



EMORY

MICHAEL C.
CARLOS
MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Priyanka Sinha
Office: 404-727-4291
Cell: 404-822-5019
priyanka.sinha@emory.edu

**WELCOMING KING TUT -- CARLOS MUSEUM'S NUBIAN AND EGYPTIAN
EXHIBITIONS ON DISPLAY**

'...Mayor Shirley Franklin said, "Those of us who live in Atlanta have access to the wonders of the world's civilizations right in our backyard,"...'

ATLANTA, Georgia—The Michael C. Carlos Museum's current exhibition, *Lost Kingdoms of the Nile: Nubian Treasures from the Museum of Fine Arts Boston*, tells a rich story of a significant civilization often lost in the annals of history. Complementing the Egypto-mania that will inevitably descend upon Atlanta this coming fall in the shape of the boy king, Tutankhamun, the Nubian kingdoms chart an interconnected thread that, for some, represents the roots of ancient Egyptian culture. Showing at the Carlos Museum's galleries, the *Lost Kingdom of the Nile* will run until August 31, 2008 -- an appropriate lead-in to this fall's *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs*, also presented by the Carlos Museum.

Both the *Lost Kingdom of the Nile* and the permanent Egyptian collection at the Carlos Museum, are sure to provide historical context for the magnificence and cultural impact of the *Tutankhamun* exhibition. The Carlos Museum is home to one of the few Egyptian collections in the southeastern United States as well as the only institution in Georgia dedicated to the research and display of ancient Egyptian art and culture. King Tutankhamun will find a welcoming community in which to reside for a short while. Speaking of the Carlos Museum at an April 2 announcement, Mayor Shirley Franklin said, "Those of us who live in Atlanta have access to the wonders of the world's civilizations right in our backyard,"

The *Lost Kingdoms of the Nile* exhibition consists of over 250 objects in gold, silver, bronze, ivory, stone and ceramic from 7000 BC to modern times. The Carlos Museum's outer special exhibition room includes an army of granite shabtis buried with Nubian pharaohs to serve them in the afterlife, along with sculptures, pottery and jewelry illustrating the skill of Nubian artisans.

To highlight this significant period in ancient world history, the Carlos Museum has planned several community events this summer, including a discussion on George Reisner on April 29, led by Dr. Peter Lacovara, Senior Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Near Eastern and Nubian art, called *Indiana George: Reisner and the Rediscovery of Ancient Nubia*. Also open to community members will be a viewing of Chester Higgins' photography, *Nubian Dreams: Images of the Sudan*, capturing the splendor of the Sudanese landscape and its vibrant history. This exhibition will run from June 20 to August 15. Chester Higgins will discuss his photography on July 10. In addition, Charles Bonnet, author of *Nubian Pharaohs: Black Kings on the Nile*, will discuss *Forty Years of Excavations at Kerma and Dukki Gel (Sudan) by the Swiss Mission of Archaeology* on June 29.

About Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs

The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University brings *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs* to Atlanta this fall in partnership with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, National Geographic, Arts and Exhibitions International and presenting sponsor Northern Trust. *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs* will be exhibited in Atlanta's historic Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center from November 15 to May 22. The exhibition, spanning 2,000 years of history, will include more than 130 artifacts from the tomb of Tutankhamun and other ancient Egyptian sites. This

is the first time these treasures will be seen in the Southeast. To complement the *Tutankhamun* exhibition at the Civic Center, the Carlos Museum will showcase at its Emory campus location the photography of Harry Burton, the photographer who documented the Tutankhamun excavation when the tomb was discovered in 1922.

This exhibition includes many artifacts never before seen in the United States and features more than 130 extraordinary objects including many from the reign of Tutankhamun, as well as treasures from the most significant pharaohs who ruled the Nile throughout 2,000 years of history. This exhibition places Tutankhamun in the context of ancient Egyptian culture and focuses on the splendor of the Egyptian pharaohs, the significance of kingship to the ancient Egyptian people, and the intricate and symbolic ceremonies related to life and death in the palace. Viewers will get a sense of how life and art evolved over many generations in ancient Egypt. *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs* will include not only extraordinary finds from the tomb of Tutankhamun and other tombs in the Valley of the Kings but also from temples, palaces and other ancient Egyptian sites. These magnificent artworks range in size from tiny intricately carved jewels to the colossal 10-ft statue of King Tutankhamun, himself.

