chamber was “one of my favorite adventures.”

‘It is not hard to see why. On the walls, more vivid and colorful paintings show fishing on the Nile, a cow being slaughtered and another

giving birth. In the cramped space around the sarcophagus, Mohie El Din shines his torch on an “ancient party” with dancers and musicians playing harp and flute. Just above, carpenters make a bed and a chair.

‘To the south of Cairo, authorities are also planning to reopen the famous Serapium at Sakkara, a massive underground temple where sacred bulls were buried in the huge granite and basalt sarcophagi — each weighing 60 to 100 tons — that sit in chambers flanking the long galleries.’

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A news source called 'Heritage Daily' ([tinyurl.com/8z9ruyk](http://tinyurl.com/8z9ruyk)) has given us still another example of how modern technology is being applied to the study of ancient Egyptian sites. An investigator using the commonly available Internet source: Google Earth has been successful in locating a number previously unknown sites, including several that appeared to be pyramid fields. Some of these sites have now been visited by Egyptologists and confirmed.



‘Two unidentified, possible pyramid complexes have been located with satellite imagery from Google Earth.



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The article shows several rather convincing photographs, and even gives you a website where you can go try your hand seeing Egyptian structures on the board. Who knows, perhaps you, too, will discover some exciting new Egyptian structure. Although it has not yet been tested, even the CyberScribe has probably located a previously unknown temple in Egypt using Google Earth, a rectangular structure with an enclosed forecourt and three chapels surrounded by a narrow walkway.

‘One of the complex sites contains a distinct, four-sided, truncated, pyramidal shape that is approximately 140 feet in width. This site contains three smaller mounds in a very clear formation, similar to the diagonal alignment of the Giza Plateau pyramids.

The second possible site contains four mounds with a larger, triangular-shaped plateau. The two larger mounds at this site are approximately 250 feet in width, with two smaller mounds approximately 100 feet in width. This site complex is arranged in a very clear formation with the large plateau, or butte, nearby in a triangular with a width of approximately 600 feet.

‘The sites have been documented and discovered by satellite archaeology researcher Angela Micol of Maiden, North Carolina. Angela has been conducting satellite archaeology research for over ten years, searching for ancient sites from space using Google Earth. Google Earth has allowed her to document many possible archaeological sites, including a potential underwater city off the coast of the Yucatan peninsula that has sparked the interest of scientists, researchers and archaeologists. ‘The sites have been verified as undiscovered by Egyptologist and pyramid expert Nabil Selim. Nabil’s discoveries include the pyramid called Sinki at Abydos and the Dry Moat surrounding the Step pyramid Complex at Saqqara. Nabil has stated the smaller 100 foot “mounds”, at one of the proposed complex sites, are a similar size as the 13th Dynasty Egyptian pyramids, if a square base can be discovered.



**Proposed Pyramid Location**

‘This is just one site of many Angela has identified that may contain ancient ruins. “My dream is to work with archaeologists to release sites that I have identified over the past ten years of research. This research is the frontier of discovery and it’s just beginning to advance views of our ancient past”, states Angela.

‘Many of the documented areas will remain undisclosed until proper officials are notified and the sites can be protected. A select, small portion of the sites can be viewed online with Google Earth by visiting Angela’s “anomaly collection” at <http://www.googleearthanomalies.com/>‘

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Ancient boats are of course known from Egypt, but they are rarely discovered. Recently a previously unknown wooden boat was discovered at Abu Rawash, where it had been buried for King Den in the first Dynasty. The article below appeared in 'Al Ahram Daily' ([tinyurl.com/d53sectn](http://tinyurl.com/d53sectn) )

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and was accompanied by color photographs. This boat is much less complete than the more famous one belonging to Khufu and currently on display beside the great pyramid at Giza. Read on and enjoy:

‘During routine excavation works at the Archaic period cemetery located at Abu Rawash area northeast of the Giza Plateau, a French archaeological mission from the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Cairo (IFAO) stumbled on what is believed to be a funerary boat of the First Dynasty King Den (dating from around 3000BC).

‘The funerary boat was buried with royalty, as ancient Egyptians believed it would transfer the king's soul to the afterlife for eternity.



