



EMORY

MICHAEL C.  
CARLOS  
MUSEUM

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**LOST KINGDOMS OF THE NILE, FOUND -- AFRICA'S GREATEST CIVILIZATIONS**

*"...echoes of a magnificent civilization reverberating in today's dialogues on race, religion, and political systems..."*

ATLANTA, Georgia— Fertile ground for the exploration of a complex relationship between ancient Egypt and ancient Africa, 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. Not to be overshadowed by 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 ancient art curators, 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.

At the end of August, this significant chapter of history found in the "Lost Kingdoms of the Nile" will move on to its next destination. "For now, Emory, Atlanta, and Georgia communities have an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on the influence of the vibrant kingdoms along the Nile and tune in to the echoes of a magnificent civilization reverberating in today's dialogues on race, religion, and political systems," said Abdullahi A. An-Na'im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, Emory University, harkening back to his own upbringing across the Nile from ancient Marawi.

The Nubian kingdoms straddling the southern third of modern Egypt and the northern third of present-day Sudan, stand as an uncompromising reminder of an almost-lost chapter in history that would have remained underground and underwater along the Nile, if not for archaeologists sponsored by Harvard University and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, including the world-renown George Andrew Reisner, who excavated in Nubia from 1913 to 1932.

Following Reisner's discoveries were a series of "rescue" expeditions. Responding to a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) appeal in the early 1960s when Egypt built the High Dam to improve irrigation, more than 60 expeditions mobilized to excavate and document hundreds of sites, recover thousands of objects, and relocate temples to higher ground. Peter Lacovara, the Carlos Museum's senior curator of ancient Egyptian and Nubian art said, "Now again, archaeologists are in a race against time in a new salvage campaign to save important sites threatened by the building of a new dam at the fourth cataract in the very heart of Ancient Nubia with support from the Michael C. Carlos Museum."

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 kings to serve them in the afterlife, along with sculptures, pottery and jewelry illustrating the skill of Nubian artisans.

Ancient Sudanese and Egyptians shared gods and funerary arts practices, as seen in the construction of pyramids in Nubia and the shared reverence of God Amun. The *Mirror of King Shabaka* reflects the power women had in ancient Nubia. Nubian Pharaohs, preferring to remain in their homelands, sent their daughters north into Egypt to rule. Some suggest that the two serpents on the Double Uraeus, worn by both kings and queens, symbolized the union of Ancient Egypt and Nubia. Orchestrating this union from 747 BC to 716 BC was Nubian King Pianky. King Pianky founded Egypt's 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, which ruled for nearly a century forging the largest empire the ancient world would see until the conquests of Alexander the Great.

To highlight this significant period in ancient world history, the Carlos Museum has planned several community events, 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 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).

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