



the
EGYPT
 centre
 y ganolfan
 EIFFTAIDD

volunteer April - June 2017
Newsletter

Museum of Egyptian Antiquities



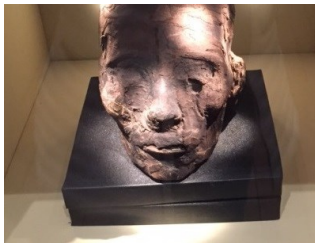
What's In Store?

An examination of local newspapers and other documents reveals rumours of theft and murder, denials and threats of court cases!



The Language of Egyptology

"...the origin of these words reflects the history of Ancient Egypt, and of the discipline of Egyptology."



"Egyptomania"

Exploring the collection of Major Harry Southey at Cyfarthfa Castle Museum.



Welcome



**Syd
Howells**
Editor in
Chief

Welcome to our revamped, all new Egypt Centre Volunteer Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading about our volunteers and the events and activities the museum simply could not hold without their commitment, time and skill.

Remember that if you have any articles, pictures, ideas etc. that you would like to contribute to the next issue, please contact Dulcie Engel.

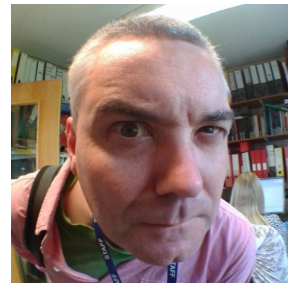
Here's to the next issue!

Syd



Dulcie Engel
Associate Editor

A former French and linguistics lecturer, I have volunteered at the Egypt Centre since April 2014. I am a gallery supervisor in both galleries, and author of the Egyptian Writing Trails. Apart from language, I am particularly interested in the history of collecting. I won the 2016 Volunteer of the Year award.



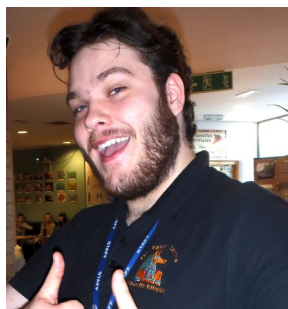
Rob Stradling
Technical Editor

A volunteer since 2012, you can find me supervising the House of Life on Tuesdays & Thursday mornings; when I'm not slaving over this newsletter, of course.



Sue Cane
Department Features Editor

I started volunteering 8 years ago and now work as a Gallery Supervisor in House of Death. I'm currently studying hieroglyphs with one of our MA graduates, and also doing an on-line course in Egyptology. My particular areas of interest are admission to the Afterlife and the solar bark.



Alex Sheldon
Department Features Editor

I first came to the Egypt centre when I was very young and I always enjoyed my visits. When I was 14 and starting my Duke of Edinburgh award I decided to start volunteering here, I have been here for 6 years now and have loved every part; helping out and working with other volunteers, teaching the public interesting facts about Egypt and having fun at the Christmas parties.

Thanks to **Sam Wale** for his help & guidance in production of this newsletter.

If you would like to contribute or submit articles for consideration please contact: dulcie.engel@icloud.com

The Newsletter will normally be published every three months. Due to closures over summer 2017, the next issue is due: **December 2017.**



Office News

Visitor Figures

Public:

January—1297

February—2175

March—1686

School pupils:

January—360

February—300

March— 615

Events

International Museum Day

Thursday 18th May

"Have Your Say"

Ideas submitted included:

- Natural History exhibits
- More exhibition space
- Quizzes!

Cake sale generated **£50.00**

Visitor Comments

"Amazing artefacts, informative boards, brilliant interactive tasks, knowledgeable & friendly staff. Excellent!"

- Miss Johnson, Birmingham

Teacher Feedback

"A super knowledgeable day!"

– Marlbrook Primary

"We seriously love coming."

– St Illtyds Primary

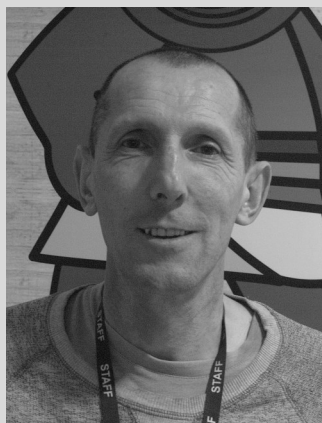
Volunteer of the Month

April

Frank Norton

May

Alison John



Autism Awareness festival – Sunday 23rd April

The Egypt Centre opened on Sunday between 1pm and 3pm to host a workshop for children with various degrees of autism during a campus-wide festival for Autism Awareness. We provided this free of charge to 13 children that had booked in with us while their parents attended the conference in the Taliesin theatre. We also had 46 visitors in while we were open.

Filming at the Egypt Centre

Three separate videos have been made at the Egypt Centre to promote different aspects of our wonderful work!

Fusion project

This Welsh Government is looking at how taking part in a cultural activity can benefit people in terms of confidence, skills, experience and even wellbeing. They asked Wendy to provide examples of how volunteering here has helped people in these ways, and also interviewed Lauren and Peter about their own paths from volunteering, to employment at the museum.