‘Unearthed in the northern area of Mastaba number six at the archaeological site, boat consists of 11 large wooden planks reaching six meters long and 1.50 meters wide, Minister of State for Antiquities Mohamed Ibrahim said in a press release sent to Ahram Online on Wednesday.

‘The wooden sheets were transported to the planned National Museum of Egyptian Civilization for restoration and are expected to be put on display at the Nile hall when the museum is finished and opens its doors to the public next year.’

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"Pssst, hey, buddy... How would you like to have a bunch of ancient Egyptian artifacts? They won't cost you a penny. I'll give them to you for free!"



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What would your response be to an offer like that? Well, if you were one of any number of major museums, you very likely would say 'No!'.

But, you say, museums are supposed to gather in things and put them in displays. The museum will respond by telling you that the problems of unprovenanced artifacts far outweigh any good they could bring to the museum. The laws governing such collections are tough today and are getting tougher. Museums everywhere are being forced to give back, or repatriate, artworks, and sometimes they must pay large amounts of money for legal fees. In the worst-case, if they knew the items were outside the law when they were accepted by the museum, the people involved could even be sent to prison!

This article from the "New York Times" ([tinyurl.com/cfg27m7](http://tinyurl.com/cfg27m7)) (abbreviated somewhat for space reasons) gives a very good overview of the kinds of problems facing museums everywhere in the world when they decide to accept or buy new items and collections. Read on and enjoy:

‘In the three decades since David Dewey of Minneapolis began collecting Chinese antiquities he has donated dozens to favored museums, enriching the Institute of Arts in his hometown as well as Middlebury College in Vermont, where he studied Mandarin.

‘But his giving days are largely over, he said, pre-empted by guidelines that most museums now follow on what objects they can accept.

“‘They just won’t take them — can’t take them,” Mr. Dewey said.

‘Alan M. Dershowitz, the Harvard law professor, is in a similar bind. An antiquities collector, he is eager to sell an Egyptian sarcophagus he bought from Sotheby’s in the early 1990s. But he is stymied, he said, because auction houses are applying tighter policies to the items they accept for consignment.

“‘I can’t get proof of when it came out of Egypt,” Mr. Dershowitz said.

‘Museums typically no longer want artifacts that do not have a documented history stretching back past 1970, a date set by the Association of Art Museum Directors, whose guidelines most institutions have adopted. Drawn up in 2008, the rules have been applauded by countries seeking to recover their artifacts and by archaeologists looking to study objects in their natural settings.



David Dewey bought these Yuan dynasty artifacts from a dealer 15 years ago, but many museums now seek a more extensive provenance for gifts.

‘But the sweeping shift in attitudes has left collectors stuck with items they say they purchased in good faith many years ago from reputable dealers. One study found that as many as 100,000 privately owned ancient Greek, Roman and related

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Classical objects in the United States would be unable to pass muster with most museums.

“Objects are guilty until proven innocent,” said James J. Lally, a Manhattan dealer in Chinese art and antiquities.

“Antiquities collecting destroys far more than it saves,” said Ricardo J. Elia, an archaeology professor at Boston University who specializes in the global art market. “Looting is driven by the art market, by supply and demand.”

‘Collectors and their advocates insist the depiction is unfair, particularly when it recasts acquisitions made decades ago, when cultural sensibilities were different, as the illicit booty of indifferent rascals.

‘Archaeologists scoff at the suggestion of naïveté, since collectors are typically educated, wealthy people who understand the relationship between provenance and value and are not likely to let important documents fall behind the couch.

“Collectors know that without provenance it is impossible to know whether an object was first acquired by illegal or destructive means,” said Neil J. Brodie, an archaeologist and former director of the Illicit Antiquities Research Centre at the University of Cambridge.

‘Several years ago the Cultural Policy Research Institute, based in Santa Fe, N.M., surveyed American collectors and museums and estimated that as many as 111,900 ancient objects from Greek, Roman, Etruscan and related cultures are in private American hands and “unprovenanced.”

‘Arthur A. Houghton III, president of the institute, said that if rejected by museums, these “orphaned” items will likely end up in private hands outside the country. Mr. Houghton is a former acting curator of the Getty who resigned his post there in 1986 after accusing the museum of willfully accepting illegally excavated antiquities.

