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**JANUARY 22 -  
MAY 20, 2013**

**IN THE SHADOW OF THE PYRAMIDS  
THE AUSTRIAN EXCAVATIONS AT GIZA (1912-1929)**

Curated by Dr. Regina Hölzl, director of the Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, and Dr. Peter Jánosi, Assistant-Professor of Egyptology at the University of Vienna.



The Great Pyramids of Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure and the extensive cemeteries on the Giza plateau are among the best-researched necropolises from the Old Kingdom (c. 2687 – 2165 B.C.). A century ago – in January 1912 – an Austrian expedition began to excavate the Old Kingdom mastabas located west of the Great Pyramid. These successful campaigns continued until 1929 (interrupted only by WWI) and uncovered a wealth of artworks, cultural evidence and information on tomb building and the Ancient Egyptians' conception of the afterlife, many of which still form the basis of subsequent studies of this period.

Most of the finds have remained in Egypt, but numerous statues, reliefs, sarcophagi and other funerary objects came to Vienna following the find divisions. Other finds are now in the Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim because as the sponsor of the Austrian excavations Wilhelm Pelizaeus had the right to some of the finds.

The exhibition „In the Shadow of the Pyramids” hopes to demonstrate both the importance of the Kunsthistorisches Museum's holdings of objects from the Age of the Pyramids and Austria's contribution to excavating and researching this important period. With the help of seminal loans from major

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European and American collections and museums the exhibition offers informative insights into the seminal achievements of the Ancient Egyptian civilization during its first golden period.

The life-size statue of Hemiunu – loaned by the Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim – is both the show's focal exhibit and the most important find from the first Austrian campaign at Giza, which took place in 1912. Hemiunu was Khufu's nephew and as one of the architects of the Great Pyramid in charge of building inspection for this major project.

The show also includes digital presentations that take visitors on a virtual journey to visit the Giza plateau during the Age of the Pyramids and explore the tombs' architecture, decoration and furniture. These presentations were developed in collaboration with the Institute of Architectural Sciences - Digital Architecture and Planning of the Vienna University of Technology.

A comprehensive exhibition catalogue is published in conjunction with the show; it features both in-depth object texts and essays by renowned scholars and experts on the different topics covered in the exhibition: documenting an excavation, art, architecture, and the funerary cult during the Age of Pyramids.

The exhibition „In the Shadow of the Pyramids” is curated by Dr. Regina Hölzl, director of the Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, and Dr. Peter Jánosi, Assistant-Professor of Egyptology at the University of Vienna. Both scholars have worked extensively on the Giza Necropolis and related subjects.

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## PRESEPHOTOS

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**The Pyramid of Khafra**  
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien



**The Pyramids of Giza**  
c. 1912  
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien



**Archaeological excavations at the foot of the Pyramids**  
1928  
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien



**The Archaeologist Hermann Junker**  
(seated in the foreground wearing a pith helmet) and his team uncovering  
statues from the mastaba of Shepsesptah  
1913  
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien



**„Reserve Head“ (now in Vienna) in situ in the tomb where it was found**  
1914  
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

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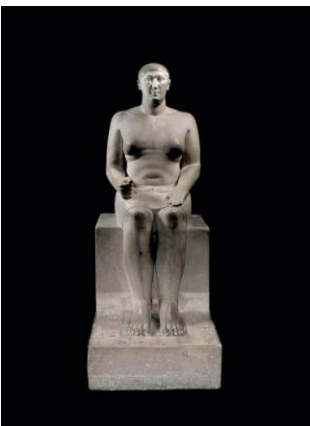
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**Statue of Prince Hemiunu in situ in his Tomb in Giza**  
1912

© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien



**Statue of Prince Hemiunu**  
Old Kingdom, 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty  
c. 2609–2584 B.C.

© Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum Hildesheim; photo: Sh. Shalchi



**Statue of Chent and her Son Rudju**  
Old Kingdom, early 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, c. 2500 B.C.

© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Ancient Egyptian and Near-Eastern  
Collection

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**Reserve Head**

Old Kingdom, 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty  
c. 2609– 2584 B.C.

© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Ancient Egyptian and Near-Eastern Collection



**Upper Part of a Statue of Khafra**

Giza, Old Kingdom, 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty  
c. 2576 – 2550 B.C.

© University of Leipzig, Institute of Egyptology/Egyptian Museum; photo: Marion Wenzel



**Tomb Relief of Iunu**

Giza, Old Kingdom, 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty  
c. 2609 – 2584 B.C.

© Hildesheim, Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum; photo: Sh. Shalchi

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**OPENING HOURS AND  
ENTRANCE FEES**

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**Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien**

Maria-Theresien-Platz  
1010 Vienna

Tuesdays - Sundays  
10 am – 6 pm  
Thursdays 10 am – 9 pm  
(The Coin Collection closes at 6 pm)

Annual Ticket	€ 34
Adults	€ 14
Concessions	€ 11
Vienna-Card holders	€ 13
Groups of 10 persons or over, p.p.	€ 10
Guided tour	€ 3
Children under 19	free
Audio Guide (German, English)	€ 4

**PRESS OFFICE**

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