

# THE 5,000-YEAR-OLD PUZZLE



ST DISCOVERY IN  
PT IS NEAR AT HAND

Discover Tomb of Great Pharaoh,  
Under

STRÉS - NENWEPTUF -  
SENEFEREW - SARCO -  
IMPOSSIBLE - DELAY -

POST CARD

- Join a Real Archaeological Expedition
- Search for the Secrets of a Hidden Tomb

## SOLVING A MYSTERY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

by Claudia Logan

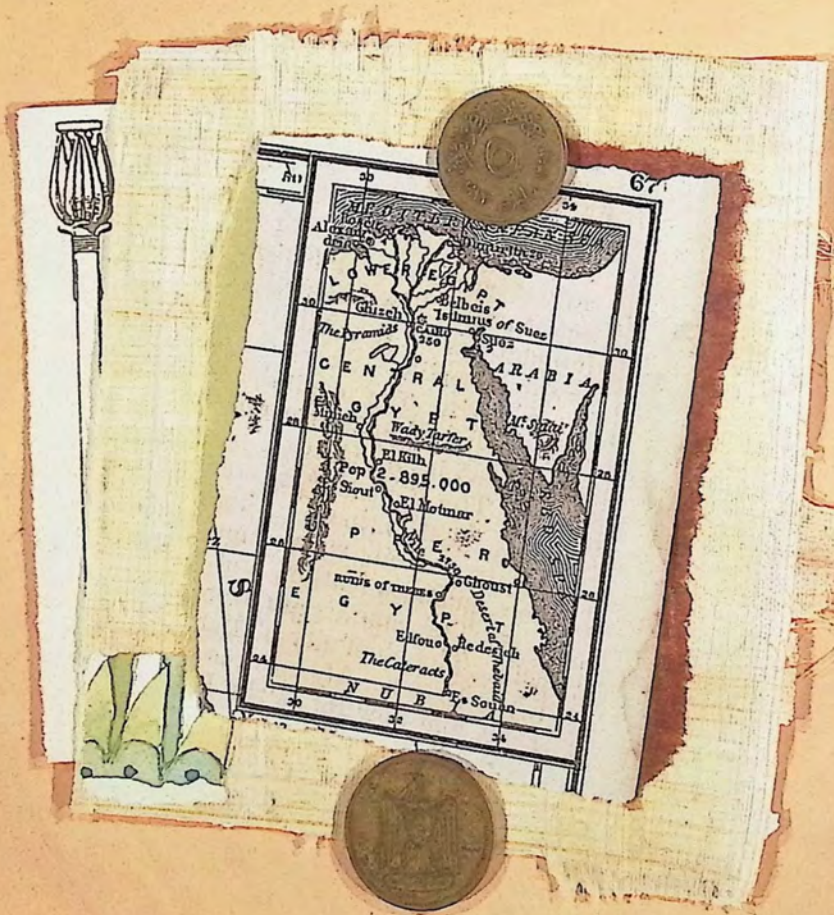
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet





# THE 5,000-YEAR

Solving a Mystery of Ancient Egypt



WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

Melanie Kroupa Books  
Farrar • Straus • Giroux  
NEW YORK

by Claudia Logan



# R-OLD PUZZLE

## Giza 1924

It is 1924. You are about to join an archaeological expedition and discover a secret tomb at a site called Giza 7000X. Your guide for this journey is Will Hunt. Although Will and his family are fictitious, the rest of the information about Giza 7000X is true. It's based on the actual records—diaries, object registers, photographs, and drawings—of Dr. George Reisner, director of the Harvard University/Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Expedition, and his team of skilled archaeologists.

Just two years earlier, in 1922, King Tut's tomb was discovered, with all its amazing treasures. Now teams of archaeologists from around the world are competing to unearth the next big archaeological find in Egypt. Will this secret tomb be it? Whose tomb is it? And why was it hidden?

*Join Will Hunt in putting together the clues.  
Can you solve this 5,000-year-old puzzle?*



Illustrated by Melissa Sweet



**November 15, 1924**

Our King Tut Club met again today. Ever since King Tut's tomb was discovered with its gold masks, jewelry, chariots, and (my favorite, of course) King Tut's mummy, I've read everything I could about ancient Egypt. I never thought I'd have a chance to see a real pyramid or tomb, BUT my dad's been invited to work on a dig in Egypt. Will Mom and I be able to go, too?





