



HOTEP

Issue 37: January 2019

The newsletter of
The
**Southampton
Ancient Egypt
Society**

Review of December meeting

Our very good friend **John Wyatt** gave us another delightful look at the wildlife of ancient Egypt in his talk *'The Other Gifts of the Nile'*. He started with an informative review of the changing ecology of the Nile valley including the early climate fluctuations which affected the types of plants and animals that made their homes in and on the river.

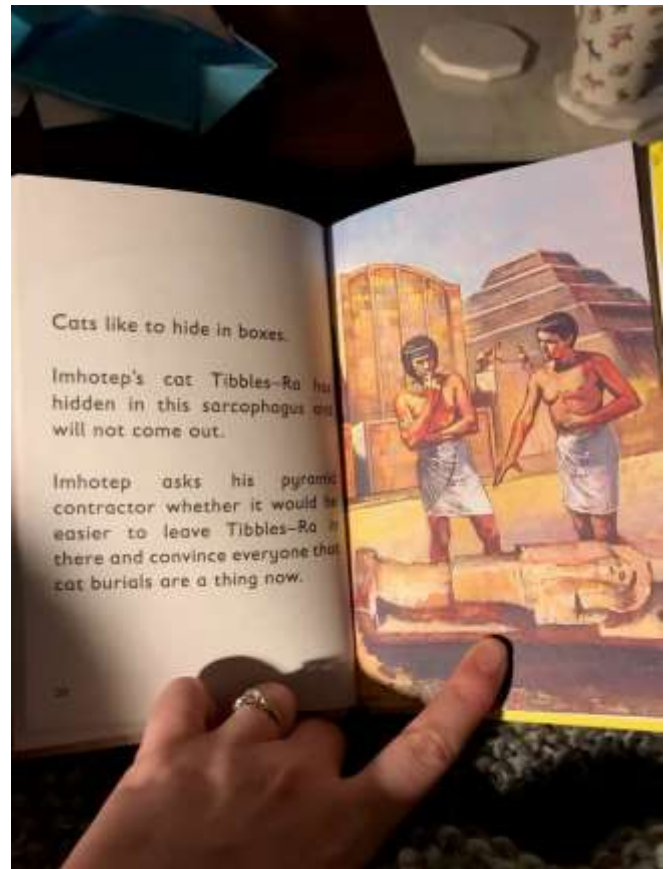


Papyrus clump with birds including an owl, Louvre

With a wealth of illustrations from ancient sources compared with recent photographs, many taken by himself, John showed how much some things have changed with species identifiable in ancient times being extinct or no longer native to Egypt. He showed that, while adhering to their artistic conventions, Egyptian artists could depict plants, birds, mammals and reptiles accurately enough for us to be able to identify different varieties of a particular species. He also explained how some species which were once widespread throughout Africa evolved differently in restricted areas as their habitat dwindled due to natural change or human intervention. One example, which he illustrated with some startling images, is the Nile crocodile which has a sub-species known as the desert crocodile living, against all intuition, in the seasonal wadis and oases of the Sahara. This fascinating talk was over all too soon. We hope John will come back in the not too distant future to tell us more.

John Holmes sent this for our amusement.

'Our daughter found this interesting new insight into the origins of the Ancient Egyptian ritual of cat burials.'



Anna has identified the book as one of the modern **Ladybird** series, for grown-ups, entitled *'How it Works: The Cat'*.

Have you seen anything of an Egyptian theme which might make us smile? If so, please let us know so that we can share it through Hotep.

Solutions to Name the Reindeer

At the December meeting members were asked to find the names of these Santa's helpers by rearranging the initial letters of the answers to each set of clues. The bonus clues provided help to fill in the gaps to complete the names.



- 1:** Architect of the Step Pyramid. **Imhotep**
2: Area of early tombs taking its name from the remnants of pottery funerary offering vessels littered over its surface. **Umm el-Qaab**
3: Archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. **Carter**
4: Fifteen pharaohs took this regnal name. **Ptolemy**
5: Egyptian word usually translated as the 'Underworld'. **Duat**

α



- 1:** Last ruling Queen of Egypt. **Cleopatra**
2: Modern country which contains the region known as Kush. **Ethiopia**
3: City of Seth, 'Gold Town' in ancient Egyptian. **Ombos**
4: Capital of Egypt, said to have been founded by Menes. **Memphis**
5: Kushite Pharaoh mentioned in the Bible. **Taharqa**

