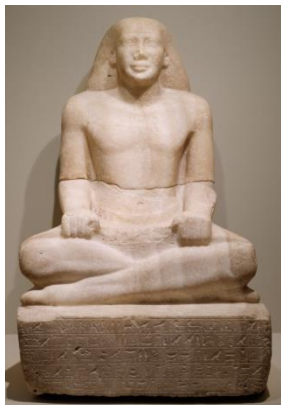


**Review of the May meeting**

On Saturday 20 May we welcomed back **Dr Campbell Price**, Curator of Egypt and Sudan at the Manchester Museum. He started his talk on **'Statues, Sailors and Strategy in Saite Egypt'** by introducing us to the statue of Hor, known as Psamtek, *Chief of the royal fighting ships in the Great Green (Sea)*. The statue (right) was found by Petrie at Tell el-Yahudiyah in the Delta, a site dating to the 26<sup>th</sup> (Saite) Dynasty. Campbell speculated on the role that Hor might have had in Egypt's relations with the Aegean islands. He suggested that a secondary title, that of *Commander of the Foreign Mercenaries*, indicated that Hor led an expedition into Nubia for Psamtek II during which Greek mercenaries left their graffiti at Abu Simbel. He looked at other evidence for Hor-Psamtek's life and compared this with statues, shabtis and tomb inscriptions of his contemporaries, especially those bearing titles which have been translated as 'admiral'.



The 'Master of Shipping'  
Somtutefnakht

After the interval, Campbell surveyed other statuary contemporary with that of Hor to demonstrate the Saite practice of 'archaism'. This was a deliberate imitation of Old Kingdom artistic styles, poses and materials to add gravitas by suggesting continuity of ancient precedents.

This talk about a period which we have rarely covered before was made highly entertaining by Campbell's enthusiasm for his subject.

**In the News: *Daily Telegraph*: 03/06/17  
Museum gets sexy with adult tour**



Examples of the British Museum's risqué exhibits include this Egyptian wall painting from the tomb chapel at Nebamun (1350BC), featuring naked dancers Credit: British Museum

By *Hannah Furness, Arts Correspondent*

THE British Museum is to host an X-rated "Love Hunt", in which members of the public will seek out the naughtiest items in its collection.

Visitors will be invited to "titter at some semi-pornographic 5th-century Greek pots" and "gawk at the enormous phallus of a Priapus" in an event aimed firmly at adults.

Promising an exploration of the museum's "naughty and amorous tales", the treasure hunt will invite teams of visitors to romp through the galleries, identify the relevant objects and take photographs of them.

It is being organised by an external company, Treasure Hunt At The Museum, and follows similar challenges hosted at the British Museum with different themes.

Attendees are invited to "search for the impish Putti" and "vie to capture the beautiful Venus", from June 16 onwards.

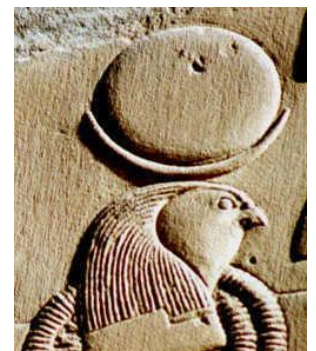
**May Quiz Answers:**

**1:** The patron of Sais was the goddess **Neith**.

**2:** Ahmose's tomb is at **el-Kab**.

**3:** The seated scribe wearing the skull cap is the usual representation of **Imhotep**, architect of the Step Pyramid.

**4:** The barque of Khonsu is identified by a **falcon's head** topped with the **lunar crown**.



**Sue Marriott** reminds us that Egyptian place names have been adopted by other cultures.

### THE OTHER MEMPHIS

Memphis Tennessee takes its connection to its Egyptian namesake quite seriously in the form of two Egyptian style buildings. The first of these is the pyramid.

The Memphis Pyramid or Great American Pyramid was opened in 1991 in downtown Memphis on the banks of the Mississippi river. Standing 321 feet high it has base side measurements of 591 feet and had a twenty-five foot fibreglass statue of Ramses II in front.



