

HOTEP

Issue 58: Mar-Apr 2021

Review of February meeting

Our talk in February was *'The Symbiosis of King & Cult – Abydos in the Old Kingdom'* by **Paul Whelan**. Paul, who has given lectures to the Society in the past, is an independent Egyptology researcher and lecturer as well as a freelance illustrator. You can find more information on his website, www.ta-wer.org

There is not a lot known about Abydos in the Old Kingdom, there is plenty of activity in the early Dynastic Period when all the kings and one queen of Dynasty I and two kings of Dynasty II were buried at the site known as Umm el-Qa'ab. Then Abydos was nationally prominent from the Middle Kingdom until the end of Dynastic history.

Abydos is located in the eighth Upper Egyptian Nome but was not the Nome capital, that was the city of Thinis.

Paul explained that the god Osiris was not yet associated with Abydos in the early Third Millennium BC but that the major deity was Khentymentiw, who had a strong connection with kingship. Throughout the Old Kingdom there was a temple dedicated to this god which became the focus of royal patronage in the fifth and sixth dynasties.

At the end of Dynasty III or the beginning of Dynasty IV, a small pyramid was built at a site 6 km south of the early Dynastic royal cemetery at Umm el-Qa'ab. As Paul pointed out, this was one of several small pyramids built at this time at various sites throughout Egypt. The one at Abydos is known as the Sinki pyramid. There is no burial associated with any of these pyramids and it is not known why they were built.

The ancient town site of Abydos was located on the desert edge on the road that led to

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Umm el-Qa'ab and was excavated by Flinders Petrie along with the cemeteries. It was from the temple site in the town that the only known representation of Khufu (below) was found during Petrie's excavations.



This shows that there was royal activity at Abydos during the Old Kingdom, however there is more evidence from the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties than earlier. From the Thinite cemetery at Naga ed-Deir, Paul gave examples of some of the titles that the local officials held at this time which all point to the local economy. These include 'overseer of all the vegetation/fenugreek of the nome', 'herdsman of the black cattle', 'true overseer of the red cattle', 'overseer of goats' and 'chief of leathercraft'.

There is an east west avenue that runs through the temple site and along which stela were erected during Dynasties V and VI. There are decrees by the Fifth Dynasty king Neferirkare and the Sixth Dynasty kings Teti and Pepy II. The decree of Pepy II

names the temple of Khentymentiu. During Dynasty VI there was a move away from local officials being buried next to the king in his pyramid to having their tomb built where they lived. At Abydos mastabas for the local elite were built in what is now known as the Middle Cemetery which is to the north of the later temple of Seti I.



The current site of the ancient town of Abydos

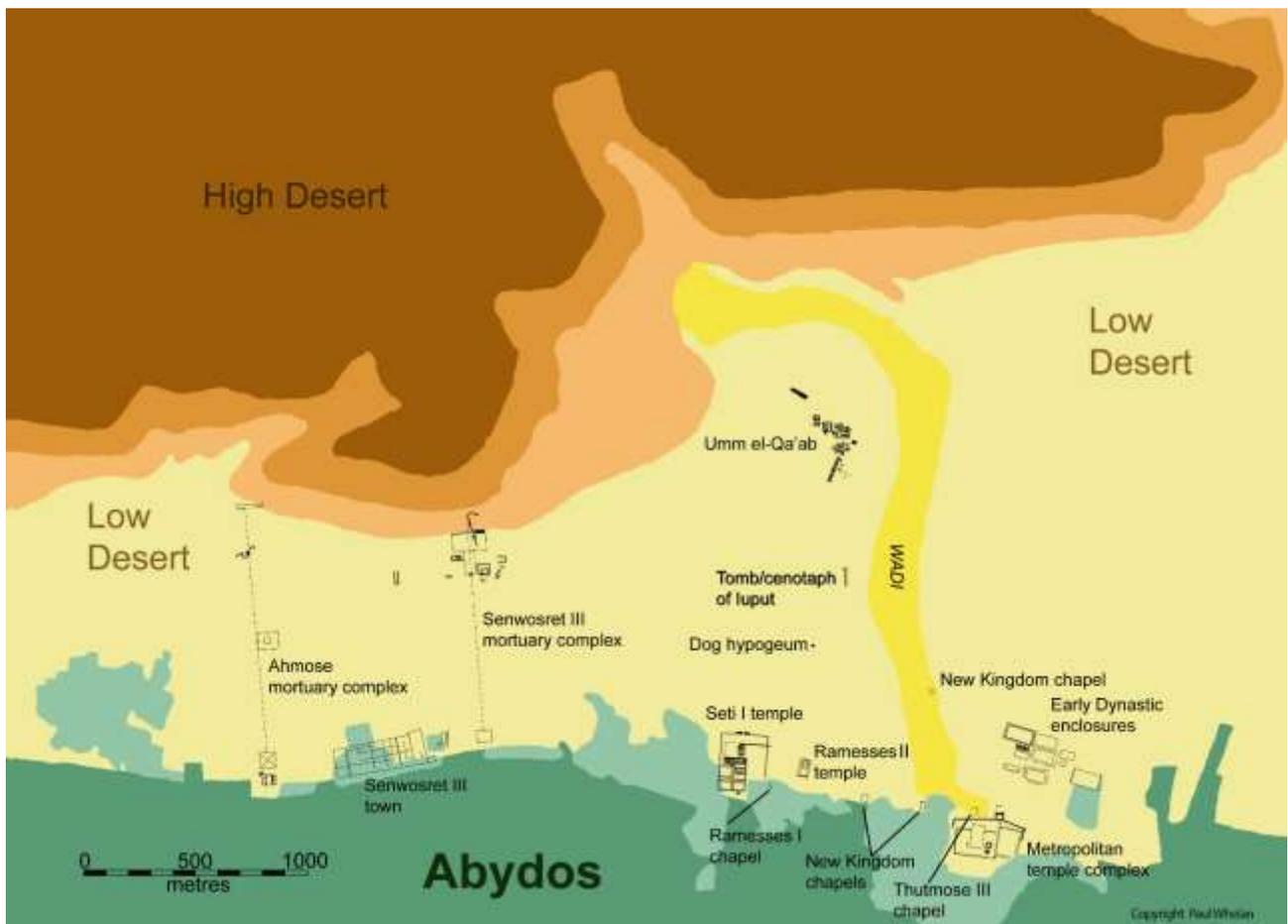
The god Osiris is known from the pyramid texts that start to be used from the fifth dynasty and in the tombs of high officials. However, the first known temple to this god at Abydos is from the Middle Kingdom.

