

FLYING IN ANCIENT EGYPT

by

Arch. Dawoud Khalil Messiha

Summary

The Egyptian Physician, artist and researcher Dr. Khalil Messiha (1924-1998) discovered an ancient Egyptian wooden aeroplane model in the year 1969 in Cairo Egyptian museum. The artifact was found in the excavations around the Stepped Pyramid of Saqqara in 1898 by the French archaeologist Lauret. This piece was registered in the archives of the Museum as a "Statuette of a bird" dated about 200 BC. It was placed in the bird section of the museum under the number 6347, and a little more was thought of it for 70 years.

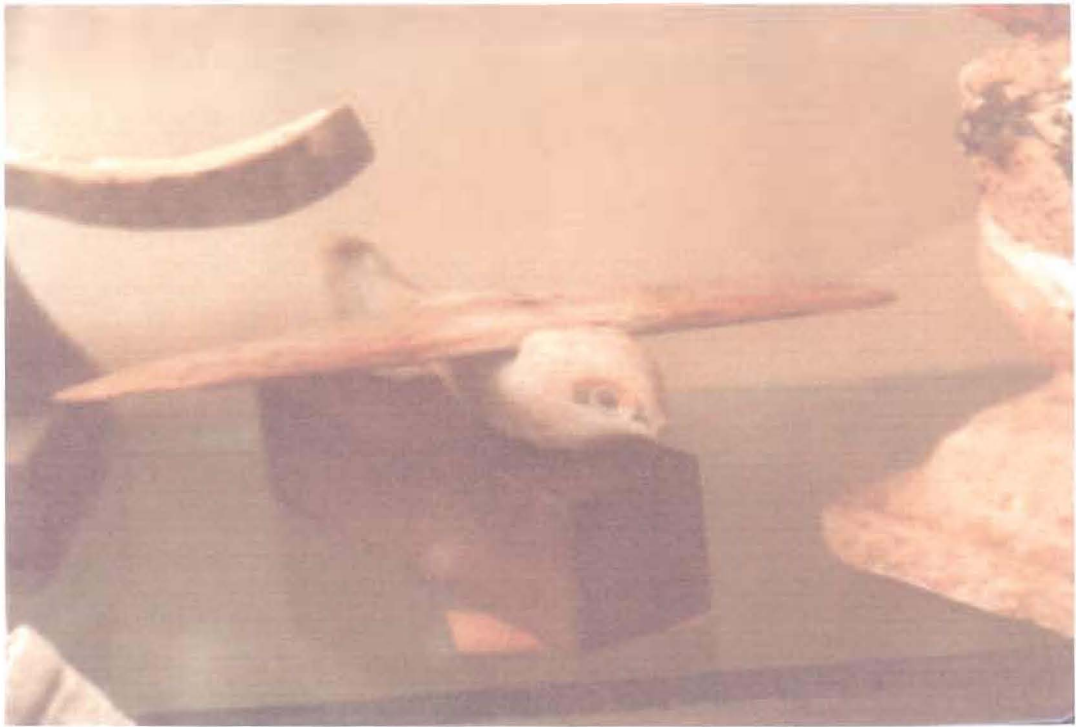
He declared to the world on 1972 his amazing discovery. His study to the Pharaonic artifact covered every part of its shape. He found that this model differs considerably from other bird models of ancient Egypt in that it was legless and had a straight tail and wings. Dr. Khalil manufactured a replica model made of balsa wood with the same dimensions as the artifact. The model was pushed by hand and flew a few yards.

MAN DREAMED to fly like birds since old times. Only gods and goddesses in ancient cults were capable to fly in the sky among the stars. In pyramid texts which dates back to more than 4500 years ago, Egyptian kings in their life after death joined gods in their journey to the stars by celestial boats. The ancient Egyptians imagination of how to fly was by adding feathered wings to human figures and sacred animals. No real aeroplane model or flying machine was found in ancient Egypt until Dr. Khalil Messiha rediscovered for the ancient Egyptian glider model.

A small wooden artifact was found in the excavations around the Stepped Pyramid of Saqqara in 1898 by the French archaeologist

Lauret. This piece was registered in the archives of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo as a "Statuette of a bird" dated about 200 BC. It was placed in the bird section of the museum under the number 6347, and a little more was thought of it for 70 years.

