

# One Cool Lady



40,000 years ago, a baby mammoth fell into a muddy river and perished.

A tragedy for mummy mammoth, but a wonderful source of information for today's scientists.

The mammoth, named Lyuba (by the scientists working on her, not her mummy, we don't know what her mummy called her!), was about a month old when she died in what is now Siberia and there she remained until she was discovered by reindeer herders three years ago.

Frozen in the permafrost, she is so well preserved that her stomach still contains traces of her mother's milk.

Scientists examining her found traces of sediment in her, mouth, trunk and throat which makes it likely that she struggled for some time trying to free herself from the mud.

Mammoth fossils teach us only so much, so the well preserved

remains of Lyuba have taught us so much more.

Apparently brown fat cells on the humped back of the mammoth's head helped to maintain body temperature in the frozen climate of the day.

The baby mammoth weighed about 30 kilos, about the size of a large dog, and was discovered in the Arctic Yamal peninsula of Russia.

The clay-like sediment is believed to have helped to keep Lyuba's eyes, skin, organs and some fur intact making her small body lifelike so long after her death.

Scientists are hoping she can teach us more about what caused Ice Age mammals to become extinct 10,000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene era.

Scientists said that she could provide us with her DNA, raising possibilities of mammoth herds once again roaming the frozen wastes of Siberia!

# The Search For Nefertiti

Back in 1898, the French Egyptologist Victor Loret excavated the tomb of Amenhotep II on the Theban necropolis and came upon a remarkable find.

This was the first tomb ever opened in which the Pharaoh was still in his original resting place, and eleven other mummies were also discovered in a sealed chamber in the tomb.

Eight of the mummies were transferred to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and three were left in the tomb due to their critical state of preservation.

Three of the mummies were found naked lying side-by-side on the floor of a sealed room in the tomb, Loret described them as an older woman, a little prince and a young man.

Later, it was realised that the "young man" was, in fact, a woman, her baldness having confused Loret: **The discovery in the words of Loret in 1898.**

*"An unusually strange sight met our eyes: three bodies lay side by side at the back in the left corner, their feet pointing towards the door...."*

*"The last corpse nearest the wall seemed to be that of a man."*

*"His head was shaved but a wig lay on the ground not far from him."*

*"The face of this person displayed something horrible and something dull at the same time."*

*"The mouth, running obliquely from one side nearly to the middle of the cheek, bit a pad of linen whose two ends hung from the corner of the lips."*

*"The half-closed eyes had a strange expression; he could have died choking on a gag but he looked like a young, playful cat with a piece of cloth."*

*"Death, which had respected the severe beauty of the woman and the impish grace of the boy, had turned in derision and amused itself with the countenance of the man."*

The female mummy who had managed to retain a "severe beauty", had been identified as Queen Tiye, the Chief Wife of the pharaoh, Amenhotep III.

A sample of hair from the head of this mummy was believed to match a lock of hair within a small case discovered in the tomb of Tutankhamun.

But doubt remains, and she is still known to Egyptologists as the "Elder Lady"

Now Dr. Joann Fletcher, Manchester University, has linked the



**Bust Of Queen Nefertiti**

wig fragments and the "Elder Lady" to Queen Nefertiti.

Akhenaten, the so-called "Heretic King" who ruled for 17 years, from 1352 to 1336 B.C. had decided that the priests were too wealthy, they had more money than him, and had started a new religion worshipping only one God, the sun.

Nefertiti was a tremendous force in establishing the new religion and fermenting the violent rift that developed between the royal family and the traditional-minded priests.

The damage inflicted on the mummies was done on purpose.

It was long presumed that grave robbers had aimlessly hacked away at the bodies as they plundered for jewels.

But the bodies were carefully and quite intentionally mutilated after having been unwrapped.

Nefertiti's face is mutilated; her mouth savagely hacked away.

Her right arm has been torn off just below the shoulder. The chest has a gaping hole in it, the feet hacked away.

Ancient Egyptians believed that postmortem damage could render a body incapable of living again in the afterlife.

Fletcher explains, as the soul lived within the mummified body, by depriving a body of its mouth, for instance, the soul was robbed of the breath of life; by disfiguring the feet, a body might be unable to walk into the afterlife.

"It is that calculated damage that sends a chill through your spine," Fletcher says. "People were trying to condemn them to damnation."

## Prize Winning Journalist Speaks Out

Has he lost his marbles or are there really;

# Cheney US Death Squads?

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh dropped a bombshell earlier this year.

During a speech at the University of Minnesota, he is said to have claimed that Secret US Forces carried out assassinations in a dozen countries, including Latin America.

He is reported as saying, "Congress has no oversight of it. It's an executive assassination wing, essentially. And it's been going on and on."

"And recently in the New York Times there was a story saying that its leader, a three-star admiral named McRaven, ordered a stop to certain activities because there were so many collateral deaths."

"It's been going on under President Bush's authority, they've been going into countries, not talking to the ambassador or to the CIA station chief, and finding people on a list and executing them and leaving".

The remark came out, apparently by chance, when Hersh was asked by the moderator of a public discussion of "America's Constitutional Crisis", whether the abuses of executive power, which occurred under Richard Nixon, continue to this day.

Hersh reportedly replied, "After 9/11, I haven't written about this yet, but the Central Intelligence Agency was very deeply involved in domestic activities against people they thought to be enemies of the state."

"Without any legal authority for it. They haven't been called on it yet."

Hersh apparently then went on to describe a second area of extra-legal operations: the Joint Special Operations Command.

"It is a special wing of our special operations community that is set up independently," he explained.

"They do not report to anybody, except in the Bush-Cheney days, they reported directly to the Cheney office."

"That's been going on, in our names."

Stories have been coming out about covert Pentagon assassination squads for the last several years.

In 2003, Hersh reported on Task Force 121,

**The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know. ....Harry S Truman. Former US President**

which operated chiefly out of the Joint Special Operations Command.

Other stories spoke of a proposed Proactive, Pre-emptive Operations Group.

As Hersh pointed out, the New York Times described the Joint Special Operations Command as overseeing the secret commando units in Afghanistan.

Their missions were temporarily halted this



**Investigative Journalist Seymour Hersh**

year because of concerns over civilian deaths.

**Cheney quotes:**

"We must be prepared to face our responsibilities and be willing to use force if necessary."

I'm absolutely convinced that the threat we face now, the idea of a terrorist in the middle of one of our cities with a nuclear weapon, is very real and that we have to use extraordinary measures to deal with it".

"Direct threats require decisive action".

**Actually I failed selection to the SAS, the world's greatest fighting force.**

*The sergeant running the course asked the following question.*

*"If you have \$200, and you give \$60 to Mary, \$60 to Sally and \$60 to Susan, what would you have?" Turns out that "an orgy" was not the answer he was looking for!.*