



# The Egypt Society of Bristol

## NEWS UPDATE

Issue 12

August 2003

### Chairman's Dig

It seems a little bizarre to be longing for Egypt in order to cool down, but the Chairman and Treasurer are currently looking forward to escape the wet heat of Bristol for the rather hotter, but less humid conditions of the Nile Valley! They, and the ESB's recent speaker, Salima Ikram, are due out on 1 September to lead a tour of Egyptian private tombs, the party for which includes a number of ESB members. We'll tell you all about in when we get back, *inshallah!*

This rather neatly brings us to the next ESB Egyptian jaunt. In 2000, we went to Upper Egypt and Nubia; last year, we 'did' northern Egypt, from the Mediterranean coast, down to Fayoum. Next December (2004), plans are well advanced for picking up where we left off, and continuing into rarely-visited Middle Egypt. The provisional itinerary is included below, and includes both famous sites such as Beni Hasan and Tell el-Amarna, and others which may send you scrabbling for an atlas! Nevertheless, all are fascinating places, as well as frequently areas of outstanding natural beauty — all viewed with the nearest package tourist over 100 kilometres away .... Costs have yet to be agreed, but something over £1,000 is certain, given the extra costs involved in getting permission to visit some normally off-limits sites, and the need to pay for our own private police escort.

It is hoped to include full details in the Christmas mailing, but this should allow people to consult their diaries and start saving up! The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary all did a similar trip a few years ago, and would be more than happy to answer questions.

Rather closer to home, there are still places available on the trip to the Petrie Museum and

British Museum on **Sat 27 September** this year. If you wish to book, please return the form overleaf as soon as possible.

As always, the ESB has a full lecture programme for the new season, but also next autumn will see a number Egyptian events linked with the City Museum and Art Gallery. As many of you are aware, there is a project to create a completely new, and enlarged, Egyptian gallery for the spring of 2006. The Membership Secretary is, of course, intimately involved in the whole thing, but the Chairman is collaborating with the Bristol Magpies in organising a series of fund-raising events, beginning next autumn. More details will be available in the New Year, but one event is already fixed — a day-school that looks at the development of Egyptology from in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

ESB members are encouraged to support this endeavour, which promises to give Bristol one of the finest Egyptian galleries in a provincial museum!

Before closing, one must move to less pleasant matters. Those who went on last year's Egyptian jaunt will remember our Tour Manager, Jim O'Donnell, who was at the time also an MA student in the Archaeology Department at Bristol. Tragically, he died on 14 August, at the age of only 28, apparently of a thrombosis. The same week also died Dr Jim Romano, of the Brooklyn Museum's Egyptian Department, in a car crash, and Dr Sarah Clackson, the UK's leading expert in Coptic, and Lady Budge Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge. She died of a brain tumour, again at far too early an age: our thoughts will be with their families.



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**Lecture report**

13 May 2003: 'Prof Plumley, Qasr Ibrim and the Egypt Exploration Society in Nubia', by Chris Naunton

This detail-packed lecture was presented by Chris Naunton, the Librarian of the Egypt Exploration Society, a graduate of Birmingham University. The inspiration for the lecture came about mainly from the photographic slides left to the EES in 1999 following the death of J. Martin Plumley, former Professor of Egyptology at Cambridge. Although some of the slides have deteriorated because of their age and, possibly, storage, they still provide us with valuable information on sites which have since disappeared under the waters of Lake Nasser. The slides are now being copied into digital format which will preserve them for the future.

This lecture was interesting, not only because of the unique pictures, but also because of the insight into the day to day life of a dig and an overview of what the EES is all about, including a recipe on how to prepare turkey 'Egyptian style'.

There is also an account of a turkey given to one of the digs and their reluctance to kill it for roasting. Eventually, when the group was expecting an important visitor it was decided the time was ripe to despatch the poor bird. The task was given to one of the Egyptian staff who asked if any whisky was available. The group took pity on the 'executioner', understanding what a difficult job he had. As it turned out, the whiskey was for the turkey not the man, as apparently it makes the meat taste good! There was also an amusing story of how the group's

boat sprang a leak in mid-Nile and it was good luck someone had a finger of just the right size to plug the hole. They managed to get to shore, without losing any fingers to the crocodiles which still inhabit that part of the Nile.

Work commenced at the end of the 1950s by the EES at Qasr Ibrim continues to this day — despite thoughts at the outset that it would take only two or three years to complete and that there wasn't much to find! In the case of this site, the photographs taken by Plumley are particularly valuable as there is now very little of the area left due to the waters of the Aswan High Dam. Recently, a unique wall painting has been removed (partly by Bristol Museum's very own David Singleton) to the Nubian Museum at Aswan and will now be safe from further decay.

Prof Plumley also undertook work at Buhen which turned out to be a very important military fortress. Once again, the slides provide a record of the area which has been completely lost under water. One of the slides showed a group of 1950's sun-hatted Bales tourists tramping all over the mud brick walls! Speaking from experience, I know Bales are a little more careful these days!

