

Alien Archeology

By Abe E Seedy, illustrations by JillTheSuccubus

[apologies for the poor formatting here, I know funding procedures require very specific formatting that I'm not following. I'm just trying to put my thoughts down in as concise and clear manner as possible, and we can work together to tighten things up to meet the official requirements down the line. I also know that the board wouldn't want to indulge any of my more outlandish theories, so I'm trying to tone things down and keep things relatively orthodox. For now, I just want to get everyone as excited for this as I am!]

Funding proposal, Saoirse Ní Lionáin:

Proposal Summary: in light of new archeological discoveries, further digs are needed to determine the origin, purpose, and cultural context of a heretofore unexplored element of Egypt's history

Details:

I have recently received an extraordinary new artefact from my friend and colleague Dr Amberson. While her assurances are to the contrary, my examinations date it to the New Kingdom, and specifically to the reign of Akhenaten. In fact, I believe it came from the same limestone quarry that sourced the cartouche fragment that revolutionised interpretations of Akhenaten's later reign together with his wife Nefertiti, to whom, I believe, this new piece belongs.

The implications of this ownership are as staggering as they are obvious. Akhenaten's reign already represents a dramatic break with earlier Egyptian cultural traditions, moving as it did from polytheism to Atenism, with worship focussing primarily around the sun god, Aten. This tradition was violently discontinued shortly after Akhenaten's death, despite Nefertiti's theorised attempt to rule beyond his passing. While credit for this cultural shift has traditionally been given to Akhenaten, I have instead come to suppose that this was more Nefertiti's doing.

We know she was referred to as the 'Lady of Two Lands', and the construction of her name ("The Beautiful Woman has Come") has led to the theory that she was not native to Egypt. Furthermore, her mummy has never been conclusively identified, despite the fact that she fades from historical record within a few years of Akhenaten's death.

The artefact I've been sent appears to have an inscription naming it as a possession of Nefertiti, although some slight damage obscures the exact meaning. It's possible it's using her name as a title rather than a specific person, or perhaps even an instruction. In any case, both the design and construction are radically different from anything else of the same period, despite radiocarbon dating placing its manufacture within that time frame.

[I have not yet detailed the item itself. Apologies, there's so much to get through I'm struggling to keep all my thoughts in order. We can fix all this up and rearrange things in the actual proposal.]

It appears to be a stylised depiction of a cat. Felines had been revered in Egypt since at least the First Dynasty, and by the time of Nefertiti cats were a common domestic cult. The depiction of this item however does not conform to any of the standards of the period. Instead of a purely feline representation, the sculpture portrays a mixture of feline and human traits. While this in itself is not unusual, these traits are mixed throughout the body, rather than confined to a feline head in the manner of representations of the god Bastet.

The effect is... otherworldly, and it speaks to an entirely different perspective. My proposal is that Nefertiti came from a culture with a different relationship to the divine, and perhaps this influenced Akhenaten in his move towards Atenism.

In order to investigate these theories, I propose a new dig site be established in the region where this artefact was first found. Any other items related to this one should be relatively easy to find, because the unique composition of its construction stands out from surrounding material. I stand ready to take up this dig at the earliest possible occasion, and we can continue the study of my existing artefact on location.

If nothing else, that will probably be a relief to my cat, Professor Whiskers, who seems surprisingly unsettled by it. [That's not really relevant, but I thought perhaps a note of personalisation will endear the board to the request? It was hard *not* to include when he kept swatting at my ankles while writing this. But I'll defer to you on the inclusion here]

Yours, etc etc, Professor Ní Lionáin

Hey Steph, here's my notes from the lecture you missed. FYI though, things were... real weird. The guest lecturer was in costume or something, and her take on the New Kingdom was pretty unusual. Idk, I don't think we're going to have her again, but if you can get anything from these notes, you're welcome to them. Get better soon! I'm sorry you missed this class, I don't think we'll ever stop talking about it

–Professor not taking questions about costume. Wont say where she got it from, the horns (??) and tail are v well done. Maybe there's a LARP club here shes in or somthng?--

New theory that Atenism represents more than just egotistical flirtation w/ asserting cultural control. Instead it shows how an externally introduced idea can be interpreted in a local context to form a radically different but culturally understandable new paradigm

Example: if a car somehow existed in the New Kingdom, popular conception would be of a divine, horseless chariot, rather than a complicated machine

Proof of this is an artefact professor shows (weirdly proudly) to class. Looks like an ushabti but it's not, and prof insists it's a big deal.

We are made to look at this thing for like 5 minutes.

It is a weird looking cat. Cool.

Prof insists composition and design are unknown to the region. Theorises it came with Nefertiti from 'Elsewhere' (prof emphasises this heavily with air quotes - even her hands are costumed like paws??)

Nefertiti appears and disappears from historical record w/o explanation. Prof thinks she might not be human???

– this is just what local culture would think, she insists. Think of the car. Nefertiti is a car in the New Kingdom. Somehow prof like, wags her tail talking about this. P sure the drama kids are taking notes about her costume more than her speech by now - its pretty hard to follow anyway

Prof *really* into Nefertiti. Def the power behind Akhenaten's throne (according to her) and the source of Atenism. If a divine chariot would be a car, what could a sun god be?

