



HOTEP

Issue 62: October 2021

Review of September Meeting

As has become a tradition, Hilary Wilson, SAES Chair, gave the first talk of the new season. As is now normal in the world of the pandemic, this was on Zoom attracting an audience from as far afield as the US.

'The Aegean Connection 2: Egypt and the Peoples of the Sea', followed on from the talk Hilary gave in September 2020, in which she reviewed Egypt's interaction with the peoples of the Aegean in the New Kingdom in terms of trade and diplomacy. This lecture dealt with the driving forces behind the migrations of the Late Bronze Age, particularly focusing on their impact on Egypt. Hilary highlighted the extensive contact under Amenhotep III with sites in the Aegean and mainland Greece. The evidence for this is on the base of a statue of the king from his mortuary temple at Kom el-Hettan, which is inscribed with a list of

places located around the Aegean. At Mycenae a foundation plaque with the name of Amenhotep III was the first such found outside of Egypt. First mention of the groups of people who are now referred to as the

Sea Peoples, are found in the Amarna Letters including complaints about Lukka pirates. Hilary made it clear that the phrase 'Peoples of the Seas' is a modern term covering a wide range of itinerant groups with no coherent organisation or political identity.

Egypt of the New Kingdom was very much plugged into the world of the eastern Mediterranean, through trade and military conquest. An example of the Egyptians' adopting technology was their use of a Cretan ship design. They also pressed warriors captured in war in the Egyptian

Amenhotep III plaque, Mycenae



The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

army, one such group being the Sherden who appear as Rameses II's bodyguard at the Battle of Kadesh.

Hilary went on to explain that the first major confrontation between the Egyptians and the Sea Peoples was in year 5 of Merenptah. This was not a simple military attack but a migration of people, as the records show that women and children from Libya along with the Sea Peoples were included.



Libyan & Sea People captives, Medinet Habu

The best-known clash between Egyptians and Sea Peoples was under Rameses III and involved a major sea battle in the Nile delta. In the aftermath, Rameses III established PoW groups in the ancient equivalent of refugee camps in Palestine/Syria.

The issue of who the Sea Peoples were and where they originated has been debated for decades. Hilary discussed some recent DNA evidence from Philistine cemeteries in Ashkelon which indicates that the community's ancestry was from southern Europe. This shows that settlers, principally from mainland Greece, Crete and Sicily, had been assimilated into the local population over time.



Achaean galley model from Gurob (Petrie Museum)

A traditional way of working out the homelands of the different Sea Peoples has been to analyse their names. Linguistic scholars have identified them as coming from various Mediterranean islands, like Sardinia (Sherden) and Sicily (Shecklesh). It is now realised that these names may reflect their destinations rather than their origins. By drawing on the writings of Homer, Hilary showed how the events of the Late Bronze Age lived on in folk memory so that the wanderings of Menelaus and Odysseus can be related to the Sea People movements.



'Siren Vase', Athens

As Hilary showed, the migrations of people into the eastern Mediterranean had multiple causes and the question of what drove them to up sticks and travel, possibly hundreds of miles, to a new land has no simple answer. The latest evidence of extensive drought and associated famine would suggest that there had been a change in the climate, meaning that their original homelands could no longer support them.

This was a fascinating talk which showed that a complex sequence of events changed what had been a settled period and led to major disruption and reconfiguration of the Late Bronze Age world.

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

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

September Quiz Answers

The Awakening (1980)



Charlton Heston
Susannah York

Valley of the Kings (1954)



Robert Taylor
Eleanor Parker

The Scorpion King (2002)



Dwayne Johnson
Kelly Hu

The Egyptian (1954)

Edmund Purdom
Jean Simmons



Gods of Egypt (2016)

Gerard Butler
Elodie Yung



Land of the Pharaohs (1955)

Jack Hawkins
Joan Collins



Donations to Egyptological causes

As was agreed at the last AGM I have been contacting those organisations that the members agreed should receive a donation from us towards their Egyptological work. All donations have now been made and below are some of the comments and thanks that have been sent.



Maria & John (with daughter Freya) & the Silsila Team 2017

Gebel el Silsila

Maria Nilsson, Mission Director for the Gebel el Silsila Project, wrote:

'We are beyond grateful for your kind and generous support to the project. The funds will come to good use as we are in the process of paving way for tourism on the East Bank, and therefore had to hire help from outside to make safe the boundaries for the Temple of Sobek. Please send forward our deepest gratitude and greetings to everyone. As a thank you, we would be delighted to prepare another lecture to update you on our progress.

Thank you ever so much for your support'

Egypt Exploration Society

Several SAES Members at the AGM asked if we could ensure that some of our donations would go towards the training of Egyptian archaeologists in Egypt. Dr Carl Graves, Director of The Egypt Exploration Society, suggested that our donation could be used for a week-long Egyptological Archives Skills School in Cairo in June 2022 to which we have agreed. Dr Stephanie



Boonstra, the Collections Manager at the EES, will invite ten Egyptian scholars working with archives to participate in multi-institutional training across archive management and research. So far, the German, Dutch-Flemish, French institutes, ARCE, and the Ministry are also involved with the EES leading. Our donation will go towards the provision of materials and equipment required for the course and the SAES will be noted as a sponsor.

Carl wrote: 'Many thanks for the amazing donation. It is so kind of SAES, please extend my appreciation to all of your members for their generosity. I can assure you that their donation will be put to good use in the Egyptological Archives Skills School.'

Hierakonpolis Expedition Friends of Nekhen

Renée Friedmann, Director of the Hierakonpolis Expedition wrote: 'That is very kind of you. Now that Egypt is off of the Red list, we hope to return to the site in November and indeed your donation will be very useful in the coming season. Thank you very much. It is greatly appreciated. Liam is really pleased to know that his lecture was so well received. Fingers crossed for a successful 2021 season. Best wishes and thanks again'



Friends of the Petrie Museum

Jan Picton one of the Trustees of the Friends of the Petrie Museum wrote:

'Please thank your committee and members for us. This is a very kind gesture and is much appreciated.'

This was followed by a message from Lucia Gahlin, Chair of the Friends of the Petrie who wrote:

'This is wonderful news. Could I please add my thanks to Jan's. This is hugely appreciated. My very best wishes to you and your society'

Glenn Worthington (Treasurer)

Forthcoming Meetings

Further details of the Zoom meetings listed below are published on the website

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

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.

For **evening meetings**, the same applies with the meeting 'opening' at 18:30, admission from the waiting room from 18:45 for a start at 19:00. Evening meetings may be on a Wednesday or Thursday so please check the date.

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.

Saturday 20 November 2021:

13:30 for 14:00

From Saqqara to Leiden: The journey of the tomb chapel of Hetepherakhet
by **Nicky van de Beek**



Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcu6qqzwoE9Ohne_HC42mZtNbCV3N7Hd8](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcu6qqzwoE9Ohne_HC42mZtNbCV3N7Hd8)

Thursday 25 November 2021:

evening meeting 18:30 for 19:00

Herodotus on Egyptian animals - fact or fiction?
by **John Wyatt**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOuppjstEtNLKo5xeOiEeNi08YLWEAEQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOuppjstEtNLKo5xeOiEeNi08YLWEAEQ)

October Quiz

This is a simple 'Where is it?' quiz.



Answers in the next edition of **Hotep**

