

Volume 2

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**Howard Carter and the Tomb of
Tutankhamen I**

Lead: Howard Carter put his head through the small opening. What he saw changed his life.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Howard Carter was born in Norfolk, England in the high Victorian era of British Colonial Confidence. The British Navy still ruled the oceans of the world, and despite occasional setbacks such as the Sepoy Mutiny in India and the Boer War, until the dawn of the twentieth

century the British Empire stretched proud and virtually unchallenged to the far corners of the globe.

In Egypt, whether alongside collaborating native Egyptians or directly ruling themselves, the British watched with great care over the approaches to the Suez Canal, this vital link in the colonial lifeline to India. There in British Egypt Howard Carter found his life's work. Despite a lack of formal education, his artistic skills and a fascination with archaeology was enough to get him a job at the age of seventeen tracing tomb scenes for the Egypt Exploration Fund. For ten years his growing enthusiasm carried him deeper into the study of Egyptian archeology. In

1900, Carter was appointed to the newly established post of Inspector-General of Monuments of Upper Egypt in which capacity he began to take increasing interest in the area around ancient Thebes and to explore the Valley of the Kings, the ancient burial ground for many of the Pharaohs. A dispute with his superiors led to his resignation in 1904 but shortly thereafter Carter met and began a long collaboration with George Lord Herbert, Fifth Earl of Carnarvon. Failing health and an automobile accident had caused the Earl to seek the milder climate of Egypt where he had busied himself like Carter in an increasing fascination with Egyptian antiquity.

Together these two began a series of successful expeditions. They uncovered the tomb of Pharaoh Amenhotep I, unearthed the Valley Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, and discovered the cemetery of the 18th dynasty queens, but it was their final discovery that changed everything. Next time: the teenaged Pharaoh.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

Carter, Howard. *The Tomb of Tutankhamen*. New York, NY: Excalibur Books, 1972.

Reeves, Carl Nicholas. *The Complete Tutankhamen: The King, the Tomb, the Royal Treasure*. New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, 1990.

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