



HOTEP

Issue 69: June 2022

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

Review of May Meeting

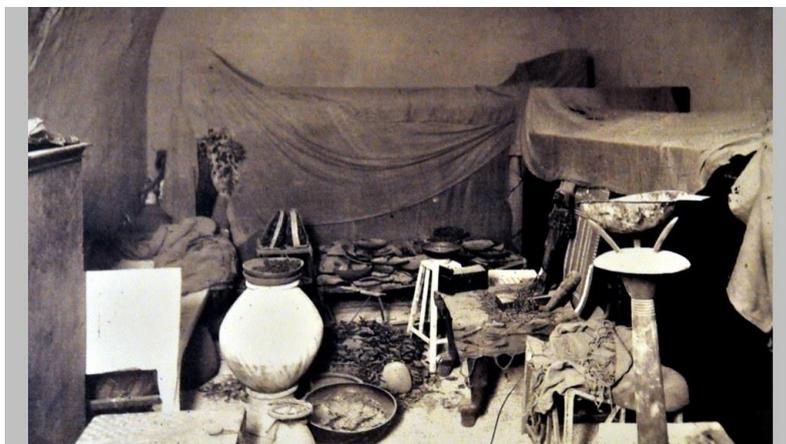


The May talk was given by **Dr Claudia Näser** who is a lecturer in Egyptian Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) and was titled **'Provisions for the**

dead, ritual implements, luxury objects? Conceptualising grave goods in New Kingdom elite contexts'.

The theme of this talk was the funerary objects included in the tombs of the early New Kingdom, in particular examples drawn from the tombs of the workers in the village of Deir el-Medina. At the start Claudia defined what is meant by an 'intact' tomb, as the term is used for whole tombs that have escaped robbery and those where a chamber had been missed while the rest of the tomb had been robbed. This is important to the understanding of the objects included in the tomb as an intact tomb will give a complete picture of how and in what positions goods were placed in the tomb. A chamber that was missed will not have the full set of objects deemed necessary for a burial and the disturbance or looting of the other rooms makes it difficult to appreciate the complete funerary assemblage in its proper context.

Although Claudia briefly looked at a couple of tombs, she used that of TT8, the tomb of Kha and Merit as a model for her discussion. Their tomb had remained undiscovered because the shaft was not located in the chapel forecourt but some way outside it. Having been discovered by the Italian Egyptologist Ernesto Schiaparelli in 1906, the contents of the tomb are now in the Egyptian Museum in Turin. A study



of the two mummies showed that Merit was younger than Kha. Her burial was the first to be placed in the tomb which was reorganised on Kha's death to accommodate his coffin and grave goods.

The tomb contains a mix of objects, some of which were obviously used in life. This led Claudia to speculate as to whether Kha, or Merit, selected items that they wanted to be included in the tomb or if their family picked the items after Kha had died. This is something that will never be known unless time travel is invented!

Claudia also considered how the food offerings that were included were sourced. Where the cooked and baked items prepared on the day of burial or before? Again, there is no way to be certain. These were placed in what are known as 'flowerpots', these are basic red pots and, surprise, they look like a flower pot!

Some basic household items that seem to have been used in the funeral ritual are chairs and beds. A wooden



statuette of the tomb-owner was placed on Kha's chair, a feature which is seen in other tombs suggesting some ritual significance to the arrangement, perhaps seeking to promote his comfort in the next life. Beds possibly served a similar purpose but are often found in the tomb shaft, either folded or in two parts, suggesting that they were the last item to be introduced to the tomb by which time there was no room in the burial chamber. Claudia showed images from tomb paintings showing funeral rituals taking place outside the tomb where a chair and a bed were set up under a canopy, like the suite of furniture found in the 4th Dynasty tomb of Queen Hetepheres (below).



Claudia's analysis encouraged us to look at the items placed in a tomb with a critical eye. Had the item been used in everyday life or was it made specifically for some ritual purpose? If the tomb contained more than one mummy, had they been placed there at the same time? Had the tomb contents been rearranged and added to when it was reopened to inter another body? All in all, an afternoon well spent.

For those interested this link is to a short You Tube animated video reconstruction of the tomb of Kha and Merit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reKqnzgycZU>

Glenn Worthington

May Quiz Answers

The following are just some of the more 'authentic' versions of the Hellenised names conventionally used in Egyptological literature written in English. Other conventions may apply in other languages.