Originally a sports arena, it was home briefly to the Memphis Pharaohs Arena League Football team (1995-6) and to Memphis University and Memphis Grizzlies basketball teams until 2004.

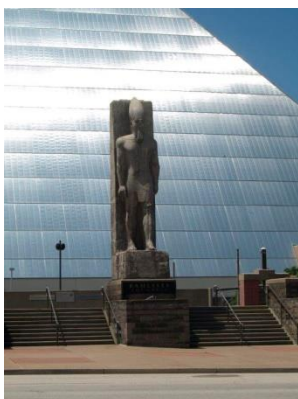
The venue was used for various concerts and conventions until 2007 when it was all but abandoned. After a five year period of negotiation it was bought by Bass Pro shops as a shopping centre it now boasts a bowling alley, aquarium and a hundred room hotel called 'Big Cypress Lodge'. A free standing lift takes visitors to 'The lookout at the Pyramid' at the apex, where they can enjoy the view or dine at the 'Sky High Catfish Cabin'.



Check out [www.big-cypress.com/dining/the-lookout-at-the-pyramid-en.html](http://www.big-cypress.com/dining/the-lookout-at-the-pyramid-en.html) for some amazing pictures.

In 2012 the statue of Ramses was moved to the University of Memphis campus. These pictures were taken in 2009.

Memphis Zoo was established in 1906 and has undergone various rebuilds and expansions in



the following decades. In 1990 the zoo renovated its entrance to the one we see today (above). Modelled on pylons of an ancient Egyptian temple, the façade boasts a myriad of symbols and hieroglyphs. From a distance they do look stylised but on closer inspection there is method in the madness! A bronze plaque (below) on the building describes to the viewer what can be seen.



The top two panels (1) show the zoo's mission statement in hieroglyphs. The panels either side (2) 'symbolically depict the ceremonial presentation by the city of Memphis to its citizens of animals from around the world'. The male and female figures represent the citizens of Memphis and the male lone figure the city itself. Over the portal area (3) the large vultures symbolise protection of the inhabitants and visitors. Hieroglyphs depict a list of animals including sea lion, gorilla & shark!



Hieroglyph consultation and translations were provided by the Memphis Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology. Flanking the entrance are large figures of animals on plinths reminiscent of the sphinx avenues of Egypt. Inside there is an obelisk (left) and another Egyptianised buildings.



The Memphis Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology houses over fourteen hundred ancient Egyptian artefacts, two hundred of which are on permanent display, though it

is closed until August 2017 [www.memphis.edu/egypt](http://www.memphis.edu/egypt)

*The Daily Telegraph* of Wednesday 31 May contained the following item, reproduced here verbatim. Ignoring the sensationalist headline it gives some food for thought particularly in relation to the **Black Athena** debate and the socio-political views on the origins of the Egyptian people so prevalent in the USA.

### **Under the bandages, Egyptian mummies had British forefathers**

DNA study shows 'strong mingling' between north Africans and Europeans at the time the pyramids were built

By *Sarah Knapton, Science Editor*

ANCIENT Egyptians were more closely related to early Britons than modern Africans, a new study has shown.

New DNA analysis of mummies dating from approximately 1,400 BC to 400 AD found that, although modern Egyptians are genetically similar to sub-Saharan African populations, their ancient ancestors were more similar to their contemporary Europeans.

It suggests there was strong mingling between populations in Europe and north Africa at the time when the pyramids were being built.

"Central Europeans and Britons seem equally closely related to ancient Egyptians," said senior author Dr Johannes Krause, of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany.

"In fact ancient Egyptians are on average even closer related to early Europeans than to modern Egyptians." It is the first time that scientists have managed to extract useful DNA from mummies, which is usually destroyed by the humid air inside tombs.

