

# HOTEPE

Issue 85:  
October 2024

**Report on AGM 2024**  
**Thursday 19 September 19:00**

## **Chair's Report 2023-24**

Once again it seems impossible that another year has passed in the life of the Southampton Ancient Egypt Society. We have now been going for twenty-six years, which is pretty amazing considering the difficulties everyone has been experiencing, over the last few years in particular. When Covid put a stop to our activities I can't have been the only one to think that we might never meet again to share our passion for Ancient Egypt, but then Zoom came to the rescue. Getting to grips with the requisite technology was a challenge at first but with familiarity comes confidence and I am extremely proud of those of our Members who have overcome their initial apprehension of engaging with live, online presentations. Although we miss the personal interaction and the social aspects of our face-to-face meetings, we have to admit that Zoom has provided us with opportunities to hear speakers we could not previously have afforded, especially those based outside the UK, at the same time as reaching out to an international audience. We have regular attendees from all parts of the British Isles, North America, Europe and even Korea, some of whom have become Members. Many, and I am one such, have become Members of several societies, expanding our opportunities for hearing prestigious speakers on a wide range of topics. I encounter many SAES Members in weekend meetings of different societies, all from the comfort of my own computer chair. Nonetheless, we are conscious that not all our pre-Covid Members are comfortable with the Zoom technology and the distance it necessarily creates between participants.

## The newsletter of The **Southampton Ancient Egypt Society**

We have been anxious to reintroduce in-person meetings, on an ad hoc basis, and have now held several of what we call our 'Local Meetings' at Itchen College in Southampton. In the past it has always been the case that moving to a new venue led to a drop in audience numbers, but the change of venue was necessary because Oasis Academy at Lordshill could no longer provide us with the facilities we required. We considered the option of taking the hybrid route, having a combination of virtual and on-site audience, but venues offering reliable facilities for such events in our area are few and generally much more expensive than our audience size would justify. In conversations with the organisers of other groups like ours, it is clear that we are not the only ones to experience these problems and, like our neighbours at TVAES, we decided to adopt the either-or structure, with monthly Zoom meetings and occasional Local meetings when we can find suitable speakers.

At our Local meetings we have been very happy to welcome back some loyal supporters who, for a variety of reasons, have not felt able to engage with Zoom. In July, as part of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, we enjoyed a fantastic talk from Chris Naunton, on *'Egypt's Silver Pharaohs: the royal tombs of Tanis'*. This was offered free to Members and past Members as a gift to ourselves, and we were really pleased to welcome back several people whom we had not seen for years, literally. It was a highly enjoyable afternoon and Chris was on great form. I only wish we had been able to reach more people, but we clashed with a veritable tsunami of sporting events and several people who had booked had to drop out at the last minute.

At the end of last year, Anna Welch announced her decision to step back from her role as Programme Secretary, having served in that position for more than half the life of the Society. Now splitting her time between her homes in Cumbria and Southampton, Anna was happily able to join us at Itchen College for Chris Naunton's talk. There we gave her a gift which was wholly inadequate recompense for the years of aggravation, frustration and perseverance which are the lot of Programme Secretaries everywhere.

My personal highlights of the 2023-24 programme, the last which Anna compiled for us, were Peter J Brand's talk on Abu Simbel, Juan Carlos Moreno Garcia's talk on the significance of silver in the Egyptian economy, and Roland Enmarch's examination of the Victorians practice of the public unwrapping of mummies as a form of entertainment. Jen Turner's talk on the Karnak Cachette, in our occasional evening programme, was also a delight and we have booked her to give a Saturday Zoom talk in June next year. One disappointment was the cancellation of the rescheduled Study Days on the latest work at Gebel el-Silsila. As you will see from the financial statement that Glenn has presented for the AGM, after arranging for the requested refunds of fees we were still able to make a donation to the Friends of Silsila, albeit smaller than expected.

### **Treasurer's Report 2023-24**

The financial statement was circulated to all Members prior to the AGM. At present we are well-placed to be able to hold our subscription and meeting fees at the rates established just after Covid, and we have enhanced our standard speaker's fee. You will also see that putting on a face-to-face meeting, with speaker's fee and expenses, refreshments and venue hire to consider, is a lot more expensive than a Zoom meeting. The smaller audiences for these events mean that most of our Local meetings have run at a loss, but we have the reserves, and we hope you consider it is worthwhile continuing with these meetings and supporting them when you can.