Amenophis = Amenhotep

Sesostris = Senusert, Senwosret

Amasis = Ahmose

Seth = Sutekh

Thoth = Djehuty

Suchos = Sobek

Anubis = Inpu

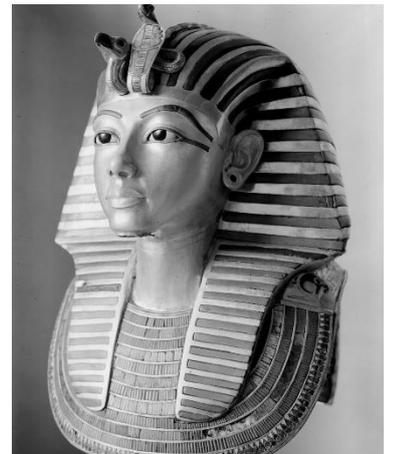
Ammenemes = Amenemhat

Sethos = Seti, Sethy

Chephren = Khafre

In the News

Members might like to know of an exhibition celebrating the centenary of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. The exhibit at the Bodleian Library in Oxford shows the work of Carter and his team through Harry Burton's stunning photographs. For details see:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-61394416>

Annette Winter



Forthcoming Meetings

Further details of our Zoom meetings are published on the website www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk

Registration is required for all meetings.

Registration links will be released on a meeting-by-meeting basis and priority will be given to SAES Members.

If you would like to have your personal email details added to our non-Members mailing list, please contact the Secretary at: saesinfo55@gmail.com

The joining link for any meeting is only released on confirmation of payment.

The joining link is unique to the name & email address with which you register. If you share this link, you risk being prevented from joining the meeting yourself if the person with whom you shared signs in before you.

Please note: if the Zoom system allows you to register this means a place is available and has been reserved for you. The joining link will be sent on confirmation of payment, but, since all Zoom messages, including the meeting joining link, will be sent to the email address with which you register, **please make sure that you have correctly entered the email address which you will be using for the meeting.**

The joining link will also be re-confirmed the day before and/or on the morning of the meeting. Please check your junk folder if you do not see this in your inbox.

Zoom Protocols

These guidelines on the thoughtful use of Zoom have been adapted from those promoted by our friends at TVAES. We think they are worth repeating here.

In our zoom meetings we make use of the chat feature and would like to ask members and visitors to follow these guidelines:

1: You may use the chat function to introduce yourself and chat generally before the lecture, but please avoid frivolous comments, jokes and any other comments that may not always translate to other cultures or those in different circumstances. Remember, we now have an international audience.

2: Please do not use the chat function during the lecture itself as the pop-up messages can prove distracting for both speaker and audience.

3: After the lecture, please focus your use of the chat on Questions and Comments re the lecture itself. This will help us to navigate and run the Q&A session. If you would like to ask your question live via audio (and video too if you wish), please use the raised hand (in Reactions) and wait for one of the co-hosts to call on you.



Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to scale back our plans for this season's Study Day. Instead we are offering a standard Saturday afternoon meeting in July. This will be FREE to all subscribed SAES Members Guests £5.

Saturday 16 July 2022:

Small Creatures: a some of the lesser-known animals of Ancient Egypt

by **Hilary Wilson**



This talk offers a spotter's guide to tortoises, turtles and hedgehogs in Egyptian art and culture. These animals may not feature in the great myths or temple ritual, or be associated with any of the major deities, but their use in the decorative arts shows how the Egyptians' close observation of nature extended to even such small creatures.

Registration is still required for this meeting for all even if no payment is needed.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocO6rrD4vG90PDbva94eWJnZ6UZvhC0KI>

Payment: FREE for Members; £5 for guests

Please note: if the Zoom system allows you to register this means a place is available and has been reserved for you. The joining link will be sent on confirmation of payment, but, since all Zoom messages,

including the meeting joining link, will be sent to the email address with which you register, **please make sure that you have correctly entered the email address which you will be using for the meeting.**

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(Saturday Zoom meeting opens 13.30 (GMT). Please be patient while we set up the presentation. Admission from the waiting room from 13.45 for a 14.00 start.

June Quiz

The Eyes Have It

From the eyes alone, can you identify these statues and the museums where they can be seen?

- A** 
- B** 
- C** 
- D** 
- E** 

Answers in the next issue of Hotep