Plans are now in hand to properly publish work carried out in the 30's at other Nubian sites which was interrupted because of the Second World War. It took some time to get back to the sites, partly due to the loss of so much experience and expertise when archaeologists serving in the war were killed in active service.

It was another well attended lecture and I'm sure Chris has enough pictures and interesting facts to fill another evening!

Margaret Curtis

**Newsletters by e-mail**

Something around half of our members now have e-mail facilities, and currently receive advance copies of the Newsletter and any other mailings by e-mail, as well as printed versions a week or so later.

The ESB is perfectly happy to continue this pattern for those who wish to receive both electronic and paper versions. However, given the costs and time associated with paper distribution, it has been decided to ask members with e-mail accounts whether they would be prepared to receive their mailings electronically only.

If so, please e-mail [Aidan.Dodson@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Aidan.Dodson@bristol.ac.uk) confirming your e-mail address. We wish to emphasise, however, that everyone who wishes to receive a paper copy as well is perfectly at liberty to do so!

To: Dr Aidan Dodson  
93A Redland Road  
Bristol BS6 6RB

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 14 SEPTEMBER 2003**

Please send me/us ..... tickets for the ESB **London Trip**, @ £17.00 each, and enclose a cheque for £..... and a **stamped addressed envelope**.

Name .....

Address .....

..... e-mail .....

## Egypt Society of Bristol Programme 2003/4

**Tues 23 September 2003:** Lecture, *“Here am I”: servants for the Hereafter*  
Peter Clayton, FSA.

**Sat 27 September 2003:** Day trip — London (assorted Egypt-related things!)  
Depart Woodland Road 0800; return 1830. £17.00 (see form below)

**Tues 21 October 2003:** Lecture, *The First Intermediate Period and Tell Edfu*  
Nadine Moeller, Christ’s College, Cambridge

**Tues 2 December 2003:** Lecture, *The Western Desert Oases of Egypt*  
Dylan Bickerstaff

ESB lectures are held in Lecture Room 1, Department of Archaeology, 43 Woodland Road, Clifton, at 1845. Doors open at 1815. Street parking available in the vicinity. Disabled access is available.

**Tues 13 January 2004:** Lecture, *Fortress at the end of the World: the latest excavations at Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham*  
Dr Steven Snape, Lecturer in Egyptology, University of Liverpool

**Tues 24 February 2004:**

- Annual General Meeting (at 1830)
- Lecture, *A Load of Old Bull? The Serapeum of Saqqara.*  
Dr Aidan Dodson, Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol
- Winter Party (at 1945)

**Monday 1 March 2004:** University of Bristol Amelia Edwards Memorial Lecture,  
*The Drowned Land of Nubia and the Rescue of its Monuments*  
Martin Davies, President, Egypt Society of Bristol  
Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building at 1715  
*NB: this is a University event, not organized by the ESB, but all are very welcome.*

**Tues 30 March 2004:** Lecture, Title TBD  
Dr Mark Collier, Lecturer in Egyptology, University of Liverpool

**Tues 18 May 2004:** Lecture, *Making stone statues and cutting reliefs and hieroglyphs into hard materials*  
Denys Stocks

**Tues 22 June 2004**

- Lecture, *Flinders Petrie & the Politics of Archaeology*  
Dr Bill Manley, National Museums of Scotland and Universities of Glasgow & Liverpool
- Summer Party (at 1945)

**Saturday 20 November 2004:** City of Bristol Museum & Art Gallery — New Egyptian Gallery Fundraiser  
*The Rediscovery of Ancient Egypt: the Pioneering Years*  
Peter Clayton, Dr Aidan Dodson, Sue Giles, Dr Robert Morkot & Dr John Taylor  
University of Bristol Chemistry Theatre 2, Cantocks Close, Bristol 8, from 0945 to 1645  
*NB: This is a Bristol Magpies event; tickets £25 (whole day)/£15 (half day); booking details available soon*

**Mon 6 to Tues 14 December 2004:** Trip to Middle Egypt: cost for person sharing a room £1,103 (an 8% saving on the regular price). See separate sheets for booking.

Mon 6 — London to Cairo

Tue 7 — Cairo Museum

Wed 8 — Biahmu, Hawara (monuments and pyramid of Amenemhat III); Medinet Maadi (temple of Amenemhat III & IV)

Thu 9 — Deir el-Bersha (Middle Kingdom tombs, including the famous scene of dragging a colossus), Tuna el-Gebel (Graeco-Roman tombs), Ashmunein (site of city of Hermopolis)

Fri 10 — Tell el-Amarna: the city and private tombs

Sat 11 — Tell el-Amarna: the tomb of Akhenaten; Mallawi Museum; Meir (Old and Middle Kingdom tombs)

Sun 12 — Beni Hasan (Middle Kingdom tombs), Speos Artemidoros (temple of Hatshepsut), Zawiyet Sultan (early Old Kingdom pyramid and later tombs), Tihna el-Gebel (Old Kingdom tombs; Roman temples, &c)

Mon 13 — Dishasha (Old Kingdom tombs)

Tue 14 — Cairo-London

