

HOTEP

Issue 33: September 2018



Happy Birthday to Us!

Review of July Study Day

Sarah Griffiths, Deputy Editor of *Ancient Egypt Magazine*, treated us to a thoroughly entertaining day devoted to the study of the Ptolemaic Dynasty, the last of the Pharaohs. The convoluted family relationships of Alexander the Great's successors, their feuding and in-fighting which led to exile, murder and war, and the pressures on Egypt from the likes of Persia, Greece and Rome, provided a wealth of material for an enlightening series of talks. We were introduced to some of the larger-than-life characters who led Egypt out of their comfortable introspection to become a real power on the world stage, for a short time threatening the might of Rome itself.



Ptolemy III as Guardian of Maat, Leiden

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Sarah gave us an insight into the change in political viewpoints with Egypt becoming realigned as a Mediterranean rather than an African or Asiatic state. She also demonstrated how Egyptian traditions, especially relating to religious practice and temples, were maintained with adaptations that led to gods like Isis and Serapis being recognised and worshipped far beyond Egypt's borders. This family of pharaohs and their contribution to Egyptian history have tended to be overshadowed by the reputations of the Pyramid builders, the controversies of the Amarna Period and the military feats of the Ramesside kings. Sarah went a long way towards redressing this imbalance in a lively and accessible way. She will be back!

July Quiz Answers

1: The god on the cippus statue is → **Horus the Child, Harpocrates.**



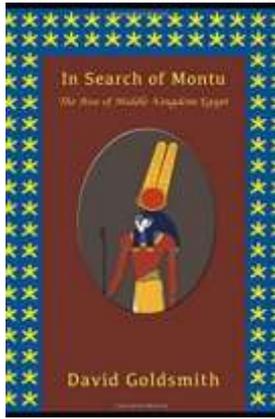
2: **Ra** emerges from the petals of a lotus flower, as in the famous statue ← from Tutankhamun's tomb.



3: The sistrum-player is **Ihy**, the son of Hathor and Horus at Denderah, also sometimes called the son of Sakhmet or Bastet.

4: **Khonsu Neferhotep**, the Healer of Thebes, was sent to cure the Princess of Bakhtan.

5: The particular form of each god described in the above questions is **represented as a male child**, with shaven head or the distinctive sidelock of youth.



SAES Member and speaker **David Goldsmith** has just released on Amazon his book *'In Search of Montu: the rise of Middle Kingdom Egypt'*, which he advertised late last year in his lecture on Egyptian Stories. It is based around the First Intermediate Period and the start of the Middle

Kingdom, covering evidence of civil war and internal problems and the characters of the royal families of the period. The work is based on information from archaeological and literary sources.

Another little find from Sue Marriott



Following on from the July 2017 issue of *Hotep*, this is another 'find' from my father's collection of cigarette cards. This time it is from a series called *'Wonders of the Past'* a series of fifty cards, of which this is number 4, issued by W.D & H.O Wills in 1926.

The information panel on the back reads as follows:-

It is hard to realise the intense respect for their dead that led the ancient Egyptians

to the gruesome expedient of mummification. They believed in a future resurrection and thought that the soul could return and reanimate a well preserved body, and through it enjoy funeral offerings etc., in the tomb. Mummification consisted in removing the intestines, soaking the corpse for about 70 days in natron, wrapping it in bandages with quantities of spice and balsam, and enclosing the whole in a wooden casket adorned with the features of the deceased. These examples date from 1600 B.C. (left) and 1200 B.C and are to be seen in the British museum.

Spelling and punctuation are as the original.

In the News: 18 August 2018

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-45233347>

Cheese discovered in 3,200-year-old tomb

Images
© Universities of Catania & Cairo



A substance found by archaeologists working in an Ancient Egyptian tomb has proved to be one of the oldest cheeses ever discovered. Several years ago, the team discovered broken jars in the tomb of Ptahmes, a high-ranking Egyptian official. The archaeologists found a "solidified whitish mass" in one of the jars which they suspected was food but were unsure which kind. Now a study has identified it as cheese, dating from 3,200 years ago.

The discovery is significant as there has been no previous evidence of Ancient Egyptian cheese production, authors reported in the *Journal Analytical Chemistry*. "The material analysed is probably the most ancient archaeological solid residue of cheese ever found to date," said Dr Enrico Greco, from the University of Catania, who worked with colleagues at the Cairo University in Egypt to determine its identity. "We know it was made mostly from sheep's and goat's milk, but for me it's really hard to imagine a specific flavour."



The ancient cheese would have had a "really, really acidic" bite, cheese historian and chemistry professor Paul Kindstedt told the *New York Times*.

The researchers say they also found traces of a bacterium that can cause an infectious disease known as brucellosis, which comes from consuming unpasteurised dairy products.

Symptoms include fever, sweating and muscle aches, and the disease still exists today. If confirmed, it would be the oldest evidence of such a case. The tomb where the cheese was found belonged to Ptahmes, an Egyptian official who was mayor of the ancient city of Memphis. The burial site, at the Saqqara necropolis near Cairo, was first unearthed in 1885. But, after being lost to shifting sands, it was rediscovered in 2010.

Saturday 15 September is our

20th Birthday!



Committee Nomination Form 2018



I.....
declare my willingness to stand for the role of Chairman/Treasurer/Secretary (circle applicable) of the Southampton Ancient Egypt Society, for a period of not more than three years without re-election, from September 2018.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Nomination:

Proposed by: Name.....

Signed.....

Seconded by: Name.....

Signed.....

The meeting will start with the **Annual General Meeting**, which will include **Committee elections**. The incumbent elected Officers of the Committee (**Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary**) have all expressed their willingness to stand for a further 3-year term. Anyone wishing to offer themselves for any of these three positions should submit their nomination, proposed and seconded by two Members of the SAES, to the Secretary before the start of the AGM. Nomination forms (see right) may be printed from this newsletter or obtained from the Secretary at the AGM. Votes, if necessary, will be taken by a show of hands of those Members present at the AGM.

The other volunteer members of the Committee have been co-opted on account of certain skills, aptitudes or contacts which fit them for the roles of Programme Secretary, Librarian, Technical Support, Web-master etc. but we are happy to consider volunteers to assist/shadow other Committee members or to take on specific responsibilities. For example, we could do with someone to be i/c Refreshments/Catering or someone to take on receiving, sourcing, storing and selecting prizes for the Raffle. Such non-administrative roles would not necessarily require attendance at all Committee meetings which are held monthly, usually in the week before the lecture meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved in the running of the SAES in any of the suggested capacities, please speak to any Committee Member.

The AGM will be followed by a talk entitled **Many Happy Returns: Egyptian Celebrations of Rebirth and Renewal**, by **Hilary Wilson**.

And finally

Quiz Time

1: WHO was the owner of tomb TT100 in the Theban necropolis?

2: WHERE can you see the false door stela from TT100?

3: WHAT position did the owner of TT100 hold at court?

4: WHICH museum published the definitive survey of TT100 in 1944?



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