Visitors will see artifacts from some of the most powerful rulers of Egypt, such as Khefren, whose great pyramid is the only remaining structure of the seven wonders of the ancient world; Hatshepsut, the queen who became king; and Psusennes I, whose magnificent golden death mask will be on display. Four galleries devoted to King Tut will correspond to the four rooms of his nearly intact tomb where the treasures were discovered by British explorer Howard Carter in 1922. Legendary artifacts from the antechamber, the annex, the treasury and the burial chamber will include Tutankhamun's golden sandals, jewelry, furniture, weaponry and statuary. The final gallery will feature CT scans of Tutankhamun that were obtained as part of a landmark, Egyptian research and conservation project, partially funded by National Geographic Society. These scans were captured through the use of a portable CT scanner, donated by Siemens Medical Solutions, which allowed researchers to compile the first three dimensional picture of Tutankhamun and discover more about his life and death.

About the Harry Burton Exhibition

The Harry Burton exhibition, *Wonderful Things: The Harry Burton Photographs and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun*, will show at the Carlos Museum from November 15, 2008 to May 22, 2009. When Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered in 1922, it was filled with artifacts including gold-covered chariots, elaborately carved alabaster vessels, inlaid furniture, a vast array of jewelry, and the famed gold mask. Every step of the archaeologists' painstakingly detailed work in and around the tomb was documented through photography, one of the first large-scale excavations to be so thoroughly recorded. Many of the photos have become as famous as the artifacts themselves. The clearance of the tomb took ten years, and in that time, photographer Harry Burton took more than 1400 large format black and white images.

The photographs in the exhibition document the Valley of the Kings, the initial discovery of the tomb, the dramatic moment when the excavators first glimpsed the dazzling array of artifacts, the entry to the burial chamber, the series of shrines and coffins that protected the king, and the king's mummy, wreathed in floral collars and bedecked with gold jewelry. Harry Burton (1879-1940) was an accomplished archaeological photographer who began working in Egypt in 1910. In 1914, he joined the staff of the Egyptian Expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. When Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922, Burton's services were loaned to the British team. Two sets of Burton negatives exist, one in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the other with Howard Carter's papers now in the Griffith Institute, Oxford, UK.

The prints to be exhibited at the Carlos Museum are being loaned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Griffith Institute. The exhibition consists of over 50 photographs with explanatory labels, wall panels that discuss the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun, the early use of photography in archaeology, the photographic career of Harry Burton, and how the photographs fueled the public relations campaign of the excavators and spawned the myth of the curse of Tutankhamun. The show will be complimented with additional artifacts discovered by Howard Carter will shed light on the search for the tomb and the secret of its discovery. Together, the Golden King exhibition and the companion exhibition of Harry Burton

Photos will highlight Emory's strengths in the study of ancient Egyptian art and culture as part of the "Egypt at Emory" initiative.

About the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University

Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University brings to the Atlanta community priceless treasures mapping an extraordinary breadth of ancient cultures, customs, and legacies. Some 16,000 artifacts from ancient Egypt, the Near East, Greece, Rome, the Americas, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as works on paper from the Renaissance to the present day, provide visitors with a glimpse into the art and history of world cultures.

Located at the heart of Emory University's Atlanta campus and exhibited in the landmark building designed by noted architect Michael Graves, these works of art and artifacts reveal the Carlos Museum's meticulous care for the legacy of ancient civilizations and the learning opportunities innate in each artifact.

A 1985 interior renovation, along with a 35,000-square-foot expansion in 1993 made the in-depth display of the museum's permanent collections possible, and transformed the Carlos Museum into a destination for special exhibitions. From locally organized exhibitions to those from nationally and internationally celebrated institutions, including the Louvre, British Museum, and Israel Museum, the Carlos Museum serves as the South's premier museum of ancient art.

The Carlos Museum's educational programming--with an active schedule of lectures, symposia, workshops, performances, and summer camps--benefits all who interact with the museum community.

The Carlos Museum's conservation program is unique in the Southeast. In addition to conducting scientific analysis and treatment of museum collections, the Carlos Conservation Laboratory also offers teaching and training opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in art, conservation, preservation, and science.

Founded in 1919, the Michael C. Carlos Museum has long been dedicated to collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting art and artifacts from antiquity to the present. The museum aims to provide unique opportunities for education and enrichment in the community, and to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research at Emory University.

Location: 571 South Kilgo Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, U.S.A. **Telephone:** 404-727-4282 **Fax:** 404-727-4292 **Hours:** Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 noon - 5 p.m. (Closed on Mondays and university holidays) **Admission:** \$7 donation. Free for Carlos Museum members and Emory University faculty, students, and staff. **Public Tours:** Free docent-led tours of the Museum depart from the Rotunda on Level One every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. during the Emory academic year (call 404-727-4282 to confirm).

###