

INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea

Issue 34

April 2012

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A special screening of

The Night of Counting the Years

(el Momia)

preceded by an introductory lecture by

John J. Johnston
(UCL, London)

Saturday 9 June, 7 p.m.

Taliesin Arts Centre

See Page 3 for more details.

**A masterpiece of Egyptian cinema
 — don't miss it!**





Travel in Ancient Egypt

This was a well attended lecture with approximately 40 people attending.

Heidi Köpp is an Assistant Professor at the University of Trier in Germany and has previous experience of excavating at sites such as Saqqara, Elephantine and Abydos. Besides being an Egyptologist she is also a professional opera singer and kindly donated one of her CD's to the raffle after the talk.

Dr Köpp looked at the definition of travel in Ancient Egypt as it differs from today's interpretation which is tourism. It is only really within the last 130 years that the idea of travel for pleasure has developed. In Pharaonic times there is no evidence of travel for pleasure, with no depictions of Egyptian travellers, though travelling Asiatics can be seen in Tomb 3 at Beni Hassan in Middle Egypt. Travel appears to be only mentioned in passing, therefore sources are fragmentary. However, there are hints in textual sources such as the Shipwrecked Sailor and the Eloquent Peasant which can help us to determine how and why transport took place.

Questions which need to be answered in order to adequately explore travel in Ancient Egypt include: who travelled? How did they travel? What were their means of transport and locomotion? Where were they going? What factors were encountered en route such as dangers, accommodation, journey speed etc.?

Dr Köpp stated that the earliest expeditions took place before 3,200 BCE and this is attested by visitor inscriptions in Nubia. The travellers on these expeditions included merchants, messengers, soldiers, architects, scribes, priests etc. The Old Kingdom saw between 18,000 and 20,000 expeditions take place. This doubled in the Middle Kingdom with 40,000 expeditions, and fell considerably during the New Kingdom which saw approximately 13,600. It is important to note that not every expedition is documented, therefore it is likely these figures should be a lot higher. Ramesses III's expedition to Gebel el Silsila featured 3,000 individuals, of which 2000 were common workers and 500 were stone masons. Considerable distances could also be covered and during the 6th Dynasty the Nomarch Harkhuf travelled on four separate occasions from Memphis to Yam and back, a journey which one way consisted of 1700 kilometres.

The means of transport could include the traveller (poles, yokes); animals (oxen, donkeys); vehicles (sledges, carts, wagons); walking/riding animals (horses, donkeys, camels); carrying chairs; chariots. The donkey was the typical pack animal throughout Egyptian history as it is capable of carrying up to 150 kilos in weight. Dr Köpp stated that there is rare evidence for camels in Pharaonic times from the northern cemetery at Rifeh, dating to the 19th Dynasty. However it is not known to what extent they were used. Horses were not used as pack animals, only for transport and chariots. Sledges were used early on.

Review of a lecture given by Dr Heidi Köpp to the Friends of the Egypt Centre on 15 February 2012

One found in Dahshur at Senwosret III's pyramid is 4.2 metres long and 1 metre wide. The oldest known wagon from ancient Egypt dates to the 13th Dynasty, features four disc wheels and can be seen in the tomb of Sobeknakht at El Kab. The earliest known wheel dates back to 2300 BCE.

The earliest pictorial depiction of the horse is attested during Tuthmosis III's reign at the tomb of Haremhab in Saqqara. Dr Köpp also showed those present a rare image of a faience statuette of a rider. Carrying chairs utilised in a religious context can be seen at Ramesses III's mortuary temple at Medinet Habu. Donkey litters are only attested in the 5th Dynasty and can be seen in the mastaba of Niankhkhnum at Saqqara.

The chariot was a prestigious mode of locomotion. They were built to be as light as possible in order to maximise speed and were particularly useful in hunting, as can be determined from the scenes of Ramesses III hunting on the walls of Medinet Habu. An 18th Dynasty chariot from Thebes, currently at Florence, weighs 24 kg and features a 2 cm wide tread. Such a chariot could be carried on the shoulder of one man.

Dr Köpp stated that in order to travel a reasonable distance much planning and logistical work was required. Clearly travel was exhausting, and hunger and thirst were major factors.

