

HOTEP

Issue 21: July 2017

The newsletter of The Southampton Ancient Egypt Society

Review of the June meeting

On Saturday 17 June Dr Penny Wilson, from the Department of Archaeology at the University of Durham, gave us 'Sais: Biography of an Ancient Egyptian Royal City', a talk about her work on the ancient Egyptian capital of Sais. The ancient city, built on the Rosetta branch of the Nile, was the home of the 26th Saite Dynasty, the last native dynasty before the Persian occupation in 525 BCE. Penny's impression of the site when she first saw it and the difficulties she encountered over several archaeological seasons eloquently described the problems of exploring a Delta site.



Guided by the reports of Classical authors, such as Diodorus, and the maps drawn by 19th and 20th Century explorers, like Lepsius (map, left), Penny described how the site of Sais was identified. She explained how so much has been destroyed by agriculture and more recent building

that, together with the effects of an environment which is so different from that prevailing in the main Nile valley, very little is visible above the surface and geophysical techniques are not very reliable. However, she was able to show that Sais has a much longer history than previously suspected.

Apart from identifying the religious and royal quarters of the city, Penny's team took advantage of local drainage works to explore a small area of the main residential area of ancient Sais, which is underneath the modern village of Sa el-Hagar and the pottery finds spanned more than 2000 years, Predynastic through the New Kingdom to the Persian Period. The well lined with purpose-made pottery cylinders proved to have been filled with rubbish, perhaps deliberately to render it unusable by the invading Persians. A Late Period Roman-style bath block, similar to

that recently uncovered at Karnak, was also found.

Sadly Penny had to report that her site has suffered the same fate as so many others in Egypt, the looting of finds and illicit digging. It seems that unfounded rumours of treasure abound and thieves cannot understand that archaeologists can get excited about scraps of pottery and broken walls. She hopes to go back later this year but at the time of writing the necessary official permissions have not yet been granted.

Sue Marriott sent this for our amusement

Whilst sorting out a box of cigarette cards belonging to my late father I came across this card from a series called 'Famous Crowns'. Issued by Godfrey Phillips Ltd in 1938, the set comprised of twenty five cards of which this was number thirteen. The information panel on the back reads as follows, spelling, grammar and punctuation are as per the original.



RAMESES II

'The crowns of ancient days were very different from what they are to-day. The earliest was just a fillet of silk or linen, or other material and was called a diadem: gradually this was replaced by a flexible band or fillet of gold, sometimes ornamented with pearls and precious stones. At the coronations of the ancient Egyptian kings, every king was crowned with the double crown, showing his sovereignty over the upper and lower country. The king also wore his crown in battle, sometimes it was merely a wig, but a helmet made of thick woollen stuff was preferred, with the serpent, the symbol of imperial authority.'

This is the only Egyptian crown depicted in the series.

June Quiz Answers:

1: The so-called '**Hunters Palette**' is in the **British Museum**.

2: The statue is that of **Akhenaten**, now in the **Louvre**.

3: The object is a **shabti** or servant figure from the tomb of Seti I, now in the **Ashmolean Museum, Oxford**.

Emily Hale reports on her visit to Munich's State Museum of Egyptian Art



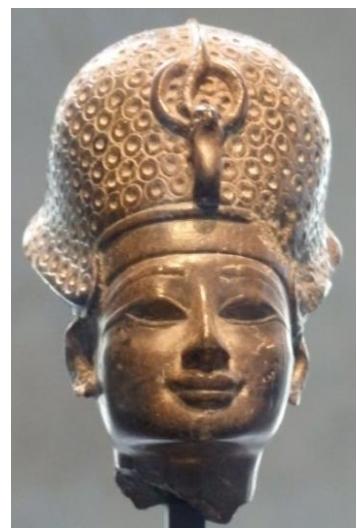
Whilst in Munich for a week in June, we spent an afternoon visiting the museum of Egyptian Art within the city, which houses a number of brilliant artefacts from Ancient Egypt. The very reasonable entry prices of €7 includes a virtual guide of the museum in the form of a tablet computer which directs you around the museum and provides audio commentary on the exhibits as well as comparisons of similar exhibits in other museums and reconstructions of how damaged statues would have looked like in ancient times.

