

Museum of Egyptian Antiquities





Irises For Amun-Re

The Botanical Gardens of Thutmose III.



Harrogate Loan

New items on loan and on display at TEC!



The Haida Sphinx

Cultural crossover at the Sainsbury Centre.

egypt.swan.ac.uk

Welcome



Syd Howells Editor in Chief



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

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.

Hello,

Welcome once again to the publication that never ends. Another fine issue this quarter from the Volunteer Team which brought you such spectacular reads as EC Volunteer Newsletter Jan-March 2023 and Oct-Dec 2022!

Lots of great contributions from our volunteers contained within as well as all manner of Egyptological news, including the Harrogate Loan, and a look at the museum's learning team in the Meet the Staff section.

Without your contributions the newsletter is nothing, so if you would like to contribute material (no matter how small), please let us know. If you are a new volunteer and would like to appear in Meet the Volunteer, your chance is now.

Syd



Rob Stradling
Technical Editor

A volunteer since 2012, currently serving my time off-site by producing this widely-famed almanac. As a result, TEC's biscuit reserves are gradually recovering.

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 **Sep 2023.**

Visitor Comments

"Fab! Staff are very friendly, kind and knowledgeable. Thank you!"

Mabel, Bertie & Ted, Bristol

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"What a gem! Fab staff made it worthwhile. Love your play area."

"Team Marais", London.

"Fantastic museum, superb friendly staff thank you so much!"

Stacey, Penarth.

"It was amazing! Thank you!"

Jacob & Daniel Shepherd, Swansea.

"It was nice =) =)"

Laura, Japan.

Visitor Figures

Total engagement figures including the website, blog, ABASET, workshops, schools, outreach, Friends of the Egypt Centre, in-person visits etc. are as follows:

March

15,586

<u>April</u>

13,110

Office News

Harrogate Museum has loaned its collection of 700 plus Egyptian artefacts to the EC for 3 years. The loan came about after EC volunteer **Sam Powell** visited in July 2022 as part of her PhD research at the University of Birmingham on wooden tomb figures. While she was there, the curators at Harrogate saw an opportunity for their collection to undergo research by experts in Swansea. The items arrived in March, and will be thoroughly researched and documented by EC staff and volunteers, and Classics, Ancient History & Egyptology Department staff and students. Some objects will go on display, such as this rare **Anubis** mask (right).



See also these blogs by **Ken Griffin**, and this one by **Sam Powell**.



The shared area has now been dedicated to the former head of Taliesin, **Sybil Crouch** (1953 -2020), who was a great champion of the EC and campaigned for its establishment in the Taliesin Building. The area will now be known as the Sybil Crouch Learning Space.

The animal mummies and snake hologram which were on loan to *Epping Forest Museum* have now returned to the Egypt Centre (See issue Oct-Dec. 2022)

On April 22nd (Earth Day), the EC ran a very successful 'Awesome Animals Family Fun Day', and attracted c. 200 visitors. As well as museum-based activities, there were animal handling sessions, thanks to *Plantasia*.

Volunteer and MA student **Kian Murphy** has curated a case in the HoL as part of his course assessment. The case is entitled 'Merging Cultures'. The formal launch is on 26th May, and the display will remain in the temporary exhibitions case throughout the summer.



CONGRATULATIONS: To volunteer **Jade Price** who has been appointed associate artist at the *Glynn Vivian Art Gallery* for 10 weeks. She will be delivering workshops on crosshatching based on works by **Gustave Doré**.

And to **Luke Keenan**, Senior Education Leader, & his wife **Maria**, on the birth of their son **Jamie**, a brother for **Sam**.

Volunteer of the Month



April Ben Andrews

May Danielle Graham







Meet the Volunteer



Egypt Centre Volunteer *Kian Murphy*

I come from: Dagenham, Essex.

I started volunteering: November 2019.

I chose to volunteer because:

I wanted the opportunity to learn what its like working in a museum. I also believed it would aid my studies.

My Favourite artefact is:

The chert axe head (AR50/2883) in the Predynastic Case due to the fact it is the oldest object in the museum.

