

Museum of Egyptian Antiquities





25th Anniversary Celebrations

A day of festivities mark TEC's quarter-century.



Little Shop of Horus

Hallowe'en frolics for the Welsh Museums Festival.



Cat content!

Everybody loves cats, right?

egypt.swan.ac.uk

Welcome





Syd Howells Editor in Chief



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.



Welcome all to the 25th issue of the relaunched Egypt Centre Volunteer Newsletter. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed since the relaunch, and especially to the editor for those early editions, Rex Wale, who will shortly be departing the Egypt Centre for new adventures.

I won't ruin an excellent read by telling you in advance its contents. Best you read on...



Rob Stradling
Technical Editor

A volunteer since 2012, currently serving my time off-site crafting this handy periodical for your enlightenment and amusement.

Be seeing you,

Syd



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 **March 2024.**

Visitor Comments

"Really enjoyed the artefacts and trying on clothes."

- Dave, Deb & Brandon, Wigan.

"Volunteer are amazing - very passionate & helpful!"

- Emma-Jane, Nottinghamshire.

"Mae'r amgueddfa yn ddiddorol iawn, ac mae'r teganau yn wych hefyd. Diolch!" ("The museum is very interesting and the toys are great too. Thanks!")

- Olly & Oscar Robinson, Sevenoaks, Kent.

"Le Guide de Routard avait raison: une pépite, avec une muséographie très accessible et des bénévoles enthousiates. Merci!" ("The Backpacker's Guide was right: a gem, with a very accessible collection and enthusiastic volunteers. Thank you!")

- Delphine, Blois, France.

"C'est trop bien!" ("It's too good!")

- **Dawn**, Blois, France.

"Incredible museum. Mummification demo was wonderful. Many thanks!"

- Ben, Zara & Casper, London.

"Thank you!"

- Mohammad, Kuwait.

"Amazing - really fun! We won at the Senet game and found the dragon! 10 out of 10!"

- Moses Davies, Outer Space.

Visitor Figures

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

August **6882**

September **5752**

Office News

Have you spotted the new shelf on the landing above the noticeboards, where all our awards are now displayed?



Congratulations to volunteer **Jade Price**, who had an exhibition of her artwork at *Swansea MAD* (216 High St) this autumn, entitled "*Cabaret of Curiosities*" with pieces inspired by museum trips. Congratulations also to volunteer **Tom Clarke**, who has just passed his MA in Egyptology at *Liverpool University* with distinction.

Meanwhile, our Events & Development Officer **Rex Wale** has organised an exhibition of 12 photographs of EC objects at *Singleton Hospital*. The photos were from a "*Photographing Antiquity*" event held at the EC, allowing local photographers the unique opportunity to engage with objects outside their cases.



Volunteer of the Month

August Chloe Hazel

October Frank Norton Jessica Hayes Lewis

Not pictured: September (Rob Stradling) November (Frankie Milani & Alex Sheldon)







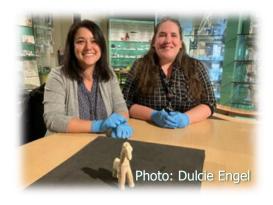
Office News (continued)

indeed he was instrumental in the launch and Eater'. production of our very first issue of the new look Volunteer Newsletter (April- June 2017). We will miss him, and wish him all the very best for the future.

MUSEUMS AT THE SENEDD contribution of nuseums to cultural

On October 19th, Museum Manager Wendy Goodridge and Volunteer Manager Svd Howells were at the Senedd in Cardiff for a museums event focussing on cultural rights, anti-racism and wellbeing.

This autumn, Cypriot antiquities from our collection were used for object handling in a series of focus groups organised by Dr Ersin Hussein of the Department of History, Heritage & Classics (who was also involved in the creation of the 'Egypt and its Neighbours' case in the HoL), assisted by Collections Access Manager Dr Meg Gundlach. Ersin is investigating public perceptions of Cypriot heritage and identity in relation to museums. Volunteers were among those given opportunity to participate in the focus groups, and Ersin is still keen to speak to more people. Please contact her ersin.hussein@swansea.ac.uk if you are interested.



Sadly, in December, we are saying goodbye to Rex Half term was busy with events linked to (who is also a former volunteer and former Halloween, the Welsh Museums Festival (including Education Officer at the museum). We interviewed a Spooky Trail and a 'Find the baby dragon' trail), him in the January- March 2023 Newsletter, and and our children's workshop, 'Apophis the Sun indeed he was instrumental in the January and Fator'





On 7th November, a special workshop, 'An The EC's Harrogate Loan was showcased in the introduction to the nature and value of play' was media in November: Curator **Dr Ken Griffin** and held, led by **Charlotte Derry**, director of 'Playful Museum Manager **Wendy Goodridge** were filmed *Places'* (and a museum exhibitions and education in the museum for the *ITV* Welsh television news officer), on the importance of play in museums. on November 20th: Play is an important element of the Welsh Curriculum, and recognised as essential to child https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2023-11-20/its-a- development by the Welsh Government. The jewel-breaking-down-barriers-and-getting-familiesoutcome of this training and Charlotte's audit could enjoying-history be new family friendly activities inside the galleries as well as in the play area.



sessions. Seated from I to r: Steve, Lloyd, Donna, Ben and Hywel Photo: Dulcie Engél

Ken was also interviewed for the BBC Wales website and BBC Radio Wales:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-67498407

Gift Shop/Front of House Officer Angharad Gavin was interviewed in Welsh for BBC Radio Cymru.

And on December 7th, **Dawn Boden MS**, Deputy Minister for Arts & Sport, will visit the museum.

Finally - On October 7th, TEC celebrated our 25th anniversary. This deserves its own separate report which can be found later in the issue.



