

HOTEP

Issue 72: October 2022

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Review of September Meeting

September is always the start of a new season of talks for the Society, and it has become a tradition that our Chair kicks off proceedings with the first talk. This year Hilary Wilson's subject was a nod to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun in November 1922. The title of her talk was '**Who was Who at the Court of Tutankhamun**'.

During the talk Hilary stressed the point that although a lot has been written about this period of Egyptian history nearly all of it is based on very little hard fact. It is generally agreed that Tutankhamun came to the throne when he was around 10 years old, and at that time his name was Tutankhaten. In previous reigns when the king had succeeded as a child his mother had acted as regent. However, there is no definitive evidence to identify his mother.

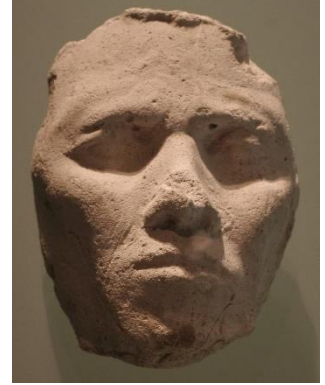
Although Nefertiti is famous as the Great Royal Wife of Akhenaten, a lesser-known individual by the name of Kiya also bore the title King's Wife. Later in Akhenaten's reign Kiya's name was replaced by that of his eldest daughter Meritaten (below). As Hilary



pointed out, one theory is that Tutankhamun was the son of Akhenaten and Kiya and that Kiya died in childbirth, but this is only one possible scenario. As no woman is recorded as serving as regent it is assumed that whoever his mother was, she did not live to see her son succeed to the throne.

One of the issues of this period is that some senior courtiers may have changed their names after Akhenaten's death in order to

Portrait masks of anonymous Amarna courtiers, Berlin



disassociate themselves from his regime. The names of prominent Amarna officials, including Viziers, High Priests and Fan-bearers, are known and, in many cases, their personal names were compounded with that of the god Aten (right). Those that went on to serve under Tutankhamun would have dropped the Aten part and replaced it with a traditional god such as Amun or Ptah. Even those Amarna officials with innocuous names would have been regarded with suspicion, but their expertise and influence were needed to establish Tutankhamun on his throne and to secure the succession.



Royal Butler Paatenemheb,
Leiden

In discussing the potential rivalry between the King's principal advisors and immediate successors, Ay and Horemheb, Hilary reminded us that very little definitive information about Tutankhamun's life and reign exists. Much of what has been written about him is hardly more than speculation and informed guesswork which has taken on the appearance of fact. It is that scope for imagination that keeps the mythology of the 'Boy King' alive. A great start to the new season.

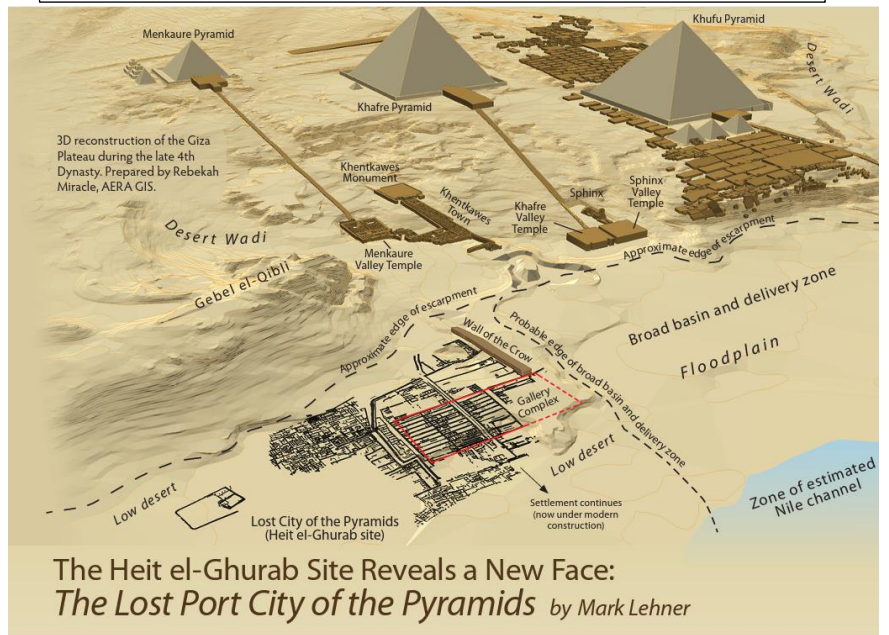
Glenn Worthington

Review of October Meeting

We were thrilled to welcome Mark Lehner, speaking to us from Egypt where he has just started his latest season of work on the Giza plateau. His talk, **'Heit el-Ghurab & Wadi el-Jarf: Landscape & Waterscape at Giza When the Pyramids Were Built'** was an enthusiastic and enthralling account of the continuing exploration of the so-called workers towns associated with the 4th Dynasty pyramids. Mark's initial question was, 'where were all the people?' since, based on estimates of how many workers were needed to build a pyramid, there should have been a Giza town equivalent in size to any of the earliest Mesopotamian cities.

