by William Stevenson Smith

Now, these masterworks from an Egyptian tomb of the Middle Kingdom exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), from October 18, 2009, This find represents the largest Middle Kingdom burial assemblage ever. Ancient Egyptians revered cats as sacred animals as early as 1,000 BCE.
In 1913 the Museum purchased another range of Ancient-Egyptian artworks from the leading Moscow collector Leonid Ginzburg, which included a relief depicting mourners. Several truly precious gifts were donated to the Museum by Yurii Nechaev-Maltsov, including magnificent Fayum portraits, a gold diadem and a statue of Harpocrates. After the October Revolution items were added to this collection from various museums and private collections. The first exhibition in the Ancient Egypt gallery was timed to coincide with the opening of the Museum of Fine Arts and it was prepared by the outstanding Russian Egyptologist, Boris Turaev (1868-1920), and the second one was the work of Professor Vsevolod Pavlov (1899-1972) after World War II.