The Golden Mummies' Returns

Mostly untouched tombs found in Egypt are proving to be a treasure trove of information—and treasure.

After only three seasons of excavation, the Valley of the Golden Mummies in the Bahariya Oasis of Egypt is proving to be one of the richest sources of artifacts and information yet encountered in a country that is famous for its mummies.

Even though only a handful of tombs have been opened so far, archeologist Zahi Hawass and his colleagues have already discovered 234 mummies, many of them sheathed in gold, others covered by finely painted, delicate masks.