

Volunteer Newsletter Oct - Dec 2018

Museum of Egyptian Antiquities



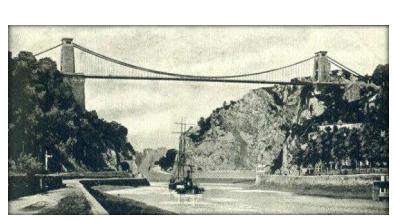
Howard Carter: The Norfolk Connection

"The Carter family name has been well known in Norfolk for generations."



Lesser-Known Gods

Meet *Anat* & *Anukis*, two more obscure Egyptian deities.



Bristol's Egyptian-Style Bridge

How Ancient Egyptian architecture inspired Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

egypt.swan.ac.uk



Welcome



**Syd
Howells**
Editor in
Chief

And now as we draw towards the end of a busy year in the life of the Egypt Centre, it is perhaps time to reflect on all the fantastic work which has been carried out by our marvellous volunteers.

It's been an action-packed 12 months for the museum with our 20th anniversary, the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and us winning the Swansea Life Award for best heritage establishment (we were up against some impressive and much larger competitors).

Add a gargantuan and ever-increasing amount of schools visiting us to taste the Egypt Centre experience and the evidence is there as a testament to your impressive efforts.

Once again thank you to all our volunteers without whom the Egypt Centre would not be the inclusive, lively environment it is.

Here's to the next 20 years!

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 Tuesday & Thursday mornings; at the computer desk, lovingly crafting this eagerly-anticipated quarterly; or ensconced in Cupboard 8, performing quality control on the biscuit collection (this unfortunately requires some destructive testing).



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 barque.



Rhodri Protheroe-Jones
Department Features Editor

I started volunteering 8 years ago at age 10 and for some reason management has kept me around. I can usually be found in the House of Life on a Saturday. I am particularly interested in shabtis, especially their progression from handcrafted, one-off and personal objects to mass-produced miniatures.

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

The Newsletter will be published every three months—Next issue due **Mar 2019**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Syd Howells".



Visitor Comments

"I can write my name in hieroglyphs now! Interesting, funny & entertaining; we'll come back soon."

- Claire & Jade, Angers, France

"Fantastic explanation of mummification. Our questions were answered expertly and with patience."

- Naomi, W. Sussex

"Read about this on the internet. Well worth the visit - amazing displays and helpful staff."

- R. Haythornthwaite, Burnley

"Very interesting, and cool - nice job!"

- Laurie, Melbourne, Australia

"I ❤ it! ☺"

- Mary, England.

"Very nostalgic as I came here when younger. I insisted on bringing a friend from uni, and he loved it!"

- Lizzie & Matt, Swansea / Lancaster

"Beautiful Museum."

- Sarah Forbes, Barcelona, Spain

"First visit - really impressed. Volunteers amazing. 5 Stars!"

- O'Sullivan family, Swansea

"Extremely good fun! Mummification was really interesting."

- Lara, Bristol

Office News

Swansea Life
@swansealife

Leisure & Tourism is up next and the award goes to...
@TheEgyptCentre! #SwanseaLifeAwards



10:02 pm · 14 Sep 2018

The Egypt Centre was a winner at the **Swansea Life Awards 2018**, recognizing *"outstanding quality, customer service and innovation"*. The awards are decided by public vote, and TEC won in the **Leisure & Tourism** category.

Syd Howells and Luke Keenan are seen (twice!) accepting the award at the glitzy ceremony at Brangwyn Hall on 14th September.

On November 3rd, TEC volunteers took part in the **Swansea Science Festival** event at **The Waterfront Museum**.

The event promised to "...take visitors on a journey of discovery, as researchers explore the depths of the sea, land, air and space." Thankfully our volunteers limited their activities to *terra firma* and the Writing, Senet and Mummification activities proved popular with all ages.



More on this event inside...

Volunteer of the Month

July

Jordan Hawkes



August

Brenda Senior



September

Chris Harrington



Meet the Volunteer



Egypt Centre Volunteer

Brenda Senior

I come from: Merthyr Tydfil

I started volunteering: 2012

I chose to volunteer because: I enjoy meeting people, and the subject interested me.

My Favourite artefact is: Pottery hedgehog (HoD).

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me: Learning something new is always an advantage!

Student Volunteer

Alexandra Pinagli

I come from: London

I started volunteering: Dec 2016

I chose to volunteer because: I really enjoy learning new things, especially learning about the ancient world.

My Favourite artefact is: Lower-Palaeolithic hand axe AR50/2883.

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me: Practical experience for my (hopefully) future career.





International Volunteer

Natalie Chomitz

I come from: Cobourg, Canada

I started volunteering: Jul 2018

I chose to volunteer because: My masters program from Leicester requires 120 hours of museum placement. Sam Wale wanted someone to help with student engagement...

