



HOTEP

Issue 67: March 2022

Review of February Meeting

February's speaker was **Carl Graves**, the Director of the Egypt Exploration Society (EES). His talk was titled **'The lady that led to Tutankhamun. The life and legacy of Amelia Edwards'**.



Amelia Edwards
(internet photo)

Carl began working for the EES in 2013 as the Education and Public Engagement Manager. He completed his PhD in 2017 at the University of Birmingham. In 2010 he worked on Elephantine with the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.

Amelia Edwards was a successful author before she founded, what was then, the Egypt Exploration Fund in 1882 (it would not become the Egypt Exploration Society until 1919). Carl has been researching the life and legacy of Amelia for some time and this work will be used as the basis of the introduction he is co-authoring for a new edition of Amelia's most well-known publication, *'A Thousand Miles Up the Nile'*. This is due to be published this summer.



Carl Graves.
Photo EES website

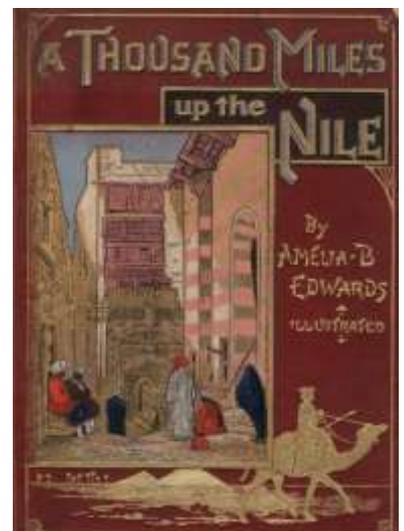
The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Amelia was born in London in 1831 and was an only child. Her parents, Thomas and Alicia, would take her to visit family in Ireland, maybe this was the impetus for her later travels. She also began writing at an early age, having a poem published at age 7. Music was also important to her, she could play the piano and guitar, and would play the organ at church. However, writing was the direction she chose to follow, and her books did well, but in 1860 she suffered a double blow when both of her parents died within a week of each other.

Amelia had a complicated life for a Victorian woman, she never married and travelled a lot around Europe with various female traveling companions. One of her books *'Untrodden Peaks and Unfrequented Valleys'* was a travelogue of a summer spent in the Dolomites.

In 1873, prompted by heavy rains in Europe, Amelia chose to travel to Egypt with her companion Lucy Renshaw. They landed in Alexandria but soon travelled to Cairo and took up residence in Shepherds Hotel. From here Amelia hired a dahabiyeh and sailed all the way up the Nile to Abu Simbel and back taking in all the sights as they went. She used her artistic skills to sketch scenes along the way. From this experience she wrote the best-selling *'A Thousand Miles up the Nile'* and gained an abiding passion for ancient Egypt. It was to further exploration and recording of the ancient monuments that she founded the Egypt Exploration Fund.

The EEF was to consume all her energies for the rest of her life. She was a good communicator and spent time writing to prospective supporters to solicit



donations for the Fund and gave talks to the same end. At the time there was a great interest in finding the sites associated with the Bible, and the Fund's first excavator was Édouard Naville who excavated at Tell El Maskhuta, which he believed to be the Biblical site of Pithom. The subsequent excavation report, as Carl told us, was a best seller.

Amelia was responsible for appointing one of the best know excavators of the time, William Matthew Flinders Petrie. His association with the Fund was, shall we say rocky, but Amelia remained friends with him until her death. In the final year of her life a young man was appointed to copy inscriptions and scenes for the Fund at Beni Hasan, Howard Carter.

In 1889-90 Amelia went to the US on a lecture tour which promoted the American branch of the EEF. In early 1892 she caught influenza and on 1 April of that year she died. She was buried at St Mary's Church, Henbury, near Bristol where her grave is adorned with suitable Egyptian symbols (see below) and inscribed:

HERE LIES THE BODY OF AMELIA ANN BLANFORD EDWARDS NOVELIST AND ARCHAEOLOGIST.... WHO BY HER WRITINGS AND HER LABOURS ENRICHED THE THOUGHTS AND INTERESTS OF HER TIME.



