



## South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, SC, Celebrates 25 Years with King Tut Exhibiton

The fabulous treasures of King Tut's tomb will be highlighted by an exhibit of epic proportions when the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, SC, celebrates its upcoming 25th anniversary by bringing back to the Palmetto State its most successful blockbuster exhibit.



The fabulous funerary mask of King Tut is only one of 124 stunning replicas of the original treasures of Egypt's "boy king". Harry Burton photographs courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

On view through Mar. 23, 2014, *Tutankhamun: Return of the King* will dazzle museum guests with 124 stunning replicas of King Tut's original treasures. Discovered in 1922 by British archaeologist Howard Carter, the opening of King Tut's tomb was the greatest archaeological find of all time.

"Ten years ago, this exhibit of these exquisite objects became the biggest, most popular exhibit in our history, drawing

more than 120,000 people," said Curator of History JoAnn Zeise. "It is fitting that on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, we celebrate with the return of this hugely popular show to be enjoyed by the people who loved it the first time, and by those who weren't here or didn't have a chance to see it back then."

Among the splendid objects that have been recreated for this exhibit are Tut's magnificent chariot, golden shrines, beds, thrones, jewelry, mummy case and royal mummy.

Also to be seen is perhaps the most instantly recognizable symbol of the young pharaoh, King Tut's spectacular funerary mask.



The incredible throne and ceremonial footstool of King Tut. This marvelous replica of the "boy king's" coronation throne bore his name in its earlier, heretical Tutankhaton form and portrayed an intimate domestic scene of the young royal couple. Harry Burton photographs courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The exhibit also will tell the story of *continued above on next column to the right*

the "boy king's" short reign and the conditions of political intrigue and societal upheaval that were prevalent during his rule.



The winged Isis, the most revered of ancient Egyptian goddesses, the legendary mother of Horus and both wife and twin sister of the god Osiris. Harry Burton photographs courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art

"King Tut lived in a time when there was great social, political and religious upheaval in Egypt," said Zeise. "His father, Akhenaton, had spearheaded a movement to change Egypt's religion from

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