My Favourite artefact is: Offering tables because they show continuity over time.

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me: TEC is helping me gain much-needed experience in the museum sector. It is also giving me an excuse to learn about Egyptology, that I have never had before!

International Volunteer

Qing Chen Liu

I come from: China

I started volunteering: July 2018

I chose to volunteer because: It was a school placement. I have an interest in collection management.

My Favourite artefact is: The coffin of the musician (*Iwesemhesetmut*).

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helped me: Promoting my career of Museum Studies. Providing opportunities for communication.



Egyptology In The News

Mummification workshop found in Saqqara

A burial shaft, five mummies in sarcophagi, figurines, human-headed canopic jars and a gilded mask provide new information on the mummification process. Labelled measuring cups still contain oils, which can be chemically analysed. The finds date from the Saite-Persian period (664-404 BCE).

Alexandria black sarcophagus disappointing

The discovery was reported in our last edition, but the recent opening revealed just three skeletons whose mummies had decomposed, probably due to sewage water entering the sarcophagus. One shows an arrow wound, suggesting they may have been warriors. There are no objects buried with the bodies, and no inscriptions on the sarcophagus.

4000 year old pottery workshop found near Aswan

The workshop, uncovered near *Kom Ombo*, dates from the Fourth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom. Finds include a potter's wheel consisting of a limestone turntable with a hollow base.

Artefacts hidden in WW2 discovered in Alexandria Museum grounds

Hundreds of pottery items have been uncovered during restoration to the museum garden. They were probably buried by British archaeologist *Alan Rowe*, to protect them from bombing and looting.

Lord Carnarvon's snake ring

A recent edition of the BBC 1 programme '*Antiques Roadshow*', filmed in *Belfast*, featured a Roman gold ring in the shape of two entwined snakes. It was a gift from *Lord Carnarvon* to a Portuguese banker who helped finance his excavations in the *Valley of the Kings*.

Great Pyramid can focus pockets of energy in its chamber

Using a model of the pyramid, Russian scientists tested how wave energy is scattered or absorbed by the pyramid. If this ability could be reproduced on a nanoscale size, the same science could be

used to produce more efficient sensors and solar cells.

New Exhibition at The Met, New York

A highly ornamented 1st century BCE coffin was recently acquired and is the centrepiece of a new exhibition '*Nedjemankh and his Gilded Coffin*'. It is designed to illustrate the life and role of the coffin owner, a high-ranking priest of the ram-headed god *Heru-shef of Herakleopolis*.

Symbols of Ancient life in Modern Egypt

The Asahi Shimbun Display '*The Past is Present: Becoming Egyptian in the 20th Century*' brings together 31 objects collected through the **British Museum's Modern Egypt Project**, to explore the ways a nation brands itself by drawing on its ancient past. It includes posters, signs, cigarette and food packaging. *Cleopatra* features as the symbol of *Banque Misr*, the first bank fully owned and run by Egyptians.

Has a second sphinx been discovered?

Construction workers in *Luxor* have discovered a statue of a sphinx, a few miles from the Valley of the Kings. If genuine, it could date back as far as 2500 BCE. Experts have long believed that more than one sphinx to honour a pharaoh might exist in addition to the **Khafre's Great Sphinx at Giza**.

Ancient Egyptian Cheese discovered...

Traces of a solid white substance in a jar from a 13th century BCE tomb of a mayor of *Memphis* appears to be a kind of goat's cheese, the world's most ancient cheese sample at 3,200 years old.

Papyrus reveals rare details of ancient medical practices

The previously untranslated text from the **Carlsberg collection** in *Copenhagen* gives details of, among other things, a pregnancy test.

Mummy recipe uncovered!

Chemical analysis of a 3700 year old embalmed mummy at the **Museo Egizio** in *Turin* has revealed the vital ingredients for successful mummification: plant oil, root extract, plant gum and tree resin.



Prehistoric village discovered in Nile Delta

At *Tell el Samara*, archaeologists have discovered a settlement dating back approximately 7000 years.

Ancient Egyptian losses in Rio museum fire

The fire which swept through Brazil's **Museu Nacional** in September has resulted in the loss of many irreplaceable artefacts, including 700 items from Egypt, among them an intact coffin dating from 750 BCE.

800 Middle Kingdom Tombs discovered

Covered by sand for years, archaeologists have now mapped 802 tombs near *Lisht*. Each shaft could have held up to 8 bodies; the interlocking mortuary system may have housed 4000 individuals. Sadly, looters arrived first and emptied most of the tombs.

Cobra-crowned sphinx statue with ceremonial beard found in Aswan

The 38cm tall statue was excavated at the temple of Kom Ombo, and dates from the Ptolemaic period.

