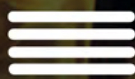


# TUTANKHAMUN

DISCOVERING THE FORGOTTEN PHARAOH



Presses Universitaires de Liège

Collection *Aegyptiaca Leodiensia* 12

# TUTANKHAMUN

## DISCOVERING THE FORGOTTEN PHARAOH

Catalogue edited by  
Simon CONNOR and Dimitri LABOURY

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The exhibition “Tutankhamun. Discovering the Forgotten Pharaoh” was produced by the scr1-fs EUROPA EXPO and realised by the non-profit organisation Collections & Patrimoines.

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## Acknowledgements

Jean-Lou Stefan

The anonymous private collectors who entrusted us with their pieces.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Agostinho da Cunha, untimely seized by the Abductor, as ancient Egyptians called it.

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# Living at the Court of Tutankhamun

Although of Mycenaean origin, these two vases were unearthed in the Faiyum region, on the site of Medinet el-Gurob. Such jars were first imported into Egypt for their valuable content, such as fragrant oils, the trade of which is frequently mentioned in linear B tablets found in Mycenaean palaces. These jars were also appreciated for their aesthetic qualities. They are frequently found among funerary furniture in the tombs of the “middle” class and elite. The name they are now given, “stirrup jar,” refers to the particular shape of their handles, placed on either side of a central neck. This device allowed for easy gripping and controlled pouring of the jar’s contents, by placing the index and middle finger in each of the two handles, while the thumb pressed the center neck.

Ceramics of foreign origin, imported from the Levant, Cyprus and Mycenae, are present in large numbers at the site of Gurob, which was one of the royal residences at the time. Tutankhamun must have been there several times during his life. In fact, this establishment housed what contemporary Egyptologists call a “harem-palace,” a residence of the women of the royal entourage, where young princes of the New Kingdom received their education and where kings loved to relax and enjoy hunting and fishing in the swamps of the area. A beautiful carved wooden head of the Great Royal Wife of Amenhotep III, Queen Tiye, (now preserved in Berlin), and several objects inscribed with her name were discovered there, suggesting that the queen also stayed, at least temporarily, in Gurob. The style of this little head suggests that the queen resided there, especially at the end of her life, a period that corresponds to the Amarna period and the childhood of Tutankhamun.

Claudia VENIER



Mycenaean Greek pottery ‘stirrup jars’.  
Diam.: 13 and 11.8 cm.  
Manchester Museum, 717 and 13893.  
New Kingdom, Eighteenth Dynasty.  
Provenance: Medinet el-Gurob.  
Photographs J. Thorne.