

CyberScribe 164 - April 2009

The CyberScribe is not at all sure that many people know that the Step Pyramid...the first large scale stone building in history...was and is in grave danger of collapse and destruction. The interior has been largely hollowed out, the stones hanging there by very little friction. The internal chambers and tunnels are likewise in dire condition. Zahi Hawass and his people have been hard at work on restoration, which is proceeding rapidly, and they have also found some new discoveries. The following (shortened for space) is from Zahi Hawass's own blog (<http://www.drhawass.com/blog/saving-step-pyramid>). Hear him explain what he is up to (and go to the site to read the entire document):

"One year ago, the SCA initiated a major effort to save the Step Pyramid for future generations.



The northern side of the Step Pyramid under restoration. The lighter stone near the center is one area that has been reinforced with replaced stones.

King Djoser's architect, Imhotep, was a man of genius. To ensure that his king's funerary complex would last for eternity, he designed it in stone. It was

the first time that stone architecture was ever attempted on such a monumental scale. The pyramid itself began as a mastaba, a low, rectangular tomb building with sloping sides and a flat roof. Later, it was transformed into a pyramid by the expansion of the original mastaba and the addition of steps of decreasing size, on top of the other. We know from ancient funerary texts that the Egyptians most likely saw it as a staircase by which the king could ascend to heaven. Below the pyramid a maze of underground galleries, shafts, and passages winds for a length of over 3 and a half miles. The buildings in the Step Pyramid complex are modeled on earlier architecture in wood and other perishable materials, translated into stone to last for eternity.

"Jean Philippe Lauer, a French architect and Egyptologist who worked at Saqqara for over 70 years, did a great deal of restoration work in the complex. It was clear, however, that further action was needed, and that if we did not do something soon, there might be little left for visitors to enjoy within just a few decades.



The northeast corner of the pyramid. The scaffolding reaches the approximate original extent of the masonry.

"On the outside of the pyramid, the most important component of our work has been identifying and correcting areas of structural weakness where the stones have fallen or weathered away or been removed over the years. There are many places where missing stones had left hollows and overhangs,

making the surrounding masonry vulnerable to collapse. The archaeological team has been excavating around the base of the pyramid, identifying the original stones that have fallen away from the structure. These stones are then carefully cleaned before being re-used to fill gaps in the body of the pyramid. Each one is given a unique identification number, and its new position is recorded in three dimensions.

"One of the most interesting things that we have found is a previously unknown shaft near the northern end of the eastern face of the pyramid! 11 shafts arranged in a straight line along this side of the pyramid were known before our discovery. Each one ends in a long chamber - four of these chambers were used for burials, and the rest were used for the storage of beautiful stone vessels. I decided that the excavation of this shaft should wait until we have finished the conservation of the pyramid itself, as I believe that we must make ensuring the survival of Egypt's monuments our first priority. It will be very interesting, however, to see what we find when we are finally ready to investigate this shaft!

Another fascinating thing that we have seen as we work to restore the pyramid is how in later periods of ancient Egyptian history, people would dig burial shafts into the body of the pyramid itself, so that their tombs would be part of this great monument. The restoration team has come across two such intrusive burials so far. We must study these burials carefully, as they pose their own threat to the stability of the pyramid. We would like to investigate them, but we must be very sure at the same time that we find a way to shore up the masonry around them.



Salt crystals that have formed on a wall in the substructure of the Step Pyramid.

"Underneath the pyramid, in the maze of galleries and corridors, we are also clearing away centuries worth of debris, and working to strengthen the stone, diminishing the risk of cave-ins. This is extremely challenging work, as the rising water table has weakened the bedrock of the Saqqara plateau, and caused massive salt deposits on the walls of these underground tunnels. There are many interesting things underneath the Step Pyramid. Many of the walls were once decorated with blue faience tiles, which imitated the reed mat walls of early Egyptian buildings. Most of these tiles were stolen long ago, but some are still in their original places. There are also scenes of the king running the ritual race that renewed his power and authority during his heb-sed festival. One of the most interesting blocks that we have found under the Step Pyramid is inscribed with the serekh (a motif based on the shape of a palace building, which enclosed the name of a king) of Djoser. The name in the serekh is actually Netjerikhet - we know the king as Djoser only from sources dating to after his reign.



The massive sarcophagus of Djoser, which rests on six stone pillars, and is surrounded by debris.

"Exploring the substructure of the Step Pyramid is a true adventure. The passages are steep, narrow, and winding, and it is easy to become lost if you do not know your way.