This is an introduction to what I hope will become for now a regular addition to our Volunteer Newsletter. It will obviously have a degree of what is called 'artistic licence'. It is about teenage life of an Egyptian princess. And so I present to you:

Nephi The Goth

Not a lot is known about the earlier years of many of the gueens and pharaohs of Egypt. Here is a light-hearted look at one such youngster, Nephatiti...

From about the age of seven, Nephatiti had always been a bit of a rebel and a tearaway (not particularly naughty as such). She liked to experiment with pushing the boundaries of the sometimes bizarre and outrageous. To this end, having played with one idea and another for some years, young Nephi was now twelve and decided she wanted to be... a Goth!

To be continued...

Written by: Frank Norton Additional information provided by Chloe Hazel

Meet the Volunteer



Egypt Centre Volunteer *Lloyd Griffiths*

I come from: Swansea.

I started volunteering: July 2023.

I chose to volunteer because: I love history.

My Favourite artefact is: The flint hand axe (AR50/2883).

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me: I've gained people skills and improved confidence.



Young Volunteer

I come from: Swansea.

I started volunteering: July 2023.

I chose to volunteer because:
I enjoyed the holiday workshops so much I thought 'why don't I see if I could volunteer there'.

My Favourite artefact is: I really like 'Debbie' the shabti **(W5091)** on the materials board.

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me: It has helped me with my people skills.







Young Volunteer

I come from: Bridgend.

I started volunteering: October

2022.

I chose to volunteer because: I have a passion for Egyptian artefacts and history.

My Favourite artefact is: The mummified snake (EC308) (because of the hologram that goes with it).

How volunteering at the Egypt Centre helps me: It improves my confidence in speaking to others.



Young Volunteer *Josie*

I come from: Swansea.

I started volunteering: November 2023.

I chose to volunteer because: I love ancient history and felt like it would be a great opportunity to learn and make new friends.

My Favourite artefact is: Any of the pieces of jewellery. It's very interesting to see the different pieces and where they came from.

How volunteering helps me:

It increases my confidence and helps me learn more about ancient history.



Congratulations & Feedback received on our 25th issue!

Dr Ken Griffin, Museum curator

volunteers. It is an amazing platform and gives an Education Leader opportunity for volunteers to be involved and express what they are interested in. It is very professionally laid out and very accessible for all ages and abilities. I love it! - Wendy Goodridge, Museum manager (& very first EC volunteer!)

I like the Newsletter because it has a lot of very useful information about the Egypt Centre and its history. - *Kieran Davies*, *Volunteer*

Congratulations on 25 issues! - Peter Jones, Education Leader

Alongside volunteering within the Egypt centre, I found the Newsletter an amazing way to find out recent events and information. I have found that this is great fun, in depth and educational. It is a complete pleasure to look forward to every instalment! - **Danielle Graham**, Volunteer

The Newsletter gives lots of interesting information **Protheroe-Jones**, Gallery Assistant

Dulcie and Rob for all their hard work in making volunteers who make the Swansea University the newsletter such a success. It has been Egypt Centre so special. Every edition sets out to fantastic to watch the Volunteer Newsletter grow educate and entertain us! Rather like an Ancient Wale, Events & Development Officer

Happy anniversary to the Volunteer Newsletter, it's Friend of the EC such a great way of keeping up to date with what's Egyptology! - **Sam Powell**, Volunteer

of the Egypt Centre and the great work that it Senior Education Leader undertakes. I love that it features short pieces Department of History, Heritage & Classics

The Volunteer Newsletter is a fantastic way for the Congratulations on the 25th issue of the Volunteer Egypt Centre volunteers to learn more about the Newsletter and especially to the editors! It is collection and their colleagues. It is a remarkable always packed with information and articles related achievement that the newsletter marks 25 issues, to Ancient Egypt both locally and further afield. I particularly in the year that the Egypt Centre particularly enjoy reading the section about the celebrates its 25th anniversary. Well done to all! - volunteers. Good luck for the next 25! - *Anne* Rees, Volunteer

I think the Newsletter has gone from strength to Everybody has been brought together by the strength, showcasing the Egypt Centre and its Newsletter and given the opportunity to write work, as well as topics of interest for the articles and other material. - **Donna Thomas**,



I like it because it talks about Rome and Ramesses the Second. - Lee Rayner, Volunteer

about the museum and our artefacts. - **Hywel** Congratulations to all associated with the Egypt Centre Volunteer Newsletter. Reaching your 25th Edition is an exciting achievement and a reflection I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to of how well you support the superb band of from strength to strength over the years, and I World BBC! I was privileged to make a small hope to see many more editions to come! - Rex contribution to a previous edition and I look forward to reading the next 25 Congratulations again. - *Marian*

going on both in the museum and in the world of It's a wonderful way for the museum to not only teach what we do, learn about the people involved in the museum, but also to show other Egyptology The Newsletter is a wonderful record of the spirit events from around the world. - Luke Keenan,

about the collection and summaries that keep us all Congratulations on the 25th issue of the Egypt up to date with Egyptology related news. My Centre's Volunteer Newsletter, which is an favourite regular features are the testimonies from invaluable source of great articles on all aspects of museum volunteers as they consistently they say Egyptology. As well as providing useful information that working as part of this community helps them about upcoming events at the Egypt Centre, there grow in confidence. - **Dr Ersin Hussein**, are interesting reviews of previous events or volunteer trips. I always look forward to reading it.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have fellow volunteers and their interests whilst contributed and produced such a great newsletter. discovering more about items in the museum's rich - Christine Harrington, Volunteer