How volunteering helps me:

I've become a more proactive and confident speaker.



Young Volunteer *Meg*

I come from: Bridgend.

I started volunteering: March 2023.

I chose to volunteer because:

I love Egyptology and everything about it, so I thought it'd be amazing to get better at the things I enjoy.

My Favourite artefact is:

All of them! If I had to pick, the Sarcophagus (**W1982**) in the House of Death Gallery.

How volunteering helps me:

I've found confidence I didn't know I had.





Young Volunteer Scarlett

I come from: The Gower.

I started volunteering: 2019.

I chose to volunteer because:

I love to teach other people about subjects I am interested in. It is great to be able to inspire people's curiosity in ancient Egypt!

My Favourite artefact is: Mummified Bird of Prey (**W535**).

How volunteering helps me:

Speaking to other people, and it has helped with my university applications (to study anthropology).



Egypt Centre Volunteer Danielle Graham

I come from: Scotland / Swansea.

I started volunteering: July 2022.

I chose to volunteer because: Educational purposes.

My Favourite artefact is: Shabtis / Reserve head (**W164**).

How volunteering helps me:

I view and learn more about Egyptian artefacts, build confidence to help members of staff and assist the public when they visit the galleries!

rises and the Botanical Garden of Thutmose

Thutmose III (1479-1425), son of to achieve something more than his/her Thutmose II, became sole ruler of Egypt predecessor...Hatshepsut had made the following the death of **Hatshepsut** in 1458 expedition to **Punt**, and brought back BCE. He is remembered as a skilled warrior exotic species. Thutmose had to improve on who expanded the Egyptian empire, that, which he did in a most original way, conquering Syria, crossing the Euphrates commemorated through the reliefs of the to defeat the kingdom of **Mitanni** in Botanical Garden (Beaux 1990: 316-7). northern Mesopotamia, and penetrating south as far as Napata in Sudan. Egypt became rich on the tributes of defeated from Syria was the bearded iris. The flower enemies. Much building work took place, notably at **Karnak** and **Deir al-Bahari**.

Furthermore, Thutmose decorated the walls would appeal to Egyptian artists. It has 3 of the **Akhmenu** (festival hall), in the outer, lower tepals, or falls; 3 inner, upright eastern part of the Temple of Amun-Re in tepals or standards; 3 fleshy branches, 3 Karnak, with depictions of the plants and stamens and 3 carpels*. A bearded iris has animals he acquired on his expeditions, a patch of contrasting colour on the falls to Indeed, part of the sanctuary is known as attract pollinators. The dried roots of some the Botanical Garden of Thutmose III.



Egyptologist **Nathalie Beaux** refers to his collection as a 'cabinet of curiosities'. Texts on the walls note that the king had these representations carved in the sanctuary of Amun, so they would be available to the god (Beaux 1990: 46). Through the positioning of the carvings, Thutmose is showing Amun how he has enlarged the frontiers of the of the Egyptians' known world, both geographically and conceptually (Beaux 1990: 316). Every pharaoh wanted

One of those exotic plants he brought back (named after Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow, for the variety of colours it comes in) has a pleasing symmetry which varieties are known as orris root, used in the Moroccan spice blend 'Ras el hanout', and as a botanical to flavour gin (Iris, Oxford Plants).



Beaux provides sketches of two types of iris *QUICK GUIDE TO NAMES OF FLOWER PARTS: as depicted on the walls and notes that only two of the three tepals in both the inner and outer whorls are shown, most petal). likely for reasons of clarity (1990: 69,72).



In *A Flower a Day*, **Janatka** (2022) the iris March chooses for accompanied by a photo of Karnak Temple. On their introduction to Egypt, she notes:

"... they became very popular, symbolizing for the Egyptians the essence and renewal of life. They Janatka, M. (2022) 'A Flower a Day' (Batsford). believed that the three petals** of the flowers stood for faith, wisdom and valour' (2022: 80).

However, as Beaux (1990: 46) points out, we do not actually know whether live specimens, dried specimens, or just drawings of the plants were brought back from Syria by Thutmose III.