The end-of-year balance includes amounts allocated for donations to Egyptological causes agreed at last year's AGM since not all those plans have been carried out for several reasons. Firstly, we agree to pay for three offering tables in the Amarna Trust's restoration of the Great Aten Temple. We hope that these will include time capsules which commemorate deceased members of the Society and we asked for suggestions as to names that should be included. Since this idea was mooted, we have suffered the loss of three more founder SAES Members, Alan Fisk, Mike Cox and Roger Pilling, but we have had no other response to our appeal. The sudden death of Barry Kemp has put the whole project on hold as, despite having worked there for nearly fifty years, as of September the Amarna expedition had not yet been granted the necessary permissions for this season, so we have been asked to hold back our donation for now.

Secondly, the donation allocated to AERA, formerly known as the Giza Mapping Project, will be added to the money raised by October's fundraiser which has been jointly arranged with TVAES. Registration and payment is through the TVAES page of Ticketsource, an online booking platform. For those who are unfamiliar with Ticketsource, the process is straightforward and reasonably painless. If you are a Member of both TVAES and SAES, please remember that there is no need to register for both. Fees received will be included in the overall donation to AERA but, since the £5 Member's fee will be reduced by the Ticketsource booking charge, we will make up that loss for SAES Member's from funds. If you wish to make a further donation you can do so through Ticketsource, though that too will attract a charge, or you can pay directly to SAES through the usual methods. Please remember that Paypal payments are also subject to a transaction charge.

### **Membership and Fees**

We have to thank David Marriott for keeping the website ticking over as this is the most important way in which we reach out to potential new Members. Every month, Emily sends out notices advertising up-coming

meetings, with the details of registration and fees. Mostly the process runs smoothly but the occasional hiccups and queries regarding payment are fielded by Annette, who also deals with new Membership enquiries. Membership subscriptions are now due for renewal and remain at £10 for UK and £12 for Overseas Members. There is still the option to pay for ten regular Saturday Zoom meetings in advance at an additional £30 for UK and £40 Overseas. Renewing Members can claim the gift of a desk calendar which is preloaded with the 2024-25 Programme – please ask the Secretary for details.

### **Programme 2024-25**

In the lack of anyone coming forward to take on Anna's job, it has fallen to me to pull together the programme of talks for this season. An outline of the full programme is available on the website and details will be published in Hotep and through our regular mailings as usual. I hope you will look forward to these talks with eager anticipation.

### **Committee and Appeal for Help**

The three elected officials of the Society – Chair, Treasurer and Secretary – have all had exceptional health and family issues during this last year. Despite appeals through Hotep and at meetings, no one has come forward to volunteer their services in relieving the Committee's workload. We have had to reduce the frequency of our e-newsletter Hotep which, in the past, has been a very useful way of communicating our programme of events to Members but which takes a lot of time and effort to produce. We would be very grateful for a volunteer(s) to take on the role of Hotep Editor. Programme Secretary is the most pivotal role without which there would be no programme of lectures so filling this committee position would be our priority. We are always grateful for ideas for speakers you have heard or would like to hear again, and potential topics for talks, and if you also have contact details for a particular speaker or are willing to make the

first approach yourself, please consider joining the Committee.

### **Hotep e-newsletter**

As previously explained, the production of Hotep takes more time than we have available between us to continue monthly editions. The supply of articles offered by Members has dried up almost entirely and reviews of meetings, which I know are enjoyed by those of our Members who cannot access the real thing, or have missed talks for various reasons, continue to fall to the same overworked members of the Committee. Even if it is just the odd meeting review, or a report on an exhibition or museum you have visited, or a book/article you have read, please consider submitting material so that Hotep can survive. Hotep needs you!

**There being no other business, the  
AGM closed at 19:55**

### **Review of the meeting on Saturday 21 September 2024**

**Dr Katherine Slinger** is a Lecturer with the University of Manchester's on-line Egyptology courses who has a particular interest in the private tombs of the New Kingdom. Her talk, '***A Beautiful Death: New Kingdom Theban Tomb Decoration and Design***', reviewed developments in decorative themes and the placement of certain scenes within non-royal Theban tombs. By comparing tombs from the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty with others from the Ramesside era, Kath showed how the so-called 'scenes of everyday life' became less



prominent and more symbolic, giving way to significantly more ritualistic and religious images. The fishing and fowling scene, pictures of agricultural activities marking the seasons, and household tasks such as bread-making and brewing, were stylised to represent the triumph of order over chaos, *maat* over *isfet*. Emphasis was placed on the rituals associated with the tomb owner's journey to the afterlife; the presentation of offerings, the Opening of the Mouth and the Weighing of the Heart.