Mae'n sicrhau bod pawb yn gwybod am y newyddion diweddaraf y Ganolfan Eifftaidd

Front of House Officer/Gift Shop Manager

I look forward to all new editions of the Egypt research. - Olga Zapletniuk, Volunteer Centre Volunteer Newsletter. I find it both informative and entertaining and a useful tool for The Newsletter proves to be an invaluable and keeping abreast of the social aspects of the centre. insightful endeavour from the editorial team and Keep it up; this publication is on point with the the cooperative efforts of other staff ethos of the volunteer spirit of the centre. - **Dick** volunteers that makes the Egypt Centre a priceless Williams, Volunteer

Congratulations to the Newsletter for making it to its 25th issue, truly the greatest creation since the The

work :-) - **Steve Bray**, Volunteer

The EC Volunteer Newsletter is an important When I was a volunteer at the Egypt Centre the resource to keep volunteers connected with the Volunteer Newsletter was a great way to learn all Egypt Centre and to keep them abreast with the about the Centre. I mostly volunteered on a latest developments in Egyptology. The museums Tuesday so it was lovely to learn who was who section is particularly interesting for volunteers as and the diverse roles that volunteers did. While



Heritage and Classics

The Egypt Centre Volunteer Newsletter has been an invaluable source of inspiration, in meeting

collection, which has been instrumental in my academic journey. - *Tom Clarke*, *Volunteer*

yn The Newsletter provides an excellent opportunity enwedia i'r rhai na allant ddod i mewn i'r for volunteers to share their knowledge, ideas, and amgueddfa am wahanol resymau ac yn gwneud yn interests with an audience in a more academic siŵr bod ein cymuned yn y gwybod beth sy'n manner. I was excited to participate by publishing an article about my research in the newsletter and It ensures that everybody is up to date with Egypt discussing it with my colleagues, volunteers and Centre related news, especially for those who for visitors interested in the history of Ancient Egypt. I various reasons can't come physically come into think the Newsletter plays a significant role in the museum, and makes sure that all our supporting the volunteer community and the community is in the know. - Angharad Gavin, communication with students and visitors, as well as providing the information about the Egypt Centre, its collection, events, and ongoing

> resource to the community. - Ben Andrews. Volunteer

Volunteer Newsletter informative, İS circular wheel. - *Marcus Smith*, *Education Leader* educational, and at times comical and witty. I especially enjoy the diversity of the different Thank you all for the wonderful Egypt Centre volunteer profiles and their varied reasons for Newsletter. As a complete novice at the Museum, being here. Favourite objects are always a it allows me to keep updated with all the latest particular enjoyment. So much to enjoy on so exhibits and old and new faces. Keep up the good many levels. I look forward to many future issues.

- Frank Norton, Volunteer

working at TEC the Newsletter was a great way to learn about current events going on in Egyptology. As I am not an Egyptologist myself it was a useful 'one stop shop' for Egyptology news. Now I have left TEC it is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with you all! Dulcie has been kind enough to forward the newsletters to me so I can continue to hear about all the lovely work you are doing. -Hannah Sweetapple MA Museum Development Advisor to Welsh Government (& former EC staff member)

The Newsletter is a great space for reading up-todate research and discussions in Egyptology! I love being able to keep in touch with TEC and see all of the fun and exciting things that are going on at it situates the collections practice of the Egypt the museum! It's also a wonderful outlet to share Centre in an international context. Happy 25th articles and read what others are working on! I am anniversary and best wishes for the next 25! - **Dr** looking forward to the next phase of the Christian Knoblauch, Department of History, newsletter and to what exciting things are to come! Congrats on 25 issues! - Mollie Beck, Friend of the EC

Jook Review

Ra the Mighty Cat Detective

by A.B.Greenfield

Illustrated by S. Horne

(Penguin Random House/Holiday House, 2018).

"When my adventures began, crime was more stories to enjoy. the last thing on my mind"

strong title, I was very pleased to read the crack a mystery?" description of what I might find within! The words "egotistical cat", "lazy" and "spoiled" Grab a copy and find out! grabbed my attention and I couldn't wait to read more about this Detective Cat **DISCLOSURE** This book and review has situation!

am a person who is fortunate enough to be mention of snacks and naps in the second of service to one of these fine creatures, I instalment. There should always be room spared no horses in wanting to find any for improvement in these circumstances. way I could improve my service. I have deducted that more snacks are the answer as food is a constant worry of our feline friends! May I be spared my ruler's wrath if I amend my ways fast!

This lovely story of the Pharaoh's cat and dung beetle sidekick was a complete joy to read. The comical commentary between characters these two is ridiculously entertaining. We are also introduced to a number of other characters and each one their own quirky and suspicious elements! This story transports us to the magical land of Egypt and its wonders, where trouble lurks around every corner and statue, waiting to be discovered. 'whodunnit' story that leaves us guessing until the very end. I found this very clever, and even though the author has written a work of fiction, she has incorporated facts about Egypt, providing great learning material. The gorgeous illustrations will bring a smile to kids and adults alike. They really do make it so much fun.

"But I am Ra The Mighty, Pharaoh's cat, as brave as a lion and twice as fierce!"

With 23 short chapters and a list of sources for further reading, it is fun for any age range. Even more good news! If you enjoy this, it is the first in a series. There are two

This story opens with a question: "Can a As I came across the beautiful cover and lazy cat and a dung-obsessed beetle really

been read and stamped with a paw of approval. It was given 5* by my Gentleman Firstly, I was intrigued and impressed. As I Cat. He hopes that there will be more



Written by: Danielle Graham

Meet the 2023 Practicum Students!

Every year, final year students studying Classics, Ancient History and Egyptology have the chance to spend 4 weeks in late summer pursuing the practicum module at the Egypt Centre. Below is the module synopsis from the university website:

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.