5 more minutes of staring at the statue. This time she's petting it

Prof shares artwork shes commissioned of Nefertiti's 'true form'. Honestly - not badly done. Hopefully some furry artist got paid to do this. Unless there really were four legged cat

people walking around New Kingdom. Costume makes more sense now. How much does this place pay to do a guest lecture talking about your fursona?

Prof dims lights to play some slides and a tattoo (??) on her tail glows ??? Fuck me this woman is all the way out here living her dream huh. Oh, artefact has a resonant frequency that maps to a certain area of Egypt apparently. Proposal for a dig got rejected so she's crowdfunding. She doesn't give us the link though. From context, it might be on like, an adult pay site?

Academia might be fucked? Idk, i guess at least you can get a cool fursona.

Next lecture Tutenkhamen and the close of the 18th Dynasty, chapter 21 of the textbook

Re: re: Early Extraterrestrials, 'New Kingdom, New Worlds?' show pitch treatment, by Saorise Ní Lionáin

Responses to your questions below in [red](#). Be aware that there's support for this from the top, so get on board or get out of the way

Re: Early Extraterrestrials, 'New Kingdom, New Worlds?' show pitch treatment, by Saorise Ní Lionáin

Hi Bob

I've got some issues with the pitch that I've had flagged up to me. I'm putting them below in [blue](#). I'm hoping we can sort this out and see sense here

Thanks,

Mark

Early Extraterrestrials, 'New Kingdom, New Worlds?' show pitch treatment, by Saorise Ní Lionáin

[exterior footage of Giza]

When you think of the marvels of the ancient world, what comes to mind? Maybe the Pyramids of Giza, those great monuments of rulers long passed? While those are certainly impressive feats, what if I told you that the greatest developments of ancient times were not architectural, but cultural? And what if I told you that they inspired by some truly dramatic outside context?

[cut to classic representations of Nefertiti]

She was called Nefertiti. At least, that's what history knows her as. Renowned for her beauty and otherworldly grace, she swept into Egypt in the period known as the 18th Dynasty of the New Kingdom. In a single reign, she revolutionised their society. Arts flourished, with distinctive new styles spreading from the royal court. More than that though, their religion was transformed. Instead of worshipping the classical pantheon of Egyptian gods, Nefertiti and her husband Akhenaten moved to the worship of a single god alone - the sun god, Aten.

[cut to representations of Aten as a solar being, standing above the earth and projecting rays from above]

Consider the 'Hymn to Aten', proclaimed by Akhenaten:

"Aten bends low, near the earth, to watch over his creation; he takes his place in the sky for the same purpose; he wears himself in the service of the creatures; he shines for them all; he gives them sun and sends them rain. The unborn child and the baby chick are cared for; and Akhenaten asks his divine father to 'lift up' the creatures for his sake so that they might aspire to the condition of perfection of his father, Aten."

Recent discoveries have allowed us to interpret these words in a new light. Rather than simply being a conception of the divine, perhaps Aten was an extraterrestrial ruler, seeking to lift humanity up to join him through his servant, Nefertiti.

Remember when we used to make shows about actual history?

No. I don't. I was only brought in once we started making money. Aliens and mysteries sell, no one cares about who stabbed who 4000 years ago

These are bold claims, but there is evidence that points in this direction. One recent find in particular has changed everything.

[glamour shot of The Gift]

We've got permission to show this cat statue thing, right?

Legal signed off. No one seems to officially own it, and it's not tied up in any ongoing disputes

Consider the sleek lines of this piece, the way it doesn't conform to any traditional representations of feline divinity. Analysis has determined the material it's made of originates beyond Earth.

I'm honestly just curious - is this really true?

Fun fact they told me once - technically you can say everything comes from beyond Earth if you look back far enough.

But here's the real proof.

[fade to the Professor walking on the sand dunes. Camera sweeps around her in a full circle, before moving to a medium close up as she continues to speak]

I've seen the spec video - are we on the hook for these effects if we greenlight the whole thing? What I saw on the preview is way better than anything we've ever done. The

costuming is wild, her tail moves almost naturally, and the fur looks so real you want to pet it. And she's got some CG projection stuff thrown in too?

She comes with her own studio. Or something, in any case I'm assured that she doesn't need us for the effects. All she needs from us is the platform for the exposure

I'm sure you're wondering why I look like this. The answer is... complicated. The best way I can put it is that this is a homage to what I believe to be Nefertiti's true form, and her Gift to us has enabled me to attain the same perfection.

I believe this was Nefertiti's goal, to allow first Egypt and then our species to ascend to our full potential as children of Atun. However, something went wrong. Maybe Nefertiti changed her mind, or maybe we weren't worthy of that honour. Whatever the reason, she withdrew from us not long after the end of Akhenaten's reign. His successor, Tutenkhamen, restored the old Egyptian ways, and over time everything about Aten was bitterly suppressed. Perhaps we did not want to dwell on what was lost, and that pain made it easier to simply forget.

However. There is a path back for us, and it exists in the tools she left behind. If we can simply find them, then we can truly embrace her gifts. Allow me to show you what I mean.

We don't need to go through the rest of the script, it's basically softcore porn from here on. What are we even doing with this?

Making a ton of money, that's what. Get your equipment ready, filming starts next Monday.