Harsh punishment for Amarna workers

Five skeletons from the workers' cemetery appear to have been stabbed on their shoulder blades as a punishment. This discovery backs up wall paintings and inscriptions which describe the punishment for stealing an animal hide as 100 lashes of the whip and 5 stabs in the back: before being sent back to work!

Well-preserved mummy of unknown identity found

The mummy, wrapped in linen bandages and placed inside an unmarked sandstone sarcophagus, was found in a 2500 year old communal tomb in *Aswan*.

Bolton Museum's new multi-million pound Egyptology gallery unveiled

The stunning new gallery showcases this nationally important collection, mainly based on donations from the **Egypt Exploration Society**, and includes the oldest sample of mummification in the world. The centrepiece of the new display is a full size reproduction of the burial chamber of *Thutmosis III*.

Tomb of Kaires, priest, royal steward and 'keeper of the secret' found at Abusir

The titles were on a granite statue of the priest, found in his tomb in front of the limestone sarcophagus.

Imaging tool sheds light on Ancient Egyptian dyeing & weaving techniques

Scientists at the British Museum have been able to use Multispectral Imaging (a new non-invasive technique) to analyse an Egyptian child's stripy sock dating from 300AD: it was coloured with madder (red), woad (blue) and weld (yellow).

Egypt Centre takes part in Swansea Science Festival



On the weekend of November 3rd-4th, an intrepid group of volunteers led by Ken Griffin set up stalls in the *National Waterfront Museum*: Andrea Bonetti, Jack Brooker, Sue Cane, Frank Norton, Sam Powell and Krys Williams. Over two days, and in costume, they entertained and educated around 500 visitors with mummification, hieroglyphs and senet.

They were surprised how many local people had not heard of the Egypt Centre before, and many volunteer leaflets were handed out, including to a couple of children who had an astonishing knowledge of Egyptology. On the Saturday the hieroglyphs stall shared a room with Kasia's Egyptian daemons and spells stall, which was very popular too; on Sunday they were next to the mummification and senet tables.

The volunteers worked extremely hard all weekend and did a fantastic job of promoting the museum. Thanks to Krys & Sue for reporting back!



Compiled & Summarized by: Dulcie Engel



Young Volunteers

On the 27th of October, alongside three of my friends with our unique take on answering the question on the importance of volunteering and heritage.

I gave a presentation at the *Youth Voice* event which took place at *St Fagan's* on the impact of heritage and culture on young people's lives. Daniel Williams, Lizzie Davies and Jess Cullen and I were accompanied by Syd and Carolyn Harries, and we took the long and perilous journey from Swansea University on Saturday morning to the *National Museum of Wales'* most popular attraction in Cardiff.

The event started with light refreshments with the opportunity to admire the temporary exhibitions on culture and heritage that had been created by other heritage groups who were also in attendance. We found that all four displays were particularly effective in explaining the importance of heritage in a contemporary environment and it was a fantastic opportunity to speak to other participants, young and old, who take part in their own historical and cultural schemes.

This was followed by the first half of the event which was opened by Lord Elis-Thomas, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport at the Welsh Government. The four of us, along with Syd, then gave a presentation on the wonderful aspects and opportunities of the volunteer scheme at the Egypt Centre and why it is that other places should have one. We all spoke about how they got involved in the museum, what benefits we have received from volunteering there and the impact it has had on our lives. Needless to say, it was an impactful, poignant and thought-provoking presentation and we're very happy with our unique take on answering the question on the importance of volunteering and heritage.



There was, of course, a buffet lunch in the interim which gave all of us the opportunity to talk with those from other groups on their experiences and gain an insight into why it is they believe heritage and culture to be particularly important today.

Following this, the Egypt Centre entourage took a look around the newly opened "Wales is..." and "Life is..." galleries which were unanimously agreed to be a fantastic way of showing the history of Wales and the visitors by presenting questions that they could answer. For us, it was an impactful, poignant and thought-provoking visit!



We also had the opportunity to look at the newly opened "Llys Llywelyn" (Llywelyn's Court) which is a reconstruction based on archaeological, architectural and historical evidence to imagine and recreate the building. Syd, as expected, looked incredibly at home on the throne!

Overall, the day was a complete success. From the incredible insight into heritage and volunteering in Wales to the attraction of St Fagan's itself, we could not have hoped for a better day.

Written by: Rhodri Protheroe-Jones



EGYPTOLOGICAL VOCABULARY Word Search

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

CANOPIC
CARTONNAGE
CARTOUCHE
CIPPUS
FAIENCE
NATRON
OSTRACON
PAPYRUS
SENET
SHABTI
SISTRUM
STELA
STYLUS
URAEUS
VOTIVE

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

Visitor Feedback

"Loved it—all the family enjoyed, especially the mummy process.

