

Friends of the Egypt Centre



PROGRAMME

2021 - 2022

Welcome to the Friends of the Egypt Centre Programme of events for 2021-2022!

Firstly, a thank you to all our members who have stuck by us during 2020-21. As the COVID-19 restrictions continue, our programme from September 2021 will continue to be delivered via Zoom.

We hope to welcome you back to Singleton Campus in 2022, and potentially offer “hybrid” (both online and in person) lectures but will be putting provisions in place to offer this year’s talks online if we are unable to meet in person.

If we do have to continue with online lectures, please check the Friends page of the Egypt Centre website for further details:

www.egypt.swan.ac.uk/friends



WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

Speaker: Alan Lloyd.

Title: Cleopatra VII: How much Egyptian?

Abstract: With the possible exception of Nefertiti, Cleopatra VII is the most famous of all the ancient queens of Egypt, and there is no doubt that she has had considerably more coverage in film, television, and literature than her Eighteenth Dynasty predecessor. Within these formats, particularly film and television, there has been a marked tendency to present her in a distinctly pharaonic format, and the impression has been created that this is an image which she carefully nurtured. This impression is a serious distortion of the truth, and the present lecture will attempt to repair the damage it has done.

This month's lecture will follow the Friends of the Egypt Centre AGM, which begins at 6.30pm. All Friends are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2021

Speaker: Carl Graves, Egypt Exploration Society.

Title: The artists and the archaeologists.

Abstract: In 1888, the little-known Society for the Preservation of the Monuments of Ancient Egypt (SPMAE) was formed. Over the next 22 years it (sort of) succeeded in drawing public attention to the need to protect Egypt's ancient remains and advocated for their better management under the British government. Attracting support from several circles of Victorian society - notably artists, engineers and designers - SPMAE distinguished itself from other organisations by focusing on preservation rather than excavation. This presentation will give an overview of SPMAE's formation, members, and achievements in the context of British philanthropy over the turn of the 19th century.



WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Speaker: Stephanie Boonstra, Egypt Exploration Society.

Title: The City of the Sharp-Nosed Fish – the work of the EES Graeco-Roman branch.

Abstract: From 1895 to 1907, the Egypt Exploration Society employed Bernard Grenfell and Arthur Surridge Hunt to act as the new 'Graeco-Roman Branch'. The Graeco-Roman branch was formed to explore the area of the Faiyum and in particular to discover ancient, Classical texts. Much of this decade was actually spent at The City of the Sharp-Nosed Fish, Oxyrhynchus, where they discovered half a million papyri fragments containing excerpts of well known and unknown Classical literature, administrative documents, and even some of the earliest New Testament fragments. EES Collections Manager Stephanie Boonstra will discuss the excavations of the EES Graeco-Roman Branch and some of their most outstanding discoveries. She will also discuss the cartonnage mummy masks and footcases collected by Grenfell and Hunt that are currently under conservation.



WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2021

Speaker: Ken Griffin, The Egypt Centre.

Title: From surviving to thriving: the Egypt Centre during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Abstract: As is the case for the entire heritage sector, the Egypt Centre has faced a great many challenges due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, with the museum closed to the public from March 2020 onwards. The main sources of income (shop sales, school visits, and in-person events) have been massively impacted during this time. Yet through a hard-working team of staff and dedicated volunteers, the Egypt Centre has not only been able to survive, but thrive. This talk will present an overview of the many Egypt Centre activities and successes during the past two years.

WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2022

Speaker: Jayne Holly, Ure Museum.

Title: Egypt in Reading.

Abstract: The Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology at the University of Reading, established in 1921, houses the fourth largest collection of Greek ceramics in the UK. The origins of the classical museum came much earlier in 1909 when Lady Flinders Petrie, wife of the eminent archaeologist and Egyptologist Sir William Flinders Petrie, donated a collection of Egyptian antiquities to Reading College. Subsequent gifts and purchases from the BSAE and the Liverpool Institute of Archaeology has meant the Ure Museum has grown a small but perfectly formed collection of Egyptian Antiquities for all to enjoy. This talk will highlight some of the acquisitions and the story behind them.

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2022

Speaker: Christian Knoblauch, Swansea University.

Title: The Swansea-Brown excavations on Uronarti: Past, Present and Future.

