



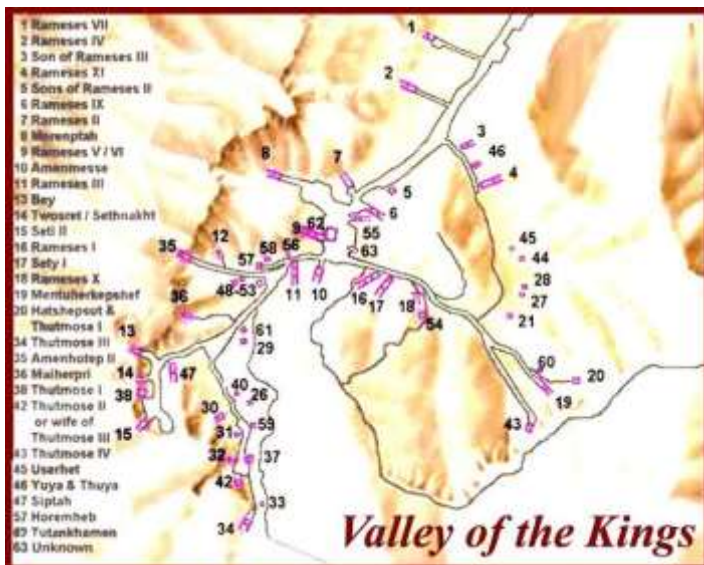
HOTEP

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The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Review of Study Day

Aidan Dodson made a welcome return to present the story of the **Valley of the Kings**. He started with a recap of the developments in royal tomb architecture from the pyramids of the Old and Middle Kingdoms to the cliff-cut tombs of the Second Intermediate Period. Aidan explored the reasons for the choice of the remote valley as the cemetery for Dynasties 18-20 and the establishment of the village for the workmen who excavated and decorated the tombs.



He followed this with a chronological survey of the most significant tombs with particular emphasis on the remarkable KV9, the tomb of Seti I, the subject of his latest book. He described the changes in tomb design and decoration, the presentations being beautifully illustrated, and treated us to some personal insights into subjects like the original ownership of KV62, which became Tutankhamun's tomb, and the different religious texts which were used to adorn the

tomb walls and so protect the owner and promote his rebirth into the afterlife. This was an entertaining and informative day which was enjoyed by all who took part. The only disappointment was the size of the audience which, at under forty attendees, was not representative of the appreciation Aidan should have expected.

July/August Quiz Answers:

1: This household item → is a drink syphon, used to decant beer or wine avoiding the sediment.



2: This mountain ↓ is el-Qurn above the Valley of the Kings, seen as a coiled serpent, the goddess Meretseger, 'She who Loves Silence'



3: The deity represented here ↓ is the solar god Ra-Harakhty. This is the pyramidion from the Deir el-Medina tomb of Ramose, now in Turin.



4: The crop being harvested here ↓ is flax. The fibres were used for making linen cloth and cordage of all sorts. From the Book of the Dead of Nakht.



Up A Pylon

Glenn Worthington reports on his trip to Egypt, October 2018

Tutankhamun objects had been moved to the, as yet not open, Grand Egyptian Museum.



In October 2018 I visited Egypt with Ancient World Tours and one of the highlights was to climb to the top of the north tower of the first pylon of the temple of Karnak. The trip was led by Dr Campbell Price who is the Curator of Egypt and Sudan at Manchester Museum. As those who have attended the talks given by Campbell to the Society can verify, he is very enthusiastic about Egyptology and full of energy, all of which was on display during the tour.

We flew to Cairo by Egypt Air for a few nights before travelling to Luxor by coach via Minya and Abydos. The highlight for me while in Cairo was the visit to Saqqara where we saw the tomb of Maia, Tutankhamun's wet nurse, the Serapeum and the New Kingdom tombs of Horemheb and Maya → as well as the Imhotep Museum. While in Cairo there was a visit to the Egyptian Museum, but a lot of the lesser known

On the journey to Minya, we stopped at the rarely visited site of Herakleopolis Magna. There is a reason it is not on the tourist trail, difficult to get there and very little to see. The ruins of the temple of Herishef which is located here has provided two columns which can be seen in Britain today, one in the Manchester Museum and the other in the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery at the British Museum.

