

Zahi Hawass

Archaeologist Zahi Hawass is secretary general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities and director of the Giza Pyramids Excavation. He also is an explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society. Dr. Hawass is credited with such major discoveries as the tombs of the Giza Pyramid builders. Since 1999 he has been leading excavations at Egypt's Bahariya Oasis, where more than 200 Greco-Roman mummies, many of them richly gilded, were discovered. This ancient cemetery was dubbed "the Valley of the Golden Mummies." A longtime protector of Egyptian antiquities, Dr. Hawass recently led the conservation of the Sphinx at Giza.

Dr. Hawass' honors include the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of Egyptian American Scholars, the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement, and the First Class Award in Art & Science from Egyptian President Hosny Mubarak. Dr. Hawass' books on ancient Egypt include the best-selling *Valley of the Golden Mummies*, published in five languages.

Dr. Hawass studied archaeology in his native Egypt and in the United States, where he earned a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught Egyptian archaeology, history, and culture at Cairo University, the American University in Cairo, and UCLA.