

HOTEP



Issue 73:

November/December 2022

Review of November Meeting

The November talk '*Karnak the Most Select of Places*', was given by Dr **Ken Griffin**, Curator of the Egypt Centre Swansea (www.egypt.swan.ac.uk).



Ken Griffin with a replica of the bust of Nefertiti (Swansea University website)

The title of the talk is one of the names that the ancient Egyptians gave to the site, and Ken gave a fascinating overview of the largest temple site in Egypt. He began by explaining that the temple was part of the wider sacred landscape of the area, and that evidence for human occupation goes back to the Palaeolithic period. The earliest known temple is from the Middle Kingdom, but very little of that structure remains today.

Recent work in and around the area of Karnak would indicate that this early temple was on an island in the Nile, and that the ancient river channel to the east has long ago silted up as the main river slowly moved west to its current position. This movement of the river has had a big impact on the development of Karnak.

Ken's discussion of the temple began with a quick walk through from the

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society



first pylon to the festival hall of Thutmose III, the *Akh-menu*, at the back and the series of four pylons that form the south processional route. This southern approach leads to the avenue of sphinxes that runs all the way to the Temple of Luxor (above).

The major part of Ken's talk was a chronological review of the temple. There was quite a lot of expansion at Karnak in the New Kingdom, most of this was towards the west which was made possible by the Nile's westward migration.

Although nothing survives above ground of the Middle Kingdom core, Ken explained that it has recently been excavated by Luc Gabolde. The finds, including a previously unknown garden, show that Senwosret I extensively redeveloped the temple in the 12th Dynasty. The major building work at Karnak started from early Dynasty 18 and continued up to and including the Roman period. In the early New Kingdom most of the Middle Kingdom structures were dismantled and used as fill in the new pylons. The best-known of these is the White Chapel of Senwosret I which is now in the open-air museum at Karnak.



Remaining column of Taharqa's pillared aisle, Dynasty 25

It was during the New Kingdom that the most

famous part of the temple was built, the Hypostyle Hall. Started under Seti I, it was completed by his son Ramses II. Many more kings made their mark on Karnak, additions continuing down to the Roman period, although these did not match those of the New Kingdom.

Ken gave us a good idea of the scale and complexity of the temple and the long period of time over which it was built. This was a great introduction to the site.

Glenn Worthington

Review of November evening Meeting

On Thursday 24 November we had the first of our occasional evening meetings. This was presented by **Joshua Emmitt**, Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. With a background of field archaeology in Egypt, Josh was asked to review and re-catalogue the Egyptian holdings of the War Memorial Museum, Auckland, known by its Māori name as Aotearoa.

'From subscription or conscription: Egyptian artefacts in Aotearoa', described the origins of the museum's Egyptian collection. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries excavations in Egypt were sponsored by museums or agencies such as the Egypt Exploration Fund, later the EES, who took **subscriptions** from private individuals or smaller institutions in return for a share of the finds. During World War I, military **conscription** led to ANZAC troops being stationed in Egypt, notably in the Delta and on the Giza plateau.

Josh described how the Auckland Museum received donations of items brought back as souvenirs by New Zealand soldiers as well as artefacts from several EEF digs, in particular those of Petrie. These included three blue-painted pottery jars from Amarna which arrived mostly in fragments needing careful restoration. This was, sadly, typical of subscription items since, once the major institutions had been allocated their share, what remained was distributed in 'job lots' of odds and ends and, literally, bits and pieces.

Josh also found that the documentation accompanying these donations was often vague, misleading or simply incorrect. His detective work amongst the dig publications and archives resulted in him being able to ascertain the provenance of many objects and to correct things like the misreading of Dynasty II for Dynasty 11 which had several items from Saqqara mislabelled as Middle Kingdom instead of 2nd Dynasty. He also discovered some of the correspondence which accompanied the donations which revealed the startlingly patronising attitudes of the donors towards their subscribers.

Donations from the soldiers were even less easy to provenance, consisting mostly of pottery shards and flints but Josh enjoyed the task of identifying the possible sites where the troops had been camped.



