

CyberScribe 157 - September 2008

This month's offerings from the Internet are rather more varied than usual. Lots of odd and quirky bits appeared, as well as a number of very interesting items.

To start off, the British Museum has spent enormous efforts to stabilize and clean those wonderful wall paintings from the now-lost tomb of Nebamun. These pictures are the glory and staple of many books of ancient Egypt and the New Kingdom in particular.

The CyberScribe was once allowed to see one of the most famous scenes up close and personal...the hunting in the marshes scene (see below)...with no glass over the wonderful image. It has to be a highlight on anyone's visit to the British Museum. Now that the pictures have been properly prepared, the British Museum has made them the centerpiece of a new gallery.

An Internet site called 'Suite 101' (http://permanent-art-exhibits.suite101.com/article.cfm/british_museums_new_nebamun_tomb_gallery) gives a review of the resulting displays (shortened for space reasons):

"This state-of-the-art installation is situated in Room 61, adjacent to the museum's upper-floor and world-class mummy galleries. The refurbished space introduces some of the most important funerary wall paintings from ancient Egypt's imperial New Kingdom (1550-1069 B.C.).

"Excavated from the tomb-chapel of Nebamun, now lost, the 11 paintings represent a pinnacle in Egyptian two-dimensional representation of fauna and flora. Created before the more naturalistic art from the reign of the pharaoh Akhenaten, they're joined by one additional fragment loaned by Berlin's Ägyptisches Museum.



Feast for Nebamun.

"Hieroglyphic inscriptions reveal that Nebamun (died ca. 1350 B.C.) was an accountant in the temple of the Theban god Amun at Karnak. His spectacularly painted tomb-chapel dates to a generation or so before the reign of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. The British Museum's wall paintings depict the official both at work and at leisure, surveying his estates and hunting.



Hunting in the Marshes

"On a small boat, the exuberant Nebamun is shown pursuing fowl in the Nile River's fertile marshes, a place of rebirth in the ancient Egyptian cosmology. The official, his wife and young daughter are arranged in hieratic scale (according to social importance), Nebamun being the largest of the three figures. The water in the left-hand section of the composition overflows with blossoming (water lily) buds, delicate symbols of rejuvenation that recur throughout ancient Egyptian art and architecture.



Detail from the hunting in the marsh scene.

"In the 19th Century, the paintings were mounted in plaster and placed in glass-enclosed boxes. Water vapor and salt migration during the plaster's setting destabilized the ancient works' ground and their water-sensitive layer of paint. During modern conservation, the artworks' wooden cases were carefully dismantled. The plaster was painstakingly detached from each image's original mud-straw backing. A foam resin was applied to each image. As a result of this valiant undertaking, Egyptologists gained valuable insights into the ancient painters' techniques, including their handling of textures. Experts were then able to reasonably reconstruct the fragments' original order of presentation inside Nebamun's tomb-chapel.

"Adjacent to the British Museum's Nebamun paintings, 150 artifacts contribute to one's understanding of the tomb-chapel's construction and its original appearance. Examples of lustrous glassware from Nebamun's era reflect objects depicted in the wall paintings on view. A nearby computer simulation recreates Nebamun's funerary chapel and its setting."

Another item from the 'Guardian' (http://guardians.net/hawass/news/getty_study_tuts_tomb.htm) deals with paintings and ancient Egyptian art. The Getty museums' Conservation Institute is taking on the daunting task of rescuing the fungus damaged paintings in the burial chamber of Tutankhamun's tomb.

The paintings were damaged before Carter's team broke into the burial chamber in the 1920's. But as can be seen in one of the wonderful photos taken by Harry Burton when the tomb had just been opened, the damage had already occurred, probably starting shortly after the tomb was sealed.



Since that time, the damage has continued and major steps must now be taken to save them. This will be the same organization that did the wonderful restoration of the tomb of Nefertari...one of the greatest such success ever!

The very short item in the 'Guardian' stated:

"In order to be sure that there is no immediate danger to them, and that all possible measures are being taken to conserve and protect this important monument for future generations, the Getty Conservation Institute has agreed to conduct a comprehensive study of the tomb.





"The Getty Conservation Institute will examine such issues as what the spots might be that have been observed in the paintings for many years. The Getty Conservation Institute has extensive expertise in administering such critical projects, as shown by their excellent handling of the conservation of the tomb of Nefertari, which was saved through the work of the great Italian conservator, Paolo Mora.