Paul's lecture was a fascinating insight to Abydos in the Old Kingdom, a period that is rather neglected. It was also interesting to find out that Osiris is not a major figure until the Middle Kingdom and later.

At the request of several members in a lively question time, Paul gave us the link to his map of Abydos (below) which is available on his website at:

https://www.tower.org/rc/images/abydos_plan_colour.jpg

Glenn Worthington



Review of March Meeting

The March lecture was *'From Cotton Bales to Canopic Jars'* by **Ian Trumble**. This told of the life of Annie Barlow who was influential in the early days of the Egypt Exploration Fund and the Bolton Museum. Ian is the Curator of Archaeology, Egyptology and World Cultures at Bolton Library and Museum. He spoke to the SAES in December 2017 about the redevelopment of the Egyptian galleries at the Bolton Museum.

Annie was born in 1863 in Edgworth, Bolton the youngest of eight, although only five would survive into adulthood. Her father was James Barlow who, with his business partner, set up the textile company of Barlow and Jones. They had mills in Bolton and Manchester and sourced cotton from America and later Egypt. Their mill in Bolton was called the Egyptian Mill and the building still survives (below).



Annie's eldest brother was twenty years her senior and became a doctor specialising in children's diseases, Sir Thomas Barlow. Thomas visited Palestine and Egypt as a young man and Ian suspects that it was his stories from this adventure that inspired Annie's interest in Egypt.

Between 1880 and 1883 Annie was in London studying at Bedford College and University College London. It was there that she encountered Amelia Edwards who founded the Egypt Exploration Fund (now the Egypt Exploration Society) in April 1882.

After Annie returned to Bolton, she became the EEF's honorary secretary for the town and became a highly effective fundraiser for them.

In February 1889 she travelled to Egypt to see some of the EEF's excavation sites in the Delta and she wrote a report about it for the EEF AGM later that year. Ian included some of the descriptions she wrote for the AGM about this trip which highlighted the difficulties of travelling in Egypt in the late 19th century. One of the excerpts was about a donkey journey to visit the site of Tell el-Yahoudieh;

'several miles on a bony donkey, which is used only to cotton-bales, and has never seen a side-saddle before, can hardly be called an ideal journey.'

In her report Annie refers to photos that she took on the trip, but Ian has been unable to find out what happened to them.

While Annie was a teenager, Bolton was bequeathed £5,000.00 by Samuel Chadwick, a wealthy local doctor, to build a museum in Queen's Park. Building began in 1878 and the museum opened in 1884. The museum would be the beneficiary of donations of ancient Egyptian objects which Annie would have received as a subscriber to the EEF. In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries it was common for objects discovered on excavations in Egypt to be split between the museum in Cairo and the excavator. Those given to the excavator would be divided up between those individuals and institutions who had supported them.

During the First World War, Annie took in refugees from Belgium, one of whom went on to study archaeology and later worked for UNESCO.

In 1931 she was photographed with Gandhi when he visited Britain for round table talks with the British government on India's future. He wanted to see the effect on British mill workers of his boycott of British cotton products.

Ian's talk about Annie was an intriguing insight into the way people



engaged with ancient Egypt in the 19th Century, and Annie herself was a fascinating character. One questioner at the end asked if there was a biography of Annie. Ian said there was not, at the moment, but he is working on one and hopes to find a publisher. However, it may take time as he keeps finding out new things about her.

