



HOTEP

Issue 60: July-August 2021

Editorial

The last year has been extraordinary in so many ways that it is difficult to know where to start this update on our activities.

Thanks to our partnership with the Egypt Exploration Society, in June and July 2020 we entered the on-line world of Zoom, which proved to be a lifeline for SAES. While many societies have struggled, and some have folded, by embracing the on-line format we have managed to keep going.

There were some teething problems and we have all been learning as we go along but, since September 2021, we have put on at least one meeting per month with three extra evening meetings and the first part of our Study Day (places are still available for Part 2, details later in this edition of Hotep). By adopting this format, we have been able to hear from speakers in Egypt and Sweden as well as UK-based speakers who would not have been able to travel to visit us in person, even if the limits on numbers at indoor gatherings had allowed.

This means that our expenses in terms of venue hire, speaker fees and travel and accommodation costs have been considerably reduced. We have also attracted new Members from all over the UK and abroad, showing how eager people were to pursue their interests and to engage in Egyptological events during the isolation of lockdown and travel restrictions.

We knew that not all our Members were either equipped or willing to use the technology required to join in these meetings. We published guides to using Zoom and have even given personal tuition to enable participation. Some have become regular attendees after taking the bold leap into the Zoom-iverse. Others, sadly, have fallen by the wayside. We have continued to publish Hotep with meeting reviews etc, and we send regular reminders about how to join in our Zoom meetings in the hope of seeing the names of some more old friends among the participants.

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Our intention has always been to return to face-to-face meetings when it is safe to do so. Unfortunately, with the restrictions on group numbers, this has so far been impossible. Also, since our venue is a school, there have been additional social distancing considerations and uncertainties over access when the whole premises could be closed at short notice.

On moving to Oasis Academy Lordshill in September 2013, we were promised guest access to the school's Internet but, despite many follow-up enquiries and requests this did not happen. While concentrating on solving on-going problems with the audio-visual systems in the main theatre, we managed without on-line access. Until now, that has not been too much of a concern, but if we wish to return to Oasis the ability to live-stream meetings will be essential. After many unanswered e-mails and telephone messages we have finally resumed contact but the situation is, as yet, far from clear, especially regarding specific COVID precautions. While knowing this will cause disappointment for some of our loyal, long-standing supporters, we have had to make the hard decision to proceed with a Zoom only programme for 2021-22.

The Zoom format allows us great flexibility, especially in choosing speakers who can now join us from remote locations worldwide, as can our new Overseas Members. Should circumstances change, we may be able to resume the social side of our meetings which we have all been missing. We hope to return to some sort of hybrid meeting, with a live and online audience, but too many imponderables remain for us to predict when this might be possible. Please be patient. We are doing our best and I hope the new programme below will encourage you to keep supporting us.

Hilary Wilson

Review of June meeting

In June we heard **Dr Marcel Marée** of the British Museum talking about a new on-line platform, **Circulating Artefacts** (CircArt). This key initiative against the looting and trafficking of antiquities from unauthorised excavations, was launched by the British Museum in 2018, with support from the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund. A dedicated team of experts has built a system for the reporting, documentation and study of artefacts on the art market so that objects can be examined for possible signs of illicit provenance. Unlike equivalent international registers for stolen fine art, CircArt deals with many objects which, being the products of illegal excavations or theft from dig store rooms, have not previously been recorded and therefore are not known to Egyptology as having been stolen.

The focus has been on cultural property from Egypt and Sudan and Dr Marée explained how fake provenances, forged export licences and obfuscated proofs of ownership have been created to enable the sale of illicitly acquired artefacts. He described the ways in which the platform might evolve to enable expansion into other regions. CircArt enables the detection and recovery of looted artefacts that would otherwise go unrecognised. The platform rests on a restricted, ever-growing 'knowledge base' of antiquities that are, or have been, in circulation, knowledge gathered from sources such as videos and images posted on social media by dealers, looters and traffickers. Dr Marée finished his talk with some examples of significant artefacts whose sale CircArt helped to stop, enabling their repatriation and prompting major police investigations.

The following is an example of the cases CircArt is meant to identify.

<https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/egypt-gold-coffin-of-nedjemankh-trnd/index.html>



In 2019, the Metropolitan Museum of Art successfully repatriated a gilded Egyptian coffin, inscribed with the name of a priest, Nedjemankh, to Egypt after learning that the piece had been stolen in 2011. A New York Times article alleged the sarcophagus cost the Met about \$4 million.

