



NEWSTREET

THE MANY FACES OF MOLD IN HISTORY

Over the course of time, scientists have found that mold may have been the driving force behind a number of interesting phenomena including the curse of the mummy's tombs.

The tombs of ancient Egypt are famous for their "curses" that call for death and destruction to those who enter. Many of the explorers who suffered from the supposed "curse" experienced symptoms caused by exposure to *Aspergillus*, a mold that has been found throughout the Egyptian tombs.

The most notorious case of the mummy's curse occurred with the opening of King Casimir's tomb in Poland on April 13, 1973. Within a few days after opening the tomb, 4 of the 12 researchers died. Shortly after, 6 more died.

Microbiological examinations of the tomb found traces of 89 different fungi species including *Penicillium/Aspergillus*. These fungi are speculated to have caused the death of the 10 researchers, not the "curse".