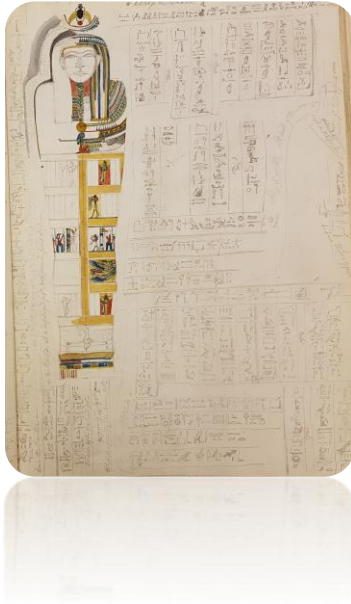
Abstract: The Brown-Swansea Uronarti Regional Archaeological Project in the Sudan investigates the imposing fortress built by Senwosret III close to the Semna Border - just one of two major Middle Kingdom monuments in this region to have survived the flooding of Lower Nubia following the completion of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s. The talk will introduce the project, its background, results to date and future prospects.



WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022

Speaker: Gemma Renshaw.

*Title: 'Yanni said he had never seen one of that form before' –
Recording and collecting antiquities with Robert Hay 1824-1834.*



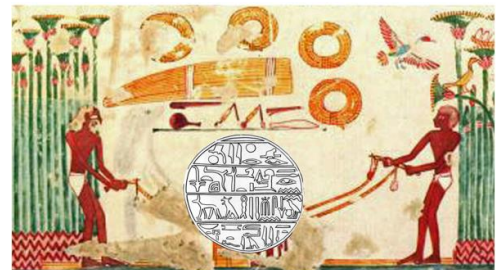
Abstract: Robert Hay's collection of drawings, notes and journals has been described by Egyptologists and historians as 'of the highest importance,' 'must be seen to be appreciated,' and 'the most substantial product of a great age of copying.' Yet, his work has only ever been published minimally in other works and the majority of his collection of antiquities – divided between the British Museum and Boston Museum of Fine Arts – are largely not on display. Hay visited almost every major site in Egypt that was known in the 19th century as well as many in Northern Sudan, copying hundreds of inscriptions, making detailed drawings of Egyptian art and antiquities and taking views of villages and monuments. This lecture is a short introduction to Hay, his collection and the antiquities that we find recorded in the archive.

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2022

Speaker: Donald P. Ryan

Title: Cords and Cones.

Abstract: This lecture will provide an introduction into two of Dr. Ryan's special interests: the essential yet unsung technology of ancient Egyptian cordage (e.g. rope), and then, the very much provocative phenomenon of funerary cones from the Theban necropolis and a few places elsewhere.

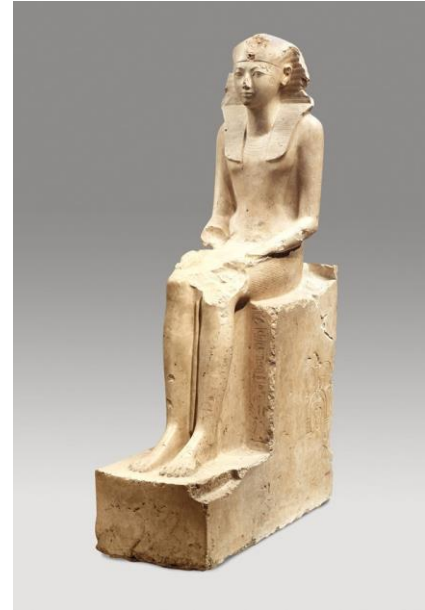


WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022

Speaker: Olga Zapletniuk.

Title: Gender and War: The Belligerence of Ancient Egyptian Queens.

Abstract: The study of the military activity of women has become an important aspect of modern historical research. The ancient Egyptian women had been known to enjoy extensive legal rights in comparison with other regions of the ancient Near East, apart from war, which was considered as exclusively masculine domain. Being a female king of Egypt, or even a temporary regent, has always meant engaging in warfare or military propaganda, especially during the New Kingdom. However, this important aspect of the internal and foreign policy of female rulers is poorly documented. The main purpose of the lecture is to discuss the influence of queens on the military history of Ancient Egypt.



WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2022

Speaker: Sam Powell.

Title: Seeing double: Wooden ka statues.

Abstract: Wooden statues depicting the deceased appear in burial assemblages from the Old Kingdom onwards. They are often referred to as 'ka statues' and seem to have been included in burials as a resting place for the ka, an element of the individual often described as a person's 'double' or 'life force'. The exact significance of the ka remains a matter of controversy, chiefly for lack of an Egyptian definition. This talk will provide an overview of these statues and their possible function, drawing on examples found in the Egypt Centre collection amongst others.

