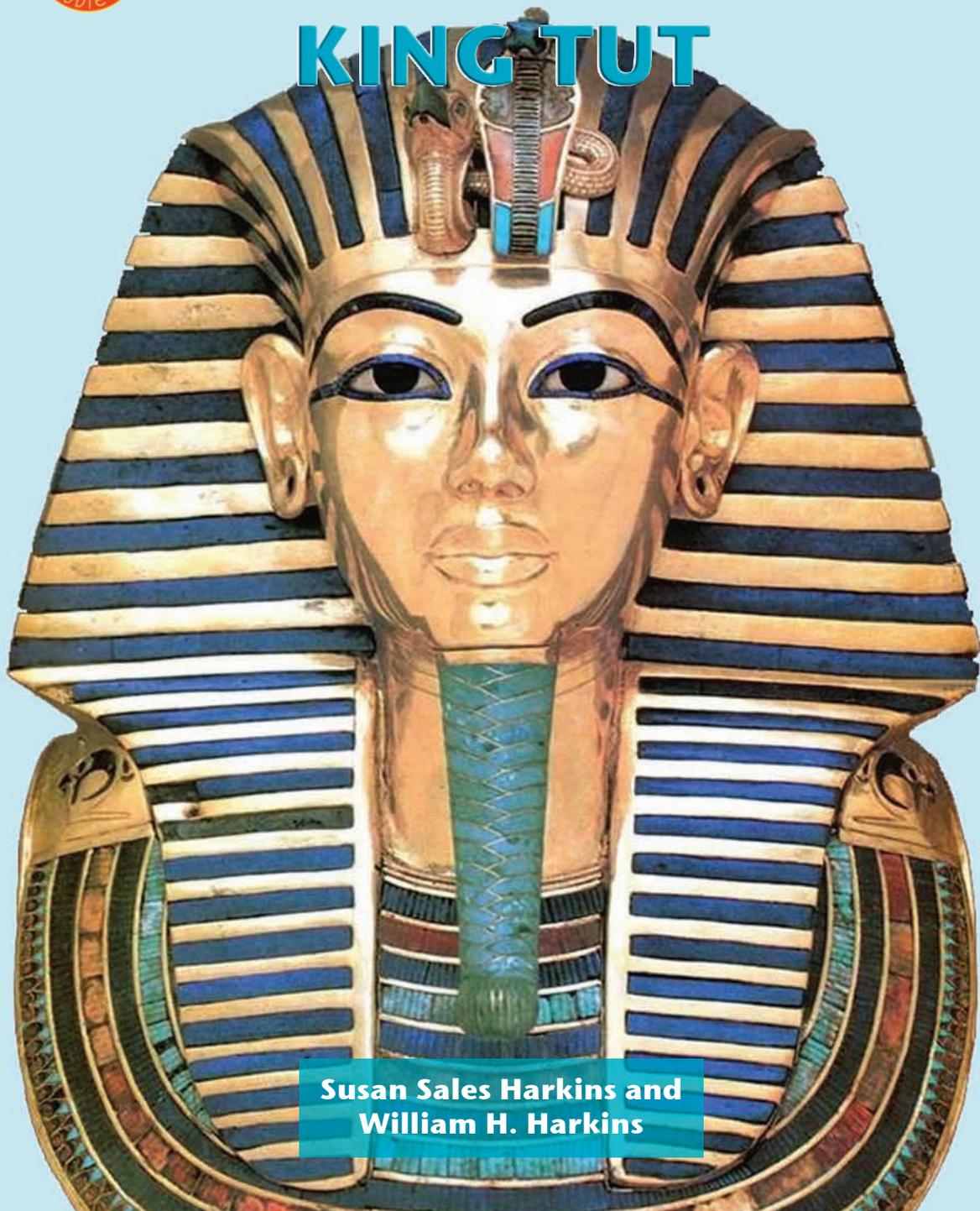




WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT...? KING TUT



**Susan Sales Harkins and
William H. Harkins**



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Printing 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**A Robbie Reader
What's So Great About . . . ?**

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Harkins, Susan Sales.

