



## Press Release - Tomb of Karakhamun found by Egyptian-American team!

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September 15, 2010

An Egyptian-American expedition has found the burial chamber of a priest named Karakhamun (TT223). The tomb dates to Dynasty 25 (c. 755BC) and was uncovered during conservation and restoration work on the west bank of Luxor.

*Entrance to tomb of Karakhamun (Photo: SCA)*

The leader of the expedition, Dr. Elena Pischikova, said that the tomb of priest Karakhamun was discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in an unstable condition. It continued to deteriorate, and only parts of it were accessible to visitors in the early 1970s. It later collapsed and was buried under the sand. Dr. Pischikova's team rediscovered the tomb in 2006 and has been carrying out conservation work since then. She believes that the tomb of Karakhamun could be one of the most beautiful tombs from Dynasty 25 because of the preservation of the color and the unique quality of the scenes.

Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture, announced this discovery today and added that the restoration work of this tomb is part of a much larger initiative, known as the South Asasif Conservation Project (ACP). The el-Asasif area is a very important site, which contains nobles' tombs from the New Kingdom as well as the 25-26<sup>th</sup> Dynasties.

Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), said that the team found the burial chamber of Karakhamun at the bottom of an 8m deep burial shaft. The chamber is in very good condition and contains beautifully painted scenes. The entrance to the chamber is decorated with an image of Karakhamun and the ceiling is decorated with several astrological scenes, including a depiction of the sky goddess, Nut.



*Painted ceiling of Karakhamun's burial chamber. This scene depicts the sky goddess, Nut.*



*Painted astrological scenes from the ceiling of Karakhamun's burial chamber. (Photos: SCA)*

# African American Involvement In The Recent Discoveries Of An Egyptian Tomb

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On September 15, the Egyptian Minister of Culture announced the discovery of an Egyptian tomb “found by Egyptian-American team.” The discovery of the burial chamber of a 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty priest named Karakhamun was lead by Dr. Elena Pischikova. As with any archeological discovery, one often has to dig deep in order to find hidden treasure.

The hidden treasure in the announcement of this discovery is that the one of the American members of the “Egyptian-American team” is noted African American historian and author, Anthony Browder, who has financed the excavation of the tomb since 2008.

Mr. Browder met Dr. Pischikova in Egypt in 2008 while he was conducting research for a new book. She gave him a private tour of the tomb and discussed its historical relevance to African Americans. Dr. Pischikova said that she may have to end the excavation because of a lack of funding and lamented the fact that traditional funding institutions were not interested in the 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty because it was black African.

Understanding the historical significance of this discovery, Mr. Browder made a commitment to assist Dr. Pischikova. In 2008, Browder founded the *ASA Restoration Project*, a non-profit corporation, to raise funds for the continued excavation of the tomb and to promote awareness of Karakhamun and the 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. *The ASA Restoration Project* is named in honor of noted African American psychologist and historian Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, III.

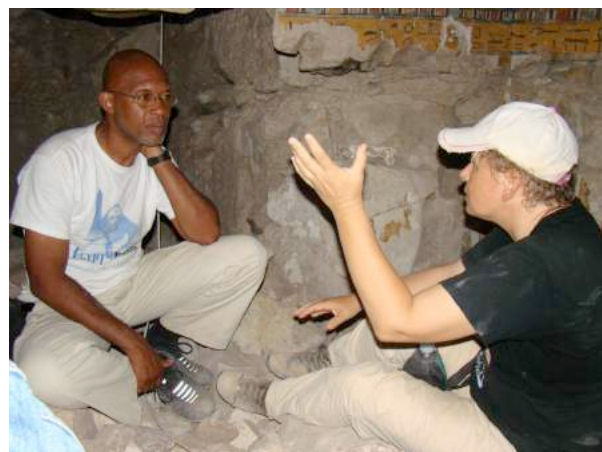
In 2009 and 2010, the *Asa Restoration Project* sponsored three teams of African Americans to work at the excavation site during the summer excavation season. Dr. Pischikova has acknowledged that without the support of Mr. Browder and the *ASA Restoration Project* this year’s discoveries would not have occurred.

Anthony Browder has made 45 trips to Egypt since 1980 and has been conducting study tours there since 1987. He is the author of 6 books, including *From the Browder File* and *Nile Valley Contributions to Civilization*. In 1989 Browder took his seven year-old daughter Atlantis on one of his study tours and they co-authored her first book *My First Trip to Africa* when she was eight. In August, Anthony and his daughter became the first African Americans to enter the burial chamber of Karakhamun where they spent a week excavating and photographing the contents of the burial chamber.

For more information on Mr. Browder and the ASA Restoration Project visit [www.ikg-info.com](http://www.ikg-info.com) or [asaprojectblog.com](http://asaprojectblog.com).



Anthony and Atlantis in Karakhamun’s burial chamber.



Anthony and Dr. Pischikova discuss the importance of their find.

Photos courtesy of IKG