"The potential preservation of DNA has to be regarded with scepticism," said Dr Krause. "The hot Egyptian climate, the high humidity levels in many tombs and some of the chemicals used in mummification techniques, contribute to DNA degradation and are thought to make the long-term survival of DNA in Egyptian mummies unlikely."

The team sampled 151 mummies from the archaeological site of Abusir el-Meleq, along the Nile in Middle Egypt and were able to recover partial DNA from 90 individuals, and genome-wide datasets from three individuals.

It showed that ancient Egyptians were most closely related to ancient populations in the Levant (modern day Syria, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon), but also to Neolithic farming

populations from the Anatolian Peninsula around Turkey and Europe, and even Britain. The team wanted to determine if ancient populations were affected by the conquests of Alexander the Great and other foreign powers.

Wolfgang Haack, group leader at the Max Planck

Institute, said: "The genetics of the Abusir el-Meleq community did not undergo any major shifts during the 1,300-year timespan we studied, suggesting that the population remained genetically relatively unaffected by foreign conquest and rule."

The data shows that modern Egyptians share approximately eight per cent more ancestry on the nuclear level with Sub-Saharan African populations than with ancient Egyptians.

However, the team said it was too early to tell how so much European DNA came to be present in Egyptian populations. "People from Egypt and the Near East might have been connected over thousands of years," said Dr Krause. "I would therefore not call them migrants. We would need older data to show where the origin of the ancient Egyptians was." The study was published in *Nature Communications*.

It comes after the history of human evolution had to be rewritten after scientists discovered two fossils of an ape-like creature which had human-like teeth in Bulgaria and Greece, dating to 7.2 million years ago.

The discovery proved our ancestors were already starting to evolve in Europe 200,000 years before the earliest African hominid.

**Martin Bernal** first proposed his **Black Athena** theory in 1987. For a summary of his work see:

<http://www.blackathena.com/outline.php>

The following is the opening paragraph of this review: 'In my three volumes with the title *Black Athena*, I argue that the Ancient Egyptian civilization can usefully be seen as African. I also maintain Ancient Egypt and Semitic speaking South West Asia played fundamental roles in the formation of Ancient Greece. I do not claim the Ancient Greeks were Black or that the Ancient Egyptians all looked like stereotypical West Africans.'



Alexander before Amun-Ra

There's still time to book your place for our  
**Study Day 15 July 2017**  
**An Introduction to Egyptian Astronomy**

presented by **Dr Bernadette Brady** from the  
**University of Wales Trinity Saint David**  
School of Archaeology, History and  
Anthropology.



The Denderah Zodiac

This Study Day is designed to introduce you to the Egyptian sky with its mythic, religious, and civic role in Egyptian society. It will begin with the pyramids of the Old Kingdom and carry through to the Hellenistic period.

By the end of the day you should be able to look at a piece of Egyptian astronomical art or design and recognise its probable intentions and major themes. Handouts will be provided to aid your own study after the event.

Doors open at 9.30 a.m. for registration, lectures start at 10 a.m. The Study Day fee covers mid-morning and mid-afternoon refreshments but please make your own arrangements for lunch.

**Fee for the day:**  
**£20 for SAES Members**  
**£25 for non-Members**  
**Book your place now.**



The next **Informal Evening Meeting** is on  
**Friday 23 June**, starting at 7.30 p.m.

**Annette Winter** and **Anna Welch** will be  
entertaining us with:

**Drink Like an Egyptian.**

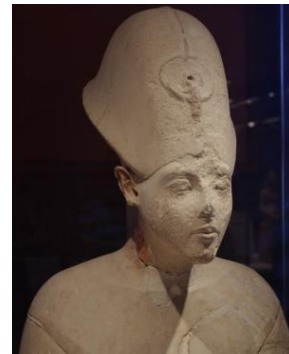
There is a £2 charge to cover light (non-  
alcoholic) refreshments.

**Quiz Time**

**1: Where** can you see this object? →

**2: Who** is represented in this statue? ↓

**3: What** was  
the purpose  
of this object?  
↓



Answers in the next edition of Hotep