## MINUTES OF THE KING TUT CLUB

Some Things We Know About Ancient Egypt

November 15, 1924

Members present: Will, Sam



\* The ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and prepared for it while they were alive. (We've learned a lot about them from the way they buried their dead.)

\* They built tomb chambers inside or under pyramids or under rectangular structures called mastabas, or they cut them out of bedrock or cliffs.

\* They filled these tombs with favorite belongings and things they might need—furniture, food, jewelry, clothing. They even carved and painted scenes of servants and pets to keep them company in their afterlife! (And Mom calls ME a pack rat!)

\* They believed that a soul couldn't move on to the afterlife unless it rejoined its body, and that could happen only if the dead body didn't rot. So they figured out ways to preserve or mummify bodies.

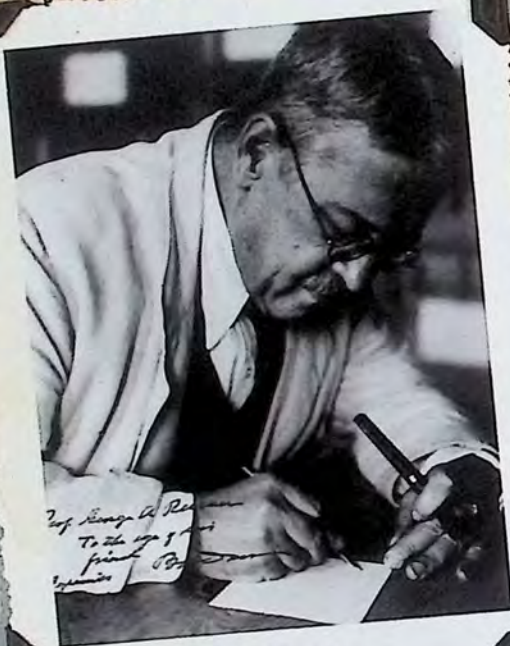
\* The mummy of a king, queen, or other important person was buried in a sarcophagus that was painted or carved with hieroglyphs.

\* Canopic jars were used to hold some of the mummy's organs, which were preserved in a natural salt called natron. (These are jars I'd definitely want to keep closed!)

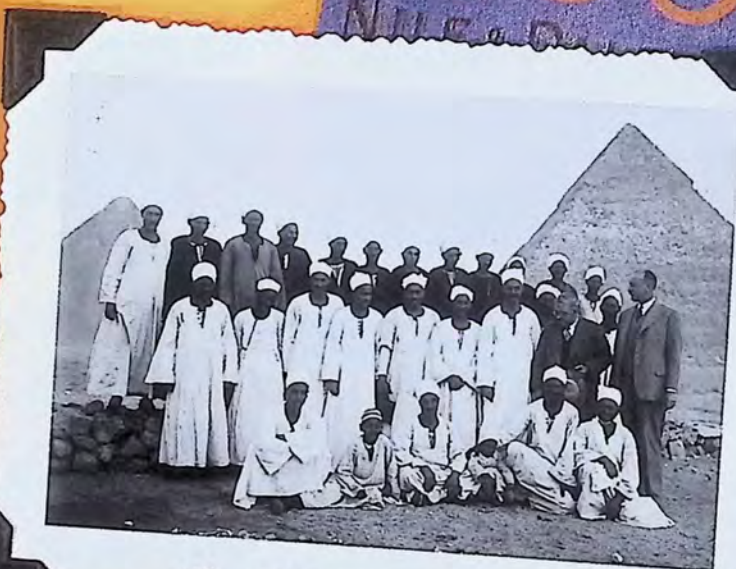


November 29, 1924

WE'RE ALL GOING! We leave in three weeks to work on Dr. George Reisner's expedition at Giza. Here's my chance to find a mummy! We'll be there for a year—maybe more. And live at Harvard Camp, right behind the pyramids, with the other archaeologists. I'll miss my friends, especially Sam, but I'm counting the days till we leave!



