

The Giza Archives: Art & Archaeology of the Giza Plateau in Egypt An international collaboration



The Giza Archives

Just west of modern Cairo, Giza is the site of thousands of tombs, temples, and ancient artifacts and artistic masterpieces. After 45 years of excavations (1902–1947), the Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition produced a massive archaeological archive for posterity.

Since the year 2000, with the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the “Giza Archives Project” has been posting all types of Giza data on the Internet (www.gizapyramids.org).

As the ancient monuments deteriorate, the value of the documentation preserved by the Giza Archives and website only increases.

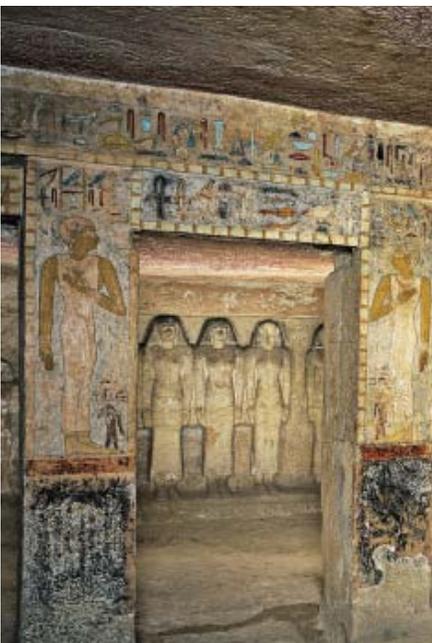
One Central Giza Repository for World Scholarship

In addition to the Harvard–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition, several other digs contributed to our knowledge of Giza. Through formal collaboration agreements, the Giza website is now expanding to include *all* archaeological activity at the Pyramids, past, present, and future. Collaborating museum, university, and institutional partners are based in Berkeley, Berlin, Cairo, Hildesheim, Leipzig, Philadelphia, Turin, and Vienna. At last count, users from 140 countries and territories had accessed the website (www.gizapyramids.org).

Get Involved

We hope to engage individuals and institutions interested in ancient Egypt, archaeology, cultural preservation, education, and technology. Please help us to

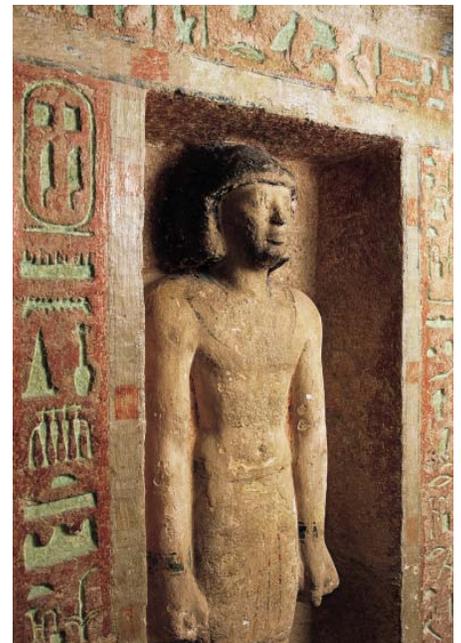
- Preserve Giza’s legacy for the world community
- Provide groundbreaking scholarship and teaching opportunities
- Enhance a world-class model for intelligent access to archaeological information
- Create source material for exciting new interactive museum galleries and classroom instruction.



Painted subterranean chapel of Queen Meresankh III. Harvard–MFA discovery, 1927.



Deterioration of wall statues (top: 1927; bottom: today).

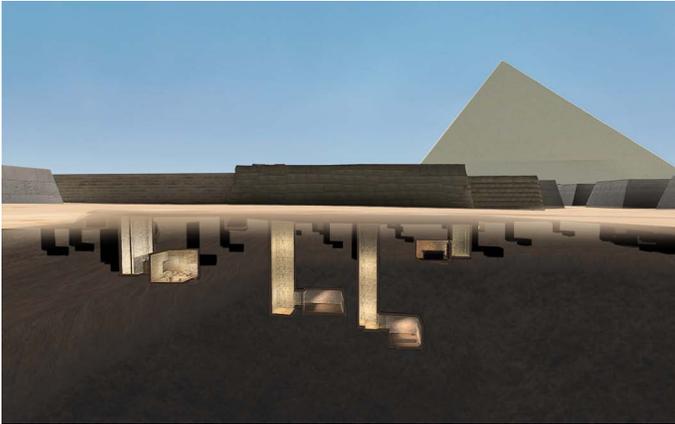


Engaged statues in the tomb chapel of Idu. Harvard–MFA discovery, 1925.

New Technologies for an Ancient Site: Giza Comes to Life in real-time 3D, both Above and Below Ground

With research and technology partners in the US, Cairo, and Europe, the Giza Archives Project is building 3D computer models of the pyramids, tombs, and temples, combining them with airborne geophysical survey data (remote sensing), and linking the results to the archival archaeological records, photos and artifacts in museums. The results will bring the site alive in previously unimaginable ways.

Mellon Foundation funding for the Project, begun in 2000, will come to an end in June 2011. But with Harvard University's hiring of Peter Der Manuelian as the new Philip J. King Professor of Egyptology, we stand at a historic crossroads to build a truly unique and high-profile Giza initiative.



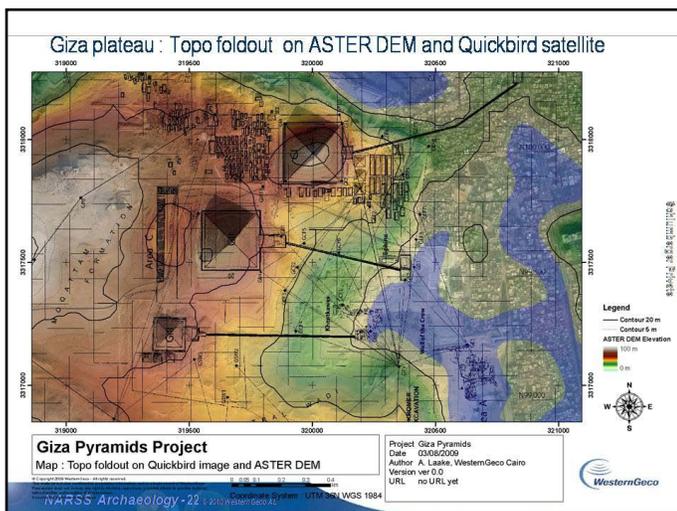
“Visitors to museums, or tourists at Giza will one day have access to all the information that was once accessible only to scholars in libraries. I believe the Giza Archives Project provides a unique model for archaeological site management, preservation, and access, and I hope that similar projects and websites will follow this example for other sites, in Egypt and elsewhere.”

—*Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General, Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and Vice Minister of Culture*



The Society of American Archivists selected the Giza Archives as the winner of the 2010 Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award in recognition of its outstanding efforts in promoting the knowledge and use of collections. “The award committee expresses its high regard for your team’s efforts to increase public awareness of your vast holdings of 20th century archaeological expedition records. Additionally, the website’s creative display, visual search, and high resolution zoom features effectively use today’s technology to provide insight into ancient Egyptian civilization during the Pyramid Age.”

—*Erin Lawrimore, Chair, Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award Committee; Associate Head and Curator, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University Libraries*



“It is wonderful to see Reisner’s original photos because they show features that are now, in most cases, covered by sand. The original excavation photos provided many surprises for me! The archives provide essential data that may not be retrievable in the field.”

—*Dr. Laurel Flentye, Egyptologist and Giza specialist*

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