

Friends of the Egypt Centre



PROGRAMME

2022 - 2023

Welcome to the Friends of the Egypt Centre Programme of events for 2022-2023!

The Friends of the Egypt Centre are pleased to announce that from September 2022 we will be providing our lectures in a hybrid format. This means you can now choose to attend our events either online via Zoom or join us each month in person.



ATTENDING IN PERSON

To attend a lecture in person, please join us in the Mall Room on the ground floor of the Taliesin building at Swansea University Singleton campus (SA2 8PP). All talks begin at 7pm and cost £3 on the door per lecture for non-members.

ATTENDING ONLINE

Friends of the Egypt Centre members will automatically receive a Zoom link each month for the upcoming lecture.

Non-members wishing to attend online will need to book via Eventbrite to receive a Zoom link. Details of each talk and how to book can be found on our website:

www.egypt.swan.ac.uk/friends



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WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

Speaker: Daniela Rosenow.

Title: *Tutankhamun – Excavating the Archive.*

Abstract: In 1922 the tomb of Tutankhamun was discovered at Luxor, the first known intact royal burial from ancient Egypt. The excavation by Howard Carter and his team generated enormous media interest and was famously photographed by Harry Burton. These photographs, along with letters, plans, drawings, and diaries, are included in an archive created by the excavators and presented to the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford.

To celebrate the centenary of the discovery, the Griffith Institute, in collaboration with the Bodleian Libraries, is hosting the exhibition “Tutankhamun. Excavating the Archive”, that displays a selection of about 150 objects of this archive. They present a vivid and first-hand account of the events and give an intimate insight into the records of one of the world’s most famous archaeological discoveries.



WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2022



Speaker: Peter Rowland.

Title: *The Egypt of Harold Jones.*

Abstract: Harold Jones was an artist who grew up in Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire.

His work was greatly admired by prominent Egyptologists, and this talk is a look at his work and those he worked for.

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Speaker: Tomás Irish.

Title: *Unusual experiences both in Russia and the Near East: Thomas Whittemore between archaeology and humanitarianism, c1914-1926.*

Abstract: This paper explores an aspect of the career of the American archaeologist Thomas Whittemore (1871-1950). Whittemore is best remembered for his work restoring the mosaics at the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul from 1932 and also for being the first American to participate in the excavations of the Egypt Exploration Fund. His activities in the period during and after the First World War (1914-18) are less well known; Whittemore maintained a remarkable existence as an active archaeologist working in Egypt and as a humanitarian who set up his own organisation, saving 1,000 refugee students fleeing the Russian Civil War (1917-22) and placing them at schools and universities across Europe. Whittemore maintained an unusually peripatetic international life in the early 1920s, participating in excavations in Egypt, touring Europe to oversee his network of refugee students, and returning to America to raise funds for his humanitarian work. This paper will explore this chapter in a remarkable life, showing how Whittemore's seemingly disparate humanitarian and archaeological work intersected and how each was presented to wider audiences in the period.



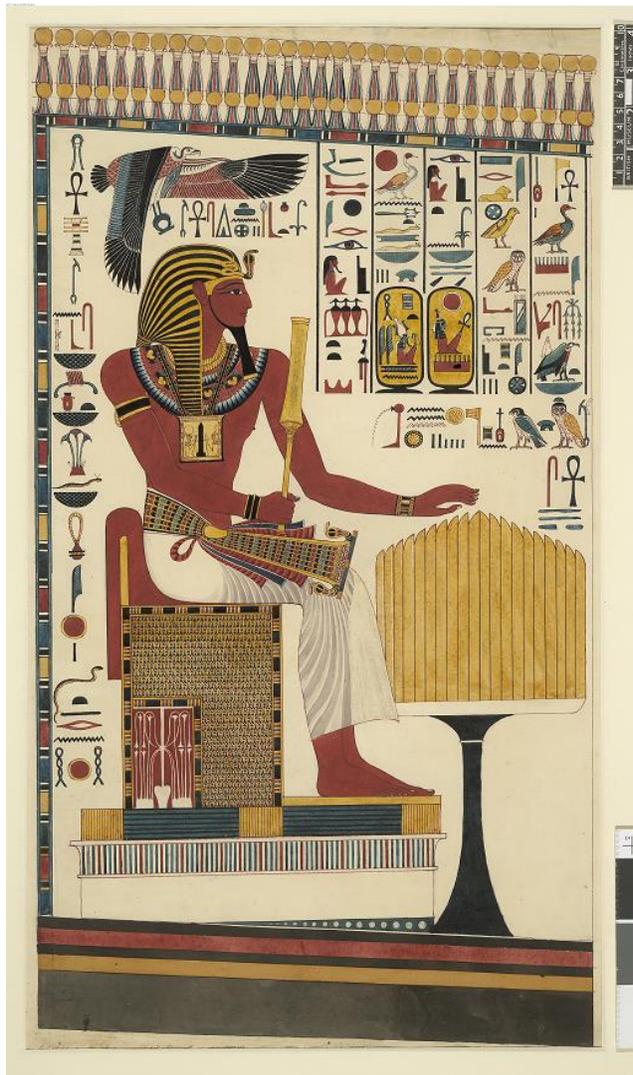
WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2022

