

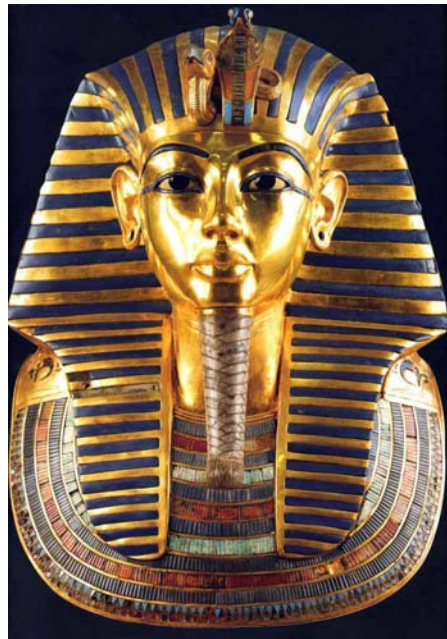
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ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY

RESEARCH

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King Tutankhamun & Ancient Kemet (Egypt)



**A Selected Bibliography of Sources
in the Auburn Avenue Research Library**

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INTRODUCTION

African artifacts are some of the earliest and most precious in the world. Consequently, they have become invaluable to collectors of all stripes, especially museums, art collectors, and antiquities dealers. After suffering centuries of plunder for its human, natural, mineral and animal resources, contemporary Africa is now being fleeced for its cultural resources. Precious artifacts are not only being stolen from the very earth where they have been protected through time, they are also stolen from national museums and cultural centers to be sold on the international market, specifically to Europeans and North Americans. According to Aisha Labi and Simon Robinson (2001) “most of these objects—ancient terra cotta and stone figures, brass and bronze sculptures, wooden grave markers, masks and doors—end up in the United States and Europe...”

Countries like Egypt, Nigeria, Mali and Ethiopia suffer the most from this illicit trade, primarily because of their early civilizations and their long history of talented artisans. This insatiable appetite for Africa’s artifacts began during Europe’s initial excursions on the continent, long before their inhumane trade of Africans, and has lasted until contemporary times. Unfortunately, the looting of African artifacts has not taken on the aura of a major injustice to the people of the African continent as much as it should have for many reasons. Prominent among these reasons are the complicit role of Africans, who are willing to sell their birthright, those who facilitate the demand in the West, the lack of awareness associated with the negative effects of this plunder, and the desires of genuine art lovers around the world.

At this moment as Atlanta welcomes the illustrious artifacts of ancient Kemet, featuring the great King Tutankhamen, the Auburn Avenue Research Library (AARL) hopes that its presentation of the *King Tut and Ancient Kemet (Egypt)* lecture will encourage us to look beyond the awe of African artifacts of antiquity to the underbelly of their acquisitions in the West. This selected bibliography on ancient Kemet, identifies numerous sources in AARL’s collection, which should be instrumental in the research and interpretation of the history of ancient Kemet.

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