Open University

The Open University are creating a video looking into informal education outside the classroom to compare with the structured test based learning done in schools and have chosen the Egypt Centre's Saturday workshops as one of its case studies.

Swansea University College of Arts and Humanities

To encourage prospective students to choose Swansea University, the college have created a promotional video to show off the museum as a unique selling point for the department. They filmed current students that also volunteer here, Egyptology lecturer Dr. Ken Griffin and Professor Joann Fletcher, Egyptologist and TV presenter.



What's In Store?



What's in Store? 2: Mummified arm EC307

In her second excursion into the museum storerooms, Dulcie tries to unwrap the mystery around a mummified arm, which made headlines across Wales (at least!) in the early 1990s. An examination of local newspapers and other documents reveals rumours of theft and murder, denials and threats of court cases! The action moves from Swansea to Cardiff, Essex and London.

This leads into a discussion of *Mummymania*, conservation and museum ethics.

"... a Swansea University student ended up in police custody [in Nov. 1992] after a severed arm was found in his lodgings in the Uplands. The student said he had found the arm, along with old axe heads and flints, on a Gower beach. He sold off the other objects to an antiques dealer, but not the arm, which was later discovered and reported to the police. He was arrested and held for two days. His girlfriend left him, thinking he was a killer. It was soon established that the arm was not from a recent corpse, and the student was released."

You can read the full article on our website.

Just go to <http://www.egypt.swan.ac.uk/volunteer-newsletter/>



Press Release: **Egypt Centre is proud to announce a new display case curated by its volunteers.**

When a small display case was no longer being used at the museum the first idea to spring to mind was to offer it to the volunteers to come up with a display theme, research their chosen objects and write the supporting information. The first theme to be chosen, curated by volunteer Dulcie Engel, is 'Objects from a Victorian gentleman's cabinet of curiosities.' The objects selected for this display illustrate a range of typical items brought back as curios by Victorian and Edwardian travellers from Egypt and the Holy Land, who seem to have had few scruples with regards to the preservation of archaeological sites and ancient artefacts, or indeed the authenticity of their purchases!



John Foulkes Jones (1826-1880) was a Methodist minister from north Wales who travelled to Egypt and acquired these objects, which include: mummy

hair, a stone chip from a statue, a bottle of holy water and mummy bandages. These items would grace a shelf or cabinet back home, to be admired by visitors. An account of his journey was published in 1860.

The new display can be seen in the first floor, *House of Life* gallery, Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm.

Written by: Dulcie Engel

My name is Dulcie Engel. I am originally from London, but I have lived in Swansea for more than twenty years. For most of that time I was lecturing in French and linguistics at Swansea University. I also taught English to adult learners in the community. I have been a volunteer at the Egypt Centre for the last three years.

One aspect of museums which really interests me is their history and development, and the universal human desire to collect objects. I will be giving a paper on the subject at a Swansea Historical Association public lecture at the National Waterfront Museum in June. It was while researching this topic that I got to know about this particular collection, which was donated to the Egypt Centre in 2016.

When Wendy Goodridge, the assistant curator, asked for suggestions from volunteers for an empty display case, I knew right away what I would like to put in it!



Meet the Volunteer



Egypt Centre Volunteer

Peter Wheeler

I come from:

UK

I started volunteering:

January 2016

I chose to volunteer because:

I have a long-term interest in Ancient History.

I wanted to help with visitors & schools

My favourite artefact is:

The small, headless seated woman—Plants cabinet, HOL. (W848)

It's beautiful—shame about her head!

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me:

It's fun, the people are lovely, and it's great to see children enjoying a museum visit.



Student Volunteer

Jack Morris (aka Jack Beard!)

I come from:

Llanelli

I started volunteering:

September 2016

I chose to volunteer because:

I currently study Egyptology at Swansea University, so it's perfect to have an opportunity to work amongst Egyptian artefacts.

My favourite artefact is:

The dice in the Games case, HOL. More Roman than Egyptian really, but I love the craftsmanship. (W508)

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me:

As well as being relevant to my course and career aspirations, being in a museum environment has really helped my degree as a whole.





International Volunteer

Stephanie Castro

I come from:

Charlotte, North Carolina USA

I started volunteering:

September 2016

I chose to volunteer because:

I really enjoy ancient art and wanted to see what working in a museum was like.

My favourite artefact is:

Vulture amulet, HOD. (EA15597)

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me:

It has taught me a lot about Ancient Egypt.



Former Volunteer

Lauren Jayne Wale

I come from:

The best city in the world (...Swansea!)

I started volunteering (date):

2002, aged 15, for 2 weeks' work experience. I enjoyed it so much I stayed all summer!

I chose to volunteer because:

I was in love with all things Egypt, and always wanted to work in a museum.

My favourite artefact is:

Bes cosmetic container, HOD. Who doesn't love a god of women, drinking, and partying? (EA2569)

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helped me:

I went on to study for my BA in Egyptology, MA in Museum Studies, and...

What I'm doing now:

I now have my dream job: FoH & Shop Manager at *The Egypt Centre!*



Young Volunteers

Visitor Feedback

"Molly was great in the mummification, learned a lot of facts with her"
- Tanwen-Aur.

