

INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea

Issue 27

August 2008

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Youth University Gold for Egypt Centre volunteer

The Egypt Centre at Swansea University is celebrating the success of its young volunteers who have recently collected awards from the Youth University, Swansea.

Adam Croucher, aged 16, from Penlan, Swansea, achieved a Gold Award recognising the 600 hours he has spent undertaking activities outside normal school hours. He is the first person to achieve a Gold Award from Youth University, Swansea.



Adam Croucher receives his Gold Award from Lord Mayor of Swansea Councillor Gareth Sullivan

AGM 2008

6.30 pm Wednesday
September 24th 2008
Faraday A Lecture Theatre
followed by talk at 7 pm

Children's/Youth University Awards 2008

Bronze
Bronze
Silver
Silver
Gold

Steffan Danino
Eleri Davies
Tomos Davies
Rhiannon Waters
Adam Croucher

continued



The Youth University is part of the Children’s University, which works closely with families and carers, schools and communities to give recognition to young people who commit to activities such as youth club, sport, volunteering, computer club, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, or any other organised activity where they are learn new skills.

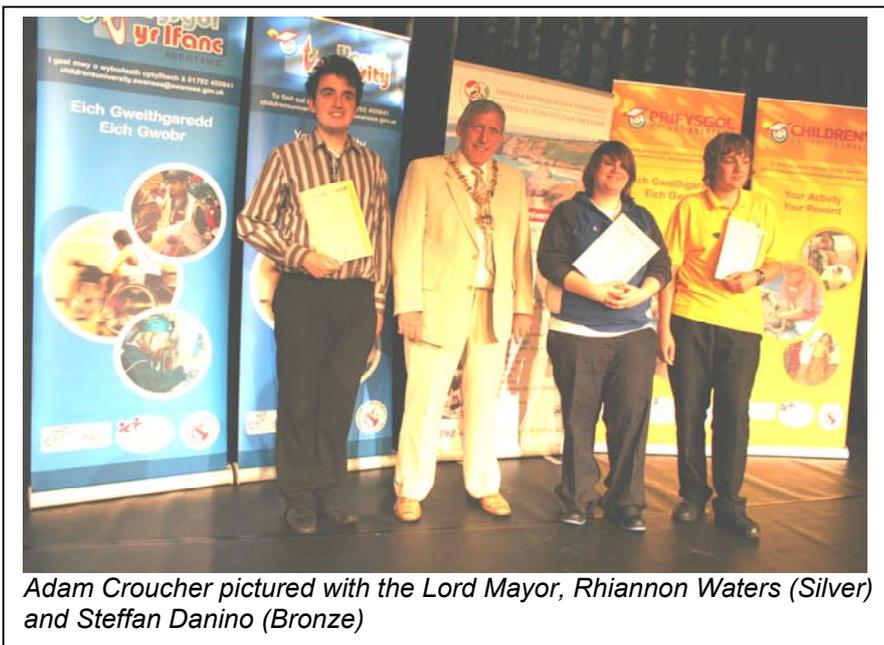
The Youth University encourages young people to believe that learning is a lifelong process and to become confident and independent learners. It also helps them to develop skills and knowledge in a wide variety of areas. Credits are awarded to young people aged from 14 to 19 who attend activities outside school hours, with each hour spent earning one credit. 150 credits are needed to qualify for a Bronze Award, 350 for a Silver Award, and 600 for a Gold Award.

Speaking about achieving the Gold Award, Adam said: “I feel really honoured to be the first to achieve a gold award at Youth University Swansea. I have been volunteering for four years and never expected such an award, so I am very pleased and proud to have achieved it.

“I like spending time volunteering at the Egypt Centre because I love meeting new people and chatting about Egypt, which is one of my favourite subjects. I also enjoy coming to the Centre because it is a fun place where I can forget the stresses of the week, whilst knowing my mum is resting at home, recovering from her illness.”



Adam with Wendy Goodridge, Assistant Curator at the Egypt Centre



Adam Croucher pictured with the Lord Mayor, Rhiannon Waters (Silver) and Steffan Danino (Bronze)

Adam was presented with his award by the Lord Mayor of Swansea at a ceremony in June. During the ceremony, four of the Egypt Centre’s other volunteers also received awards. Tomos Davies and Rhiannon Waters achieved Silver Awards, whilst Steffan Danino and Eleri Davies achieved Bronze Awards.