His particular focus was the settlement known as Heit el-Ghurab, (HeG) 'The Wall of the Crow', where differentiated areas of occupation have been revealed. The town is now shown to have provided accommodation and support facilities for the work-gangs or crews, many known by name from contemporary rock graffiti and

https://www.aeraweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/aeragram14_1.pdf

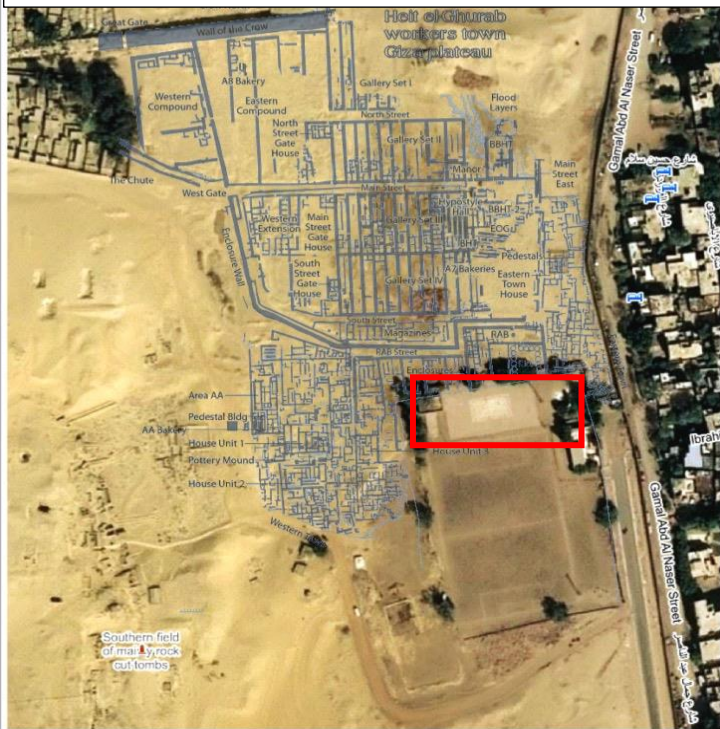


masons' marks. Mark and his AERA team have identified the Gallery complex (red outline above) as a series of 'barrack rooms', each capable of housing a gang of 40 men. The gangs were the crews of the boats which delivered materials to the site, the stone-haulers who transported the products of the quarries to the pyramid building site, and other craftsmen and labourers.

Since 2011, Pierre Tallet's excavations at Wadi el-Jarf on the Red Sea coast have revealed the oldest pharaonic port yet known, dating to the reign of Khufu. With a large stone-built jetty providing a safe anchorage, cliff-cut ship galleries for storage and repair, and buildings bearing a striking resemblance to the HeG Gallery complex, this has been shown to be closely associated with the Giza site. It was the port at which significant materials, especially copper from the Sinai mines, were brought into Egypt. In 2013, the remarkable discovery of a collection of papyri gave definitive proof of the HeG connection. In particular, the day book of Merer, a ship's captain on the regular route from the Tura limestone quarries to the Giza plateau, gave a day-by-day account of his voyages, including named stop-over points.

Combining the information from the two sites, Lehner and Tallet have been able to

Aerial view of HeG with excavation plan overlaid



revise ideas about HeG's significance in the Old Kingdom and to situate it within an appropriate waterscape. They now believe that, far from being a simple work camp, the town functioned as an important trade hub for valuable goods from the Levant and Nubia as well as the Western and Eastern deserts.

Ankhaf, son of Seneferu & Vizier under Khafre, Boston



The tomb of Ankhaf, (above) the Chief of Works on Khafre's pyramid project, overlooked the main harbour basin and the names of many government officials have been identified from sealings and rock inscriptions. A zone of elite occupation, with large grain silos suggesting a significant administrative centre has been dubbed the Royal Administrative Building (RAB), but up to now, Mark has been able to explore only a small part of this intriguing area, most of which lies under a local sports club (red rectangle on aerial view). However, as he was excited to announce, AERA has now been given permission to excavate to find out whether this was, as Mark believes, a truly royal centre, perhaps a contemporary rival to the ancient capital of Memphis.

Further information about the HeG site and Mark's work there may be found in AERA's newsletter *AERAGram* (available online) and the Wadi el-Jarf connection is described in 'The Red Sea Scrolls', by Tallet & Lehner, (T&H 2021) – one of the best Egyptological reads in a long time!

We were privileged to have Mark Lehner speak to us and would love to have him back to tell us more. This was a thoroughly entertaining and informative afternoon.