"Seb and Jess showed us the materials board and around the House of Life - they were fantastic!
Thanks :)"
- Katie & Luan.



At the age of 9, Sebastian is probably the youngest volunteer the Egypt Centre as ever had.

"I first came to this museum as a visitor when I was younger, then a few years later my dad inspired me to start volunteering so that I can learn about the history of Egypt. Since I started volunteering I have learnt a lot of interesting facts about Egypt, such as; the most expensive material of Egypt is **Lapis Lazuli**. I also learnt a lot about the Mummification process.

I learnt that the Egyptians removed the main organs except for the Heart and placed them into Canopic jars; your soul could end up in the afterlife or inside Amut's mouth! I also learned that the Egyptians also mummified other animals such as Crocodiles and Birds, even Human babies . I learned that the food of the Egyptians was very healthy and sweet. I have enjoyed every part of my time as a young Volunteer so far and I hope to continue volunteering for many years to come and see what changes might occur here and in the knowledge of Egypt as a whole"

As you can see Sebastian has learnt a lot of interesting facts about Egypt, and enjoys volunteering with impeccable enthusiasm!

***Sebastian Von B. Taylan
Young Volunteer since
October 2016***



House Points

Montu	282
Selket	258
Sobek	240
Meretseger	197

Mostafa	96
Molly-Sue	91
Seth	71



Written by: Alex Sheldon.



Meet...



Young Volunteer

Dan Williams

I come from:

Neath

I started volunteering:

November 2011

I chose to volunteer because:

I felt I could give something to the people who taught me so much, and to the community.

My favourite artefact is:

Faience shabti (HOL).

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me:

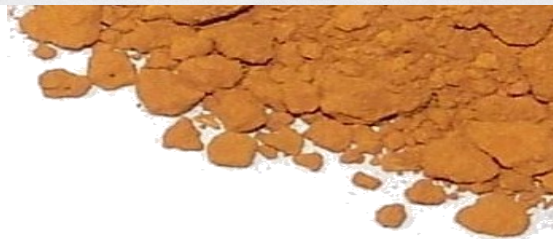
I've developed my leadership & team working skills.

WRITING HIEROGLYPHS Word Search

O	R	N	U	S	S	J	B	O	S	F	S	A	N	V	N
P	F	O	R	P	T	I	S	U	R	Y	P	A	P	E	Z
B	G	F	F	Q	H	E	X	P	F	N	T	X	F	H	D
E	R	M	D	U	S	O	L	G	E	N	B	E	E	I	A
C	T	U	N	E	U	N	A	B	T	R	S	Q	N	J	
H	F	B	S	P	T	I	F	O	H	V	E	K	K	Y	S
Q	N	M	L	H	B	E	M	N	G	P	R	H	A	K	K
G	Y	E	L	E	P	B	R	F	D	R	W	A	E	M	J
T	I	L	M	S	S	L	M	A	X	A	T	V	H	R	
E	O	D	X	O	D	I	L	B	I	L	T	M	T	L	E
L	D	T	E	S	N	C	H	E	P	N	I	D	V	L	Z
L	V	P	E	O	M	E	F	C	W	A	A	R	E	N	Q
A	B	B	J	H	G	X	R	J	B	K	E	T	E	M	H
M	E	N	S	Y	K	R	H	P	B	P	N	M	I	E	C
K	W	F	A	E	I	A	A	V	P	E	O	I	I	V	Q
S	T	Y	L	U	S	F	V	M	V	N	N	F	Z	M	E

AKHET
ANKH
BRUSH
CHISEL
DETERMINATIVE
HES
HETEP
IB
IDEOGRAM
INKWELL
MALLETT
NEB
NEFER
NOMEN
PAPYRUS
PER
PHONOGRAM
PRENOMEN
STELA
STYLUS

Words can appear horizontally, vertically and diagonally in any direction.



Young Volunteer of the Month

April

Elizabeth & Charlotte

May

Mostafa

June

Malena



The language of Egyptology: Where do these words come from?

By Dulcie Engel

Etymology is the study of the origin of words, and as such gives us an insight into the history of a culture, a place, or a field of study. New volunteers at the Egypt Centre have to acquire a vocabulary of many hitherto unfamiliar words in order to describe objects, materials, beliefs and practices. What is of particular interest to me is the fact that the origin of these words reflects the history of Ancient Egypt and the history of the discipline of Egyptology. Of course, the vast majority of the words we use are well-established general archaeological or historical terms, or very simple everyday words. We will not be discussing those here. Below, I will focus on a selection of words which I have come across in my time at the Egypt Centre, some more familiar than others, classified by language of origin (for more information on languages in Ancient Egypt, see Engel 2015a).