From Minya we visited Amarna for the Royal Tomb, the north and south tombs and the central part of the city. We were also able to pay a brief visit to Barry Kemp in the dig house.

On the way to Abydos we visited the wonderful Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hassan and the new regional museum at Sohag. At Abydos both the Seti I and Ramesses II temples were visited but also the



huge mud brick enclosure of Shunet El Zebib. This was built by King Khasekhemwy of the second dynasty.

The first full day in Luxor was the trip up the pylon which is not something that is on the normal tourist trail, in fact we were apparently the first tour group to be given permission to go up. Before this there was a visit to the Temple of Mut and the Ptolemaic baths found in front of the first pylon.



To get up the pylon there is a door in the wall of the first court near the base of the pylon and behind the shrine of Seti II. This gives access to a flight of shallow and narrow stairs inside the wall taking you up to the top of the wall. Once on the top of wall there was a wooden plank to negotiate the gap between it and the pylon. There were a couple of local men to help you across. From here there are steps to the top of the pylon, once there it is quite wide, but you have to watch for the cables that go to the lights and speakers for the Sound and Light show. Although this is the north tower and so the shorter of the two there is still a fantastic view over the temple complex and across the Nile. From here you can see the temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el Bahri →

quite clearly. Coming back down the steps in the wall was interesting, they were covered in dust and seemed to slope slightly downwards as well so it was a constant struggle not to slip and take everyone ahead down with you.



There were also a few trips to the west bank at Luxor, the workman's village at Deir el Medina, the temples of Ramesses III, Merenptah, Seti I and Hatshepsut. While at Deir el Bahri we had permission to visit the tomb of Senenmut but were not allowed to take any photos. There is a long descending passageway which leads to a roughly square chamber which has the famous astronomical ceiling. In the floor of this chamber on the left-hand side as you enter from the entrance passage is another passage going down to a further chamber that has no decoration.

While in Luxor we travelled south to visit the sandstone quarries at Gebel Silsila.



In the News

Italian consul accused of Egyptian artefact smuggling

Daily Telegraph, Thu 19 September 2019

EYGPT has ordered Italy's former honorary consul to stand trial in absentia over charges of attempting to smuggle thousands of artefacts out of the country, the public prosecutor's office said. Honorary consuls are not career diplomats but private citizens appointed by embassies to assist their mission.

Ladislav Otakar Skakal, Italy's former honorary consul in Luxor, is accused of attempting to smuggle 21,855 artefacts in a diplomatic container from Alexandria to the Italian port of Salerno last year, the prosecutor's office said in a statement. It alleged that authorities had found many artefacts at the Italian's former home in Cairo and in a rented bank safe.



Picture from Egypt Today

Egypt has asked Interpol to issue a red notice against Mr Skakal, the statement added. A red notice requests the provisional arrest of a suspect pending extradition, surrender, or legal action. The public prosecutor also ordered some Egyptians accused of helping Mr Skakal to stand trial. The statement did not name the suspects but said they had been detained.

Antiquities theft flourished in Egypt in the years after the country's 2011 uprising, with relics stolen from museums, mosques, storage facilities and illegal excavations.

Next Meeting

Saturday 19 October 2019

Wolfram Grajetzki



'Looking like a goddess. Jewellery of the Middle Kingdom'

The Middle Kingdom was the heyday of Egyptian jewellery. The golden adornments from the burials of queens and princesses reached a technical and aesthetic standard that has been hardly surpassed in later times. The talk will show that these adornments had specific religious functions and placed these royal women eternally into a divine sphere.

And finally - Quiz Time

A new type of quiz this time If you can identify **WHERE** this ↓ photo was



taken you could win free entry to the next meeting. Just send your answer to the usual SAES contact email address saesinfo55@gmail.com under the subject heading **Sept Quiz**. The winner will be chosen at random from all the correct entries received by Friday 18 October.

Answer in the next edition of

Hotep