"We are using a type of epoxy to strengthen the stone walls and ceilings under the Step Pyramid. We have also installed a system of dehumidifiers, and sensitive digital thermometers and hygrometers to record the temperature and humidity. These instruments are constantly recording, and we do monitor their readings carefully to be sure that the climate control system is working. I am so happy to be able to tell you that our work to save the Step Pyramid is progressing well. We will soon begin to shore up the ceiling of the burial chamber."

Another pyramid story deals with access opportunity for tourists. Zahi Hawass ('Reuters', <http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSTRE52F4EB20090316>) is making good on a promise he made last year...saying that he intended to try and open all of Egypt's pyramids to tourists. The brief note below related the opening of two important examples near Cairo.



"Egypt will open its "bent" pyramid to the public within months, followed by two other pyramids within a year, Egypt's chief archaeologist said on Monday. At present, tourists can see the pyramids but are not allowed to enter them.

"The "bent" pyramid, so named because of its sloping upper half, was built around 4,600 years ago by the pharaoh Snefru. It is believed concerns over the structure's stability led to the change in the slope halfway through construction.

"The bent pyramid, maybe within one month or two, will be open for the first time to the public," Zahi Hawass told reporters, announcing a \$3-million community development project for the area. "The Amenemhat III and Sesostris II pyramids will be opened within one year from now."



"Both the Amenemhat III pyramid, known as the black pyramid, and the Sesostris II pyramid are in an advanced state of decay and have lost much of their pyramid shape."

This next note relates to some more of the business of clearing out that mysterious place in the Valley of the Kings...KV-63. We have reported on this site several times, and while the tomb, storeroom or whatever it is, has been cleared, there is still much to be done. Now that the last of the huge stone storage jars have been opened, a new surprise emerged. Read the following, from Otto Schaden's 'Dig Diary' (<http://www.kv-63.com/>). The whole site has too many items to feature here, but read on and enjoy this small bit:

"As mentioned in my 7 February update we discovered a unique wooden bed inside Jar #13. In addition to finding the bed in the jar we also found three wooden boards (wrapped in linen) with 4 "prongs" or "legs" which may have served as supports for the bed. We now have enough such "legs" for four bed supports, but only 3 wrapped boards (ca. 50 cm in length) have been uncovered.

"Dr. Zahi Hawass suggested we try placing the bed on the supports--- which we did the following day and they appear to be a good fit. The KV-63 website already has a few images of the bed and supports posted.



"During the last two months the conservators have been hard at work removing resin off the KV-63 coffins in the hope of finding names and/or titles. Further removal of the resin off the box (or base), it became clear that her name is Henut-wadjbu, a common female name from the New Kingdom. Her full description is: "The Osiris, Henut-wadjbu, true of voice."

"Furthermore, the vertical column of text down the center of the lid has been thoroughly erased. But on the front of the 'toe' section (footboard) one single hieroglyph remains --- a seated man --- the determinative for a man, indicating that the coffin was at one time inscribed for a male.

"A few days ago our conservators began removing resin from the lid fragments of Coffin B and the poorly preserved sides of Coffin A's box - where we have discovered some very interesting texts! After further cleaning we will send a report to Dr. Zahi Hawass and later provide more details in our next Update."

The Valley of the Kings has provided a few more surprises. A rambling item (<http://pastpreservers.blogspot.com/2009/03/press-release-new-discoveries-in-valley.html>) provided evidence of ancient Egyptians attempting to control the movement of flood waters down the Valley. Abbreviated somewhat, the item read:

"In the area in the cliffs between the tombs of Ramesses II and Merneptah, Hawass and his team have found a man-made drainage channel that probably helped prevent the flooding of the royal tombs in the vicinity. Masses of stone piled near a manmade wall at the base of the cliff represent a collection area for runoff from the occasional rains in the high desert that have inundated the Valley of the Kings since ancient times. The area at the base of the channel is probably the location mentioned in an ostrakon as the site where a sacred tree once grew, and the "tears of the gods" were collected. A small, sheltered area off to the side of the channel, where the team found a stone basin that may have held food and water, probably served as a resting place for the workmen.



"The excavation area is in the vicinity of the Amarna Period tombs KV63 to the southeast and KV55 to the northeast. It is possible that if important figures from this era, such as Nefertiti, for instance, were reburied in the Valley of the Kings after the city of Akhetaten was abandoned, their tombs would be in this area. Hawass' team is working not only in the area immediately to the south of the tomb of Tutankhamun, but also in the area north and east of the tomb of Seti I. They have found traces of cutting in the bedrock underneath the modern rest house, which may lead to a previously unknown tomb. Unfortunately, it would be necessary to remove the entire building to explore this area, so they will not be able to do so in the immediate future."