EGYPTIAN These words reflect important religious beliefs and practices particular to Ancient Egyptian culture which have been adapted more or less directly into Egyptological discourse in various languages. They are known as borrowings, or loanwords.

ankh: life

ba: personality

ka: life-force

pharaoh: ruler (from Egyptian *pr-'o*, great house via Hebrew *par'oh*, and Greek *pharao*. As such, it could figure below in the Greek section. The borrowing via Hebrew should not surprise us: pharaohs feature in stories of the Old Testament)

senet: game of passing

shabti: funerary servant figurine

COPTIC: The latest stage of Egyptian language, and the term used to describe the Christian church in Egypt (from *gubti*, a corruption of the Greek *Aigyptioi* (ie Egyptian), and ultimately the Egyptian *hut-ka-Ptah* (temple of Ptah. As such, it could be classified as Greek or Egyptian rather than Arabic)

GREEK Greek was an important language in Egypt following the invasion of Alexander the Great in 332 BC and the consequent establishment of the Ptolemaic dynasty. It continued to be important during the Roman period (from 30 BC), and Greek was the lingua franca of the Eastern Roman Empire. Furthermore, the Greek alphabet formed the basis of the Coptic writing system. It was also one of the languages on the Rosetta Stone, which led to the decipherment of hieroglyphs in 1822 AD. The words below relate to early descriptions of specifically Egyptian elements (writing, architecture...), and items/ideas imported from Greece or known elsewhere in the Greek sphere of influence. Furthermore, Greek is one of the main sources of learned words in English (often via Latin), so we should not be surprised at the number of words of Greek origin here. We can often recognise those Greek borrowings which feature -ph-, -k-, or -on in the spelling.

apotropaic: having the power to avert evil (from *apotrepein*, turn away, turn from). As in the ivory wand in the House of Death (Religion in the home case).

colossus: a larger than life-size statue (from *kolossos*, gigantic). In Egypt, the Colossus of Memnon; in Greece, the Colossus of Rhodes.

demotic: cursive script used to write colloquial Egyptian from the end of 7th century BC (from *demotikos*, popular)

hieratic: simplified hieroglyphic script (from *hieros*, sacred)

hieroglyph: name of symbols in most well-known Egyptian writing system (from *hieros*, sacred, and *gluptein*, to carve in stone).

hippotamus: Large semi-aquatic African mammal (from *hippos*, horse, and *potamos*, river. Cf the German term, *Nilpferd*, Nile horse)

nomarch: governor of a nome (territorial division in Ancient Egypt) (from *nomos*, nome, *arkhes*, governor). We still use the -arch ending for other powerful positions: *monarch*, *oligarch*...

obelisk: monumental stone pillar (from *obelos*, pointed pillar)

ostrakon: potsherd, often used for writing notes or sketching pictures. This was a practice in Ancient Greece as well as Egypt. (from *ostrakon*. Cf. English verb *to ostracize*: from potsherd on which the names those to be banished were written in ancient Greece).

papyrus: material made from sedge plant for writing, painting etc (*papuros*. Also the origin of the English word *paper* (Greek via Latin and French))

pylon: a monumental gateway formed by two truncated towers (from *pule*, gate)

pyramid: a monumental structure with a square base and triangular sloping sides meeting at a point, used as a tomb in Egypt (from *puramid* via Latin *pyramis*, pointy-topped wheat cake)

sarcophagus: a stone coffin (literally, flesh-consuming; from *sark* flesh & *phagos*, eating)

scarab: large Eastern Mediterranean dung beetle; amulet cut in that shape (from *skarabeios*, beetle)

sistrum: musical rattle (from *seistron*, Greek term given to the Egyptian *seshesht*)

sphinx: a stone figure with a lion's body and human or animal head. Cf. Greek myth of Oedipus: the riddle of the sphinx at Thebes (from *sphingein*, to draw tight). A

criosphinx has a ram's head (Greek for ram is *kreos*), There is an alley of criosphinxes in Karnak.

stater: Ancient Greek gold or silver coin (from *stater*, weigh)

stela: inscribed stone or wooden slab (from *stela*, standing block)

LATIN As we have seen above, Greek continued to be important during the Roman period: Latin was more or less restricted to official decrees, and is also found on coins from this period in Egypt. Like Greek, Latin is a major source of learned words in English (often via French).



amulet: small charm to be worn in life, or death (*amuletum*)
canopic jar: urn used to preserve entrails during mummification, and for burial (Latin adjective *canopicus* from name of Egyptian town, Canopus)

cippus: an amuletic stela of Horus the child (from *cippus*, post, stake or beam. Also origin of English *chip* (ie piece of wood))

cuneiform: wedge-shaped letters used in script for various ancient Near Eastern languages, in particular Sumerian and Akkadian. Akkadian was a lingua franca in the area, including Egypt (from *cuneus*, wedge)

nomen: the family name of a pharaoh; **prenomen** refers to the throne name. These are the two names protected by a cartouche; the other three are not. See poster in House of Death (next to mummification case) (from *nomen*, name. In Ancient Rome, the second personal name of a citizen)

stylus: writing implement with pointed end (*stilus*)

ARABIC Following the split and the subsequent decline of the western Roman Empire (Rome was sacked by Visigoths in 410 AD), Egypt fell prey to Arab invasions from 639-642 AD, well before the fall of Constantinople (capital of the Eastern Roman empire) to the Turks in 1453 AD. However, Greek and Coptic (ie Egyptian) survived for a long period, as did Coptic Christianity. Islamicizing and Arabicizing measures began to have a serious effect in the 8th century AD.

mummy: a corpse preserved with natron salt and resin, wrapped in bandages (from *mumiya*, bitumen, via Latin and French. The resin caused the skin to darken, and this was thought to be due to the use of bitumen)

tiraz: a fabric from the Abbasid period (750-1258 AD), embellished with texts from the Koran or inscriptions referring to the ruler, or place where the fabric was produced. Can also refer to a garment with these woven or embroidered inscriptions. These garments tended to be ceremonial (see Engel 2015 b on EC1257) (*tiraz*, embellishment, originally from Farsi, to embroider).

