

# HOTEP

Issue 46: December 2019



## Review of November Meeting

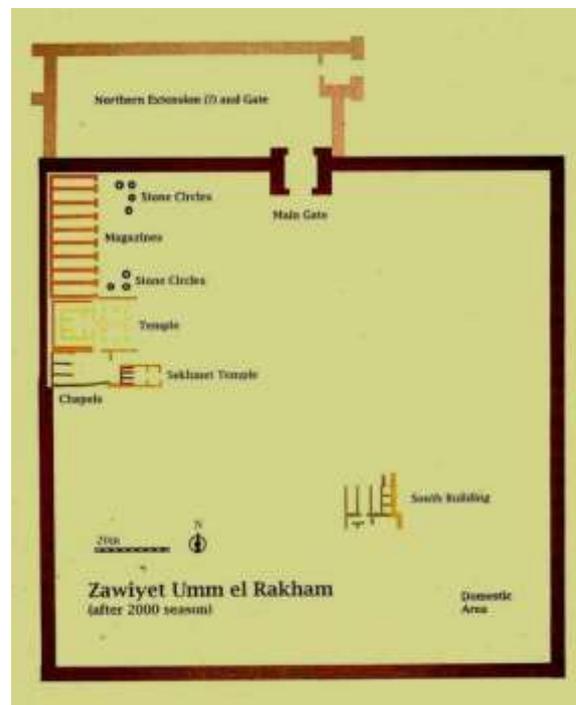
**Glenn Godenho** from **Liverpool University** made a very welcome return to talk about his work with Stephen Snape on the site of **Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham** → (conveniently abbreviated to ZUR). This site, one of the westernmost of all ancient Egyptian remains, has been identified as a small Ramesside fort in the chain of defensive structures on the approaches to the Delta. Recent work has shown ZUR to have been much larger than previously thought and to have served as not only as a guard post on the route from Libya but also as a supply depot and customs post for sea-borne trade.

The commander of this outpost, known as the Dmi or Town of Usermaatse-Setepenre (Ramesses II), was a man named Nebre who recorded his name and titles on a standard-bearer statue (below) found in the fort's small temple. This statue may have been originally intended for someone else and was probably made in one of the royal workshops, perhaps in Thebes, but the



## The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

inscription was personalised for Nebre. It shows how he wished to be remembered and what parts of his official role as commandant of a military settlement on the very edge of Egyptian society, he considered to be important, often echoing well-known literary works of the Middle Kingdom.



Glenn's enthusiasm for his subject brought Nebre to life and vividly illustrated an aspect of Egypt's administrative history which is only now beginning to be appreciated.

## Oct/Nov Quiz Answer

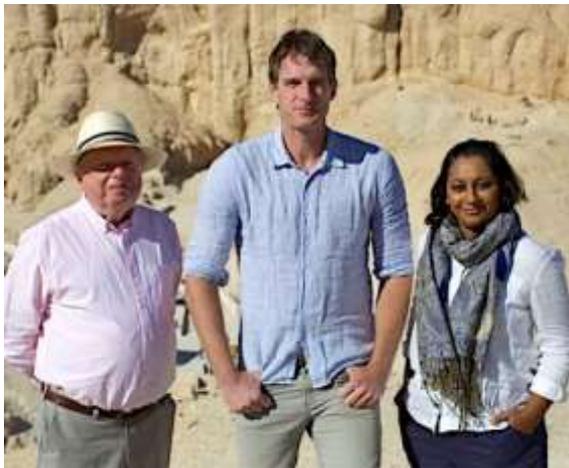
The ships shown in the tomb chapel of May in Turin have their sails set so they must be travelling southwards with the prevailing northerly winds. They are carrying the deceased and his wife back from the pilgrimage to Abydos.

## On TV

### Tutankhamun with Dan Snow

This three-part presentation aired on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and should still be available on catch-up. (Try MY5 <http://bit.ly/2QUNhRi>)

**Dan Snow** was accompanied by archaeologist **Rakhsha Dave** and former BBC news reporter **John Sargent**, an unlikely but somehow likeable trio, and there were cameo appearances by some respected Egyptological authorities.



The programme followed Carter and Carnarvon's discovery of KV62 and the examination of some of the tomb's contents, with particular emphasis on Tutankhamun's body and what it can tell us about his life and death. The most exciting parts of the programme were recorded at the GEM (Grand Egyptian Museum) at Giza where the team talked to Egyptian conservators who were working on some famous artefacts in preparation for their display in the new museum. Rakhsha Dave looked at some of the organic remains, food items in particular, though she wrongly identified a dom palm fruit as a pomegranate and the Egyptian curator was too polite to correct her. She also had the temerity to speak over **Salima Ikram** who could have said so much more of interest had she been allowed. The most memorable moments were when Dan Snow was given unprecedented access to things like the funerary beds, coffins and furniture.

Being able to study the huge shrines which surrounded the sarcophagus, unhindered by the glass cases which have surrounded them for decades, was clearly a truly wonderful experience for the drafted-in expert – **Glenn Godenho!** Less edifying and not terribly entertaining moments were provided by John Sargent's excursions into tourist territory, baking bread and dancing the *muu* dance, (his terpsichorean skills have not improved since his stint on *Strictly*). Refreshing as it was to have a programme not dominated by Zahi Hawass I felt the producers did not make enough of the fantastic opportunities they were offered. Many Egyptologists would have given their eye-teeth for the chance to get up close to these fantastic treasures.

**Hilary Wilson**

**Our first meeting of 2020, is on 18 January** when **Sarah Griffiths**, Deputy Editor of **Ancient Egypt Magazine**, will be talking about the rise of the Middle Kingdom, particularly the reign of Montuhotep II and the powerful nobles who supported the new Dynasty.

### Christmas Quiz

#### Fill in the missing words

(Hint: All answers have a Christmas connection)

- 1:** The Hyksos rulers of the Second Intermediate Period used to be called the \_\_\_\_\_ Kings
- 2:** Imhotep and Amenhotep Son of Hapu were famous \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient Egypt.
- 3:** The goddess Sopdet or Sothis was the personification of a \_\_\_\_\_

Answers in the next issue of Hotep

**Have a restful Christmas and see you in the New Year.**