‘What is clear is that collectors are uneasy. They worry that placing undocumented items for auction exposes them to litigation from foreign nations or perhaps a seizure effort from United States authorities acting as their agent. One former museum director suggested that when a museum declines a gift, it can strain relations with a longstanding benefactor. Marc F. Wilson, who oversaw the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., from 1982 to 2010, said museums must be more careful but ought not leave benefactors feeling, in effect: “You can’t take my items? So you can’t take my \$30 million either?”

‘Mr. Houghton suggests creating an amnesty of sorts for collectors who post facts and photos about potentially contested artifacts on a “credible and neutral” database. If the item is not claimed after some number of years, he said, its ownership could no longer be contested.

‘Alan M. Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor, is in a similar bind. An antiquities collector, he is eager to sell an Egyptian sarcophagus he bought from Sotheby’s in the early 1990s. But he is stymied, he said, because auction houses are applying tighter policies to the items they accept for consignment.

‘Mr. Dershowitz said that while he is disappointed, he is not distraught about his inability to sell the wooden Egyptian sarcophagus he purchased from Sotheby’s. He had sent it to Christie’s several months ago for auction, but Christie’s demurred.

“They told me it was perfectly legal to keep or sell it,” he said, “but it was not their policy to sell it unless it was absolutely documented that it left Egypt before 1970,” something he and both auction houses are unable to establish. So for now it’s in limbo.

‘Meanwhile, he said, he had another Egyptian sarcophagus at home in Cambridge, this one of granite, that he bought for about \$35,000



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from Christie's about the same time. He isn't even trying to sell that one. "I'm keeping that in the house," he said, "in the hall."

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Hopefully his readers noted that the CyberScribe stated in his introduction that he would steer away from items of a political nature, but two very strange things appeared recently that need to be discussed, if only to show why CyberScribe has this policy.

The first item was published as a religious edict that claims to want to reestablish the custom of buying female sex slaves openly in slave markets within Egypt. The second item was supposedly initiated by another Islamic cleric claimed that the Koran requires Egypt and tear down and destroy the pyramids.

Both of these articles about a large amount of press for a couple of days before more rational sources could point out that both of these proposals were nonsense.

These outrageous statements by shadowy figures seem to be partially aimed at frightening people were concerned by the outcome of the recent Egyptian elections, where those elected overwhelmingly within the Islamist groups. Although these Islamist groups have promised to be moderate and sensible regarding the ancient heritage of Egypt, alarmists are trying to use destroys to frighten people.

The first of these stories, the one involving the supposed sex slave trade was written by Raymond Ibrahim, and published in 'FrontPage Magazine.com' ([tinyurl.com/64gvosh](http://tinyurl.com/64gvosh) ), operator of a site called 'Pundacity, informed opinion and review'. A visit to 'Pundacity' will reveal that Mr. Ibrahim appears to be a few camels short of a herd. Abbreviated slightly, this article reads:

'Last week witnessed popular Muslim preacher Abu Ishaq al-Huwaini boast about how

Islam allows Muslims to buy and sell conquered infidel women, so that "When I want a sex-slave, I go to the market and pick whichever female I desire and buy her."

'This week's depraved anachronism comes from a Muslim woman—Salwa al-Mutairi, a political activist and former parliamentary candidate for Kuwait's government, no less: She, too, seeks to "revive the institution of sex-slavery."

'Muslim men who fear being seduced or tempted into immoral behavior by the beauty of their female servants, or even of those servants "casting spells" on them, would be better to purchase women from an "enslaved maid" agency for sexual purposes. She [Mutairi] suggested that special offices could be set up to provide concubines in the same way as domestic staff recruitment agencies currently provide housemaids.

"We want our youth to be protected from adultery," said al-Mutairi, suggesting that these maids could be brought as prisoners of war in war-stricken nations like Chechnya to be sold on later to devout merchants.

'The Arabic news website, Al Arabiya, has the sordid details, including a video of Mutairi addressing this topic. I summarize and translate various excerpts below (note: I am *not* making any of this up):

The Kuwaiti female activist begins by insisting that "it's of course true" that "the prophet of Islam legitimized sex-slavery." She recounts how when she was in Mecca, Islam's holiest city, she asked various sheikhs and muftis (learned, authoritative Muslims) about the legality of sex-slavery according to Sharia: they all confirmed it to be perfectly legal. Kuwaiti Ulema further pointed out that extra "virile" men—Western synonyms include "sex-crazed," "lecherous," "perverted"—would do well to purchase sex-slaves to sate their appetites without sinning.



