



Howard Carter examining the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen in 1922. Although there were claims that a curse brought about the deaths of others involved in the expedition, Carter lived for a further 16 years. (© TopFoto)

tomb of Tutankhamen in 1922 for which he is best known.

Carter spent the rest of his life excavating this tomb and photographing and cataloguing its contents, the richness and variety of which were of immense value to the study of Egyptology. Despite the supposed curse of Tutankhamen (see **TUTANKHAMEN, CURSE OF**), Carter, the man who actually opened the tomb and might have been supposed to have borne the full weight of its protective maleficence, survived Lord Carnarvon by 16 years, dying in England at the age of 65.

cartomancy

Divination or fortune-telling by means of cards.

Fortune-telling by means of a deck of cards, known as cartomancy (from Late Latin *carta*, a card, and Greek *manteiā*, divination), has a history as old as playing cards themselves, and can be traced back as far as 14th-century Europe. Although a standard deck of playing cards can be used for cartomancy, many practitioners disapprove of this practice, holding that cards used for playing games should not also be used for divination – a belief which has given rise to the large numbers of decks designed specifically for divination, the best known of which is the **TAROT** deck, in all its forms.

Whichever kind of deck is used, there are many different layouts, or spreads, available to the cartomancer, each designed to answer different kinds of question. Some spreads are used to address specific

issues, such as relationships or work. Although each card has a specific meaning, this is influenced by the other cards in the reading. A single card may be drawn from the deck to give guidance just for that day; a three-card spread may be chosen to represent the past, present and future in a given situation; ten cards may be laid out in the most famous of all tarot spreads, the Celtic Cross, which goes into considerable depth and helps the subject to understand the factors influencing their situation, and how they can shape this situation and its future; and as many as 30 cards, or even the whole deck, may be used in an even more complex reading which covers the subject's whole life.

Cash–Landrum

A report of a UFO close encounter from the USA which is one of the few instances where it is claimed that the trauma caused was so great that it eventually cost the primary witness her life.

Late in the evening of 29 December 1980, restaurant owner Betty Cash set off with staff member Vickie Landrum and Vickie's grandson Colby to sample the menu at a competitor's restaurant in Dayton, Texas.

They later reported that while they were driving through a pine wood near Huffman at about 9pm, a fiery object descended suddenly to treetop height and hovered over the road ahead, blocking their path. Betty stopped the car and all three got out to look at what they described as an incredible diamond-shaped mass, spurting flame. The heat was apparently so intense that they had to shield their faces.

Colby became distressed, so he and his grandmother returned to the shelter of the car, leaving Betty to stare in awe at the object. A few moments later 23 Chinook helicopters arrived, and seemed to shepherd the UFO away across the forest. Betty returned to the car and drove the Landrums home, before returning to her own house.

On arriving home all three of the people involved were taken very ill. Colby suffered a severe sunburn-like rash and eye irritation. His grandmother's eyes also became sore and large tufts of her hair fell out over the next few days. Both were nauseous and tired. Betty was affected even more severely. Within hours she was suffering from a pounding headache, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting and swollen eyes. By 3 January she was slipping in and out of consciousness and was rushed to hospital in Houston. Over the next two months she spent several weeks in intensive care and her hair fell out to such an extent that she was noticeably bald by the spring. She went on to develop multiple cancers, requiring several operations, including a mastectomy, and was hospitalized on 25 occasions over the next decade.

John Schuessler, a NASA scientist and UFO investigator pressed for a government enquiry, suggesting that the Chinook helicopters must have come from an official source. He found other witnesses to the flight of these aircraft, but the government continued to deny any knowledge of the incident. The case was finally rejected by the courts in August 1986 on the grounds that the US government had no device like the one reported, so could not be held responsible for whatever might have happened. This was taken by some UFO researchers (possibly slightly disingenuously) to be tantamount to an official admission that the object was a UFO.

Betty Cash died in 1998 on the anniversary of the alleged incident. See also CLOSE ENCOUNTERS.

catalepsy

A trance-like state of incapacity and bodily rigidity.

Catalepsy is a state in which a person appears to lose consciousness for a long period of time, usually with rigidity of the muscles. The whole body becomes rigid, with the limbs becoming fixed in their positions, even if these are abnormal or seem to be strained, and they return to these positions if they are moved by someone else.

A person in a cataleptic state is completely unresponsive to outward stimuli, and their bodily functions, such as breathing or heartbeat, slow down markedly.

As far as medicine is concerned, various causes for catalepsy have been identified. These include sudden shock or severe emotional trauma. It has



A catalepsy sufferer from Argentat, France, who has been presumed dead for 14 hours, 'comes back to life'. From *Le Petit Journal* (13 April 1902). (© Mary Evans Picture Library)

also been associated with depression, epilepsy and schizophrenia.

In the past, and more recently in primitive societies, the failure to recognize and understand catalepsy led to people suffering from this to be thought of as dead. The fact that they would sometimes recover and seem to be miraculously restored is thought to explain the idea of people rising from the dead, whether as GHOSTS or vampires, and to be behind the ZOMBIE myth of the Caribbean. In the New Testament, one of the miracles performed by Jesus Christ was to resurrect Lazarus, who was said to have been dead for four days. Some say that this could be explained by Lazarus not having actually died but having been in a cataleptic state.

It has been suggested that some individuals who were believed to undergo religious ecstasy may in fact have been suffering from catalepsy. The fact that sufferers have been shown to experience HALLUCINATIONS while in a cataleptic state could be said to account for the religious visions experienced by some mystics. In some faiths, a cataleptic state is thought to be achieved by ascetics engaging in prolonged periods of deep meditation.