FRENCH Ever since the Norman conquest in 1066 AD, French has been a major source of vocabulary items for the English language, and as noted above, a conduit for learned words from Latin. With particular regard to Egyptology, Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign (1798-1801) was of great importance. The emperor did not just bring soldiers, but scholars, scientists and artists. His soldiers discovered the Rosetta Stone in 1799, and it was finally deciphered by a French scholar in 1822. There has been a very strong tradition of French interest in Ancient Egypt, in particular with the setting up of the Cairo museum, which was established in Boulaq in 1858 under the auspices of Auguste Mariette, director of the Egyptian Antiquities Department.

cartonnage: a mixture of linen and plaster used for mummy cases (from *carton*, card)

cartouche: an oval shaped knotted rope symbol which protects the names of pharaohs in hieroglyphic inscriptions (see *nomen*, above) (*cartouche*, gun cartridge. Napoleon's soldiers gave the symbol this name because of the resemblance in shape)

faience: ceramic material made from sand, lime, and ash or natron salt. Usually glazed blue or green. Often made into shabtis, amulets, beads, tiles, small containers. Named after a type of European glazed ceramic ware, which it was thought to resemble (*faience*, ceramic ware, after French name for Faenza, a town in Northern Italy known for this type of pottery)

palette: a slab of wood or stone used by a scribe for holding and mixing pigments. Typically with two round depressions for black and red ink (*pale*, shovel, plus diminutive ending). In English, this is used to refer to an artist's *palette*, not to be confused with *palate* (roof of mouth, or sense of taste, from Latin *palatum*, roof of mouth) or *pallet* (in sense of wooden crate, from same origin as *palette*. In sense of straw mattress, from French *paille*, straw)

Conclusion

This (necessarily subjective) list of words we use at the museum reflects not only the history of English vocabulary (especially the influence of Greek, Latin and French), but also the history of Egypt and those who have been involved in the discovery of its ancient culture. There are plenty of other terms worthy of investigation: I hope this article has inspired you to find out more!

PS There is one word I wanted to include which does not fit into my lists above: a word we use daily in the mummification activity. It actually comes from Old English: **adze** (from OE *adesa*, of unknown origin: an axe-like tool with an arched blade).

References

- D. M. Engel (2015 a) 'Nine ways of writing seven languages' *Inscriptions* 40: 9-16.
D.M. Engel (2015 b) 'Even a scrap of cloth has a story' *Inscriptions* 40: 5-6.
C. Fluck, G. Helmecke, E.R.O'Connell (eds)(2015) *Egypt: faith after the pharaohs* (British Museum Press)
J. Pearsall (ed) (1998/2001) *The New Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press)
I. Shaw & P. Nicholson (1995/97) *British Museum Dictionary of Ancient Egypt* (British Museum Press)
Websites consulted
Ancient Egypt (www.ancientegypt.co.uk)
Online Etymological Dictionary (<http://etymonline.com>)
Wikipedia: Egyptian Museum, Cairo (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_Museum)
Berg Fashion Library: 'Tiraz: Textiles and Dress with inscriptions in Central and South West Asia' (<http://www.bergfashionlibrary.com/staticfiles/Encyclopedia/Tirez-Textiles-Dress-Central-and-Southwest-Asia.pdf>)

“...the origin of these words reflects the history of Ancient Egypt and the history of the discipline of Egyptology.”



News & Reviews

BOOK REVIEW:

The Visitors by Sally Beauman (Abacus 2015)

This chunky novel has at its centre the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter in 1922. The narrator is 11 year old English girl Lucy Payne, sent to Egypt with a companion by her Cambridge don father, to recuperate from the typhoid which has just killed her mother. But Lucy is not just any visitor: she befriends another young girl, Frances, who happens to be the daughter of the American Egyptologist Herbert Winlock. So she is on the edge of the Carter/Carnarvon circle. The two girls observe the world of adults, and see and hear things they shouldn't. They also have a ringside seat at the greatest archaeological discovery of the twentieth century. The Egyptological aspects of the story are clearly explained for the non-specialist reader.

The novel is partly narrated by an older Lucy, aged 91 (in 2002), living in London and frequently visited by the ghosts of her past, especially the friends she made in Egypt as a child. Another major theme of the book is Lucy's relationship with her distant father and her volatile, domineering stepmother.

The author has aimed for historical accuracy, and is very good on period detail. There is a comprehensive bibliography and list of useful websites at the end.

Dulcie Engel



MUSEUM NEWS

Bolton Museum (above) is currently building a new Egyptology gallery to house its large collection, the highlight of which will be a full-size facsimile of the tomb of Thutmose III. The new gallery is due to open in 2018.

