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TUT'S TREASURES

100 YEARS

NATIONAL
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Discovering Egypt, From Tut to Today

THE SPELLBINDING LEGACY OF EGYPT

NOVEMBER | FROM THE EDITOR

BY NATHAN LUMP PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDRO VANNINI



The gilded hardwood "Tutankhamun the Harpooner" statue, about 50 inches tall (head and shoulders shown above) portrays the young king standing on a papyrus boat about to hurl a spear at an unseen quarry. Found wrapped in linen and in a varnished box, it was one of 35 such ritual figures buried with Tut in the tomb, by archaeologists' count. The statue is to be displayed in the new Grand Egyptian Museum.

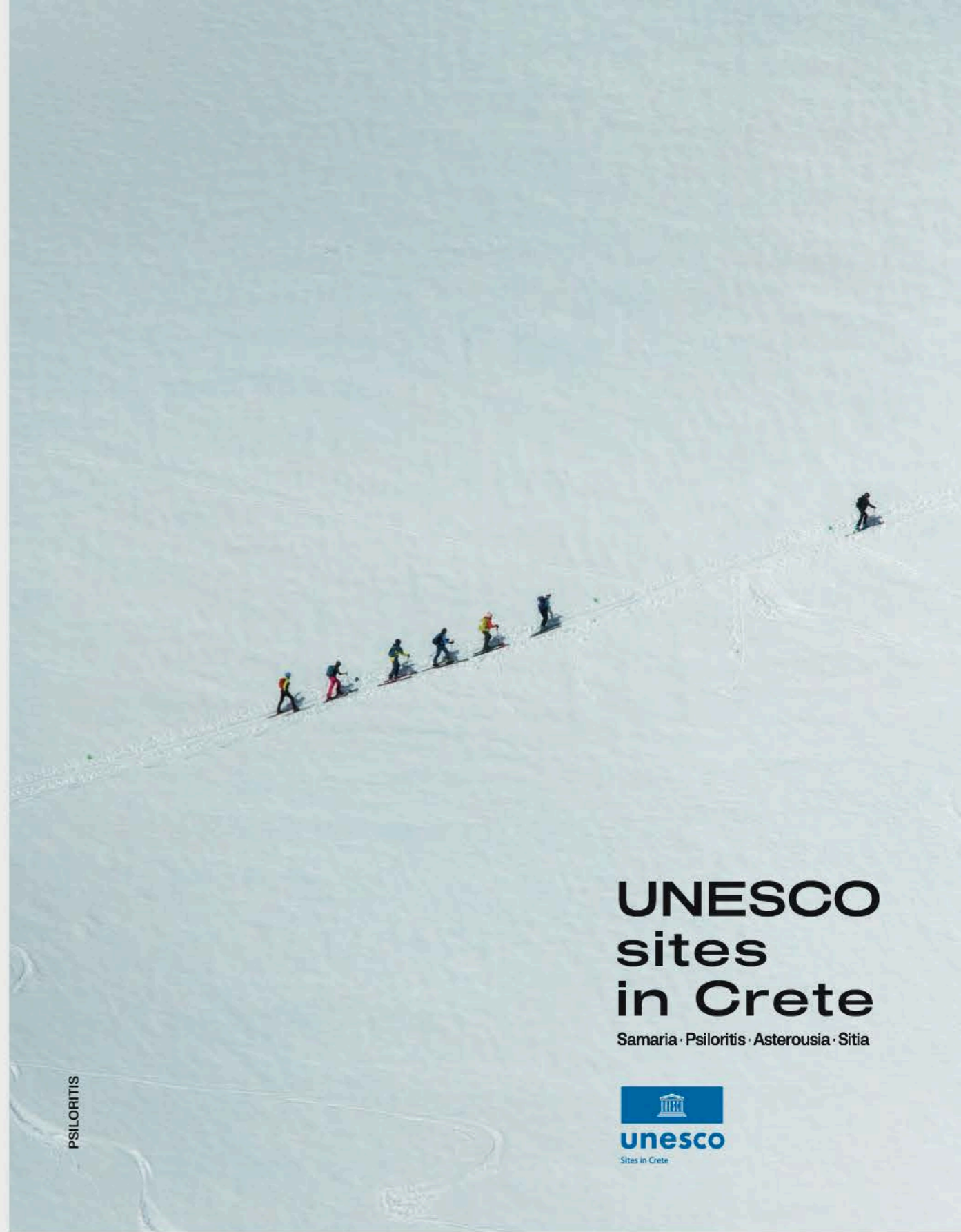
texts on their history and legacy; an inventory of the tomb; a closer look at Tut's mummy; and an exploration of the GEM and of conservators' work to uncover and share Egyptian history.

And because how societies treat their past often reflects ideals of the present, we also take you to Egypt's gleaming New Administrative Capital, being built 30 miles from Cairo. It will be the 20th capital city in Egypt's history.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we did creating it.



LIKE SO MANY OF YOU, we at *National Geographic* have long been fascinated by ancient Egypt. Its incredible sophistication in everything from agriculture to architecture to art, its court politics and intrigue, its elaborate rituals, particularly around death—much of what holds our interest in this civilization is what we still don't fully understand. Perhaps that's why Egyptology remains as popular today as when it took the Jazz Age by storm following the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. *National Geographic* correspondent Maynard Owen Williams was among the first observers granted entry to Tut's tomb at its official opening. In our May 1923 issue, he reported "disappointment" at getting to visit only chambers that were mostly cleared of items, rather than the one said to be "filled to the roof" with treasures. Those treasures have appeared prominently in our pages since, including in our 75th anniversary issue (October 1963), when we featured F.L. Kenet's color images of Tut's "golden trove." And in June 2005 we showed a new facial reconstruction of the boy pharaoh, thanks to a CT scan of his mummy created using equipment donated by the National Geographic Society and Siemens AG. We're devoting much of this issue to Egypt in celebration of two openings: Tut's tomb, a century ago, and the highly anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum, where nearly all of these treasures will be showcased. The GEM, as it's known, has been 20 years in the making and cost more than a billion dollars. Two of its 12 exhibition halls are devoted to Tut and will display all together, for the first time—nearly all the finds from his tomb. Our spectacular portfolio of some of these artifacts, with



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