King Tut / by Susan Sales Harkins and William H. Harkins.

p. cm. — (A Robbie reader, What's so great about . . . ?)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-58415-681-9 (library bound)

1. Tutankhamen, King of Egypt—Juvenile literature. 2. Pharaohs—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Egypt—History—Eighteenth dynasty, ca. 1570-1320 B.C.—Juvenile literature. I. Harkins, William H. II. Title.

DT87.5.H375 2008

932'.014092—dc22

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2008020895

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Susan and William Harkins live in Kentucky, where they enjoy writing together for children. Susan has written many books for adults and children. William is a history buff. In addition to writing, he is a member of the Air National Guard.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The following story has been thoroughly researched and to the best of our knowledge represents a true story. While every possible effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher will not assume liability for damages caused by inaccuracies in the data, and makes no warranty on the accuracy of the information contained herein.

To reflect current usage, we have chosen to use the secular era designations BCE ("before the common era") and CE ("of the common era") instead of the traditional designations BC ("before Christ") and AD (*anno Domini*, "in the year of the Lord").

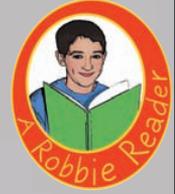


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One	
Tut's Treasure.....	5
Chapter Two	
Before Tut.....	11
Chapter Three	
An Ancient Prince.....	15
Chapter Four	
The Boy Pharaoh	19
Chapter Five	
An Untimely Death	23
Chronology	28
Find Out More.....	29
Books	29
Works Consulted	29
On the Internet.....	30
Glossary	31
Index	32

Words in **bold** type can be found in the glossary.