Written by: Dulcie Engel

Tepal: the outer whorl of a flower that does not have separate petals and sepals (looks like a

Whorl: circular arrangement of flower parts (such as sepals, petals...)

Sepal: modified leaf that protects the flower bud and helps support the petals.

Stamen: male organs of a flower.

Carpel: female organs of a flower.

** It is not clear whether the author is referring to the inner or outer tepals here.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Ken for letting me use his photos, and to Natalie for her artistic talents!

References:

Beaux, N. (1990) Le cabinet de curiosités de Thoutmosis III: plantes et animaux du "Jardin botanique" de Karnak Peeters Publishers.

https://books.google.com/books/about/ Le cabinet de curiosités de Thoutmosis.html

'Botanical Garden of Thutmosis III'

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Botanical garden of Thutmosis III

'Iris' in Oxford Plants 400

https://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/plants400/Profiles/IJ/Iris

'Thutmosis III'

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thutmose-III



"Then we had the irises, rising beautiful and cool on their tall stalks, like blown glass, like pastel water momentarily frozen in a splash, light blue, light mauve, and the darker ones, velvet and purple, black cat's ears in the sun...

Margaret Atwood

The Haida Sphinx

indigenous art of the Pacific Northwest at states that it was found: the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, Jonathan **Jones** introduces the subject with surprising story:

Egypt's Great Sphinx in a missionary bible in the 1870s, he carved his own version of it (see photo 1). Stilthda was a member of the Haida people in the Pacific Northwest of the Americas and his named Haida Gwaii in 2010 after the carving was a tribute from the indigenous culture Haida Nation, who have lived there for of this region to ancient Egypt, thousands of miles 13,000 years. It is an archipelago of islands and years away. It's not just a wonderful sculpture off the northern Pacific coast of Canada. - round the back, the Sphinx has a Haida hairstyle. Masset is a village on the northern coast of (see photo 2) – but a piece of art theory in wood. Stilthda draws eye-opening parallels between his community's religious art and that of the Pharaohs.

Like the ancient Egyptians who conjoined a human and lion to create the Sphinx, the Indigenous The influence of Egyptian art and religious peoples of North America's Pacific Northwest have representation is certainly far-reaching! a magical eye for nature'.

Perhaps what is also worth saying is that the picture which inspired **Stilthda** is from an English language Christian bible, i.e. an image already appropriated from ancient Egypt by a later religion and culture. Thus, an ancient Egyptian sphinx is interpreted by a (presumably) 19th century European/ North American bible illustrator, and then in turn by a Haida woodcarver. I wonder what effect the missionaries expected such an image to have on their potential converts... maybe not a woodcarving?

The figure Jones is referring to is in the Sainsbury Centre, on References: loan from the British Jonathan Jones (2023) 'Empowering Art review' *Museum*. It is an 18kg wood (pine) and plaster figure, standing no. **Am1896,-.1202**). It was collected in the field by W.W. Clarke, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haida Gwaii museum as part of the license. Franks Collection

a review of a new exhibition of 1896. A note on the BM file from that year

'in a deserted village near Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands. Found in a pit in a house. Carved by Simeon Stillhda, a Haida, from a picture in an When the artist Simeon Stilthda saw a picture of illustrated Bible shown him by Rev. Wm. Collison between 1874 & 1878'.

> The **Queen Charlotte Islands** were re-**Graham Island** (the largest island). In the early 19th century, it was an important fur trading post.

Written by: Dulcie Engel



https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/mar/10/ empowering-art-review-indigenous-masterworks-full-of-wonder-and

74.5 cm high (Museum https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/E Am1896-1202

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masset

and acquired by the PHOTOS: © The Trustees of the British Museum. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

MEET HANNAH SWEETAPPLE, LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Hello Hannah, as a former volunteer, I'm sure our readers would like to hear about your association with the EC... perhaps you could outline your career & relevant studies so far?