**Mutairi: "In the Chechnyan war, surely there are female Russian captives. So go and buy those and sell them here in Kuwait; better that than have our men engage in forbidden sexual relations."**

‘A Muslim state must [first] attack a Christian state—sorry, I mean any non-Muslim state—and they [the women, the future sex-slaves] must be captives of the raid. She went on to offer concrete suggestions: "For example, in the Chechnyan war, surely there are female Russian captives. So go and buy those and sell them here in Kuwait; better that than have our men engage in forbidden sexual relations. I don't see any problem in this, no problem at all." Mutairi suggests the enslaved girls be at least 15 years-old.’

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The same Internet site, 'Pundacity' ([tinyurl.com/9jt7m3g](http://tinyurl.com/9jt7m3g)), also posted another article, this time with half a grain of truth, presenting demands from supposedly Islamic scholars to have the pyramids torn down and destroyed.

While non-Islamic news sources ignored the sex slave article, quite a few chimed in on the pyramid story, including the New York Times ([tinyurl.com/bnghejt](http://tinyurl.com/bnghejt)). These later articles were in agreement that the pyramid story was a fraud.

Some of you may recall that the Egyptian leader, Mohammed Ali, ordered the great pyramid torn down to provide stone for construction of a barrage, or low dam, across the Nile. This story was true, and the pyramids were saved because his French engineer, aghast at the proposal, presented false mathematical analyses that proved that the pyramid would not contain enough stone for the project.

The New York Times story gives a overview of this nonsensical pyramid story (condensed for space reasons), so read on and find out what really happened.

What's this? Egypt's new Islamist leaders want to raze the Great Pyramids, scratch away the images on the death masks of the pharaohs, and maybe even wipe the grin off what is left of the face of the Sphinx? Someone who reads a lot of right-wing blogs in the United States these days might be forgiven for thinking so, though there is no sign here that any such Islamist clamor to destroy the monuments of ancient Egypt has actually arisen.

The fear that it has, though, is a textbook example of how a rumor, especially about a place as tumultuous as Egypt these days, can take on a life of its own — fed by a kernel of fact, a dash of Twitter, and a convenient coincidence or two.

The claim that radical Islamists had, in the name of the Muslim aversion to artifacts of paganism, asked President Mohamed Morsi to have the pyramids torn down apparently began with a June 30 item in *Rose el-Youssef*, an Egyptian magazine that for years was a mouthpiece for Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Morsi's ousted predecessor. The magazine quoted a prominent Bahraini sheik, Abdellatif al-Mahmoud, as demanding in a Twitter posting on June 24 that Mr. Morsi "accomplish what the Sahabi Amir bin al-As could not" and destroy the "idolatrous" pyramids. The allusion was to a companion of the Prophet Muhammad who went on to conquer Egypt, although scholars of Islam say he never even tried to take down the pyramids.





**Tomas Munita for The New York Times**The Pyramid of Khafre. No demolition crew is on the horizon.

By July 12, someone claiming to be the Bahraini sheik had repudiated the Twitter posting as a hoax, saying that a faked screen shot had been published to make it look as if the sheik had posted the message. “This tweet hasn’t been written by me, and the traitors have fabricated it through Photoshop to distort my image,” said Sheik Mahmoud — or at least, said the user @amahmood2011 professing to be Sheik Mahmoud.

However, if @amahmood2011 really is Bahrain’s leading Sunni cleric, some of his Twitter postings are a bit peculiar, like the one suggesting that he had seen the Prophet in a dream and was given permission to shake women’s hands.

The biographical description accompanying that Twitter feed notes, in Arabic, that it is the sheik’s

“Official Barody Account,” which sounds like a faulty transliteration of the English word parody. The real Sheik Mahmoud could not be reached for comment.

None of that nebulous sourcing did anything to tamp down the steam sizzling from online reports that began appearing this month, most of them quoting one another rather than an original source, warning that the Islamists wanted to finally finish the job that the Islamic conqueror of Egypt had started (although he hadn’t), and that President Morsi was doing nothing about it (which he wasn’t).

