

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art
125 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210
T: (518) 463-4478; F: (518) 462-1522
www.albanyinstitute.org

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2011

CONTACT:
Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations, (518) 463-4478, ext. 420,
kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org

ALBANY INSTITUTE AWARDED \$137,608 IMLS GRANT FOR EGYPT EXHIBITION

ALBANY, NEW YORK— It was just announced that the Albany Institute of History & Art has received a \$137,608 matching grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to help support a new major exhibition on Egypt, *From the Nile to the Hudson*, the story of how the Institute's mummies came from Cairo to Albany.

The centerpieces of the story are the museum's mummies and coffins. New research has determined that the mummy cover and coffin lid of the elaborately decorated 21st Dynasty coffin, which belonged to Ankhefenmut, a priest and a sculptor, are in the collections of the British Museum, London and the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. This exhibition will reunite the coffin with its lid and its coffin board for the first time in more than 100 years, according to guest curator Dr. Peter Lacovara, Senior Curator of Ancient Egypt, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta.

The exhibition, set to debut in 2013, will feature over 200 objects from the Albany Institute's collection, along with major loans from the British Museum, American Natural History Museum, the Semitic Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Hecksher Museum of Art, Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University, Morgan Library and Museum, and several private collections.

"The museum's mummies and coffins have been on continuous exhibition since their acquisition more than 100 years ago, and they are the most popular and best remembered of all the museum's collections," says Tammis Groft, Deputy Director and Chief Curator at the Albany Institute of History & Art. She describes, "Their celebrated trip by steamship from Cairo was covered daily in the Albany newspapers, and their arrival and subsequent display at the museum continues to delight, engage, and fascinate audiences of all ages."

The Albany Institute of History & Art was one of 160 out of 481 grant applications to receive funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services special initiative program, Engaging

Communities. All grant awards require matching funds from non-government sources such as individuals, corporations, and foundations.

“We anticipate record-breaking firsts with *From the Nile to the Hudson* based on our track record with *Excavating Egypt: Great Discoveries from the Petrie Museum*, which stimulated interest from regional audiences as well as tourists who stayed in our hotels, dined and shopped locally,” said Christine Miles, Director of the Albany Institute.

Media inquiries:

Contact Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations, (518) 463-4478, ext. 420, kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org.

###