This year we welcomed 3 very keen students who did a great job, and have stayed on as volunteers. They also gave us lots of chocolates when they finished the module, for which staff and volunteers were very grateful!



he Origins of Senet and similar board games

'Irving Finkel, assistant keeper of ancient variation of the game (Zwang 2017). From Mesopotamian script, languages and cultures at the British Museum, has speculated that the fact games sharpen our mind-reading skills – forcing us to put Twenty Squares were often inscribed on ourselves in our opponent's shoes – is why they have the base of Senet boards (Tyldesley 2007: been such an enduring feature of culture. He even goes 14-15), as is the case with the replica we so far as to suggest that they developed in tandem with human consciousness. Imagining how someone else have in the House of Life. might move and planning accordingly provided a tool to explore the inner lives of others, an essential skill for a social animal.' (du Sautoy 2023).

According to Tyldesley, Senet, the game of passing, was also known as Thirty Squares, and the earliest reference to it is a scene from the Third Dynasty tomb of Hesy-Re at Saqqara (c. 2620 BCE), although finds of counters, boards and senet hieroglyphs would suggest it was known as early as the First Dynasty (c. 3100 BCE). The last known reference is from the third century CE (Tyldesley 2007: 11-12). By the 6th Dynasty, it had developed from a secular to a spiritual game (see Piccione 1980, 2001):

Beginning simply as a form of recreation, this game was to evolve into a profound ritual, a drama for ultimate stakes...senet... There are no surviving exact rules of play the afterlife (Piccione 1980:55-6)

Book of the Dead:

for being in the following of Osiris, and being content with the food of Wennefer

going out by day, taking any form desired to be taken, playing the board-game senet, being in the pavilion, a living

the Osiris among the revered before the great Ennead which is in the west, after he moors. (Quoted in Sall 2022).

A similar game, *Twenty Squares*, was introduced from the Near East by the Hyksos (c. 1575-1530 BCE) in the Second Intermediate Period. Although it is often used as a synonym for the Royal Game of Ur (see for example Solly 2020), Twenty Squares was very much an Egyptian







Photos: Dulcie Engel

can reveal essential Egyptian beliefs about for Senet. Apart from elaborate boards and boxes found in tombs, senet grids have been found scratched/ drawn onto stones; Indeed, it is mentioned in chapter 17 of the and even scratched onto a 25th Dynasty boat ramp at **Karnak** (Piccione 1980: 58). Illustrations of senet being played by one or two people, and descriptive texts about the game, appear on papyri and tomb paintings. By analysing the archaeological evidence and written texts, the game can understood fairly well, and rules suggested (see Piccione 1980,2001, Kendal).

> Miri (2021) claims that the four game boards in Tutankhamun's tomb were for the Royal Game of Ur. It is clear that they are actually Senet boards, although he may be

tablet 177 in translated the same rules (Tabletop 2021). There is are of uneven size and spacing. even an instruction video available on the British Museum site. It is widely considered to be the forerunner of Backgammon. Like Senet, it had a spiritual meaning. Many lavishly decorated boards were found, as well as counters and dice (of various shapes).

We know that in Egypt, since the Predynastic Period, throw sticks (also known as casting sticks) were more popular than dice, until the Roman period. Dice cubes probably evolved in Mesopotamia, from the use of sheep or goat knuckle bones, which have four unique faces, so could give different results (Dunn-Vaturi 2018). We have a set of four replica throw sticks in the drawer of our replica senet box. Throw sticks had a flat and a rounded surface, and were often decorated with Senet and Mehen appear to be purely animal heads, or carved in the form of Egyptian games, although variants were fingers. Counters were usually in the form adopted in Cyprus and the Levant. They of cones or spools, although some were both seem to link to successful passage to more elaborate. We also have on display the afterlife. However, Mehen was more nearby real senet counters, dice and a dice popular in the Predynastic Period and Old cup.





Falence Senet counters from the New Kingdom, assorted dice of lead, bone, stone and faience; and a wooden throwing cup from the Graeco- Roman Period. (Music & Games case, HoL.)

> Photos: Dulcie Engel

referring to the reverse sides inscribed with Two other ancient Egyptian board games boards for Twenty Squares (see photo 1). were Mehen (with a board like a coiled The Royal Game of Ur dates back to 2600 snake) and Hounds and Jackals (which is a BCE and originates in **Mesopotamia**. That version of the Fifty-eight Holes game), makes it the oldest playable board game in where pins are moved along a board full of the world, as the rules were written on a holes (Dunn-Vaturi 2018). We have what BCE, since could be a wooden gaming board in storage (British Museum 2021). This (EC677) which appears to have 10-12 rows means people can play today using exactly of 5 holes, but some are blocked and they



EC677 Wooden gaming board? (Photo: Abaset)

Kingdom, disappearing by the end of the First Intermediate Period (Tyldesley 2007: 15). Twenty Squares and Hounds and Jackals were played over a much wider area (Dunn-Vitori 2018). There is a lot more information about the various board games mentioned in the references below, all of which are available either online, or in the House of Life.

