

Review of the September meeting

Joanna Kyffin's talk 'A Woman's Place? Female Bodies in Medicine and Literature', was an investigation of the role of women in Egyptian society. Jo used images of single women and married couples, in tomb paintings and statuary, to compare how women were portrayed at different periods. She went on to show how these illustrations have been employed in different ways in modern times to interpret the status of Egyptian women.



Taking a decidedly feminist stance, she explained how the socio-economic conditions pertaining at the time of any theory being propounded can colour the author's interpretation. For example, the paternalistic attitude of Greek writers meant that women were seen as inferior to men in every regard. The largely male writers of the 19th Century imposed a particularly Victorian structure on their vision of ancient Egypt including the persistent belief that the woman's place was in the home. Similarly, the proponents of the Black Athena theory were determined to see more similarities with African cultures. With reference to the words of medical texts, Jo tried to show that, since a woman was seen as the vessel in which her husband's seed grew and there was no understanding of the female contribution to a pregnancy, her inability to bear a child was considered the fault of the man.

Jo's words were sometimes provocative as well as giving much food for thought and she did not convince everyone of her theories. This talk was an example of how much about ancient Egypt is still open to debate, promoting stimulating discussion and, on occasion, heated arguments.

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

September Quiz Answers



1: The most commonly listed funerary offering supplies were **bread and beer**, both requested by the thousand.

(See signs highlighted in the red box below)

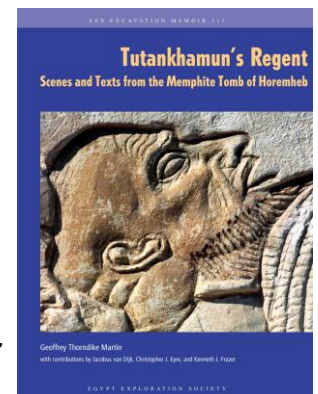


2: The expression **mꜣꜥt ḥrw**, literally '**True of Voice**', often translated as 'Justified', follows a name to indicate a person is deceased. (See signs in blue box above)

3: The offering formula is most often phrased as an appeal to **Osiris**, though some prayers are dedicated to other gods of the afterlife such as Anubis or Geb.

Book News

Back in 2013 **Geoffrey Martin** told us he was writing an updated version of his book on his work at Saqqara. Good news! The book has just been released, only three years late but well worth waiting for. **'Tutankhamun's Regent: scenes and texts from the Memphite tomb of Horemheb'** is published by the EES (Excavation Memoir 111).



Avril Poppitt sent this condensed version of an article she saw in *Current World Archaeology Magazine* No 84.

Liverpool's World Museum



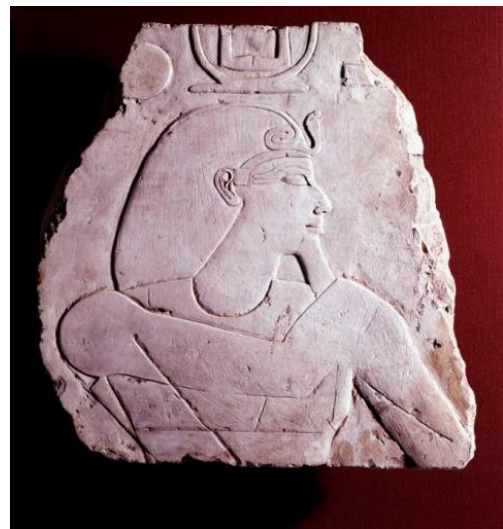
This Museum – originally the 'Liverpool Free Library and Museum' – was established in the late 19th Century and by the end of the Victorian era boasted the second largest Ancient Egyptian assemblage in the country. Sadly, in May 1941, a large bomb caused devastating damage to the building, and a raging fire destroyed more than 3,000 Egyptian objects. Now, following major restoration, the doors have opened on a 1,000m² gallery, entitled '**Ancient Egypt: a journey through time**'.

One thousand items are on show at present, just a taste of the 16000 artefacts held by Liverpool, and the collections are arranged in seven themes, such as 'People of Egypt' and 'The Mummy Room'. Rare artefacts are scattered throughout the Museum, such as the Book of the Dead of Djedhor which was composed in 332 BC, discovered in Upper Egypt in 1905, but not unrolled until the 1970s.

The resurrection of the gallery has been described as 'not just a triumph of modern curation and design, but also of artefact conservation and collection'. The expertly designed web page (<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/visit/floor-plans/ancient-egypt/index.aspx>) shows some stunning pictures (see right) and has extensive information about other hidden items in the collection. Well worth a visit if you just happen to be in the area. Unfortunately just too far away for one a day coach trip!



Part of a Book of the Dead (Papyrus Mayer 1)



Temple wall relief of Tuthmose I



Model of baking, brewing and butchery



Ivory clapper used in pairs to accompany ritual chants

**What Members did on their holidays!
Part 2: Sue Marriott reveals her
adventurous side in a review of
Egyptian-themed 'rides'**

THRILLS, SPILLS & EGYPTIAN CHILLS!

Egypt it seems is the inspiration for theme park rides and fairground attractions in many countries. The largest example I have come across is at Busch Gardens in Florida. We made our visit in 2015 and as is the nature of the beast things can change.

