



Issue 36: December 2018

Review of November meeting

Dr Lidija McKnight gave an enthusiastic talk on her research into animal mummies under the title 'Gifts for the Gods'. Lidija is a research fellow at the University of Manchester, from which she also gained her PhD and Master's. She began her talk by explaining that there are three types of animal mummy; the pet that is usually found in the tomb of its owner, birds or pieces of meat that have been prepared and wrapped as food offerings for the dead, and all sorts of animals that are a votive offering for a particular god. Mummies in that last category form 99% of the available examples and are the focus of her research. The majority of these 'gifts for the gods' date from the Third Intermediate Period into the Graeco-Roman era. Most of the examples Lidija used to illustrate her presentation are extremely finely made, (see left), yet when they were scanned or X-rayed revealed that inside was either the odd bone, stick or just mud. These are generally referred to as fakes but in Lidija's view the shape of the object



Ibis mummy, dedicated to Thoth
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

indicated to the god that it was for them and so it was genuine – the actual contents were immaterial. This talk contained a wealth of information which is impossible to summarise completely here. Those of you who missed it, missed a treat.

Glenn Worthington

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

November Quiz Answers



The hoopoe was painted by **Howard Carter**. It shelters under the protective wings of the goddess **Nekhbet**, patroness of Upper Egypt. The relief is in the **Temple of Deir el-Bahri**, built as a mortuary or memorial temple for **Hatshepsut**, Dynasty 18.

Thanks to **Beverley Matcham** who gets us into the Christmas mood with this festive offering:

I saw this joke and thought it might bring a smile to readers of HOTEP!

A mummy covered in chocolate and nuts has been discovered in Egypt.

Archaeologists believe that it could be the Pharaoh Rocher....

Beverley, you spoil us!



And here are a few simple ideas from the Internet for adding an Egyptian theme to your Christmas goodies.

←Gingerbread mummies
mummy-yummy cookies,
↓
mummy truffles ↓



In the News



In New York this month Karl Lagerfeld, the chief designer for the Chanel fashion house, chose an Egyptian theme for his catwalk show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The venue was the court of the Dendur Temple, one of the small Ptolemaic or Roman temples rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser to have been donated to museums throughout the world.



Included in the fashion show was Lagerfeld's godson, Hudson Kroenig, the son of a former Chanel model, wearing a striking, if somewhat bizarre, outfit for a ten-year-old. His top, emblazoned with Pharaoh in his chariot, is teamed with gold lamé trousers and boots and a very strange hat. But then what do I know about fashion?



Merry Christmas, hope to see you all in the New Year.

Hilary

Next Meeting: Saturday 19 January 2019



We are very pleased to welcome **Nigel Strudwick**, former curator in the British Museum, and active researcher in Egypt, to give his talk, **'Egyptian Decrees, Biographies, Accounts & Formulae in the Age of the Pyramids'**. This explores what we can tell about the people of the Old Kingdom through the written word. It was at this time that continuous texts first appeared, and within the royal decrees in temples, the elaborate inscriptions in private tombs and early administrative papyri we can see the ordinary people at work.

And finally: Christmas Quiz Time

Which of Santa's reindeer is this?

You can find the name by rearranging the initial letters of the answers to these clues.



- 1:** The scribe and owner of a large and beautifully decorated funerary papyrus in the British Museum.
- 2:** An important medical papyrus named after its purchaser.
- 3:** The area which served as the principal necropolis of the ancient capital of Memphis.
- 4:** The most important solar deity of Egypt.
- 5:** The cult centre of the goddess Hathor.
- 6:** The Queen who ruled as king in the 18th Dynasty.

Bonus clue: The name sounds like that of a famous pyramid site in Egypt.

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