Written by: Dulcie Engel

REFERENCES

British Museum (2021) 'Top ten historical board games

Dunn-Vaturi A.E. (2018) 'Board Games from Ancient Egypt and the Near East'

Kendal, T. (nd) Passing Through the Netherworld: The meaning and play of senet, an ancient Egyptian funerary game (booklet inside a bo Senet called 'Passing Through the Netherworld': in HoL green drawers)

Miri, A. (2021) 'The Game of Kings: A History of Backgammon' in Chaldean News

Piccione, P. (1980) 'In Search of the Meaning of Senet' Archaeology 33: 55-58 (Offprint in HoL green drawers)

Piccione, P. (2001) Gaming with the Gods: The game of Senet and ancient Egyptian Religious Beliefs (Leiden: Brill) (Abstract in EC Activity Handbook L. Senet: in HoL green drawers)

Sall, M. (2022) 'Senet - The Ancient Egyptian Board Game of Death

du Sautoy, M. 2023) 'The big idea: is there such a thing as the perfect game?' The Guardian

Solly, M. (2020) 'The Best Board Games of the Ancient World'

Tabletop Simulator (2021) 'Learn all about three of the most influential and ancient tapletop games Tyldesley, J.A. (2007) Egyptian Games and Sports (Shire Egyptology) Shire Publications (copy in HoL)





Friendsof the Egypt Centre

Metal Production and Consumption: Luxury, Power, and Identity in Ptolemaic Cyprus

Dr. Ersin Hussein, TEC.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the lecture in person, however I was able to attend via *Zoom*. One of the huge perks of the Friends' lectures is that they are hybrid (live in the Taliesin and live-streamed through Zoom) and recorded so members can catch up if unable to attend.

Ersin's lecture gave a wonderful overview of her current research on metal production in ancient Cyprus and its cultural value and significance, and how metals are tied to identity formation. She began by highlighting excerpts from Roman literary sources, such as **Plutarch** and **Strabo**. These views give a snapshot of the historical impact of metal production and other goods. For example, these sources deemed **Cyprus** as having a natural abundance of goods (metal, wine, timber, etc.) which gave Romans the perspective that Cyprus was a land of wealth and opportunity.

The Cypriot landscape was rich and the ideal place for mining. The **Troodos** mountain range was constructed of three different valleys; **Karkotis**, **Atsas** and **Mandres**. Each one of these valleys contained a settlement that supported the production of metals, namely mining and smelting. The Karkotis valley settlement was the largest, with activity dating from the Hellenistic to Roman period. The effects and aftermath of these settlements also shows how much damage repeated mining (and the material waste of mining) did to the ancient landscape which is still visible to this day.

Ersin's passion for Cyprus and Cypriot history stems from her own Cypriot heritage and love of the landscape and ancient sites. Engaging with the exploitation of the Cypriot landscape and people is another driving factor for her research. She hopes to continue her research by sifting through museum collections to further investigate the production and consumption of metal in Ptolemaic and Roman Cyprus for her second monograph.

Written by: Mollie Beck

Upcoming...

13th December 2023

Dewatering systems for wastewater and rain in ancient Egypt

Heidi Köpp-Junk (Polish Academy of Sciences Warsaw)

While irrigation is very often discussed in Egyptology, dewatering systems are not. Therefore, the lecture focuses on dewatering systems for rainwater and used water in Pharaonic Egypt.

17th January 2024

Unknown royal statuary from Amarna

Kristin Thompson (The Amarna Project)

Less impressive pieces of Amarna statuary have sat unpublished in museum storerooms. Moreover, hundreds of fragments were discarded in dumps by early excavations. The current excavations have recovered thousands of pieces of stone from these dumps, many of them pieces of statues. This talk will show a sampling of unknown pieces.

28th February 2024

Conservation of Artefacts from TEC

Phil Parkes & MSc Conservation Practice Students, (Cardiff University)

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 recent conservation work carried out on Egypt Centre objects.

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

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

For further information or to become a member please contact:

Membership Secretary Wendy Goodridge:

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

25th Anniversary Celebrations: Happy Bithday Egypt Centre!



On Saturday October 7th, 50 people turned up at the Taliesin Mall Room, and 108 more joined us online for a day of talks focussing on the achievements of the Egypt Centre in the last 25 years, under the curatorships of **Carolyn Graves-Brown**, and more recently, **Ken Griffin**.

Apart from Swansea University staff and students, Egypt Centre staff and volunteers, and Friends of The Egypt Centre members, we also welcomed in person the Visitor & Cultural Services Manager of the *Harrogate Museum*, May Catt; the curator of the *Petrie Museum*, Anna Garnett, and the head of the *Cardiff University* conservation department, Phil Parkes, with some of his students.





Volunteer **Alison John** made some delicious Welsh cakes and special 25th anniversary sponge cakes for our coffee breaks and the drinks reception, and we had an excellent buffet lunch.



Apart from fascinating talks (as listed in the last edition, and on Ken's blog*), various artefacts have been put on display in the galleries to link with the celebrations and the talks. Make sure to check them out next time you are in:





Djedhor the Saviour, who last made an appearance at the December 2022 Volunteer Christmas party, the Swansea base having been reunited with its statue from the Petrie Museum (see Newsletter Jan-Mar 2023).

A Middle Kingdom wooden figure (**HARGM 7673**) which led volunteer (and Birmingham University PhD student) **Sam Powell** to **Harrogate**, and indeed, the Harrogate loan to Swansea (see her blog**).





The first exhibition of Harrogate artefacts, 'Causing their Names to Live' (check out the trail on Abaset).



A beautiful Soter style shroud conserved by **Courtney Lyons**, a conservation student from Cardiff University.

Written by: Dulcie Engel

Thanks to everyone who organised, spoke, and participated in the event.

Links to a recording of the talks, the trail, and a free PDF about the Harrogate exhibition are accessible from Ken's EC collection blog of 9/10/23, or via Abaset. ^{1/2}

*This is the link to Ken's blog.





**This is the link to <u>Sam's blog</u>.

Egypt Centre Collection Blog



And | Quote ...