Some months ago the Manchester Museum reacted to some visitor complaints regarding its mummy collection and how it was displayed. The mummies have been unwrapped and may be seen as partially nude forms lying within the cases. The reaction was to completely drape the mummies, causing an outcry from all sides. The museum then asked that there be some general response from the public and there was a lot of it. The result is that they are reversing their position. Read the story (below, and abbreviated) from the 'Manchester Evening News' (http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1059840_mummies_coverup_reversed):

"The Manchester Museum has reversed its decision to cover up its Egyptian mummies in response to public opinion. The museum covered up three unwrapped mummies on display, sparking accusations of political correctness, two months ago. The cover-up was part of a consultation on how the mummies will be displayed when the museum's ancient Egypt gallery is redeveloped.



Mummy of Asru.

"Nick Merriman, museum director, has said one of the mummies will now be left partially unwrapped in its original display state, while another will be partially covered, leaving its head, hands and feet exposed. The decision to reveal more of the mummies came following a meeting of the museum's human remains panel.

"Mr. Merriman said: "We started the consultation process with a total covering of three of the museum's unwrapped mummies. "As public feedback showed that this is not the most appropriate long-term solution, we are trying out a range of different approaches to gauge public opinion.

""Some of these will include techniques which are used in museums in Egypt.""

The Manchester Museum issued its own statement, which was much more direct and to the point. They added:

"The overwhelming majority (c. 85%) of people have expressed the opinion that they would like the mummies to be uncovered and to remain on display. A strong thread running through this viewpoint has been that museum visitors should be able to make the choice as to whether they view human remains, and not have that decision made for them. A simple solution iterated by many has been to put up a sign indicating that there are human remains on display, in order to allow visitors to make the choice about viewing them. Related to the feeling that visitors should have the opportunity to make their own minds up has been the expression of disappointment that the Manchester Museum appeared to make the decision to experimentally cover the three mummies without waiting until the end of a clearly designated consultation period. One of the suggestions that has been made in a number of postings is that the bodies could be covered but the face, hands, and feet revealed, as is done in Egyptian museums, in order to allow the bodies to retain their dignity, as well as their humanity.

"The recent covering of three of the Egyptian mummies on display was in response to a small number of visitor complaints, and which triggered an experiment in ways of displaying the mummies. The response to the covering has revealed that a greater number of people prefer to be able to view the mummies, and the Museum is taking this into account.

"On Monday 4th August 2008, Khary is being uncovered, Asru's face and feet will be uncovered, and the child mummy will be removed from display – this mummy is a loan and will return to its own institution some time soon."

There is yet another Tutankhamun show scheduled for tours in the US. This one was negotiated by the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta, and will be staged at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. The show will open in November.

So far there has been very little published about the artifacts that will be displayed. Even the excellent article in 'KMT' magazine was very vague. A short piece from the "EmeryWheel" (<http://www.emorywheel.com/detail.php?n=25439>) had little to say:

"The exhibit, titled "Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs" and co-sponsored by National Geographic, Northern Trust and American Airlines, will feature more than 130 varied artifacts.

"According to the Carlos website, the Atlanta Civic Center, located less than five miles from campus, was chosen to house the exhibit because it would provide more room for parking and closer proximity to Atlanta's downtown area."

The website "Access Atlanta" (http://www.accessatlanta.com/event/content/arts/stories/2008/04/02/newtut_0403.html) offered more insight in why the show will be opened in Atlanta. It related (abbreviated below) that:

"The Carlos is, so far, the smallest museum to get a piece of the international Tut juggernaut, and the only university museum to do so. So how did this pipsqueak institution pull it off? It's all about whom you know. When it comes to ancient Egyptian artifacts, that would be Zahi Hawass, secretary general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, the gatekeeper for his country's vast legacy. When planning the

tour with AEI, Hawass brought in the Carlos and suggested that the exhibition debut in Atlanta, AEI president John Norman said.



Peter Lacovara (from 'Access Atlanta',
http://www.accessatlanta.com/event/content/arts/stories/2008/04/15/tut_0416.html)

"Our ability to bring this exhibit here reflects Zahi's respect for Peter Lacovara [senior curator of ancient Egyptian, Nubian and Near Eastern Art]," Carlos director Bonnie Speed said. Colleagues in the relatively small circles of Egyptologist/archaeologists, Hawass and Lacovara have been friends for more than 20 years.