With regard to accommodation for travellers, there is no evidence for taverns existing in ancient Egypt. During desert travel, wind huts and tents were used. Dr Köpp quoted the 4th Dynasty example of Queen Hetepheres: (whose travelling equipment such as her tent, bed, chair and travelling chair were found at Giza) as well as the 18th Dyn. example of the tent found in Tutankhamun's tomb.

Travelling speed was incredibly important, as the traveller needed to determine whether he could get to the next supply of water. Obviously walking on sand is far more exhausting than walking on land. A cart/wagon or sled would travel at an approximate speed of 3 kilometres per hour. Travelling by donkey, carrying chair or on foot would cover 4 to 6 kilometres per hour. A rider on horseback at walking pace would expect to travel approximately 4 to 7 km per hour, and 45 to 52 km at full gallop. Of course there were other factors that would affect travel speed, such as the terrain, the temperature/ climate, weight carried etc.

Dr Köpp concluded that an extensive traffic system existed in the Old Kingdom which did not fundamentally change through to the New Kingdom wherein the motivation to begin a journey was in the main part of the traveller's occupation.

by L. S. J. Howells





Editorial

Welcome to Issue 34 of *Inscriptions*, and a big thank you to all our contributors.

My wife and I were fortunate to see the film **The Night of Counting the Years** some years ago, and were enthralled. We can personally recommend it to everyone with an interest in Egypt, ancient or modern! We hope to see as many Friends as possible at the screening on June 9th.

As we go to press, news is coming out of Egypt about the exciting discovery of an unknown pharaoh of the 17th dynasty. Just type "new pharaoh discovered" into Google!

As always, we're keen to get more contributions for the next issue of *Inscriptions*. Please consider whether YOU can write something for the next issue, and send it to the Egypt Centre marked for my attention.

Mike Mac Donagh

Third Griffiths Memorial Lecture

The third Griffiths Memorial Lecture will take place in the Taliesin Arts Centre at 7pm on the 9th June. This will consist of a screening of the noted Egyptian film **The Night of Counting the Years**. The screening of the film will be preceded by an introductory lecture by the Egyptologist John J. Johnston of UCL, London who is a specialist on Egypt in the cinema.

The film, also known as **el Momia**, has recently been digitally remastered by Martin Scorsese who has this to say about it:

'*Momia*, which is commonly and rightfully acknowledged as one of the greatest Egyptian films ever made, is based on a true story: in 1881, precious objects from the Tanite dynasty started turning up for sale, and it was discovered that the Horabat tribe had been secretly raiding the tombs of the Pharaohs in Thebes. A rich theme, and an astonishing piece of cinema. The picture was extremely difficult to see from the 70s onward. I managed screen a 16mm print which, like all the prints I've seen since, had gone magenta. Yet I still found it an entrancing and oddly moving experience, as did many others.

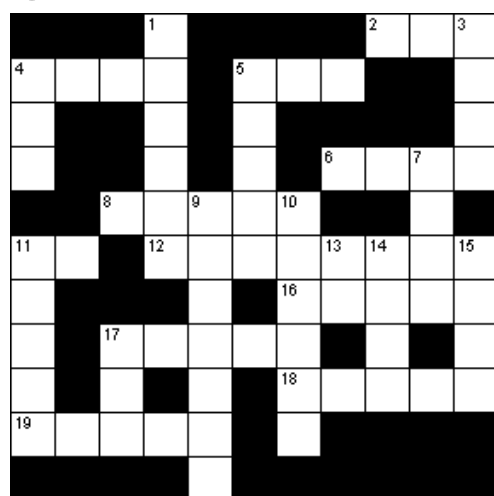
I remember that Michael Powell was a great admirer. *Momia* has an extremely unusual tone – stately, poetic, with a powerful grasp of time and the sadness it carries. The carefully measured pace, the almost ceremonial movement of the camera, the desolate settings, the classical Arabic spoken on the soundtrack, the unsettling score by the great Italian composer Mario Nascimbene – they all work in perfect harmony and contribute to the feeling of fateful inevitability. Past and present, desecration and veneration, the urge to conquer death and the acceptance that we, and all we know, will turn to dust... a seemingly massive theme that the director, Shadi Abdel Salam, somehow manages to address, even embody with his images. Are we obliged to plunder our heritage and everything our ancestors have held sacred in order to sustain ourselves for the present and the future? What exactly is our debt to the past?

