



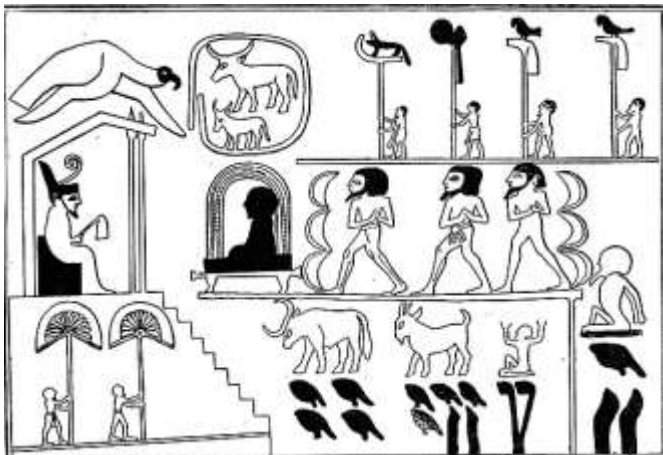
# HOTEP

Issue 59: May-June 2021

## Review of May meeting

May's lecture was given by Liam McNamara on **'Exploring the Dynastic Town and Temple at Hierakonpolis.'** Liam is the Lisa and Bernard Selz Curator for Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the Ashmolean Museum and Director of the Griffith Institute at the University of Oxford. He is also the Assistant Director of the Ashmolean's Expedition to Hierakonpolis and Elkab, and his experience with this expedition was the focus of his talk.

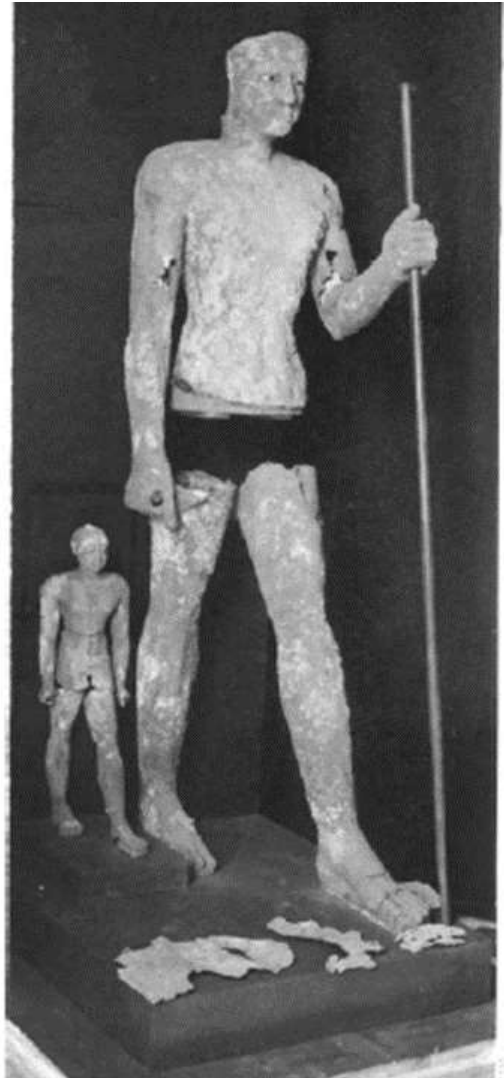
Liam began by showing a map of the site which is to the north of Edfu and on the west bank of the Nile. The ancient Egyptian name for the site was Nekhen and on the opposite bank is Elkab. The first major excavations on the town site were undertaken by Frederick Green and James Quibell, between 1897-9. It was during this excavation that the Main Deposit was discovered. This assemblage of ritual and votive objects, which included the Narmer palette, was referred to by Green as 'Holy Rubbish'.



A large, stepped revetment was uncovered on the temple site little of which survives today, and it is unclear what it represented. Liam proposed in a 2008 paper that it may have been a platform on which the king appeared. Like the image on the Narmer Mace Head (above) which was one of the objects found in main deposit.

## The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Other well-known objects found at the temple site were the large and small copper statues from the sixth dynasty. The larger one is inscribed for Pepi I but the smaller, which was found inside the torso of the larger, is not. It has generally been thought to be the son of Pepi I, Merenre. However, Liam said that the pair is now thought to be related to the Pepi I's Heb Sed, with the smaller one representing the reborn king.



The large and small copper statues found in the temple at Hierakonpolis. From Hierakonpolis II JE Quibell and FW Green 1902.

Perhaps the most striking object is the head of the Horus of Nekhen made of gold, which may be to date the only cult image of a god found in Egypt.