The Egyptian Physician, artist and researcher Dr. Khalil Messiha rediscovered the same artifact in the year 1969 in the museum. He spent more than three years studying the artifact before declaring to the world on 1972 his amazing discovery. As an aero-experimental since 1950 he gained a good experience in aerodynamics. His study to the Pharaonic artifact covered every part of its shape; such as the wing proportions, angles



Egyptian Aeroplane Model



as compared to the body shape, the way they were fixed to the body, the body shape, the tail design, and even the artifact material and weight. Dr. Khalil found that this model differs considerably from other bird models of ancient Egypt in that it was legless and had a straight tail and wings. The statuette weighed 39.12 gms, had 18 cm wide wings and its fuselage was a 14-cm long piece. The fuselage had the shape of an aerofoil beautifully carved and smoothly shaped except the tip which was slightly worn out. The lower part of the tail is broken, and Dr. Khalil presumed that a stabilizer might have been attached to that missing part. The aging-wood artifact deteriorated due to wearing out by weather. The vertical tail was slightly slanting towards the right if looked at from the artifact rear.

DR. KHALIL manufactured a replica model made of balsa wood with the same dimensions as the artifact and added a stabilizer to the tail. The model was pushed by hand and flew a few yards. Reference to Dr. Khalil's past aerodynamic experiments, the artifact must be a glider model. Moreover, aerodynamic theory proposes if the model with the same proportions be enlarged to a larger size; its flight time increases. Dr. Khalil's research was true; and was verified not only by his analysis and flight of the wooden replica but also by the success of a 60 times larger model to flight. An experimental model was built with the same proportions but 60 times larger than the original one succeeded in flying for a longer time as a sailplane. In addition, it succeeded in flying as mechanical aeroplane model after fixing a propeller to its nose, and adding the lost part of the tail as Dr. Khalil suggested.

Some call it a bird, ...but birds with vertical tails never existed. The museum artifact has no legs in contrary to the thousands of birds

statuettes found in the excavations in Egypt. Some might say it is a flying fish! But no flying fish was ever seen in Egypt nor in the Middle East.

SOME THINK it is a toy. Ancient Egyptian technologists always made models of prototypes they were going to build, all the way from ships to temples. Technologists of our modern time also used to build models and toys of every thing. We have models for cars, ships, aeroplanes, space crafts.....etc.

Egypt history of flight is thousands of years old, and first manifested itself in the philology of the Ancient Egyptian language and the religious rituals practiced by the Ancient Egyptians. In ancient Egyptian language there are three words which had the meaning "to fly", namely "hi, hi and pa", the determinative in all three being a half - wing with long feathers. In the Egyptian museum of Cairo there is a variety of birds scenes depicted on murals since the Old Kingdom. Moreover, the god Horus - as a falcon and Horus - Ra the son of Osiris as a falcon in the sun's disc on his head - were favorite themes both in portraiture and sculpture. "Outstretched wings" is a feature of a great number of artifacts in the Egyptian Museum, among which are winged scarabs from the Greco Roman period found in Upper Egypt, and a fine bronze figure of Nefertum, son of Ptah and Sekhmet dating from (600 BC.). Dr. Khalil believed that Pa -Di - Imen the maker of the Pharaonic glider made several experimental models before achieving the optimum proportions of his glider. A greater model maybe built by the same inventor but still not yet discovered. Late Dr. Khalil believed that there are other models still reserved under Saqqara sands waiting for future excavations.



Egyptian Aeroplane Model



Dr. Khalil Messiha



Arch. Dawoud Khalil Messiha

Dawoud Khalil Messiha, born 1st Jan. 1960 in Cairo, Egypt. Architect, Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, 1981. He obtained M.S. in architecture from Helwan University, Cairo, 1995 and a Dipl. of archaeology from Higher Coptic Institute, Cairo, 1988.

Membership: A member of the American Society of Dowrsers, Society of Coptic Archaeology and Imhotep Scientific Society.

