

# 10 Things You Might Not Know About

# MUMMIES

**1** During embalming, the heart of the mummy is left intact, so the person's goodness can be judged in the afterlife. The heart was considered the central organ of a man's moral life in ancient Egypt.

**2** The brain of an embalmed mummy was removed by breaking the bones in the nose and pulling the brain out through the nasal cavity with a hook. The brain was thrown away because it was not considered important.

**3** "Red shroud" mummies signified people of noble birth during the Roman period. The mummies' linen wrappings were infused with a red pigment. Red shroud mummies are extremely rare; fewer than a dozen still exist.

**4** During the Roman occupation of Egypt it became fashionable for the deceased to have a likeness of themselves attached to the outside of their coffin. In 1887 a cache of more than 80 of these portraits was found by the famous Flinders Petrie in Hawara, Egypt.

**5** In the Victorian era, Pre-Raphaelite painters used "mummy brown" paint, which contained actual "mummy dust"—ground up remains of real Egyptian mummies, both human and feline.

**6** A fashionable social event in Victorian England was a Mummy unwrapping party. This was often conducted by candlelight and followed by a midnight champagne supper for the guests.

**7** Mummy mania in Victorian times included a novel by Bram Stoker – the author Dracula. His mummy-themed novel, THE JEWEL OF THE SEVEN STARS, written in 1903, is about the dangers of waking up a mummy. The ending was changed in reprints because the publishers found it too violent.



**8** Amulets and scarabs were wrapped into the bandages of a mummy to protect it in afterlife. Certain rare stones were considered more powerful than others, based on their color. The deep blue of lapis lazuli was particularly favored by the Ancient Egyptians - the color represented royalty. Turquoise represented joy, and pleasure - the famous burial mask of King Tut was inlaid with lapis and turquoise.

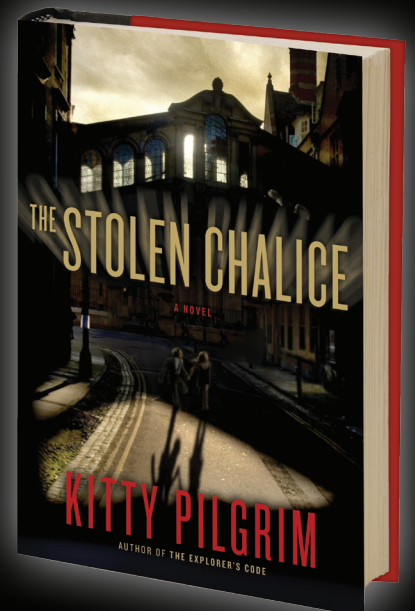
**9** Wealthy people who could afford expensive burial rites had their organs put in canopic jars made of alabaster and other precious stones. People, who could not afford that luxury had their organs mummified and put back in the body.

**10** Many cultures have deliberately mummified human remains. In Xinjiang China there are over 1000 mummies, including one of the tallest ever found – a six foot six inch male Caucasian.

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The oldest mummy in the world is 5000 years old (naturally preserved) and can be seen in the British Museum in London.



# THE STOLEN CHALICE

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