In her will she left her library, collection of Egyptian antiquities and £5,000 to establish a chair in Egyptian Archaeology at University College London, making it clear that Petrie should be appointed.

Carl's enthusiasm for his subject was obvious and this was an engaging talk which flew by.



EES Trustee, Dr Margaret Mountford, unveils the Blue Plaque at Amelia Edwards' childhood home in Clerkenwell, London.

Glenn Worthington

February Quiz Answers

Cleopatra's children were:

Ptolemy XV Caesarion
(by Julius Caesar)

Ptolemy Philadelphus and twins
Alexander Helios & Cleopatra Selene
(by Mark Antony)

Review of Evening Meeting, Wednesday 23 March



Salima Ikram, from the American University in Cairo, is well known as an expert in animal remains and mummification. She has also been associated with the North Kharga Oasis Survey (NKOS) for some years now, exploring the history of this desert site to the west of the Nile. In her talk '**Discoveries in the Desert**', she described her work surveying the evidence,

in the form of many petroglyphs, for the visits to and exploitation of this fascinating site by Egyptians from Palaeolithic times onwards.

The Kharga Oasis, situated in the Western Desert of Egypt, is a depression about 160km long (N-S) by 20-80 km wide, with its northernmost point about level with Luxor. Kharga was a major crossroads on the ancient caravan routes, particularly that which started at Asyut on the Nile to the north, and took traders and explorers far south into Nubia. This route is known as Darb el-Arba'in, 'the Way of the Forty', as it was said to have taken forty days for a camel train to travel its full length. It was the overland route probably used by Old Kingdom expeditions, like that of Harkhuf, who brought back a dancing pygmy to entertain the child king Pepi

through all Egyptian periods to Roman times and include images of boats, fish and aquatic birds, as well as inscriptions ranging from proto-hieroglyphs to the graffiti left by important visitors. One scene apparently shows a flock of ducks, storks or other migratory birds landing on the water of what must have been a seasonal lake. (see Fig 3 below). The depression left by the lake can still be detected on the surface (see below).



Fig. 3
The storks (?) on this panel seem to be flapping as they come in to land, and then showing themselves standing straight. Other animals also appear on this panel, but do not seem to have been made as part of the bird group.



Other images represent human feet, which Salima suggests represent the presence of pilgrims or travellers to a religious site. One possible shrine has been



II.

In this talk, Salima's main theme was the mapping and recording of the rock art sites, including overcoming difficulties or restrictions on the use of GPS because the oasis is in a military-controlled zone. The petroglyphs depict many scenes of animals and birds, such as giraffe, (see right) elephant and various wildfowl, which have not been found there for millennia. They range in period from the early Holocene

identified where a primitive courtyard was built out in front of the overhang of a decorated rockface, close to the east-west route through the oasis. This may have been devoted to the local form of Amun who was later worshipped nearby in the Late Period Temple of Hibis.

In ancient times, the oasis was significant for its agricultural produce, particularly its date groves and even vineyards. Despite the reduction in the current fertile land area due to a receding water table, Kharga is still agriculturally important as Salima explained when she described modern cultivation methods for watermelons, a very surprising crop to find in such an inhospitable terrain.

Salima's talk was a delightful introduction to a lesser-known area of ancient Egypt. The overlaying of petroglyphs from many eras shows how the region remained important for most of Pharaonic history, giving us an insight into how vital the oases were for

communication, trade and movement of people and goods.

We are very grateful to Salima for giving us her time especially as, only a couple of hours before the meeting, she had flown into Belfast from Cairo to attend a conference where she was a principal speaker. We really hope she will be able to talk to us again.

