



ANCIENT TOMBS

On this hillside where the Arab is squatting on the ground was found the burial place (still unopened when this picture was taken) of the father and mother of an Egyptian queen's favorite. Above at the summit was the sumptuous tomb of the favorite himself. In the ravine was found a mummy of the oldest horse ever discovered in Egypt. The photograph is an official one of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

ARCHAEOLOGY

How Queen's Favorite Buried Relatives Revealed by Tomb

Self-Made Egyptian Architect Provided Luxuriously For Himself, But Gave Parents Modest Resting Place

HOW architect Sen-Mut, self-made Egyptian and queen's favorite, buried his not very important father and mother, is revealed in a new tomb discovery at Thebes just announced by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The tomb, which escaped plundering by robbers for over 3,400 years, was found intact when the archaeologists entered, says the first report from Ambrose Lansing, director of the Museum's Egyptian Expedition.

Clearing a ravine in front of the tomb, the expedition first made a surprising discovery of the mummy of a

horse wrapped for burial and placed in a huge coffin. This is probably the oldest horse discovered in Egypt, Mr. Lansing stated.

Egypt is believed to have first acquired horses when the Hyksos, or Shepherd Kings, invaded the land, bringing horses with them from the Near East.

The mummy horse is estimated a little later in date than these whirlwind invaders who ruled Egypt for over a century from about 1700 B.C.

When the archaeologists removed a slab of stone in the face of the ravine wall, they found themselves before a

small chamber crowded with funerary material. Reading the names on two coffins, they learned that the tomb of Ra-mose and Hat-nufer, father and mother of Sen-Mut, famous Egyptian architect and court official, has been found.

Although Sen-Mut held a long string of titles and honors as favorite of the feminist Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut, the tomb of his father and mother shows that they had no official titles. From this, the Egyptologists infer that ambitious Sen-Mut won Egypt's highest honors as a self-made man.

Partial to Mother

Sen-Mut gave his mother a first class burial, the explorers soon realized, but the father was not so well treated. His mother was provided with a Book of the Dead, a heart scarab, and a gilt mask. His father got none of these, and a poor sort of coffin besides. Neither, however, was rated important enough to have an individual tomb. Their little burial chamber was cut as a dependency of Sen-Mut's own sumptuous tomb with its public chapel.

Limestone chips, thrown into the ravine, deeply covered the entrance to the elderly couple's burial, thus protecting it from vandalism that wrecked so many Egyptian tombs.

The tomb which Sen-Mut built for himself, on the hilltop, is almost completely destroyed. The Egyptian Expedition is now re-investigating this tomb and its surroundings, since Sen-Mut's funerary arrangements have proved to be extraordinary. In 1927, the expedition found a second and secret tomb that the queen's favorite built for himself under the very court of a great temple he was building for his sovereign.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1936

A group of British scientists have formed a Society for the Study of Alchemy because of the historic interest the subject has for chemists.

● RADIO

March 17, 3:15 p. m., E.S.T.
THE "IRISH" POTATO — Dr. F. J. Stevenson, United States Bureau of Plant Industry.

March 24, 3:15 p. m., E.S.T.
ARMING AGAINST DISEASE—Dr. J. P. Leake, Medical Director of the United States Public Health Service.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.