During the case of Nedjemankh's coffin, the Met spokespersons claimed that all of their acquisitions were made "in recognition of the 1970 UNESCO treaty, in adherence to the Association of Art Museum Directors' Guidelines on the Acquisition of Ancient Art and Archaeological Materials, and in compliance with federal and state laws." Under the UNESCO convention of 1970, countries agreed to complex measures to prevent the illegal export of national treasures, which include performing "due diligence" in verifying the provenance of historic objects. But of course, much is at stake, and illegal markets, fraudulent documentation, conflicting interests, and the temptation of ownership can be difficult to navigate.

"After we learned that the Museum was a victim of fraud and unwittingly participated in the illegal trade of antiquities, we worked with the DA's office for its return to Egypt," the Met's president and CEO, Daniel Weiss, said. "The nation of Egypt has been a strong partner of the museum's for over a century. We extend our apologies to Dr. Khaled El-Enany, Minister of Antiquities, and the people of Egypt, and our appreciation to District Attorney Cy Vance, Jr.'s office for its investigation, and now commit ourselves to identifying how justice can be served, and how we can help to deter future offenses against cultural property."

June Quiz Answer

The statue now known as the Bolton Amarna Princess, was made by art forger, Shaun Greenhalgh, and sold by his father, George Greenhalgh Sr., to Bolton Museum in 2003 for £440,000.



Based on the Amarna art-style of ancient Egypt, the purchase of the *Amarna Princess* was feted as a "coup" by the museum and it remained on display for three years. However, in November 2005, Greenhalgh was brought under suspicion by Scotland Yard's Arts and Antiquities Unit, and the statue was impounded for further examination in March 2006. It is now displayed as a part of an exhibition of fakes and forgeries.

Study Day Part 2:

Saturday 21 August 2021

**Royal Ladies of the New Kingdom:
Dynasties 19-20**

with **Dylan Bickerstaffe**



The Zoom session opens
12:30 London time
(GMT+1)

**participants will be
admitted from the
waiting room from
12:45 for a start at
13:00.**

For details of registration and payment
please contact the Secretary at:

saesinfo55@gmail.com

or check the website.

Forthcoming Meetings

Further details of the Zoom meetings
listed below will be 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.**

Thursday 16 September 2021:

(evening meeting starting at 19:00)

Annual General Meeting: There is no charge for this Members-only meeting, but registration is still required. Membership subscriptions will be due for renewal before the October meeting. The AGM provides an opportunity for Members to comment on SAES activities past and future, to discuss money matters and, this being an election year, to elect the Officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) of the SAES Committee. Voting will be via Zoom poll.

Lecture Programme 2021-22

Saturday 18 September 2021:

13:30 for 14:00

The Aegean Connection 2: Egypt and the Sea Peoples
by Hilary Wilson

Saturday 16 October 2021:

13:30 for 14:00

An Astronomical Ceiling at Esna: The Egyptian story of the Sun & the Moon
by Bernadette Brady

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

Thursday 25 November 2021:

evening meeting 18:30 for 19:00

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

Saturday 18 December 2021:

Speaker to be confirmed

Saturday 15 January 2022:

13:30 for 14:00

Ptolemaic Girl Power: Arsinoë II, Berenice II and Cleopatra VII
by Sarah Griffiths

Wednesday 16 February 2022:

evening meeting 18:30 for 19:00

Discoveries in the Desert: The North Kharga Oasis Darb Ain Amur Survey
by Salima Ikram

Saturday 19 February 2022:

13:30 for 14:00

The lady that led to Tutankhamun: The life and legacy of Amelia Edwards
by Carl Graves

Saturday 19 March 2022:

13:30 for 14:00

Excavating the City of the Snake Goddess: Flinders Petrie at Tell Nabasha
by Nicky Nielsen

Saturday 16 April 2022:

13:30 for 14:00

"A real Egyptian temple"? – the Iseum at Pompeii
by Mark Walker

Thursday 5 May 2022:

evening meeting 18:30 for 19:00

Recent work at Deir el-Medina
by Cédric Gobeil

Saturday 21 May 2022:

13:30 for 14:00

Provisions for the dead, ritual implements, luxury objects? Conceptualising grave goods in New Kingdom elite contexts
by Claudia Naser

Saturday 18 June 2022:

13:30 for 14:00

BLUE: Ancient Egyptian Glass and Glazes.
by Andrew Shortland

Saturday 16 July 2022:

Study Day

'Small Creatures – The less familiar wildlife of Ancient Egypt'
by John Wyatt & Hilary Wilson
(timings to be published later).

August Quiz

Match the images of these Egyptologists to the names of speakers in the 2021-22 programme given above.



Answers in the next edition of *Hotep*