A very minor, but interesting story touched on the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. Bonham's Auction House (<http://www.bonhams.com/>) is going to sell a number of never before published photographs of the excavation, plus a mass of papers not before seen by scholars. Abbreviated, the story relates:

"A cache of original letters relating to the great Egyptology discoveries in the 1920's, including letters from Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter. A revised typescript of 'Tutankhamun's Tomb: An Account of its Discovery' includes a telling insight into the politics of access to the tomb by Rex Engelbach. "Carnarvon arrived on November 23rd, with his daughter, then Lady Evelyn Herbert, and the tomb was actually opened when I was away for the night at Qena...This was, strictly speaking, irregular."

"Manuscript material by Howard Carter and Carnarvon rarely appears for sale: only two letters by Carter are recorded as having been sold at auction (one sending a signed copy of his book fetching £520 in 1998, the other, discussing the excavation, £8,000 in 2007), while the only item by Carnarvon to have appeared is his account of the discovery, sold for £1,700 in 1979. No letters by Aurel Stein, also represented in this archive and whose excavation of the lost cities of the Silk Road rivals Carter and Carnarvon's discovery, are recorded as having appeared for sale.

"Egyptologist Reginald (Rex) Engelbach (1888-1946), like Howard Carter and many of the outstanding Egyptologists of their generation, Engelbach trained under Flinders Petrie, acting as his assistant from 1910 to 1914, and in 1918. He is today best known for his discovery of the Unfinished Obelisk at Aswan in 1922 and for being, as Chief Inspector of Antiquities in Upper Egypt, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon's immediate

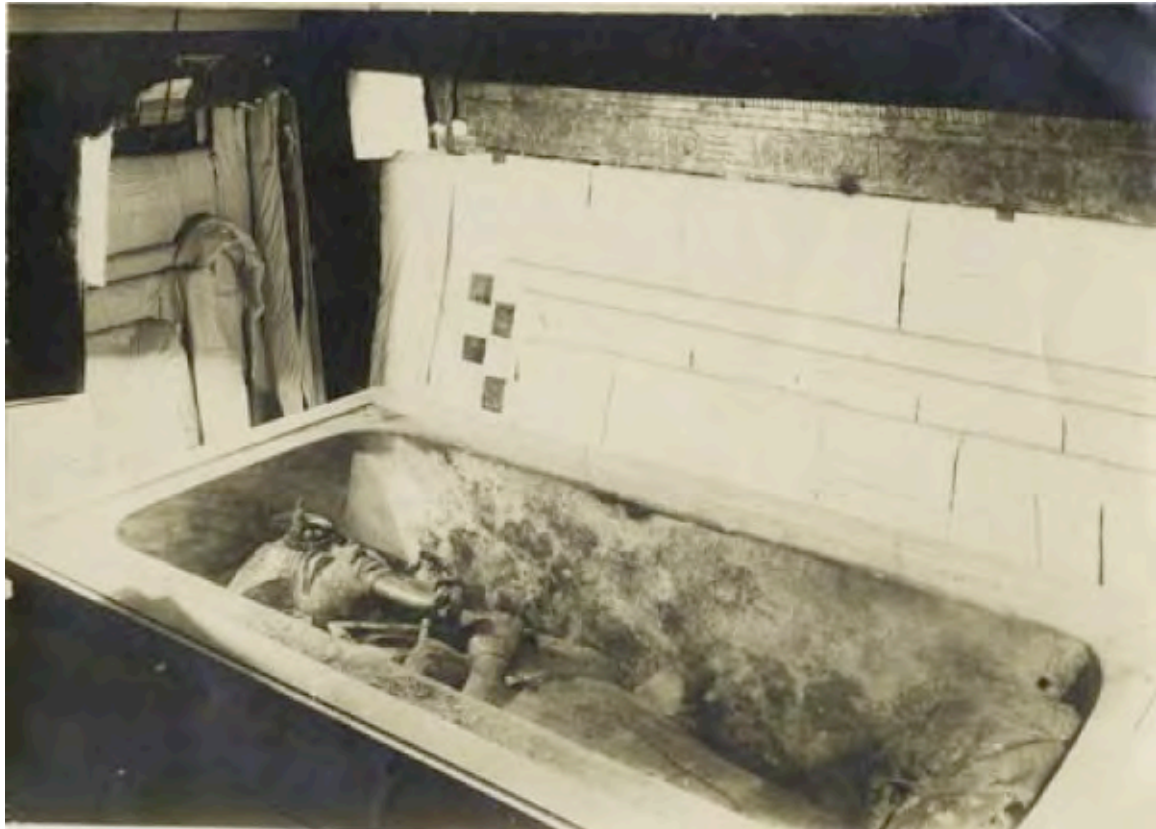
official superior when they discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun that same year.