Speaker: Ilona Regulski.

Title: *Hieroglyphs: Unlocking ancient Egypt.*

Abstract: In trying to reconstruct the history of writing, we often turn to sources from ancient Egypt. Every aspect of ancient Egyptian culture, its religious practice, monumental buildings, and bureaucratic minutiae, relied on a system of writing developed around 3250 BCE. The spoken language was used until the 15th century CE, making it one of history's longest-surviving recorded languages.

But following the conquest of Alexander the Great in 332 BCE, the ancient scripts slowly fell out of use in Egypt and a new alphabet to record the spoken language became more widespread. Roman and Greek authors, who could not read hieroglyphs, believed them to be symbolic rather than linked to the sound of spoken language, a belief that went unquestioned and effectively obstructed



decipherment for centuries. In the Middle Ages and early modern times, Arab and European scholars attempted to explain Egyptian hieroglyphs, acknowledging that they may have had a phonetic component (that is, reflected the sounds of speech, at least in part). But the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799 provided the decisive key to unlocking the meaning of the mysterious characters.

The lecture will follow the journey as told in the British Museum's exhibition Hieroglyphs: unlocking ancient Egypt (13 October 2022 – 19 February 2023), which explores the inscriptions and objects that helped scholars unlock one of the world's oldest civilisations, exactly 200 years since this pivotal moment. The Rosetta Stone will be viewed alongside some of its ancient copies and the very inscriptions scholars studied in their quest to understand

the ancient past. The exhibition will chart the race to decipherment, from initial efforts by medieval Arab travellers and Renaissance scholars to more focussed progress by French scholar Jean-François Champollion (1790 – 1832) and England's Thomas Young (1773 – 1829). It will also feature stunning objects that highlight the impact of that breakthrough.

WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023

Speaker: Amr Gaber.

Title: *ḥtmyt, "Place of Destruction": A locality of Punishment in the Netherworld.*

Abstract: There are several places to punish the dead in ancient Egypt and one of those places is called ḥtmyt. This talk will throw light on this locality and will show how the dead were punished, and who controls it.

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023

Speaker: Phil Parkes & MSc Conservation Practice Students, Cardiff University.

Title: *Conservation of Artefacts from the Egypt Centre.*

Abstract: The Egypt Centre has a long-standing relationship with the conservation courses at Cardiff University, with students working on objects from the Centre, gaining experience of conservation and helping preserve the collection. The talk will highlight the recent conservation work carried out on Egypt Centre objects including the plaster base of the Djedhor statue, papyrus fragments from the Book of the Dead, a stone stela, a wooden boat model and a bone knife.



WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2023

Speaker: Jen Turner.

Title: *Statues from the Karnak Cachette.*

Abstract: The first millennium BC in Egypt was characterised by foreign rule as well as significant cultural and social changes relating to both the tomb and the temple. Commemorative monuments like statuary, particularly the hundreds deposited within the cachette at Karnak temple that date within the 21st – 26th Dynasty, can offer valuable insights. This talk will take some fascinating examples from the cachette to explore how elite statues and their accompanying inscriptions shed light on how people continued to engage with their gods, but also how the production of such monuments with long-established traditions and beliefs was impacted by societal and religious developments beyond the sacred temple space.



WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2023



Speaker: Edward Scrivens.

Title: *From 'God's Mother' to 'Foremost of Westerners'? Isis and the status of goddesses in ancient Egypt.*

Abstract: The nature of goddesses' power in ancient Egypt was multifaceted and ever-changing. To the Egyptians, deities were just as real and integral to society as their human counterparts, and like human women the roles and status of goddesses varied over time, between individuals, and across contexts. Isis provides an interesting case study for this dynamic face of 'goddesshood', being a key figure in textual and material culture from the Old Kingdom through to the Christianisation of Egypt. By following Isis' representations over time – with reference to EES objects in the Egypt Centre's collection – we can observe her rise to prominence, question how her power was understood, and better appreciate the complexity of goddesses' roles and agency.

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023



Speaker: Isabelle Vella Gregory.

Title: *What Henry Wellcome missed: The agro-pastoral site of Jebel Moya, Sudan.*

Abstract: When Henry Wellcome set off to Jebel Moya, he had high hopes of finding the “origins of a civilization”. Four seasons and many thousands of pounds later, he was left feeling personally disappointed. The site quickly faded from memory. Or did it? The inhabitants of Jebel Moya have always been aware of the site. Since 2017,

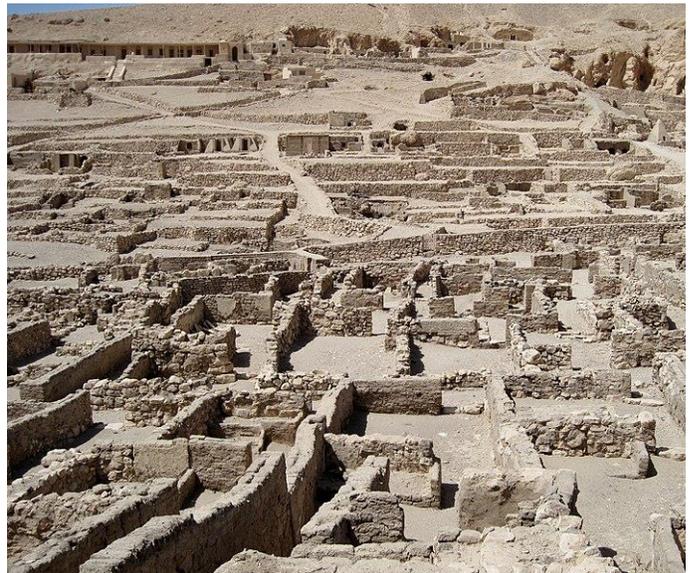
a renewed programme of investigation has uncovered this site’s complex and fascinating history. How did this happen? And what exactly is at Jebel Moya? As this talk will show, Henry Wellcome’s disappointment was very much misplaced.

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023

Speaker: Leire Olabarria.

Title: *A family quarrel at Deir el-Medina*

Abstract: Deir el-Medina was a planned settlement for the workers responsible for building and decorating the royal tombs of the Valley of the Kings. It was home to a close-knit community of people, whose interactions are recorded on the numerous ostraca found in or attributed to the site. Among these ostraca, we find personal letters that shed light on the social organisation of Deir el-Medina. In this lecture, we will read one of those letters together, and we reflect on what it tells us about family dynamics at the site.



Friends of the Egypt Centre



INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea



The Friends produce a newsletter called Incriptions. We welcome contributions, whether interesting chatty snippets, or scholarly! If you would like to write an article or have any news or information you want to contribute, please contact the Editor Mike MacDonagh. The success of the newsletter depends on the Friends contributions. You can email the editor: **Mike_Mac_Donagh@msn.com** or post a hard copy to the Egypt Centre marked for the attention of Mike MacDonagh.



Egypt Centre Collection Blog

This blog has weekly posts on aspects of the Egypt Centre collection and is hosted by the museum's Curator, Dr Ken Griffin. Guest posts are written by other members of staff, volunteers, students, and researchers.



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