



Liebe Klubmitglieder
Liebe Ägyptenfreundinnen
und -freunde



Zu Beginn des neuen Jahres wünsche ich Ihnen viel Glück, Freude, Gesundheit und Wohlergehen. Das Jahr begann im Zeichen der Schweizerisch-Ägyptischen Freundschaft und dem Kulturaustausch mit dem offiziellen Besuch des Bundespräsidenten Couchepin in Ägypten. Unter dem Motto „Brücke der Kulturen“ war der Besuch ein voller Erfolg. In fünf Tagen traf er nicht nur den ägyptischen Präsidenten Hosni Mubarak und mehrere Minister, sondern auch den Papst der koptischen Christen, Shenouda, und das geistlichen Oberhaupt der Al Azhar Universität, Scheich Tantawi.

Zusammen mit den Studenten

Die Al-Azhar Universität ist eine der bedeutendsten Bildungsinstitutionen der islamischen Gemeinschaft. Nach Angaben Tantawis sind derzeit Studentinnen und Studenten aus 104 Ländern eingeschrieben. Bei der anschliessenden Besichtigung der Universität suchte Couchepin das Gespräch mit den Studenten, die auf dem Teppich sitzend die Schriften Mohammeds studierten. Er fragte sie nach ihrer Herkunft, nach ihrem Studienfach und ihren Zukunftsplänen.

Zusammenleben mit Kopten

Auch das Zusammenleben zwischen Muslimen und Christen interessierte Couchepin bei sei-

nen Gesprächen. Die beiden Gemeinschaften seien gleich in ihren Rechten und Pflichten, sagte der Scheich dazu. «Sie gehen in ihre jeweiligen Gotteshäuser beten, und wenn sie rauskommen, reichen sie sich die Hände.» Die Kopten selbst fühlten sich nicht als Minderheit, stellte der Schweizer Innenminister nach seinem Treffen mit dem Oberhaupt der Kopten, Papst Shenouda III, fest. Sie seien Ägypter wie die muslimische Mehrheit. So lautet denn auch das Fazit des Bundespräsidenten: «Sie haben Lust auf das Zusammenleben».

Besuch der historischen und kulturellen Sehenswürdigkeiten, wie die Pyramiden, das ägyptische Museums standen ebenso auf dem Besuchsprogramm. Ein Abkommen mit dem ägyptischen Kulturminister, über den Handel mit gestohlenen Kulturgütern und Antiquitäten, wurde unterzeichnet. Ägypten wird auch als Ehrengast an der Genfer Buchmesse sein. Verschiedene Swiss Tales, musikalische und artistische, wie z.B. das Züricher Ballet, Mummenschanz, Konzerte, werden in 2008 an der neuen Kairo Oper organisiert.

In diesem Newsletter finden Sie die Einladung für die nächste Generalversammlung, GV (Seite 6), sowie die Jahresrechnung für 2007 (Seite 7). Die GV findet am 18. März 2008, um 19:00 Uhr

statt. Bitte melden Sie sich mit dem Talon, damit wir Sie informieren können, wo die GV stattfinden wird. Wir freuen uns auf zahlreiches Erscheinen und heissen gleichzeitig die neuen Mitglieder herzlich willkommen.

Unseren Mitgliedern Herr Hans Tschudi und Herr u. Frau Gharb danken wir herzlich für ihre grosszügige Spende für die Weihnachtsaktion. Die Spenden gehen zu 100% an die Bedürftigen ohne irgend einen Abzug für Verwaltung oder Spesen. Diese Arbeit wird wie bisher von den Vorstandsmitglieder ehrenamtlich durchgeführt.

Wir planen zwei grosse Anlässe für 2008 und 2009. das jährliche Fest wird am Samstag 25. Oktober in Luzern organisiert. Wir suchen Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter, die uns im Vorstand unterstützen wollen. Vielen Dank im voraus für Ihre Bereitschaft.

Für das entgegengebrachte Vertrauen und Ihre Unterstützung danke ich Ihnen herzlich und wünsche Ihnen eine interessante, unterhaltsame und spannende Lektüre mit der Ausgabe des 15. Newsletter. Und schöne Zeit.