"Letters to Engelbach by Lord Carnarvon (22 March 1921 include the comment: "I heard the latest news from Luxor when Carter arrived here yesterday, he told me you would be kind enough to look after the tomb - please accept my best thanks - I hope one will find something. I had hoped to have had a little private conversation with you at Luxor & therefore I hope what I am going to write you will treat as quite confidential... We shall then have to find a new 'Master Digger' & I have hear rumor that Mr. Brunton might like to take it on. I would be no party to taking him away from Petrie if he wanted to keep him... but I should like to know what you think of him...").

"In a series of 16 letters by Engelbach to his wife Nancy he writes:"...I took Ibrahim over to the Tombs of the Kings yesterday and saw Carter. He tells me the Times copyright is still on. They all leave in about a week as the steamboat is to arrive tomorrow. Carter tells me that Derry is to have the examination of Tut. I am glad as I cannot stick Elliot-Smith."

"This wonderful collection of original material includes a series of snapshots taken in late in 1922 and early 1923 of the comings and goings around the tomb of Tutankhamun ("Tut's tomb valley of Kings Luxor Rex's back". "Gold Coffin of Tut Amkh Amun lying on sarcophagus", "Carrying box from Tomb of Tutankh Amun", "Luxor 1922 Lord Carnarvon leaving Tomb of Tutankhamun."





A pair of photos from the sale materials

'Times On Line' (Times on Line

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article5908494.
ec) is one of the better sources for what became a small flood of news items on the apparent discovery of Arsinoë...Cleopatra VII's sister...the one she had murdered. The CyberScribe will present much of this article...but not the interjections. The article may not be what it seems.

"The remains of Princess Arsinoë, put to death in 41BC on the orders of Cleopatra and her Roman lover Mark Antony to eliminate her as a rival, are the first relics of the Ptolemaic dynasty to be identified.

"Evidence obtained by studying the dimensions of Arsinoë's skull shows she had some of the characteristics of white Europeans, ancient Egyptians and black Africans, indicating that Cleopatra was probably of mixed race, too. They were daughters of Ptolemy XII by different wives."

"The forensic evidence was obtained by a team working under the auspices of the Austrian Archeological Institute, which is set to detail its findings at an anthropological convention in the United States later this

month. The story of the discovery will also be the subject of a television documentary, *Cleopatra: Portrait of a Killer*.

"The institute's breakthrough came about after it set out to examine Thür's belief that an octagonal tomb in the remains of the Roman city of Ephesus contained the body of Arsinöe. According to Roman texts the city, in what is now Turkey, is where Arsinöe was banished after being defeated in a power struggle against Cleopatra and her then lover, Julius Caesar. Arsinöe was said to have been murdered after Cleopatra, now with Mark Antony following Caesar's death, ordered the Roman general to have her younger sibling killed to prevent any future attempts on the Egyptian throne.

"The distinctive tomb was first opened in 1926 by archeologists who found a sarcophagus inside containing a skeleton. They removed the skull, which was examined and measured; but it was lost in the upheaval of the second world war.

(Notes the CyberScribe...so there was no skull to be examined...only photos and some crude measurements. The lady's head has gone missing)

"In the early 1990s Thür reentered the tomb and found the headless skeleton, which she believed to be of a young woman. Clues, such as the unusual octagonal shape of the tomb, which echoed that of the lighthouse of Alexandria with which Arsinöe was associated, convinced Thür the body was that of Cleopatra's sister.

(Notes the CyberScribe...which model of the Alexandrian lighthouse. The shape of that structure is not at all known for certain)

"After using carbon dating, which dated the skeleton from 200BC-20BC, Kanz, who had examined more than 500 other skeletons taken from the ruins of Ephesus, found Thür's theory gained credibility. He said he was certain the bones were female and placed the age of the woman at 15-18. Although Arsinöe's date of birth is not known, she was certainly younger than Cleopatra, who was about 27 at the time of her sister's demise.