I spent a couple of hours here and would recommend it to anyone visiting the area, also if it makes you thirsty there's a very nice German Beer Garden just around the corner!

Here are Emily's photos of some of the pieces from the museum.



The gilded head piece from the coffin of Sat-Djehuti, (above)



The head from a statue of Thutmose IV, (right) wearing a crown very similar to the one in Sue Marriott's cigarette card, (see previous page).

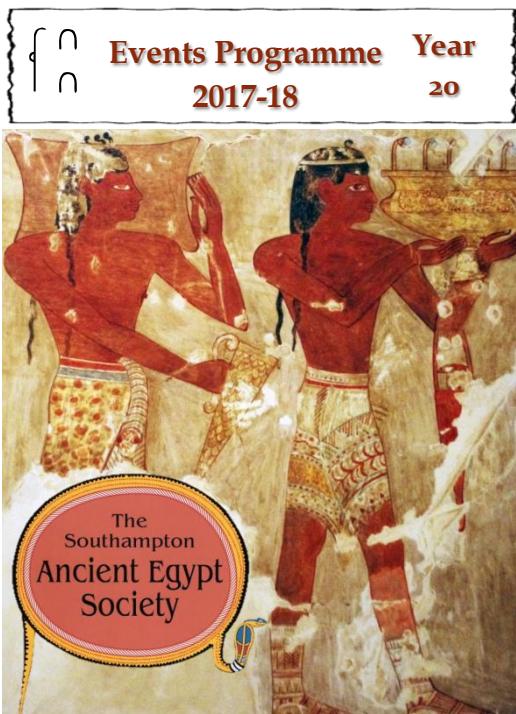


An impressive statue of Antinous from the Roman Period, (left). Antinous, the lover of the Emperor Hadrian, was drowned in the Nile. Hadrian was so grief-stricken that he raised Antinous to almost godlike status and had several statues of him placed in palaces and temples.

If you have any other Egyptian encounters during your holidays this summer please share them with us. Items or pictures for Hotep may be sent to the usual e-mail address:

info@SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk

We are proud to announce our 20th
Annual Lecture Programme 2017-18



16 September 2017:
AGM followed by
Joanna Kyffin 'A Woman's Place? Female Bodies in Medicine and Literature'.



21 October 2017: David Goldsmith: 'Tales from Ancient Egyptian Literature'

18 November 2017: Peter Philips 'But where did they live?'

**9 December 2017: Ian Trumble 'Egypt in Bolton'
Followed by the Christmas Social with fun and games and festive nibbles.**

20 January 2018: Hilary Wilson: 'Three into Two Will Go: artistic conventions in ancient Egypt.'



**17 February 2018:
John Bilman: 'Hatshepsut: The eternal female pharaoh of Egypt – her monuments explored'**

17 March 2018: Violaine Chauvet: 'The Ptahshepses-corpus: inspiration in the decoration of an Old Kingdom family cluster'.

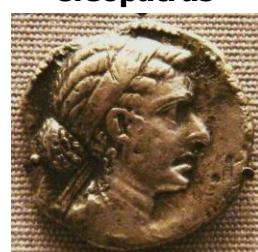
21 April 2018: Roland Enmarche: 'The Tale of Sinuhe: Biography & Poetry in Middle Kingdom Literature'

19 May 2018: Lucia Gahlin: 'Brilliant things': Ancient Egyptian Faience.



16 June 2018: Glenn Worthington: 'Tutankhamun's Funeral'

21 July 2018: Study Day: Sarah Griffiths 'Last of the Pharaohs: Incest, Intrigue and Bloodshed under the Ptolemies and Cleopatras'



Subscription rates for 2017-18 are unchanged. To renew your membership please contact the Secretary: 077729 627901. e-mail:

info@SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk

Subscription renewal forms may be downloaded from the website: www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk

For postal renewals: The Secretary,
10 Cobbett Way, Botley, Southampton,
Hampshire SO30 2ET

Quiz Time

Just one question again this month.

Not counting the Ptolemaic Dynasty, can you name five or more women who are known (or thought) to have ruled Egypt as pharaoh?

Answers in the next edition of Hotep

