



HOTEP

Issue 53: Aug/Sep 2020

Meetings update

As I suggested in the last edition of Hotep, the familiar format of our meetings is unlikely to be restored in the foreseeable future. Although we have been in contact with the Oasis Academy regarding their proposed provisions for social distancing etc there are still matters beyond our control or influence that have to be resolved before we could even consider a return to face-to-face meetings there. With regulations and restrictions changing by the day (if not by the minute) it will be some time before the venue can open its doors to community groups with any confidence.

The responses to our questionnaire show that many of our members, for different reasons, are understandably reluctant to brave the return to lectures in spite of missing the social aspects of our Society. Consequently, like many other groups of our sort, we have embraced the use of technology to present live online lectures so that we can continue to share our enthusiasm with you, our friends. We have to accept that Covid restrictions have put paid to our normal activities and consequently we have arranged for our committee meetings (see below) and the remaining lectures of this year (Sep-Dec 2020) to be conducted via Zoom.



Most of the speakers booked for next year have indicated their willingness to present their talks in the same format. Indeed, in the current uncertain circumstances, some

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

have expressed a preference for this format, particularly those who have to travel some distance. This technology also allows us to host speakers from abroad without incurring huge transport and accommodation costs. Of course, it is our hope that we will, eventually, be able to return to Oasis for some meetings but we have to accept that things have changed irrevocably.

I am sure that many of our Members have become adept users of Skype, FaceTime, Zoom etc as means of communicating with family and friends during lockdown. I can assure those of you who are still a little reticent about engaging with this 'new-fangled' technology that there is nothing to be afraid of and once you get into the habit you will wonder why you were ever worried. Together with this Hotep you will find a quick guide to Zoom. By means of an invitation sent to your email address you will be able to register for and receive the link and passcode to each meeting, so please check your emails.

Though we are not having to pay venue hire or provide refreshments, the Society still has certain necessary expenditure such as maintaining the website and registering for the Pro version of Zoom as well as speakers' fees, while our income stream has virtually dried up. If you were a paid-up SAES Member for 2019-20 your membership is automatically extended for 20-21. From October 2020, new subscribers and those regular guests who chose to become members for the rest of the 19-20 season, may obtain Membership for the reduced price of £12. We are also offering Overseas membership at the introductory rate of £20, and arranging for various payment options, such as BACS transfer and Paypal, which may also be used for payment of meeting fees. For details contact the Secretary:

saesinfo55@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting Tuesday 15 September 2020

We have decided to separate the September meeting from the AGM. The AGM will be held by Zoom on the **evening of Tuesday 15 September** starting at **19:30**. As well as giving our Members an update on how we are keeping the Society going, we will use this meeting as a 'dummy' Zoom session in preparation for the September lecture. The process of registering for the AGM and the talk is the same. You will be sent an invitation to register and as long as your e-mail address identifies you as a bona fide Member of SAES you will receive the meeting link. You will also receive a reminder of this link closer to the time. The AGM will be held as a standard Zoom meeting in which you will be able to see and hear other participants, unless you choose otherwise. The results of the questionnaire and their implications will be discussed and our plans for the future put before the Membership, the Society's financial situation will be explained and the programme for 2020-21, as far as it is known, will be set out.

We look forward to giving as many of our Members as possible the opportunity to voice their views on the Society's future.



The sun rises in its horizon over the backs of the *aker* lions of past and future.
Tomb of Anherkhau

Next Meeting!

Saturday 19 September 2 p.m.

(Presented via Zoom)

The Aegean Connection: Trade and Tribute

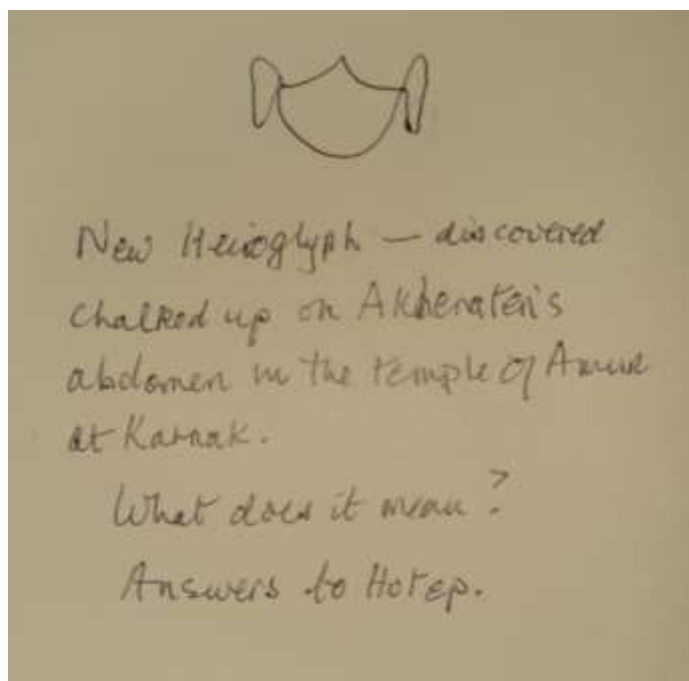
by Hilary Wilson



The Egyptians were famously introspective and suspicious of foreigners but evidence of contact between Egypt and the Aegean world shows that a certain amount of interaction, at least in the context of trade, was necessary to the economies of all parties. Images and mention of Keftiu or Cretan produce begin to appear in tomb paintings and tribute lists from the mid-18th Dynasty. The works of Classical writers such as Homer retain hints of diplomatic and trade exchanges with Mycenae. Shipwrecks discovered within the last century have confirmed the significance of Egyptian produce in economic transactions in the Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean. In this talk Hilary explores these connections hoping to revise the popular opinion of the Egyptians as protectionist xenophobes.

To view this lecture, **you must register in advance** by clicking on the registration link in the monthly reminder email **no later than 19:00 Fri 18 Sept**. Once registered you will receive the Zoom link and meeting password by midday on Saturday 19 September. You must be a paid-up SAES Member whose email address we have on file. It is important to check your personal emails (including the junk or spam folders!) for details of registration.

Quiz



The above was received from an anonymous member. If anyone can throw any light on this discovery, we would be happy to publish the answers in Hotep (providing they meet our standards of taste and decency).



The carnelian plaque on this bracelet from Tutankhamun's treasure is carved in the shape of an eye protected by the uraeus serpent, the goddess known as the Eye of Ra.

Summer Quiz Answers

The solar deities depicted were:

1: Ra-Harakhty – Ra of the two horizons, the sun-god in his strength.

2: Horus of Behdet – the sun soaring in the sky on the wings of a falcon.

3: Atum (or Ra-Atum or Atum-Ra) – the creator, father of all the gods.

4: Bastet – the cat-goddess also known as the Eye of Ra (the cat wears the Eye emblem around her neck).

5: Khepri – the scarab deity who pushes the sun through the horizon at dawn.

6: Aten – the physical disc of the sun whose outspread rays, ending in hands, bestow life on all they touch.



On this stela in the British Museum, the solar deities Atum and Ra are depicted as cats