(Notes the CyberScribe ...so we have super fine dates from the carbon fourteen...which prove the case...even though we have no idea how old the princess might have been)

"The lack of any sign of illness or malnutrition also indicated a sudden death, said Kanz. Evidence of the skeleton's north African ethnicity provided the final clue. Caroline Wilkinson, a forensic anthropologist, reconstructed

the missing skull based on measurements taken in the 1920s. Using computer technology it was possible to create a facial impression of what Arsinöe might have looked like.

"“It has got this long head shape,” said Wilkinson. “That’s something you see quite frequently in ancient Egyptians and black Africans. It could suggest a mixture of ancestry.””

(Notes the Cyberscribe...its been over half a century since reputable anthropologists used skull shape to definitively 'prove' ethnicity. This debate is still very much open and the question unresolved)

Another news report from Dr. Hawass' Blog

(<http://drhawass.com/blog/keeping-great-sphinx%E2%80%99s-paws-dry>) is an interesting follow-up on reports that were presented her in the past...the rising water table under the Great Sphinx of Giza. Wells have been drilled, great quantities of water have been pumped...and the project is showing success. Read on (abbreviated somewhat):

"Perhaps the single greatest threat to the preservation of Egypt’s monuments is the rising level of underground water throughout the country. Runoff from sewage and agriculture, along with overall environmental changes, is resulting in the stone of temples and tombs that were dry most of the year in ancient times becoming saturated with water seeping up from below.

"We have completed a USAID-funded effort to de-water Karnak and Luxor temples, and work is underway in many other places. One of our greatest recent successes has been the development of a system to prevent the Great Sphinx at Giza from getting its paws wet!



Location of the 4 boreholes at base of the Sphinx (Cairo U. Dept of Eng. for Antiquities & Environment & SCA)



[Groundwater in front of Valley Temple of Khafre, July 2008.]

"It has been clear for some time that the groundwater level at Giza is rising. Pools were forming in front of the Valley Temple of Khafre, and people were worried that this might endanger the Sphinx and its temples as well. In early 2008, the SCA, in cooperation with Cairo University's Engineering Center for Archaeology and Environment, drilled four boreholes into bedrock at the base of the Sphinx. The investigation revealed that the water came up to about 15.6 meters above sea level, not an immediate threat to the statue, but cause for concern in the long term.

"We investigated lowering the water level. A horseshoe-shaped arrangement of eight pumping stations was installed in front of the statue and its temples. Every day, this system moves around 7,000 cubic meters of water, which is carried to the local drainage system.



The water level in the same location in February 2009.

"The groundwater level around the base of the Sphinx has dropped by almost a meter. This is great news for the Sphinx! We are currently looking into the best way to block groundwater from seeping into the area in the first place, but in the meantime, the pumping system is keeping the Sphinx and its temples safe."

National Geographic Society

(<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/03/photogalleries/egyptian-queen-perfume/index.html?source=rss>) put out a small press release that reads:

"The favorite perfume of powerful Egyptian "she king" Hatshepsut may be resurrected from residue found in a 3,500-year-old perfume bottle, a German research team said in March 2009. X-ray photographs of the 4.7-inch-tall (12-centimeter-tall) bottle, from the permanent collection of Bonn University's Egyptian Museum, reveals remnants of the ancient oil. Scientists plan to identify the substance and, possibly within a year, re-create the perfume.

