

Tutankhamen's Shrines (Naoses): Scientific Identification of Wood Species and Technology

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Abstract : Tutankhamen tomb was discovered on November 1922 by Howard Carter, the grave was relatively intact and crammed full of the most beautiful burial items and furniture, the black shrine-shaped boxes on sleds studied here founded in treasury chamber. This study aims to identify the wood species used in making those shrines, illustrate technology of manufacture. Optical Microscope (OM), 3D software and Imaging Processes including; Visible light, Raking light and Visible-induced infrared luminescence were effective in illustrating wooden joints and techniques of manufacture. The results revealed that cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani* and sycamore fig *Ficus sycomorus* had been used for making the shrines' boards and sleds while tamarisk *Tamarix* sp., Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris* L., and Sidder (nabk) *Zizyphus spina christi* used for making dowels. The wooden joint of mortise and tenon was used to connect the body of the shrine to the sled, while wooden pegs used to connect roof and cornice to the shrine body.

Keywords : Tutankhamen, wood species, optical microscope, *Cedrus libani*, *Ficus sycomorus*

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