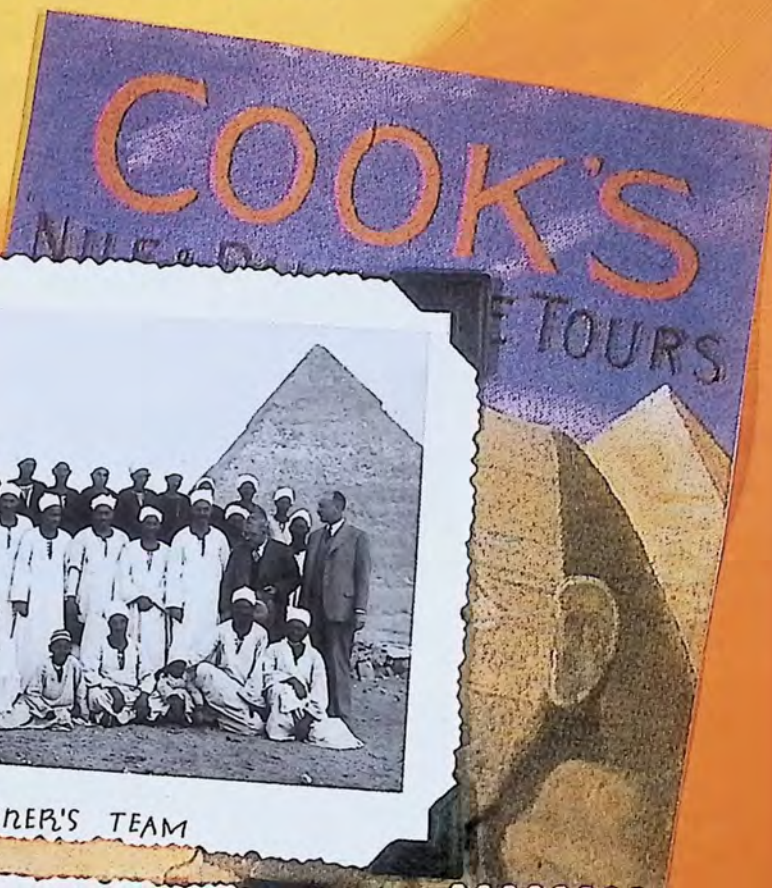
DR. REISNER



DR. REISNER'S TEAM



HARVARD CAMP



DECEMBER, 1924.]

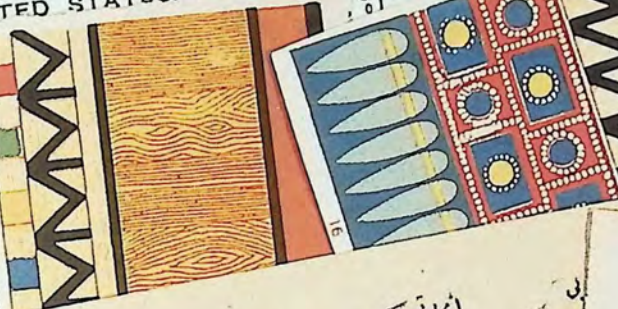
THE TRAVELLER'S GAZETTE.

RATES FOR ATLANTIC LINERS.

PASSENGERS CAN BOOK IN EITHER DIRECTION AT ANY OF COOK'S OFFICES.  
 (Passengers for United States must obtain U.S.A. Visa to their Passports.)  
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 S.S. Derwent  
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Line	1st Class	2nd Class	Cabin & 2nd Class
Hampton & Dover	£ 47 5 0	£ 23 15 0	£ 28 15 0
and South-	67 10 0	31 0 0	31 0 0
It	43 5 0	29 0 0	28 15 0
Liverpool to	67 10 0	31 0 0	31 0 0
pbla.	64 0 0	30 0 0	28 15 0
	47 5 0	28 15 0	30 0 0
	45 0 0	28 15 0	28 15 0



Sphinx and pyramid, Egypt


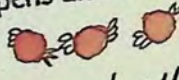


39

English	Arabic	انجليزية
dressed	labess	درسد
sewing	khyata	سويج
cutting	tafsyl	كيتنج
in fashion	ala el moda	اين فاشن
under wear	hedoom da.	اندر وير
shirt	amys	شيرت
breeches	labass regali	بريتشز
sock	shorrab	سك
stockings	shorrab	ستوكينجز
belt	hezam	بلت
braces	hammala	سز
hat	borenita	كشاي
necktie	karavatta	ويبر
pullover	poll ovar	اوچون
robe, gown	fostan	
suit	badla	
evening dress	b. sahra	