Herzlichst
Ihr Ahmed M. El-Ashker

The Discovery of the Lost Mummy of Queen Hatshepsut

Modern Technology solves a mystery – and uncovers a new one

Written and photographed by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the supreme Council of Antiquities

Egypt's royal mummies still hold many secrets: The identities of some are uncertain, and the family relationship between members of the different dynasties that ruled ancient Egypt are still not fully understood. The Egyptian Mummy Project (EMP) is one of the most exciting scientific studies underway in Egypt today, working to answer the many questions that surround the remains of the pharaohs.

Using a CT scanner and a new DNA lab, both in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, an all-Egyptian team led by myself is examining both royal and non-royal mummies from all over Egypt in hopes of learning more about what diseases they suffered, how they died, and above all, the magic of how they lived.

One of our past projects was the CT scan of the mummy of Tutankhamun, which revealed that the young pharaoh was not murdered, as many people had speculated. This year, the EMP made its most important discovery so far: After a year and a half of scientific study, we have succeeded in identifying the lost mummy of Queen Hatshepsut, one of Egypt's most fascinating rulers.

Hatshepsut held Egypt's throne for 21 years and nine months. While other queens ruled as pharaohs during periods of unrest, Hatshepsut was the only woman to rule Egypt during a golden age of prosperity and stability. I consider the search for her mummy, which was filled with excitement and suspense, one of the most important adventures of my life as an archaeologist.

The Search for a Queen

We began the search by conducting CT scans of a group

of unidentified female mummies. First, we looked at two found in KV35, the tomb of Amenhotep II. KV35 contained 13 mummies because it was reused as a cache during the twenty-first and twenty-second dynasties. The priests of Amun reburied some members of the New Kingdom royalty here after the Valley of the Kings was plundered by robbers.

It has been suggested that these two female mummies found in KV35, known as the „Elder Lady“ and the „Younger Lady,“ are those of Queens Tiye and Nefertiti respectively, but I do not believe that the identification of the Younger Lady as Nefertiti is correct. Whatever their true identities, we were able to determine that neither was connected with Hatshepsut.

The next mummy we examined also came from KV35 and is known as „Unknown Woman D.“ We also scanned „Unknown Woman A,“ the so-called „screaming mummy,“ from DB320, another famous cache of New Kingdom royalty from the twenty-first and twenty-second dynasties.

The CT scan revealed that the

distorted expression of her face was actually due to trauma suffered at the time of death.

The Ladies of KV60

The last two unknown female mummies studied in our search for Hatshepsut were both found in 1903 by Howard Carter in the tomb known as KV60. KV60 is located very close to KV20, Hatshepsut's original tomb. When Carter opened it, he discovered one of the mummies lying in a coffin inscribed with „In,“ the second half of the name of Hatshepsut's wet-nurse, Sitre-In. Some scholars have suggested that KV60 might have been her original tomb. In 1906, Edward Ayrton re-cleared KV60, and it seems that at that time, he moved In's coffin and its mummy to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. They were never published, and no photographs of them existed. I decided that this mummy should be included in the search for Hatshepsut, and with the assistance of the museum curators, I searched for and found it hidden in storage on the museum's third floor.

The second mummy in KV60 was that of an obese older



Preparing to take DNA samples from the mummy

woman, found uncoffined on the floor when Carter opened the tomb. When Ayron moved In's coffin and the mummy it held to Cairo, the obese mummy was left behind. As early as 1966, Elizabeth Thomas had suggested that this mummy, known as KV60-A, might be that of Hatshepsut.

In 1989, Donald Ryan re-excavated KV60. He found a number of coffin fragments, including part of a face with an indentation under the chin where a false beard might have been attached, indicating that the tomb might once have held the remains of a royal burial. After concluding his investigation, Ryan provided KV60-A with a simple wood coffin, and closed it once more within the tomb. I decided that for this study, this mummy must be brought from the Valley of the Kings to the Egyptian Museum for CT scanning.