The **American Museum of Natural History** in **New York** has just opened a new exhibition entitled Mummies, which will run till January 7th 2018. There are more than a dozen mummies on display from ancient Egypt and pre-Columbian Peru.

The re-vamped Egyptian gallery at the **World Museum, Liverpool** re-opened on April 28th.

The Museums Association has launched the next phase of *Museums Change Lives*, campaigning for museums to develop as socially purposeful organisations, and highlighting evidence that museums are working with their communities and delivering positive social impact.

<http://www.museumsassociation.org>

The National Museum of Scotland has a new exhibition entitled "*The Tomb: Ancient Egyptian Burial*" running until 3rd September 2017, ahead of the opening of their new Ancient Egypt gallery in 2018/19.



Saturday Workshops

Egypt Centre 'Young Egyptologist' Saturday Workshops

21 & 28 Jan

King's Club Gendros Baptist Church

4 & 11 Feb

Danygraig Primary

11 & 18 Mar

Clwyd Primary

1 & 8 Apr

Clase Primary

13 & 20 May

Townhill Community School



Since January 2002 the Egypt Centre has been running *Young Egyptologist* workshops for children who would not normally visit a museum.

14 children, each month, are offered a place on the *Young Egyptologist* 2-day fun-packed course. Schools from Community First Areas with a high number of children who are disadvantaged socially or economically are targeted. The museum aims to break down barriers that hinder such children taking part and so we provide transport to collect the children from school and return them and also provide a buffet-style 'party' lunch for each child.

The two-day workshop is also totally free of charge and children get a coloured folder of their completed work, a photograph of their group dressed up as ancient Egyptians and all art and craft materials are provided by the museum.

The course aims to motivate children to foster a love of learning, to increase self-esteem and confidence through a greater sense of achievement, as well as developing literacy and numeracy skills. Our child/teacher evaluation shows that self-esteem has been built and many children have made repeat visits with family members to show off their knowledge. Children gained skills as well as gaining knowledge of the subject of ancient Egypt. The culmination of the course is the Award Ceremony to which teachers, family and friends are invited to see the children being presented with a certificate of their achievement. Each child has their 'moment of glory' and schools have reported that the children's attitude to learning was transformed with an increase in motivation and attention and the quality of the children's work improved.

The workshops staff includes: a Workshop Co-ordinator, Workshop Leader and three Workshop Assistants. Every member of staff, past and present for the last 10 years, has been recruited from the volunteer team! We also have a reserve list of volunteers who can be called upon for paid work if any member of staff has to take time off. If you are interested in being involved with the workshops and would like to be added to the reserve list please see Wendy.



"Egyptomania" Exhibition

Cyfarthfa Castle Museum, Merthyr Tydfil

I recently visited this exhibition of Egyptian artefacts. Some of them are permanently displayed in two cases in the Art Gallery, but until the end of June they have been moved into a separate room with some additional items.

These exhibits were collected by Major Harry Southey in the early 1900s. He was a local man whose first visit to Egypt was in 1901, when he visited the Valley of the Kings and purchased a mummified head. He made several visits over the next few years, returning home with many items which he bequeathed to the people of Merthyr.

Two items I found of particular interest were: A wooden servant doll with jointed arms (undated) – analysed by Bobby Carter of Lampeter (University of Wales Trinity St David); and a female mummified head on loan from Manchester University. This item from the Late Period shows evidence of blonde hair, so it is thought that this was not an Egyptian woman.

Sue Cane



Above: Copper alloy bowl and wooden hand clappers. Coffin mask 664-332BC. Coffin fragment. Limestone vase. Two Imsety canopic lids.

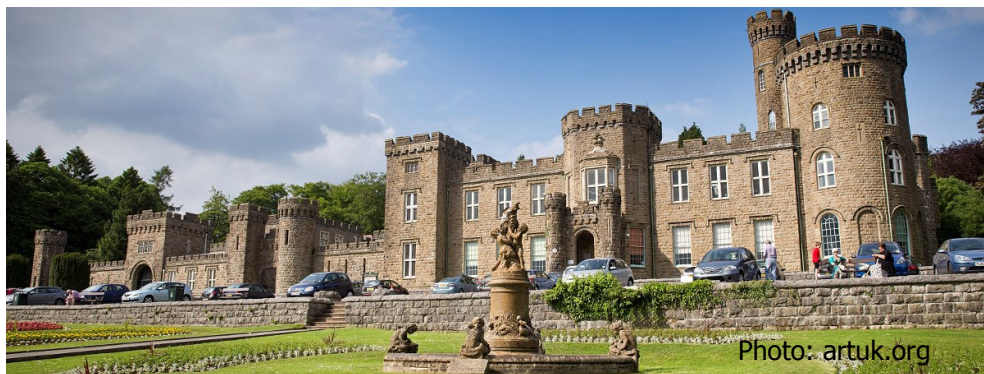


Above: Female head on loan from Manchester Uni. Late period, unusually had blonde hair so may not have been an Egyptian female. Her ethmoid bone was broken as is usual in mummification.





