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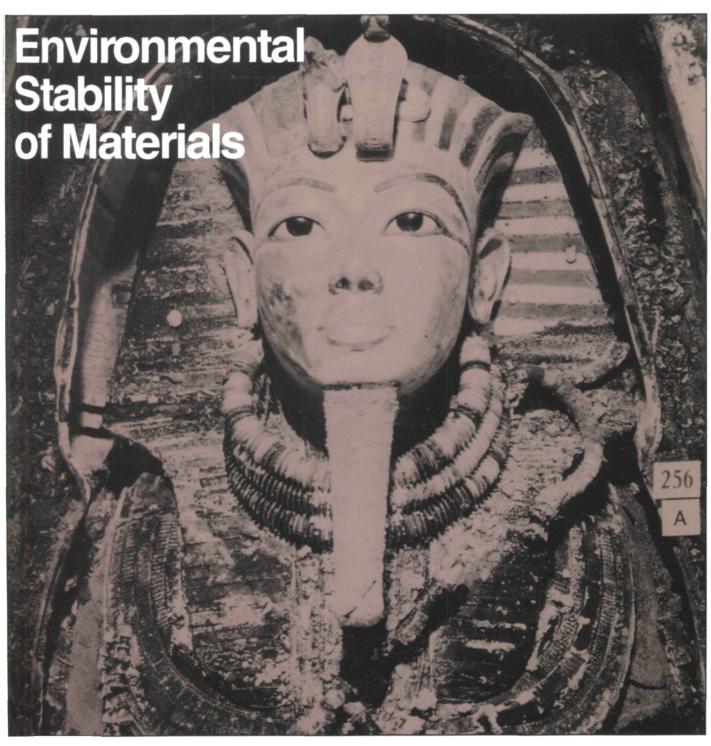
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ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY OF MATERIALS

25 Environmental Stability of Materials—Issues and Opportunities

D.E. Clark, Guest Editor

32 Aqueous Alteration of Nuclear Waste Glasses and Metal Package Components

G.G. Wicks, A.R. Lodding, and M.A. Molecke

40 Environmental Stability of Polymers

T.J. Atkins and C.D. Batich

45 Environmental Stability of High T_c Superconducting Ceramics

A. Barkatt, H. Hojaji, V.R.W. Amarakoon, and J.G. Fagan

53 Beneficial Aspects of the Environmental Instability of Materials

J.R. Ambrose and P.R. Bendale

58 High-Temperature Stability of Non-Oxide Structural Ceramics

R.E. Tressler

64 Implications of Amalgam and Ceramic Degradation in the Oral Environment

K.J. Anusavice, K-J. Söderholm, and D.G. Grossman

MRS NEWS

5 MRS Treasurer's Report

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 Letter from the President
- 7 Material Matters
- 8 Letters to the Editor
- 12 Research/Researchers
- 18 Resources
- 20 From Washington
- 63 Advertisers in This Issue
- 87 Education Exchange
- 89 Historical Note
- 90 Calendar
- 94 Classified
- **96** Posterminaries



- 73 MRS 20th Anniversary Special Section
- 74 MRS: Conception, Gestation, Birth, and Infancy

R. Roy

- 77 MRS: The Growth Phase T. Picraux
- 84 The Ideals and Ideas that Led to MRS
 R. Rov
- 85 How It All Evolved

H.D. Gatos



ON THE COVER: Tutankhamun's funerary mask. as it was found by Howard Carter 70 years ago. This mask is composed of beaten and burnished gold, various minerals, and glass. The stripes of the "nemes" headdress are made of blue glass in imitation of lapis lazuli. The plaited false beard also consists of blue glass, inlaid with gold. The gold, minerals, and glass in the headdress exhibited remarkable environmental stability during the approximately 3,300 years of burial. However, Dr. Robert Brill of the Corning Museum of Glass noted during his observations that the glass in the beard shows more extensive weathering than the glass stripes in the headdress. Publishing permission obtained from Dr. Mohammed Saleh, Director, Cairo Museum, Egypt (Cairo No. 60672, Carter No. 256A, Cat. No. 25). For more information on the environmental stability of materials, see the section beginning on page 25.

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The Materials Research Society (MRS), a nonprofit scientific association founded in 1973, promotes interdisciplinary goal-oriented basic research on materials of technological importrace. Membership in the Society includes nearly 11,000 scientists, engineers, and research managers from industrial, government, and university research laboratories in the United States and nearly 50 countries.

The Society's interdisciplinary approach differs from that of single-discipline professional societies because it promotes information exchange across the many technical fields touching materials development. MRS sponsors two major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 50 topical symposia, and also sponsors numerous single-topic scientific meetings. The Society recognizes professional and technical excellence, conducts short courses, and fosters technical interaction in local geographic regions through Sections and University Chapters.

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