Sebastian **** TOP GUIDE!"

-Evans family, Baglan

"Very informative—especially Jordan!

Thank you :)"

- Kaitlin, Cardiff



Bristol's Egyptian-Style Bridge



In 1829, the great Victorian engineer, *Sir Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859)*, submitted a design for a bridge across the Avon Gorge at Clifton, Bristol. The judges were not happy with any of the submissions, but in a re-run of the competition a year later, Brunel won with his design for a suspension bridge.

The bridge was designed at a time when wealthy Victorians were beginning to travel to Egypt, and there was a fashion for Ancient Egyptian style. Napoleon's Egyptian campaign (1798-1801) opened up Ancient Egypt to scholars and then to a wider public. In 1818, Shelley wrote his famous poem 'Ozymandias' about the colossal statue of *Ramesses II*; in 1820 Belzoni put on Egyptian exhibitions of his finds for the general public. And in 1822, Champollion finally deciphered the Rosetta Stone, allowing archaeologists to read the inscriptions on monuments and papyri, thus revealing evidence of the history and culture of Ancient Egypt for the first time in hundreds of years.

The distinctive towers on each side of the gorge are based on Egyptian pylons with battered sides (an archaeological term meaning sloping or tapered). However, there were to be two sphinxes on the top of each pylon, winged sun disks on the cornices, and hieroglyphic decorations on the sides. None of these proposed embellishments were made, which is rather a pity! Brunel himself travelled to Egypt in 1859 for his failing health, and made many sketches of ancient buildings.

Work on the bridge began in 1836 and stopped in 1843, after the towers were constructed, due to lack of money. Funds were raised to complete the project after Brunel's death in 1859, as a memorial to him. It was opened in 1864, using chains from Brunel's earlier Hungerford Bridge, and is used to this day. Clifton Suspension Bridge is one of the most famous bridges in the UK.

Written by: Dulcie Engel



Other Collections

This summer I visited two interesting Egyptian collections in Jerusalem:

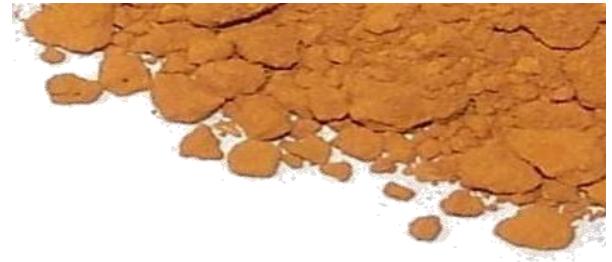
The **Bible Lands Museum** was opened in 1992 to house the Borowski collection of ancient artefacts linked to the civilisations mentioned in the Bible. As such, it contains some wonderful Ancient Egyptian objects, including a beautiful wooden boat, a model butcher's and a model brewery, an 18th-19th dynasty rose granite anthropoid sarcophagus, a gold pendant from Syria showing the goddess Astarte as Hathor, and a copper alloy statuette of Bes on a column.



There was also a special exhibition entitled *Out of the Blue*, about the significance of blue and purple in the ancient world, including lapis lazuli, Egyptian Blue dye (the oldest artificial pigment in the world, a compound of oxides of silicon, calcium and copper invented around 3300 BCE), blue faience and glass.



Egyptian-related items displayed included a lapis scarab, a blue faience collar



necklace, a blue glass perfume bottle, a jar painted in purple bearing the inscription of King Darius of Persia in four languages, including hieroglyphs; and a cuneiform letter from the governor of Ugarit to the Egyptian governor of Canaan, mentioning the dispatch of blue wool.

The **Israel Museum** is the largest in Israel, founded in 1965, and housing nearly 500,000 objects, the most famous being the *Dead Sea Scrolls*. The Archaeology department contains some interesting Egyptian artefacts, including a bronze cat coffin, a wooden boat, a faience senet board, lots of pottery coffins, some unusual shabtis, a selection of bronze mirrors, exquisite amulets and necklaces.



There was also a special exhibition entitled *Freud of the Rings* about the 20 antique seal rings which Sigmund Freud gifted to his closest students and collaborators. Five are re-united here, along with a selection of ancient statuettes from the *Freud House* museum in London (see my review in the Volunteer Newsletter of Oct-Dec 2017). The nicest is the one of Thoth as a baboon.

Written by: Dulcie Engel



Meet the Practicum Students!