Cyfarthfa Castle Museum



Research Materials

Magazines and journals in the Egypt Centre

These can be found in the rack (immediately outside the House of Life) and on the windowsill (near the exit to the shared area and Taliesin café) on the 1st floor landing. Many will be of interest to volunteers and to visitors. They cover all aspects of the study of Ancient Egypt (1), and of Museums (2):

1. Ancient Egypt

Nile Magazine Features in its Spring 2017 edition articles on Sobek the Crocodile God, myths about Ancient Egypt, and the Egyptian obelisk in New York.

KMT. A Modern Journal of Ancient Egypt The Spring 2017 issue includes articles on the Queens of the Nile exhibition in Leiden, and some unusual features of the Valley of the Kings.

Egyptian Archaeology The latest news from the field.

Horizon. The Amarna Project and Amarna Trust Newsletter Reports from Amarna digs.

Nekhen News Reports on the Hierakonpolis expedition.

Aramco World Articles on the history and culture of the Arab and Muslim world.

Friends of the Petrie Museum Journal The Petrie Museum is an important Egyptological collection housed in University College London.

Inscriptions: Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre (also available via the Egypt Centre website) Includes articles by Egypt Centre volunteers and Friends.

EuroREA. Journal of Reconstruction and Experiment in Archaeology

2. Museums

Museums Journal Articles on various museums and historic houses, and on issues of concern such as sustainability, storage and conservation.

AIM. Association of Independent Museums This focuses on the particular concerns and issues of independent museums.

BAFM Journal. British Association of Friends of Museums.

Cymal. Newsletter of Museums, Archives and Libraries in Wales The Winter 2006 edition features an article by a former volunteer manager on the importance of volunteers in the Egypt Centre.

Ymag. Newsletter of the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries in Wales.

Happy Browsing!

Dulcie Engel





This year, the Egypt Centre was shortlisted for the **'Volunteers of the Year Award-Team'** at this prestigious national event held on May 17th in the centre of London.

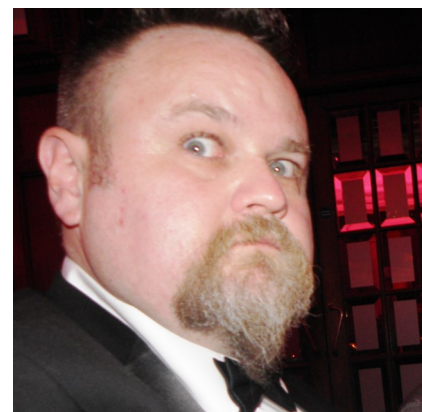
We were one of only 6 entries to be shortlisted, which is a great honour. Sadly, we did not win this time, but it was a real privilege for me and Alison John to represent all our volunteers on this occasion.

We were accompanied by our great volunteer manager Syd Howells, who actually wrote the shortlisted application, and our wonderful assistant curator Wendy Goodridge. Truly an evening to remember!

Dulcie Engel

For more information and photos of the black tie event, see:

<http://awards.museumsandheritage.com>



Gift Shop



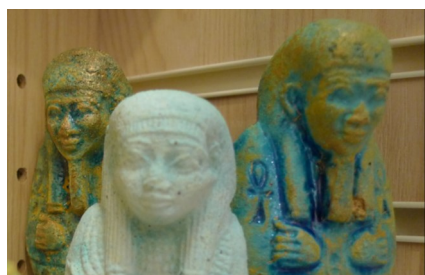
Volunteer Discount

If you have volunteered for more than 20 hours, you are not only able to get **10%** off the price of all items in the gift shop, but also **50%** off the price of a space on the children's holiday workshops!

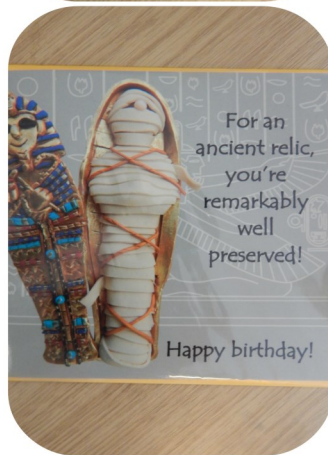
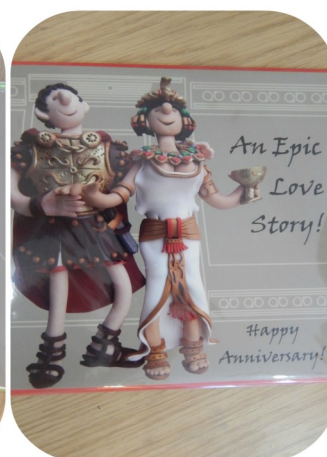
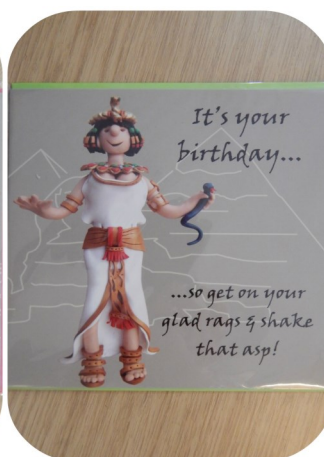
Volunteers Wanted!

