

# HOTEP

Issue 64: December 2021



## Review of November Meeting



*Chapel of Hetepherakhty as originally set up in the museum (Photo from Nicky van de Beek website)*

The November *talk 'From Saqqara to Leiden: The Journey of the Tomb Chapel of Hetepherakhty'* was given by **Nicky van de Beek**. Nicky studied Egyptology, Archaeology and Digital Humanities at Leiden University, and is now doing her PhD at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz Germany. She is also writing a book about the subject of this talk.

Nicky began with an introduction to the burial practices of the Old Kingdom which is the period to which the chapel dates. She then explained where the chapel was discovered and how it came to be in the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden).

The actual location of the mastaba from which the chapel was excavated is not currently known, but 19th Century maps indicate that it was to the west of the Serapeum. Originally excavated by Auguste Mariette in the 1860s, it was sold to a Dutch

## The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

contractor and amateur archaeologist Adriaan Goekoop for 200 Egyptian pounds under a scheme created by Mariette's successor Gaston Maspero. He subsequently donated it to the museum where it arrived in 1902 and went on display in 1904.

The chapel is small at 5.5m<sup>2</sup> with only a short corridor leading to the false door at the end. Scenes are carved in raised relief on the walls to right and left. Hetepherakhty is shown on the façade of the chapel along with his most significant titles which include Judge and Priest of Maat. On the damaged false door stela, he is named as Wab-priest of 'the Ba of Neferirkare', the royal pyramid complex, and Priest who is upon the secrets of 'the heart's joy of Re', the name of Niuserre's sun temple. The tomb is thus dated to the Fifth Dynasty. The scenes in the chapel do not mention or show a wife although a son is named, who could have been adopted but there is no way to know.

Nicky gave a run through of the scenes on the interior of the chapel. These included the production of bread and beer, agriculture, pasture, marshland and fishing. She pointed out some interesting scenes such as a goat giving birth which is one of five such scenes at Saqqara. ↓

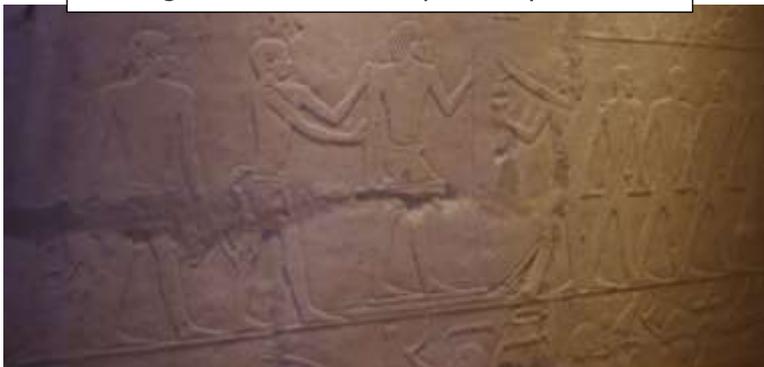


Fighting boatmen, Hetepherakhty Chapel, Leiden



There are images of the censing of Hetepherakhty's statue in preparation for its placement in a *serdab*, but no statue chamber was found when the chapel was excavated.

Burning incense before Hetepherakhty's statue



The false door (below) in the back wall was badly damaged when robbers punched a large hole through it, presumably in search of treasure.



Nicky talked about the only study of the chapel that has been published to date. In the 1930s, Herta Mohr studied Egyptology at Vienna University before fleeing to Leiden because of her Jewish heritage. There she was baptised a Catholic and continued her Egyptological studies, but her access to the chapel in the Museum was stopped in September 1939. She was able to complete her manuscript for a book on Hetepherakhty's monument in the summer of 1942 just before her arrest on 2 August. The book was published in 1943 but she died on 15 April 1945.

Nicky herself is now working on an up-to-date book on Hetepherakhty's Tomb Chapel taking advantage of improved photography and recording techniques to produce high quality line drawings (example below). Her website has many links to Egyptological resources which are well worth a look. It includes more information on the chapel and Herta, this link will take you to the page on the chapel

<https://nickyvandebeek.com/projects/hetepherakhty/>

**Glenn Worthington**

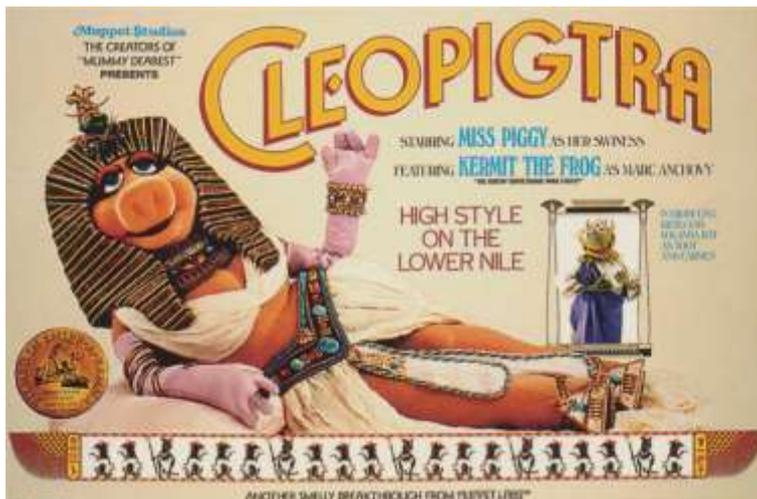
Porter with captive hedgehogs & antelope



## Review of November Evening Meeting

The November evening meeting was the first of the season's three occasional talks. The talk was given by SAES Chair, **Hilary Wilson**, and the title was '**Age Cannot Wither Her - The Lasting Allure of Cleopatra**'. This was a light-hearted, indeed tongue in cheek look at the influence of Cleopatra over the last 150 years.