The Egypt Centre’s Assistant Curator, Wendy Goodridge, said: “Youth University is extremely important for us at the Egypt Centre as it gives recognition to our young volunteers for their commitment and all the hard work they do for the university and indeed the wider community. They give up their weekends and school holidays to interact with visitors to the Egypt Centre.

“We have seen some of our young volunteers become more confident and independent learners, developing skills and taking the lead doing hands-on demonstrations and guided tours. We are very proud of all our young volunteers!”

Egypt Centre achieves accreditation

The Egypt Centre recently received more good news, having achieved full accreditation to the Museum Accreditation scheme from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which sets nationally approved standards for all UK museums.

Carolyn Graves-Brown, Curator of the Egypt Centre said: “That we have been fully accredited shows that, despite being one of the smaller museums, Egypt Centre measures up to all the guidelines on collection care, visitor services, and how the museum is generally managed and run. The accreditation scheme measures the ability of a museum to meet the needs of its present day users as well as safeguarding heritage for the future.

“We are delighted to be accredited.”





Editorial

Already the end of another academic year has arrived, a year which has seen tremendous achievements by the Egypt Centre: the museum's achievement of full accreditation, The Griffiths Memorial Lecture and the Youth University awards to mention just a few. Congratulations to all our young volunteers who have won awards, particularly to Adam Croucher who has overcome huge personal difficulties to win his award.

This year has also seen a fascinating programme of talks. We look forward to seeing the coming year's programme which promises to be just as exciting, starting with the lecture by **Karen Excell** of Manchester Museum. Her talk is entitled: "**Consultation and Controversy: The Redesign of the Egypt Galleries at the Manchester Museum**" and it will commence at 7 pm straight after our AGM on 26 September.

We wish to record our gratitude to the outgoing members of the committee and wish them well in their future activities. We look forward to welcoming the new officers.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this issue. Please send any material for the next issue to the Egypt Centre, marked for the attention of Mike Mac Donagh.

Mike Mac Donagh

Opening the Mummy

*Unveil, sweet priestess! Waken as thou 'rt bidden,
That 'the subscribers' may behold thy beauties,
And wonder at thy narrative, if true 't is,
As 't is declared to them by Mr Gliddon.
What antique fancy in thy look reposes;
Perhaps thou 'st walked with Abram, venerated,
Or with young Joseph chatted, consecrated,
Or in that distant day ta'en tea with Moses.
Great mummy! Wonderingly we thee behold,
But they old flesh is hard as nether stone,
And for a wife we'd choose a softer one,
For such as thou would make one's blood run cold.
Surely, old lass, you're safe from Time's aggression,
His ancient teeth on you can't make impression.*

—B. P. Shillaber

Three long-standing members of the committee are not standing for re-election, so

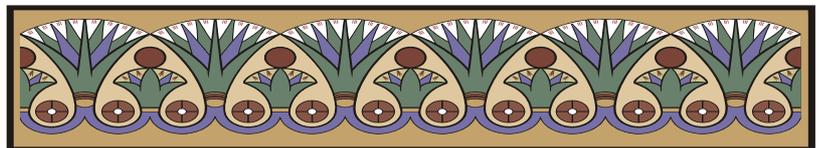
Goodbye and Thank You to ...

Wendy Goodridge - who was our membership secretary for more years than I can remember! Not only did Wendy do such a good job with membership she also did many "behind the scenes" duties such as booking accommodation for the speakers and the lecture theatre. I've no doubt she'll still be there for assistance.

Claire Edwards - who has been our chairperson for over four years. Claire has been fantastic, rarely missing a committee meeting and always "leading from the front" whether picking the strawberries for the berries and bubbly event or speaking in Welsh to introduce the Griffiths Memorial lecture. She has always cheerfully carried out any task required of her and we are sorry to lose her.

