

## **Dr. André J. Veldmeijer**

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### **Archaeological Leather Explained: The Finds from the Tomb of Tutankhamun**

The preservation of soft tissue of animals, such as skin, gut and sinew, requires very special circumstances. In Egypt, the extreme arid conditions are favourable for this, and thus leather is found occasionally. However, though favourable, often the condition is (severely) compromised, making the work of the archaeological specialist challenging. Such is the case with the leather that was found in the tomb of Tutankhamun. Based on the study of the remains themselves, together with the examination of the documentation by Carter and his team, the lecture will, after a general introduction on leather in ancient Egypt (with a focus on the New Kingdom), explore the various ways leather and related animal products were used in the objects from the tomb. With the aid of several case studies, insights on the importance of leather as priced material, and the craftsmanship of the leatherworker is presented. Ample attention will be given to the study of such sensitive material by the specialised archaeologist.

André J. Veldmeijer (Visiting Research Scholar American University in Cairo) studied archaeology at Leiden University (The Netherlands) and received his PhD in Vertebrate Palaeontology from Utrecht University (The Netherlands) in 2006. His main interest is the material culture of ancient Egypt (and Nubia) with a focus on technology. Veldmeijer has worked in Egypt since 1995 for various missions (including Amarna, Dra' Abu el-Naga, Elephantine, Hierakonpolis, Fustat and Qasr Ibrim) and has worked in museum collections all over the world, including the Egyptian Museum and the Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Centre, both in Cairo, the British Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Currently, Veldmeijer is the (co-) director of several ongoing international research projects: Ancient Egyptian Leatherwork and Footwear Projects (including the Egyptian Museum Chariot Project) and, together with Salima Ikram, of the Tutankhamun's Sticks and Staves Project as well as the manager of the Munro Archive Project. He has published extensively, both for scientific and popular audiences, including Chariots in Ancient Egypt. *The Tano Chariot, A Case Study* (together with Salima Ikram), *Tutankhamun's Footwear* (2011) and *Sailors, Musicians and Monks: The Leatherwork from Dra' Abu el Naga* (Luxor, Egypt) (2017). See [www.leatherandshoes.nl](http://www.leatherandshoes.nl).

**NOW AVAILABLE!!!:** Veldmeijer, A.J. & S. Ikram. 2024. *Let a Cow-Skin be Brought. Armour, Chariots and Other Leather Remains from Tutankhamun's Tomb.* - Leiden, Sidestone Press.

**GO TO:** <https://www.sidestone.com/books/let-a-cow-skin-be-brought>.