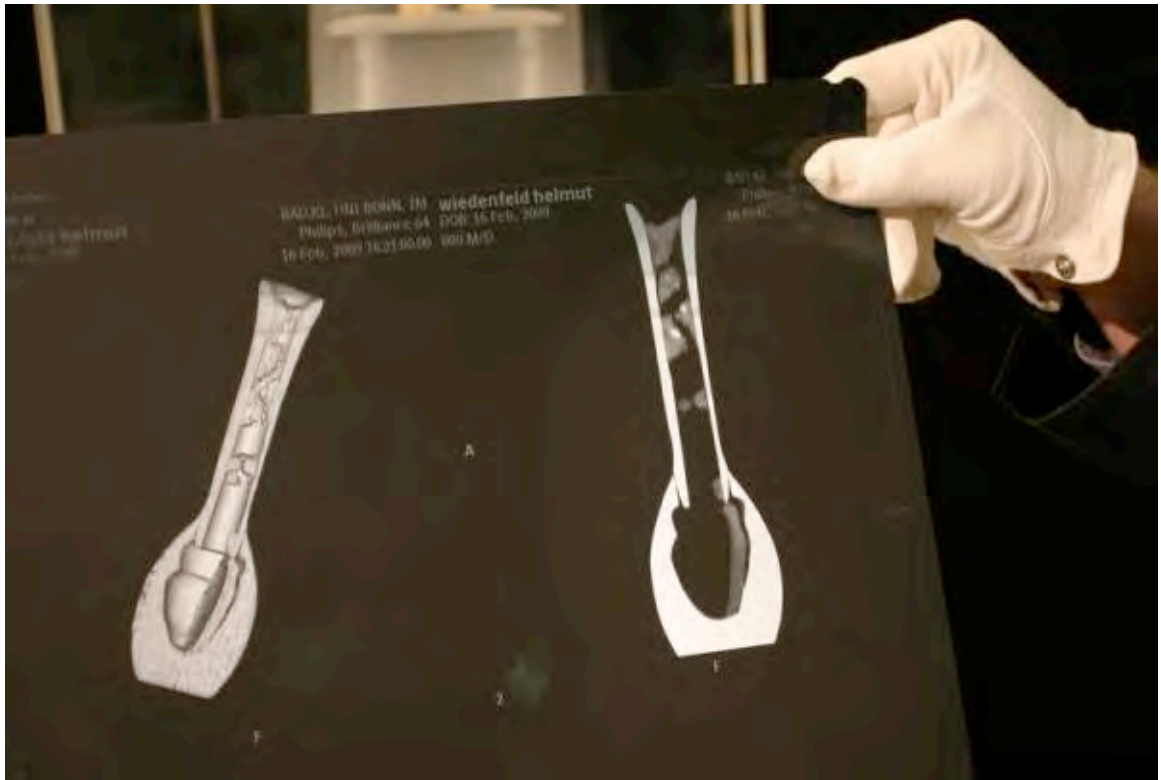


"The bottle, which was found in the queen's possessions after her death in 1457 B.C., is engraved with a hieroglyph (bottom) of her name.

The perfume bottle...



You can see the name 'Maat-Ka-Re', the throne name of Hatshepsut



X-Ray photograph showing the gray perfume residue on the right side of the bottle

(The CyberScribe notes that a lot of people still do not believe that the Queen has been found...let alone a batch of her burial goods with her)

"The thin neck "allows a very economical dosing of the valuable content," according to Michael Höveler-Müller, curator of Bonn University's Egyptian Museum. A small clay stopper would have kept the oil from spilling.

"In every case our research will touch new grounds and will maybe enable us to put our noses back into a time more than 3,500 years [ago]," Höveler-Müller said in an email."

Egypt is again blustering and proposing new laws that will affect Egypt's monuments...and the myriad of tourists who visit Egypt. The item below from Al-Ahram Weekly Online

(<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/938/eg7.htm>). Sounds rather dire...but we'll have to wait and see just what emerges as actual statutes to change Egyptian law. If this affects you, please read the entire report. Much edited for space, the item stated:

"Protecting Egypt's cultural heritage from treasure hunters, retrieving looted and illegally-smuggled antiquities and generating the revenue necessary to restore and conserve this country's heritage are key priorities in a new antiquities law soon to be reviewed by the People's Assembly.

"The current law, 117/1983, is no longer suitable since the penalties it imposes for antiquity trafficking are not harsh enough. We need to stiffen penalties in order to stop further trafficking," Zahi Hawass, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), says. Egypt first issued an antiquities law in 1835. This has been modified five times, most essentially in 1912 and 1983. The 193 law contains several loopholes, and the penalties did not prevent looting and urban encroachment on archaeological sites.

"According to Achraf El-Achmawi, the SCA's legal consultant, the draft law focuses on five articles. The first is properly and legally to identify three main terms -- the SCA's permanent committee; the inviolable area around every monument; and the land immediately next to the archaeological site -- in an attempt to provide all the necessary security measures and a healthy environmental atmosphere. Such an article will put an end to any further building around a monument and will remove recent encroachment ones.

"On a request of the minister of culture and the approval of the prime minister, the law can classify any object or edifice on Egypt's heritage list even if its age is less than 100-years. Classification will depend on its historical, religious, artistic or international value.

"The second article to be repealed is the section of the law allowing possession of antiquities. A year after the approval of the law, all owners of Egyptian antiquities must hand over all objects to the SCA, which in its turn will install them in their archaeological storehouses.