Su Taylor - who is also a long standing committee member and was also the person responsible for catering. We on the committee appreciated her intelligent comments and common sense approach as well as her catering skills in organising the Taste of Egypt lunch, berries and bubbly and lastly the buffet for the Griffiths Memorial lecture. Her delicious home made cakes after the lectures helped us raise quite a lot of money for our funds.

by Sheila Nowell



Whilst undertaking some research for my PhD, I came across this poem about the opening of a mummy in the 1850's. I thought it would be interesting to share!

The aforementioned Mr Gliddon refers to George Robins Gliddon (1809 – 1857). Born in England but living in America, he lectured widely on ancient Egypt subjects and published several works, earning him the reputation of being the first American writer of ancient Egypt.

References

Dawson, W R & Uphill E P (1972), Who was Who in Egyptology. London: The Egypt Exploration Society.

Shillaber, BP (1853), Rhymes with Reason and Without. Boston: AbelTompkins and B B Mussey & Co. Page 311.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=ILsDAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA311&dq=opening+the+mummy+shillaber#PPA311,M1>
Accessed 23 June 2008.

by Bev Rogers





The Griffiths Memorial Lecture

Saturday 31st May 2008

A fine day greeted the inaugural Griffiths Memorial Lecture organised by the Friends of the Egypt Centre. Over 70 people came to hear Vivian Davies, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities in the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum, give a fascinating talk about the British Museum's work on the tombs of Hagr Edfu. The event was held in honour of Professor J. Gwyn Griffiths and Dr Kate Bosse-Griffiths, both prominent figures in the field of Egyptology at Swansea University. (Kate was the first curator of the predecessor of the Egypt Centre and, with Gwyn, was responsible for procuring many of the objects on view.)

Those that attended the afternoon's events included the University's Vice-Chancellor, Richard Davies, and his wife, and members of the Griffiths family.

The lecture began with a welcome from the Friend's Chairperson, Claire Edwards, followed by a personal tribute to Gwyn and Kate Griffiths by Professor Ceri Davies of the Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology Department. Heini Gruffudd, Gwyn and Kate's son, responded with a warm and charming insight into life with Gwyn and Kate.



Heini Gruffudd, Claire Edwards and Vivian Davies

Museum have, as part of the project begun in 2001, been completing the first archaeological map of Hagr Edfu; so far 100 tombs have been documented. Ancient blocks have been found amongst the remains on the site which hint at the possibility of an ancient Egyptian temple having been there.

The necropolis consists of a series of rock-cut tombs, though the site had been substantially modified during the Coptic period when tombs were re-used as churches and houses. As part of this re-organisation, statues were destroyed and pharaonic decoration was removed and replaced by Coptic design.

Vivian Davies described the work undertaken on one particular tomb owned by a priest of the god Horus of Edfu, called Sataimau. It appears that Sataimau was a man of importance with apparent royal connections, living in the early Eighteenth Dynasty. The tomb had been modified in Coptic times to a church and the British Museum team have been busy clearing the dirt off the plaster to reveal the ancient Egyptian decoration beneath. A mixture of sunken relief and paint has been revealed which is a rare combination, and the hieroglyphs

have been traced using transparencies—a process in itself that will likely take up to four years to complete. The scenes containing the family and extended family have allowed a detailed genealogy to be reconstructed. Furthermore, fishing and fowling scenes have been found that are accompanied with explicit inscriptions, proving to be important evidence in the understanding of what these images were meant to



*Heini and Robert Gruffudd
Photo: Tony Nowell*

The focus of the afternoon was an absorbing look at work being carried out at the necropolis situated to the west of Edfu town. The British



Some of the Committee and its helpers:

Back row: Tony Nowell, Paul Rogers, Philip John and Bev Rogers

Front row: Alison John, Sheila Nowell, Claire Edwards and Su Taylor

Photo: Kasia Szpakowska





portray. The tomb also contains a biographical index which, although only four columns long, is rich in information about the owner. Vivian also described how some of the scenes have challenged our understanding of the date of the earliest representations of themes—for example, the tomb contains iconography of Hathor in a sacred barque, making this some 50 to 60 years earlier than any similar previously known scene.

A second tomb, though unexcavated, has also proved very interesting. It has a double door—a

feature known from elite tombs—and colossal statues of the tomb owner and two females. The lecture then went on to show how work this season (with the help of Cambridge) has included looking at evidence regarding Nile migration. The data collected has had huge implications on knowledge of what was going on in the surrounding landscape.