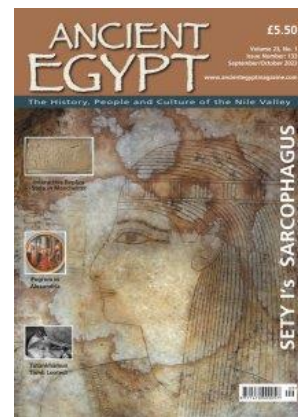
Hilary Wilson

September Quiz Answers

The Egyptian trees are:

- 1: *Cedrus libani* Lebanon cedar
- 2: *Dalbergia melanoxylon* Ebony
- 3: *Ficus sycomorus* Sycomore fig
- 4: *Phoenix dactylifera* Date palm
- 5: *Ziziphus spina-christi* Christ's Thorn
- 6: *Tamarix nilotica* Nile tamarisk

News of Ancient Egypt Magazine



This information was received from Sarah Griffiths, Deputy Editor of AE Mag.

'AE Magazine is moving to a new publishing company. From the next issue (Nov/Dec 22) onwards we will be part of *Current Publishing*, who already include *Minerva*, *Current Archaeology*, etc in their titles. Peter and I are moving across to edit so there are no changes to the team.

An official announcement hasn't been made yet, but I wanted to let you know now, as sadly, we will no longer be able to provide listings for UK society lectures. This is partly because the magazine is going to become more internationally orientated, and partly due to some design changes to bring AE Magazine under the Current Publishing house style.'

This is indeed sad from our point of view as AE Mag has given us a prime advertising platform for many years. We must now look to other advertising possibilities if we are to promote the SAES more widely. **Any ideas or contacts gratefully received.**

Forthcoming Zoom Meetings

Saturday 19 November 2022

13:30 for a start at 14:00 (London time/GMT)

Admission from the virtual waiting room from about 13:45

**'Karnak: The Most Select of Places'
by Ken Griffin**



The complex of Karnak was built and expanded upon over a period of 2000 years, functioning as the religious capital of Egypt for much of that time. Countless pharaohs, from Senwosret I, Amenhotep III, Ramesses II, and Alexander the Great are memorialised on the walls of this monument. This lecture will focus on the history and development of the site, which the Egyptians referred to as "the most select of places".

Dr Ken Griffin is Collections Access Manager of the Egypt Centre, Swansea University. His association with the Egypt Centre first began in 2000 as a volunteer. Over the past two decades, he has been researching the collection, including publishing a number of the objects. Prior to his appointment as the Collections Access Manager, he was a lecturer in Egyptology at Swansea University. He has visited Egypt on over 60 occasions and excavated at sites including the Valley of the



Kings, Abydos, Western Thebes, and Sai Island (Sudan).

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84412000000>

Meeting fees: Member £3; Overseas Member £4; Guest £6

The first of this season's occasional evening meetings will be on:

Thursday 24 November 2022

evening meeting 18:30 for a start at 19:00 (London time/GMT)



'From subscription or conscription: Egyptian artefacts in Aotearoa'

by Joshua Emmitt

Egyptian artefacts are scattered across the world, and Aotearoa New Zealand is no exception. The Auckland War Memorial Museum houses over 1500 Egyptian artefacts dating from the Palaeolithic through to the modern era. These artefacts were obtained through purchases from Cairo Museum, the Egypt Exploration Society, and the British Museum in the early 20th century. In addition, a number of objects were obtained by "solidier collectors" during World Wars I and II. This is not necessarily exceptional given the trends in early twentieth century artefact collecting, however, the existence of such collections

in Aotearoa, reflects not only Ancient Egyptian history but also modern history. In this talk the context both past and present of the collection, the nature of early twentieth century artefact collecting, and the significance of these collections today will be examined.



Dr Joshua Emmitt is a Research Fellow in the Faculty of Arts (Archaeology) at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. His talk focuses on the Egyptian collections which will form the basis of the Aotearoa Museum's upcoming exhibition **'Egypt: In the Time of the Pharaohs'**, June-November 2023.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8125283836?pwd=Z0pce-0rjgrGNA491AQ5qNm9V5oWY0JvSge>

Meeting fee £5 for all participants

For further details or to check your payment status, please contact the **Secretary** saesinfo55@gmail.com

Quick Quiz

Who is this and what is his connection with Egyptology?



Answers in the next edition of Hotep

Questionnaire

With the last Hotep we sent out a questionnaire about the possibility of providing some face-to-face local meetings. The response to this was rather disappointing so we are repeating it here. Please take a few minutes to express your interest and send your responses to the Secretary saesinfo55@gmail.com If we were able to find a venue from which to offer occasional face-to-face meetings, which of these would you prefer?

- Q1:** **A:** weekend **B:** midweek
- Q2:** **A:** afternoon **B:** evening
- Q3:** **A:** social gathering **B:** informal talk
- C:** guest lecturer **D:** workshop/short course
- E:** all of the above
- F:** other (please specify)

If we were able to offer formal talks by guest speakers:

- Q4:** At what level of interest?
- A:** Beginners **B:** General interest/tourist
- C:** Specialist interest/enthusiast
- D:** Academic **E:** All of the above
- F:** other (please specify).....

Q5: What general topic area(s) would you find most attractive? For example: history, architecture, art, hieroglyphs, current archaeology etc. Please list your **top three**.
1:.....2:.....3:.....

Q6: Are there any speakers you would particularly like to hear? Please give names and the speakers' specialist subject areas:
.....
.....



Thank you for your time