# OFFICIAL PACKING LIST

- flannel and cotton shirts
- trousers and riding breeches (for riding camels?)
- one pair of light boots
- thin wool socks (Wool? Is our ship headed in the right direction?)
- pith helmet for desert sun (Mom says I have to)
- compass (so I don't get lost in the desert)
- canteen (if I do get lost in the desert)
-  photo of Sam in Boston (if I want to see something besides the desert)
- pocketknife
- books (all the Sherlock Holmes mysteries I can pack)
- pens and ink. stationery (post cards for Sam - I'll use our secret code)
-  fireball candy and my baseball cards (hard to get in Egypt!)

## KING TUT CLUB CODE

- Strikeout: Nothing Happening
- Single: Something happening
- Double: Something bigger happening
- Bases Loaded: Something really big could happen
- Grand Slam: MAJOR DISCOVERY!

December 5, 1924

Fourteen days till we go. It's going to take a whole month to get to the expedition site at Giza. Our ship will sail from Boston to London, then on to Alexandria. From there we take a train to Cairo. Dr. Reisner will still be working in Boston, but Dows Dunham, one of the archaeologists, will pick us up and drive us to Giza and (finally!) to Harvard Camp.



# GETTING READY TO GO



WE'LL BE GONE FOR SO LONG, WE HAVE TO PACK THINGS WE CAN'T GET IN THE DESERT.

EGYPT HAS ONLY ONE INCH OF RAIN PER YEAR. IT WILL BE HOT AND SUNNY IN GIZA. NO SLEDDING!



MY FRIEND SAM WILL TAKE CARE OF MY GOLDFISH, SPHINX



1924 DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

ONLY 14 DAYS UNTIL WE LEAVE!



I PLAY BASEBALL AS MUCH AS I CAN - WHEN I'M NOT PACKING, THAT IS!





MY FRIENDS GIVE ME A GOOD-BYE PARTY.

I DRAW A PICTURE OF A SCARAB FOR EACH OF THEM. IT MEANS "GOOD LUCK."



TODAY WE ARE ON OUR WAY!



SAM, WE ARE HERE



POST CARD

January 3, 1925

Dear Sam,  
The travel brochure for this ship says sea air is good for your health. I say read the fine print! Now I know what "seasick" really means—I am definitely sick of the sea!  
Your pal,  
Will



POST CARD

January 7, 1925

Dear Sam,  
Salaam from Alexandria! Our ship just docked. I can hardly believe my eyes—camels, jugglers, chickens, and so many people I don't know where to look! We almost missed our train because of a snake charmer.  
I'll write more soon,  
Will



## Those Pyramids Run in the Family

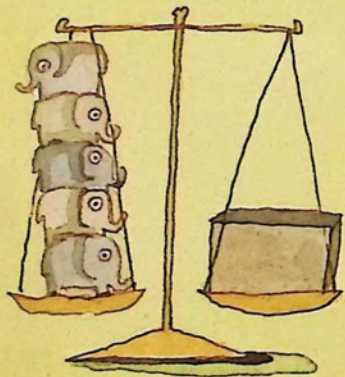
I am the **GREAT** King Khufu, son of King Sneferu and Queen Hetep-heres. The ancient Greeks called me Cheops (Kay-ops).



My father, King Sneferu, was the first king of the Fourth Dynasty.

He built one pyramid at Maydum and two pyramids at Dahshur; one of these was the first to use the smooth pyramid shape.

But **I** built the Great Pyramid in preparation for my own burial. **MY** pyramid is the biggest one in Giza. It's amazing—481 feet high and built from 2.3 million blocks of stone. Some blocks weigh five tons—the weight of five young elephants! It took four thousand stonemasons more than twenty years to build my pyramid.

