

AUTHENTICATION
IN ART

AiA Art News-service

The Guardian

Tomb containing 50 mummies uncovered in Egypt

Pharaonic tomb dating back more than 2,000 years discovered at Tuna el-Gebel site

Reuters in Minya

Sat 2 Feb 2019 15.36 GMT Last modified on Sat 2 Feb 2019 16.44 GMT



An archaeologist looks at a newly-discovered mummies, part of a collection found in burial chambers dating to the Ptolemaic era at the necropolis of Tuna el-Gebel.

Photograph: Mohamed El-Shahed/AFP/Getty Images

Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered a Pharaonic tomb containing 50 mummies dating back to the Ptolemaic era (323-30BC) , in Minya, south of Cairo, the ministry of antiquities said.

The mummies, 12 of which were of children, were discovered inside four, nine-metre-deep burial chambers in the Tuna el-Gebel archaeological site.

The identities of the mummies were still unknown, said Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

“We have not found names written in hieroglyphics,” he said. He added it was obvious from the mummification method that the individuals whose remains were found had to some extent held important or prestigious positions.

Visitors, including ambassadors from several countries, gathered at the discovery site where 40 of the mummies were exhibited during the announcement ceremony. Some of the mummies were found wrapped in linen while others were placed in stone coffins or wooden sarcophagi.

The archaeological finding was the first of 2019 and was unearthed through a joint mission with the Research Centre for Archaeological Studies of Minya University.