The picture has a sense of history like no other, and it's not at all surprising that Roberto Rossellini agreed to lend his name to the project after reading the script. And in the end, the film is strangely, even hauntingly consoling – the eternal burial, the final understanding of who and what we are... am very excited that Shadi Abdel Salam's masterpiece has been restored to original splendor'. (Source: <http://worldcinemafoundation.org/films/momia>)

Tickets for the event need to be purchased in advance from the Taliesin Box Office.

by Ken Griffin

Crossword



Across

- 2 Dwarf god who protects the home and childbirth (3)
- 4 A great river that flows through Egypt (4)
- 5 A festival to renew the king (3)
- 6 Kingdom to the south of Egypt (4)
- 8 12th Dynasty fort in Nubia (5)
- 11 Life-force of the deceased (2)
- 12 Lady of Thebes whose mummy is at Belfast (8)
- 16 Delta city where Psusennes' tomb was found (5)
- 17 Hawk-headed god of the Memphite necropolis (5)
- 18 A fertile area in the desert (5)
- 19 Builder of the Great Pyramid (5)

Down

- 1 Goddess of moisture, depicted as lips or a lioness (6)
- 3 God of chaos and confusion (4)
- 4 God of the primeval ocean (3)
- 5 Crocodile god (5)
- 7 Birth name of two 19th Dynasty pharaohs (4)
- 9 A well-travelled nomarch of the 6th Dynasty (7)
- 10 A salt used in mummification (6)
- 11 A small openwork temple supported by columns (5)
- 13 Personality of the deceased, often represented as a bird (2)
- 14 5th Dynasty ruler with small pyramid (4)
- 15 Sister of Osiris and mother of Horus (4)
- 17 God of air and sunlight (3)

(Solution on Page 4)

by Daphne MacDonagh





A Treasure Trove of Books!

The Friends of the Egypt Centre have been fortunate enough to have gained access to the remaining stock of Egyptology and Ancient History Books held by Dylan's Bookstore, King Edward Road, Swansea. Dylan's Bookstore have agreed to donate 25% of the price of each book sold to the Friends of the Egypt Centre. If anyone is interested in purchasing any of the books, please send an email to friendsoftheegyptcentre@hotmail.com. We will then get back to you as soon as possible and arrange to bring the book to one of the Friends talks.

Ancient Egypt, ed. David P. Silverman, 1997, Duncan Baird Publishers, £10, Hardback

Ancient Egypt Magazine Feb/Mar 2007, Various, 2007, Ancient Egypt Magazine Ltd, £1

Ancient Egypt Magazine Oct/Nov 2005, Various, 2005, Ancient Egypt Magazine Ltd, £1

Ancient Egypt Magazine Oct/Nov 2009, Various, 2009, Ancient Egypt Magazine Ltd, £1

Ancient Empires, Various, 1973, Reader's Digest, £4, Hardback

Arabia Deserta (Illustrated with introduction by T. E. Lawrence), Charles M. Doughty, 1989, Bloomsbury, £35, Hardback

Behind The Mask Of Tutankhamun, Barry Wynne, 1972, Souvenir Press, £1.50, Hardback

Cleopatra: The Queen Of Kings, Fiona MacDonald, 2001, Dorling Kindersley, £3, Hardback

Egypt: Gods, Myths & Religion, Lucia Gahlin, 2007, Hermes House, £4, Paperback

Egypt: Gods, Myths & Religion, Lucia Gahlin, 2001, Lorenz Books, £6, Hardback

Egypt: Land Of The Pharaohs, Various, 1992, TimeLife Books, £4, Hardback

Egypt: People, Gods, Pharaohs, Rose -Marie & Rainer Hagen, 2005, Taschen, £10, Hardback

Egypt: The World Of The Pharaohs, Regine Schultz & Matthias Seidel, 2004, Konemann, £15, Hardback

Everyday Life in Old Testament Times, E.W. Heaton, 1956, B.T. Batsford Books, £15, Hardback