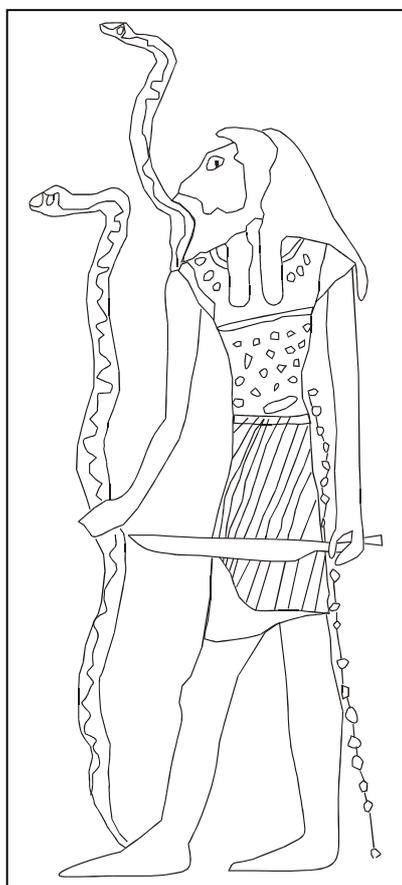
The lecture was followed by a vote of thanks to Vivian from Professor Alan Lloyd and a lovely reception including buffet and drinks was held after the event for all attendees.



Claire Edwards and Vivian Davies
Photo: Paul Rogers

by Bev Rogers

Who is the cat?



On the 21st Dynasty coffin in the downstairs gallery of the Egypt Centre there is a feline-headed deity, a cat, or more probably a lion. The figure is wearing a kilt, so must be a male. The question is, who is he? I certainly don't know for sure and have been trying to find out.

Our 'cat' is part of the scene showing the judgement of the deceased, a lady musician, a Chantress of Amun, Iwesemhesetmwt. On the right of the scene stand the scales on which the lady's heart is shown weighed against ma'at. On the left sits Osiris with a procession of deities, including our 'cat,' and the deceased. The 'cat' stands between Iwesemhesetmwt and the scales. He holds a knife in his left hand and a snake in his right. A snake also comes out of his right shoulder. Both snakes and knives are frequently carried by protective deities. He wears a kilt and a corselet of the type often shown worn by gods on coffins of this date. A bull's tail protrudes from his kilt. The inscription on this section of the coffin gives no clue as to who he is. It can be translated: 'The Lady of the House, Chantress of Amun-Re, King of the Gods, Follower of Mut, the Great Lady of Isheru (the lake sacred to Mut at Karnak), Iwesemhesetmwt, true of voice, she says. Two hawks eyes. May I be a praised one of the Two Great Gods.'

There are parallels to our cat deity. A feline guardian in the Underworld sometimes appears near the scales. For example, a male feline deity is shown by the scales with face turned away on the 21st Dynasty coffin of Tanakhtnetahat in the Charlotte Licherie Collection of Egyptian Art (1999.1.17 A-C Michael C. Carlos Museum).

Like ours he has a bull's tail coming from his kilt. Unlike ours he is not holding snakes. A male cat-headed figure is shown leading the deceased away from the scales in the Cleveland Museum coffin of Bakenmut in the Cleveland Museum of Art. On the Papyrus of Herytwebkht a cat-headed male god with tail guides the deceased (Cairo Museum 10254). Here he is called 'Porter in the Place of Truth'. The outer coffin of Neschonsu (Cairo CG61030) shows a male lion-headed deity wearing kilt with bull's tail, (and hence similar to the feline headed deity on our coffin) who also has a crocodile head. He is called 'That Porter in the West'. On the 21st Dynasty coffin of Anchefenmut (Cairo JE29692) a male cat deity with bull's tail leads the deceased. He is called 'Great God who is in the Duat (Underworld)'.

As this 'cat' appears near the scales it is possible that he represents one of the cat-headed gods of the tribunal who sit in judgement upon the deceased in the Duat, the Underworld. His titles make clear that he also appears to be a porter who leads the deceased.

