

Resource 10

The discovery of the tomb - images



The Valley of the Kings. The Valley was an active burial site for about 500 years, starting about 3500 years ago. At the time of Howard Carter's excavation of 1922 there were 61 known tombs; two further tombs have since been discovered.

The site has been extensively excavated for more than 200 years. By the early C20th it was widely believed that all the tombs in the Valley had already been discovered.

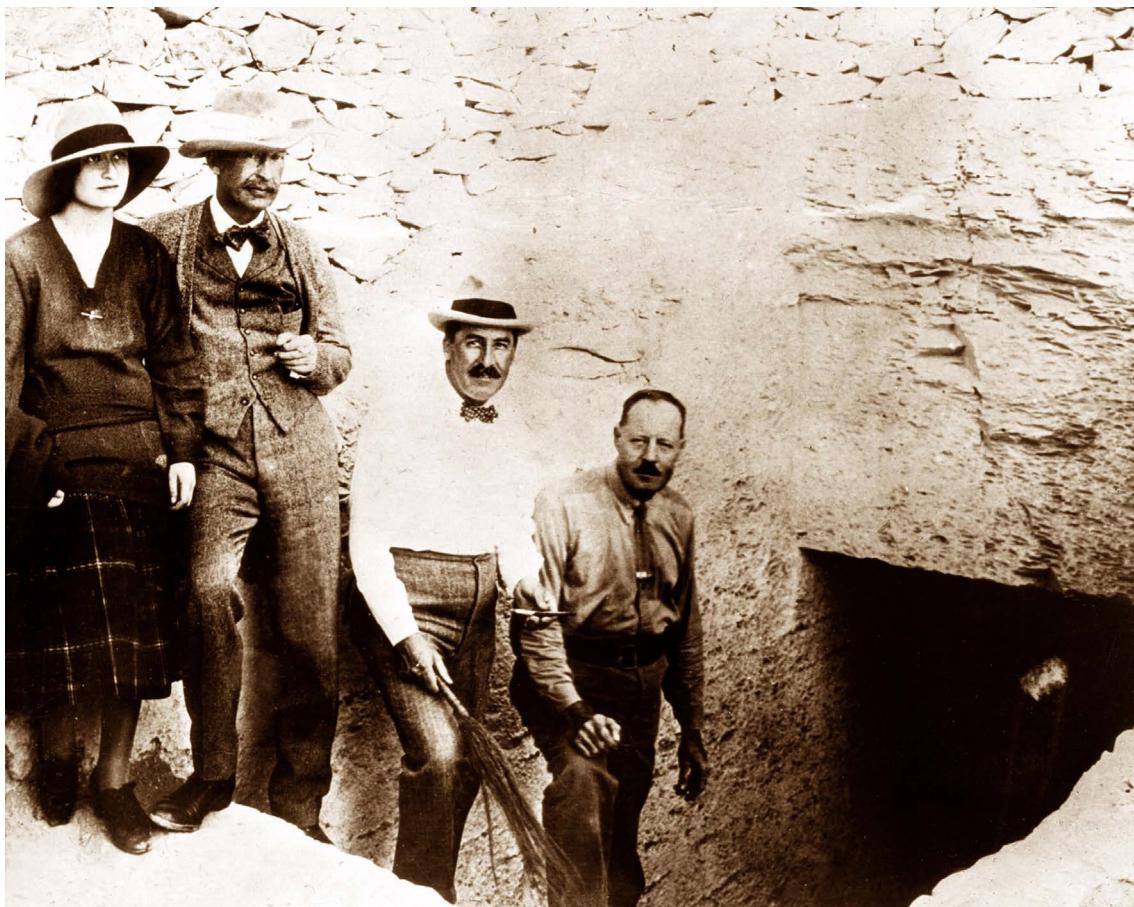
Lord Carnarvon acquired the concession to excavate the Valley in 1915 and he engaged Carter to explore it. The tomb of Tutankhamun was discovered in November 1922.

