



The Egypt Society of Bristol

Newsletter

Number 1, August 1999

Editorial

Welcome to the first - rather long-delayed! - ESB Newsletter. It is now intended to issue this at least once a year, as part of a programme to regularise ESB mailings, which should now come out in August, December and April each year. The format (and regularity) of the newsletter will remain fluid for the time being, depending very much on the material available - and the comments of the readership. Any thoughts and contributions should be sent to the Editor at the usual Society address.

The ESB is now well into its third year, and has a healthy membership of well over 100, of whom a at least a third regularly attend lectures. We have had a number of distinguished speakers over this period of time, as well as a highly successful day trip to Dorchester and Kingston Lacy, which atrocious weather failed to dampen.

The current mailing is something of a bumper one, including the details of three trips. Those of you who had booked on some of our recent proposed visits - to Paris, and the North West - will have been disappointed

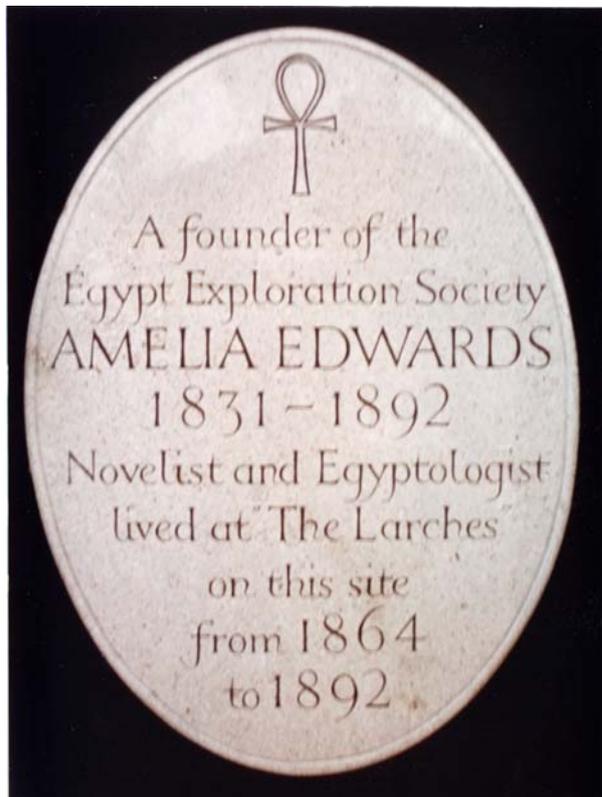
by our need to cancel them on the grounds of insufficient take up. As you will appreciate, unless a certain threshold is crossed, travel costs become prohibitively expensive.

Since it seems that the main reason for the low take up has been the relatively short notice given, we are now looking to provide the maximum warning, and you will see that information is being provided three, six and fourteen months in advance. The latter is a trip to Egypt, something a number of members have suggested, and which we are now going 'go for'. The choice of a cruise is on the basis that this is by far the best way of seeing the country, as well as avoiding the need to check in and out of hotels almost daily, if one wishes to see more than one or two areas. They are also ideal for 'Egypt virgins', allowing access to locations that are not particularly easy to reach under one's own steam. It is hoped that, if the cruise is successful, we may undertake a Lower Egyptian excursion, to the environs of Cairo, and up into the Delta, in 2002.

The Restoration of Amelia's Plaque

Amelia Edwards (1831-1892) is one of the key figures of British Egyptology, as the founder of both the Egypt Exploration Society (EES) and the Chair of Egyptology at University College London. Buried beneath an obelisk and *ankh* in Henbury churchyard She lived for many years in Westbury-on-Trym, in a house named 'The Larches', which fell victim to a bomb during WW2. However, in 1982, to mark the EES' centenary, a stone plaque was affixed to the front garden wall of 22 Eastfield, which occupies part of the site. It has deteriorated over the last few years, and accordingly it has become an ESB project to restore it to its pristine condition.

By the time you read this, the cleaning and repainting of the incised text should have been completed. Thanks are particularly due to the President for his efforts towards getting the work done, and to the present occupiers, whose co-operation and good will has been marked by the presentation of a copy of Joan Rees' recent biography of Amelia Edwards.



New Home for Bristol Archaeology - and the ESB

At the end of 1998, the Department of Archaeology at Bristol University moved from its old home in the Arts Faculty at 11 Woodland Road, to number 43, the former Baptist College. As part of this move, it has acquired its own, dedicated, lecture room, and for the 1999/2000 season, the ESB will be experimenting with using these new facilities. Lecture start time is also being shifted to 1845, to meet the comments of those who have found it difficult to get there before 'lock-out'. The committee will welcome any comments on the new arrangements.

Ernest Sibree

Some of you may have heard the Chairman on BBC Radio Bristol's Saturday morning 'Blue Plaque' series, speaking about Bristol's 'forgotten Egyptologist', Ernest Sibree. Although he was University librarian, as well as teaching Egyptian and Akkadian between the 1890s and 1927, very little is known about him. No Sibrees now appear in the Bristol phone book, but descendants may still live in the area: any contacts would be gratefully received.

Personal News

Those who attended the Summer Party will know that our External Liaison Secretary, Claire Galbraith, recently gave birth to a son, Gabriel; I'm sure that all members will wish to congratulate Claire and Simon. Also, on 11 September, ESB Chairman Aidan Dodson is scheduled to marry fellow Society member Dyan Hilton at Bristol Register Office; they are booked to honeymoon in Crete (mutterings about trying to avoid a 'busman's holiday' ...)!

8th International Congress of Egyptologists (ICE)

The ICE is held every 4/5 years, and comprises a week of short lectures on a wide variety of Egyptological topics, together with various receptions and other social events. The next one is being held from 28 March to 3 April 2000, in Cairo. The advance registration fee is \$180, and details are available on the internet; the url is: <http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/egypt/newsdir/ice8.doc> or [/ice8.pdf](http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/egypt/newsdir/ice8.pdf). A bonus is that a one-month pass for all the antiquities in Egypt is included in the price.... The Chairman is planning to attend.



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