



HOTEP

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The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Review of the September Meeting

After the business of the AGM **Lee Young** opened our nineteenth season with her talk ***The Lure of the East: Artists and epigraphers in Egypt.*** Lee is an independent researcher currently working in the Griffith Institute Archive of the University of Oxford. Her particular interest is the artists, especially the British artists of the 19th and early 20th century, who recorded the landscape, ancient sites and everyday life of Egypt. She grouped them into three categories the first being those like John Gardener Wilkinson, who copied inscriptions and reliefs, with varying degrees of accuracy. Despite their deficiencies sometimes these drawings are the only surviving record of a site which has since been damaged beyond repair.

The second group were the scenic artists such as David Roberts and Edward Lear whose paintings, though occasionally idealised and prone to artistic license, were like tourist photos recalling the highlights of their travels. Their pictures encouraged others to travel to Egypt to see the wonders of that country for themselves as part of the Grand Tour.



Grand Entrance, Luxor by David Roberts. Avril Poppitt donated a framed print of this picture for the raffle.



Egyptian Family in an Oasis Village by Myrtle Broome (Bushey Museum and Art Gallery)

The last group were the Orientalists who took inspiration from the architecture, interior design and costumes of contemporary Egypt. Their studio pictures, combined with diaries and letters recording their experiences, show a romanticised view of life in Ottoman Egypt. Among this group were several female artists including Myrtle Broome, whose letters Lee is transcribing.

As to be expected, Lee's talk was lavishly illustrated, a veritable feast for the eye. For a virtual gallery tour of David Roberts' work see: <http://www.museum-tours.com/museum/roberts/roberts0.htm>

Answers to September's Quiz

1) Most temples were aligned **East-West**. There are exceptions, the most obvious being Luxor Temple which is aligned North-South.

2) **Chicago House** in Luxor is the home of the **Epigraphic Survey** of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The mission of the Survey, founded in 1924, is to produce and publish photographs and precise line drawings of the inscriptions and relief scenes on major temples and tombs at Luxor.



3) The seated statue of Hatshepsut shown as a female monarch is in the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in **Leiden**.

Susanne Cooke reports on her visit to Liverpool



This rather wonderful object is described simply as 'Cartonnage Hippocampus (seahorse), unprovenanced Ptolemaic period'. I found it in the Garstang Museum (at the archaeological department of Liverpool University), a place I'd never heard of until I did the new on-line course last autumn on Superpowers of the Ancient World.



Yet this museum is so important nationally and internationally that it lends its exhibits to places such as the Louvre and the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is small but utterly charming and has well-displayed collections from Egypt and Meroe amongst other excavated objects from the career of Professor John Garstang. He was an accomplished archaeologist who worked with Flinders Petrie, established the department of archaeology at Liverpool, and published widely. His collection includes finds from Britain and the Aegean.



The biggest disappointment for me is that there is no material about the content available to take away in the form of leaflets, books or even a significantly informative website. What's more, the museum is only open once a week, on Wednesdays.



As I was browsing (the sole visitor) and nearing the end of my visit, I heard a voice and recognised the tall man from the course videos (lead presenter Glenn Godenho?), but he had a visitor and was interestingly discussing websites, so I decided not to interrupt!



Below are Campbell Price (L) and Glenn Godenho (R), joint educators on the MOOC mentioned by Susanne, in the Garstang Museum store. Campbell will be visiting SAES in May 2017.



**Hilary Wilson asks
Whatever happened to Zahi Hawass?**



Since all the political upheaval in Egypt following the Arab Spring in 2013, there have been many changes in the world of Egyptian archaeology. Zahi Hawass, one-time Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Antiquities and self-styled Indiana Jones of Egyptology, has faded from the headlines. At one time it seemed that Hawass had to be the first to announce and claim credit for every new discovery in Egypt. His was, and to an extent still is, the recognisable face of Egyptology in the popular media. Many people have asked me what happened to him after the fall of the Mubarak regime.

A quick internet search reveals that, apart from writing, he has become a sort of travelling ambassador for Egypt's Ministry of Tourism, giving lectures, attending book launches and opening exhibitions. Though he no longer holds any official post in the sphere of Egyptian archaeology, he is often called upon by the international press to comment on matters like the relocation of Tutankhamun's treasures to a new museum at Giza and the search for hidden chambers in the boy-king's tomb. Recently he opened the touring exhibition *'Tutankhamun, his Tomb and his Treasures'* in Perth, Australia.



Hawass has also been promoting the book *'Scanning the Pharaohs: CT imaging of the New Kingdom Royal Mummies'*, written with Sahar Saleem, Professor of Radiology at Cairo University. With 300+ illustrations this volume is described by Salima Ikram as *'a must-have for all Egyptophiles and mummy aficionados'* and is available from Amazon for £36.

I doubt that we have heard the last of Zahi Hawass in spite of his enforced retreat from the Egyptological limelight.

Reminder

If you are going on the trip to the **British Museum** on Saturday 22 October with the intention of seeing the **'Sunken Cities'** exhibition, please remember when booking in advance that **your ticket should be timed no earlier than 11 a.m.** The coach will leave from the Oasis carpark entrance on Redbridge Lane at 8:30 am and will leave the BM for the return journey at 4:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Saturday 19 November

Tessa Baber, PhD student at Cardiff University, will talk about *The Mummy Pits of Ancient Egypt*. This talk presents the results of an ongoing research project into the nature of the mass burials known as mummy pits which were identified by travellers as early as the 16th Century. She considers whether they may provide evidence for a now long-forgotten burial custom used by the poor in the latest periods of ancient Egyptian history.

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

1) What is the name given to the type of Nile boat here seen sailing near Aswan?



2) Where in Middle Egypt can you see the tomb of the Nomarch **Khnumhotep II**?

3) Which king built the tomb now known as the **Black Pyramid** at **Dahshur**?

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

