

HOTEP

Issue 9: June 2016

Review of our May meeting

On Saturday 21 May, our own SAES Treasurer **Glenn Worthington** presented a talk entitled '**Piercing the sky: the obelisks of Egypt**'. In the first part he gave us a chronological survey of the known obelisks erected in Egypt. This included some useful reconstruction diagrams of the Karnak and Luxor Temples to show where the obelisks were originally set up and pictures of the current condition of those which remain in Egypt.

In Part 2 Glenn followed the obelisks which were removed from Egypt by the Romans and others, tracing their journeys to the locations where they can now be seen, for instance in Rome, London and Istanbul. He showed how a succession of political and religious leaders, especially Emperors and Popes, had considered the obelisk a suitably grand monument to mark significant events or simply to enhance their own reputation. He concluded by emphasising the persistence of the obelisk's popularity with an image of the Washington Monument. This talk showed how easily this typical Egyptian shape has been adopted, adapted and absorbed into Western culture.



Place de la Concorde, Paris,
with
'The Three Musketeers'
L to R
Steve Wilcox, Peter Funnell,
Glenn Worthington

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

A new magazine hits the news-stand

The second issue of a new bi-monthly magazine dedicated to ancient Egypt came out at the beginning of June. The feature article in the first edition of **Nile Magazine** focussed on the recent speculation about 'hidden chambers' in Tutankhamun's tomb and the possibility of finding Nefertiti's burial there. Another article gives the background to the **Sunken Cities** exhibition at the British Museum which SAES will be visiting in October. Charlotte Booth contributed two items to the same edition, one on pyramids and the other on the legend of Osiris, the theme of our recent short evening course.

Issue 2 returns to the Tutankhamun tomb investigation with a more measured evaluation of the 'evidence' provided by various scans. It also includes two articles on Hatshepsut and another on the restoration of the Avenue of Sphinxes in Luxor. **Nile** magazine has some of the same editorial features as the longer-established **Ancient Egypt Magazine**, and unfortunately comes out at the same time as that periodical. It would have been nice to have the two magazines spaced apart so that we could get our ancient Egyptian 'fix' monthly.

Nile Magazine is a glossy publication with some impressive illustrations but it also has some large empty spaces, wide margins and so on. This might be for artistic design purposes but it rather suggests the magazine is short on text. Let's hope the editorial team can overcome this imbalance because the current impression of this new addition to the ancient Egypt bookshelf is one of style over substance.

Hilary Wilson
Society members can subscribe for the reduced price of £20 for 6 issues. Go to www.nilemagazine.co.uk and enter coupon code NILETIME

NILEMAGAZINE.CO.UK | #2 | JUNE / JULY 2016 £4.90
NILE
DISCOVER ANCIENT EGYPT TODAY



TUTANKHAMUN
The Very Latest



Introducing the 2016-17 Programme

We are pleased to announce the publication of the new SAES programme for the 2016-17 season. Among the speakers for our monthly lecture meetings are some new names, (Tessa Baber, Alan Reiblein, Penny Wilson, Paul Nicholson), as well as some old friends, (Campbell Price, John Wyatt, Paul Collins), all respected scholars in their fields. We start in September with Lee Young talking about the work of the 19th century travellers who produced the first quality records, both drawings and photographs, of ancient Egypt. Please note that this meeting is a week earlier than usual due to a conference having been booked into the Oasis Academy on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Other topics covered by the new programme are mummy pits, the sacred animal necropolises of Saqqara, Egyptian wall paintings, the Delta capital of Sais, Egypt and Assyria, a Middle Kingdom tomb at el-Bersha, and much more. We will be holding a Study Day in July but the details cannot be confirmed until December so watch this space. We hope you will find something to your liking in this selection of talks and that you might discover new interests among the subjects offered.

We plan to continue our occasional series of Informal Evening Meetings and to put on another short (5-week) course on mythology and religion.

We have kept the annual subscription rate at £18 and the meeting fee remains the same at £3 for members, £6 for non-members. Membership can be renewed by contacting the Secretary. Your current subscription covers the September AGM meeting and renewed membership will run from October 2016 to September 2017.

