

HOTEP

Issue 45: Oct/Nov 2019

Review of 2018-9 AGM

The business part of the first meeting of the new season was, as usual, extended in the form of an AGM. As well as a review of last year's programme and the Society's financial position there was a useful discussion of how we might reach out to potential new members. For the present we have been able to maintain our subscription rates and meeting fees but we need to consider the possibility of rising costs. For example, by engaging top quality speakers from further afield, we may have to pay higher fees and cover greater travel expenses as well as overnight accommodation.

We were disappointed by the low number of attendees at the July Study Day and asked for possible reasons why this was so. It was suggested that, though the speaker, Aidan Dodson, was well-known through his many TV appearances, his topic, *The Valley of the Kings*, was too generalist. However, as anyone who was there will know, Aidan treated us to some of the latest news and research from the Valley and a particularly interesting overview of the tombs of Seti I and Ramesses III, the subjects of Aidan's latest books. The timing of the Study Day was also questioned but the consensus was that any date will always clash with something, be it Christmas, Easter, summer holidays etc. Dylan Bickerstaffe, → who is giving the Study Day next July, has commented on our low ticket prices and though



The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

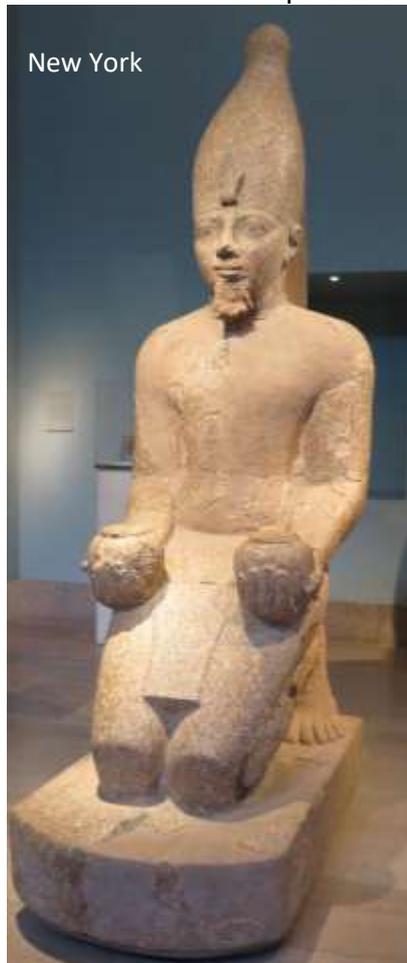
we just about broke even this year, on future occasions we may have to reconsider this factor. It might be necessary to revisit the idea of replacing the Study Day with an ordinary meeting. We also explained the increasingly unaffordable costs and difficulties associated with running trips or holidays.

Annette and Nicola have been working on a membership database which will make keeping attendance records, booking places on occasional events and communication of Society news and business much more efficient. We will be buying an electronic tablet so that members can inspect and verify their details at meetings. This will use the balance of the legacy from Terry Mason, the bulk of which has already been spent on a back-up data projector and its all-important remote control which gives use peace of mind in terms of on-going Oasis technical glitches. Annette and Nicola were presented with a small token of our appreciation for all their hard work.

We asked for any ideas on promoting the Society and advertising our events and for help with this newsletter. Since we relaunched *Hotep* four years ago in its electronic format, expecting to put out an issue every couple of months, we have produced eleven issues a year. But material has been drying up recently and to keep it going we urgently need contributions of articles, reviews, holiday snaps etc. You will notice that this is a combined October-November issue and we intend to reduce output to bi-monthly unless or until we have enough material to make up a decent offering.

The AGM was followed by a talk entitled ***Hatshepsut: Daughter of Amun, Female Horus*** by the Society's Chairman **Hilary Wilson**. The talk was split into two, the first half dealing with Hatshepsut's life before she took the throne and then as female Horus. This early part of the 18th Dynasty is not clearly understood, and Hilary explored some of the issues. Hatshepsut was the daughter Thutmose I who was not the son of his predecessor, Amenhotep I. The assumption is that Thutmose I was related to the royal family but exactly how is not known. He had a reign of probably less than ten years and is known to have campaigned in Nubia and Syria. Some of these military expeditions could have taken place before he assumed the throne and were included in his texts to strengthen his right to rule. Hatshepsut was married to her half-brother Thutmose II who also had a reign of 12 years, but very little is known of his time on the throne. Hilary neatly summarised Hatshepsut's assumption of power, first as regent for the young Thutmose III and then as co-regent. This included the texts and scenes which have survived in which Hatshepsut claims that her father was none other than the state god Amun. Overall this was a very accessible summary of what is known of Hatshepsut and her reign.

