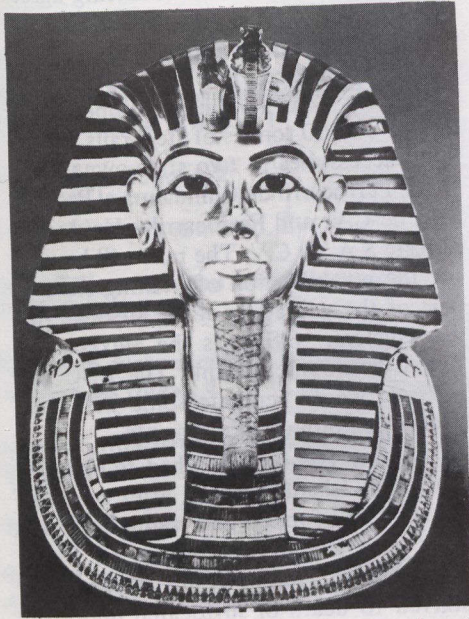


News of the arts

Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibit opens in Toronto

Canada is playing host to a boy king who reigned only nine years but the memory of him may live forever.



Gold mask of Tutankhamun was placed over the head and shoulders of mummy.

The treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb, some 55 selected pieces from the 5,000 found in the Valley of the Nile by Howard Carter in 1922, are displayed in the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Toronto until the end of this year. This is the only Canadian showing of these priceless objects before being moved to Germany for exhibition. The Canadian presentation grew out of negotiations begun in 1976 between the National Museums of Canada and the Organization of Egyptian Antiquities.

In spite of the great wealth of his tomb's artifacts, Tutankhamun remains a king whose history can be traced only in broken outline. He reigned from 1334 to 1325 B.C. during the Eighteenth Dynasty, one of the most glorious periods of Egypt's long history. The achievements of his short reign were the return to worship of traditional gods, beginning the re-establishment of Egypt's military and political might and restoration of the aristocracy to its position of wealth, security and power. His early death at 18 apparently caught his court unprepared for his own tomb was not finished and he was buried in a smaller tomb intended for some lesser dignitary.

The AGO has spent \$1.8 million in

mounting this exhibit which will be seen by some 800,000 persons, including 100,000 Ontario students. An American Express Canada Inc. grant of \$100,000 is the largest exhibition grant ever received by the AGO.

Representing the fabled treasures are 55 of the most beautiful objects, 22 of which have never before been out of Egypt.

One of the articles on display, which is considered by some to be the most remarkable effigy in the history of man, is the 10.7-kilogram gold mask of Tutankhamun made of gold, inlaid with carnelian, lapis lazuli, coloured glass and quartz. This solid gold mask was placed over the head and shoulders of Tutankhamun's mummy. Its features appear to be a likeness of the king. The cobra and vulture, symbols of royalty, adorn the striped headdress, while a false beard of divinity is attached to the chin. Engraved on the shoulders and back, in gold, is a spell in hieroglyphs from the *Book of the Dead*.

Other great works of art and intricate jewellery include the gilded wooden statue of the Goddess Selket, Tutankhamun with a harpoon, a small gold shrine, vulture necklet and earrings. Vivid decorations abound on wooden chests and shrines which show the king at leisure, hunting or with his queen, Ankhesena-

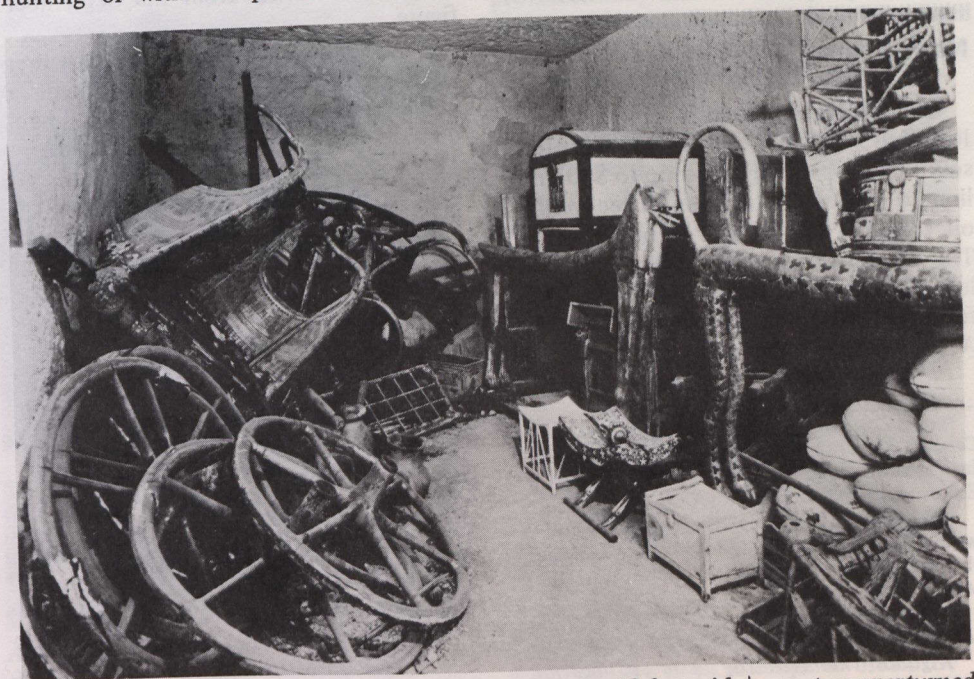


Wood statuette of the Goddess Selket.

mun. There are brilliant images of animals, birds and insects, articles and furniture used by Tutankhamun — like his child's chair and his golden dagger.

The objects are arranged in approximately the order in which they were excavated from the four rooms; the Antechamber, the Burial Chamber, Treasury and the Annex. In the corridors are photographs taken on the site by Harry Burton of the Metropolitan Museum during the ten-year excavation.

(Article by Walford Reeves.)



The largest objects in the antechamber (20 feet long by 12 feet wide) were two overturned chariots, which were too big to be brought into the chamber without being dismantled.