If you want to know more about the scenes on our coffin, look at our web site at www.swansea.ac.uk. Follow the 'Selected items from the collection' link. There is lots more about the coffin and other items.

by Carolyn Graves-Brown





Xth International Congress of Egyptologists

At the end of May (22nd-29th), the four yearly International Congress of Egyptologists took place on the Greek island of Rhodes. A number of Friends members attended the conference, some gave papers, and it was good to see many Friends members making their mark and mingling with other Egyptologists.

The conference lasted eight days in all, with six action-packed lectures starting at 9 a.m. and most days lasting until 6.30 p.m. The days were divided up with five simultaneous talks going on at once ranging from archaeology and philology to cultural heritage. A number of people presented on their current excavation work in Egypt, so it was nice to hear up-to-date reports. The talks were given in three languages, English, French and German, and there were the odd problems with sitting through half a lecture before realising you couldn't understand a word of it. The strangest was a talk from a curator at the Louvre, who kept changing from French to English simultaneously!

There were keynote speeches from J. Assmann, M. Bietak, S. Abd el-Aziz, C.J. Eyre, R. Jasnow and G.T. Martin. A number of papers were presented by Swansea University faculty members and postgraduates, namely Kasia Szpakowska, J.J. Shirley, Martina Minas-Nerpal, Kenneth Griffin and Sarah Jackman. All were very well received.

The whole conference was a massive success and it was nice to socialize with other Egyptologists (I believe a certain committee member is in possession of photos of Gay Robins dancing, as well as Jan Assmann doing a traditional Greek dance). The conference wasn't all work though, and various socials were organized including attending the local Medieval Festival, a trip around the Museum and a reception with the Mayor. The final day saw two boats full of Egyptologists heading to the town of Lindos. On the return journey a number of these highly esteemed scholars decided to take a dip in the sea!

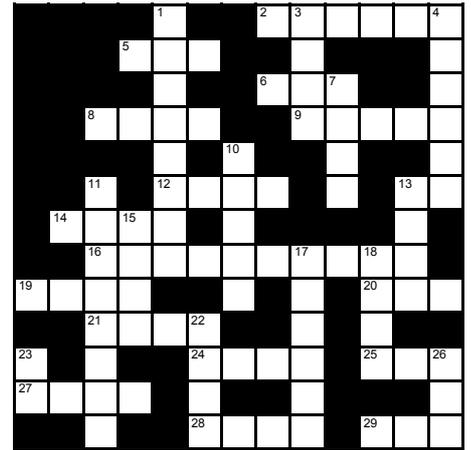


What's the collective noun for a group of swimming Egyptologists?

The next International Congress (dates to be confirmed) will be held in Egypt and I would highly recommend going!

by Jayne Holly

Crossword



by Daphne MacDonagh

Across

- 2 Site of Ramesses II's battle against the Hittites (6)
- 5 Fertility god (3)
- 6 God of infinity (3)
- 8 Type of limestone used to case the Great Pyramid (4)
- 9 Country to the south of Egypt (5)
- 12 Seti I's wife (4)
- 13 Life-force of the deceased (2)
- 14 Birth name of two 19th Dynasty pharaohs (4)
- 16 Name given to a collection of tombs (10)
- 19 King who succeeded Djer (4)
- 20 God of air and sunlight (3)
- 21 A great river that flows through Egypt (4)
- 24 Second king of Dynasty 1 (4)
- 25 A festival to renew the king (3)
- 27 Major Theban god (4)
- 28 5th Dynasty ruler with small pyramid (4)
- 29 God of the primeval ocean (3)

Down

- 1 A cursive script derived from hieroglyphs (8)
- 3 The sun disk (4)
- 4 Fayum necropolis of Amenemhat III (6)
- 7 He has a small pyramid at Saqqara (4)
- 10 Massive ceremonial gateway (5)
- 11 Chief Steward of Queen Hatshepsut (8)
- 13 An ancient kingdom in what is now Sudan (4)
- 15 First ruler of the 6th Dynasty (4)
- 17 God of war and hunting (6)
- 18 Sister of Osiris and mother of Horus (4)
- 22 Site of a large temple of Horus (4)
- 23 Personality of the deceased, often represented as a bird (2)
- 26 Dynasty 1 king recorded on the Palermo stone (3)

(Solution on page 7.)





