

GAIÁS
CIDADE DA
CULTURA



XUNTA
DE GALICIA

PHARAOH

King of Egypt

Exhibition

Museo
Centro
Gaiás
2nd floor

27 March—
15 August,
2021



Exhibition organized
in collaboration with:

The British
Museum

 "la Caixa" Foundation

 Xacobeo 2021
Galicia

Pharaoh: King of Egypt

Exhibition

Gaiás Centre Museum | 2nd floor
27 March - 15 August, 2021

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Entry free

***Pharaoh: King of Egypt* explores the symbolism and ideology of the Egyptian monarchy and attempts to reveal the stories that lie behind the objects and images of the heritage left us by this ancient civilisation. The exhibition developed by the prestigious British Museum and "la Caixa" Foundation consists of 140 pieces. It is hosted by the City of Culture with the collaboration of the Regional Government of Galicia as part of the celebration of the Jacobean Holy Year of 2021.**



Gold-plated silver figure of Amun-Ra. c. 1069-664 B. C. Karnak, Tebas, Egypt © Trustees of the British Museum



The human face of the gods

The pharaohs constructed their public identities carefully through statues and monuments, projecting an idealised image of themselves, either as powerful warriors who protected Egypt against its enemies, or as fervent worshippers of the gods, acting as intermediaries between them and the rest of humanity. Behind these representations of royalty, however, the reality was much more complex. The rulers of this land were not always men: the famous queen Hatshepsut, for example, governed the destiny of Egypt as pharaoh between c1472 and 1458 B.C., although in official monuments she nearly always appeared represented as a man. The pharaohs were also not always Egyptians: in periods of political instability and civil war, Egypt was conquered by foreign powers and ruled by monarchs who formed rivalries between each other, such as the Kushites of Nubia (the north of modern Sudan). They took over

Figure of a king kneeling. Bronze
c. 664-332 B. C.
Egypt
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British Museum



the country and formed the 25th dynasty (c. 716-656 B.C.).

Regardless of their origin, or whether they were men or women, the Egyptian monarchs defined themselves by adopting royal symbols. For example, they wrote their names on cartouches, or had the uraeus (a figure of an erect cobra) displayed on their foreheads

Although some pharaohs were the object of veneration, such as Thutmose III, who extended the Egyptian empire to its furthest reaches, and Amenhotep I, who after his death was revered as a god, others were condemned to obscurity. This was the case of Akhenaton, who caused a profound religious upheaval when he introduced the cult to the solar disk of Aton as the sole national god.

Exquisite statues, precious metalwork and everyday objects

The objects exhibited in *Pharaoh: King of Egypt* reflect the diversity that went with the Egyptian monarchy. Together with the

exquisite statues, beautiful stone reliefs of ancient temples and brilliant golden jewels, the exhibition also includes less usual objects: the coloured inlays that were used to decorate the palace of a pharaoh, for example, give us a hint of how the royal court lived; messages printed in cuneiform on clay tablets prove the intense diplomatic activity between Egypt and Babylon in the 18th Dynasty (c. 1550-1295 B.C.); the wooden bow of one of the military commanders of the pharaoh demonstrates to us of the importance of having a strong army to maintain the security of the country's borders; a papyrus is evidence of a trial for stealing from a tomb; while the images of Persian, Greek and Roman governors who acted as pharaohs remind us, each in their own way, of the multiple challenges involved in ruling over one of the greatest civilizations the world has ever known.

Facsimile fragment of the lid of the sarcophagus of the pharaoh Ramses VI 20th Dynasty, reign of Ramses VI, c. 1143-1136 B.C. Tomb Ramses VI, Valley of the Kings, Thebes, Egypt.

The statue of the god Ra-Horakhty. Granite. 19th Dynasty, reign of Ramses II, c. 1279-1213 B.C. Tell el-Maskhuta, Egypt.

Head of the pharaoh Thutmose III Green siltstone. 18th Dynasty, reign of Thutmose III, c. 1479-1425 B.C. Karnak, Thebes, Egypt.

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Guided visits:

- Free
- Advanced booking required
- Programmed videoconference visits for schools

More information: cidadedacultura.gal



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