Opened in March 1939, this African themed animal and amusement park now covers an area of 335 acres and is made up of various 'lands' as well as a Serengeti safari area. The Egypt part of the park consists of two rides Montu (above) and Cobra's curse (opened 2016) as well as play areas, shops and eateries.



Montu (Left) was opened in 1996 and at the time was the world's tallest and fastest inverted roller coaster. Designed by Bolliger and Mabillard of Switzerland, the ride is 150 ft. (46m) tall and achieves speeds of 65 mph (105 km). The Egyptian section of the park reportedly cost \$20 million to build and when Montu was first launched a Nile crocodile exhibit was under the first section of the ride! How did they manage that with health and safety?

Surrounding the rides are various themed attractions including a 'shifting Sands' area where children can play archaeologist and discover their own buried treasure and a fierce looking mummy billed as a 'photo op with Big Momma.' Litter bins and even



the restroom signs continue the Egyptian theme.



Moving over to Universal Studios, 'Revenge of the Mummy' is one of the parks most popular 'dark rides'. A dark ride is an indoor ride which



entails passengers boarding some sort of moving vehicle which guides them through various animations, special effects and/or 3D experiences. Opened in May 2004 this roller



coaster ride lasts three minutes with 80 degree banks and a 50 degree drop. The pre-show in the queueing area sets up the storyline before passengers enter a 1940's dig in an Egyptian tomb. Once aboard the carts passengers see images of Imhotep, soldier

mummies, scarab beetles and fire with the obligatory photograph taken at the moment people either look exhilarated or scared to death, depending on how much you enjoy roller coasters! We also encountered Egyptians on stilts during our visit.

On a gentler note, this swing boat ride was observed in 2007 whilst visiting Salem



Massachusetts at a fun fair set up for the Halloween celebrations. Closer to home, if you want to experience an Egyptian themed ride Chessington World of

Adventures currently has two on offer. Rameses Revenge which spins you around, turns you upside down and puts you head first into a fountain or you could try Tomb Blaster. During this dark ride you travel through a labyrinth with a laser gun shooting mummies and scarab beetles to rid the tomb of evil. Enjoy!

Photos ©Susan Marriott

In the News

On 9 Sept 2017 the Egyptian newspaper el-Ahram reported:

Amun-Re goldsmith tomb uncovered in Draa Abul Naga necropolis on Luxor's west bank

The discovery was made by an Egyptian archaeological mission led by Mostafa Waziri. The newly discovered tomb includes an entrance located in the courtyard of another Middle Kingdom tomb, Kampp 150.

The entrance leads to a squared chamber where a niche with a duo statue depicting the tomb owner and his wife is found on one end.

The statue (below) shows Amenemhat sitting on a high backed chair beside his wife who wears a long dress and wig. Between their legs stands, on a smaller scale, a small figure of one of their sons. Waziri told Ahram Online that the



tomb has two burial shafts: the main one for the tomb's owner and his wife. It is seven metres deep and has a collection of mummies, sarcophagi and funerary masks carved in wood along with a collection of ushabti figurines.

The second shaft was uncovered to the left of the tomb's main chamber and bears a collection of 21st and 22nd dynasty sarcophagi subject to deterioration during the Late Period. In the open courtyard, the mission stumbled upon a collection of Middle Kingdom burial shafts, where a family burial of a woman and her two children was unearthed. It includes two wooden coffins with mummies and a collection of head-rests. Osteologist Sherine Ahmed Shawqi, who studied the mummies' bones, explains that early studies on these mummies show that the woman died at the age of 50 and that during her life she was suffering from cavities that led to abscesses in her jaw and a bacterial disease in her bones. Studies on the mummies of her two children show that they were two adult males of age ranging between 20 to 30 years old. Both mummies are in a very good state of conservation with the bones still having mummification liquids. Waziri asserted that one of the male mummies shows that he was suffering from cavities during his life while the second shows

that it was probably put later in the same coffin because the bones were bare.

Archaeologist Mohamed Baabash, who is a member of the excavation team, said that during excavations the mission stumbled upon several funerary objects, some of which belong to the tomb owner. Among the discovered artifacts are limestone remains of an offering table; four wooden sarcophagi partly damaged and decorated with hieroglyphic text and scenes of different ancient Egyptian deities; and a sandstone duo statue of a trader in King Tutmosé III's temple named "Mah." A collection of 150 ushabti figures carved in faience, wood, burned clay, limestone and mud brick was also unearthed. The mission also unearthed a collection of 50 funerary cones, 40 of which are evidence of the presence of other tombs belonging to four officials.

The exact location of the latter has not been yet found. These officials are Maati, Bengy, Rourou and vizier Ptahmes. The other stamps belong to Neb-Amun, the grain harvester and supervisor of Amun's grain storehouses, whose tomb is probably TT145, and Nebsenu, the high priest of Amun whose tomb is probably Kampp 143.

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/276757.aspx>

Next Meeting 18 November 2017:

Peter Phillips, Editor of *Ancient Egypt Magazine*, will be talking about settlement sites of ancient Egypt under the title 'But Where Did They Live?'

And Finally - Quiz Time

Can you untangle these anagrams? All the answers are Egyptologists who have given talks at SAES in the past.

1: FEIGN TOY FARMER

2: SPIN ON NEWLY

3: BLAME RIPPLE CC

4: CALL UP LIONS

Answers in the next edition of Hotep

