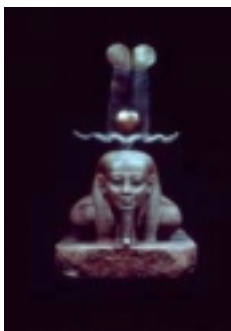




## UNICCO Digs In to Support “The Quest For Immortality” Exhibit at The Museum Of Science

Providing custodial services for a museum has its challenges. The Museum of Science in Boston, a world-class institution, has organized “The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt,” the largest selection of antiquities ever loaned by Egypt for exhibition in North America. This highly acclaimed and tremendously successful exhibit taxes the Museum’s resources, including its custodial services provided by UNICCO Service Company.

“The Quest for Immortality” exhibit has driven attendance up for the winter months. The exhibit routinely attracts 1,800 school children a day while family attendance on weekends is also strong. In addition to a full range of private after-hours events, the Museum is running evening hours for adults on Thursdays and Fridays. This requires that a wing of the Museum be transformed into an elegant setting, called the Science Street Café, offering cocktails, gourmet appetizers and desserts. The public is delighted – the museum staff is diligent.



*Osiris resurrecting—Twenty-sixth Dynasty, 664-525 BCE. Gneiss, with a headdress in electrum and gold, 29.5 x 18 x 55.5 cm This prone figure wears a common divine headdress with lappets surmounted by two ostrich plumes. The plumes are a headdress called shuty worn by several gods, including Osiris. The daily solar cycle was seen in terms of the sun god and Osiris; sunset was viewed as the solar deity’s death and Osiris followed by his rebirth at sunrise. The Egyptian Museum, Cairo.*

This level of activity has a direct impact on UNICCO. According to Gary Adams, UNICCO’s site manager, his staff takes care of all custodial and cleaning in the building, as well as the cleaning and plowing of the sidewalks, parking garage and driveway in what has proved to be a very snowy winter in Boston.

In addition, his staff handles room set-ups for functions and converts general public space into the Science Street Café twice a week. “We’ve quadrupled UNICCO’s presence in the exhibit area during the day since having 1,800 kids in a museum can be

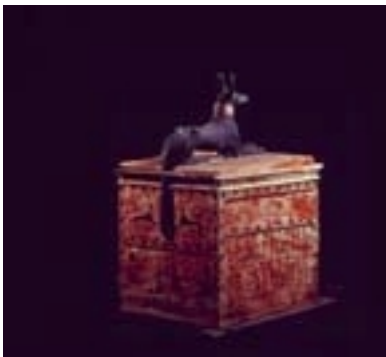
## UNICCO Case Study: Museum of Science

rough,” commented Adams. “Then, when they’ve gone, we only have a few hours to clean the area and setup for the evening events.”

*[Boat from the tomb of Amenhotep II – From as early as the First Dynasty, the tombs of kings contained boats. The ruler traveled by water, whether to inspect land, visit temples, or journey through the heavens. Pictured is a boat retrieved from the tomb of Amenhotep II. Eighteenth Dynasty, reign of Amenhotep II, 1427-1400 BCE. Painted wood, 50 x 234 x 41 cm. The Egyptian Museum, Cairo.](#)*



“The Quest for Immortality” presents other challenges for Adams and his team. Due to the exhibit’s popularity, the Atrium, a tile floored area built for high traffic and easy cleaning that is normally used for student lunches, has become an entrance and visitor holding area. The students are displaced to a carpeted area in the Blue Wing. “What was once an easy cleanup of spills on a hard surface is now a chore on the carpet. We’re constantly using spot cleaner to maintain the carpets.”



*[Canopic chest of Queen Nedjmet— The canopic chest pictured here belonged to Queen Nedjmet \(wife of the high priest Herihor\). "Canopic" designates containers used for the internal organs removed during mummification. A statue of Anubis is found on the lid of the chest. Abubis guided the dead in the next world and oversaw mummification. Late Twentieth Dynasty, c. 1087-1080 BCE. Gilded and painted wood, 83 x 50 x 66 cm. The Egyptian Museum, Cairo.](#)*

“There are no surprises here,” said Adams. UNICCO’s been serving the Museum of Science since 1987, and has supported other tremendously successful exhibits. Yet, it is major events, such as “The Quest for Immortality,” that highlight UNICCO’s dedication to providing a clean, attractive environment for the Museum’s permanent and special exhibitions. This commitment is clearly on display at the Museum every day.

# UNICCO

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