Lacovara has strengthened those ties since joining the Carlos in 1998. He and Speed led the delegation that returned a royal mummy in the Carlos collection to Egypt in 2003. He and the staff recently helped Cairo's Egyptian Museum design and install a new display of its oldest objects.

"Returning the mummy was very important to Zahi," says David Silverman, a University of Pennsylvania professor who curated both the current "Tut" exhibit and the original 1976 blockbuster.

"When Hawass was at the Carlos to deliver a lecture soon after the new Tut show opened to great success in 2005, Lacovara asked if there was any way for his museum to be a venue.

"Zahi said, 'No, but I think I have something you might like better,' " Lacovara recalls."

Moving on to some less weighty reports, the CyberScribe has noted the following. 'Al-Ahram Weekly Online'

(<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2008/913/hel.htm>) talked about the newest threat to the great sphinx. This time it was not rising water tables, vandalism or some other easily addressed problem. This one, says Jil Kamil, was for the birds. Read on:

"Apparently the pigeons are pecking away at this most grand and famous of monuments, finding in it an appetizing calcium meal. Back in 1991, after a Save the Sphinx program of restoration, Hawass declared that the monument was not in any danger. "Its head and neck can live for another thousand years," he declared at the time. He could not possibly have foreseen this newest threat -- the high level of acidity in the droppings of birds and its destructive effect on the stone. Just how serious is the problem?

"If more pigeons are attracted to the area, their droppings will cause more and more damage. The monument has undergone numerous restorations over the millennia, beginning with one conducted in about 1400 BC by the prince who later became Pharaoh Thutmosis IV, who dreamt that the Sphinx asked him to clear the sand around it in return for the crown of Upper and Lower Egypt. It was cleared, and he was crowned Pharaoh, but wind-blown sand soon buried the monument to its neck -- its nose, incidentally, had been missing for at least 400 years by the time Napoleon arrived in Egypt in 1798 with the band of French savants who took measurements of the head.

"More recently restoration was carried out in the 1950s and 1970s, when some of the damaged masonry was patched up around the lower parts of the Sphinx's body. In 1979 the Sphinx Project of the American Research Centre in Egypt (ARCE), in collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo, produced the first scale elevations and detailed plans of the monument. It was discovered that the stone used in the modern restoration of the monument flaked and powdered more rapidly than the earlier restoration so various steps were taken to consolidate the stone.

"In the 1980s, the famous Sphinx was subjected to intensive care. Chemicals were injected into the stone for strengthening, but the project had to be abandoned because the chemicals unexpectedly caused the treated parts to flake off, taking with them some of the original rock surface. A Sphinx Committee was formed, comprising scholars of the EAO, Egyptian universities, and foreign experts, and they all agreed that the "new" and "harmful" cement and gypsum mortar of previous restorations should be removed immediately and replaced with stones that matched the 1979 restoration, using the plan and elevations of the ARCE Sphinx Project.

"The Sphinx naturally remained a subject of debate and, not surprisingly, there was a windfall of contradictory statements in the press. One report in Al-Ahram daily newspaper in 1991 once again outlined the rapid state of the deterioration of the neck. Yet, in Al-Gomhuriya a day later, a statement appeared saying that the Sphinx was not in any danger at all; that the slaking stone on its chest was not an alarming phenomenon because the monument could easily be treated by chemical processes. Salah Lamei,

professor of architecture and member of the Sphinx Restoration Committee; Mahmoud Taher, director-general of the Information Department of the EAO; and Shawki Nakhla, director-general of restoration, all agreed that the statue was only suffering to a minor degree. The problem, they claimed, was a natural result of the monument being subjected to heavy rainfall, humidity and wind. Farouk Hosni stated moreover that there was "no point in making media propaganda out of it". That was when Hawass made his comment of the Sphinx surviving for another thousand years.

