

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

www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute

www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2014

CONTACT:

Erika Sanger
Director of Education
sangere@albanyinstitute.org
(518) 463-4478 ext 404

Aine Leader-Nagy
Marketing Associate
leader.nagya@albanyinstitute.org
(518) 463-4478 ext 408

PYRAMIDS, MUMMIES, AND MAGIC WITH EGYPTOLOGIST LANNY BELL

Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 2PM

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

ALBANY, NY— On Sunday, January 26, 2014, Dr. Lanny Bell, Associate Professor Emeritus of Egyptology at the University of Chicago and Visiting Researcher in Egyptology at Brown University, will present a lecture in conjunction with the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition. Bell's examination of the way the ancient Egyptians faced the all-too-familiar problem of death will reveal that, rather than being obsessed with death, they were obsessed with life. At the same time they looked forward to an eternal existence. Bell will share how the Egyptians' preparations for death reveal their association of three fundamental characteristics of ancient Egyptian culture: pyramids, mummies, and works of art deposited as grave goods. The lecture will take place at the Albany Institute at 2PM and is free with museum admission. It is sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America.

Dr. Lanny Bell is a well-known scholar, professor, and lecturer who specializes in monuments and culture of ancient Egypt. He has conducted fieldwork in Egypt since the mid-1960s and has been a lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America since 1971. The Archaeological Institute of America's mission is to promote archaeological inquiry and public understanding of the material record of the human past to foster an appreciation of diverse cultures and our shared humanity. It supports archaeologists, their research and its dissemination, and the ethical practice of archaeology. It also educates people of all ages about the significance of archeological discovery and advocates for the preservation of the world's archaeological heritage.

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:

- ❖ 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

- ❖ Kara Cooney, Associate Professor, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA
Musical Coffins: Reuse in the 21st Dynasty
Sunday, March 23, 2014

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.

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.

* * * * *

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

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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).

###