"Article 30 has been added to the law stipulating that the SCA is the only authority competent to carry out restoration and preservation work on all Egyptian monuments, archaeological sites and historical edifices. The minister of culture will have the authority to assign any scientific authority or mission to execute any such work, but under complete supervision of the SCA's secretary-general.

"As for penalties, El-Achmawi said these had been doubled or tripled. A smuggler who was sentenced to 15 years and fined LE50,000 would now be sentenced to life imprisonment and fined from LE100,000 to 500,000. Anyone who steals, hides, or collects authentic artifacts, or owns them

without permission, will be imprisoned for 25 years and fined from LE50,000-250,000, instead of three years' hard labor and a LE100 fine. According to the new law, stealing or helping to rob a part of a genuine piece or intent deliberately to disfigure it will land a sentence of 15 years and a fine of from LE50,000-100,000.

"It will also prohibit the production of exact replicas (1:1 scale) without special permission from the SCA or payment of a fee. If an object is five meters tall, for example, a product cannot be made in the same dimension without the SCA's permission, but a taller or shorter replica is acceptable. "Manufacturers violating this article will face five years in prison and pay a LE200,000 fine," El-Achmawi said.

"Sanctions would be placed for using photographs of archaeological sites or artifacts for commercial purposes without the permission of the SCA. Professional photography inside museums and archaeological sites will be completely prohibited unless permission has been given. Using photographs for educational purposes, by governmental authorities, for tourist attraction and for personal use will be free of charge; although the intellectual property on its own "logos" and trademarks will remain with the authority.

"In collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, El-Achmawi said, the SCA was studying the idea of establishing an economic body to ensure the implementation of the law.

"El-Achmawi also acknowledged the difficulties of a global copyright witch-hunt. "If you have a small shop and your trade is very limited, I will not take money from you," he said. "But if you are a big company, like some of these Chinese companies that make a lot of money from making replicas of antiquities, according to the law, I can take the fees."

"The draft law, which has the approval of the Egyptian cabinet and State Council, has drawn criticism from foreign legal experts. According to an article published in the National Geographic magazine, these experts said that "such laws violate international copyright conventions and are unlikely to be enforced."

"You can do it within your own borders if your own laws that permit you to do it," William Patry, a former US copyright lawyer, told National Geographic, adding that copyrighting property dated back thousands of years. "But it's pretty unlikely that it's going to be enforced in other countries. Copyright is a pretty territorial thing." He was also quoted that: "The other problem is that there is so much access to this stuff, it could be

someone who has never even been to Egypt who copies it. We still have access to images on the web from other people."''

And finally, we now know why we have not been able to find the tomb or mummy of Alexander, the Great. We have been looking in all the wrong places, says a most wonder news revelation. 'ABC News' (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/19/2521146.htm?section=justin>) is just one of a number of reports that tells the (more or less) 'true' story. Read on:

"Alexander the Great, whose tomb has been missing for nearly 2,000 years, could be buried in Broome in Western Australia, a Perth man says.

""They'll never ever find it, no matter where they look, because Alexander the Great is buried in Broome, in Western Australia," Mr. Tutungis said. "Approximately 50 years ago, some guy went into a cave in Broome and he saw some inscriptions in there and they looked like ancient Greek.

""He reported it to the government, then the government went and saw it and they confirmed there were some inscriptions there. They went to the Greek community and they asked the community, 'Is there anyone here who can read ancient Greek?'

""Naturally Louis Batalis put his hand up and said, 'Yes, I went to school in Egypt, I got educated, I can read it'. So they took him up there and he defined the inscriptions as saying, in ancient Greek, 'Alexander the Great'.