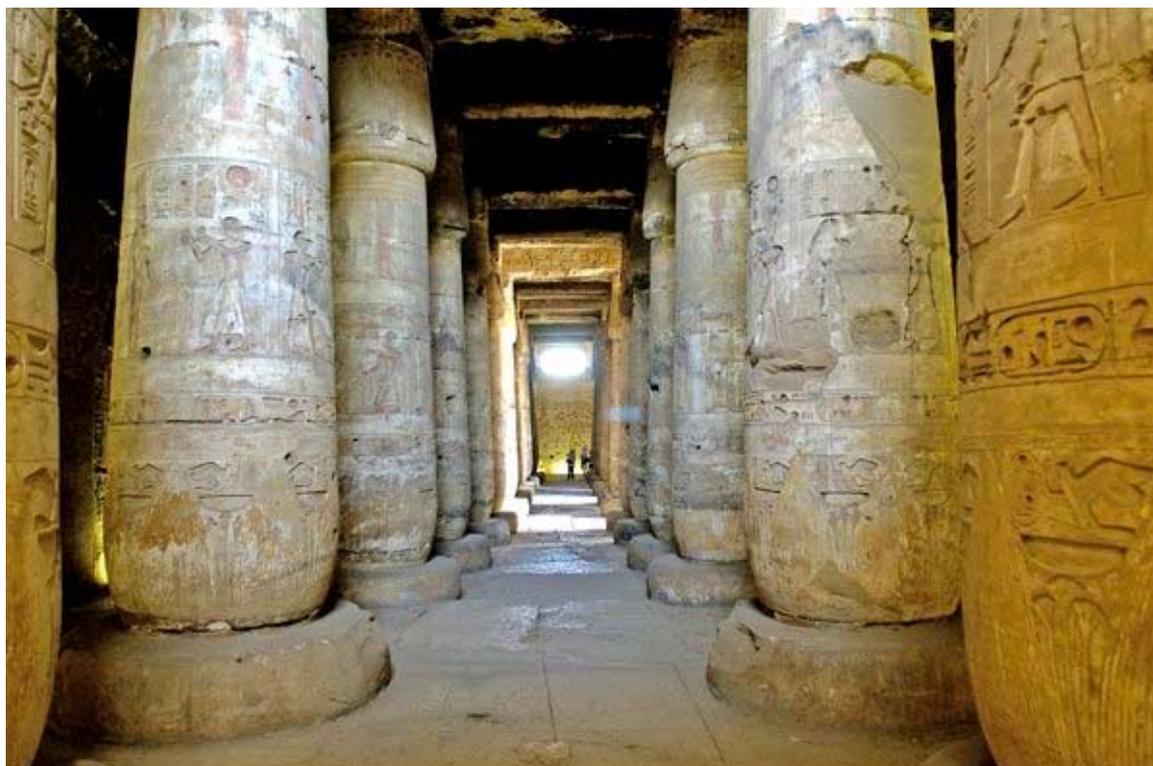
"How much damage are the pigeons causing? And how can the problem be remedied? Perhaps a pigeon-repellent device, similar to the bat-repellent device used (against the law) in some churches in the UK, might do the trick! But who would finance such a project?"

'Al-Ahram Weekly Online'

(<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2008/909/heritage.htm>) also permitted Nevine El-Aref to detail some of the efforts to protect the temple complexes of Abydos. Her report (abbreviated here) tells us that:

"As the city sacred to god Osiris where, according to legend, his head is buried, and coupled with the ancient Egyptian belief that the horizon west of Abydos was the gateway to the afterlife, Abydos was a favored burial place for ancient Egyptians who wished to be buried near their legendary ancestor. Hence many cult structures were dedicated to Osiris and vast cemetery fields were developed there, incorporating not only the regional population but non-local people who also chose to build tombs and commemorative monuments in Abydos.





"The most outstanding monuments at Abydos are the Second-Dynasty funerary enclosure of King Khasekhemwi, the Kom Al-Sultan enclosure wall which was the location of the early town and the main temple dedicated to the god Osiris, and the two New Kingdom temples of Pharaoh Seti I, founder of the 19th Dynasty, and his son Ramesses II. The greater part of the site remains concealed beneath the sand, a fact recognized in the Arabic name of the modern town, Al-Araba Al-Madfuna, or "the buried Araba".

"The most famous of all the monuments is the well- preserved temple of Seti I, which has some of the finest reliefs of any period to be found in the Nile Valley. It has seven separate sanctuaries, dedicated to Seti I himself and to Osiris, Isis, Horus, Amun, Mut and Khonsu. Their entrances are delicately carved in bas-relief, and they still retain their original color.

"Over the decades, however, spontaneous urban and agricultural development around Abydos has affected the monuments. The city's inhabitants have encroached on the area in the vicinity of Seti I's temple. Some have cultivated the triangle in front of temple, leading to the leakage of drainage water into the temple, while others have constructed residential mud-brick and concrete houses around the temple walls and along the road leading to Ramesses II's temple, which in its turn affects the scenery of the whole site.