Last View from The Chair

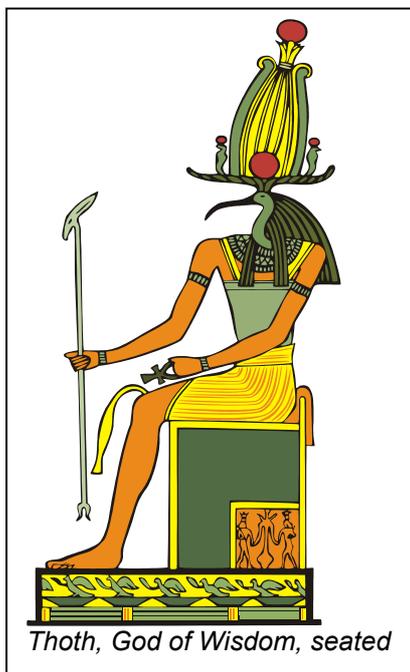
This is the last time I shall be writing to you as Chair of the Friends of the Egypt Centre. I have enjoyed immensely my tenure of four years, but feel that with advancing anno domini and after four years as your Chair, the time has come for younger people to take the society forward.

Thank you all for your support during this time. It has been a joy to get to know you all and I now count you as friends. In particular, I wish to thank the committee members who have worked so hard to make the society function. Without them, none of the fundraising activities would have been realised and I would have forgotten all sorts of things without their prompting!

The recent highly successful Griffiths Memorial Lecture was a success because of the dedication of the committee. We spent many months preparing for the event which involved them in time-consuming activities to organise the publicity, printing of material, food preparation, contacting guests, flower arranging etc. etc. For some members, this was in addition to full-time employment. I am very grateful to each and every one of them and hope they have enjoyed their time with me as much as I have enjoyed my time with them.

As many of you know, the Memorial Lecture was so well received that we were urged by those academics present, including Vivian Davies, to make it an annual event on our calendar, and one which will draw in eminent Egyptologists from every sphere. This may be a little ambitious, but certainly the response was encouraging. I leave it to my successor to explore that avenue!

Sadly, I am not the only departing member of the committee. Su Taylor who has acted as Catering Manager so well for the last four years is also leaving us. Family and other commitments make it difficult for her to continue. We



Thoth, God of Wisdom, seated

shall miss her very much and especially the superb buffets etc. she has provided at all our functions, as well as her delicious cakes at monthly meetings. I blame my expanding waistline entirely on Su's catering expertise! Thank you very much for everything, Su and take with you our good wishes for the future.

The other committee member who has resigned is Wendy Goodridge. She has acted as Membership Secretary for many years as well as helping out the society in her capacity as Deputy Curator in matters of administration. We would have been lost without her, and I feel sure my predecessors would agree. Thank you too, Wendy, for your years of service and your continuing help with The Friends matters. Happily, Jane Holly, one of our existing committee members (who has the intriguing email address of 'janenottheblonde' which always makes me smile when I email her!)

has agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary.

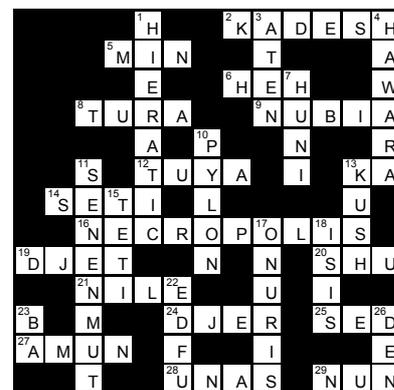
We are, however, looking for a Catering Manager which involves providing refreshments for the meetings. This can be as simple as tea, coffee and biscuits. Other events might demand more of you, but again that is for the new Chair and committee to decide. If you feel you are a budding Jamie Oliver or Nigella Lawson, please put your name forward. You can even 'ask a friend'! We would be delighted to receive your nomination.

As for my successor, a younger model might be in order or even a new older one. It is a role I have enjoyed and which will give you the opportunity to meet the speakers on an informal level, and to know your fellow members as friends. Many of you have probably undertaken such a position before and your expertise would be invaluable. If you wish to do this or would like to nominate someone you feel would suit the role, please do not hesitate to fill in a nomination form.

