

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 28, 2012**

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AIHA'S MUMMIES TO BE SCANNED AT ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER MARCH 31

ALBANY, NY— The Albany Institute of History & Art's two mummies, which have been on continuous display for more than 100 years, will be scanned at Albany Medical Center on Saturday, March 31 in preparation for the 2013 exhibition *GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies*. A team of experts will utilize modern imaging technology to uncover information about the gender of the mummies, causes of death, lifestyle, and mummification techniques.

Transported by the University at Albany Five Quad Ambulance service and University Police escort, the mummies will be brought to Albany Medical Center to undergo x-rays and CT scans. The mummies will be examined by radiologists and the results will be analyzed by Egyptology and paleopathology experts Drs. Robert Brier and Peter Lacovara. The mummies were last scanned on November 12, 1988.

New research findings of the mummies, as well as their journeys, will be filmed for the documentary titled "The Albany Mummies: Unraveling an Ancient Mystery". The project is a partnership of the Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany Medical Center, University of Albany Foundation, and the College of Arts & Sciences at the University at Albany, Center for Humanities, Arts, and TechnoSciences (CHATS) at the University at Albany. The film will be released later in the year.

These initiatives are in preparation for the Albany Institute's 2013 exhibition *GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies*, which will be open September 21, 2013 through June 8, 2014. The exhibition will shed new light on Albany's two mummies, and bring Ancient Egyptian objects to Albany from collections around the world. The exhibition is funded by GE and IMLS, a federal agency. For more information, visit www.albanyinstitute.org.

NOTE: The Albany Institute of History & Art will be closed on Friday, March 30 for filming. On Saturday, March 31, only the Ancient Egypt gallery will be closed.

PRESS FILM/PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, March 31, 2012

9:45-10:15 AM (Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany)

Albany mummy is transported from galleries to atrium and loaded into Five Quad Ambulance.

10:15-10:45 AM (Albany Medical Center, 22 Hackett Boulevard, Albany, NY)

Albany mummy is unloaded and undergoes CT scan. Interview opportunities with Dr. Peter Lacovara, Dr. Robert Brier, and Albany Medical Center staff.

Additional background information is attached.

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

The Albany Institute of History & Art is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM and Sundays NOON-5 PM. The museum is closed on Monday and open for pre-registered groups only on Tuesday. The library is open Thursdays 1:30-4:30 PM and by appointment.