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A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

hen Pax TV finally (on March 1) aired the "Encounters with the Unexplained" episode on the Sphinx of Egypt and a possible 'hall of records' buried beneath it, we felt greatly relieved. We had begun to suspect some stories simply could not be broadcast these days. If that seems like paranoia, consider some of the prologue.

When Atlantis Rising set out, a few years ago, to produce several documentaries on topics covered in the publication we intended to begin with the Hall of Records. However, when the individual-who shall here go nameless-on whom we had been counting as our primary authority suddenly and inexplicably turned angrily against us and refused to cooperate, we were forced to go with plan B. The result was our video "The Technologies of the Gods" and if you have seen it, you know that, despite the difficulties, we still managed to get in some interesting speculation about the possibility of a surviving cache of records from a lost fountainhead of civilization.

Later, as the magazine followed various efforts to investigate the issue, we were approached by several television production entities eager to do something on the subject. Nothing happened, of course, but in the spring of 2000 we were told by the lead production company that Fox TV was going to do it. We were told that a state-of-the-art ground-penetrating-radar survey of the Giza Plateau to be carried out by a leading exploration company would be shown on live TV. The story was subsequently confirmed to us by the various camps involved, including those of explorer Joseph Schorr and Egyptian Antiquities Director Zahi Hawass. The news came shortly before press time but we still managed to get it in. Imagine our chagrin, when, a few days later the plan was inexplicably dumped. Fox, instead, broadcast its ill-fated staged mummy discovery show which, when later exposed in the media, came to cast a considerable cloud over the vaunted Hawass reputation.

It was obvious that producers interested in investigating a Hall of Records would get little cooperation from Egyptian authorities, notably Hawass. It was not, however, for lack of interest in sensational publicity. Hawass' antics in the mummy show made it clear he is more than willing to push buttons calculated to arouse the masses.

When Pax TV approached us last year about helping with their efforts, we were willing to try but doubtful what would come of it. When, just a couple weeks after taping, the tragic events of 9/11 took place, our doubts grew. At least two published schedule announcements were wrong, but the show did finally air and make media history by being the first to give the idea very fair—even favorable—treatment. If you missed it, you can still buy the video from us. Just check the catalog in the back of the magazine.

Oh well, all's well that ends well. Of course, it's not over yet.

Publisher

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