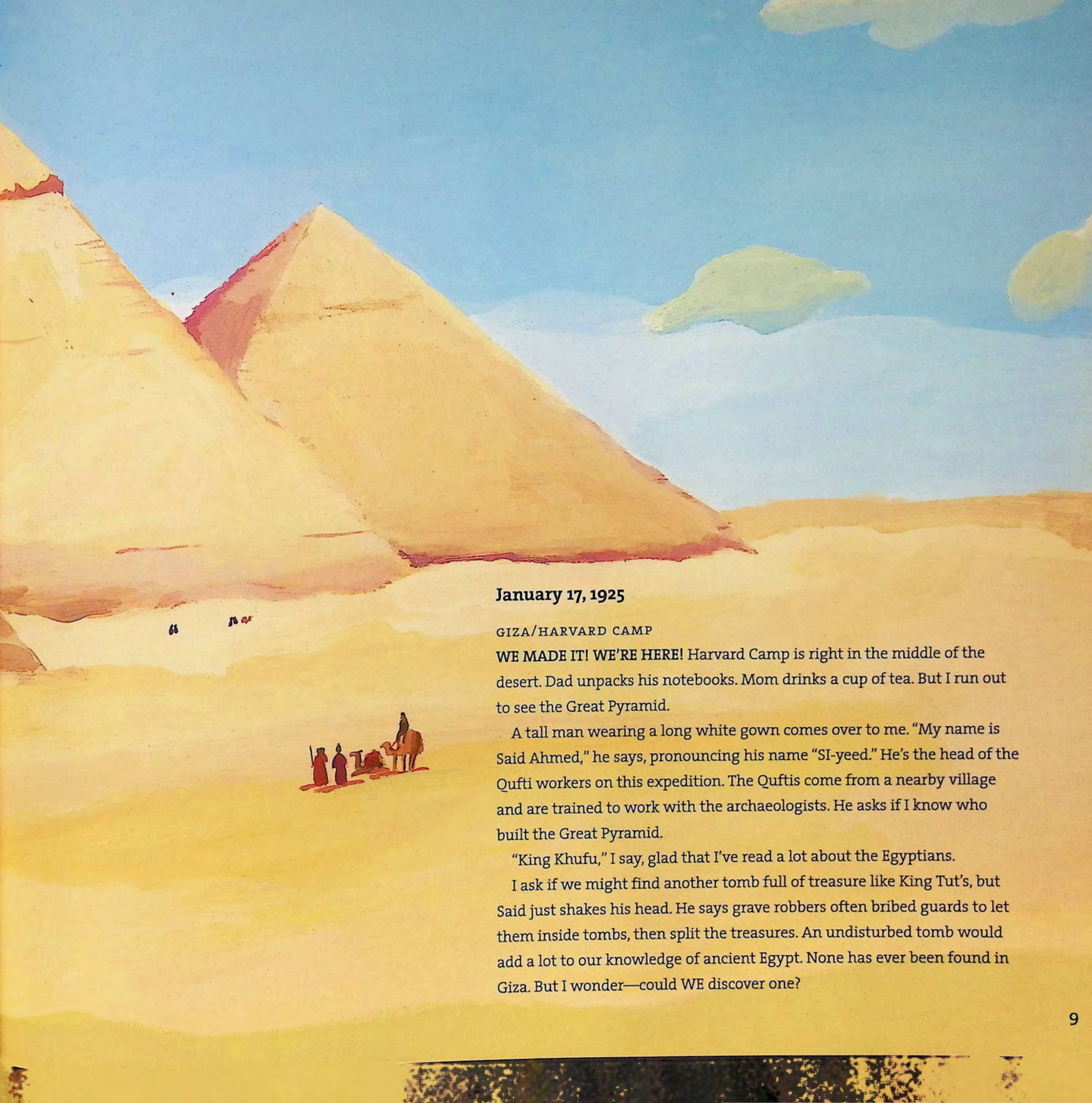


## Grave Robbing

Egyptian tombs were piled high with tempting treasures. Pyramid builders tried to prevent theft by hiding entrances and creating a maze of tunnels, dead ends, and deep wells.

But tomb robbers were often the very workers who built the tombs. Transcripts of tomb robbers' court trials have been discovered on papyri and can be read today.





**January 17, 1925**

GIZA/HARVARD CAMP

**WE MADE IT! WE'RE HERE!** Harvard Camp is right in the middle of the desert. Dad unpacks his notebooks. Mom drinks a cup of tea. But I run out to see the Great Pyramid.

