

North Dekalb

Serving the communities of Dunwoody and Chamblee

Tut, Egypt events boost Carlos recognition

5/12/09

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Staff / Tyler Goforth

Peter Lacovara, senior curator of Egyptian, Nubian and Near Eastern Art, stands with mummies and sarcophagi from the 21st Dynasty of the Egyptian Empire inside the Carlos Museum at Emory University.

A large-scale exhibit of Egyptian artifacts in downtown Atlanta could make area residents more aware of a museum in DeKalb, its director said.

Michael C. Carlos Museum Director Bonnie Speed said she hoped the museum's presentation of "Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs" at the Atlanta Civic Center would bring more attention to the 90-year-old Carlos facility on the Emory University campus.

"We have always been called Atlanta's best-kept secret," Ms. Speed said.

The Carlos Museum is winding down its presentation of the display of treasures from the

tombs of Tut and other pharaohs.

The six-month production, which marked the exhibit's U.S. premiere when it opened in November, is scheduled to end May 17 at the Civic Center.

The Carlos facility is serving as host for a supplemental exhibit of British photographer Harry Burton's work documenting archeologist Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of King Tut's tomb. It is scheduled to end July 26.

"King Tut is huge for us," Ms. Speed said. "This is the result of about 100 years of work. When the museum opened in 1919 some of the first objects that came in were from Egypt."

Peter Lacovara, the senior curator of Egyptian, Nubian and Near Eastern art at the Carlos, said he hoped the Tut exhibit would increase interest in the museum's permanent collections, which contains several Egyptian artifacts and a few mummies.

"We had the U.S. premiere so it was a big coup for Emory and Atlanta," he said. "I hope this will reveal a lot of interest for Egypt in Atlanta and help boost our permanent collection."

Lacovara said he will work with the Cairo Museum in Egypt — the owner of the Tut collection — to bring more Egyptian exhibits to the Carlos Museum.

In the works for later this year, Ms. Speed said, is an exhibit called “Scripture for the Eyes.” The exhibit will feature 16th-century Dutch illustrations of Biblical events.

For 2010, the museum is looking to present an exhibit of jewelry from India produced from the 14th through 19th centuries; and an exhibit on the Koran and Islamic calligraphy.

The Michael C. Carlos Museum is at 571 S. Kilgo Circle in Atlanta on the campus of Emory University.

Information: (404) 727-4282 or www.carlos.emory.edu.