Gods & Myths of Ancient Egypt, Mary Barnett, 1999, Grange Books, £6, Hardback

Gods, Graves & Scholars: The Story of Archaeology, C.W. Ceram, 1952, Victor Gollanz Books, £10, Hardback

In The Footsteps of Alexander The Great, Michael Wood, 1997, BBC Books, £10, Hardback

Layard of Nineveh, Gordon Waterfield, 1963, John Murray Books, £5, Hardback

Light From The East, or the Witness of the Monuments: An Introduction to the Study of Biblical Archaeology, C.J. Ball, 1899, Eyre & Spottiswoode, £35, Hardback

Queen of Sheba, ed. St John Simpson, 2002, British Museum Press, £12, Softback

Rameses: Egypt's Greatest Pharaoh, Joyce Tyldesley, 2000, Viking, £10, Hardback

The Civilization Of Ancient Egypt, Paul Johnson, 1999, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £10, Hardback

The Decipherment of Linear B, John Chadwick, 1958, Cambridge University Press, £10, Hardback

The Mummy, Joyce Tyldesley, 1999, Carlton, £5, Hardback

The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt, ed. Ian Shaw, 2000, Oxford University Press, £10, Hardback

The Secrets of Tutankhamen, Leonard Cottrell, 1965, Evans Brothers Ltd, £5, Hardback

The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia Of Ancient Egypt, Gill Harvey & Struan Reid, 2002, Usborne, £3, Hardback

The Way To Eternity: Egyptian Myth & Mankind, Fergus Fleming & Alan Lothian, 1997, Duncan Baird Publishers, £6, Hardback

The World Of The Pharaohs, Henri Stierlin, 1978, Sunflower Books, £3, Hardback

Tutankhamen, C. Desroches Noblecourt, 1969, The Connoisseur & Michael Joseph, £5, Hardback

Tutankhamen, C. Desroches Noblecourt, 1969, The Connoisseur & Michael Joseph, £5, Hardback

Tutankhamun & The Golden Treasures of Ancient Egypt, Brenda Ralph Lewis, 2007, Star Fire, £10, Hardback

Tutankhamun: The Treasures Of The Golden King, Kate Santon, 2007, Parragon, £5, Hardback

Tutankhamun: The Untold Story, Thomas Hoving, 1979, Book Club Associates, £5, Hardback

Tutankhamun: The Untold Story, Thomas Hoving, 1979, Book Club Associates, £5, Hardback

Woolley of Ur, H.V.F. Winstone, 1990, Secker & Warburg, £15, Hardback

Crossword Solution



(Crossword on Page 3.)

