

| The Tutankhamun Exhibition |



The current exhibition of Tutankhamun follows the Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibition which was shown in London at the British Museum in 1972. The exhibition travelled to many countries including the USA, USSR, Japan, France, Canada and West Germany. During this period, in spite of expert supervision and care, the exhibits unfortunately suffered from their ordeal.

The Egyptian Government, in an effort to preserve them from any future stress, made a decision that the Gold Mask of Tutankhamun and many of the major treasures were not to leave their home in Egypt again. **Tutankhamun Exhibition** was designed and created to overcome this problem. All the exhibits have been carefully crafted by meticulous reference to the original antiquities, photographic records and detailed measurements and diagrams. Craftsmen and artists have recreated the treasures by using, wherever practicable, materials and methods used in making the originals, making the treasures shown in this exhibition identical as possible to the originals now in Egypt.

This care and accuracy of the archaeologists and craftsmen have extended to the reconstruction of the antechamber of the tomb. It has been recreated exactly as it was when Howard Carter entered it in 1922. The burial chamber has been recreated to show the moment the golden coffins were removed from the sarcophagus.

Such is the accuracy of the treasures and setting in this exhibition that they have featured in a number of national and international television programmes on Tutankhamun, which have chosen to feature the tomb and treasures in this exhibition rather than the originals, now in Egypt. They have also been reproduced in books, magazines and newspapers.



The Gold Mask of Tutankhamun

:The World of Tutankhamun



Picture of the mummified head of Tutankhamun

The Tutankhamun Exhibition begins by first setting the context of the discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon. There are special thematic displays on ancient Egypt including The Rosetta Stone and the decypherment of hieroglyphics. You will also learn about religion in ancient Egypt, mummification and the Egyptian Way of Death.

There is a fascinating examination into Tutankhamun's family connection and the part they played in the dramatic story of Tutankhamun's life and death.

:The Burial Chamber



Howard Carter comes face to face with Tutankhamun

The scene in the burial chamber re-creates the moment that Carter separates the outer gold coffin from the inner gold and enamel coffins. The third coffin which lay within the gold and enamel coffin was to surprise Carter, for it was made of solid gold. The famous gold mask covered the bandaged mummy. The audio presentation explains the background to the lifting of the coffin and dramatises some of the funerary texts found on the golden screens that surrounded the stone sarcophagus.

The Blue Baboon Wall in the Burial Chamber.



Tutankhamun's soul is released in the ceremony of 'opening of the mouth' on the wall of the Burial Chamber.



:The Antechamber



The Antechamber of the Tomb filled with all its' treasures.

Outside the antechamber. Howard Carter, Lord Carnarvon and Lady Evelyn Herbert, Lord Carnarvon's daughter, make the first hole in the sealed doorway of the tomb, and those memorable words are spoken. Carnarvon asks Carter "Can you see anything?"

“Yes” says Carter “Wonderful things”. The antechamber itself is shown exactly as it was when the party first broke in. The dramatised audio presentation re-creates this magical moment in 1922. The smells of the tomb have been specially formulated and re-created by reference to the description in Howard Carter’s account and by comparison with actual samples of the unguents and aromatic oils from the tomb.

Small samples of this re-created scent is available for sale in the Tutankhamun Exhibition shop or can be ordered from [Tutankhamun's Online shop](#).



Golden and wooden chests in the Antechamber.

:The Hall of Tutankhamun's Treasures

Some of the most famous treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun are displayed in The Hall of Tutankhamun's Treasures. A few of them are illustrated here.



:The Jewels of Tutankhamun

The Jewels of Tutankhamun include the famous golden collars of the young king which were found wrapped in the bandages of his mummy, as well as an exquisite falcon headed gold and jewelled collar also found on the mummy. One of the highlights of the display is a fine gold miniature statue of the king but perhaps the finest piece on view is a winged scarab pectoral pendant that was found by Howard Carter in one of the many boxes which contained the personal possessions of the king. The wonderful pendant is made of gold inlaid in with lapis lazuli, turquoise carnelian and jasper. The facsimiles of the jewels have been made by artists in Britain and America especially for the exhibition.



Horus collar in gold inlaid with semi-precious stones.

Pectoral ornament in gold and inlaid with semi-precious stones, showing the beetle scarab pushing the Solar disc.



Amulet of Anubis.



Amulet of Horus.

:The Mummy of Tutankhamun



The mummy may hold the secret to Tutankhamun's untimely death.

Of all we know about the Ancient Egyptian way of life and death, perhaps the greatest interest has been in mummification. Luckily the mummy of Tutankhamun, was intact, although not in as good a condition as was hoped. There are few royal mummies that survive today, which have not at some time or other been rifled by robbers, who have torn the wrappings and left the corpse damaged and exposed to the atmosphere.

It was not until November 11th 1925 that the mummy of Tutankhamun could be examined. How old was he really? How did he die ? What did he look like ? The autopsy created a rather macabre scene in the tomb. As Dr. Derry, Professor of Anatomy of the Egyptian University, who was conducting the examination, made his first moves. The first snags soon became apparent as the magnificent gold death mask which covered Tutankhamun's head, shoulders and part of his chest was firmly stuck to the bottom of the coffin in which they had rested for so long. This was due to unguents which had been poured over the mummy after it had been placed in the coffin, which with the passing of time had dried to a stony hardness. The linen bandages were in an extremely fragile condition and crumbled at the slightest touch. It proved impossible to unwrap the mummy layer by layer as they had hoped. They had to cut the bandages.

Enclosed in the many layers of wrappings were a vast number of personal and mystical ornaments. The King lay with his arms across his body. Each arm, from the elbow to the wrist, was covered with bracelets of gold, silver and semi-precious stones. It was not until the greater part of the bandages had been removed, that Tutankhamun's remains could be lifted from the coffin. The bandages that covered the head of the King seemed to be in a better state of preservation. The removal of the final bandage from the King's face was an extremely delicate operation, as the danger of damaging the king's features was uppermost in their minds.

The face of the monarch, who had ended his reign over three thousand years earlier, was then revealed before them. A serene, refined and cultured face, his features were well formed and lips clearly marked. His eyes were partly open and had in no way been interfered with, except to be covered with fabric impregnated with resin. His skin was very brittle and cracked, yet it was difficult to realize that this was the face of a man, who lived 3,324 years ago. The most striking thing about the features was how amazingly accurate the contemporary artists had been. The magnificent gold death mask is a highly accurate portrait. Dr. Derry concluded that Tutankhamun would have been eighteen or over, but under twenty when he died. The King had died young, but there was no visible clue as to whether or not he had met his death naturally. This would only become clear at a later date when the king was X- rayed.