



# HOTEP

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## Review of March Meeting

On Saturday March 17 Violaine Chauvet, Lecturer in Egyptology at the University of Liverpool, presented us with an intriguing detective story. She pieced together the fragments of inscriptions from various museums to show the relationships between the owners of a group of Fourth Dynasty tombs at Saqqara. Comparison of titles and the similarity of funerary inscriptions, the style of decoration and the tomb layout suggest that the Ptahshepses family had access to the best quality craftsmanship, probably from the royal workshops. It is likely that these officials were recipients of substantial royal gifts, such as sarcophagi and stelae, as part of their 'pension plans' for the afterlife. Violaine showed how she had identified a tomb inscription, the parts of which had become separated in different collections, which has now been confirmed as belonging to the same lintel.



She also explained how the well-known Ptahshepses false door stela (above) in the British Museum belongs to this same group and, with reference to photographs showing the stela in situ, she showed that the monument was reconstructed incorrectly, by combining the red coloured panels with a white limestone lintel from the tomb's façade.

Violaine's talk was a fine example of how museum research and archaeology together can

## The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

produce results which continue to advance our knowledge of ancient Egypt. This was in spite of the persistent spot-lights, which we were unable to extinguish, washing out some of the details in her slides. We have raised this among other niggling problems experienced at recent meetings, with the venue manager, and would ask for your patience and forbearance in dealing with these issues which are entirely beyond our control.

**Hilary Wilson**

## Review of the Spring Informal Meeting

On the Friday evening after the March meeting, **Hilary** gave one of our infrequent informal evening talks. The subject of her talk was '**A Prince among Princes: A Biographical Study of Prince Khaemwase**'. Khaemwase was the fourth son of Rameses II and is often called the first Egyptologist as he went around Egypt restoring the monuments of his Pharaonic ancestors. Hilary gave a fascinating talk with many illustrations which brought this individual to life, it was a shame that so few people were there to enjoy it.

**Glenn Worthington**

## March Quiz Answers

This was a test of your familiarity with some of the less well-known Pharaohs. Here are the principal pyramid-builders by Period:

**Old Kingdom:** Djoser, Sekhemkhet, Khaba(?), Huni(?), Seneferu, Khufu, Djedefre, Khafre, Nebka(?), Menkaure, Shepseskha, Khentekawes, Userkaf, Sahure, Neferirkare, Raneferef, Niuserre, Djedkare-Isesi, Unas, Teti, Pepi I, Merenre, Pepi II, Ibi, Khui.

**Middle Kingdom:** Amenemhet I, Senusert I, Amenemhet II, Senusert II, Senusert III, Amenemhet III, Amenemhet IV/Sobekneferu

**New Kingdom:** Ahmose I

**Late Period:** Kashta, Piye, Shabaqa, Taharqa, Tanutamun (all in Nubia)

To find out more see:

**'The Complete Pyramids'** by **Mark Lehner**.

**Christine Buckett asks: Which Amenhotep?**

On a recent visit to Vienna I came across this bronze sculpture entitled *Slender Bust on Plinth (Amenophis)* in the *Monet to Picasso Exhibition* in the Albertina Museum. It is only 38.6cm high and is one of several busts of this name by Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966) cast in 1954.



The bust shows Giacometti's interest in Egyptian art and the flattened head is intended to accentuate the profile, said to be reminiscent of Egyptian figures. His family and friends frequently sat as models and similar busts of his brother Diego were executed in 1952-8

<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/giacometti-bust-of-diego-t00774>

Giacometti was born in Stampa, Switzerland. His father was an Impressionist painter and in 1920-21 Giacometti travelled to Venice with his father, staying almost a year in Rome and visiting Assisi, Florence and Naples. It is said he visited the National Archaeological Museum in Florence whose Egyptian Museum had been established in 1855. The museum collection includes statues dating to the time of Amenhotep III, e.g. statues of the high steward Amenhotep (Huy) and the high priest Ptahmose, but I have found no information on which Amenhotep (if any) Giacometti based his work.

**Can anyone help Christine identify the subject of this bust?**

**Avril Poppitt** wants to share her enjoyment of a book she read recently:

**'Come, Tell Me How You Live'**  
by **Agatha Christie Mallowan**.

This little book is a gem. Forget Poirot and Miss Marple. Agatha Christie met Max Mallowan, an archaeologist, in Bagdad in 1930 and within a year they were married. She accompanied him on five expeditions to Syria, Iraq and Egypt during the 1930s and got involved (much to her surprise ) in taking and developing photographs, cleaning and labelling finds, and keeping the camps 'in good order'. As was her habit, she kept diaries and scribbled rough notes during all these visits, recording everyday life around her, the daily problems of transport, amusing accounts of finding provisions and engaging with authority (mostly French), but above all the observation of the people she came across. Many of the characters recorded with some amazement, much amusement and great sympathy, were resurrected in some form in the subsequent mystery novels!

During World War II the diaries were set aside but were published in 1946 in response to a question from a friend 'what was that strange life like?' A new edition of the book was published in 2015 and contains more of ACM's photographs. Sadly, many of the areas and monuments referred to in the book have been destroyed by ISIS which makes the record all the more valuable.

More information is available on the websites concerned with 'Agatha Christie Mallowan' (e.g. below) and copies are available from Amazon Books.

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7044774.Agatha\\_Christie\\_Mallowan](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7044774.Agatha_Christie_Mallowan)



Max and Agatha Mallowan, Iraq

## July Study Day

On **Saturday 21 July** the subject of our annual Study Day will be

### **'Last of the Pharaohs: Incest, Intrigue & Bloodshed under the Ptolemies & Cleopatras'**

presented by **Sarah Griffiths**,  
Deputy Editor of Ancient Egypt Magazine.

Following the conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, a succession of kings called Ptolemy ruled Egypt for nearly 300 years, presiding over one of the most remarkable and complex periods in Egyptian history.

This was an era of unprecedented change for Egyptian culture and society as the new dynasty used religion and tradition to increase their power and wealth, and their new cosmopolitan capital, Alexandria, with its world famous library, became the cultural and economic centre of the ancient world.

And yet the House of Ptolemy was a family at war with itself, a complex tangle of relationships based on incest, bitter sibling rivalries, corruption, intrigue and murder, set against a backdrop of foreign wars, civil unrest and the growing influence of Rome. In this study day, Sarah Griffiths will paint a vivid picture of Egypt's last ancient dynasty, from Ptolemy I to the famous Cleopatra VII, revealing the absorbing family dramas, exploring their distinctive art and architecture, daily life in Ptolemaic Egypt and the series of catastrophic events that led to the decline of the kingdom and its final annexation by Rome.

**Fee for the day:**  
**£20 for SAES Members**  
**£25 for non-Members**  
**Book your place now.**



## Forthcoming Events

The first meeting of our informal evening class, **'Pyramids Fact and Fiction'**, is on **Friday 27 April, 7.30-9.00.**

Next Meeting on **Saturday 19 May**



**Lucia Gahlin** will talk about **'Brilliant Things'**, a discussion of the manufacture and usage of the ceramic material known as Egyptian faience.

**And finally**

**Quiz Time**

**1: WHO** was the artist of this → famous 1743 image of the Sphinx at Giza?



**2: WHAT** was the title of the publication in which this image appeared in 1822? ↓



**3: WHERE** is this ram-headed sphinx now? ↓



**4: WHICH** Pharaoh is shown adoring the Sphinx on ← this famous stela?

Answers in the next issue of **Hotep**.