“The things Americans say show us they are crazy,” Abdel Halim Nur el-Din, an Egyptian professor of antiquities and former chairman of the country’s Supreme Council of Antiquities, said in an interview.

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One posting on a blog called American Thinker said, “It should surprise no one that the fanatics want to blow up 5,500-year-old monuments to the genius of man,” thus introducing high explosives into the narrative.

The magazine *Commentary* was more restrained, but worried, “That such a fringe and wacky idea gains any voice in Arabic media or on Islamist Web sites should be cause for concern, given precedent.” The obvious antecedent was the recent destruction of ancient monuments in Timbuktu by extremist Islamists who had taken over northern Mali and deemed them un-Islamic. The Taliban’s destruction in 2001 of 1,500-year-old statues of the Buddha carved into a cliff in central Afghanistan was also brought to mind. But for the most part, the pyramid story gained traction only in a relatively few outlets.

There was an Egyptian television talk show that mentioned it, but only to denounce a Saudi sheik, Ali Al Rabieei, who had been quoted in an early report as a would-be destroyer of pyramids. The sheik not only repudiated the remarks attributed to him, but also offered a reward to anyone who could tell him who had made the remarks in his name, using what he said were two phony Twitter accounts.

“These stories are cheap acts aimed at hurting Egypt and its image, and Mr. Morsi as well,” said Mr. Nur el-Din, the antiquities professor. He said Mr. Morsi had reassured Egypt’s tourism officials that the country’s antiquities were in no danger from the new government.

Still, the flames were fanned by intemperate statements from some Salafis, as Egypt’s hard-line Islamists are called. The Salafis have shown considerable political muscle: their presidential candidate won 25 percent of the vote in the first round, and then they backed Mr. Morsi, the candidate supported by the Muslim Brotherhood, in the runoff. They are much more conservative in their views than the Brotherhood, and scorn all works of art representing the human form because

such works suggest an alternative to the perfection of God.

In January 2011, the spokesman for the Salafi Preaching Movement, Sheik Abdel Moneim el-Shahat, said the question of Egypt’s antiquities was simply a theological problem, and he suggested a compromise: Cover the heads of ancient Egyptian statues in wax. This would leave them visible, but would technically “obliterate” the faces. “I’ll do something that combines religious adherence and leaving antiquities as historic monuments,” he said on a television program.

Then last August, Sheik Shahat was asked to explain the difference between his plan and the Taliban’s destruction of the ancient Buddhas, which he pointedly refrained from criticizing. “The Taliban was in power at the time,” he said, whereas the Salafis in Egypt are not. A video of that exchange was posted on YouTube.

Younis Makhyon, a senior member of the Salafi Nour Party, said that no one from the group had ever suggested pyramicide. “These allegations have no foundation whatsoever and no basis in reality,” Mr. Makhyon said. “They are part of an attempt to turn Islamists into scarecrows and frighten the world about them.”

On July 20, the story gained life with a commentary on *Newsday*’s Web site by Joel Brinkley, a professor at Stanford University and a former correspondent for *The New York Times*.

“Morsi has been Egypt’s president for less than a month, and already senior clerics in his country and around the Islamic world are loudly calling for the demolition of the pyramids,” Mr. Brinkley wrote. “Morsi has had nothing to say about this, not a word,” he added.

Ahmed Sobeai, a spokesman for the Freedom and Justice Party, the Muslim Brotherhood’s political party, responded, “Dr. Morsi cannot respond to something that hasn’t happened.” Mr. Sobeai called



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the whole affair “an attempt to fabricate a crisis from an illusion.”

The pyramids, he said, are safe.

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The CyberScribe would like to end this month's column with a contribution that is not so much humorous, but rather thought-provoking. The writer is suggesting that a modern Egyptian jingle have direct links with the earliest founders of the new Kingdom.

The CyberScribe thinks that this may be unlikely, but the article is quite interesting. The article appeared in a website for " Egypt Independent" ([tinyurl.com/9vadgdd](http://tinyurl.com/9vadgdd) ). Read what they say and see if you agree.