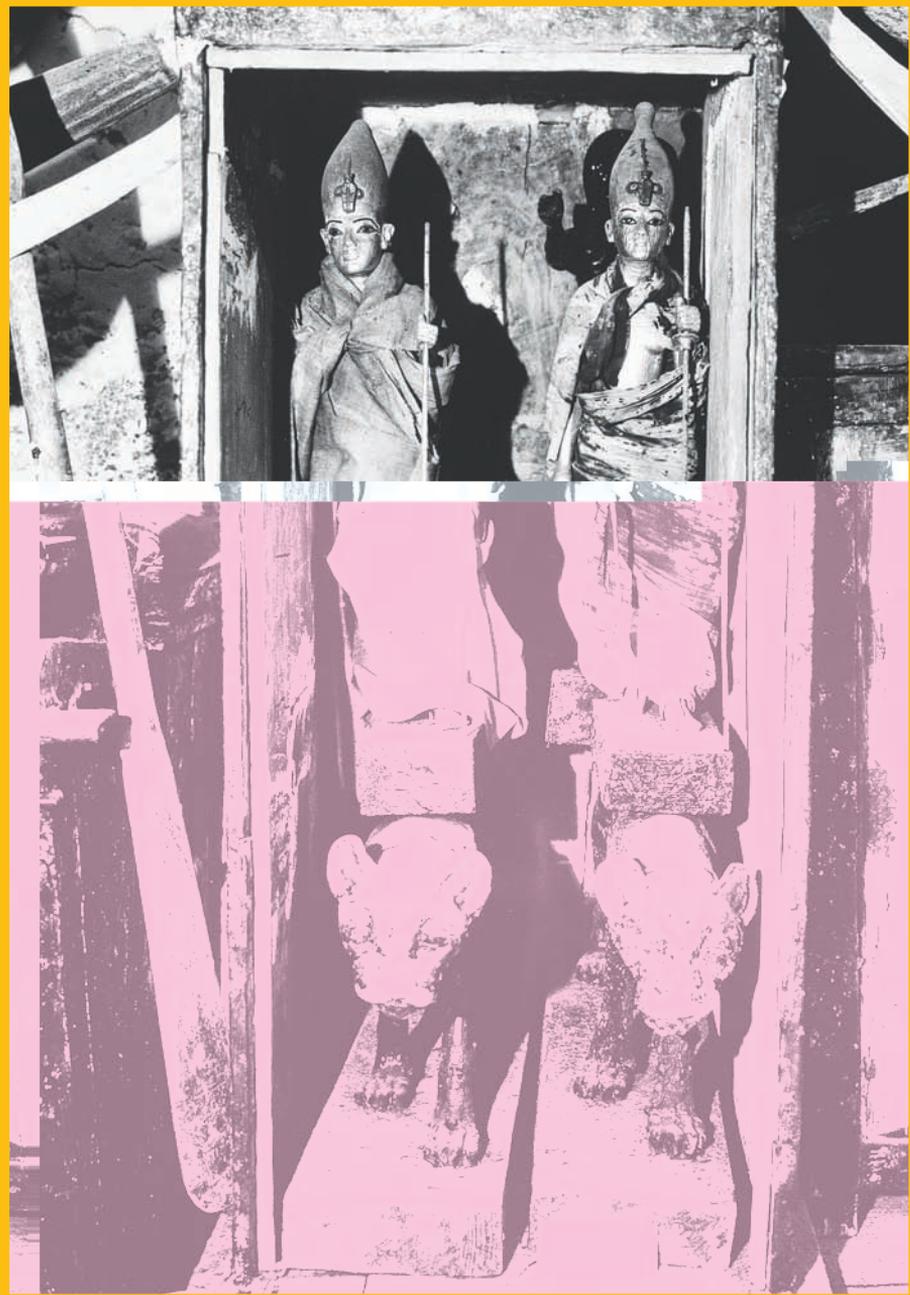


CHAPTER ONE

Tut's Treasure

In 1922 CE, **archaeologist** (ar-kee-AH-luh-jist) Howard Carter was looking for royal **tombs** in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. That's where some of the ancient kings of Egypt are buried. Some are buried in huge pyramids (PEE-ruh-mids). Others were buried in stone **vaults** under the ground.

For over a hundred years, archaeologists had been digging up royal tombs. Carter was looking for a specific tomb. He was looking for the final resting place of King Tutankhamen (too-tong-KAH-mun). Earlier archaeologists had read stories about him on the walls of other tombs, but they knew little about him. Whoever discovered his tomb would solve the mystery of Tutankhamen.



In the tomb, Carter found a wooden chest containing two statues of King Tut. The tomb was full of treasures and artifacts. It is one of the few tombs to be discovered intact and with little damage. Most of them were damaged by mudslides, flooding, or grave robbers.

For three thousand years, Egypt's hot desert winds had blown sand over these tombs. Sand had buried the door to Tutankhamen's tomb. Egyptians had forgotten about the ancient king.

Carter searched for a long time. He was ready to give up when he found a stone step hidden in the sand. Workers dug out an old staircase. At the bottom, after weeks of careful digging, they found a symbol on a door. It was the symbol of Tutankhamen. The king was real!