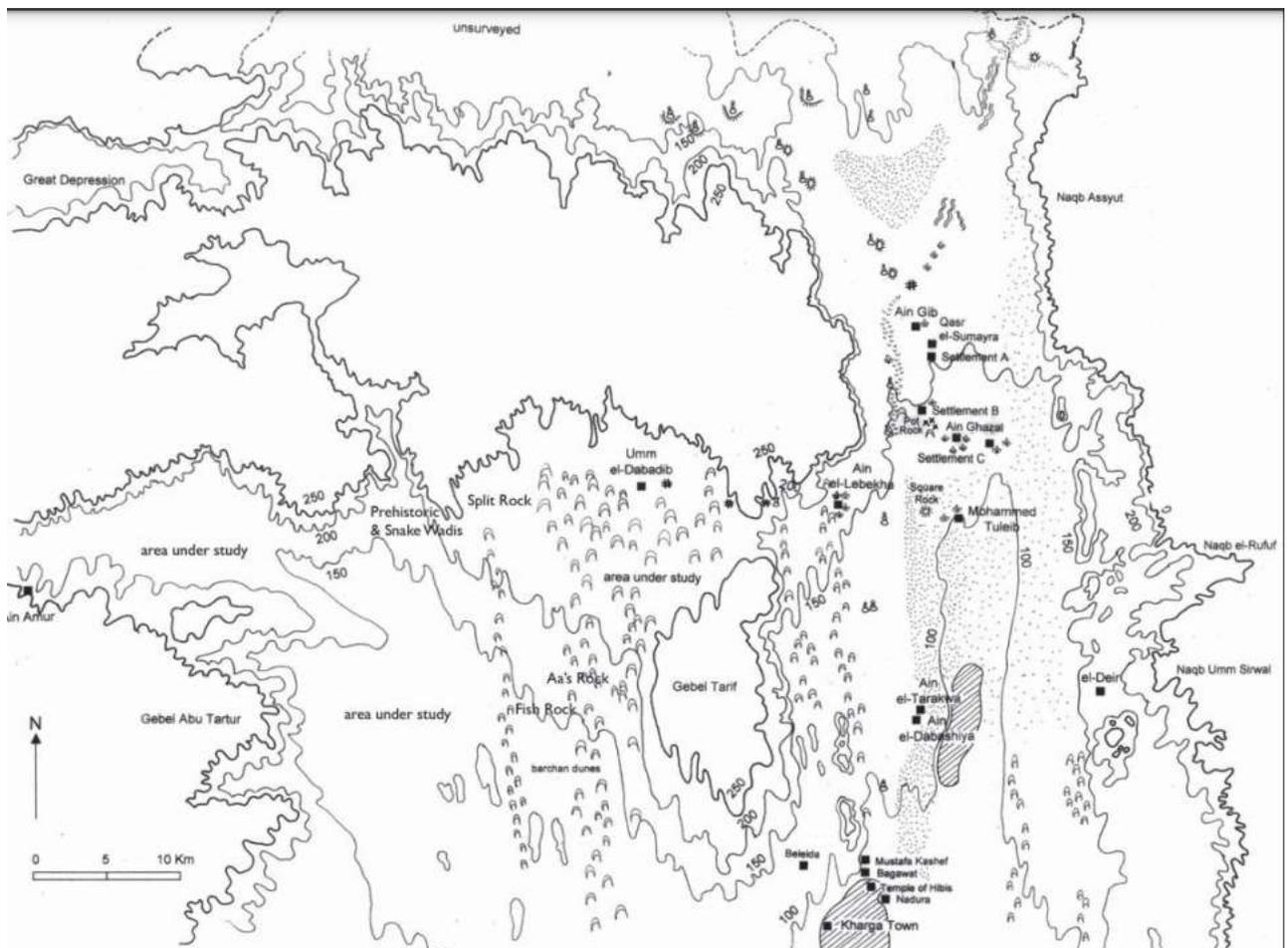
The figures here are taken from Salima's paper *'Drawing the World: Petroglyphs from Kharga Oasis'* published by the American University in Cairo Press, 2009.

More about Salima's work with rock art can be found at:

https://www.bradshawfoundation.com/rockartnetwork/salima_ikram

Hilary Wilson

Map of northern Kharga Oasis with main sites surveyed by NKOS.



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.

(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.