My association with the Egypt Centre began in April 2015 when I started volunteering at the Museum. I was an undergraduate student in my second year studying BA (Hons) Ancient History at *Cardiff University*. I had started to panic a bit about what I would do next and was looking for work experience. I was given an opportunity through my university to volunteer for the charity, *Kids in Museums*. They advocate for museums to be family friendly and for young people to be given meaningful roles in museums. You may recognise the name from the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Awards we have been shortlisted for three times. It was through this post I discovered how rich and varied careers in museums could be. I was hooked and began visiting more museums and decided I wanted to do an MA in Museum Studies.

I was visiting the Egypt Centre with my mother on my Easter break from University. I met a man I now know as **Peter Jones** in the House of Death who told me that the Museum was looking for volunteers. I went upstairs to get a form from **Syd** and began

volunteering soon after. It was at the Egypt Centre where I discovered my love for Museum Learning. One day the Museum was short on school volunteers and Syd asked me to step in and do Senet with a school group in the Shared Area. I had so much fun working with the pupils and soon I became an Education Leader and was working with school groups every week.

From there I did my Masters in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester where I specialised in Learning. I have had jobs in heritage charities, the *National Trust, Oxford University Museum of Natural History* and the *Bodleian Library*, mostly in learning roles. I have continued to study and develop myself as a museum professional. For example, I have been learning Welsh for almost five years which is really important in Welsh museums. I am also starting a professional doctorate in Heritage in October which I will do while working at the Egypt Centre.

I began working at the Egypt Centre in September 2018 as a Workshop Assistant for the Young Egyptologist Workshops. A few months later in December 2018, I was asked to step up into the Learning and Engagement Officer role (it was called Education and Events Officer back then). I have been here ever since!

What does your current post encompass?

In my role I manage and develop the Learning Programme. This is quite a wide-ranging role and there are lots of aspects to it. Basically, it is my job to give people the tools to learn in the Museum. This includes formal learning (school visits, designing activities and working with teachers), informal learning (families, community organisations, short term projects), Wellbeing (Dementia provision, working with the Future Generations Act). It's a great role as it is very creative and gives me the opportunity to explore and experiment. I also work very closely on projects with my wonderful colleagues. Working in a small museum means that you get to pitch in and do a bit of everything.

What are your stand-out memories from your time here?

I have lots of wonderful memories of the Egypt Centre and it has been a huge part of my life for many years. One very fond memory I have is of my first Volunteer Awards in June 2015. I had only been volunteering for about two months and had managed to convince my boyfriend at the time to come as my plus one (he is now my husband). I won the award for Best Newcomer and left with my very own award shabti, which I still have proudly displayed. This is such a standout memory for me because I was just finding my confidence and my way in the world and had decided to build a career in museums. Being recognised by the Egypt Centre at the award ceremony was an incredible boost to my confidence and I will always be grateful for it.

Do you have a favourite object?

It is hard to choose just one but I think I will have to go with the Book of the Dead papyrus (**W867**). I think it is just such an iconic object. It is exactly what you imagine an ancient Egyptian object to be with the beautiful illustrations and the hieroglyphics. Lots of visitors have heard of the Book of the Dead and seeing their faces light up when they see it in person is very inspiring.

What are your hopes for the EC going forward?

I like to dream big. I am always looking for exciting and innovative ways to expand our offer in big and small ways. I hope that the Egypt Centre continues to grow and is seen as one of the best museums in Wales and beyond.

Do you have any special message for the volunteers?

I truly believe that the volunteers make the Egypt Centre. You have all created a wonderful community and you should be proud of it!



MEET THE LEARNING TEAM



Hi my name is **Donna Thomas** and I'm an education leader within the learning team. I love delivering our activities schools to and organisations, as well as meeting the general public. I also do some admin when needed. I started volunteer here and did my BA in Egyptology and Ancient History which I really enjoyed. I love loads of artefacts but if I had to choose one it's the fragment of a cartonnage mask **W920**. Also, thank you to all the volunteers.