Every September, a group of other tasks. However, *Ewan* - a volunteer undergraduates entering their final year at the Egypt Centre for five years - relished come to the Egypt Centre to undertake the the full-time nature of the module Practicum module as part of their degree. compared to volunteering. *Carly* volunteers This is the module description:

CLE327 Egyptian Collection Practicum

Competition for paid museum work is substantial and unfortunately without prior experience students are unlikely to gain paid work in a museum. This 4-week session provides practical experience for students on site. Additionally, through working in an actual museum environment students will understand the philosophies behind museum work as well as some of types of work which are available. This module is useful for students pursuing careers in archaeology, museums, heritage studies, data analysis, and those wishing to pursue post-graduate work in Egyptology. (Swansea University website)



From right to left: Peter (Egyptology & Ancient History), Ewan (Ancient History), Harriet (Classics), Niamh (Classical Civilisation), Carly (History & Ancient History), Catherine (Classical Civilisation & Egyptology).

This year, I chatted to the six Practicum students at the halfway point of the module:

The students found the experience extremely rewarding, but it did have its challenges, notably learning about all the artefacts and public activities (especially the materials board!), speaking to the public, and time constraints. For example, *Catherine* was keen to research artefacts in detail, but found it hard as the time spent in the museum was often filled with

the full-time nature of the module Practicum module as part of their degree. compared to volunteering. *Carly* volunteers at **Wrexham Museum** in holidays, and found the Egypt Centre very different. The others say the experience has opened their eyes to museum work, and some knew virtually nothing about Ancient Egypt when starting. They describe the atmosphere as welcoming and relaxed, and they enjoyed working with diverse people; staff, students, volunteers and visitors. They have found out a lot about what museum work actually entails; conservation, ethics, administration, use of the MODES computer system for cataloguing, even practical management aspects such as locking up... Furthermore, they have acquired skills useful to their studies in the areas of research and report writing. Plus they have to prepare and deliver an interactive lesson to a group of young volunteers in the autumn, as a major part of their assessment.

All six wish to continue in the field and see the placement as immensely helpful in informing their career plans. *Niamh* would like to do the Conservation MA in Cardiff; Catherine is also considering conservation rather than archaeology; *Peter* is thinking about the Museum Studies MA in Leicester; *Harriet* and *Carly* want to go into museum work; and *Ewan* is split between museums and teaching. He will have the chance to teach Ancient History at a local school in another practical module next semester.

Written by: Dulcie Engel



Some Lesser-Known Egyptian Gods

Anat/Anit/Anti



Anat was a female god who first appeared in Egypt during the Ramesside period. She came from Syria and was introduced by the Hyksos. Her appearance as a war deity shows her armed with various weapons; a shield and lance in her right hand and a battle axe on her left.

Rameses II adopted Anat as his personal guardian during battles. Known as the "king's shield", she is usually shown with a headdress similar to that of Osiris - a white crown with a tall plume at each side - and wearing a long yellow dress.

She protected all Egyptians, not only the Pharaoh, and was thought to also protect against illness and attacks from wild animals.

As an associate of Seth, she was worshipped in some temples that were dedicated to him. Cuneiform texts describe her as ruthless and aggressive but she was also known as the Goddess of Sexuality and could exhibit a more gentle, caring nature. Occasionally she is shown with her sacred animal, a lion.



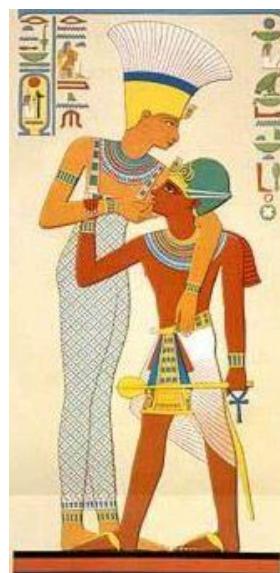
Anukis/Anuket/Anket



In contrast to Anat was the goddess Anukis, sometimes portrayed as, or with, a gazelle. She was a daughter of Ra and first emerged in the Old Kingdom in Upper Egypt.

associated with childbirth.

When the inundation started, Egyptians held a Festival of Anukis where people threw coins and jewellery into the river as gifts for the goddess.



