



The Egypt Society of Bristol

NEWS UPDATE

Issue 29

September 2014

Chairman's Dig

Once again it has been rather too long since the last newsletter – usual excuses! Over the past eighteen months the Chairman and Treasurer have been out and about Egyptologically fairly extensively, including their four months in Egypt, where the Chairman had a semester as Simpson Professor of Egyptology at the American University Cairo – as was documented by a series of ‘Letters from Cairo’ distributed to members and friends by e-mail. Most recently, they have been in Copenhagen for the annual meeting of CIPEG (*Comité Internationale pour l’Égyptologie*), the section of the International Council of Museums (ICOM – part of UNESCO) dealing with Egyptian collections. It was a most enjoyable and informative gathering – with Copenhagen scoring particularly highly in having three Egyptian collections within a 500 metre radius!

Next year promises to be a bumper Egyptological one, with the long-postponed 14th International Congress of Egyptologists due to take place in Florence from 23 to 30 August – although primarily intended for professionals, anyone interested in Egyptology is welcome to come along. CIPEG is intended to follow-on directly in Munich, whose Egyptian Museum has recently moved to a brand-new, purpose-built building. In addition, the celebrated Egyptian Museum in Turin is scheduled to be re-launched after extensive rebuilding in April, with a doubling of its gallery space. It was trailed at this year’s CIPEG and looks to be stunning. The Chairman and Treasurer are due to attend the opening and will report back.

Manchester-bound

On Saturday 14 June, twenty-eight 28 ESB and Kemet Klub members left Woodland Road, a little blurry eyed at 8:00 in the morning, destined for Manchester. We arrived just after 12 and joined twelve further members who were meeting us there, together with the Curator of Egypt and Sudan, Dr Campbell Price. In addition to some free time to explore the delights of the museum ourselves, we had two guided tours.

Closer to home, a trip jointly sponsored by the ESB and the Kemet Klub to Manchester Museum went very well (see report later), while a visit to Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery by Dr Kara Cooney of the University of California at Los Angeles revealed unknown facts about one of Bristol’s most famous sets of Egyptian material – the coffins of Horemkeneset (which held the ‘Bristol Mummy’, whose unwrapping some older members may recall – see the later report).

The latest programme is enclosed, with lectures now in the diary for the whole 2014/15 season. **Please note that the March lecture has been brought forward by a week**, as compared to previous versions of the programme. You will note that ‘wine and nibbles’ no longer feature in the heading: as you will recall, the past couple of years’ accounts have hovered on the edge of deficit, and the Committee therefore had to decide between economising and increasing the subscription. Since the additional hour’s portage necessary to cover the ‘wine and nibbles’ is a not-insignificant cost, and since the number staying behind to partake has steadily reduced over the past few years (meaning that the number benefitting from the expenditure represents a relatively small proportion of the membership), it was decided that a subscription increase to cover this part of the meeting would not be appropriate.

See you all in October, inshallah!



Our very own expert, Aidan took us through the permanent collection. Highlights of the collection would have to be the coffins from the 12th Dynasty burial from Deir Rifeh in Middle Egypt. The burial of the ‘Two Brothers’ Khnumnakht and Nakhtankh was of high status, with the stunning coffins taking centre stage in the gallery. The two brothers also pose a slight mystery in that whilst they both name Aakhnumu as their mother, investigations of the mummies showed that they had notable racial

differences, suggesting different fathers, or that perhaps Nakhtankh was adopted.



Above

A fragment of ivory harness, bearing the name of a King Amenhotep.



Left

Shabti of the High Priest of Amun, Panedjem II, from the Royal Cache (TT320) near Deir el-Bahari.

Below
Two heads from the Middle Kingdom



We were also treated to a special behind the scenes peek with Dr Campbell Price. We

were able to visit the storage rooms for organic materials and human remains, highlighting some of the challenges of conservation and the issues that surround the ethics of caring for human remains. The groups then moved to a further storeroom where we were privileged to have a very close look at a fine faience shabti of Panedjem II, two small Middle Kingdom sculptures (complete with Senwosret style large ears!) However, the behind the scenes tour finished off in style, with a chance to hold an ivory object that formed part of the harness, most probably from the royal chariot of Amenhotep II himself!

