



HOTEP

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Review of June Meeting

When we were forced to halt our programme in March I was not sure that I would have any lectures to review for the rest of the season but, thanks to our partnership with the Egypt Exploration Society we have been able to share their technological expertise and use the EES platform to offer a Zoom solution.



Bernard Grenfell (left) and Arthur Hunt (right) outside their tent at Oxyrhynchus in the Delta.

(Photo: © The Egypt Exploration Society)

The first experiment was a talk by Carl Graves, Director of the EES, who has visited us in person in the past. His talk:

Tents and tombs: Accommodating archaeologists, took us on an exploration of the EES archive to see how the Society's expeditions to Egypt, from its founding in 1882 through the Twentieth Century, were housed and the conditions under which the archaeologists, archivists, conservators, photographers etc worked. To call these conditions 'basic' is a considerable understatement but it was suggested that the archaeologists, many of whom were products of the British Public School system, would have felt very much at home. Some dig houses were occupied for a period of decades by successive expeditions, being enlarged and improved several times. Most being situated in an inhospitable desert environment had to be supplied by daily

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

deliveries of water and other necessities from the nearest settlement, bringing to mind the ancient village of Deir el-Medina which was supported by similar deliveries from the royal storehouses. Often, more space and care were devoted to the storage and recording of finds than to the comfort of the archaeologists in spite of the 'civilising' presence of wives and other female members of staff. The images of the Amarna dig house with its ancient Egyptian style wall paintings and hieroglyphic texts framing doors contrast dramatically with the stark interior of the ancient tomb which served as office, storage and sleeping space at Beni Hasan.



The Buhen expedition team on Christmas day 1960. Left to right: Tony Mills, David O'Connor, Robert Deane, Margaret Drower, Molly Emery, Harry Smith, Ricardo Caminos, Martin Minns.

(Photo: © The Egypt Exploration Society)

Some Egyptologists endured conditions only slightly better than those of the local workers, the men and boys and occasionally women, mostly anonymous, who dug out and carried away tonnes of debris. Carl assured us that conditions have improved for all dig personnel these days.

This was a very good way to test the waters of the technological world. It may well be the way for the future.

Hilary Wilson

For Your Amusement

Spotted by my son.



It's nice to know that people's sense of humour has survived the exigencies of lockdown which has clearly provided a fresh source of inspiration. If you have any other gems you would like to share, please send them to the usual email address.

What did you do during lock-down?

Carl Rowledge reports:

Hilary wanted to know what we have been doing during lockdown; I have a very tidy, thriving garden !! For my Egyptian fix I have been following John Billman's offers with the T.V.A.E.S. & more recently his W.E.A. courses, all on line. I also attend John's W.E.A. courses in Bournemouth. Sadly, the study visit that I was going on with John & others, over the Easter period was in the end postponed until Easter next year, so I will get to fulfil my dream of visiting the sights then.

Note: **John Billman** was due to speak at SAES in March just as the schools closed. You will be pleased to know that, all being well, he will be delivering his talk in the New Year – whether in person or virtually remains to be seen!



From **Beverley Matcham**: This is what my mum and I did during the start of Lockdown! I did the sarcophagus and 92-year-old Mum did the black surround! After all the effort I couldn't bear to dismantle the thousand-piece jigsaw so it is currently on the hall table awaiting its fate... Kind regards.

Seen on TV

Several programmes of Egyptological interest have been aired on the small screen in recent weeks. *Tutankhamun in Colour* (BBC4), *Kingdom of the Mummies* (National Geographic) and *Secrets of Egypt's Valley of the Kings* (Channel 4).



If you would like to recommend any of these, or other programmes which you have enjoyed during lockdown, we would welcome short reviews for publication in Hotep.

Next Meeting!

Saturday 18 July 2 p.m.

In partnership with the
Egypt Exploration Society



we are pleased to offer an online lecture
**While Skulls Bobbed on the Waves:
Petrie at Hawara.** by **Campbell Price**

Between 1888 and 1890, having fallen out with the EEF, British archaeologist William Matthew Flinders Petrie conducted excavations at the Faiyum site of Hawara. Attracted by tales of the legendary 'Labyrinth', Petrie made some remarkable discoveries - not least a significant Graeco-Roman cemetery that yielded unexpected numbers of gilded mummies and 'Faiyum portraits'. This lecture reviews some of Petrie's finds and his ways of interpreting them.



Join Dr Campbell Price (Manchester Museum) as he explores the discoveries of Flinders Petrie at Hawara, including some of those now on display in the touring exhibition, Golden Mummies of Egypt.

To view this lecture, which is **hosted by the EES exclusively for SAES members**, you must register in advance using the link provided in the monthly reminder email. To receive this link you must be a paid-up SAES Member whose email address we have on file. We have extended free membership for 2020-21 to those of you who subscribed for the 2019-20 season. Regular guests are welcome to become members at the half-price rate of £9 so that they can receive the link to this and any future online lectures. There will be no meeting fee for Campbell's talk although the SAES will be paying his fee and donations to the EES will be gratefully received. Depending on the EES schedule of events arrangements for further online talks may be different so it is important to check your personal emails (including the junk or spam folders!) for details of registration.

June Quiz Answer

Liam Hillard Sternberg's lasting contribution to the popularisation of ancient Egypt was the lyrics to the 1986 Bangles' song

'Walk Like an Egyptian'.

*All the old paintings on the tombs
They do the sand dance don't you know
If they move too quick (oh whey oh)
They're falling down like a domino*

*All the bazaar men by the Nile
They got the money on a bet
Gold crocodiles (oh whey oh)
They snap their teeth on your cigarette*

*Foreign types with the hookah pipes say
(Whey oh whey oh, ay oh whey oh)
Walk like an Egyptian*

You can sing and dance along to a performance of this timeless number at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv6tuzHUuuk>

Hope to meet you, in spirit at least, at the July lecture.

