

HOTEP

the Newsletter of

Issue 1 October 2015

The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

WELCOME to the first issue of our e-mail newsletter. The title **Hotep** was used for the publication produced annually for the first few years of SAES. In the ancient Egyptian language *hotep* means 'to satisfy or please' as well as 'offering' and we hope that our first offering in the electronic format will please our members.

With your help, we would like to be able to issue a similar newsletter every couple of months. If any member would like to share travel stories, news of exhibitions, reviews of lectures or other Egyptological experiences with the Society, please send material, preferably in Word document format, to the Secretary at the usual SAES e-mail address.

info@southamptonancientegyptsociety.co.uk

Review of our September meeting

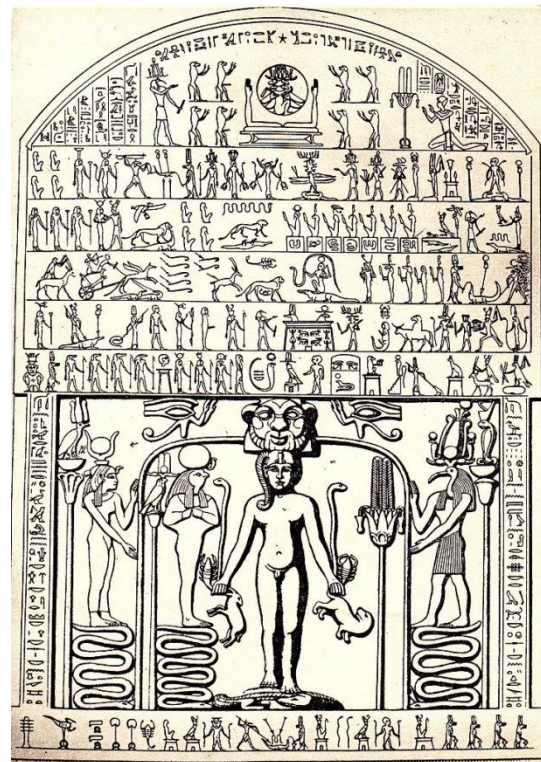
On Saturday 19 September we welcomed **Dr Joanna Kyffin** from the Egypt Exploration Society. Her talk on '*Reading Egyptian Magical Spells as Poetry*' derived from her interest in the Egyptian language, particularly magical texts, which were the focus of her PhD at the University of Liverpool. Jo explained how big a part was played by magic in everyday Egyptian life, whether in providing amuletic protection or as an essential part of the medical treatment prescribed by physicians. The rhyming, rhythmic or metrical nature of incantations cannot often be inferred from the written texts. However, Jo showed that there was a strong element of performance in the recitation of such 'spells' suggesting that musical or percussion accompaniment may have been a necessary part of the ritual.

Jo introduced us to the Metternich Stela, a Late Period stela of the sort known as a cippus, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The carved greywacke stela shows the figure of the child Horus standing on crocodiles while grasping various other dangerous creatures. The magical texts on the stela suggest how the cippus was used to invoke the blessing of Horus in preventing such evils as snake bite or scorpion sting.

If you would like to find out more about the Metternich Stela you can look at the following websites.

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/546037>

www.metmuseum.org/pubs/bulletins/1/pdf/3258024.pdf.bannered.pdf

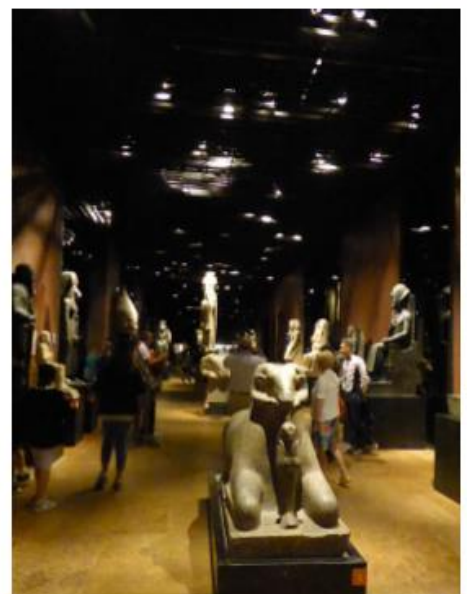
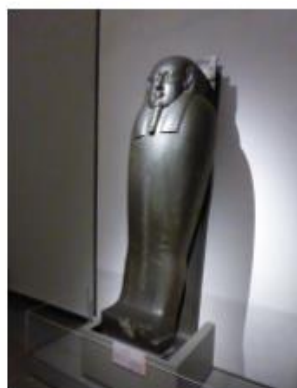


Member **Susanne Cooke** has contributed the following pictorial memory of her trip to the Egyptian Museum in Turin earlier this year.

THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM AT TURIN

is the largest outside Cairo and was fortunately open on a Monday morning (unlike every other museum). It was an absolute delight, beautifully designed and arranged, with clear labelling in Italian, English and Arabic, and there was great atmosphere, particularly in the statuary hall.

Exhibits are organised in chronological periods with fascinating artefacts from pre-historic to Coptic eras, accounts of discoveries at Gebelein, and the battle to bring Drovetti's collection to Italy. Disappointingly, no guide book in English (due at end of month).



Thank you, Susanne, for this tantalising glimpse of the recently refurbished Turin Museum.

Hilary Wilson spotted this recent news item: *The Daily Telegraph*

Wednesday 23 September 2015 p18

Radar search for tomb of Queen Nefertiti

Egypt will allow radar to be used to test a theory that Queen Nefertiti's crypt may be hidden in King Tutankhamun's tomb, an official has said. Archaeologist Nicholas Reeves believes the remains of Tutankhamen, who died 3,000 years ago aged 19 and may have been her son, may have been rushed into an outer chamber of what was originally Nefertiti's tomb in Luxor. The location of Nefertiti's remains is unknown. Final security clearance for the test would probably be obtained within a month, the antiquities ministry said.

See also <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-34410720>

Latest news suggests that the scan will be carried out soon with the intention of making a public announcement at the beginning of November.

Member David Goldsmith has sent us this contribution:

Here are some pieces I have found from various groups in Facebook that I am a member of. I hope some of this might be useful. I have included the various links below referring to current events etc.

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/147582.aspx>

<http://www.drhawass.com/wp/>

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics/events/deptseminars/06oct2015-east-african-lexical-material-in-ancient-egyptian-the-earliest-documented-languages-of-the.html>

<https://egyptmanchester.wordpress.com/2015/09/29/dayschool-241015-egypt-7000-years-of-history-in-a-day/>

<https://www.facebook.com/185391424891368/photos/a.185828818180962.37761.185391424891368/834191753344662/?type=3&theatre>

David Goldsmith will be our speaker at the December meeting when his subject will be 'The Beauty of the Egyptian Harp: Forgotten Melodies'.

More news from Egypt:

Dr Zahi Hawass, formerly Minister of State for Antiquities, has recently admitted that the extensive work carried out by US researchers Angela Micol and Sarah Parack has 'some significant relevance'. Shunning the Indiana Jones image of maps & shovels, they embarked upon the use of satellite imagery, ground penetrating RADAR, CT scans and robotic drones, revealing thousands of previously unknown sites of human settlement, presently buried by a layer of sand or superimposed buildings. The images are now held under lock and key, to prevent them being used by 'unauthorised persons'.

Avril Poppitt

Up-coming events

Saturday 21 November: In 'Game Theory and the study of ancient Egyptian interconnections' **Dr Marsia Bealby** uses case studies of the Egyptian/Aegean relations (1900-1400 BC) & the Amarna Letters to demonstrate how Game Theory can be applied to the examination of archaeological finds & written sources.

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

WHO AM I ?

- a) I have several important official positions including 'Chief of the royal wardrobe'.
- b) My wife is called Senetites .
- c) My tomb was made especially to fit me.

WHAT ARE WE ?

- a) We are known as the 'Sons of Horus'
- b) We are found beneath the funeral bier or travelling on a sled in the funeral procession.
- c) We can be made of stone, pottery, wood or even precious metals.

WHERE AM I NOW?



Answers on a postcard – **No! No!**

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

Don't forget that hardcopy contributions to **Hotep** may be handed to the editor, **Avril Poppitt**, or any member of the Committee.