'Be a scribe. It will save you from toil and protect you from every kind of work. It will spare you from bearing hoe and mattock, so that you will not have to carry a basket. It will keep you from plying the oar and spare you all manner of hardships'

(Part of a New Kingdom didactic text from Papyrus Chester Beatty IV)

Egyptology in The News



More exhibitions: Australia, USA, Europe ...

of Antiquities in Museum (Netherlands), is touring around **Australia**, starting off in **Perth**. And in June, the *National Gallery of Victoria* in **Melbourne** is showcasing 'Pharaoh 2024': a Egyptian treasures on loan from the *British Museum*. This is in addition to 'Ramses & the Gold of the analysed as part of the Yale Ancient Pharmacology Pharaohs', coming to **Sydney** in November (as Program. It was found to contain traces of an opiate mentioned in our last issue): it has just been confirmed concoction. that the ornate carved cedar coffin of Ramses II will be allowed to travel to the Australian Museum. This is ...and canopic jars only the second time it has ever left Egypt for exhibition (after Paris).

'Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience' is travelling around North America, and Connecticut is the next stop. It has partly been created by National inside walls of the jars and subjected to a detailed Geographic, and uses virtual reality. There is another chemical analysis by scientists from the Max Planck travelling exhibition of replicas from the *Egyptian Institute* in **Germany**. They discovered that different *Museum* in **Cairo**, and a reconstruction of substances were used to preserve different organs. Tutankhamun's tomb in 'Tutankhamun: Discovering Furthermore, many ingredients would have been the Forgotten Pharaoh' (Strasbourg, France October imported, thus indicating Senetnay's high status. -February). Also in France, at the *Louvre* in Paris, 'Egypt Augmented' is an augmented reality experience using QR codes developed by *Snap*, and running until autumn 2024. 'Face to Face: the People behind Mummy Portraits' is showing in Amsterdam from October to February. And 'Egyptian Mummies: Exploring Ancient Lives', in collaboration with the British Museum, is now in Valencia, Spain (October-January). In **Rome** until January, you can see 'The Beloved of Isis: Nero, the Domus Aurea, and Egypt'. Slightly closer to home, the descendants of **James Ogden**, the jeweller who valued gold and jewellery for Howard Carter in Tutankhamun's tomb, are hosting an exhibition of his souvenirs and lantern slides at the family shop in **Harrogate**, **Yorkshire**. And *West* Berkshire Museum is showing artefacts from the Sections of a famous 4000 year old text, 'The dispute collection of Harold Peake in 'From the Nile to Newbury' in a year-long display.

Could this be the world's oldest book?

The *University of Graz*, **Austria**, holds a Ptolemaic Period papyrus, originally listing tax accounts for beer and oil, and later re-used as part of a cartonnage mummy case, which was found at **El-Hiba** in 1902. Recent examination has revealed traces of stitching, suggesting it was once part of a book, rather than a scroll. This would make it at least 400 years older than the earliest known books.

AI and Ancient Egyptian architecture combo a real success!

Egyptian-American graphic designer Hassan Ragab has used AI image generation tools to create images

which combine ancient Egyptian temple interiors with elements of modern interior design. The pictures went 'Discovering Ancient Egypt', an exhibition from the viral on social media, and there were calls for them to **Leiden** be turned into actual hotel rooms.

Egyptian alabastron pot contents analysed

blockbuster exhibition with more than 500 Ancient The small calcite vessel, which dates from 486-465 BCE is in the *Peabody Museum* at **Yale**, **USA**, and was

The jars belonged to **Senetnay**, an 18th dynasty noblewoman who was the wet nurse to Amenhotep II, and wife of **Sennefer** (mayor of **Thebes**). Samples of dried mummification balm were scraped off the

Hawass reiterates request to repatriate the Rosetta Stone

Egyptologist **Zahi Hawass** has urged *UNESCO* to help Egypt recover ancient artefacts from the British Museum following the recent revelations of thefts from the museum. Chief among these artefacts is the Rosetta Stone, which is the most visited exhibit in the BM. In related news, Hawass is embarking on a series of international promotional tours to encourage tourism to Egypt. He was also appointed as an ambassador for world tourism in 2021.

Missing parts of papyrus found in Mallorca

between a man and his ba', held at the Egyptian Museum in **Berlin**, have been discovered by a Spanish Egyptologist in the archives of a small museum in **Mallorca**. This discovery has made it possible to understand the full context of the tale.

Ancient Egyptian technology could help cool buildings today

According to a team of engineers based at Washington State University (USA), a passive cooling method dating back to the Egypt of 2500 BCE could be used as a basis for a modern system. Moisture evaporates at the top of large towers, and then sinks down as cooler air to the rooms below.

Egyptian film about Tutankhamun in preparation

'The Last Pharaoh' will cover the life of the boy king, and the discovery of his tomb in 1922. The well-known Egyptian actor **Karim Abdelaziz** will star in the title role.

New wooden ceiling in Karnak temple Newsletter). provokes criticism

However, an archaeologist at the *Ministry of Tourism* and *Antiquities* says the ceiling is important to protect An Egyptian archaeological mission has discovered the the painted columns from the sun. It is part of a larger remains of a sunken ship from the third century BCE at project to improve visitor amenities at **Karnak**, a site on the northern coast near **El-Alamein**. The including more signage, benches and bins.

Completed restoration of Djoser Pyramid among most important projects

The work has taken 14 years, and will be a great draw for tourists. It is considered to be the oldest stone building in the world at 4700 years old.

Modern techniques to analyse ancient graffiti

A Canadian team is working to create a 3D model of the *Temple of Isis* at **Philae**, using digital visualisation techniques to analyse non-written graffiti, such as carved figures of humans and animals. Photogrammetry is used alongside a portable laser scanner to capture images in the darkest recesses of the building. Context is very important: the amount and type of graffiti can suggest which areas were off limits to worshippers, or particularly crowded.

Luxor: perfectly preserved mummified remains found

The remains of the woman in her 3000 year old coffin were opened at **El-Asasef** following the discovery by a team of French researchers.