Glenn Worthington

Important Information

Out of respect for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, our next Zoom Meeting on Sat 17 April 2021

'Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science: Research at the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology at the University of Manchester.'

By **Professor Rosalie David has been rescheduled to open at 3.30 pm for a start at 4 pm.**

If you registered for the meeting at its original time, you may already have received notice of the rescheduling.

To be sure of your booking we are asking everyone to re-register using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111>

Registration alone does not guarantee a place. As always, places are confirmed by receipt of payment.

If you have already paid the meeting fee, your registration will be approved straight away and you will receive an email giving you the joining details for Saturday. A reminder message will then be sent out on Friday 16 April, PM.

If you have not yet paid, please contact the Secretary saesinfo55@gmail.com to arrange payment.

We thank you all for your support and hope that you will understand the reasons for this last-minute change to our schedule.

April Evening Meeting

We are pleased to announce the latest in our occasional series of evening talks on

**Thursday 29 April,
(18:30 (London time GMT+1) for a start at 19:00)**



Anna Garnett will be giving us '**An Update from the Petrie Museum**' The Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology is one of the largest and most important collections of objects from Egypt and Sudan anywhere in the world. This talk will provide an update of recent work including an introduction to our newly-redeveloped entrance gallery.

Registration is required for this meeting using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111>

Places will be confirmed by payment of the meeting fee, a flat rate of £5 for all-comers.

For either of these meetings, contact the Secretary saesinfo55@gmail.com to make payment or check your payment status.

In the News

On Saturday 3 April twenty-two specially designed, climate-controlled carriages transported the mummies of eighteen kings and four queens from the Cairo Museum to their new home in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. Under heavy security, the motorcade, dubbed the **Pharaohs' Golden Parade**, travelled seven kilometres (4 miles) across the city.



The pharaohs were conveyed in chronological order of their reigns with first position in the convoy being given to Seqenenre Taa, the king whose body shows evidence of his having died in battle. The first queen in the parade was Ahmose-Nefertari, mother of Amenhotep I, with whom she was worshipped at Deir el-Medina as patron deities of the Workmen's Village.

The spectacle was accompanied by military bands and costumed displays, including carefully choreographed dancing at the Giza Pyramids, which were broadcast live on Egyptian television.



As the royal mummies arrived at the museum, which was officially inaugurated on April 3, cannons fired a 21-gun salute and President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi stood by to receive the royal cortège.

The mummies will undergo 15 days of laboratory restoration before they are showcased individually in their new home, in an environment representing underground tombs. They will be accompanied by a brief biography, examples of their funerary equipment and other artefacts relating to their reigns. In their new home, they will occupy "slightly upgraded cases," said Salima Ikram, professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo. Temperature and humidity control will also be enhanced.

The "museum has what it takes to preserve (mummies), the best laboratories... it is one of the best museums we have," Waleed el-Batoutti, adviser to the tourism and antiquities ministry, told state television.

Let's hope that, after years of delay and much anticipation, the new museum will prove to be Egypt's **very best** and a suitably respectful resting place for some of the great names of ancient Egyptian history.

Hilary Wilson



February Quiz Answers

The **place names** hidden in the grid are marked by coloured arrows.

Clues:

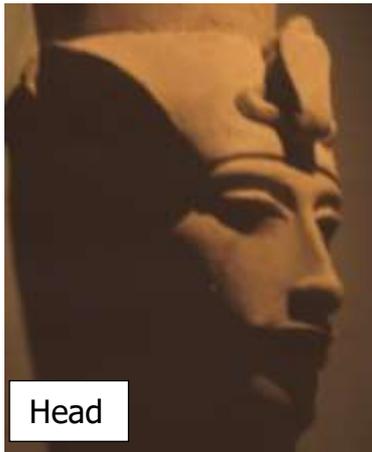
- Kushite pyramid site **NURRI**
- Cult centre of Horus of Behdet **EDFU**
- City of Amun-Ra **THEBES**
- Cult centre of Osiris **ABYDOS**
- Khufu was buried here **GIZA**
- Region south of the First Cataract **NUBIA**
- Cult centre of Montju **ARMANT**
- Ancient Kheny **SILSILA**
- Capital founded by Narmer **MEMPHIS**
- Modern name of Akhetaten **AMARNA**
- Centre of ancient Sudanese kingdom **MEROE**
- Site of a Ptolemaic temple to Khnum **ESNA**
- Tombs of 21st Dynasty kings here **TANIS**
- Ancient Delta capital **SAIS**

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J	S	I	L	S	I	L	A	J	U		
A	X	T	G	W	Y	S	B	F	R		
U	M	V	E	D	L	I	Y	D	R		
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L	R	P	I	T	A	↘	O	G	L	D	
W	I	F	O	S	←	←	E	B	E	H	T

April Quiz:

Heads, Shoulders, Knees & Toes

A simple case of identifying the pharaohs



Head



Shoulders



Knees



Toes



Eyes & Ears & Mouth & Nose

Answers in the next edition of Hotep