Publications: His publications in Arabic are “The Coptic Architecture in Sohag”, “Instruments of Indicating Time in The Coptic Era” and “The Coptic Scientists in Academy of Alexandria” (articles in annual magazine). “Secrets of The Pharaohs” (a book under publishing in Arabic). A contributor about architecture, science and engineering in the “Coptic Encyclopedia” (under publishing in Arabic). Other publications in English are “The Golden Section and The Secrets of Life”, “Introduction to architectural shapes and patterns”, “An introduction to Geobiology”, and “The Great Pyramid and Biotronics”. He is a writer of Coptic & Ancient Egyptian archaeology in “Watani” weekly newspaper in Cairo.

Research work:

Presently, concerned with the research in “Biotronics” i.e. the effect of geometrical forms and figures on living systems which was started in collaboration with Dr. Khalil Messiha. Producing designs of “Useful Furniture”, which gives energy fields beneficial to man and other living systems. Also continuing Dr. Khalil Messiha's research in ancient Egyptian mysteries.

Conferences:

1-A research paper about “A new Scope for Ancient Egyptian Architecture” in the 9th Conference of Egyptian Architects. 18-19 April 1999.

2-A research paper and lecture about “Flying in Ancient Egypt” in the World Congress in Germany on June 25th-26th, 1999 about Archaeology, Astronautics and SETI Research.

3-A research paper and lecture about “Pharaonic aeroplane model” in the 1st World Meeting about the lost origins of civilization and anachronism in archaeology and history "The Future in our past" that was held in San Marino from 25-26 March, 2000, Ministry of Tourism of San Marino, Italy.

4-A research paper about “The Pharaonic Turbine” published for the first time in “Unsolved Mysteries” exhibition catalogue held in Vienna on June 22-23 2001 at Vienna art Center. Also lecture about the pharaonic aeroplane model in the conference of Unsolved Mysteries in Vienna art Centre.

5-A research paper and lecture at about “Flying in Ancient Egypt”, part 2 , The ancient Egyptian glider model and other mysterious flying objects in Ancient Egypt, at “2nd World Meeting about the Lost Origins of Civilization And Anachronism In Archaeology And History”, held in San Marino from Sept. 22-23rd, 2001, Ministry of Tourism of San Marino, Italy.

6-A research paper and lecture about “MYSTERIS AND DIVINE MESSAGE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID”, 2nd World Meeting about Science, Tradition and dimension of sacredness “The Mystery of The Great Pyramid”, October 26-27th, 2002, Ministry of Tourism of San Marino, Italy.

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Publishing and references about the discovery of Dr. Khalil Messiha to the Pharaonic aeroplane model:

