

HOTEP

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The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Review of June Meeting

Robert Morkot's talk on the subject of 'The Great Temple of Amun at Gebel Barkal' began with a review of the connections between Egypt and Nubia starting with the earliest expeditions of the Old Kingdom. The importance of the region to the pharaohs in providing the natural resources like hardwoods, ivory, incense resin and, especially, gold, so necessary for their great royal building programmes and the maintenance of temple rituals was emphasised by their establishment of a string of fortresses in the cataract region. These served as centres of administration and trade as well as refuges for the local farmers in times of unrest. The Egyptian administrators and troops manning the forts, many of whom inter-married with the native population, brought their gods with them and during the Middle Kingdom the worship of Amun-Ra became a central feature of Nubian culture. The mountain of Gebel Barkal was identified as a home, possible *the* home, of Amun and a temple was founded at its foot → from at least the 12th Dynasty. The rock pinnacle at the mountain's edge has been seen as a royal figure or as the rearing uraeus serpent worn on the king's crown. Either way, it signified the holiness of Gebel Barkal. The temple was expanded greatly during the New Kingdom and many fine statues of sphinxes, kings and gods have been found there.



The Nubian kings of Dynasty 25 chose to have their pyramid tombs built in their home territory under the protection of Amun-Ra, the deity they honoured above all gods. Robert's talk took us into less-travelled areas of Egyptological interest and showed how widely Egyptian influence spread and how long the culture survived in Nubia after Egypt itself had been overrun by foreigners.



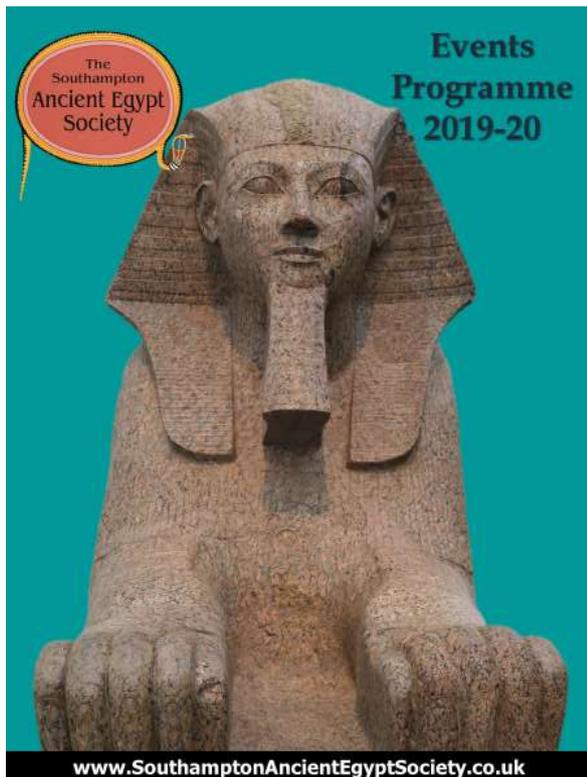
June Quiz Answers:

The song titles 'spelled' out in alphabetic hieroglyphs were:

- 1:** Michelle **2:** Eleanor Rigby
3: Hey Jude **4:** Strawberry Fields
5: Yellow Submarine **6:** Yesterday

The triple scarab hieroglyph  of the extra clue gives 'beetles', phonetically identical to Beatles. (You might have expected another scarab to represent the Fab Four but tripling a sign or adding three strokes to it indicates the plural meaning three or more.)

Programme 2019-20



21 September 2019: AGM followed by Hilary Wilson 'Hatshepsut: Daughter of Amun, Female Horus'

Hatshepsut was the only woman to rule Egypt successfully as Pharaoh in her own right. Hers is one of the best documented of all reigns in Egyptian history despite having been expunged from the official records. This talk explores the reasons behind Hatshepsut's unprecedented success including the roles played by some talented and influential courtiers.

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.

16 November 2019: Glenn Godenho 'Being an ideal official in a less than ideal world'

Discoveries at a coastal Fortress of Ramesses II, not far from the modern Libyan border have shown the commander was Nebre whose statue inscription reveals the sort of man he was and how he wished to be remembered. He tried to prove his worth as a high official, operating on the margins of Egyptian society in foreign territory, in a military installation whose purpose and functions this talk will explore.

14 December 2019: Anna Welch & Annette Winter 'Drink like an Egyptian: another round'

A seasonal celebration of the Egyptian love of wine and beer. With Christmas Social and fun and games

18 January 2019: Sarah Griffiths 'The Rise of the Middle Kingdom: Nebhepetre Mentuhotep & the return of the Pooh-Bahs'

This talk starts with the rise of the Middle Kingdom under a Theban warrior king who reunified Egypt. The legacy of pharaoh Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II, who re-established the country's prosperity and international standing, was the continued stability of government, enabled by some able administrators, the powers behind the throne. The achievements of both King and courtiers were promoted in their monuments.

15 February 2020: Lee Young 'The Life and Work of Nina de Garis Davies'

Nina de Garis Davies is regarded as the finest archaeological artist of the 20th Century, with good reason, her paintings bring Ancient Egypt alive and are exact replicas of the many tombs she worked in. This lecture will tell the story of Nina, along with husband Norman, and will be illustrated with many of these beautiful paintings.

21 March 2020: John Billman: 'Art of the Old Kingdom'

By the time of the 5th and 6th Dynasties, Egyptian artistic conventions and the canon of proportion were well established. Old Kingdom tombs, especially those at Saqqara, contain some of the most vivid images which provide a wealth of information about everyday life. This talk will examine the ways in which the Egyptian artist conveyed layer upon layer of detail within each scene and includes material from tombs only recently opened to the public.

18 April 2020: Professor Rosalie David 'Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science: Research at the KNH Centre for Biological Egyptology, University of Manchester'

This unique facility uses medical and scientific tools to examine Egyptian mummies and human for the physical evidence of disease, diet, medical and pharmaceutical treatments and religious practices to gain a better understanding of what life was like in Ancient Egypt. This talk will also describe current fieldwork being undertaken by the KNH Centre Missions in Egypt

16 May 2020: Liam McNamara 'Exploring the Dynastic Town and Temple Enclosure at Hierakonpolis'

The town mound of ancient Nekhen (Hierakonpolis) is renowned for the fabulous discoveries made there by James Quibell and Frederick Green in 1897-99, including the spectacular 'Main Deposit' of early votive objects. This lecture will explore the history and development of the site, as well as the results of a recent survey in the temple enclosure.

20 June 2020: Anna Garnett: 'The People behind the Petrie Museum'

The Petrie Museum is home to 80,000 objects from ancient Egypt and Sudan, and many of these objects were excavated by Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie from sites across Egypt. This lecture will explore some of the lesser-known

stories relating to the collection, and some of the characters who contributed to the foundation and care of the Petrie Museum over the past century.

Study Day: 18 July 2020

Dylan Bickerstaffe:

'Royal Ladies of the New Kingdom'

From Ahhotep to Ankhesenamun, from Nefertiti to Nefertari, the royal wives and mothers of Dynasties 18-20 include some of Egypt's most significant and enigmatic characters. This study day explores the lives, roles, and iconography of Egypt's female royalty.

And finally - Quiz Time

1: What was the purpose of this household item? →



2: Where is this mountain? ↓



3: Which deity is represented here? ↓



4: What crop is being harvested here? ↓



Answers in the next edition of **Hotep**

Have a good summer.

See you in September.