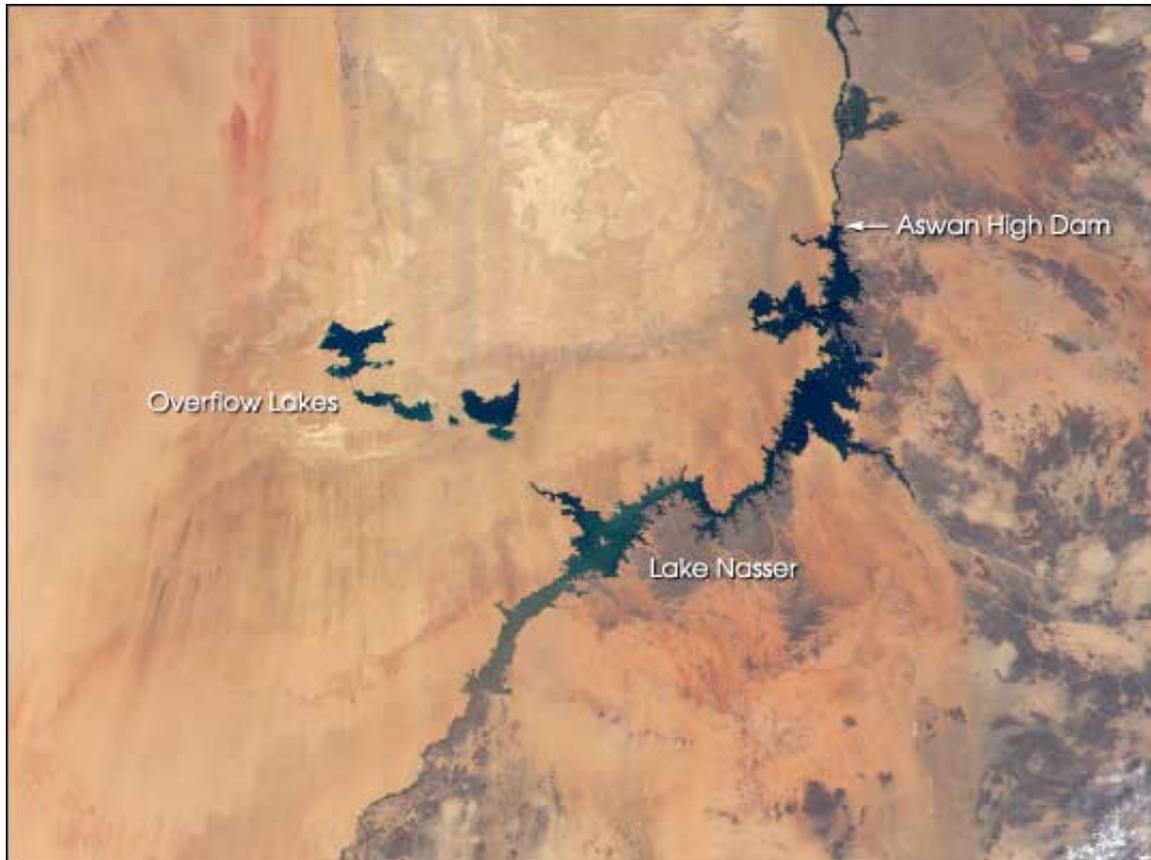
"The problem of water in Abydos is becoming serious. Abdel-Aziz told Al-Ahram Weekly that he counted three direct causes; namely the cultivation around the temple zone, the lack of a proper drainage system in the shanty housing areas near both temples, and the heightened level of the Nile in July and August, which in its turn augmented the level of water inside the Osirian.

"Abydos is archaeologically rich, and even more important historically than Giza and Luxor," Hawass said. "It was also a sacred pilgrimage site for Osiris, and almost every king in Ancient Egypt built a cenotaph or a chapel dedicated to the god of the afterlife." He said an LE20 million development project was now under implementation in order to end the problems Abydos is suffering from and to develop the whole site in a way that matches its archaeological and historical importance. According to the project, which will be implemented over the next six years, Abydos will regain its original scenic position.

"In an attempt to protect the archaeological site of Abydos from any further encroachment, a wall will surround it and the 92 houses located along the road between both temples will be demolished. Residents will be moved to other houses now under construction by the Ministry of Housing in a nearby area after it has been archaeologically investigated. A high-tech visitor centre will be set up in front of the temple of

Seti I, replacing the cultivated triangle, along with a cafeteria and a bookshop. "A sound and light show for the archaeological sites of Abydos is now under study as another tourist attraction," Hawass says."