USA: Penn museum plans for Egyptian display

The 136-year-old museum in **Philadelphia** plans to renovate its Ancient Egypt and Nubia galleries to give more display space to the collection of nearly 50 000 artefacts, one of the largest in the USA. The new galleries should open in 2026, and will feature the 2300 BCE tomb chapel of **Kaipure** from **Saqqara**, and the 3000 year old palace of **Merenptah**, complete with 30 foot columns.

Blue plaque for Egyptologist Harold Jones

The plaque was unveiled by the current **Lady Carnarvon**, and the Egyptologist **Joann Fletcher** at the **Barnsley**, Yorkshire birthplace of Jones (1877-1911), who worked with Howard Carter in Egypt. He had family links to south west Wales, and some of his finds are exhibited in a display dedicated to him at the *Carmarthenshire Museum*. The EC has 4 items in its collection previously owned by Jones (see Abaset).

Secrets of the Great Pyramid revealed by scientific experiments?

Working on a model of the pyramid, Russian physicists from **St. Petersburg**'s *ITMO University* have claimed that the shape could focus electromagnetic energy.

Meanwhile, in an experiment carried out in Connecticut (USA), engineer Glenn Dash claims the pyramid builders used the autumn equinox shadows to align the pyramid to the cardinal points. In other Great Pyramid news, the virtual 'Horizon of Khufu' experience has now come to **London** (Westfield Shopping Centre, **Stratford**) after Paris and **Shanghai** (as noted in last Newsletter).

Under the sea...

An Egyptian archaeological mission has discovered the remains of a sunken ship from the third century BCE at a site on the northern coast near **El-Alamein**. The area was an important trading centre during this period, with many ports. And following the discovery of a tunnel at **Taposiris Magna** near **Alexandria**, scientists have launched a new attempt to find the lost tomb of **Cleopatra VII**, which they believe could now be under the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, French marine archaeologist **Franck Goddio**'s team have made more discoveries at a temple to **Amun** in **Thonis-Heracleion** on the **Bay of Aboukir**, including gold jewellery, silver ritual instruments and travertine perfume jars. The temple had collapsed into a canal during the second century BCE.

Across the universe...

A NASA spacecraft named **Osiris-Rex**, after the Egyptian god of the afterlife, has brought back to earth samples from the surface of an asteroid named **Bennu**, after the Egyptian god linked to the sun, creation and rebirth (the ba of **Ra**). The spacecraft has now been renamed **Osiris-Apex** and is starting a new mission to another asteroid named **Apophis**, after the Egyptian god of chaos and darkness. Osiris actually stands for *Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification & Security*.

And out of this world!

At a recent UFO conference, claims were made that **Akhenaten** was linked to a recent Mexican 'alien' discovery being investigated by *NASA*... And a New Kingdom bust in the *Chicago Field Museum* which bears an uncanny resemblance to **Michael Jackson** has led conspiracy theorists to speculate that the late pop star was a time traveller. His Ancient Egyptian themed pop video for 'Remember the Time' is being quoted as supporting evidence! A large dose of (natron) salt is required to swallow these stories!

Turin's famous Egyptian Museum at centre of political row

A right-wing Italian MP has called for the director of the museum to be sacked after discounted tickets were offered to Arabic speakers as a way to promote dialogue, and acknowledge the origin of the artefacts. The politician accuses the director of being racist towards Italians.



Egyptology in The News (cont.)

Devon museum claims evidence of 'ghost mummy'

Museum, it has been claimed that fingerprints were discovered inside a case holding a coffin containing the mummified remains of a young child. Apparently, the 10 000 artefacts, and covers political, daily, religious case had not been opened for seven years. Whatever and intellectual life in Greek and Roman Egypt. mummified remains of a young child. Apparently, the the explanation, it should encourage visitors!

The 13th dynasty shabti was bought in 2017 from American university launches LGBTQ ancient history dealer Mousa Kholi, who has been convicted of smuggling artefacts from Egypt and Yemen to the USA investigation by US authorities.

Discoveries between Abusir and Saggara

An Egyptian-German mission has uncovered 8 storage chambers (also known as magazines) inside the pyramid of **Sahure** at the **Abusir** necropolis. Sahure was a 5th Dynasty king, and the first to be buried at Abusir. Meanwhile, a Czech team have re-located the In a cemetery of rock-cut tombs, the remains of high-French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette 160 years ago. now, the area has been known for earlier burials. He recovered the false door of the tomb, which is now in the British Museum. The Czech archaeological First GEM exhibition announced mission has also discovered the 27th Dynasty tomb of a royal scribe, **Djehutyemhat**, at Abusir. Scattered bone remains near the sarcophagus suggest he died at around 25 years of age.

wine jars for queen

At the **Umm El Qa'āb** necropolis, a team of archaeologists researching an ancient royal tomb filled with offerings for Queen Merneith have discovered hundreds of 5000 year old sealed wine jars. Merneith was a First Dynasty leader, possibly the first female. The replica has been placed in its original location in pharaoh.

Games news: Total War Pharaoh launch

The long-awaited Ancient Egypt themed Total War game was launched by Creative Assembly and Sega in Snakes on a... papyrus! October, in conjunction with a *Total War Ancient* Legacies of Egypt exhibition. Sand sculptures of the Great Pyramid, the Great Sphinx, a scarab beetle and a bust of **Ramesses III** were constructed, each standing at around 1.7m high and weighing up to 800 Outernet, Soho, London.