Hi my name is **Marcus Smith** and I am a member of the Egypt Centre's learning team and spend my days helping with the teaching of schools. I would say that my favourite thing about my role is the feeling of making a difference and helping a new generation fall in love with history (hopefully) the same way I did when I was their age. I'd say my favourite object at the museum is the coffin of Iwesemhesetmwt, I just find the level of detail put into the coffin fascinating and love the story being told on the outside of the coffin itself.

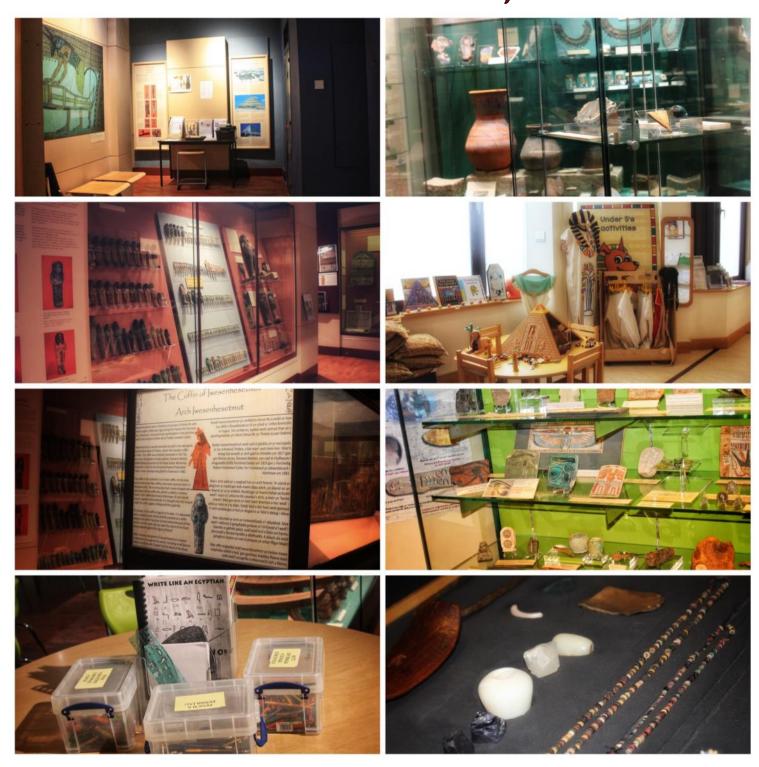


My name is **Peter Jones** and I've been at the Egypt Centre since a work placement in 2002. My current role is Education Leader. What I enjoy most about the Egypt Centre is teaching the schoolchildren as much as I can about Egyptology. My favourite object is the **Tjenti** lintel, **W491**, from the 5th Dynasty which is in the House of Life.

Photos by Syd Howells.

We hope to interview Senior Education leader **Luke** in the next issue .

Images of The Egypt Centre



Photos by Young Volunteer JAMES

Friendsof the Egypt Centre Egypt Centre

For our May lecture, the Friends of the Egypt Centre, we were pleased to welcome **Isabelle Vella Gregory** who presented "What Henry Wellcome Missed: the agro-pastoral site of Jebel Moya, Sudan".

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the lecture live, but one of the perks of the Friends lectures is that they are recorded so members can always catch up with the content if unable to attend.

Isabelle's lecture provided amazing insight into the excavations at **Jebel Moya**, both by **Henry Wellcome**, and the recent work which she has been involved in.

The discussion of Wellcome's excavation is of particular interest to many of our members as the majority of Egypt Centre objects originate from his collection.

Henry Wellcome was already extremely wealthy when arriving in the Sudan to carry out pharmaceutical research, establishing a research laboratory in **Khartoum**. The Wellcome excavations at Jebel Moya took place between 1911 and 1914 and terrifyingly uncovered over three thousand graves during this short time.

It seems that many archaeologists struggled to work with Wellcome, and his attitude to his local staff is difficult to read. Isabelle and her team are working hard to try and counter the colonial legacy left with the local community, championing the importance of Sudanese-led research and numerous community engagement initiatives.

Given the current situation in the Sudan, it is unclear if or when the project at Jebel Moya will continue. We are very grateful to Isabelle for discussing the work at this time, and would like to highlight that the lecture is dedicated to her Sudanese colleagues.

