

Tutankhamun in Portugal. Reports in the Portuguese press (1922-1939)
How was the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb portrayed to the Portuguese?

Abstract:

The research project, started in 2016, *Tutankhamun in Portugal. Reports in the Portuguese press (1922-1939)*, aims, in the context of the studies of the reception of ancient Egypt, understand how the Portuguese press reported the discovery and excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun. Portugal was, in the early 20th century, a country with no direct connection with any archaeological work in Egypt, and the press was dominated by the Portuguese political troubled reality of the time. Thus, it was our objective to understand whether, even in this particular context, Carter's great archaeological discovery had an impact on the Portuguese press and in what form and with what intensity the news was made public.

The analysis of the gathered *corpus* of news (234 news published in 28 different periodicals) allowed for the identification of the themes that were explored in detail by the Portuguese newspapers and magazines of the time, that is, the subjects with which the Portuguese readers had contact. We separated these news into three groups: "Know the Past"; "Cherish the Past"; and "Fear the Past". These three groups comprise, in general, the key perspectives that were shared with the Portuguese regarding the discovery and excavation of Tutankhamun's tomb that was happening in the distant Egypt. These groups also allow us to understand how this event was conveyed in Portugal in the 20s of the 20th century.

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Susana Mota is a researcher in the Centro de Estudos Globais of the Universidade Aberta. She is also responsible for the research project in the field of ancient Egypt reception studies titled "*Tutankhamon em Portugal. Relatos na Imprensa Portuguesa (1922-1939)*". She is a member of the research project titled "*Mulheres e ciência: a presença feminina na arqueologia e património em Portugal entre 1849 e 1974*". Since 2006, Susana Mota has done research in Egyptology, and from 2016 onwards, she has dedicated herself to researching in the field of ancient Egypt reception, Egyptomania, and in the field of History of Communication.

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