Egypt will never have enough agricultural land to satisfy its needs, but they have tried a number of innovative techniques designed to use more of the desert. The 'Earth Observatory' site (http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img_id=4437) recently presented some photos on one of these pans...the Toshka Lakes project. This sites tells us:



"Four lakes formed recently in southern Egypt in an area that was previously desert. Fed by unusually high levels of rainfall and water overflowing from the Aswan High Dam on the Nile River, the first lake appeared in 1998. The Aswan's overflowing waters are channeled through an arroyo into a reservoir, as expected, but as the high rains have continued, so has the overflow. Consequently, the reservoir has grown in size and three more lakes have formed.

"Authorities in Egypt estimate that, together, the lakes now hold about 700 billion cubic feet of water--one quarter the Nile's total water supply. Scientist don't know whether or not the lakes will remain, or will dry up within a few years.

"In this true-color image acquired by the Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS), on October 10, 2000, the lakes are the areas of dark pixels located about 50 km west of Lake Nasser.



"In the late 1990s, Egypt's new manmade Toshka Lakes, fed from Lake Nasser via a canal, grew and spilled into new basins to become four major and two smaller lakes. These lakes extended 120 kilometers across the desert west of the Nile River in southern Egypt. Starting in 2002, astronauts have seen the lakes slowly decline, with the telltale ring of darker, moistened ground showing the previous higher water levels (see prior comparison of astronaut imagery of the lakes). The rise and fall of Toshka Lakes and the economic development surrounding the region are dependent on climate fluctuations and water agreements with upstream countries that, in turn, determine the long-term water flow in the lower Nile.

"This astronaut photograph, covering a distance of 11.3 kilometers from left to right, shows shoreline detail of the third large lake. Lake water appears deep blue to blue-green, and parallel with the shoreline is a wide brown zone which was under water until 2002. Most of the bright yellow sand dunes in the view are re-emerging as the lake level drops; most are outlined by thin wet margins. Still-submerged dunes can be seen offshore as blurred tan smudges (image top center). The summit of the biggest horn-shaped dune (image top right) was an island more than five kilometers offshore in images from 2001. The patterns of the overlapping crescent dunes gives a strong sense of dune migration southwards; the horns of the crescent dunes point in the direction of dune movement, from top right towards lower left. Dominant northerly winds drive the dunes southward, except, of course, when they are under water."

In other words, the plan was a disaster, the lakes are drying up, and all the people moved there with the promise of farmland will have to be relocated.

Another space agency outlet, 'Space Ref' (<http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewsr.html?pid=28902>) offered another space photo of Egypt...and made some odd statements about the image:

"Pyramids of Dashur, Egypt are featured in this image photographed by an Expedition 17 crewmember on the International Space Station. While the pyramids of Giza are perhaps the most famous, there are several other ancient Egyptian royal necropolis ("city of the dead") sites situated along the Nile River and its delta.



"Several monuments are visible in this image, including the large Red and Bent Pyramids built by Snofru, first king of the 4th Dynasty that lasted from 2575-2465 BC. Other visible monuments include the pyramid complexes of Amenemhat III and Sesostris III, both kings of the 12th Dynasty (1991-1783 BC). Both of these complexes are poorly preserved, due both to unstable ground conditions, and dismantling of the limestone blocks forming the outer pyramid casings during later historical periods.

"The Bent Pyramid (lower right) is so called as the slope of the outer face was lessened halfway through construction, leading to a distinctive "bent" profile -- explanations for why this was done include decreasing the mass of the pyramid to prevent collapse, or to reduce the work necessary to complete it.

"The Red Pyramid to the north (center) was built after the Bent Pyramid, and is named for the coloration of the building stone at the structure's core. An irregular dark feature to the southeast of the Bent Pyramid is not a shadow cast by a monument; it is an irrigation feature extending into the desert."

The odd part about all this is that these are not special photos. They have been available for some time as images seen easily from the free computer program Google Earth. Anyone can go to this program and see numerous space photos of Egyptian sites.

There are a few more odd stories this month. The CyberScribe doesn't have enough room to do them justice, but here are some teasers and some web links for you:



1. You can buy a desk once owned by Farouk, the last king of Egypt...for about \$180,000 (Business 24/7.http://www.business24-7.ae/articles/2008/8/pages/08262008_11f39a5ca9d14d56945f0e449194e1b7.aspx)

2. Invest in silly coins, such as this one showing Egypt's Great Pyramid of Giza, an encapsulated in a commemorative coin issued by Pobjoy Mint on behalf of the Isle of Man.