Written by: Sam Powell

Upcoming...

14th June 2023

A Family Quarrel at Deir el-Medina

Leire Olabarria

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.

GACTE-All GACTE-All GACTE-All GACTE-All

INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea

The Friends produce a newsletter called Inscriptions. 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.



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

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



What Comes Before

So much is written about Egyptian funerary containers for poppy derivations which were mixed monuments and beliefs about the afterlife that as with water to create opiate pain relief. a casual observer it can be tempting to not think about what comes before. Whether we are rich or Another useful plant in this regard is the lotus. poor, death comes to us all and it is somewhat of a Indeed, the Egyptian word "seshen" may have levelling experience which caused me to think about how *nymphaea* (Nunn,1996: 157). Nymphaea contain families would have dealt with a similar occasion four narcotic alkaloids which are only soluble in way back in time and in another part of the world. alcohol. Harer (1985) suggests that the roots and The period I refer to was so raw and primal that I flowers may well have been soaked in wine for strongly believe that as humans we must have administration. reacted the same way over time and space.

watching someone die over a number of days. Strangely I had got to the age of 58 without this happening before, having always missed the now used in aspirin. experience by minutes or hours. This deathbed vigil was for my much-loved father-in-law. It was a medicated, peaceful, controlled experience during which he was surrounded and supported by close family members who watched, slept, ate and drank around him as he died. Our whole attention was focussed on watching and mitigating any signs of discomfort, and feeling that we needed to advocate for him as he was unable to do so.

Little has been written about deathbed vigils in Ancient Egypt but **Teeter** (2011) explains that at the time death was not taken lightly.

prayed for the patient's recovery. They exerted great effort traumatic, however short a life. It is also highly to prolong life" (2011: 120).

However, when the doctor was called, what options were available to him? My father-in-law was treated with a combination of narcotics and painkillers but what would have been the Egyptian equivalent?

Whilst there is no evidence that the Ancient Egyptians made use of the narcotics and soporifics available to them (Nunn, 1996:153), it is difficult to countenance that people would not have availed their loved ones of medicinal help if financially and practically available, and there were several recorded treatments of this type.

Mandragora Officinarum (Mandrake) contains atropine and scopolamine. Grown first in **Palestine** and in New Kingdom Egypt, this poisonous plant, when mixed with beer or wine, causes unconsciousness (Reeves 1992).

There was also a drug referred to as "spn" which refer to the poppy somniferum). Ring-based juglets shaped like poppy Reeves, C. 'Egyptian Medicine'. Shire. Peterborough, 1992. heads have been found and interpreted as

time. I recently had a profound been used to describe all species of these

"Tjeret" is a word to describe an as yet I witnessed the profound and emotional event of unidentified part of the willow. This tree is famous for the salicylic acid it contains, and could be used both internally and externally for pain relief. It is

> Despite the availability of the above herbs, **Grivetti** et al (1997) opine that the effectiveness of alcohol intoxication was well understood and may well have been a choice for many.

Interpreted by some as a society obsessed with death, in truth it is extremely likely that the opposite was true. In an epoch when the average lifespan was nineteen years (or mid-thirties if deaths are disaggregated blogs.ucl.ac.uk), death was ubiquitous and a constant companion. Few, like my venerable father -in-law hit the heady heights of a 96 year lifespan, "The family called for the best doctors available, and they but it is in human nature to regard all death as likely that human nature aims to help and ease the passing of those whom we love and it seems that there were options available even if they were not as effective as those of the modern day. Just like taxes, death is inescapable and taboos around discussion of the dying experience do not help anyone. Admittedly, not all deaths are as peaceful and well controlled as that which I witnessed, but modern medicine may smooth the roughest edges. My adult children who were present felt that witnessing the final breaths gave them a closure they had not felt with other family members.

Written by: Sian Charlton

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Harer, W.B. 'Pharmacological and Biological Properties of the Egyptian Lotus' Journal of the American research Centre in Egypt 22: 49-54. 1985.