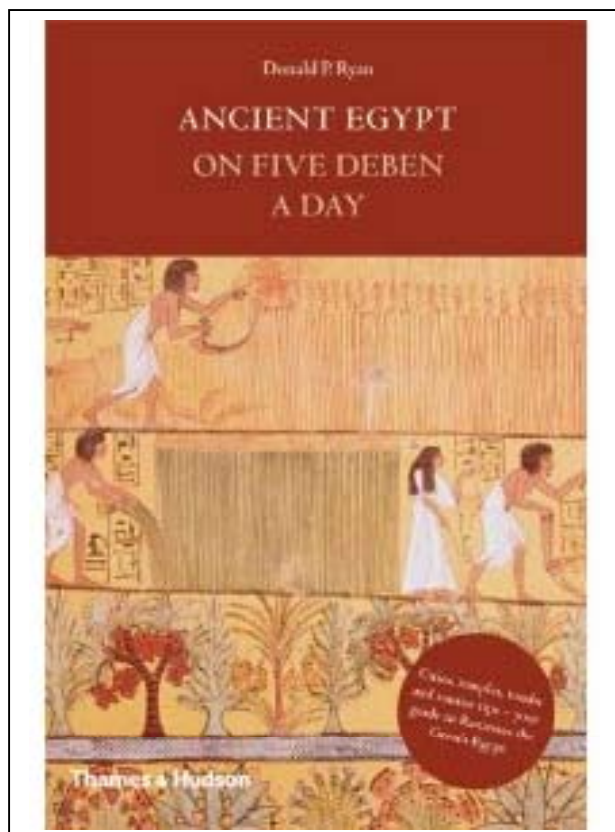




Books to look out for

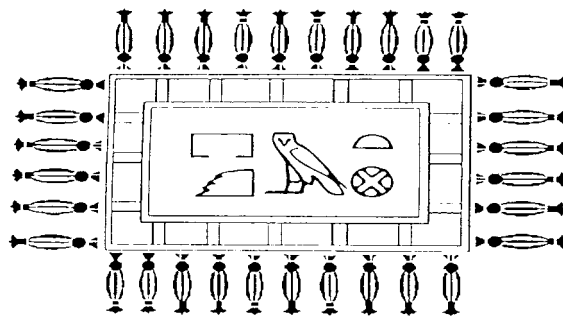
This month we have picked books that can be enjoyed by all and that can be picked up for a very reasonable price! The books that have been selected are fun, factual and easy to read and can be enjoyed on a lazy day or on holiday!

Ancient Egypt on Five Deben a day
by Donald P. Ryan



'Ancient Egypt on Five Deben a day' transports the modern day reader back to Ramesside Egypt. This hilarious book is a guide for the 'discerning time-traveller.' It covers a wide range of topics including travel to Egypt, religion, sites to visit and the strange customs and medical practices of the Egyptians! It even provides a few useful medical recipes including how to cure baldness! Whilst in Ramesside Egypt if you find yourself in a bit of a pickle with the language, you can always consult the trusty guide for some useful phrases to help you through, such as 'Beer for everyone' to get the locals on your side and 'Does this loincloth make me look fat?'

Despite the light-hearted nature of the book, it is very well written and provides a great deal of historical information relating to the life of Ancient Egyptians with some beautiful colour pictures of tomb scenes and figures. D. Ryan truly does paint a vivid picture of Ancient Egypt and transports the reader back in time!



Offerings from the British Museum
by Wendy Goodridge and Stuart Williams



£3 from the Egypt Centre gift shop

This great publication was produced in 2006 to highlight and celebrate over forty objects on loan from the British Museum. The objects featured in the booklet are fascinating! Items include several brightly coloured amulets, amazingly well preserved food offerings, sandals, and figures of Bes, Taweret and Sekhmet.

The publication contains great colourful images of the objects on loan from the British Museum with in-depth descriptions of the artefacts which bring them to life for the reader. The booklet serves as an interesting read for all and, with its highly resourceful bibliography, is a useful tool for students.

The booklet can also be used as an interactive tool if you are looking for ways to entertain children during school holidays! It can be used to encourage children to engage with the collection by using the booklet as an exciting trail around the galleries to find all of the objects. It is a sure way to keep yourselves and children entertained!

by Rosalyn Thomas





Egyptian Mummies and Modern Science: The Investigation of Takabuti, a Lady of Thebes

Review of a lecture given by Professor Rosalie David (KNH Centre, Manchester University)



This painting was done on 25th January 1835 by John Campbell

Our April society meeting saw Professor Rosalie David, the director of the KNH Centre at Manchester University, talk about the recent scientific investigation of the mummy of Takabuti. The mummy of Takabuti has been on display in the Ulster Museum in Belfast since the 1970s, and it is through numerous visits to see her remains that my own interest in Egyptology was ignited.

Rosalie started with an introduction to the history of examining Egyptian mummies from the early 1800s. It was common for wealthy travellers to bring a mummy back with them following their travels to Egypt. These mummies were publicly unwrapped, often resulting in the destruction of the mummy. One of the earliest scientific investigations was conducted on the 'Leeds mummy' in 1828 by a multidisciplinary team. However, the destructive unwrappings continued to be favoured until the mid-nineteenth century. Margaret Alice Murray revolutionised the way mummies were studied with the unwrapping of the 'two brothers' in 1908. This event was conducted in public with an audience of 500 guests presented with a small piece of the bandages. It was in the early 1970s when Rosalie's own interest in Egyptian mummies resulted in the founding of the 'mummy project' at Manchester in 1973. In 1975, the team unwrapped a mummy with the aim of establishing a methodology for studying mummies in a more scientific way, including disease, lifestyle, and treatment. The KNH Centre (named after the initials of the anonymous benefactor) was established in 2003 within the faculty of Life Sciences at Manchester University. The aims of the centre are to research disease and pharmacy etc. It is the only place in the world to study Egyptology as a bioscience. The centre has access to scientific resources such as CT-scans, X-ray machines, and a mass spectrometer. The centre also has its own ancient DNA facilities and ancient bio-repository. A tissue bank, containing over 2000 samples from different mummies, is also housed at the centre.

