



*Chair for an*

# EGYPTIAN QUEEN

## RECREATING ROYAL FURNITURE

Ancient and modern technologies come together in the world's first reproduction of a 4,500-year-old royal chair. Archaeologists found the chair in tiny fragments within the tomb of Queen Hetepheres, located beside the Great Pyramid of Giza. A team of Harvard experts has recreated this ancient masterpiece using cedar, gold, and ceramic inlays, for display in the Harvard Semitic Museum. Come visit the chair fit for a queen!





In 1925, a remarkable discovery turned the world's attention to the Giza Pyramids. The Harvard University–Boston Museum of Fine Arts Expedition encountered the deteriorated burial equipment of Queen Hetepheres in a small chamber nearly 100 feet underground (shown partially excavated in the top photograph). Hetepheres was the mother of King Khufu, the builder of the Great Pyramid, and her tomb was placed near that of her son. Due to the extreme state of decay, it took two years to document and remove the thousands of fragments from the chamber. While specialists restored several artifacts for study and exhibition, the most elaborate piece of furniture remained in fragments. But now this reproduction gives an impression of the ancient original. The chair is the result of a two-year interdisciplinary collaboration involving Egyptologists, archaeologists, archivists, computer graphics artists, ceramicists, gilders, and conservators. Now you can visit this unique exhibit and learn about the mystery surrounding the tomb.

Watch a video about the discovery and recreation of the chair on the Harvard Semitic Museum website: [semiticm@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:semiticm@fas.harvard.edu)



PHOTO CREDITS



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