Nunn, J. Ancient Egyptian Medicine, British Museum Press, London, 1996.

(papaver Teeter, E. 'Religion and Ritual in Ancient Egypt', Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011.

Egyptology in The News



Hidden corridor discovered in Great Pyramid

The nine-metre-long corridor has been discovered as part of the 'Scan Pyramids' project, which uses infrared thermography, 3D simulations and cosmic 'Akhnaten' (sic) the opera -ray imaging to see inside the structures.

City of the Pharaoh, California...

Archaeologists and film buffs have been digging up the **Guadalupe-Nipomo** Dunes in Central California for over 30 years, in the search for remnants of the set of the 1923 film 'The Ten Commandments' directed by Cecil B. De Mille. The set included a large Egyptian temple flanked by sphinxes. The search for film props has been turned into a documentary, and items recovered are displayed at the *Dunes Center* (sic).

De Mille re-filmed this epic in Egypt in 1956, and again, buried the set (see EitN, Jan.-March 2022).

Roman Period sphinx found near Dendera

An Egyptian archaeological mission has discovered a sphinx statue inside a brick water basin, inside a limestone cabin that was excavated near **Dendera Temple**, **Qena** province. The sphinx's face appears to depict the Roman emperor Claudius, who ruled Egypt from 10 BCE-54 CE.

Archaeologists from the *Polish Centre* Mediterranean Archaeology have excavated stone reign and legacy of Cleopatra VII, narrated and blocks with hieroglyphic inscriptions, at the executive produced by Jada Pinkett Smith. The deserted northern city of Old Dongola. They are trailer has already caused a stir by stating that structure built between 1000 and 500 BCE.

Belgian royalty mark Egyptology link

Belgium have visited Egypt to recreate the trip than 30,000 years ago has been reconstructed by undertaken by **Queen Elisabeth** of Belgium 100 scientists. The young man's skeleton years ago in 1923, shortly after the discovery of discovered in the Nile Valley at the Nazlet Khater **Tutankhamun**'s tomb. She had a passion for **2** site in 1980. Ancient Egypt and encouraged the study of Egyptology in Belgium.

quartzite Horemheb (1300 BČE) and Psamtik II (595-589 were removed from living or dead bodies.

BC), a floor of limestone tiles, a quartz sphinx, the upper part of a pink granite obelisk and broken statues of pharaohs.

This 1984 opera by **Philip Glass**, performed by English National Opera, was staged at the London Coliseum from 23/03 to 5/04 to sell-out audiences and 4 star reviews.

Artefacts returned from Italy

Four rare items have been handed over from the *Museo Egizio* in **Turin**, including a New Kingdom Died Ankh pillar.

Abydos ram heads discovery

At least 2,000 mummified ram heads dating from the Ptolemaic era have been uncovered at the temple of **Ramses II** in **Abydos**. Mummified remains of sheep, dogs, goats, cows, gazelles, and mongooses were also found in the temple.

'Mummies' the movie and 'Cleopatra' the docu-drama released

'Mummies' is a computer-animated comedy adventure film directed by Juan Jesús García **Galocha**. In it, three ancient Egyptian mummified Egyptian temple blocks found in Sudan characters travel to present-day London to retrieve a stolen ring belonging to the Royal Family. of 'Cleopatra' is a new Netflix series looking at the architectural fragments from a pharaonic temple Cleopatra was black, which is controversial for many Egyptians and Egyptologists.

The face of a Stone Age Egyptian

Queen Mathilde and Princess Elisabeth of The face of an ancient Egyptian who died more

Evidence of gruesome trophy -taking!

More finds at Obelisk Museum, Uno (Heliopolis) A team of researchers led by Julia Gresky from the *Division of Natural Sciences* at the German The joint Egyptian-German archaeological mission Archaeological Institute in Berlin have found between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and twelve severed hands. They were buried in three the Leipzig University Museum have discovered pits within the courtyard of the 15th Dynasty more remains of the Sun Temple, including Hyksos palace at Avaris/Tell el-Dab'a in northsarcophagi from the reigns of eastern Egypt. It is not clear whether the hands

remains...