Hilary began by looking at the film portrayals of the last Ptolemaic queen, the first being Theda Bara as '*Cleopatra*', from the silent era in 1917. The next was Claudette Colbert in '*Cleopatra*', 1934 and then Vivian Leigh as the queen in '*Caesar and Cleopatra*', 1945. The most famous was Elizabeth Taylor in the 1963 production '*Cleopatra*' which was then parodied in 1964's '*Carry on Cleo*' with Amanda Barrie portraying, as Hilary said, a ditzy queen.



The greatest Muppet Movie never made

TV was not to left out and there was a mix of the serious and the comic. In 1999 there was a miniseries '*Cleopatra*' and in 'Rome', 2006, Cleopatra was a major character. The comic was Glenda Jackson as the queen in an episode of the *Morecambe and Wise Show*, and Miss Piggy from the Muppets.

Cleopatra has not been neglected by authors. In 1889 H Rider-Haggard published '*Cleopatra*' which has been in print ever since. Hilary showed some of the cover designs; in 1913 this was based on an ancient Egyptian queen, in 1981 it was a scantily clad woman and in 2017 Elizabeth

Taylor from the 1963 film. Margret George published '*The Memoirs of Cleopatra*' in 1997. For children there is '*Cleopatra and her Angry Asp*' and '*Asterix and Cleopatra*'.

Cleopatra has been used to add glamour to songs and their performers. The early decades of the twentieth century saw a lot of music and songs using Cleopatra's name to give more interest. From 1905 was '*Cleopatra Finnegan*' an Afro-Celtic Intermezzo, later a '*Cleopatra Rag*' and '*Cleopatra had a Jazz Band*'. In 1993 the Spin Doctors produced a song called '*Cleopatra's Cat*', in the last ten years Kelly Clarkson had a song called '*Cleopatra*' and Katy Perry became Katy-Patra for one of her music videos.

There have also been toys that have used Cleopatra to give a boost to sales, from the *Great Shakespearean Deaths* Top-Trumps card game to Barbie. Barbie had two, one just as the Egyptian Queen and the other as Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra!

Hilary has a long-standing fascination for advertisers that use ancient Egypt in their campaigns. For this talk she highlighted those that have used Cleopatra to enhance their product. These have included soap and cosmetic items which at least have a tenuous link with the queen, but also cigarettes and tobacco products which have no obvious connection. Hilary highlighted an advert for a shower including hand-drawn hieroglyphs. Hilary translated these to reveal that they were not nonsense which is what normally happens when hieroglyphs are used for decorative effect. She wrote to the company who replied that they had had a specialist create them and were disappointed that Hilary did not want to buy the shower!

This was an enjoyable look at Cleopatra's on-going influence on society today and done with humour.

**Glenn Worthington**

## Important Reminder

Of necessity we have had to adopt the Zoom format for **all** our meetings for the foreseeable future. Details of our programme are available on the SAES website and enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary [saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com)

**No in-person meetings are yet planned at Oasis Academy, Lordshill.**

### Forthcoming Meetings

Further details of our Zoom meetings are published on the website [www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk](http://www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk)

**Registration is required for all meetings.**

Registration links will be released on a meeting-by-meeting basis and priority will be given to SAES Members.

If you would like to have your personal email details added to our non-Members mailing list, please contact the Secretary at [saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com)

### Zoom Meeting format

For **Saturday talks**, the Zoom meeting will nominally 'open' at 13:30 from which time attendees will be admitted to the virtual waiting room. Once the host has connected with the speaker, checked the technology is working and set up the presentation, participants will be admitted to the meeting from 13:45 for a start at 14:00. Please note, the Zoom platform only deals in half hours so the automated confirmation message tells you simply that the start time is 13:30.

**The joining link for any meeting is only released on confirmation of payment.**

Payment details are on the website.

**The joining link is unique to the name & email address with which you register. If you share this link, you risk being prevented from joining the meeting yourself if the person with whom you shared signs in before you.**

### Our pre-Christmas treat



**Saturday 18  
December  
2021:**



***Music in ancient Egypt and its beginnings: Latest research in music archaeology***

**(lecture, including live music)**

by **Heidi Köpp-Junk**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdeygrD0uGNZEoClrNDXx6dY11g27Kv6f>

Member £3 Overseas Member £4 Guest £6

**Please contact the Secretary [saesinfo55@gmail.com](mailto:saesinfo55@gmail.com) to arrange payment or check payment status.**

**Please note:** if the Zoom system allows you to register this means a place is available and has been reserved for you. The joining link will be sent on confirmation of payment.



### Editorial apology

So much has been happening recently that I have not got round to devising the usual Christmas Quiz. Please accept this little puzzle in lieu and I hope to be able to offer something more brain-taxing as a New Year Quiz.

### A cold coming we had of it...

There have been some alarming reports recently of extreme weather events in Egypt, including hail and even snow. But did the ancient Egyptians know about snow? This month's quiz is to identify the above quote and to explain how it might be applied to events in the reign of Ramesses II.

**Hint:** here is a picture clue. →

### November Quiz Answers



The connection between these two artefacts in the Louvre is Queen Tiye. The scarab is a commemorative item announcing her marriage to Amenhotep III and the kohl tube or cosmetic container, bears both their names.



Answers in the next edition of **Hotep**

