Lecture by the pyramids – Dr. Hawass tells American tourists about the history of the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders.

The former minister of Antiquities, Dr. Zahi Hawass, together with Mrs. Jehan Sadat, has given a lecture to American guests who arrived to Egypt to discover its antiquities, including the Tombs of the Pyramid Builders nearby the pyramids in Giza. Yesterday Madam Jehan Sadat has also given a lecture to the group in the residence of former president Sadat. Lectures have been organized by Archaeological Paths company during their Royal Tour to Egypt.

Al-Masry Al-Youm found the story of how the tombs were discovered by accident especially interesting – the research begun after a horse ridden by a tourist has stumbled upon one of the tombs in proximity of the pyramids. The tourists gathered around Dr. Zahi Hawass when he discussed the social life of the ancient Egyptian workers, their way of thinking and beliefs.

Dr. Hawass stated that the discovery of those tombs is one of the most important discoveries of the last century and stressed how important the pyramids were for Egyptians.

Within the lecture, the expert Egyptologist talked about the work of the builders and their superiors. He mentioned that the tombs were divided into two parts: upper and lower – the upper part was devoted to the workers of a higher rank and artists, the lower part to the ordinary workmen.

Among more curious stories, he mentioned a worker who was buried together with his wife and his lover, and we know this from the hieroglyphic inscription “Mitrir” that was found on the tomb. This word signifies a “lover” or a “girlfriend” and it is proof that in the times of ancient Egyptians it was acceptable to have both a wife and a mistress and that they used to be buried together with the man in the same tomb.

During his research Dr. Hawass also uncovered a skeleton of a dog in one of the tombs that shows that in ancient times people had strong relationships with animals, as they could even be buried together with their pets.

The lectures by Dr. Zahi Hawass and Mrs. Sadat aim to revitalize tourism and promote Egypt among foreign visitors.