



# HOTEP

Issue 41: May 2019

## The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

### Review of April Meeting

**Paul Collins** made a welcome return visit to speak about *'Egypt's Origins: the view from Mesopotamia and Iraq'*. By examining the distribution of non-Egyptian artistic styles and motifs, especially in the designs on cylinder seals, palettes and knife handles, throughout the Levant and down into southern Egypt, Paul showed how theories about the Mesopotamian origins of Egyptian society were proposed and widely accepted in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The existence of Petrie's 'Dynastic Race', a superior people from the Fertile Crescent, who invaded Egypt and initiated the Pharaonic civilization, and his belief in eugenics, are still promoted in some areas despite having been largely discredited.

Re-examination of the evidence suggests a much more prosaic explanation for how small items could have reached Egypt accidentally in trade goods or among the personal possessions of merchants and other travellers. Attractive decorative elements such as the Master of Beasts and the Serpopard, were then adopted by native Egyptian artists, as on the Narmer Palette or the Gebel el-Arak knife. The knowledge of the source of lapis lazuli on the Afghanistan border and the existence of the cedar forests of Lebanon, both of which were exploited by the Egyptians from very early times, reached Egypt after a series of casual exchanges at market centres on long-established trade routes. This was a fascinating look at a generally overlooked area giving much food for thought.



### April Quiz Answers:

The crossword grid is filled as below.

	D			M	A	A	T
	J		R		T		I
M	E	D	A	M	U	D	
	H		M		M	U	U
L	U	X	O	R		D	
	T		S			U	
	Y		E	Y	E		



The picture above shows funerary dancers from a tomb relief now in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The **Muu** dancers are identified by their distinctive conical hats.



**In the News**  
**A new discovery April 2019**

It may be more than 4,000 years old, but this newly discovered tomb in Egypt is looking mighty good for its age.

Egyptian officials are examining a remarkably well-preserved tomb found in a massive necropolis at Saqqara, south of Cairo. Authorities believe it was created for a man named Khuwy, a dignitary from the Fifth Dynasty, which spanned the 25th to the 24th centuries BCE.

reigned for 40 years and has been described as “enigmatic.”

Mohamed Mujahid, head of the excavation team, said the tomb is L-shaped, according to a [CNN report](#), and has a small corridor leading to an antechamber. A larger chamber has walls covered with paintings that depict Khuwy sitting at a table for offerings. The unusual layout reflected the pharaoh's reforms of state administration and funerary cults, which led to a new approach to tombs, experts say.



Egypt's antiquities minister, Khaled al-Enani, recently provided foreign ambassadors a tour of the find, while the ministry released new photos and video footage to the public yesterday. According to the ministry, the vivid colors of the paintings inside the tomb are considered royal hues.

The findings raise questions about Khuwy's influence and his relationship to Pharaoh Djedkare Isesi, who ruled ancient Egypt during the Fifth Dynasty. Isesi's pyramid is not far from where the tomb was found, leading some to suggest Khuwy might have been related to Pharaoh Isesi.

Khuwy's mummy and canopic jars (urns used in ancient Egyptian burials to hold the entrails from an embalmed body) were found in fragments inside the tomb, according to a tweet from the ministry. But officials believe the tomb and its contents will nonetheless shed light on Isesi, who

The tomb is one of a number of new finds being heavily promoted by Egypt as the country looks to revive its flagging tourist industry.



More pictures available at:  
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/egyptian-authorities-unveil-spectacular-photo-newly-discovered-4000-year-old-tomb-1517080>

## SAES Library

Keith Rider has done a magnificent job scouring second-hand book shops and charity shops to build up a library for our Members' use. For the small contribution of 50p per book, volumes may be borrowed on indefinite loan as long as this is recorded in Keith's register. You can find anything in the library from general interest books with lots of pictures, to past issues of the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, the publication of the Egypt Exploration Society. Occasionally Keith has duplicates which he is prepared to sell for a small donation to library funds. Recently the Society has been given a volume of mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century photographs of Egypt by Antonio Beato, which is in a rather fragile state so we are having it scanned and put into pdf format so that Members can appreciate this historical gem. We are



hoping that it may be possible to have the album rebound but that will cost money. It has been suggested that instead of putting the Library fees towards more stock the money raised from loans should be set aside to pay for this but Keith will happily receive additional donations towards this restoration project.

## Study Day, Saturday 20 July 2019

### 'The Valley of the Kings'

by Aidan Dodson



The Valley of the Kings is perhaps the most famous cemetery in the world. For more than four centuries it hosted the burials of numerous kings, queens, princes, princesses and nobles of Egypt. Today, we survey the Valley's history looking in detail at some of its most important sepulchres and their contents. We also take a look at the memorial temples, built some distance away on the edge of the cultivation, but intimately linked with the tombs themselves as part of the magical machine that facilitated the dead kings' rebirth and eternal life.

**Fees for each of the above:**

**Members: £20 Non-Members: £25**

**Please contact the Secretary to book places**

### And finally - Quiz Time



In which city can you see each of these Egyptian obelisks?