Written by: Sue Cane



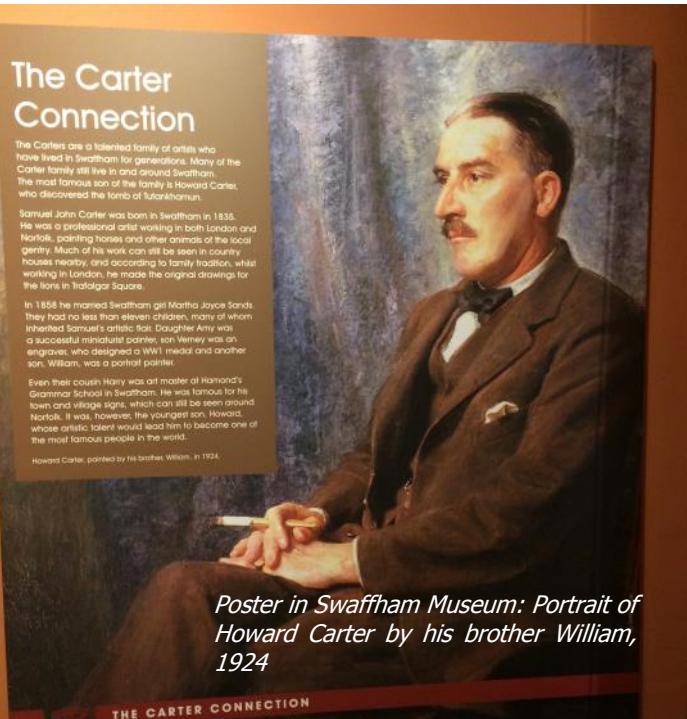
Howard Carter: The Norfolk Connection

"Because of his later achievements, it is often forgotten that Howard Carter started his working life painting pets in the stately homes of East Anglia" (Wyatt, 2017)

Howard Carter was born in Kensington on 9 May 1874, the youngest son of Samuel and Martha Carter, from the market town of *Swaffham* in Norfolk. His father was an artist who worked for the **Illustrated London News**, and many of his eleven children inherited his artistic flair, with at least three working as artists. Despite being born and dying (1939) in Kensington, most of Howard's childhood was spent in Swaffham.

The Carter family name has been well known in Norfolk for generations. His father found work painting horse and pet portraits for the gentry, and from the age of 15, Howard was earning his living from animal portraits. One of the families they both worked for were the **Amhersts of Didlington Hall**, Brandon. They had at the time the largest private collection of Egyptian artefacts in the UK (mainly acquired from Flinders Petrie). This fascinated Carter. It was through Baron & Lady Amherst's connections with leading Egyptologists that he went to work in Egypt. *Francis Llewellyn Griffith* of the **British Museum** and the **Egypt Exploration Fund** (EEF) sent this message in 1891 to fellow EEF member, *John Newberry*:

'If you come across a colourist... who would like a trip to Egypt for expenses paid and nothing else, I should be much obliged if you would ask him to



Poster in Swaffham Museum: Portrait of Howard Carter by his brother William, 1924

call... it matters not whether the artist is a gentleman...' (Nile Magazine)

John Newberry's brother Percy was in charge of the EEF's work at *Beni Hasan* in Middle Egypt, and he needed an artist. Luckily John, an architect, had met Carter at Didlington Hall, while redesigning the gardens. Impressed by his talent, Newberry recommended Carter, who by the end of 1891, aged just 18, was appointed as trainee tracer for Percy Newberry in Beni Hasan. By 1892 he was the chief artist there. By 1899, he was Chief Inspector of the **Egyptian Antiquities Service**. In 1907, *Gaston Maspéro* recommended Carter to *Lord Carnarvon*, for whom he worked in Egypt right up to the world-famous discovery of November 1922, and beyond.

Sadly the Amhersts went bankrupt; the house was sold in 1910 & the collection auctioned off... some items ended up in museums (many in the British Museum), others we don't know about:



"Didlington was mentioned occasionally, but the word was always imbued with a touch of mystery combined with tragedy. I knew that once the Hall had been the Amherst's family home, and that relatively recently it had been pulled down. I also knew that seven sisters had lived there, one of whom must have been my great-grandmother, but I knew little else. I also knew that there had been a connection with Howard Carter, of Tutankhamun fame, and that somehow Egypt and our own personal 'the Curse of the Mummy', had featured in the family's dramatic fall from wealth in the early years of the twentieth century. The only other fact I was aware of was that a mummy referred to as Lady Amherst's mummy, was once part of the Egyptian collection at Didlington Hall, but now lay in the British Museum" (Reid, 2008)

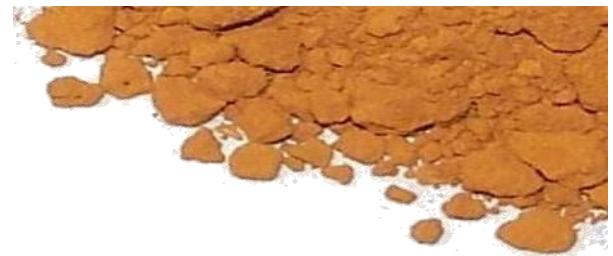
The *Sekhmet* statues which lined the East Wing of the house are now in the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, New York. This is the information on their provenance:

"Taken to England in the early 1800s by Belzoni and D'Athanasi who were working for Henry Salt; exhibited in the recesses of Waterloo Bridge, 1833; Collection of John Lee of Hartwell House; Collection of Lord Amherst; purchased by the Museum from Lord Amherst, 1915" (Met online catalogue)

There is at least one item from the Amherst collection in the Egypt Centre: the *Tjenti Lintel*, which Amherst had acquired from the collection of *Portalets -Gorgier* (1776 -1855), a French banker and collector. The lintel is on the wall of the House of Life.