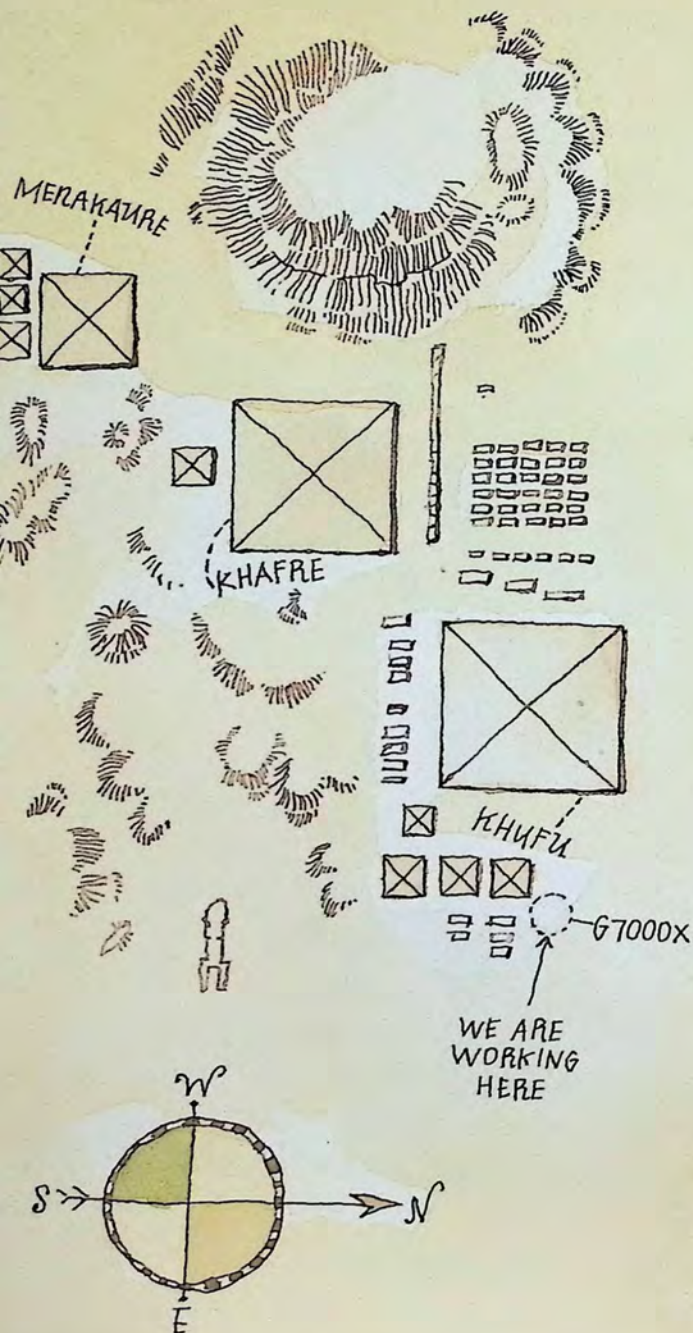
A tall man wearing a long white gown comes over to me. "My name is Said Ahmed," he says, pronouncing his name "SI-yeed." He's the head of the Qufti workers on this expedition. The Quftis come from a nearby village and are trained to work with the archaeologists. He asks if I know who built the Great Pyramid.

"King Khufu," I say, glad that I've read a lot about the Egyptians.

I ask if we might find another tomb full of treasure like King Tut's, but Said just shakes his head. He says grave robbers often bribed guards to let them inside tombs, then split the treasures. An undisturbed tomb would add a lot to our knowledge of ancient Egypt. None has ever been found in Giza. But I wonder—could WE discover one?

## The Great Royal Cemetery at Giza

The plateau of Giza, at the western edge of modern Cairo, is famous as the site of the biggest Egyptian royal tombs. There are eleven pyramids in all at Giza, built by three different pharaohs, including King Khufu. Each large pyramid has at least one small pyramid built beside it, known as the queen's pyramid or satellite pyramid.