To have some idea of what physical features we might expect to see in the mummy of Hatshepsut, we also scanned the mummies thought to belong to her closest relatives: Thutmose III, her stepson and nephew.

With the assistance of Dr. Hany Abdel Rahman, a specialist in the operation of CT scanning equipment, Dr. Ashraf Selim, professor of radiology at Cairo University, analyzed the 1,700 images produced of each mummy.

One evening, as I was talking to Brando Quilici, the producer of the Discovery Channel documentary about the study, I said that it might also be interesting to use the machine to examine some objects associated with Queen Hatshepsut. We decided to scan a wooden box inscribed with the queen's birth and throne names, found in the DB320 cache.

The box contained a smooth bundle that fit imperfectly inside, not quite allowing the lid to close. It had been suggested that this bundle contained Hatshepsut's

embalmed liver, perhaps rescued after the destruction of her canopic equipment and placed in the box bearing her name by the same priests who moved her mummy from KV20 to KV60. The CT scan showed that the contents of the bundle could in fact be seen as a liver, along with a second object, which could be interpreted as part or all of an intestine. In addition, the box held a big surprise: embedded in the layer of resin coating the bundle was a single tooth with one of its roots still attached.

We brought in Dr. Galal El-Behri, a dentist from Cairo University, who studied the tooth in detail and determined that it was a seventh upper right molar. The mummy KV60-A was missing precisely that tooth. Upon careful study, the shape and size of the tooth in the box were found to be an exact match for the socket and root in the loose tooth corresponded exactly to that of the teeth remaining in the mummy's mouth. We now had proof, from the most unexpected of sources, that KV60-A was the mummy of Hatshepsut!

Although the definite identification of Hatshepsut's mummy resulted from a moment of inspiration, the months of careful study that we invested in the search produced many other fascinating results. We learned that Hatshepsut died around the age of 50. She was so obese in life that her organs could not be removed through an incision in her abdomen; they were taken out through the pelvic floor instead. Her teeth were in terrible condition, with decayed roots and signs of infection and inflammation. Along with her weight, this could be a sign that she suffered from diabetes mellitus. A tumor could be seen on her left hipbone, and there was further evidence of cancer in her spine. She would have been in pain from a slipped disk and arthritis in her spine.

Mistaken Identity

We were also able to prove from the CT scans that the mummy previously thought to be that of Thutmose I, Hatshepsut's father, could not have belonged to that pharaoh. This mummy was found in a set of two nested coffins in the DB320 cache. Both coffins had been made during the Eighteenth Dynasty and then reused in the Twenty-first Dynasty by the priest-king Pinudjem I. At the turn of the century, Egyptologist Georges Daressy noted that he could see traces of the name of Thutmose I inscribed on the outer coffin. For this reason, and because of a similarity perceived by Gaston Maspero in its facial features to those of Thutmose II and Thutmose III, the mummy was identified as that of Hatshepsut's father.

Many scholars noted, however, that there were several reasons for thinking that this identification was incorrect. Most importantly, its arms are by its side rather than crossed over its chest, the typical position for the mummies of New Kingdom rulers. It also appeared too young to be the mummy of Thutmose I, who is thought to have died around the age of 50, based on written sources. Our CT scan confirmed that the mummy's owner died around the age of 30, much younger than the pharaoh. We also discovered an arrowhead embedded in its chest, which was almost certainly the cause of death.

There is no historical evidence, however, that Thutmose I died in battle.

It seems that we must re-evaluate the identity of this mummy, which may have belonged to a different member of Hatshepsut's family. We are now considering the possibility that the mummy now located inside the tomb of Seti II could actually be that of Thutmose I. Also, although the identities of the mummies of Thutmose II and Thutmose III are fairly certain,



Dr. Hawass with the Elder Lady and the younger Lady in KV 35.

threemillimeter drill holes left 10 years ago by researchers who took tissue samples using a narrow bone-marrow biopsy needle.

Multiple samples can be taken from the same puncture hole using this technique.