Rosalie then focused her attention to Takabuti, introducing her as a 'much beloved' lady from Belfast. Rosalie's involvement in Takabuti emanated from the BBC's proposal to make a film about the mummy to celebrate the £17 million overhaul of the museum. This would involve a full scientific examination of the mummy from a variety of

experts from Belfast, Cardiff, Dundee, and Manchester. The film was later screened, regrettably, only on BBC Northern Ireland, entitled *Show me the Mummy!*

The mummy of Takabuti was brought back from Thebes in 1834 by Thomas Greg of Ballymenoch House, Hollywood, near Belfast, who presented it to the Belfast Natural History Society. Takabuti was unrolled on 27th January 1835 with the Rev. Edward Hincks (1792-1866), of Killyleagh deciphering the hieroglyphs. The inscriptions identify her as Takabuti (not Kabouti as Hincks originally thought), a 'mistress of the house' (*nbt pr*), the daughter of Nespare, a priest of Amun and Taseinret. During this time, the team consisting of Hincks, Dr. Marshall, Mr. Grattan and Mr. Getty, studied the bandages, insects, dentition, anatomy and method of mummification. The unwrapping was attended by 130 members of the Belfast Natural History Society, with no women present, before being displayed to the public for four days. After the event, the mummy was wrapped in the finest Irish linen, exposing her head, one arm and one foot. During the unwrapping, the team discovered dead insects that had been introduced during the mummification process.



Takabuti as she appears today

... continued overleaf/





It was noted at the time that her hair was 'golden blond' and that her eyes had been replaced by linen. All 32 teeth were still present and in immaculate condition, a rarity in an Egyptian mummy. A phrenological examination was also performed by studying the lumps and bumps on the head of Takabuti in order to determine the 'character' of Takabuti. It was determined that she was a young lady, between 25 and 30 years of age, and 5 foot 1 inch in height. *[She was clearly a high-status wealthy lady—don't think "housewife"!—Ed.]*

In 1987 an X-ray examination was performed on Takabuti. This confirmed earlier studies that she had her full set of teeth, was a female aged 25-30, and that there was no evidence of serious childhood illness.

Samples were also taken with an endoscope but the results were very disappointing as the samples only contained sawdust used in the mummification process. Hair samples were taken and examined, revealing that her hair was not blonde, but that she had brown hair and was Caucasian. Her hair was neatly curled for eternity with a hair-gel made of fat mixed with camphor used to hold it in place. Due to the poor results with the samples, it could not be determined how she died.

As part of the film, Caroline Wilkinson of Dundee University produced a facial reconstruction showing Takabuti as she might have appeared in life (see picture below). The reconstruction is on display in the museum next to her mummy.



Examination of the interior of the mummy using an endoscope

During the most recent scientific examination of Takabuti, her mummy travelled by sea to Liverpool and then by road to Manchester. She was again X-rayed while a CT-Scan was performed for the first time. The CT-Scan revealed that her packaged visera was still present in her upper chest. It was also determined that her brain was removed, not through the nose, but through the foramen magnum, while the resin at the back of the skull was still present. The teeth were examined for dental pathology, age of death, and diet.



Takabuti as she might have appeared in life

For decades, the mummy of Takabuti has fascinated the people of Belfast, young and old. This recent examination of her mummy has provided some additional details about her lifestyle and the mummification process. If you ever get the chance to visit Belfast, make sure you visit the museum and the mummy of Takabuti!

by Ken Griffin

Swansea University Department of Adult Continuing Education (DACE)
Open Programme Module

Coptic Thebes

The archaeology, history, art and architecture of the Coptic sites and monuments of Thebes (modern Luxor) 2nd - 8th Century AD

Wednesday April 25th – June 27th Time: 10 am – 12 pm for 10 weeks

Venue: Swansea YMCA St Helens Road

Course Tutor: Howard Middleton-Jones

Contact DACE 01792 602211 or h.middleton-jones@swan.ac.uk