The museum, built in Greek architectural style in 1895, was closed from 2005 for renovation. It finally re-

opened this October. Walls have been reinforced, and better lighting and security systems have been In a series of unexplained occurrences at *Torquay* installed. Renovations were also carried out on educational, archive, storage and restoration facilities. Accessibility was also improved. The museum contains Meanwhile, a 2200 year old statue of **Alexander the Great** has been found by archaeologists in the **Al**-The British Museum and the Shatby neighbourhood of Alexandria, alongside smuggled shabti statue moulds, pottery, coins etc.

course

in 2012. The museum is cooperating with the The course, entitled "LGBTQ Antiquity: A View from the Mediterranean" explores LGBTQ life in Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, through literary texts of the period. It has been devised by Tina Chronopoulos of Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Tuna El-Gebel: new burial site discovery

lost mastaba tomb of Egyptian official **Ptahshepses** ranking New Kingdom officials and priests have been (4th-5th dynasties). Egyptian anthropologists have found inside stone and wooden coffins, along with analysed the newly discovered mummified remains, jewellery, amulets, plus clay and wooden shabtis. analysed the newly discovered mummified remains, jewellery, amulets, plus clay and wooden shabtis. which are very well-preserved, and they confirm that There is also a 13-15 meter long papyrus of the *Book* he died in old age. The tomb was originally found by *of the Dead*. This is all the more remarkable as up to

'Tutankhamun- The Immersive Exhibition' will make its international premiere at the Grand Egyptian Museum in November. Using state of the art projections produced by Madrid Artes Digitales, visitors will partake Abydos tomb reveals sealed in an audio-visual experience and a 360 degree spectacle. This award-winning exhibition was first launched in **Madrid** in November 2022, attracting over 300,000 visitors in 8 months.

Karnak: Replica of King List installed

the Akh-Menu Hall at Karnak Temple in Luxor. The list contains the names of 61 kings (although only 39 are legible), including ones not listed elsewhere. The original is on display at the Louvre in Paris.

Recent research by W. Wüster, I.C. Winder and E. McBride of the Department of Zoology at Bangor University examines the snakes listed on the Brooklyn Papyrus (660-330 BCE). 37 species are listed: far more kg. Sadly, this was just a one-day exhibition at The than can currently be found in Egypt. Using climate niche modelling, the study was able to show that the more humid climate of early ancient Egypt would have Alexandria: official re-opening of supported many snakes which are no longer there, **Greco-Roman museum** including the black mamba, puff adder and boomslang.

The Algerian artist uses colours inspired by Ancient Egypt, in particular, the blue of lapis lazuli; and pen strokes inspired by the khopesh, an Ancient Egyptian dagger. His work is now on show at the *Dubai* Calligraphy Biennale.

New Year's scene uncovered in temple restoration

At the 2200 year old temple of **Esna**, researchers from the *University of Tübingen*, Germany, and the Egyptian **Fife** from 1952 onwards, when the former stately home Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities have found a was a school, and later a residential school for young

A team of biologists, anthropologists and Egyptologists led by Gisela Kopp, a biologist from Konstanz, Germany, have recently published a study on the of baboons imported geographical origins mummification as votive offerings to **Thoth**. Using genetic analysis of mummified baboons, it was possible to narrow down the area to the coastal region of **Eritrea**, which is the probable location of the ancient trading port of **Adulis**. This suggests that the area could be the legendary region of **Punt**. Furthermore, it is the first time that ancient DNA from non-human primates has been analysed successfully.

Giza 1: modern art installations on show

'Forever is Now III' (the third year that the exhibition has been held), aims to celebrate ancient Egyptian culture through modern interpretation. Exhibits include 'Mirror Gate', a limestone portal with blue and gold decorations, 'Ra', a glass sundial structure, and 'Translucent Pyramid', constructed out of wicker crates.

Giza 2: 'Sculpting the Sphinx'

Boury, Weady & **Ristroph** of *New York University* recently experimented on the fluid mechanical erosion of clay. Their research concluded that it is likely that the rock was first eroded by fast-flowing wind into a sphinx-like shape, long before ancient Egyptian sculptors completed the statue.

Amarna woman had teratoma

Gretchen Dabs, a bioarchaeologist at Southern Illinois University, has recently published analysis of this extremely rare tumour, a mass typically occurring in the ovaries or testicles, which can contain bone, or as in this case, teeth. The young woman was buried in the North Desert Cemetery, wrapped in a plant fibre mat, and wearing a Bes ring.

Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood reopens after restoration

Following a \$70m restoration funded by *Netflix*, the historic cinema will host film premieres and events once again. The 101-year-old building boasts a jewelled auditorium ceiling decorated with lotus flowers, a scarab and an ibis, plus Egyptian style columns and

Sneak Hotep: the graffiti artist murals in the courtyard. It has been described by turned calligrapher Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos as one of America's 'temples of storytelling'; and by a Guardian reporter as 'an ornate fantasia on Egyptian themes'.

Scottish Egyptian artefacts story finally told

National Museum of Scotland's Mediterranean curator, **Dr Elizabeth Goring**, and her successor, **Dr Margaret Maitland**, have published, for the first time, the story of a series of Egyptian discoveries in the grounds of *Melville House* in stunning painting on the roof representing the mythology of the Egyptian New Year, linked to the Nile flood season.

New research on baboons

New research on baboons in Ancient Egypt who once lived there, and most are now in the museum.

Compiled & summarised by Dulcie Engel



lorus vs. Seth Coming soon to the gift shop! Volunteer and artist Jade Price has asked us to show you a mock-up of her poster design of **Horus vs. Seth**. The poster will be on sale in the gift shop. Photo: © Jade Price



Ancient Egypt beginning with 'F'

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- 1. faience
- 2. falcon
- 3. Fayum
- 4. fertility
- 5. festival
- 6. field
- 7. fish
- 8. fly
- 9. foundation
- 10. frog
- 11. funerary
- 12. furniture
- 13. four
- 14. feather
- 15. flail
- 16. fowl









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.howells@swansea.ac.uk