The Amherst Collection records are held by the Griffith Institute at the **Ashmolean Museum**, as are Howard Carter's notes, photos and paintings from the Tutankhamun excavation.

Didlington Hall was demolished in 1952 due to extensive damage and neglect during the war, when it was requisitioned by the army:



"The loss of Didlington Hall and the fabulous collection it held is still lamented locally and is widely regarded as one of the most serious of the many losses in Norfolk. If house and collection had remained intact it would today be probably regarded as one of the treasure houses of England" (Didlington Hall website)

Although we can no longer visit this wonderful hall and its collection, Swaffham Museum is very proud of the Howard Carter link, and houses '*The Carter Connection*', a gallery exploring the link with the town, and showcasing Carter's achievements.

Written by: Dulcie Engel

References

'Amherst Collection' http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/gif-files/Amherst_03.jpg (Tjenti Lintel)

http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/gif-files/Amherst_19.jpg (Sekhmet statues)

'Didlington Hall' http://www.lostheritage.org.uk/houses/lh_norfolk_didlingtonhall.html

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Friends of the Egypt Centre



Undercurrents and Inklings: Behind the Words of an Ancient Egyptian Literary Classic

Dr Linda Steynor, Egypt Exploration Society

Dr Steynor returned to Swansea to kick off the new season of talks with an excellent presentation on the Egyptian literary classic, '*The Tale of Sinuhe*'. It was both informative and interesting, even for audience members like myself, with no prior knowledge of the text. The accompanying slides were beautifully produced.

The poem was composed c.1880 BCE (Dynasty 12). It is written in Middle Egyptian and comprises 600 lines of hieratic script. A papyrus containing the whole text is now held in Berlin, and the **Ashmolean** in Oxford has a large ostraca of the entire text. There are also 28 ostraca of sections of the tale, showing it was used for writing practice at scribe school.

It is a very dense and complex poem, using the whole range of genres extant in Middle Egyptian culture. The name *Senuhe* means 'Son of Sycamore', i.e. protected by the goddess *Hathor*, Lady of the Sycamore. Senuhe is a royal servant, in charge of the Queen's chambers, but becomes a fugitive and flees all the way to what is now Syria. We never know the true reason for this flight. Neither do we know why, after many years living in exile, Senuhe leaves his family and returns to the Egyptian court, where he is rewarded with all the necessities for a good burial and afterlife.

Indeed, the whole text is riddled with enigmas, reinforced by subtle use of language, and in

Upcoming...

12th Dec 2018 - Hana Navratilova

The Time-Traveller & The Time-Traveller's wife: Jaroslav Černý & Marie Sargent

Followed by **Christmas Get-Together!**

16th Jan 2019 - Cédric Gobell

Dier el-Medina 2.0

Both events take place in **Taliesin Create**, Mall Room.

Check the Friends' website for further information, and more dates:

egypt.swan.ac.uk/about/friends-of-the-egypt-centre/

particular, by implicature. The text is structured in a symmetrical and intricate manner.

It explores many universal themes of the human condition, as well as important Egyptian cultural themes: cultivation v. the desert, order v. chaos, civilisation v. barbarity, security v. impermanence; and a good burial v. eternal death.

Written by: Dulcie Engel



For further information or to become a member please contact:
Membership Secretary Wendy Goodridge:
01792 295960 w.r.goodridge@swansea.ac.uk



A Holiday To Luxor



On the 10th September 2018, I finally achieved a long-held desire and travelled to Egypt. Our party arrived in Luxor, the ancient city of Thebes very late in the evening and very tired from travelling. However our hotel, the **Winter Palace Pavilion**, was a beautiful oasis, and the breakfast had to be seen to be believed!

What were the highlights of this trip? Everything !!

Luxor temple by night was truly amazing. Is that obelisk in front of the great pylons original? Without a doubt, but it was hard to believe that it was around 3,500 years old as the carving looked so pristine.

The freshness and clarity of the paintings in the workmen's tombs at *Deir el Medina* and in the Pharaohs' tombs in the *Valley of the Kings* was just astounding. They might have been painted the day before.

Hatshepsut's mortuary temple at *Deir el Bahri* is even more beautiful in reality than in photographs and film. I could imagine what it must have been like to be part of the grand procession up the long walk and staircase. Is it possible I was there in a past life? A big tick on my bucket list.

I was a bit undecided about a visit to Tutankhamun's tomb, as we see so many

images in the media, but it did not disappoint. The wall paintings are so fresh, but oh, how sad and vulnerable the mummy looks in his white shroud open to the gaze of thousands of visitors. Is this the afterlife he hoped for?