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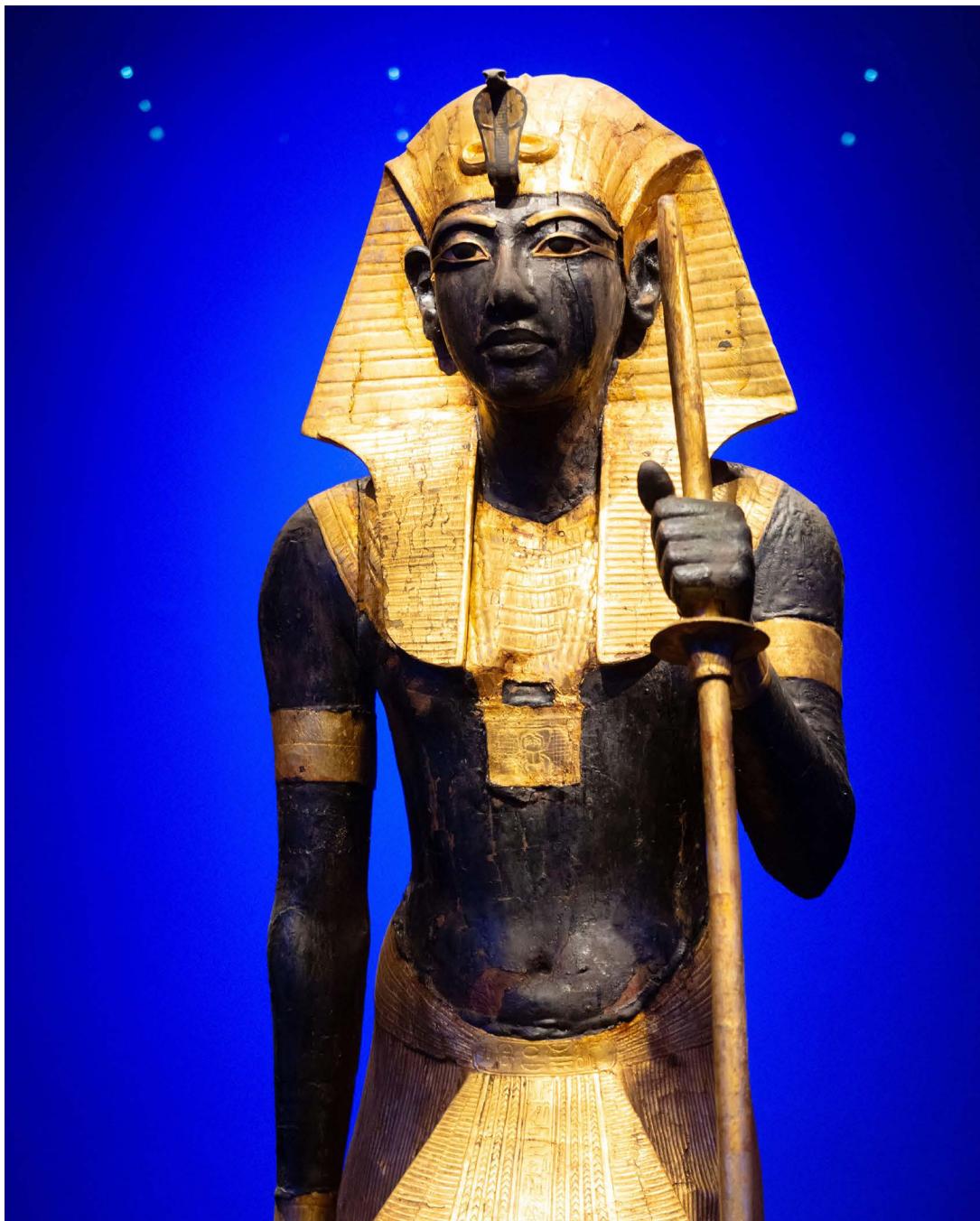
The entrance before the excavation - the 'step cut in the rock' which led Howard Carter to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. In his diaries Carter says that the first step was discovered by accident by a young Egyptian boy.

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Howard Carter (second from right) and Lord Carnarvon (second from left) at the entrance to the tomb.

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One of the tomb guards. The two guards - or 'sentinels' - were found in the antechamber of Tutankhamun's tomb, facing each other. They are made of wood, painted black with gold detailing.

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