We have had remarkable success in obtaining DNA from the mummies of „Thutmose I; Hatshepsut, the wet-nurse Sitre-In and Ahmose-Nefertari, the matriarch of Hatshepsut’s family. In fact, our initial results have shown some genetic similarity between the last two of these individuals.

Much research remains to be carried out, and we are working on building a second DNA lab here in Egypt that could independently confirm the results obtained by the Egyptian Museum’s lab.

In the meantime, we can enjoy the new knowledge that we have already gained from the quest for the lost mummy of Queen Hatshepsut. While many have speculated that she was murdered by her stepson, Thutmose III, we now know that this was not the case; her mummy shows no signs of foul play. It seems, as many scholars believe, that attempts to erase the memory of Hatshepsut did not begin immediately after her death, but date to much later in the reign of Thutmose III or even afterward.

My announcement of the discovery of the lost mummy caused a media frenzy like none I have seen before. My friend Mark Linz, the head of the American University in Cairo Press, said that he counted hundreds of journalists at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo the day of the press conference. I was happy to see so much interest around the world in the great queen and the science behind our discovery. This adventure in the Valley of the Kings has greatly enriched our understanding of Egypt’s ancient past.

the CT scans did provide some interesting new information about them.

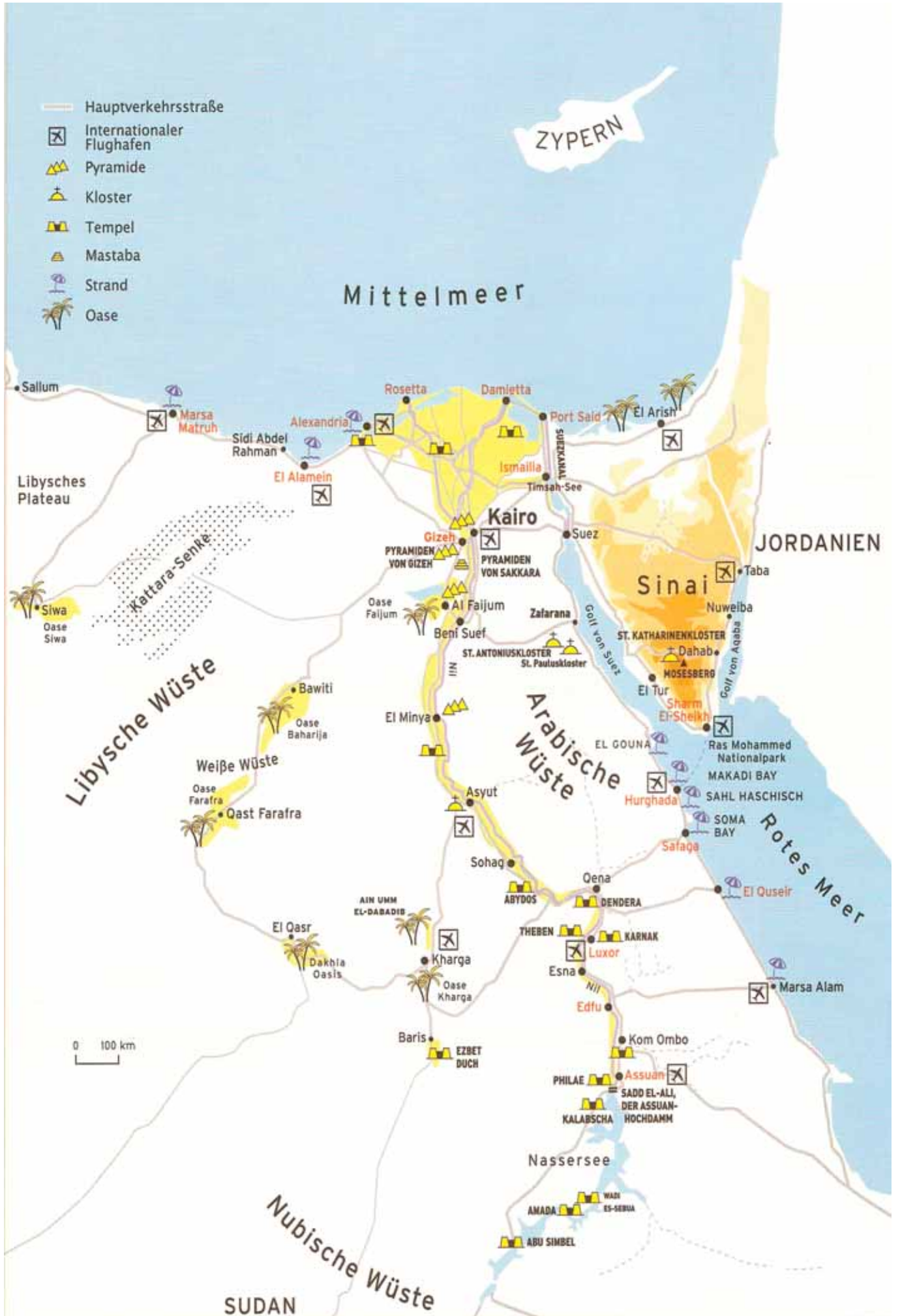
Thutmose II suffered from an enlarged heart, while Thutmose III probably had significant breathing problems due to a condition known as atrophic rhinitis.