A layer of sand has been placed over the image, which is encapsulated in a thin plate of glass. The sand was collected from the pyramid site in September by Managing Director Taya Pobjoy. Costs about \$2788.

3. Buy a King Tut sleeping bag. 'Inventor Spot' (http://inventorspot.com/articles/slumber_like_a_pharaoh_with_king_tut_sleeping_bag_16931)



4. Have a drink at the Grand Hyatt Liquor in Cairo. After a dry summer, the Saudi owner of the hotel made concessions this week to the Hyatt international chain by partially lifting a ban he had imposed on alcohol. A few months ago, Sheikh Abdel Aziz Ibrahim, a relative of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, stunned the tourism business when he gave orders to dump more than \$1 million worth of alcoholic beverages into the Nile River. The decision, driven by Islamic religiosity, stirred anger in the circles of the country's tourism leaders, who threatened to demote the five-star hotel to two stars.

(LA Times

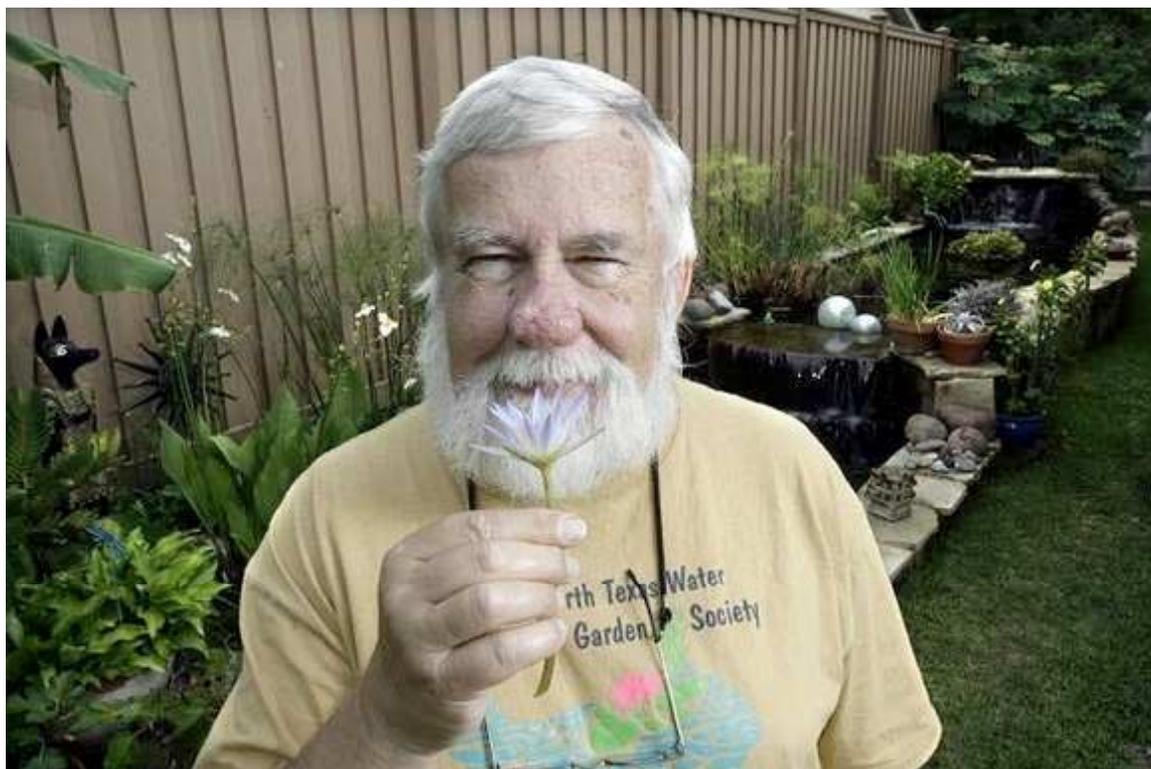
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/babylonbeyond/2008/08/egypt-liquor--1.html>)

5. Buy a flat in a pyramid. The Mayans and Egyptians constructed incredible feats of architecture able to weather the test of time, but they had no idea their pyramids would inspire the shape of the latest carbon-neutral super-structure to hit Dubai. Dubai-based environmental design firm Timelinks recently released some eye-catching renderings of the gigantic eco pyramid - aptly named Ziggurat - with plans for its official unveiling scheduled for the Cityscape Dubai event which runs October 6-9 of this year. The ginormous pyramid will cover 2.3 square kilometers and will be able to sustain a "community" of up to 1 million.