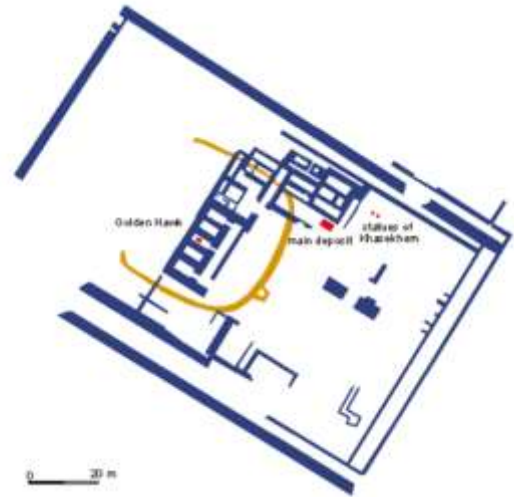


Horus of Nekhen (Golden Hawk on the temple plan) Internet photo

Liam and his team have been re-evaluating the temple site to discover how it developed over time. They have identified the remains of a pylon dating to the joint reign of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III, and the question they want to answer is, was this a replacement for an earlier temple dating to the Middle Kingdom?

In the seasons before work was halted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the team had rediscovered a *stela* of Pepi that had been left by the original excavators because it was too heavy to remove. When the stela was uncovered, it was found to be suffering from an encrustation of salt because the water table at the site is not far below the surface and the salinity of the groundwater has been drastically increased by local irrigation projects.

Once cleaned up, the stela turned out to be a door jamb and clearly inscribed



Plan of the temple area at Hierakonpolis  
The revetment is the yellow oval at the centre of the temple. Image from Digital Egypt for Universities UCL

with the name of Pepi. For the time being the stone slab, which weighs some 4.5 tons, has been reburied until a more satisfactory long-term solution can be found. It has not simply been covered up like before but has been wrapped in cloth and packed with sand to protect it.

Liam is hoping to be able to return to the site later in the year and resume the team's work there.

**Glenn Worthington**

### April Quiz Answers

#### Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes...

**Head:** Akhenaten – colossal statue head from one of the Aten temples at Karnak.

**Shoulders:** Taharqa – statue found in Southampton, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

**Knees: Amenhotep III** – one of the Colossi of Memnon at the king's Mortuary Temple, Kom el-Hetan.

**Toes: Ramesses II** – seated statue from the first court of Luxor Temple.

**Eyes, Ears, Mouth, Nose: Hatshepsut** – one of the Osiride statues on the upper terrace at the Deir el-Bahri Temple.

## Announcing our July Event

### ROYAL LADIES of the NEW KINGDOM

#### A Study Day in Two Parts

with Dylan Bickerstaffe

#### Sat 24 July and Sat 21 August 2021

Each Zoom session opens 12:30 London time (GMT+1). Participants will be admitted from the waiting room from 12:45 for a start at 13:00. Each afternoon will be divided between three talks with breaks and should finish by 18:00

The fees for these two sessions are:

For one date:

Member £ 8; Overseas Member £ 10;  
Non-Member £ 12

For both dates:

Member £ 15; Overseas Member £16;  
Non-Member £20

**Separate registrations will be required for each session.**

Registration links will be made available from **26 June 2021**

**Registration will reserve a place but the joining link will only be sent once payment is confirmed.**

For enquiries or payment information please contact the Secretary:

[saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com)

Payments may be made by Bank transfer (details on the website) or by Paypal to: [treasurer.saes@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.saes@gmail.com)

**An outline programme for the two sessions is given here.**

**Detailed timings will be given when registration is opened on 26 June.**

## Part 1: Saturday 24 July

### 1: WHEN LADIES WERE LORDS: Queens of Liberation and Foundation.

Great Queens were at the forefront as the Theban Dynasty fought to throw off the shackles of Hyksos oppression and the ever-present threat of Nubian invasion to establish the glorious New Kingdom era.



Queen Ahmose-Nefertari, Berlin

### 2: WHEN QUEENS WERE KINGS: Hatshepsut – A Reign of Innovation.

Virtually everything about Hatshepsut – the queen who declared herself king – is unique, not least her relationship with the god, Amun. Attention tends to focus on the damage inflicted on her monuments some while after her death, but she was not above rewriting history to



Hatshepsut, Leiden

suit herself either. In fact, many of the innovations introduced during Hatshepsut's reign were continued by her successors.

### 3: VERY GREAT ROYAL LADIES

Towards the end of the brilliant 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, first Queen Tiye and then Queen Nefertiti were depicted on the same scale as their husbands – often in wholly unprecedented scenes of intimacy. Evidence seems to show that Nefertiti rose still further, to become King Neferneferuaten. What happened to the burials of Queen Tiye and Nefertiti? What do we know of the Other Queens – Kiya, Meritaten, Ankhesenamun?