Would you like to work on the till and create displays in our gift shop, learn new skills and make new friends?

If so please contact Lauren using the details below!



The Egypt Centre Gift Shop has a wide range of gifts perfect for the whole family!



Front of House & Gift Shop Manager
Lauren Wale:

01792 602660 l.j.thomson@swansea.ac.uk



Friends of the Egypt Centre



17 May 2017 - Alice Williams:

'Exhibiting Ancient Egypt: Annual Exhibitions of British Archaeological Societies 1884-1939'

Alice Williams is a former Swansea student and Egypt Centre volunteer, and now a Ph.D. research student at Oxford University. She is involved in a 3 year collaborative project, 'Artefacts of Excavation', whose aim is to create an on-line resource for the relocation and re-contextualisation of distributed artefacts from excavations in the late 1800s and early 1900s. She is investigating the history of these objects, their origin and eventual home.

The Egypt Exploration Fund (later the EE Society) raised funds for excavations in Egypt by holding annual summer exhibitions in London, showcasing and selling items recently discovered. Money received financed excavation work the following year. Global organisations, schools, and individuals 'donated' to the Fund in exchange for items retrieved from Egypt. These temporary exhibitions were badly displayed; items were heaped on tables, some still in their travel crates, and the lighting was poor. Information on the items was provided: they were mainly items used in daily life and not hugely valuable. The exhibitions attracted a large crowd of visitors who were able to speak to Petrie and the other archaeologists involved. Eminent visitors included pre-Raphaelite artists Holman Hunt and Alma-Tadema, sculptor Jacob Epstein and author Rider Haggard, Cyril Aldred (an art historian who later became a Egyptologist), and (allegedly) Oscar Wilde. These objects and the 'visitor experience' in these exhibitions contrasted strongly with the Egyptian items then in the British Museum, which were mainly large and valuable antiquities, professionally displayed.

Upcoming...

7th June— Dr. Stephen Buckley & Prof. Joann Fletcher (University of York)

From King's Valley to King's College: The Makings of a Modern Mummy.
(Faraday A)

13th September—Dr. Val Billingham (Egypt Exploration Society)

A Thousand Miles up the Nile: Amelia Edwards' voyage of discovery.

11th October—Dr. Kasia Szpakowska (Swansea University)

A Magical Mystery Tour through the Ancient Egyptian Afterlife with Ra.

Discoveries from Amarna were a huge draw and very popular with visitors in the 1930s. We were shown a short film from the 1931 exhibition of a model house from Amarna with a "walk-through" interactive display. Mannequins were dressed with Egyptian clothes and jewellery, and souvenirs were also on sale.

Further Information on this project:
egyptartefacts.griffith.ox.ac.uk

This website includes a page on the Wellcome collection, part of which is here in the Egypt Centre.

Written by: Sue Cane

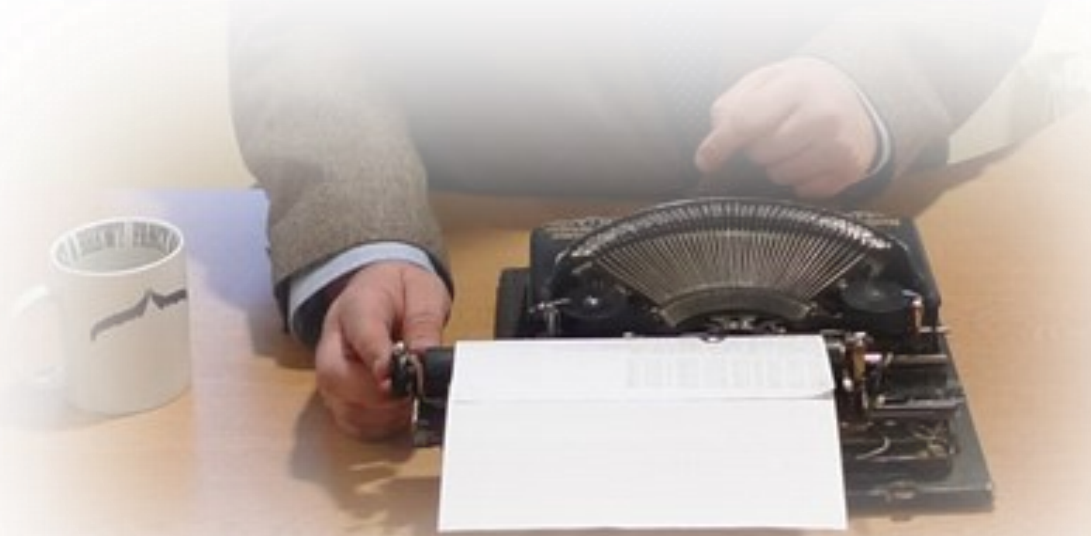


For further information or to become a member please contact:
Membership Secretary Wendy Goodridge:

01792 295960 w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk



Volunteer April - June 2017 Newsletter



*Entry to the museum is Free
Open Tuesday—Saturday*

Egypt Centre
Swansea University
Singleton Park
Swansea
SA2 8PP

01792 295 960
www.egypt.swan.ac.uk

