

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANKHEFENMUT: FROM TEMPLE TO MUSEUM WITH EGYPTOLOGIST BOB BRIER

Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 2PM

Part of the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies Lecture Series

ALBANY, NY— On Sunday, January 12, 2014, Dr. Bob Brier, Senior Research Fellow at Long Island University /C.W. Post Campus, will present a lecture in conjunction with the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition. The Egyptians mummified for nearly 3,000 years, and the process changed over the centuries. Brier will describe the various phases of mummification and exactly what was done to the mummy of Ankhefenmut, the 21st Dynasty mummy in the Albany Institute's collection. He will also share what was discovered from the study of Ankhefenmut's mummy and what future discoveries are possible from the study of mummies. The lecture will take place at the Albany Institute at 2PM and is free with museum admission.

Dr. Bob Brier is a well-known Egyptologist and author who is often referred to as "Mr. Mummy". He has published nine books on Egyptology and mummies, has appeared on numerous Discovery Channel and Learning Channel documentaries, and is an experienced lecturer. His most recent book, *Egyptomania: Our Three Thousand Year Obsession with the Land of the Pharaohs*, was published in 2013 by Palgrave Macmillan. *Egyptomania* explores the fascination with all things Egypt and the events that stirred the continued interest. The book is available for purchase at the Albany Institute of History & Art's Museum Shop.

GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies Lecture Series features archaeologists, curators, and scholars from around the world who will share their insights into ancient Egyptian life, art, and funerary practices, as well as recent scientific revelations about the Albany Mummies. This new

information includes CT scans and X-rays done by Albany Medical Center in 2012. Some upcoming speakers for 2014 are listed below:

- ❖ Lanny Bell, Associate Professor Emeritus of Egyptology at the University of Chicago and Visiting Researcher in Egyptology at Brown University
Pyramids, Mummies, and Magic
Sunday, January 26, 2014
Sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America

- ❖ Melinda Hartwig, Associate Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology at the School of Art & Design, Georgia State University
Draw Like An Egyptian: Artistic Conventions in Ancient Egypt
Sunday, February 9, 2014

- ❖ John Taylor, Assistant Keeper, Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, The British Museum
Decoding the Boxes: Ancient Egyptian Coffins as Text
Sunday, March 2, 2014
Sponsored by The International Center

GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies lecture series will be held at the Albany Institute of History & Art, located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. *GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies* exhibition runs from September 21, 2013 through June 8, 2014.



Dr. Bob Brier with Mummy Ankhefenmut at Albany Medical Center in March 2012. *Photo by John Whipple.*

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GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies is the largest exhibition on Ancient Egypt ever presented in New York's Capital Region. Art and artifacts from around the world, combined with advanced medical technologies help unravel the mystery of the Albany Mummies. Acquired directly from the Cairo Museum in 1909, the Albany Institute's mummies have kept secrets that only recently have been revealed. Visit the exhibition to discover how new research, new technologies, and a team of experts have helped uncover their hidden stories. Learn about their lives and the ancient practice of mummification, all at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

- **From Cairo to Albany** highlights the 1909 acquisition of the two mummies and their coffins from the Cairo Museum.
- **Preparing for the Afterlife** examines the science of mummification through interactive stations and shows the results of new CT scans and x-rays taken at Albany Medical Center.
- **Ankhefenmut and His World** explores the daily life and culture of ancient Egypt during the 21st Dynasty.
- **Egyptomania** will showcase our ongoing fascination with ancient Egypt.

Interactive stations include: How to Make a Mummy, Pharaoh for a Day, Learn Hieroglyphs, and more!

Family Festivals, Art for All activities, and an **International Lecture Series** will be offered.

A special **Museum Shop** will offer Egyptian-themed items.

The museum is open Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-5PM, Thursdays until 8PM* and Sunday Noon-5PM. On Tuesdays, the museum is open to registered groups only. The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission is FREE for Albany Institute members; \$10/adults; \$8/seniors and students with ID; \$6/children 6-12; FREE/children under 6. *Starting in 2014, admission is FREE on Thursday nights (from 5PM-8PM). For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of lectures, outstanding educational and family programming, and special events, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

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