If there was one highlight greater than the rest, it was a visit to South Asasif conservation project. Possibly the closest I will ever get to an 'archaeological dig'. This was an opportunity to see the tremendous effort that goes into excavating and conserving the massive heritage of this country. I even climbed down a very long



ladder (and up again), but it was worth it to be able to see the recently uncovered tomb. One for the scrapbook. Check out their blog: southasasif.wordpress.com

Last but by no means least – bargaining in 'The Souk' (take lessons from Lauren before you go – she is the champion and gives no quarter). It was quite an experience. We were treated as valued customers and even offered cold or hot drinks.

A fantastic holiday in excellent company.

Written by: Carolyn Harries





Celebrating 20 years of the Egypt Centre 1998-2018

On September 21st, an evening reception was held at Taliesin to celebrate our 20th birthday. Approximately 130 staff members, volunteers past and present, Friends of the Egypt Centre, and supporters gathered for a drinks reception, followed by a welcome speech by Wendy, and a presentation of highlights of the last 20 years by Carolyn.

Some of our young volunteers presented a play, '*The Story of Osiris and Seth*', written and directed by Luke. Closing speeches were made by the Lord Mayor, Cllr. David Philips, and the Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Martin Stringer, both of whom were extremely complimentary and supportive of our achievements and future plans.



Guests then enjoyed a delicious buffet at tables decorated with black and gold balloons, while a magician circulated among the guests, some of whom were lucky winners in the raffle. The galleries and shop were open to guests, with the 20th anniversary merchandise proving very popular. A beautiful cake made by Lauren's sister was a fitting finale to the evening.

20th Anniversary Fun Day

Following the in-family celebration, on 29th September the Egypt Centre threw Taliesin Create open its doors to invite the public to receive similarly celebrate our 20th anniversary with us. positive feedback, The event was a roaring success. With with the birds of activities in both galleries, in addition to prey proving just belly-dancing, pyramid building, musical as popular with performance, and birds of prey in Taliesin visitors as they Create, the small battalion of volunteers were with the who helped out on the day were run off volunteers who their feet by over 300 visitors!

snuck off to have a go (I tried three times but always

The gallery activities once again proved managed to time it for when they went on popular. The materials board recorded at break!) least 13 separate parties requesting to take part. Mummification, Senet, Writing, Naturally, an event of this magnitude and the other activities taking place in the required a certain dispensation of funds, galleries were equally successful. and it is hardly a secret that the museum



is not rolling in money. Fortunately, the celebration shared by staff, volunteers and generous budget given to us by ISS covered all the costs of the day.

By the end of the day, all who had helped out were left with the keen impression that the work we do really does engage the public imagination. The event was more than just our extravaganza, it was a

public alike – a united affirmation that Egypt and the Egypt Centre has, does, and will continue to hold a place in the imagination of the local community.

Written by: Dulcie Engel & Jack Brooker

CIPEG 2018 Conference at the Egypt Centre

CIPEG, International Committee for Egyptology, is the Egyptological branch of ICOM. The Egypt Centre was delighted to be chosen to host the 2018 CIPEG Annual Meeting, which was held September 4th – 7th. The topic of the conference was '*Beating Barriers! Overcoming Obstacles to Achievement*' and we saw the many barriers that museums face all over the world!

Delegates presented papers telling us about their institutions from far and wide including; Japan, USA, Egypt, Russia, Germany, Italy, France as well as from the UK.

The Egypt Centre gave a warm Welsh welcome (including Welsh cakes of course), and enabled the delegates to see Swansea and the surrounding areas of outstanding natural beauty, as well as sample a cream tea. The trips included **Swansea Museum**, **The National Waterfront Museum**, **Oystermouth Castle** and Mumbles, a Lords Mayors reception at the **Brangwyn Hall**, Rhosilli and Worm's Head and the **Baptist Chapel** behind the Gower Inn, **St Fagans** and lastly **Cyfarthfa Castle** ...phew!

One of the most successful and well-received events was the Dylan Thomas lecture and reading by our very own Dulcie and Syd followed by '*A Night at the Museum*', where the delegates enjoyed hands-on activities and tours by our young volunteers.

Feedback from the delegates was outstanding with comments stating we have 'set the bar high' for future CIPEG meetings. We wish to thank all our lovely volunteers for all their help with this successful event!

Written by: Wendy Goodridge





Christmas at The Egypt Centre Gift Shop



There are plenty of gifts for the whole family available at our gift shop including stationary, statues, toys, gifts, scarves and jewellery, books and more!

Don't forget volunteers get useful for those unusual

(and up again)

10% off in the gift shop -
Christmas gifts!



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MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES COUNCIL



WE WANT YOU!

We need gallery and education volunteers to help run our museum

For further details email the Volunteer Manager on l.s.j.howell@swansea.ac.uk

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