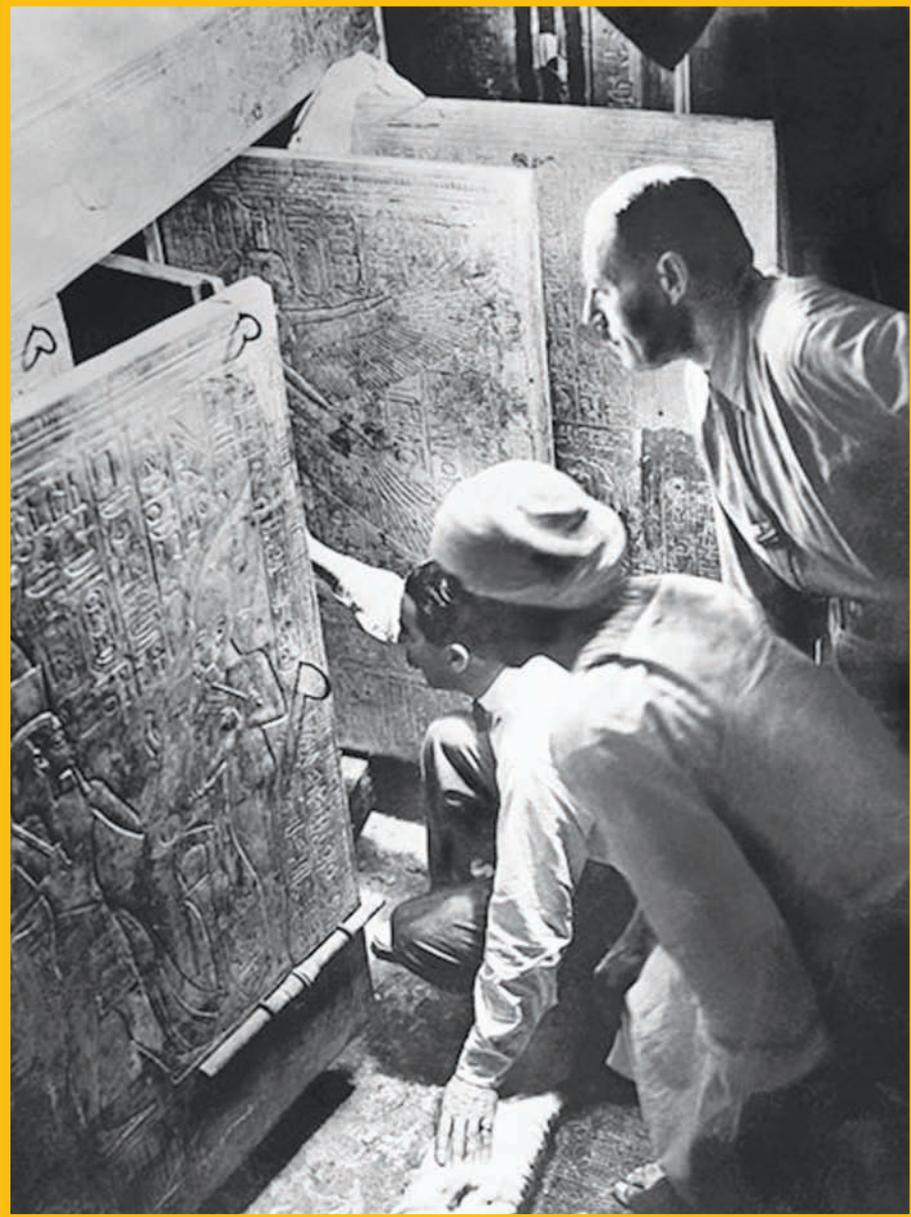
In late November, Carter opened the door. He found a long path blocked by large rocks. At the end of the hall was a second door. He could tell that someone had opened it before. Thieves must have robbed the tomb.

Carter carefully made a small hole in the door. Then he lit a candle.

"Can you see anything?" someone asked.

"Wonderful things!" Carter replied.

In the shadows, he saw gold chairs and chests. If robbers had been there, they hadn't taken much.



Howard Carter (kneeling) and his assistant Arthur Callender (right) peer through the entrance to the fourth chamber of Tutankhamen's tomb. The chamber was hidden behind a sealed door. Inside, Carter found Tutankhamen's coffin, made of pure gold.

TUT'S TREASURE

Behind the door they found a room full of treasure, including a **sarcophagus** (sar-KAH-fuh-gus) made of gold. Inside was the king's gold coffin. A gold mask protected the king's head.

Carter's team counted thousands of items. They took pictures of each one. Some items were so fragile that they crumbled into dust when touched. It took ten years to remove everything.

Most of Tut's treasures are in the Cairo (KY-roh) Museum in Egypt. The treasures and the paintings on the wall of his tomb tell us how people lived in ancient Egypt.

Today, King Tut is Egypt's most famous king. Yet he wasn't very important in his own time.



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