Glenn Worthington



Review of October Meeting

Wolfram Grajetzki's talk, **'Looking like a goddess: Jewellery of the Middle Kingdom'** was centred on the 12th-13th Dynasty tombs of royal ladies at the Middle Kingdom pyramid sites of Dashur, Lahun and Hawara. He illustrated some of the masterpieces of the Egyptian jeweller's art leaving us wondering at the delicacy of intricate beadwork and inlay of semi-precious stones in gold. Wolfram also made clear the deficiencies of early archaeological techniques, especially the poor recording by means of plans and drawings. In spite of these problems he was able to show how the jewellery and other artefacts, particularly royal sceptres and regalia which had been associated with kings since the Unification, were part of the rebirth ritual intended to transform the deceased, male or female, into an Osiris. The talk was entertaining as well as informative and, as you can imagine, beautifully illustrated.

September Quiz Answers:



Last time we asked where this↑ picture was taken. In spite of showing the cartouche of Thutmose III, the coloured relief is in **Hatshepsut's Deir el-Bahri temple**. No one claimed the free meeting admission prize which is offered again for the quiz in this issue.

REVIEW OF TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION

On a cold November day, we made our way to the affluent Chelsea area of London and the Saatchi Gallery where the Treasures of Tutankhamun are being displayed from now until May 2020. You are encouraged to buy a timed ticket in advance as there is no guarantee that tickets will be available on the day.



On arrival you queue up with the crowds that

have flocked to see the Treasures that may be inside and at the allotted time you are ushered into the Gallery. Once inside you have your photo taken which will then be available to you in the gift shop on leaving the Exhibition with a variety of Egyptian backgrounds to choose from. Also, at this point, you can purchase an audio guide to the Exhibition should you so wish.

From this area you are shown into a small room with a screen where an overview of Tutankhamun and the discovery of his tomb by Howard Carter is played to really build up the anticipation of what is to come.

Once the short film is over you make your way through to the first gallery where you are confronted with a number of items. The rooms are dark but the artefacts are well lit and you are able to take photographs as long as no flash is used.

Every so often you are confronted with a stunning artefact/statue/piece of jewellery that can really amaze you when looking at the detail of the items quite close up depending on the amount of people in the Gallery. There are some magnificent statues on display with the one of the most impressive being the Guardian of the tomb which stands in all his glory in a room mainly to himself.



In one of the other rooms there is a something that will take your breath away, but I won't ruin the surprise here. There is a fabulous mix of items available for you to view in five different gallery rooms and it gives you a real sense of what amazing craftsmen the Egyptians were and what it must have been like for Howard Carter when he opened the tomb to see those *wonderful things!*

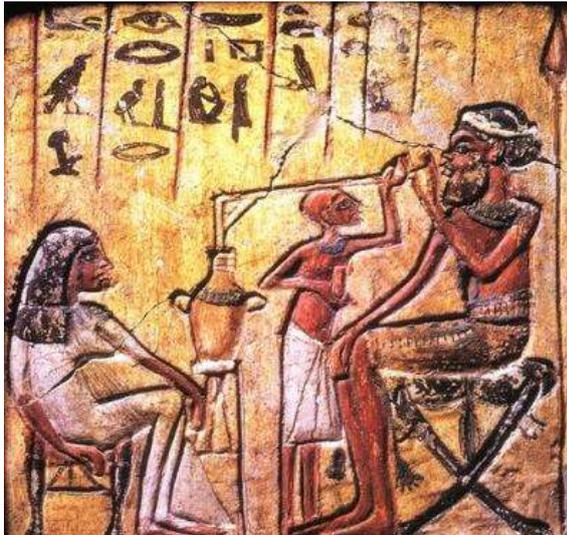
The only downside to the whole exhibition for me was the giftshop as it is very expensive and if not overpriced quite tacky which was a real shame. On the whole though a truly magnificent day out.



Annette Winter

Next Meeting

Saturday 14 December, is our **Christmas Special**. Annette and Anna are reprising their double-act on Egyptian drink under the title '**Another Round**'. This will be followed by a short quiz and general fun and games with Christmas nibbles. As in former years we are happy to offer crafters and home bakers the opportunity to sell their wares for a small donation from the profits to SAES funds.



Upcoming events

Our first meeting of 2020, is on 18 January when **Sarah Griffiths**, Deputy Editor of **Ancient Egypt Magazine**, will be talking about the rise of the Middle Kingdom, particularly the reign of Montuhotep II and the powerful nobles who supported the new Dynasty.

And finally - Quiz Time

In what compass direction are these → boats travelling?

Send you answer to the usual SAES email address saesinfo55@gmail.com by **Friday 17 January**. The winner will be drawn at random from all correct responses and will be given free entry to the January Meeting.



Answers in the next issue of Hotep