January 28, 1925

Yesterday I found Dad and Mr. Dunham looking at some pieces of broken pottery. Dad showed me his notebook, called an object register. Whenever you find something, no matter how small, it gets a number and is recorded. Then you draw a picture of it, say where it was found, write what it was made of and its measurements, and tell what else was lying nearby. Dad gave me my own object register—here's what I've entered so far:

No.	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	MEAS.	DATE	PROVENANCE	REMARKS
001	candy wrapper	paper	1" x 2"	1925		
002	bottle cap	Pinkish color		Jan 27	G Street 7000	found near
003	used matchbook	metal	3/4" x 3/4"	Jan 27	G Street 7000	Khufu's P
004	piece of envelope	paper	2 1/2" x 1 1/2"	Jan 28		
		paper	3" x 1"	Jan 28		
		(torn)				

POST CARD

January 29, 1925

Dear Sam,  
 Strikeout! So much for finding Egyptian treasures. Most days I just sit around camp doing schoolwork. In the evening I talk to Said and read mysteries since there aren't any to solve here. I hope something happens—or I'm "tombled" to eternal boredom.  
 Your pal,  
 Will





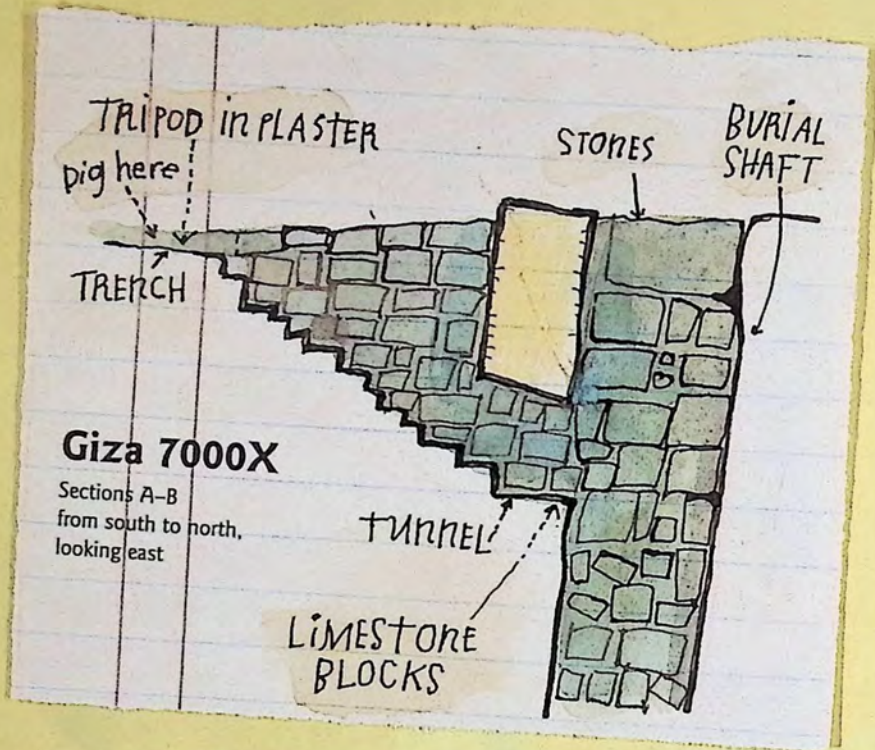
**February 9, 1925**

Today something FINALLY happens. Said offers me a job holding the photographer's tripod. That means I'm on site at the Great Royal Cemetery with the other workers—on Queens Street, where the ancient queens are buried. I do my best to hold the tripod steady—then all of a sudden the leg collapses! What have I done? My first job—ruined.

The expedition photographer, Mohammedani Ibrahim, bends down to fix the tripod and spots some whitish plaster on the surface of the rocks. Said hurries over and calls Alan Rowe, one of the archaeologists, to have a closer look.

"This may seem like nothing special," Said explains, "but plaster is man-made, different from other materials we find on the ground. This could mean that something is hidden below."

Hidden below! I want to grab a shovel and start digging, but Said says that the area must be cleared carefully in an orderly way.



**February 23, 1925**

Things are happening fast now. After the plaster has been scraped away, we find a TRENCH filled with blocks of limestone. This hides a STAIRWAY with twelve steps leading to... a TUNNEL! At the end of this tunnel are MORE limestone blocks set in plaster. Is this a dead end?

The excavators don't think so. They go back to Queens Street and carefully examine the area above the end of the tunnel—and they find something! A square hole cleverly filled with large unfinished stones, almost (but not quite) identical to the ones in the street.