It only remains for me to wish The Friends every future success. May you grow from strength to strength and I wish my successor as happy a tenure as I have had.

by Claire Edwards

Crossword solution



(for Crossword see page 6.)





Pharmacy Practice in Ancient Egypt

Review of a lecture given to the Friends of the Egypt Centre by Dr Jackie Campbell of the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology

On the 2nd April the Friends of the Egypt Centre were fortunate enough to receive a lecture from Dr Jackie Campbell of the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology based at the University of Manchester.

Dr Campbell suggested that although classical history perceives that Hippocrates is regarded as the 'Father of Medicine and Pharmacy' it can however be argued that the true holders of this title are the Ancient Egyptians. Dr Campbell explained that whereas the works of Hippocrates, Pliny and Galen have survived in understandable forms to the present day, the medical works of Ancient Egypt were impossible to read until Champolion translated the Rosetta Stone in 1822. It was not until medical papyri were translated that it was confirmed that the Ancient Egyptians were practising medicine at least 1500 years before Hippocrates!

Dr Campbell's pharmacy research has centred upon four of the medical papyri, these being the Kahun, the Edwin Smith, the Ebers and the Chester Beatty papyri, which contain a variety of remedies and surgical treatise. Dr Campbell cautioned against interpreting the papyri at face value and discussed the need to view them in relation to other forms of evidence from the time, for example, archaeology, artefacts, botany etc. paying special attention to the forensic evidence of disease suffered by the people of Ancient Egypt. There are also issues with the identification of the plants named in the papyri.

The research has proved to be illuminating. From the 1000 prescriptions studied, 284 drug sources and surgical appliances were identified, of which **60% remained in use until the middle of the Twentieth Century**. Of the remedies used, very few had toxic qualities and many had therapeutic properties, for example they used salt, alum and willow to reduce body temperature, willow of course being a source of Salicin, the forerunner of Salicylic Acid which is an analogue of Aspirin. The Ancient Egyptians treated coughs with expectorant mixtures containing honey, antimony and acacia, which as Dr Campbell explained is still imported from Egypt to the present day in order to be used as an ingredient in cough medicine. It will come as little surprise when considering the general quality of workmanship in Ancient Egypt to learn that the dressings, bandages and lint used have been found to only marginally fail the current BP standard.

Next Talk: 7 p.m. Wednesday 24 September
Consultation and Controversy: The Redesign of the Egypt Galleries at the Manchester Museum
Karen Excell

Notice to members:



Are you online?

If so please let us have your email address by sending an email to

w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk

We can then keep you up-to-date with any news or notices to do with the Friends.

We can even send you *Inscriptions* as a .pdf to view **on your screen in colour!**

And we'll save on postage, which means **more funds** raised for the Egypt Centre.

Don't forget that you can see the **forthcoming programme of talks**, and view back copies of ***Inscriptions***, on the Egypt Centre website, www.swan.ac.uk/egypt

Dr Campbell spoke of the Phytogeographical† work they are currently carrying out in Sinai, re-establishing pharaonic plant species with the Medicinal Plant Conservation Project. Dr Campbell is particularly interested in comparison between ancient remedies and healers in the region today, and spoke of her dealings with Ahmed Mansoor, a Bedouin healer who, in the words of Dr Campbell, describes donkey dung as "nature's pharmacy", the reasons behind this being that the donkeys eat only medicinal plants while grazing. I suspect that it is likely that this would definitely fail the current BP standard!

In conclusion therefore Dr Campbell's research suggests that Greek medicine was adopted from Ancient Egypt and therefore it is incorrect to suggest that the Greeks were the originators of medicine. In my opinion this is a conclusion that few with an interest in Egyptology would dispute.

References

For further details of the work of the KNH Centre for Egyptology: <http://www.knhcentre.manchester.ac.uk/>

The Pharmaceutical Journal (Vol. 279) featuring an article on the research: <http://www.pjonline.com/editorial/20071222/christmas/p735pharaohs.html>

† Phytogeography gives the pattern and domain of the growth of a plant which in turn can be used to determine whether a plant found in a tomb was endemic to an area or transported in from elsewhere.

by L.S.J. Howells