- 1-“London Times”, UK Daily News paper: issue of May 18th, 1972.
- 2-The Arizona Daily Star, USA, issue of May 25th, 1972.
- 3-Journal of Society for The Investigation of The Unexplained, Columbia, New Jersey 07832, “Pursuit”, Vol. 5. No. 4, Oct. 1972.
- 3-The Arizona Daily Star, USA, issue of May 25th, 1972.
- 4-“Al Sakafa”, weekly magazine issued by The American University of Cairo, issued in Arabic, issue of March 12th, 1973.
- 5-Dr. Hishmat Messiha: article in the “Egypt Travel Magazine”, monthly magazine issued in English & French, Cairo, Egypt, issue No. 153, 1973.
- 6-“Aviation” Middle East-Near East - Eastern Mediterranean, article about “Flying in Ancient Egypt”, Vol.1, No.12, pp.34-37, July 1973.
- 7-Dr. Said Karim: article in “Al-Helal”- Egyptian monthly magazine issued in Arabic, Cairo, April, 1976.
- 8-Egyptian daily news papers issued in Arabic language such as: “Al-Ahram” & “Al-Gomhoria”, news papers.
- “Al-Ahram” news paper published several times articles about Dr. Khalil Discovery for the ancient Egyptian glider model; for example:
- 8-1Mr. Kamal Naguib: article in the issue of Feb. 8th, 1976, mentioned the interest of American astronauts in the Pharaonic Model.
- 8-2 Mr. Kamal Naguib: articles in the issues of September 5th, 1976- May 5th, 1977- May 8th, 1977-October 16th, 1977- Nov. 24th, 1979-Feb. 19th, 1982- Novemeber 6th, 1982- January 12th, 1983- March 5th, 1983
- 8-3Mr. Kamal Al Malakh: article in the issue of July 13th, 1981
- 8-4Mr. Anis Mansour: article in the issue of Novemebr 27th, 1991
- 9-“Al-Akhbar” Egyptian daily news paper issued in Arabic; for example:
- 9-1Mr. Anis Mansour: article in Al Alakhbar News paper, issue of June 5th, 1976.
- 10-“Rose Al-Youssef”, Egyptian weekly magazine, issued in Arabic; issue of Feb. 28th, 1977
- 11-Dr. Khalil Messiha: “Africa Experimental Aeronautics- 2000 year Old Model Glider; Article in “Journal of African civilizations”, Ltd., issued in English, Vol. No. 182, pp. 60-67, Sept. 1980.
- 12-Anis Mansour: “Returned to the Sky”, Dar Alshorok, p.69, (issued in Arabic), Cairo, Egypt, 1983.
- 13-WAEO, World Aerospace Education Organization, Newsletter, A Publication Organization, Vol.2, No.1, 1987.
- 14-“Al Ezaa Wal-Television”, Weekly Egyptian magazine, issued in Arabic by Egyptian TV & Radio association, issue of Sept. 1st, 1990.
- 15- “The Egyptian Gazettte”, Egyptian news paper issued in French; issue of Feb. 14th, 1991.
- 16-Joseph Jochmans: article about “Flight in Ancient Egypt”, pp.9-10 in the “The Search for Lost Origins” Atlantis Rising Book, USA, 1996.
- 17-“Français”, Lecture 2 ème Année, issued by The Egyptian Ministry of Education, p.21, 1996-1997.
- 18-Klaus Dona: “Die Welt des Unerklärlichen”, Schottenstift, pp. 219-220, Wien, 2001.

Lectures in Conferences about Flying in Ancient Egypt:

1-Dr. Khalil Messiha; lecture at the Congress of WAEO; "World Aerospace Education Organization"; Attended by European, USA members and American Astronauts, Cairo, Egypt, October 1979.

2-Dawoud Khalil Messiha; lecture at "1st World Meeting about the Lost Origins of Civilization and Anachronism in Archaeology And History "The Future In Our Past", held in San Marino from 25-26 March, 2000, Ministry of Tourism of San Marino, Italy.

3-Dawoud Khalil Messiha; lecture at Congress and exhibition of "Unsolved Mysteries" from June 22nd to September 23rd, 2001, City Museum Linz-Nordico, Vienna, Austria.

4-Dawoud Khalil Messiha; lecture at "2nd World Meeting about the Lost Origins of Civilization And Anachronism In Archaeology And History", held in San Marino from Sept. 22-23rd, 2001, Ministry of Tourism of San Marino, Italy.

Exhibitions & TV programs:

1-Tucson Aviation Museum, Arizona, USA, received information from Dr. Khalil Messiha about the Pharaonic glider as per its official request on January 1973.

2-Yorkshire Television, Comma, part of The British independent Network, Grove Garden, Headingley Leeds, received information from Dr. Khalil Messiha at October 1976.

3-Exhibition for "Ancient Egyptian Toys", Exhibition held at Gezira Exhibition Center, Cairo, Egypt at Dec. 1985. Article issued in Al-Ahram newspaper with the title "A toy dated 7000 years, issued Dec. 10th, 1985.

4-Dr. Khalil Messiha, Interviews with Tampa TV and Radio Station, Florida, USA, on Nov. 1989.

5-Fred Gregory, (American Astronaut): comments about Pharaonic glider, sent to Dr. Khalil Messiha after Mr. Gregory visit with USA astronauts and WAEO members to Cairo Egyptian Museum at June, 1985.

6-Hanna Khalil Messiha: Replica of the Pharaonic glider model was made by Mr. Hanna Khalil to be exhibited in exhibition of "Unsolved Mysteries" from June 22nd to September 23rd, 2001, City Museum Linz-Nordico, Vienna, Austria.