Timelinks claims that their Ziggurat will be capable of running completely off the grid by utilizing steam, wind, and other natural resources. The tightly knit city will also feature a super efficient public transportation system that runs both horizontally and vertically, and plans are being drawn up to utilize both public and private green spaces for agricultural opportunities.

6. See how a Dallas area geologist grows the ancient Egyptian blue water lilies...the so-called lotus. Ossian's rare Egyptian water lilies (*Nymphaea caerulea*) are day bloomers. Sky blue and fragrant, they were an important symbol in that civilization's art and culture. The geologist, who is president of the North Texas chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt, says the flower is depicted on clothing, held out as an offering and worn by women on their headdresses. Their likenesses are on the sarcophagi of pharaohs, laid square on their foreheads or placed like a wreath around the carved figure's neck.



(wenatcheeworld <http://wenatcheeworld.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080821/HOM/66640>)

And lastly...everything in Egypt is wrong!

"In a recent interview with Al-Masry Al Youm Dr. Osama Al-Saadawi claimed there have been discrepancies in deciphering and translating the Pharaonic languages. As a result, the image of Ancient Egyptians has been skewed.

"The French icon Champollion made serious mistakes when translating the Rosetta stone because he relied on assumptions that led him to incorrect translations, and thus the language is not right," Al-Saadawi said. "As a result we have a misconception of life during Pharaonic times."

"Al-Saadawi claims that only 10 percent of the deciphered hieroglyphics is correct. However, Egyptologists such as researcher and lecturer Ahmed Seddik say that errors in Champollion's work were a result of minimal technical resources.

"Among Al-Saadawi's finds is a discrepancy in the name of the Pharaoh who built the largest of the Giza Pyramids. According to him, his name was not King "Khufu," but King "Ghonoom." But according to Seddik, a graduate of the American University in Cairo, both are correct.

"Al-Saadawi also asserts that the Ancient Egyptians were not polytheistic as most Egyptologists claim. Ra, the God of the Sun, was not actually a god, he says. Ra is a shortened name for "God of All Things." However, evidence has been presented that when the New Kingdom was attempting to expand, the pharaohs recognized other gods in order to appease the people. Statues in the Cairo Museum are indicative of this."

(And then, notes the CyberScribe, he really gets wild!)

"Al-Saadawi also provides an alternative theory about how the pyramids were built, claiming that over 2,500 horsepower would have been required for Khufu, or King Ghonoom, to build the great pyramids. It is therefore impossible to have had men move the blocks. Rather, the pyramids were built using hydraulic ducts which utilized the flooding of the Nile.

"A wide range of theories have been presented regarding the building of the pyramids. Dr Mory Gharib, aeronautics professor at the California Institute of Technology, and a team of students have proven the smaller obelisks used to build the pyramids can be lifted and directed using kites and a pulley. However, although there is scientific evidence that this method is possible, it lacks documentation or finds to back it up.

"In Saqqara they found a kite that was aerodynamically sound," said Seddik. "Yet, these are all speculations. You can't prove it unless you dig it up."

And that's enough for this month!

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/>.

XX

Karlene...please add the usual headers, footers and notes. And be sure that we use my new e-mail address: clastic@verizon.net

PLUS...remember that we are going to publish the answers from last month's 'Where the heck is it' contest.
Cheers...
Clair

XX

Where the Heck Is It?? September 2008



This was offered as a very rare photograph taken by the famed explorer and collector Giovanni Battista Belzoni. The scene is said to be the bedroom in a motel near one of his most famous discovery sites, the Pyramid of Amenhotep VII. Or, perhaps not...

If you disagree:

- 1) Who was the actual owner of this luxurious suite?
- 2) Where do YOU think this photograph was taken?
- 3) What would you have seen on the walls just outside the door to this wonderful room?

Bring your answers with you when you attend the next North Texas ARCE regular meeting. The correct answer will be divulged at that time.

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Where the Heck Is It?? August 2008 Answer



Clues for this month

As we all know, ancient Egyptian were the first people to invent everything. Here is further proof...the world's first Dairy Queen (note the line of customers in the wall painting)...or maybe not...

If you disagree, answer these questions:

- 1) Where was this photo taken? Deir el-Bahari
- 2) Where is the statue now? Egyptian Museum in Cairo

3) Whose statue is that under the cow's head... Amenhotep II

i. e., who is the guy who paid for this wonderful site? Thutmosis III