

Some "Snapshots Of Egypt" Of Our Own

By Prof. McKinley Burt

I understand that the Portland Art Museum is presenting a survey of 40 centuries of Egyptian art ("don't miss the photographs in the basement").

That is just wonderful but I always find myself a little nervous at these times, anticipating that once again there will be an attempt to persuade Americans that Egypt is not in Africa, and that there are no black people there.

At the moment I have before me the lavish 175 page color portfolio that accompanied the famed 1976-1977 "Treasures of Tutan Khamun" tour sponsored by The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Highly reputed cosponsors were, National Gallery of Art, Field Museum of Natural History and The University of Chicago, New Orleans Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and The Seattle Art Museum.

Heavyweight patrons, right? The general public is not likely to quarrel with the profound edicts handed down by this notable assembly from their establishment 'Mt Olympus', right? Wrong!

All us mere mortals are not quite the fools that the allegedly erudite cultural elite suppose us to be, and our resentment and anger is growing by leaps and bounds.

Fortunately, improvements in communications like the World Wide Web have paralleled our emotions and we are effectively countering the racists sooner than they would have thought.

For instance, on page 109 of the distractingly beautiful publication described above, the very epitome of authenticity in appearance, we have an ugly racist canard sneakily shoved



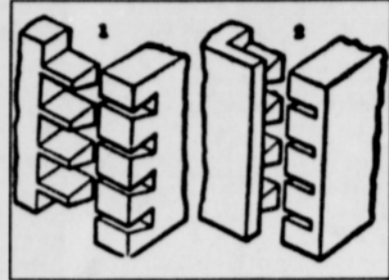
Egyptian King Tutan Khamun, no problem finding his look-alike at Jefferson High School



"Young lady in 'Empire style' dress."



Empire style chair from King Tut's Tomb



"Dove Tail" is shaped like a dove's tail:wedge-shaped that fits into a corresponding indentation to form a joint.



Marble copy of Greek original dating from the 4th Century B.C. Museo Capitolino, Rome.

between an unsuspecting reader's ribs - thinly disguised as a geographic misstatement.

Right in the middle of a paragraph glowing with effusive descriptions of Egyptian ability to combine esthetic grace and superb craftsmanship, we have the following; "The wood is said to be ebony, a material that The Egyptians Imported From Africa."

"Gross, ugly, obscene, hateful," you might say, and "coming right from the top, too." My friend, you just haven't been noticing.

At the preeminent universities, Egyptian studies are always found in an "Oriental Department", the same with museums, all toeing that racial line of demarcation which European culture demands; "Africa 'above' the Sahara and Africa

'below' the Sahara." "North Africa is "Middle Eastern."

Americans (not Europeans) were absolutely shocked when an African American actor was selected to play the role of Anwar Sadat in the Hollywood movie.

The Egyptian government and his widow insisted upon it, a heated controversy kept carefully hidden from the American people - like jet-black, woolly-haired oil ministers are heads of 'Arab' states.

When I taught at Portland State University, many of my Arab students said they found white faculty as "absolutely schizo phrenic" in their attempts to deal with race in Africa and the Middle East as they were in dealing with the question at home.

I have included some photo-

graphs here that will support our text. Remembering that so much of the African splendor revealed by that Tutan Khamen exhibit was first shown to the world when Napoleon returned from his 1798 expedition to Egypt (Africa, smiles), I have included here material relative to their marvelous furniture-making 4000 years ago.

The "Empire style" that swept the world. In fact Jacqueline Kennedy redecorated part of the White House in this mode (Time Magazine).

Among revealing photographs and illustrations here you will find that over 4000 years ago African genius had already given the world the ubiquitous tongue and groove joint (dove tail), dowel, rabbet, miter, mortise, tenon, lathe - all found in King Tut's tomb, together with the 'modern' furniture it made possible, chairs, chaise lounges, folding stools and beautiful, intricate chests - and a folding stool.

As one of my Egyptian students remarked, "we were sitting around on comfortable, luxurious furniture when the Greeks, still in bear skins, were sitting on stone getting hemorrhoids (see illustration).

Next week we will view more of the marvelous contributions of these African people.

Napoleon brought back much, much more that changed the world, arts, sciences, mathematics, dress, architecture, you name it. And what the Greeks ripped off.

For reference see: "The New Encyclopedia of Furniture", Aronson, Crown 1967; "The Art of Furniture: 5000 years of Furniture and Interiors", Ole Wanscher, Reinhold, 1966, "Furniture In The Ancient World."

An Evening with John Gray

The Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus Phenomenon Continues as the Author of the Biggest Book of This Decade (only outsold in hard-cover by the Bible!) comes to Portland

Not only is John Gray's Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus the most successful book of this decade, and not only is John Gray the world's leading authority on relationships, but now he headed to Portland for a one-man show. This is an intimate evening with the author that will entertain your emotions and inspire your mind. John is slated to appear in Portland on Friday March 13, 1998 at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall at 7:30 PM.

An Evening with John Gray will

be an unprecedented, phenomenal event; very few authors with success comparable to John Gray's have ever taken to the stage in a one-man production. The magical evening will be both funny and informative, as Gray recounts witty anecdotes, role-plays both genders and interacts with the audience using the new language that he created to make it easier for men and women to communicate.

Tickets are available at all Fred Meyer FASTIXX in Portland, 800/992-tixx outside Portland. There will be a relationship seminar the following day. Tickets for the workshop (led by Michael Najarian) on Saturday, March 14th are \$89 (with a price of \$89 for both John and the workshop).

Blazers Boys & Girls Club Spring Break Activities

CONTINUE FROM FRONT

"Vote for Jessica Chinh as secretary. Thank You!!!" -- a reminder that the leadership Torch Club for children ages 11-13, is preparing for its upcoming election of officers.

Another room houses step aerobics, hip hop dance and movies, while across the hall is the airway science remote control model airplane group that is a separate program borrowing space from the club.

Further down the hall is a computer room and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's science room where youngsters can either build a hydroponic garden from scratch or take apart a computer to see what goes where.

OMSI representative Mohamoud Hassan said a special presentation is being planned sometime during spring break.

In the gym, children get involved in games about the cycle of life.

A long list of other activities include photography, drama, arts and crafts, exercise, African dance, a young women's group for teenage

girls, Keystone Club for leadership skills, a prevention program to combat drug use and sexual involvement, basketball and more.

When the club opened during spring break two years ago, it was named for the Blazers basketball team, which was its largest single financial contributor.

Members of the team occasionally visit, such as last Halloween's carnival when Gary Trent, Rashid Wallace and J.R. Rider joined the festivities. "They had a good time, helped decorate the gym and hung out at the haunted house," recalled White.

This is a membership club, with dues of \$15 per child for the academic year.

"We don't turn away kids if they cannot pay," said White, who told The Portland Observer that youngsters whose families are on public assistance or families with several children may be eligible for scholarships.

For more information about spring break activities and membership, call the clubhouse at 282-8182.

THE KOREAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

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