Saturday 16 April 2022:

"A real Egyptian temple"?

the Iseum at Pompeii

by **Mark Walker**

The Temple of Isis at Pompeii was both destroyed and preserved by the famous eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. Its discovery in 1764 caused a sensation providing an insight into two lost ancient civilisations, Rome and Egypt. Recently the Naples Archaeological Museum described it as "a real Egyptian temple" but how accurate is this description? Mark hopes to answer this question by comparing the Pompeii Iseum with contemporary temples of Isis in Egypt that were active in the First Century CE.



Mark Walker is a founder Member and former Deputy Chair of SAES.

Registration in advance is required for this meeting using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrdu6oqj4iG9ALrn9ph92I4JJHsoxcZMxR>

Payment: £3 for Members; £4 for Overseas Members; £6 for guests

(EVENING LECTURE: Zoom meeting opens 18.30 (GMT). Admission from the waiting room from 18.45 for a start at 19.00

We are pleased to announce the latest in our occasional series of evening talks

Thursday 5 May 2022:

The Turin Museum's current research at Deir el-Medina by Cédric Gobeil



Within the framework of the French Archaeological mission at Deir El-Medina carried by the IFAO, the Museo Egizio of Turin is conducting research on a few Ramesside tombs located in the western necropolis. These tombs have been chosen based on the many artefacts belonging to their owners which are now kept in the museum. In addition to giving the opportunity to study the fragile tomb structures using new technologies, this fieldwork is a unique chance to recontextualize many objects of the museum's collection, shedding a new and fresh light on them. In a few seasons, the Turin team will ultimately be able to protect and conserve these monuments for future generations.

Dr Cédric Gobeil is a Canadian and French Egyptologist, specializing in the archaeology of daily life and New Kingdom material culture, with a primary focus on Deir el-Medina. He has been curator at the Museo Egizio in Turin since 2019. In addition to his curatorial duties, he is also adjunct

professor in the History Department at the Université du Québec à Montréal and research associate at the HiSoMA Research Unit in Lyon (CNRS - France).

Registration in advance is required for this meeting using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693?pwd=ZlZMc0lrcDwiG0NlR0pDdVpGAFU42uupzW>

Payment for this EVENING meeting is £5 for all-comers.

For either of these meetings, please contact the Secretary saesinfo55@gmail.com

to arrange payment or check payment status.

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.

The Future?

We are very conscious that it has been a long time since we have met as a Society face-to-face and we have been exploring the ways in which we might meet again in this way. However, until we can find a suitable venue with the necessary facilities for hybrid delivery (face-to-face and streamed online), at an acceptable cost, our meetings will continue to be presented via Zoom, which remains the most practical format.

We also understand that some of our Members, while missing the social interaction offered by our gatherings in the past, may be wary of returning to in-person meetings, especially as the Covid pandemic is still with us. Our intention is to continue with Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future, but we would like to plan for some 'ordinary' meetings as well.

One imponderable is the number of people who would attend a face-to-face meeting if we were to arrange one. The necessity to register and pre-pay for Zoom meetings has enabled us to predict the size of our audience. Prior to the first lock-down in 2020, we had no way of knowing how many people would turn up to any meeting. This meant that, before the event, we could never be sure that we would cover our principal costs, in terms of venue hire and speaker's fee and expenses. A successful and sustainable return to face-to-face meetings would very much depend on the size of the audience we could attract. To help us assess the viability of such a meeting, we would much appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

As things stand at the moment, our main difficulty is finding a venue available on a Saturday, which has the necessary Wi-Fi and projection facilities (and parking) at a reasonable cost. This is proving a lot more difficult than you might expect. If anyone knows of such a venue within the general Southampton area, please let us know.

If, in principle, you are prepared to attend in-person meetings, or if you have any other comments, please send them to the Secretary at saesinfo55@gmail.com

Meanwhile, we continue to work to present a varied programme catering to the interests of all our Members, old and new. Thank you all for continuing to support the Southampton Ancient Egypt Society.

Hilary Wilson

March Quiz

Where?



What?



Who?



Answers in the next
issue of **Hotep**

