

22 March 2012

Ben Hammott Discusses the Bloodline Tomb Hoax



Picture of Ben Hammott's "Tomb"

Last night Ben Hammott appeared on Rene Barnett's Night Vision Radio show to make his first public statements about his hoax of the "*Bloodline* tomb". (You can download or listen live [to the show here](#). Scroll down to the 21 Mar 2012 show listing.) Ben's confession on air was basically a rehashing of the email he had sent out earlier this week with a number of other revelations. I'll cover the highlights in bullet points below. If you're interested in this developing story, listen to the interview and make your own determinations about Ben's statements. Here are some of the highlights of Hammott's statements:

- He was the only party who knew of the hoax. Everyone involved with the *Bloodline* documentary had no knowledge on the hoax.
- The "tomb" photos that were originally shown of Ben's website were of a small scale model. A life sized tomb was constructed somewhere in the UK. Ben admitted that when he visited the tomb site in Rennes-le-Chateau with Bruce Burgess, he gave Bruce a bogus recording of the tomb set.
- The skeleton used on the tomb set was a real skeleton purchased on eBay and doctored with a latex compound to simulate mummified flesh. Other items that were used to "point Ben to the tomb" were vintage items that dated to the late 1800's to get around carbon dating.
- Bruce Burgess and an unnamed American investor had visited France after the release of *Bloodline* to find the tomb. Burgess had told the French authorities that the illegal digging for the tomb was actually Hammott in an attempt to cut Hammott out of the glory of discovering the tomb.
- Ben had fed information, via an unnamed third party, that led Andrew Gough to question the veracity of Hammott in general. Last week [Gough broke the story](#) of Hammott faking pictures of the Loch Ness Monster and indications that Ben had faked an Ark of the Covenant at the present time.
- Ben further claimed that he had not been pressured or bought off to cover up the location of the tomb. There has been the suggestion that the tomb actually exists and the hoax confession was a ruse to cover up the existence of the tomb.
- Ben also claimed that he was in Rennes-le-Chateau during last night's interview. At another point in the interview Ben also stated that he would go back to Rennes-le-Chateau in the future.
- The primary motivation for the hoax was to spotlight the Rennes-le-Chateau mysteries. Ben hoped to find something "real" relating to Saunière's inexplicable wealth and will continue to look in the future.
- Hammott, whose real name is Bill Wilkerson, will continue using the pseudonym. (He has been referred to as Hammott in this article simply for simplicity's sake.)

In the popular vernacular, the whole situation is a hot mess. No matter how you come down on Ben Hammott's situation, the affair is a black eye for the community. It's time to lick our wounds and move to other business.