Queen Tiye, Berlin

## Part 2: Saturday 21 August

### 4: FOR WHOM THE SUN DOTH SHINE – Nefertari Beloved of Mut



Nefertari, the Great Royal Wife of King Ramesses II has left us a fabulous rock-cut temple, and the most beautiful of tombs. She appears in countless statues and reliefs. However, she lived only to about the half-way point in his reign, so why did the mighty Ramesses honour her so greatly? And why do we never see the other Great Royal Wife, Isetnofret?

Queen Nefertari, Luxor

### 5: THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HAREM – Drudgery or Debauchery? and Home to Conspiracy...

Information recovered from the site at Gurob has produced a view of harem life that more closely resembles an industrial workhouse than a pleasure palace. We have been told to cast aside our visions of nubile lovelies, belly-dancing in scented rooms – because these are fantasies based on the Ottoman harems, and nothing like ancient Egypt. This raises some rather interesting questions – what *was* an Ottoman harem like; and, apart from Gurob, what *other* evidence do we have for the character of harems in ancient Egypt? What can the numerous  
HAREM  
CONSPIRACIES  
tell us – not  
least the well-  
documented  
attack on  
Ramesses III?



Unnamed Queen of  
Ramesses III, Medinet Habu

### 6: THE LAST QUEENS OF THE KINGDOM

The little-known last ruler of the 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty was a woman: King Twosret. When the New Kingdom collapsed at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, Thebes was again a separate state ruled by a line of High Priests and God's Wives. Once again much rested in the hands of powerful ladies.



God's Wife of Amun,  
Shepenwepet, Medinet Habu

### Future Plans

As we still have no indication of when we may be able to return to the Oasis Academy, Lordshill, and no idea of what restrictions might be placed on our meetings when we do, we have had to plan for another Zoom programme for the 2021-22 season. We have an excellent group of speakers already booked – some old friends and some new faces. We very much hope that it will be possible, eventually, to return to face-to-face meetings which will also be presented live via Zoom for participants who are unable to attend in person. We will be announcing further details of the programme at the Study Day sessions and will continue to include the information in Hotep. We hope that Members will want to share their thoughts on what we have done over the last year and our future plans at the Zoom AGM which will be in September 2021 – date to be confirmed. Registration will be required for this free meeting.

## Reminder of our next Zoom lecture Sat 19 June 2021

Waiting room open from 13:30 (London  
Time GMT+1)

Admission from 13:45 for a start at  
14:00

### ***'Circulating Artefacts: An online platform against the looting and sale of illicit antiquities'***

by **Marcel Marée**

'Circulating Artefacts' (CircArt) is a key initiative against the looting and trafficking of antiquities from unauthorised excavations, launched by the British Museum in 2018, with support from the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund. A dedicated team of experts has built a system for the reporting, documentation and study of artefacts on the art market so that objects can be examined for possible signs of illicit provenance. The focus has been on cultural property from Egypt and Sudan, but ways in which the platform might evolve to enable expansion into other regions are being studied. CircArt enables the detection and recovery of looted artefacts that would otherwise go unrecognised. The platform rests on a restricted, ever-growing 'knowledge base' of antiquities that are, or have been, in circulation. All reported and spotted artefacts should be assessed, not only on the basis of information provided but also on evidence contained in the objects themselves.

The work involves widespread engagement from law enforcement, legal experts, academics and heritage professionals, as well as a growing number of actors in the trade itself. CircArt has supported and trained heritage staff in the countries of origin, helping them monitor the art market and to identify archaeological sites most at risk. At least 15% of the antiquities recorded thus far derive demonstrably from unauthorised excavations. Among the current evidence are more than 1200 videos

and images posted on social media by looters and traffickers. CircArt has helped to stop the sale of many such objects, enabling their repatriation and prompting major police investigations. The CircArt platform is a tool for colleagues, collectors, sellers, police and members of the public to make the art market a cleaner, more accountable place.

Marcel Marée trained as an Egyptologist at Leiden University and has been Assistant Keeper at the Department of Ancient Egypt & Sudan in the British Museum since 2000. For many years he was Deputy Director of the BM's archaeological fieldwork in rock tombs at Edfu and Elkab in Upper Egypt, focusing on tombs from the 17th–16th centuries BC. He currently works with the Swiss Archaeological Institute in Aswan on newly discovered rock inscriptions.

**Registration for this meeting using  
the link below.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcOmhrzopHNEq3GIBJdC35qiLa7pb6izD>

**Registrations will be approved on  
receipt of payment.**

Members: £3. Overseas Members: £4.  
Guests: £6.

For payments & enquiries contact the  
Secretary [saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com)

**The meeting joining link will only be  
released once payment is confirmed.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting, which is unique to your individual email address and should not be shared with anyone else.

### **June Quiz**

**What and where is this  
statue?**

Answers in the next edition of  
Hotep