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of their founding, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a video discussing the eradication of smallpox, including an actor portraying Ramesses An V, who is believed to be the oldest known victim of excavating in Berenike on the Red Sea has found smallpox. And a recent CT study of the mummified a marble statue of **Buddha** in the forecourt of the remains of 21 children aged 1 -14 has shown that temple of Isis. Berenike was an important trading 33% had skeletal anomalies associated with port at the time. anaemia.

Rapper not the most dependable historian!

Congolese rapper Maitre Gims has claimed that architecture, Ancient Egyptian pyramids were wired for brands, was to present designs highlighting the electricity. "In the age of the Empire of Kush, there shared history of Egypt and **Italy**, and an was electricity, the pyramids you see there had interpretation of how the famous couple might gold on their peaks, gold is the best conductor of have lived today. electricity," he said.

Another Saggara find...

tomb, dating back to the 19th dynasty, was selling it at a London auction house. The Egyptian discovered by a team of Dutch and Italian authorities are investigating, and if it turns out that archaeologists, from Leiden and respectively.

climate change

Egypt to study fluctuations in climate, and how they influenced the government and the economy.

"An Afrofuturist, ancient Egyptian funkified spaceship has just landed on the rooftop of The Met"

So said the **New York** *Metropolitan Museum of Art's* spokesperson following the installation by artist Lauren Halsey of a temple - At Tell el-Maskhouta, Ismailia (in north-eastern like construction adorned with modern symbols Egypt), a joint Egyptian-Italian mission have transformed into hieroglyphs.

Reptile coffins analysed

New imaging techniques have been used to examine the contents of 6 small copper coffins at the *British Museum*, dating from 664-332 BCE. The coffins were variously topped with lizards, eels, and part-eel, part-cobra figures. Three of them Inauguration of Shatby Necropolis, Alexandria were found to contain lizard bones, linen and traces of lead.

Paris: Hawass calls for removal of Champollion's statue

Dr. Zahi Hawass has called for the removal of a statue of **Jean Francois Champollion**, which is outside the *Collège de France* in **Paris**, because it is offensive to Egyptians. The statue shows well as many smaller finds.

Here comes the science! Medical studies on mummified Champollion with his foot placed on the head of a statue of **Ramses**.

> Evidence of Roman era Egypt -India trade route

American-Polish archaeological mission

Cleopatra & Antonio exhibition at Milan Design Week

The aim of this exhibition, a collaboration between decoration and manufacturing

Possibly illegal mummified remains up for auction

The 2,800-year-old mummified head and hand A 3,200-year-old tomb belonging to **Panehsy**, were brought back from Egypt during the First guard of the temple of **Amun**, has been uncovered in the **Saqqara** necropolis. The temple-shaped home under a glass dome. His descendant is Turin the items were removed from Egypt illegally, the sale will be stopped and repatriation requested.

Coffin labels help scientists understand Edinburgh: riddle of 'impossible' statue solved

The statue at the *National Museum of Scotland* A Swiss National Science Foundation project has comes from the Rhind Collection and depicts a analysed the wood in Roman era coffin labels from male commoner holding a child pharaoh. This goes against all Ancient Egyptian conventions. However, curator Margaret Maitland discovered that the statue was from Deir el-Medina, and actually depicts a man presenting a statue of a pharaoh as an offering to the gods.

More recent finds across Egypt

excavated a large number of pots and amphorae dating from the Late and Graeco-Roman periods... Meanwhile, an Egyptian team have discovered large remains of structures from the Late and Byzantine periods at Meir Necropolis in Assiut (southern Egypt), including monks' cells and burials.

Following a successful archaeological project, a collaboration between researchers in Alexandria, Oxford, Cyprus and Athens, the site (dating from 4th-3rd century BCE) is now a modern archaeological park open to the public. It includes hypogeum (a subterranean multi-chambered complex), and stepped towers above ground, as

Compiled & Summarized by: Dulcie Engel

Egypt Centre Brande

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