“Wahawy ya wahawy/Eyaha/We kaman wahawy/Eyaha” — these are the introductory lyrics of our most popular Ramadan jingle. My brother and I have been singing them since we were 3 years old. But, as in English, “wahawy” and “eyaha” seem to mean little in Arabic, at least until one knows the story behind the song.

‘These lyrics, which songwriter Hussein Helmy al-Manesterly developed into a complete song that was composed and sung by Ahmed Abdel Kader and Ahmed Sherif, are actually inspired by a popular ancient Egyptian rhyme. ‘It is said that Egyptians first sang “Wahawy ya wahawy/Eyaha” when they visited Eyaha, the mother of King Ahmose I, and cheered for her son’s victory over the Hyksos who occupied Egypt for about 100 years.

‘King Ahmose I, the founder of the 18th dynasty, expelled the Hyksos only five years after he ruled Egypt in 1550 BC at the age of 16. The story goes that whenever the people saw Queen Eyaha, whose name meant “moon,” they would sing “Wahawy, Eyaha,” meaning “Welcome, Ehaya.”

‘Ever since, Egyptians have used the same song to celebrate different occasions. As the Islamic

hijri calendar follows the lunar system, Egyptians living in the Fatimid era, from AD 969 to 1171, started to celebrate the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan by singing “Wahawy, Eyaha” — a tradition that has continued today.’

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

# Scientists find new proof that space aliens visited Earth!



AMERICA'S Viking space probe photographed the face on Mars in 1976.



ARCHAEOLOGIST  
Dr. Osmand Dumas.

# FACE ON MARS FOUND ON 4,000-YEAR-OLD EGYPTIAN COIN!

By JOE BERGER / Weekly World News

**LUXOR, Egypt** — Excited scientists have unearthed an ancient Egyptian coin with the mysterious stone face on Mars emblazoned on it — and experts say the discovery proves that extraterrestrials visited our planet 4,000 years ago!

"The face etched on this coin is identical in every respect to the now-famous face on Mars," said astonished archaeologist and historian Dr. Osmand Dumas. "But modern man, even with the powerful

telescopes available today, was totally unaware the face existed until America's Viking space probe photographed it in 1976. So I can think of no way the Egyptians could have reproduced it so faithfully unless they had help — and I mean help from another world."

The Australian scientist and six colleagues uncovered the gold coin April 2 in the Valley of the Kings, less than a mile from the spot where King Tut's tomb was discovered in 1922.

Tests have determined that the remarkable artifact dates back to the reign of colorful King Amenemhet I, who ruled Egypt around 2000 B.C.

"The face on Mars is depicted on one side of the coin and on the other is a form of writing unlike anything I've

ever seen — very different from the hieroglyphics of that period," Dr. Dumas said.

"We've circulated copies of the inscription to experts around the world in an attempt to determine its origin, but they are as stumped as we are. And that makes me even more certain that the coin was brought to Earth by extraterrestrials or produced here with the aid of extraterrestrials." And if galaxy-hopping vagabonds from

another planet did visit Earth 4,000 years ago, their presence could answer one of the greatest riddles of all times — how primitive Egyptians managed to build the architectural marvels known as the Great Pyramids.

"To assemble the materials and build those pyramids with such precision hardly seems possible for a people with the limited capabilities of the ancient Egyptians," Dr. Dumas said. "But for be-

ings advanced enough to travel here from the farthest reaches of space, building a few pyramids was probably a breeze."



EGYPTIAN coin with the face on Mars dates back to 2000 B.C.

## MAN SUES COPS FOR STOPPING HIS SUICIDE BID!

**LIMA, Peru** — A man has sued three policemen who stopped him from committing suicide!

Juan Aliago, 44, was rescued from the ledge of a building he was planning to jump from, but now the ungrateful jerk wants \$700,000

from each of the cops — because he says they "invaded his privacy."

The unusual case is set to go to trial later this month.

## Americans eat a million slices of pizza per hour!

Every week Americans gobble down an astonishing 192 million slices of pizza — or more than a million slices an hour. Placed side by side, a week's worth of slices would stretch from the U.S. to Italy and back — with plenty left over!

Woman to a friend: "We're only staying together because of the children. Neither of us wants them."

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS, May 23, 2000 43

(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. Some articles may no longer be on the Internet sites, but the CyberScribe usually can recover the item of interest from his files.)