Aotearoa also received gifts from private collectors or donations from other museums. The coffined mummy of the Lady Ta-sedjmet (above) was gifted to Auckland by the Canterbury Museum in 1935. Originating from Akhmin, recent scientific investigations have dated the mummy to the mid-Third Intermediate Period. Josh described how Ta-sedjmet has been displayed with careful consideration of the Māori sensibilities regarding the treatment of human remains.



Two Fayum mummy portraits (above), bought on the open market between the wars, were loaned to the Museum in 1935. The owner's hope was that the display would raise their sale value but in this he was disappointed. The portraits are still on show. This was an intriguing insight into the creation of a collection which few of us will ever see.

Hilary Wilson

Tut Sweet

Please don't blame the Editor for this title which was the heading for the picture below when published in the *Daily Telegraph*.



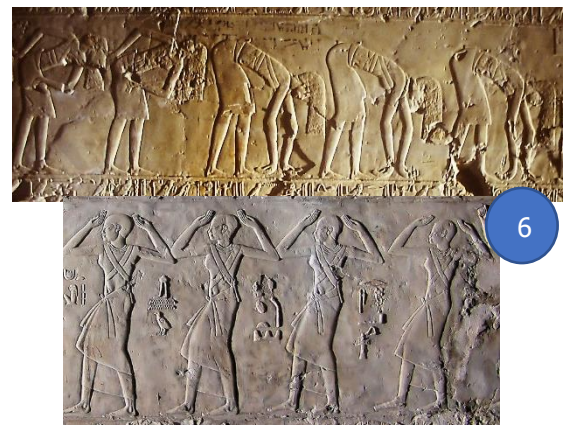
The life-size recreation of Howard Carter and Tutankhamun's nest of coffins was made from sponge cake, rice-crispie mixture and sugar paste by confectioner Emma Jayne. It was displayed at the Cake International event at the NEC Birmingham along with Emma Jayne's cakey version of Tutankhamun's mask which you can see in the *Daily Mail* coverage of the event at: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-11390305/Cake-creations-display-annual-baking-exhibition-Birmingham.html>

October Quick Quiz Answer

The contribution of British physicist **Thomas Young**, to the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs is recognised and explained in the British Museum's latest exhibition **'Hieroglyphs: Unlocking Ancient Egypt'**. If you haven't already seen it, the exhibition is well worth a visit, transport strikes permitting. It closes on 19 February 2023. For details see: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/hieroglyphs-unlocking-ancient-egypt>

Seasonal Quiz Part 1

Find the words or phrases described by these picture clues, and identify the seasonal songs and carols from which they come. There may be more than one interpretation of each image.



Forthcoming Zoom Meetings

Saturday 21 January 2023



**13:30 for a start at 14:00
(London time/GMT)
Admission from the
virtual waiting room from
about 13:45**

***Nefertiti's Face.
Investigating Egypt's
most famous queen
by Joyce Tyldesley***

Registration in advance is required for
this meeting, using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91412012700>

Meeting fees: Member £3;
Overseas Member £4; Guest £6

**The second of this season's
occasional evening meetings is on:**

Thursday 26 January 2023

**evening meeting 18:30 for a start at
19:00 (London time/GMT)**



***'Finding Kheny: an Update from the
Gebel el Silsila Excavations'***

by John Ward & Maria Nilsson

Registration in advance is required for this
meeting using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91412012700>

Meeting fee £5 for all participants

For further details of these or any other
event or to check your payment status,
please contact the **Secretary**
saesinfo55@gmail.com

Seasonal Quiz Part 2

Anagram time. The following are anagrams
of proper nouns – either royal names or
significant place names. Just to make it
more challenging there is one extra letter
included in each anagram that will not be
used in the answer. Collect these extra
letters together to make a two-word
seasonal phrase.

1: ANTHEM POEM

2: BUNKER FOR SEE

3: I AM EXPRESS

4: MASK A RUNE

5: HER MAIL BRIDE

6: EMMA SHIP

7: ROAMS FREE IN HEART

8: SNOWY TREES

9: SHE RODE OUT

10: ?

Hoping you have some fun with these and
wishing all our readers a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year.

