

# TUTANKHAMUN

## AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE PHARAOHS

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**TUTANKHAMUN AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE PHARAOHS OPENS AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE TO MORE THAN 410,000 ADVANCE TICKETS SOLD**  
*Governor Rendell Tours Exhibition as Part of Opening Weekend Festivities*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – PHILADELPHIA, February 4, 2007 -- The highly anticipated exhibition, “Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs” opened at The Franklin Institute on Saturday, February 3 with more than 410,000 advance tickets sold, the largest presale in the history of The Franklin Institute and a record for the King Tut tour. Governor Edward G. Rendell visited The Franklin Institute over the weekend as part of the festivities surrounding the opening in Philadelphia, the final of four cities to host the current 27-month tour of the United States.

“Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs,” an extensive collection of more than 130 treasures from the tomb of King Tut, other Valley of the Kings tombs and additional ancient sites, will be on view at The Franklin Institute now through Sept. 30, 2007.

The exhibition is organized by National Geographic, Arts and Exhibitions International and AEG Exhibitions,, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. Hosted by The Franklin Institute, the exhibition is presented by Mellon Financial Corporation. PECO is the associate sponsor in Philadelphia.

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## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

Tutankhamun was one of the last kings of Egypt's 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty and ruled during a crucial, turmoil-filled period of Egyptian history. The boy king died under mysterious circumstances around age 18 or 19 in the ninth year of his reign (1323 B.C.). "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" offers glimpses of that evolving period.

On display are 50 of Tutankhamun's burial objects including his royal diadem – the gold crown discovered encircling the head of his mummified body that he likely wore as a king – and one of the gold and precious stone inlaid canopic coffinettes that contained his mummified internal organs.

More than 70 objects from tombs of other 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty royals as well as several non-royal individuals are exhibited. These stone, faience and wooden pieces from burials before Tut's reign give visitors a sense of what the lost burials of other royalty and commoners may have been like.

The audio tour that accompanies the exhibit was developed by the exhibition's curatorial team and recorded by native Egyptian and film star Omar Sharif. The Spanish version is recorded by Univision anchor Jorge Ramos.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Individual tickets for "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" range from \$17.50 to \$32.50. Tickets are timed and dated, and admission is 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily, based upon entry at 8 p.m. Due to high ticket demand, advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. For information about the exhibition or tickets, please call 1-877-TUT-TKTS or visit [www.KingTut.org](http://www.KingTut.org) or [www.fi.edu/tut](http://www.fi.edu/tut). Information about tickets for groups of 15 or more is available at 1-888-600 KTUT or at [www.fi.edu/tut](http://www.fi.edu/tut). To plan a trip or book a stay, please visit [www.gophila.com/TUT](http://www.gophila.com/TUT).

## **ABOUT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**

Founded in honor of America's first scientists, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute opens its doors to over 1 million visitors each year. One of America's oldest and premier centers of science and technology education in the country, the Institute is dedicated to creating a passion for science in new and exciting ways. "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" is on view through September 30, 2007. For tickets and more information visit [www.fi.edu](http://www.fi.edu) or call 215-448-1200.

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