After the stones are cleared, everyone is very excited. We have found the entrance to a SECRET PIT! Is it an undisturbed tomb?

Said looks happy. He's given me my own trowel. Time to start digging!

### Tools of the Trade An Archaeologist's Tool Kit

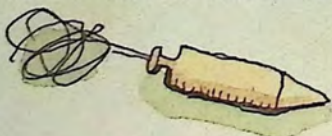
sieve  
trowel



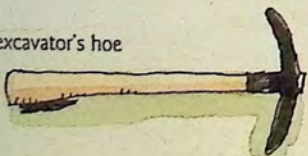
transit (for measuring angles)  
brush



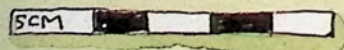
string, bags, and tags  
plumb bob (for vertical level measuring)



excavator's hoe



ruler and measuring tape (in centimeters)



## February 25, 1925

The secret pit is a long shaft filled with all kinds of stuff—limestone chips, sand, blocks of stone, smashed bits of pottery. We keep digging down—way past the end of the blocked-up tunnel. There are notches in the wall of the shaft. Mr. Dunham says this was probably how the ancient Egyptian workmen climbed down the shaft. Suddenly I can picture them—lifting backbreaking loads up and down, day after day after day.



## Workers

Life for the farmers and peasants who built pyramids could be tedious and grim. Workers hauled giant stones weighing many tons on wooden sledges across desert sands. Then they pushed these huge slabs up brick ramps where, with the help of simple levers, the stones slammed into place.

But ancient Egyptians believed that their king was a godlike figure, an expression of what was divine in their world. Like the building of cathedrals during the Middle Ages, the building of the pyramids was an important contribution to their culture.



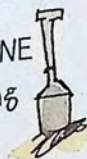
## Post Card

February 26, 1925

Dear Sam,

Guess what's happening now—week after week after week?  
Here's a clue: You use a shovel.

DAY ONE  
Digging



DAY TWO  
More Digging



DAY THREE  
Much More Digging



How much dust and plaster and limestone could there possibly be?  
Answer: More than you think!  
Your pal,  
Will



## February 27, 1925

We find a plastered area on the west wall of the shaft. Could THIS be the entrance to the burial chamber?



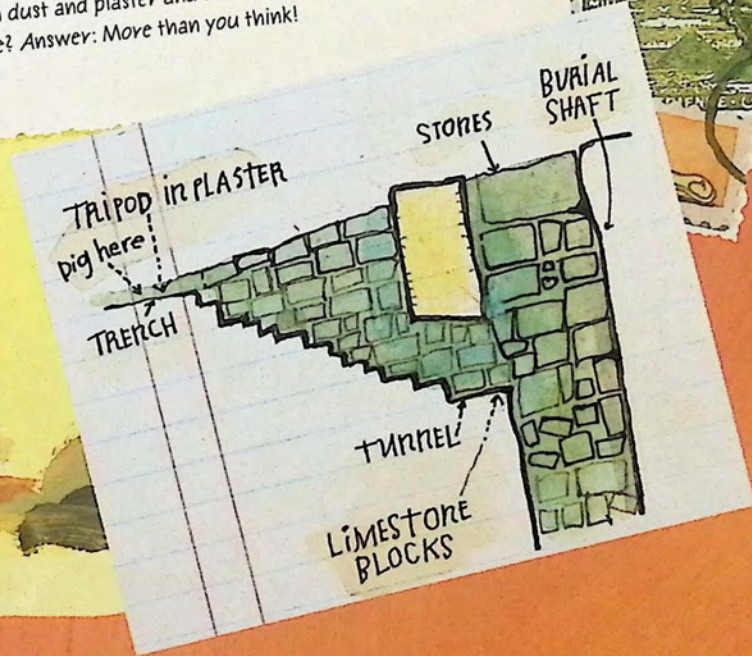
**Post Card** February 26, 1925

Dear Sam,  
Guess what's happening now—week after week after week?  
Here's a clue: You use a shovel.

DAY ONE Digging  DAY TWO More Digging  DAY THREE Much More Digging 

How much dust and plaster and limestone could there possibly be? Answer: More than you think!

Your pal,  
Will



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