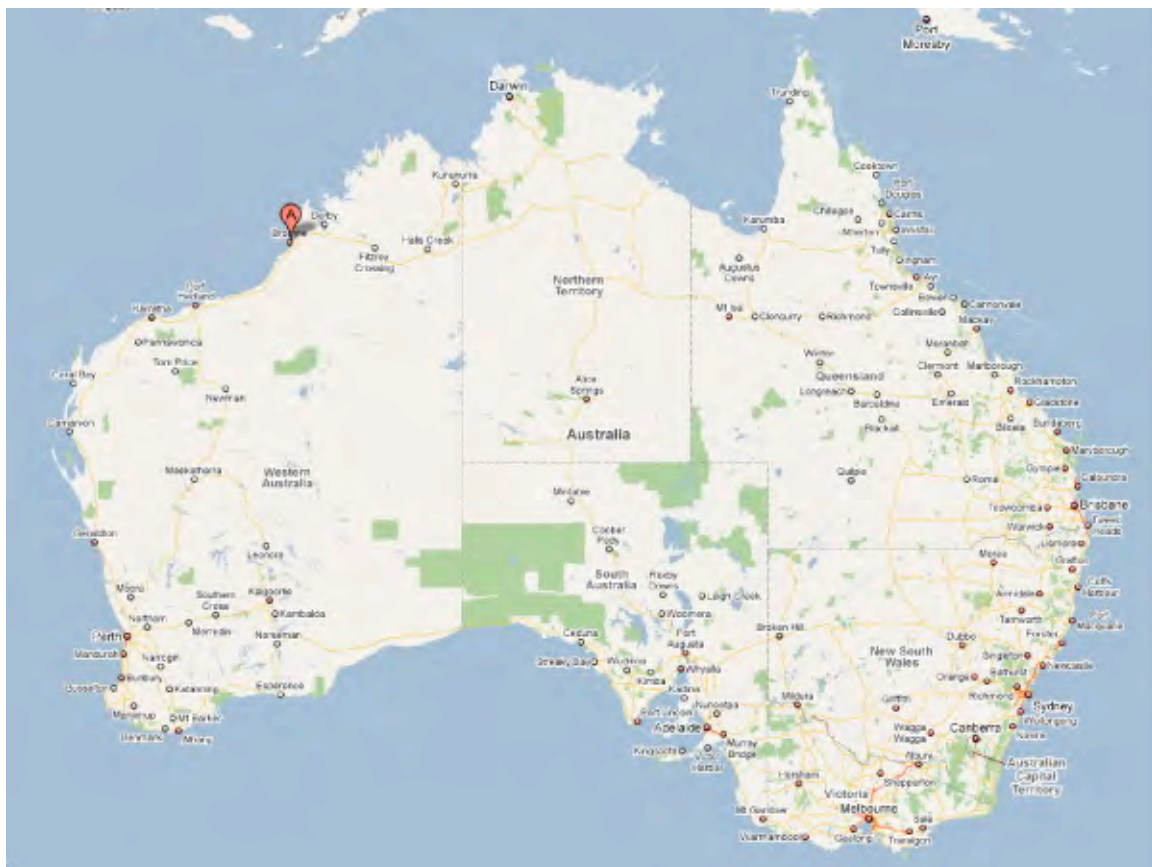
""The government did say to him at that time, 'You didn't see this, OK, this never happened'."

"Alexander the Great died on June 11, 323 BC, probably from malaria, alcoholism or poisoning. One traditionally accepted story says his body was placed in two gold caskets in a gold carriage. Another says his body was preserved in a clay jar filled with honey and that this was placed in a glass coffin. Some historians say Alexander's general and friend, Ptolemy, stole the body and took it to Alexandria, while others say Roman Emperor Caligula looted the tomb and stole Alexander's breastplate. According to some sources, Emperor Septimius Severus closed Alexander's tomb about 200 AD, and little is known of the body's whereabouts after that.

"Mr. Tutungis says he is 99 per cent convinced Mr. Batalis told him the truth, because people "have looked everywhere" for Alexander's grave, to no avail. He says his friend is a very old man now and has virtually lost his memory, and others who heard the story had dismissed it.

"I drew my own conclusion because the war of the Macedonians ended up in India and I assumed that some of the soldiers went back to Macedonia on foot," Mr. Tutungis said. "Some of the soldiers must have caught a ship. Why can't we say that Alexander did catch a ship; they lost their way in the treacherous ways up there.

""Look where India is, look where Broome is; a ship could easily get wrecked in Broome." Mr. Tutungis says a new documentary suggests that when the war ended, Alexander the Great ordered thousands of ships to built. He takes that as further evidence to support his theory and has written to a detective from Scotland Yard who is looking for Alexander's grave.



Broome, western Australia is located at the red dot.

""Nobody ever, ever suspected that Alexander could have died in Broome," he said."

Truer words were probably never spoken, Mr. Tutungis...saith the CyberScribe.

And with that, dear readers, muses the CyberScribe...its time to close this column.

If you would like to contact the CyberScribe (also known as Clair Ossian) to ask a question or to suggest an item for a future column, please send an e-mail to clastic@verizon.net or call (972) 416-5211. Don't forget to look up the North Texas Chapter of ARCE's Internet Homepage located at this address: <http://www.arce-ntexas.org/>.