Another important outcome of our search for Hatshepsut’s mummy was the construction of a DNA laboratory in the basement of the Egyptian Museum.

I had always been strongly opposed to DNA testing of Egyptian mummies, due to the high error rate seen in studies

done by existing labs as well as the possibility of exposing the mummies to the speculations of amateurs. The lab in the museum basement, however, is the first to be dedicated exclusively to the genetic study of mummies, and it ensures that work on the remains of the pharaohs is carried out under the supervision of qualified scholars. The lab staff is led by Dr. Yehia Zakaria Gad, a geneticist for Egypt’s National Research Center.

Earlier studies had resulted in damage to the royal mummies. Thutmose I, for instance, was found to have nine





El Masri

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EINLADUNG

Generalversammlung

Dienstag, 18. März 2008, 19:00 Uhr

Ort: wird Ihnen später mitgeteilt

Zur Generalversammlung des Schweizerischen-Ägyptischen Kulturklub, laden wir sie herzlich ein. Sie findet wie folgt statt:

Dienstag, 18. März 2008, 19:00 Uhr

Ort: Wird Ihnen später mitgeteilt

Traktandenliste

1. Begrüssung
2. Protokoll der Generalversammlung vom 2006
3. Jahresbericht des Präsidenten
4. Jahresrechnung von 2007 (Seite 7)
5. Revisorenberichte und Abnahme des Jahresrechnung
6. Entlastung des Vorstands
7. Mutationen / Tätigkeitsprogramm 2008
8. Festsetzung des Jahresbeitrages 2008
9. Anträge der Mitglieder
11. Varia
12. Apéro für Mitglieder

Mit freundlichen Grüssen
Dr. Ahmed M. El-Ashker
Präsident

.....
Anmeldung für die GV, 2008:

Name

Adresse:

Tel. Nr

Bemerkung:

Bitte die Teilnahme bestätigen mit dem Talon, per Tel.: 041 980 45 88, per Fax. 041 980 40 70
oder per Mail: info@elmasri.org Vielen Dank

El Masri Schweizerisch-Aegyptischer Kulturklub

Jahresrechnung 2007

1. Januar bis 31. Dezember 2007

ERFOLGSRECHNUNG

	Aufwand	Ertrag
Mitgliederbeiträge		2'000.00
Zinsertrag		16.25
Veranstaltungen	133.90	
Dienstleistungen	17.95	
Newsletter	748.80	
Uebriger Betriebsaufwand	608.40	
Ertragsüberschuss (Gewinn)	507.20	
	2'016.25	2'016.25

BILANZ per 31.12.2007

	Aktiven	Passiven
Kasse	82.00	
Postcheckkonto	4'439.54	
Spendengelder		1'415.00
Kreditoren		270.00
Vereinsvermögen am 31.12.2006		2'329.34
Ertragsüberschuss 2007 (Gewinn)		507.20
	4'521.54	4'521.54

Buchrain, 24. Januar 2007

Die Rechnungsführerin
Lis Exner

