

HOTEP

Issue 31: June 2018

Review of May Meeting

May saw the return of a favourite of the SAES, **Lucia Gahlin**, who talked about '*Shining Things*', concerning the production and use of the typical ancient glazed material now known as

Egyptian faience. Lucia provided us with an illustrated history of the uses of this material, including early beads, tiles, like those from Djoser's

Step

Pyramid

(left), cosmetic items, funerary amulets and small statues, (below). The core was formed from sand or ground quartz, mixed with plant ash and a mineral, commonly a copper compound, to provide the typical blue-green surface. This colour was significant as being symbolic of rebirth and renewal but other colours were developed as shown in the polychrome inlays from Amarna and the Ramesside palaces. Hand-shaped or pressed into moulds, then fired, faience was often substituted for semi-precious stones such as turquoise and lapis lazuli, even in elite jewellery. As always, Lucia was entertaining and informative. We hope to have her back in the not too distant future to talk about the allied craft of glass-making.



Programme for 2018-19

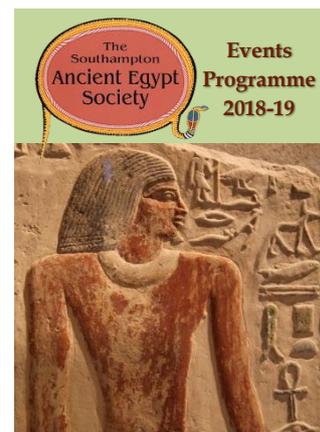
The programme for the lecture season starting in September 2018 was introduced at the June Meeting. The roll of lecturers includes some old friends, some fresh faces and some well-known names, providing what we hope will be an entertaining and at times a thought-provoking series of talks. Details are available on the website.

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

May Quiz Answers

This little introduction to the hieroglyphic script focused on place names.

- 1:  *Mer Wer*, 'the Great Tomb', is not, as you might suppose, the Great Pyramid of Khufu/Cheops but the second of the Giza pyramids, that of Khafre/Chephren.
- 2:  *Iunu*, 'Town of the Pillar', is the city known to the Greeks as Heliopolis and called On in the Bible. It is now a suburb of Cairo, partly covered by Cairo airport.
- 3:  *Ipet esut*, 'the Sanctuary of Thrones', is the name given to the Karnak Temple complex in Thebes, modern Luxor.
- 4:  *Ist maat*, 'The Place of Truth', was the name of the village of the Royal Workmen, now known as Deir el-Medina.
- 5:  *Waset*, 'The Dominatrix', is the ancient name of the city known as Thebes in Graeco-Roman times. It was personified as a goddess wearing the decorated was sceptre as a crown and carrying weapons such as a mace or a bow and arrows.

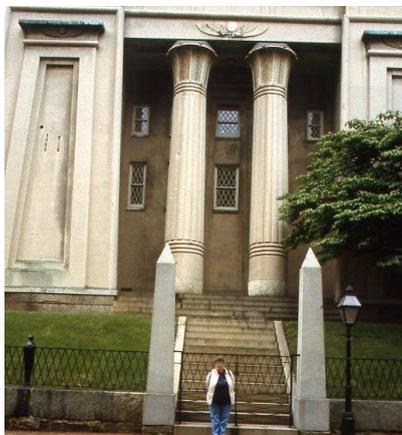


More of the Marriotts' American Adventures Egypt spotting on the Eastern Seaboard

It appears that once Egypt has 'hooked you in', so to speak, it is natural to gravitate towards anything Egyptian that may be in the vicinity, especially whilst travelling. Some years ago, we were exploring the American Civil War sites of Richmond Virginia when we came upon this little gem.



Considered to be one of the best surviving Egyptian revival buildings in the U.S, it is home to the medical department of what is now the Medical College of Virginia. Completed in 1845, it was the idea of Philadelphia architect Thomas Stewart who had already worked with the college. The College Board, who believed the origins of medicine could be traced back to Imhotep, deemed this design appropriate.



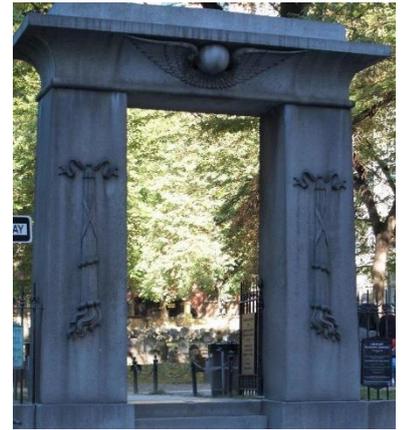
Until the 1890's, the interior of the building housed lecture halls, surgical beds an infirmary and a dissecting room. In 1939 the interior of the building was re-styled and decorated with an Egyptian theme, in keeping with the exterior features. Built of brick, stucco and cast iron, the building consists of five storeys. The porticos boast palm frond capitals with reed bundle columns above which a winged sun disk can be seen. Obelisks flank the sides, connected by a wrought iron fence with stylised mummy cases incorporated.