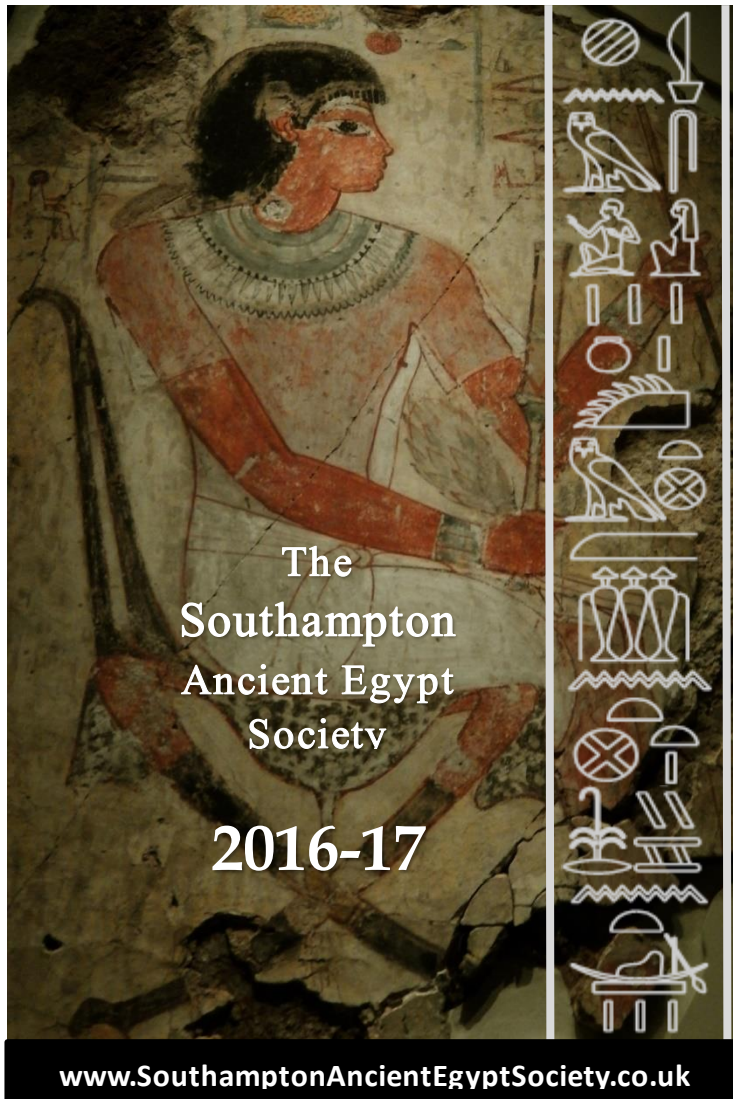
Answers to May's Quiz

1) The oldest obelisk remaining in its original location is that of Senusert I at Heliopolis, now a park in a suburb of Cairo.

2) Giovanni Belzoni was a hydraulic engineer turned collector of antiquities.



3) Jackal-headed Anubis was known as 'He of the place of embalming'.



The
Southampton
Ancient Egypt
Society
2016-17

www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk

Jenny Turner reminds us of the following

Art and Artefacts from Ancient Egypt Course No: C3740370

Course Tutor: John Billman

Come and join the **WEA Southampton** branch for this **free** day school.

Saturday 2 July 2016

10:30am-4:00pm (Admission from 10 am)

**Venue: Highfield House Hotel
119 Highfield Lane,
Portswood,
Southampton, SO17 1AQ**

This event is **Free of Charge** but **preregistration essential as places are limited**. To check availability see:

Online : <http://www.wea.org.uk/courses> or
<https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/2015/CourseInfo.aspx?ActivityID=336104>

Telephone: 02380630483
(Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm)

e-mail enquiries: djamil@wea.org.uk/
k.ramzan@wea.org.uk

'The answer to Tutankhamun's knife riddle is out of this world'
Daily Telegraph 3 June 2016

A team of Italian and Egyptian scientists have analysed the metal of the iron-bladed dagger found on Tutankhamun's mummy in an attempt to explain how it survived without rusting for 3500 years. They have confirmed what has long been suspected, the iron is of meteoric origin. They surveyed 20 meteorites known to have fallen in the region, from the Sahara to Iran, in New Kingdom times. In particular, the Kharga meteorite, which fell near Alexandria but was only found in 2000, was discovered to have similar levels of nickel and cobalt. Iron falling from the sky would have been seen as a gift from the gods and so valued even more highly.

Iron was rarer than gold in ancient Egypt and the Egyptians were unable to make it themselves. They had to rely on meteoric iron or metal imported from nations with more advanced metallurgical skills, such as the Hittites. Tutankhamun's iron dagger blade may have been a gift from a foreign ruler, like the King of Mitanni. It is the largest single piece of iron known from Bronze Age Egypt. The embossed gold sheath, the handle decorated with gold granulation and inlaid semi-precious stones and the rock crystal pommel may have been added by Egyptian craftsmen.

Similar articles have appeared in the quality press showing that the name Tutankhamun and the image of his golden mask are considered to have broad popular appeal. This is confirmed by the column-space devoted to the various theories about how the boy-king died and recent speculation about the 'hidden chambers'. Tutankhamun is still an ad-man's dream.



Sad News

We received news of the unexpected death of SAES Member Pat Clancy. Since Pat joined the Society in 2013 she had been a regular attendee at lecture meetings, informal Members' Meetings and evening classes. She missed the last meeting of 'The Osiris Story' and now we know why. We have passed on our condolences to her family and we await details of the funeral arrangements.

Upcoming Events

There is still time to book for our annual

Study Day on Saturday 16 July
9:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.

The Temples of Thebes

is presented by renowned Egyptologist

Dr Aidan Dodson

This informative and beautifully illustrated series of talks covers the major temples on both sides of the Nile at Thebes from Luxor to Medinet Habu. The cost of this study day includes coffee/tea in the morning and afternoon breaks. Please make your own lunch arrangements.

The fee for the day is £20 for Members of SAES or £25 for non-members. To book/pay for your ticket please speak to the Secretary.



The Ramessesum

And finally.....**Quiz time.**

1) **WHO** is reputed to have designed the **Step Pyramid** for King Djoser?



2) **WHERE** in London can you see the alabaster sarcophagus of **Seti I**?

3) **WHEN** did the famous touring **Tutankhamun** exhibition come to London?

Answers in the next issue of **Hotep.**