Images of the gods began to appear in private tombs, in particular Osiris, Horus, Anubis and Sokar, as well as the deified royal figures of Amenhotep I and his mother Ahmose-Nefertari. Depiction of the symbolic pilgrimage to Osiris' shrine at Abydos enabled the deceased to complete this religious journey even in death.

Kath described the evolution in design as a democratisation of funerary beliefs which had been previously reserved for depiction in royal tombs. She explained the significance of the changes in relation to the Amarna Period and the return to 'orthodoxy' after Akhenaten's redefinition of the role of the gods. This was a well-illustrated and thoughtful discussion of a fascinating topic.

**Hilary Wilson**

**Our next Zoom Meeting is a fundraising event, arranged jointly with our neighbours at Thames Valley AE Soc. This fundraising event is outside the main programme.**

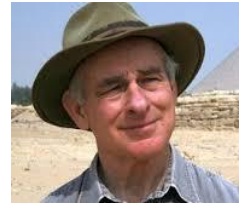
**Fees:**

**SAES/TVAES Member £5; Guest £8.**

**Saturday 19 October 2024  
(13.30 for a start at 14.00)**

**'The Archaeology of the Sphinx'**

**by Mark Lehner**



Before the launch of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Sphinx Project in 1979, no scale drawings of the Sphinx had ever been made. Directed by Dr James Allen with Dr Mark Lehner as field director, this project produced the first detailed scale plans of the Sphinx—a master plan, top plans, elevations, sections, and profiles. It also mapped masonry repairs, the adjacent temples, the Sphinx amphitheatre, and the structural geology of the site. This stone-by-stone mapping of the Sphinx, Sphinx Temple, and the adjacent Khafre Valley Temple helps us answer questions such as **Who Built the Sphinx?**



**Booking for this event is through Ticketsource.**

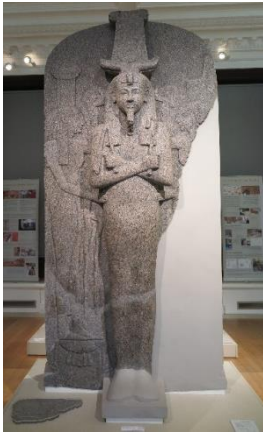
Link <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tvaes> will take you to the TVAES events page. Choose **The Archaeology of the Sphinx** meeting. You will need to input the SAES passcode **LEHNERSAES** to book your ticket at the Members' rate of £5. You will be asked to confirm your contact details before payment which may be made by PayPal, credit or debit card. The meeting joining link will be included in the email confirming your booking. If you wish to make an additional donation to AERA please contact the Secretary at [saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com)



**Here are some more details of the two SAES Local Meetings at Itchen College listed above. It is hoped that another F2F meeting will be arranged for October 2025  
Local Meeting opens at:  
13.30 for a start at 14.00**

**Access details for Itchen College can be found on the SAES website. The current building work should be finished by the time of our next F2F meeting so that parking and pedestrian access will be from Whites Road.**

**Saturday 1 March 2025**



**'Rameses III, King of Egypt'**

**by Aidan Dodson**

Rameses III - often dubbed the "last great pharaoh"-lived and ruled during the first half of the twelfth century BC, a tumultuous time that saw the almost complete overthrow of

established order in the eastern Mediterranean, and among Rameses's achievements was the preservation of Egypt as a nation-state in the face of external assault. However, his reign also saw economic challenges and increasing dissatisfaction, which culminated in the king's own assassination.

**Aidan Dodson** is honorary Professor of Egyptology at the University of Bristol, where he has taught since 1996. A graduate of Liverpool and Cambridge Universities, he was awarded his PhD in 1995 and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2003. He was Chairman of the Egypt Exploration Society from 2011 to 2016, and is the author of some thirty books, including *Rameses III, King of Egypt: his life and afterlife*, published by the American University in Cairo Press in 2019.

**Saturday 7 June 2025**

**'Reflections on Queen Tiye'**

**by Robert Morkot**



Amenhotep III proudly proclaimed that his Great Royal Wife, Tiye, was born of provincial nobility. Despite, or perhaps because of her non-royal origins Tiye became one of the most prominent and influential of Egyptian Queens. She was mother to Akhenaten and grandmother to Tutankhamun, two of Egypt's most famous

and controversial pharaohs, but what do we really know about her, and what do we know of her role in this important reign?

**Robert Morkot** is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Exeter, where he has supervised Continuing Education courses in Egyptology. His current research is focused on the relationship between Ancient Egypt and Kingdoms of Nubia.

**Booking in advance for these FACE-TO-FACE meetings is essential. To book your place and arrange payment of the £5 meeting fee, which includes refreshments, please contact the Secretary [saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com)**

