

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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NEWS

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ALBANY INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF THE ALBANY MUMMIES

ALBANY, NY— In 1909, Samuel W. Brown, a prominent citizen of Albany and member of the **Albany Institute of History & Art's** board of directors, was traveling through Cairo, Egypt, where he bought two mummies that he donated to the Institute. Since the day they arrived in Albany, the mummies and their coffins have become part of Albany history, seen by generations. One hundred years later they remain objects of ongoing international study, slowly unveiling clues about the ancient world in which they once lived.

On **Sunday, November 22**, the Albany Institute will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Albany mummies with new additions to the museum's Ancient Egypt exhibit, lectures, and hands-on activities. **At 2:00 pm**, Egyptologist Peter Lacovara, senior curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University, will lead a gallery talk and reveal some recently discovered research that casts doubt on the identity of the mummies. (Until recently, curators believed the pair were bought with their original coffins, which helped identify the inhabitants. However, recent and ongoing research indicates that these previous assumptions may be false.) Dr. Lacovara will also introduce new canopic jars, embalming equipment, amulets, and other funerary paraphernalia to explain the science and ritual behind mummification.

From 1:00 to 4:00 pm the Albany Institute's studios will be open for children to create their own hieroglyphic works and also create mummies of their own by bringing toys from home to undergo the mummification process. This event is free with museum admission.

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