Bonus clue: Hale-Bopp? **COMET**

β



- 1:** The city which was the cult centre of the hawk god Horus. **Edfu**
2: Mother of Isis and Seth. **Nut**
3: Village of the Royal Tomb-Builders at Thebes. **Deir el-Medina**
4: God of the Dead, 'Foremost of the West'. **Osiris**
5: Surname of the Egyptologist associated with 'the New Chronology'. **Rohl**
6: Pyramid site in Sudan where Kushite Pharaohs were buried. **Nurri**

Bonus clue: Heavy weather for Angela Merkel? **DONNER** (German for 'thunder')



- 1:** Nofret's husband, his statue was found in his Maidum tomb. **Rahotep**
2: King of the Unification, known from a ceremonial palette. **Narmer**
3: Site of the temple containing the Seti I King List. **Abydos**
4: Surname of the British doctor who carried out Tutankhamun's first 'autopsy'. **Derry**
5: Cult city of Min, starting point for the main caravan route through the Eastern Desert. **Coptos**
6: Island city on Egypt's southern border, cult centre of Khnum. **Elephantine**

Bonus clue: Strictly contestant? **DANCER**

The missing reindeer are:

BLITZEN, PRANCER, and VIXEN

ε



Bonus clue: Good with a bow and arrow? **CUPID**

- 1:** Two kings of Dynasty VI bore this personal name. **Pepi**
2: Eleven kings of the New Kingdom bore this personal name. **Ramesses**
3: King Merenptah fought a major battle to repel an invasion of tribesmen from this modern-day country. **Libya**
4: The finest alabaster came from this quarry. **Hatnub**
5: The name of this monument derives from the Greek for 'needle' or 'skewer'. **Obelisk**
6: The name of the First Dynasty ruler known as the Serpent King. **Uadji**
7: The amulet shaped like a column with four capitals (or an electricity pylon) with the hieroglyphic meaning of 'stability'. **Djed**

Bonus clue: Trail-blazer? **RUDOLPH**

December Hotep Clue



- 1:** The scribe and owner of a large and beautifully decorated funerary papyrus in the British Museum. **Ani**
2: An important medical papyrus named after its purchaser. **Ebers (or Edwin Smith)**
3: The area which served as the principal necropolis of the ancient capital of Memphis. **Saqqara**
4: The most important solar deity of Egypt. **Ra**
5: The cult centre of the goddess Hathor. **Denderah**
6: The Queen who ruled as king in the 18th Dynasty. **Hatshepsut**

Bonus clue: The name sounds like that of a famous pyramid site in Egypt. **DASHER** (sounds like Dashur)

New Egyptology Display in Edinburgh

Three new galleries complete the transformation of the National Museum of Scotland. These galleries, dedicated to **Ancient Egypt**, East Asia and the Art of Ceramics, are the final part a 15-year journey, restoring one of the UK's finest Victorian buildings, revealing remarkable treasures, and creating inspiring learning experiences to engage more visitors.

The galleries are due to open **8 February 2019**. The ***Ancient Egypt Rediscovered*** gallery will present the remarkable culture and achievements of the ancient Egyptians, highlighting individual stories to give a sense of their values and personal lives. The displays will showcase the depth and breadth of National Museums' Ancient Egypt material with 2019 being the 200th anniversary (May 1819) of the first Egyptian objects becoming part of the collection.



Highlights will include the Qurna burial, the only intact royal burial group outside of Egypt, a gold ring said to have belonged to

Queen Nefertiti and a unique double coffin of two half-brothers, Petamun and Penhorpabik. → Also, as you may have seen in the news recently, a limestone casing block from the Great Pyramid ↓.



<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/world-cultures/ancient-egyptian-collection/ancient-egyptian-collection/pyramid-casing-stone/>



On **Friday 1 March, 7.30-9.00p.m.** our own **Mike Hollis** will be giving an informal evening talk on **'The Tomb of Nakht'**. The fee for this meeting is £2 including light refreshments.



Next Meeting:

Saturday 16 February 2019

In a **change to our published programme** we are pleased to announce:

'Seth, Lord of Chaos, Defender of Re: The Chequered Career of a Deity'

a talk by **John J Johnston**



Portrayed as everything from rapacious fratricide to royal tutelary deity, Seth has been both worshipped and reviled across the millennia. Drawing upon textual and archaeological sources, this lecture will consider Seth's continually fluctuating fortunes in order to examine his importance in the culture of the Nile valley during the Pharaonic period and beyond.

John J Johnston is a freelance Egyptologist, Classicist, and cultural historian. A former Vice-Chair of the Egypt Exploration Society (2010 - 2015), he has lectured extensively at institutions such as the British Museum, the British Film Institute, the National Museum of Scotland, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

And finally: Quiz Time



How many plant species can you identify in this image of a garden pond from the tomb of Nebamun? You can find bigger images online at: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>

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

