



HOTEP

Issue 34: October 2018

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

Review of September meeting

Hilary Wilson: *'Many Happy Returns: Egyptian celebrations of rebirth and renewal'*

The theme of the talk was chosen as September 2018 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Southampton Ancient Egypt Society. To the ancient Egyptians the annual agricultural cycle was the essential focus of their existence since their very livelihood depended on its success. To this end they developed many rites and rituals to ensure that the world they knew continued to function and, when they died, that it continued into the afterlife.

Hilary began by looking at the Rosetta Stone which talks about the birthday and coronation of Ptolemy V, as well as the reform of the Egyptian calendar intended to bring it into line with the rest of the classical world. The myths, ceremonies and rites of kingship were examined as these played a great role in maintaining the stability of the state. As part of this the divine birth scenes of both Hatshepsut and Amenhotep III were considered showing the involvement of the principle state god of the time, Amun-Ra, in their conception.



The coronation, in which the new king received divine life from the gods, and the *Heb-sed* or Jubilee, which renewed the king's authority and right to rule, were discussed. The king's position as Horus incarnate while he lived and Osiris when he died, led to an examination of the popular myths and rituals associated with Osiris, especially the corn cycle and the links with the fertility god Min. The main ceremony of the funeral, the Opening of the Mouth, emphasised the rebirth of the individual into the afterlife with the sarcophagus representing the womb of Nut.

As we were running out of time, Hilary sped through some of the funerary imagery of rebirth including elements of tomb decoration and amulets, perhaps leaving enough for another time? This was a great talk to get the new season underway, and to give rebirth and renewal to the society.

September Quiz Answers

1: Tomb TT100 belongs to **Rekhmire** and contains some of the most interesting of all Egyptian tomb paintings



Cretan offering bearers in tomb TT100

2: Rekhmire's stela is now in the Louvre in Paris. It was originally placed above the larger false door still visible in TT100.

3: Rekhmire was **Vizier** during the reigns of Tuthmose III and Amenhotep II.

4: The Metropolitan Museum of Arts in New York published the survey Rekhmire's tomb, written and illustrated by Norman de Garis Davies.

Sue Marriott wonders...

...and shares with us her holiday reading.

WHERE WILL KING TUT POP UP NEXT?

This summer, 2018, David and I have spent an enjoyable couple of days following the **Wallace & Gromit Trail** in Bristol and the surrounding area. Under the banner of **'The Grand Appeal'**, it sets out to raise funds for Bristol Children's Hospital.



Following the success of the **'Gromit Unleashed'** trail in 2013, consisting of 80 Gromit sculptures, **'Gromit Unleashed 2'** added full size Wallaces and images of the penguin Feathers McGraw to the trail. The sculptures totalled 67 plus smaller Feathers McGraws decorated by schools in the Bristol area. These were displayed in the Grand Appeal shop at Cribb's Causeway. Naturally, an Egyptian theme was bound to creep in somewhere.

In 2013, the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery sponsored **TutanGromit I** designed by Dale Evans and raised £24,000 at auction. Although a full-size king Tut model did not make an appearance this year, pupils of the Mangotsfield Secondary School submitted **'Tutankhamun-Penguin Edition'**

In 2013 a total of £2,357,000 was raised at auction for the models. The auction for the 2018 sculptures was held on 3rd October and raised **£1,621,500.**



CLEOPATRA'S SHADOWS

by Emily Holleman

ISBN 978-0-7515-6017-6

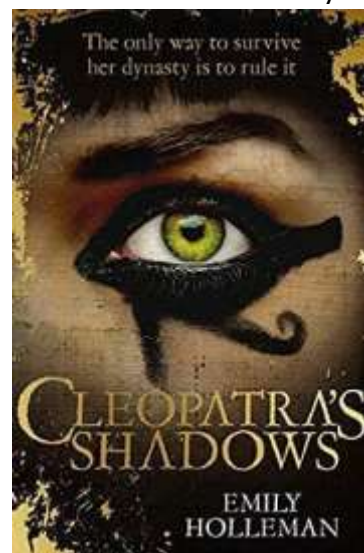
This is the first of a series of fictional books telling the story of Cleopatra VII through the eyes of her younger sister Arsinoe.

The young child Arsinoe is abandoned by her uncaring father and sister, Cleopatra, who flee to Rome. Since her mother has also fled with her brothers, Arsinoe has to be resourceful to stay alive under the rule of her half-sister, Berenice.

Having to grow up quickly, she realises that she has to ingratiate herself at a court which is dangerous and full of intrigue. Who can she trust? Many of those with whom she has grown up have either been executed or disappeared. She keeps her eyes and ears open at all times, aware that at any moment the queen may not be so lenient towards her. When her half-sister's reign comes to an abrupt and bloody end, can Arsinoe convince her father that she is not a traitor but a survivor?

Unlike some Ancient Egyptian fiction, I found this a very easy book to read. The author appears to have researched her subject but, like all historical fiction, conversations and some events obviously have to be imagined, based on a fairly limited amount of facts. As long as you are able to accept that this is not an academic work, you will probably find it an enjoyable read.

This is the first of a planned series of four with the overall title **'The Fall of Egypt'**. The second book in the series **'The Drowning King'** has also been published. All are available in hardback, paperback, and kindle formats.



If you have a book or magazine article you would like to share with us, please let us know.

On the small screen

At the October meeting, **Chris Naunton** advised us of a TV programme with which he had been associated to be shown on Channel 5 the following evening (**Sunday 21 October, 9:00 pm**). This was Episode 2 in the series '**Ancient Mysteries**', entitled '**The Pharaoh in the Suburb – Uncovered**'

The programme was based on the discovery, reported in *Hotep* in March 2017, of fragments of a colossal royal statue in the course of building works in the Cairo suburb of el-Matariyah.

Initially thought to be a portrait of Ramesses II the statue has since been identified as Pharaoh **Psamtik I**, also known by the Hellenised version of his name, **Psammetichus**, who lived some six centuries after Ramesses.



Rising from governor to ruler of Lower Egypt, Psamtik gained authority in the South by having his daughter, Nitocris, appointed to the influential position of God's Wife of Amun at Karnak. This move enabled Psamtik to claim the political and religious leadership of both kingdoms, with which authority he expelled the occupying Assyrians and reunited the Two Lands, founding the 26th Dynasty in 664BC.

This programme was a concise introduction to the reign of an often-overlooked pharaoh and a reminder that fascinating discoveries are still being made in Egypt. If you missed it this programme may still be available on catch-up.

Next Meeting

Saturday 17 November 2018



Lidjia McKnight is Honorary Curator of Archaeo-zoology at the Manchester Museum. Her talk '**Gifts for the Gods: Animal Mummies Revealed**', is the title of a touring exhibition on the art and science of animal mummification. This is based on her work on a Leverhulme Research Project to apply non-invasive technology to investigate the contents and construction methods of animal mummies.

Animal mummies were produced in large numbers by the ancient Egyptians for donation to their gods as votive offerings.

And finally

Quiz Time

1: Name two animals which were sacred to the god **Thoth**.



2: Name three animals associated with the goddess **Hathor**.

3: Name three gods who were associated with **bull cults**.

4: Name four gods who can be shown with the **head of a falcon**.



Answers in the next issue of **Hotep**.