Red, blue and gold are the colours used for the interior decoration with lotus flowers and hieroglyphs depicted. These include a hymn to Amun and Aten, from the reign of Amenhotep III; Tutankhamun is also mentioned. A



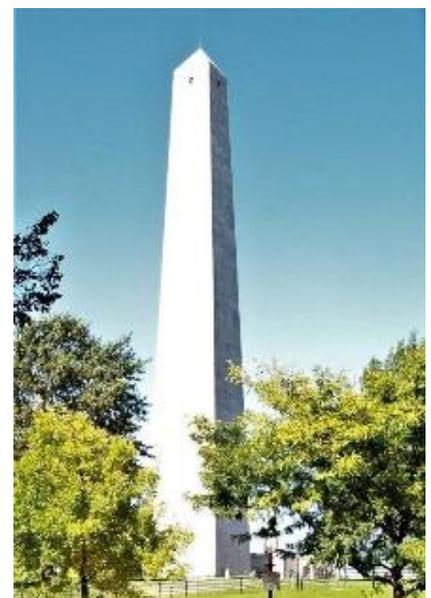
tilled scarab floor completes the design. In 1971 it officially became a National Historic Landmark.

In a similar vein, whilst taking the Freedom Trail walking tour of Boston, we came upon this impressive cemetery gate. Designed by architect Isaiah Rogers, it is in the Egyptian revival style with the familiar winged sun disk on top. The cemetery



houses the graves of Declaration of Independence signatories Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Robert Treat Paine. One of Boston's most famous sons Paul Revere, is also buried here. A silversmith by trade, he is famous for his midnight ride to warn the local militia of the British advance, before the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Towards the end of the two-and-a-half mile trail is a monument to the battle of Bunker Hill, the first battle of the Revolutionary War and what design did they choose? An obelisk! Designed by Solomon Willard the corner stone was laid on 17th June 1823 and finally dedicated on 17th June 1843; it too became a National Historic Landmark in 1961.



Photographs © David Marriott

There's still time to book your place for the July Study Day

Saturday 21 July

'Last of the Pharaohs: Incest, Intrigue & Bloodshed under the Ptolemies & Cleopatras'

presented by **Sarah Griffiths**,
Deputy Editor of Ancient Egypt Magazine.

Following the conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, a succession of kings called Ptolemy ruled Egypt for nearly 300 years, presiding over one of the most remarkable and complex periods in Egyptian history.

This was an era of unprecedented change for Egyptian culture and society as the new dynasty used religion and tradition to increase their power and wealth, and their new cosmopolitan capital, Alexandria, with its world famous library, became the cultural and economic centre of the ancient world.

And yet the House of Ptolemy was a family at war with itself, a complex tangle of relationships based on incest, bitter sibling rivalries, corruption, intrigue and murder, set against a backdrop of foreign wars, civil unrest and the growing influence of Rome.

In this study day, Sarah Griffiths will paint a vivid picture of Egypt's last ancient dynasty, from Ptolemy I to the famous Cleopatra VII, revealing the absorbing family dramas, exploring their distinctive art and architecture, daily life in Ptolemaic Egypt and the series of catastrophic events that led to the decline of the kingdom and its final annexation by Rome.

Refreshments will be provided in the morning and afternoon breaks but we ask you to make your own arrangements for lunch. Please book soon so that we can estimate our catering needs.

Fee for the day:
£20 for SAES Members
£25 for non-Members



And finally Quiz Time: Overlapping Names

Something a bit different this month to provide a work-out for the little grey cells!
The answers to each of the following clues is a pair of names in which the last part of one is the first part of the other.

E.g. 21st Dynasty High Priest & Army General /Wife of Tutankhamun

**Answer: Piankh and Ankhesenamun
PI/ANKH/ESEAMUN**

1: Hatshepsut's 'Favourite' /Ramesses II's Mother →

2: 18th Dyn Queen, mother of Ahmose I/First King of 2nd Dynasty



3: Original owner of some of the BM's wall ← paintings /Builder of the Pyramid at el-Lisht

4: 18th Dynasty Mayor of Thebes, owner of tomb TT96/Wife of Ramesses II

5: 21st Dynasty High Priest, Vizier & Army General/Last King of 18th Dynasty →



6: Youngest daughter of Akhenaten/18th Dynasty Vizier, owner of tomb TT55

Answers in the next issue of Hotep.