Ali Ball

Bristol Museum:

Egyptian Archaeology Update 2014

This year we've had two brilliant volunteers from the ESB working with us – Ali Ball and Josie Newman. Ali became a 'Walking Wiki' during our 2013 'Pharaoh: King of Egypt' loan exhibition from the British Museum and was keen to continue after the exhibition moved on, so she's been talking to visitors about Egyptology in our permanent Egypt Gallery. Josie worked on the cataloguing of our Egyptian ceramics, which has helped us with getting nearly all our Egyptian objects available online.

Our website is having a make-over which will make it a lot easier to search the collections. For example, we'll show the whole of the Belzoni collection together for the first time, which should generate a lot of interest. There are over 300 watercolours copied from the tomb of Pharaoh Sethy I, made to produce a scale model exhibited in London in 1821. There's also a sketchbook, objects inscribed with Belzoni's name, paper squeezes, his wife's notebook, and a poster from an exhibition of his finds in Bath.

In the Egypt Gallery, we now have audio guides called 'DiscoveryPENS'. They're aimed at visually impaired people but anyone who wants to use one can borrow a 'pen' from rece-



Watercolour of part of the tomb of Sethy I (showing the wall of one of the sloping passages).



'The Temple of Dendera' by David Roberts



From LA to Bristol: Dr Kara Cooney and her team recording the coffin and mummy-board of Horemkeneset.

ption and try them out. We've also transferred our digital labels to a more secure system that allows even more images and information to be available on the kiosks. We're trialling an app that means that soon our visitors should be able to access the labels on their phones too.

Two paintings of Egypt are now on display in 'Places of Desire' at the Museum & Art Gallery: 'Temple of Dendera' by David Roberts and 'The Carpet Bazaar, Cairo' by William James Müller.

I'm currently working on an exhibition about death around the world, due to open in October 2015. It will include Egyptian grave goods as well as ethnographic and British material that has rarely, if ever, been displayed before. One of the stories we're likely to include is the 1981 unwrapping of the mummified Egyptian man, Horemkeneset and looking at the ethics of displaying and studying human remains. We'd love to hear

from anyone who came to the museum to watch the live screening of Horemkeneset's unwrapping to get some quotes about how you remember it.

Egyptologist Kara Cooney and a research team from UCLA came to look at our 21st Dynasty coffins. They were particularly interested in the coffin of Horemkeneset, which shows definite signs of reuse. Evidence that it was originally a Ramesside (19th/20th Dynasty) coffin includes the style, and several clearly-visible modifications and embellishments.

And finally.... you can now find the ESB on Twitter with regular updates about Egyptology in Bristol, including museum news. <https://twitter.com/EgyptBristol>

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Egypt Society of Bristol Programme

October 2014–June 2015

All ESB lectures are held in Lecture Room 1, Department of Archaeology & Anthropology, 43 Woodland Road, Clifton, at 1845. Entry for members of the ESB and members of the University is free, £2.00 for non-members.

Tue 14 October 2014. Lecture: *Reconstructing an Ancient Egyptian Chariot.*
Prof. Salima Ikram, American University in Cairo.

Wed 5 November: University of Bristol Amelia Edwards Memorial Lecture 2014/15
The Two Tombs of Horemheb
Dr Jacobus van Dijk (Groningen University)
WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING, QUEEN'S ROAD, BRISTOL 8, 1800 hrs

Tue 11 November 2014. Lecture: *Regency Egyptomania in the South West.*
Chris Elliott, Independent Scholar.

Tue 9 December 2014. Lecture: *Sounds familiar: kinship and social relations in the First Intermediate Period.* Leire Olabarria, University of Oxford.

Tue 20 January 2015. Lecture: *Annie Pirie and Rosalind Paget: artists of the Glory Years of British Egyptology.* Lee Young, Griffith Institute, Oxford.

Tue 17 February 2015. Lecture: *How to read a New Kingdom Royal Tomb.*
Peter Robinson, Poynton Egypt Group & Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities.

Tue 24 March 2015. Lecture: *West Theban Pioneers: Belzoni, Wilkinson and Rhind*
Dr Aidan Dodson, University of Bristol. **CHANGE FROM PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED DATE**

Tue 5 May 2015. Lecture: *Going Forth by Night.*
John J. Johnston, UCL.

Tue 30 June 2015. Lecture: *Of temples, cats and glass: recent research at Bubastis.*
Dr Daniela Rosenow, University College London