



HOTEP

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Review of July Meeting

Once again thanks to our partnership with the Egypt Exploration Society we have been able to use the EES platform to offer a Zoom solution. On Saturday 18 July we joined an old friend of the Society, **Dr Campbell Price** of the Manchester Museum, who gave us his talk: **While Skulls Bobbed on the Waves: Petrie at Hawara**. The title was taken from Petrie's own description of the waterlogged conditions of some of the tomb chambers he entered in his seasons at Hawara, on the edge of the Fayum. This



dramatically illustrated the difficulties encountered in excavating this site which includes the pyramid thought to have been built for Amenemhet III, though Petrie found no conclusive proof of this attribution. It had been made famous by Classical authors like Herodotus who compared the associated mortuary temple with the Cretan Labyrinth. Campbell explained how Amelia Edwards had been instrumental in persuading Jesse Haworth, a wealthy industrialist, to sponsor Petrie's work, and how different was Petrie's archaeological approach in comparison with other excavators of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. The expectations of both archaeologist and sponsor at the time would have been a fifty percent share of the finds, some of which would then have been sold on the open antiquities market to defray costs. This situation changed, of course, with the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. When Petrie came across the Roman Period cemetery at Hawara with its decoratively wrapped and gilded mummies he was, at first, delighted with the prospect of such a

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lucrative find but, with his heart set on earlier times, especially the unfashionable and thus uneconomic Predynastic, his enthusiasm waned and the abundance of mummies became a curse rather than a blessing. Even so, many museums throughout the world benefitted from the discovery of the 'Fayum portraits'

which present apparently genuine likenesses of real Egyptians. Campbell was at pains to stress the dangers of assuming too much from these portraits in terms of what they could tell us about the earlier Pharaonic period. Campbell also touched on the darker side of Petrie's career, namely his interest in eugenics, for which he collected, measured and recorded skulls and theorised on the relationships between race, skull shape, cranial capacity and intelligence.



This was a fascinating lecture and we have to thank **Emily Hale** for doing such a good job as our host and presenting our questions to Campbell. I hope that, as time progresses and people become aware of what the online video format has to offer, audience numbers will rise. See below for further news on this front.

Hilary Wilson

What might the Future Hold?



It is very clear that the meeting format to which we have been accustomed for nearly 22 years is unlikely to be restored in the foreseeable future. There are many matters beyond our control or influence that have to be resolved before we could even consider a return to the Oasis Academy, Lordshill. Naturally, the school's first priority is to get pupils back into class and education resumed as quickly as possible. As and when this happens, in September all being well, access issues and cleaning regimes will have to be well-established before the venue can open its doors to community groups. We cannot yet predict what restrictions might be placed on our use of the lecture room but some sort of social distancing measures will be inevitable and audience numbers could be limited. We must also consider our speakers, particularly their travel and accommodation arrangements. Most importantly we need to know how our Members feel about this situation.

John Billman, Chairman of the Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society, set attendees at their last online lecture a simple questionnaire which we have adapted here for SAES use. We would greatly appreciate your feedback, whether or not you have been able to join us online. The questionnaire will be sent out as a separate mailing later this month when we will ask you to choose one of the options for each of the three questions and communicate your responses by return of email. To get you thinking, the three questions are presented here. Currently we are advertising our on-line lectures to Members only. If you were a paid-up SAES Member for 2019-20 your membership is automatically extended for

20-21. New subscribers may obtain Membership for half price (£9 for UK residents, others contact the Secretary saesinfo55@gmail.com).

Meeting Format Questionnaire

Please choose **ONE** response per question.



1: Would you be prepared to restart face-to-face lectures from September or soon after?

- A:** Yes
- B:** Maybe
- C:** No

2: When would you like to see face-to-face lectures resume?

- A:** From September
- B:** Later this year
- C:** Early New Year or Spring 2021
- D:** Never

3: What meeting format would you prefer for the future?

- A:** Face-to-face only
- B:** Some face-to-face/some online
- C:** Online only

This questionnaire will, for the moment, stand in place of the AGM which we would normally hold in September. We would like to have responses from as many Members as possible.

Please send your responses in this format: e.g. **1 B, 2 C, 3 B**, to the email address saes@southamptonancientegyptsociety.co.uk We welcome any other comments but ask that these are sent separately from questionnaire responses.

Next Meeting!

Saturday 19 September 2 p.m.

(Presented via Zoom)

The Aegean Connection:

Trade and Tribute

by Hilary Wilson



The Egyptians were famously introspective and suspicious of foreigners but evidence of contact between Egypt and the Aegean world shows that a certain amount of interaction, at least in the context of trade, was necessary to the economies of all parties. Images and mention of Keftiu or Cretan produce begin to appear in tomb paintings and tribute lists from the mid-18th Dynasty. The works of Classical writers such as Homer retain hints of diplomatic and trade exchanges with Mycenae. Shipwrecks discovered within the last century have confirmed the significance of Egyptian produce in economic transactions in the Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean. In this talk Hilary explores these connections hoping to revise the popular opinion of the Egyptians as protectionist xenophobes.

To view this lecture, **you must register in advance** by replying to the monthly reminder email **no later than 19.00 on Friday 18 September**. Once registered you will receive the Zoom link and meeting password by midday on Saturday 19 September. You must be a paid-up SAES Member whose email address we have on file. It is important to check your personal emails (including the junk or spam folders!) for details of registration.

Summer Quiz

We hope you all have a chance to relax this summer, to meet up with friends and relatives and enjoy the sunshine (fingers crossed). With that thought in mind, can you identify these deities, all of whom are related to the sun?



1



2



3



4



5



6

Answers in the next edition of
Hotep

Enjoy the summer and keep watching out for news of future events with SAES.

