

1882

The Egypt Exploration Society

News and Events Autumn/Winter 2009-10

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LONDON STUDY DAY

In The Time of the Demigods: Egypt in the Pre- and Early Dynastic Periods

Saturday 12 December 2009

The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Tickets: £23 (EES members), £26 (non-members) Students: £15 (EES members), £17 (non-members).

- 09.30 Doors open for registration and a sale of books in the foyer to the Brunei Gallery Theatre
- 10.20 Opening remarks
- 10.30 Dr Alice Stevenson, *Peculiar pebbles and freak flints: votive deposits in Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt*
- 11.15 Liam McNamara, *'Holy rubbish'? Reinterpreting the Hierakonpolis Main Deposit*
- 12.00 Coffee/tea and biscuits
- 12.20 Dr Sonia Zakrzewski, *Bodies of Evidence: identity and Egyptian skeletons*
- 13.05 Dr Helen Whitehouse, *Petrie, Arthur Evans, and the emergence of Early Egypt in Oxford*
- 13.50 Summary of the day's talks and discussion chaired by Dr Stevenson
- 14.00 Lunch (please make your own arrangements)

Dr Alice Stevenson is a Post-Doctoral Researcher in World Archaeology at the Pitt Rivers Museum and Junior Research Fellow of St Cross College, University of Oxford. The Pitt Rivers Museum includes in its collection a large amount of material from John Garstang's 1900-01 excavation of the Predynastic settlement of el-Mahasna. This includes two deposits of natural stones that are unusual in their shapes, textures and colours and which, to date, have never been fully published. These objects have parallels in the better-known Early Dynastic and later votive assemblages at Elephantine, Abydos and Tell Ibrahim Awad, but such objects are rarely discussed in detail in comparison to the crafted items found in these contexts. Through a consideration of the nature and character of these artefacts the importance of natural pebbles and flints as an ideological resource for local communities will be highlighted.

Liam McNamara is a Laycock Scholar in Egyptology at Worcester College, University of Oxford. Since its discovery by James Quibell and Frederick Green in 1897, the Hierakonpolis 'Main Deposit' has been interpreted as a cache of discarded temple furniture and votive objects originating from an Early Dynastic temple at the site. The foundations of this building were identified in a revetted mound of desert sand in the centre of the later temple enclosure. An examination of the excavated remains, however, reveals little evidence to support these assumptions: the surviving material was not discovered in its original context and was inadequately recorded. A reinterpretation of the revetted mound and a new context for the Main Deposit will be proposed; namely, that the excavated remains represent not an early temple but an arena for festivals of kingship, and that the objects therefore relate to royal cultic activity at the site, rather than to the cult of a single deity. The implications of this hypothesis for similar caches of votive objects discovered at sites throughout Egypt will also be discussed.

Dr Sonia Zakrzewski is a Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Southampton. Much is known of the burials and bodies in Predynastic Egypt, but the interplay between human biology and the expression of identity upon the body has been little explored. Dr Zakrzewski will discuss how skeletons may be used to study ethnicity and identity. Ethnicity in Egypt is considered here through patterning in both morphology and diet. Morphology can be used as a marker of migration and mobility, and therefore of ethnicity, and yet identity is also acted and re-enacted each day by individuals through their food consumption ("Dis-moi ce que tu manges, je te dirai ce que tu es" (Brillat-Savarin, 1826)). Examples from the Predynastic burial record will be discussed to demonstrate different and interacting aspects of identity and personhood.

Dr Helen Whitehouse is a Senior Assistant Keeper in the Department of Antiquities of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and curator of the Egyptian and Nubian collections. The period of Arthur Evans's dynamic Keepership of the Ashmolean (1884-1908) also saw the greatest influx of excavated material from the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund and Petrie's Egyptian Research Account. Prominent amongst these accessions were the objects epitomising Egypt's development towards political unity and statehood, from sites such as Naqada, Koptos, Hierakonpolis, and Abydos. The evolving interpretation of these artefacts, counterpointed by the fruitful working relationship between Petrie and Evans as evidenced in the museum's archives, forms an intriguing chapter in the history of Egyptology.

To reserve your ticket please use the application form on p. 8 or book online at www.ees.ac.uk/events/index.html.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY

(Registered Charity No.212384. Registered Company No.25816)

will be held in

THE BRUNEI THEATRE

School of Oriental and African Studies,
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
on Saturday 12 December, 2009 at 3.00 pm

Annual General Meeting

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. To adopt the Report of the Board of Trustees for 2008–09.
3. To adopt the Report of the Examiners and the Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2008-09.
4. To re-elect Sir Julian Horn-Smith as President of the Society.
5. To elect the Egyptian Cultural Counsellor as a Vice-President of the Society.
6. To elect Members of the Board of Trustees.*
 - 6.i To elect Mr George Hart to the Board of Trustees
 - 6.ii To elect Mr John J Johnston to the Board of Trustees
 - 6.iii To elect Mr Robert Lee to the Board of Trustees
 - 6.iv To elect Mr Robert Partridge to the Board of Trustees
 - 6.v To elect Ms Judi Sykes to the Board of Trustees
7. To appoint Auditors/Examiners for 2009-10 and to authorize the Board of Trustees to fix their remuneration.

* Under Article 12 of the Articles of Association there will be five vacancies to be filled and the following are nominated by the Trustees:

- Mr George Hart (Retired Lecturer in the Education Department of the British Museum).
- Mr John J Johnston (Divisional Quality and Performance Manager, Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure Division, London Borough of Southwark).
- Mr Robert Lee (Partner and Head of Real Estate, Davies Arnold Cooper)
- Ms Judi Sykes (Assistant Director, Working Capital Advisory Services, Ernst & Young)

Under Article 18.2 the following member has also been nominated:

- Mr Bob Partridge (Retired Manager, Barclays Bank).

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting and wish to vote by proxy, please complete the separate proxy voting form and return it to the EES Office. Brief biographies of each of the nominee Trustees can be found on the back of the separate proxy-voting form.

PATRICIA SPENCER
Director



BOOK LAUNCH

Karen Exell, *Soldiers, Sailors and Sandalmakers*

Thursday 26 November 2009, 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

The Egypt Exploration Society, 3, Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG

Entry is free of charge but numbers are limited so application for tickets as normal is required.

On 26 November the Society will be hosting a book launch at Doughty Mews in collaboration with Golden House Publications (www.goldenhp.co.uk/) to celebrate the recent publication of a new book by EES Trustee and Curator of Egypt and Sudan at the Manchester Museum, Dr Karen Exell:

Soldiers, Sailors and Sandalmakers. A Social Reading of Ramesside Period Votive Stelae
(GHP Egyptology 10; London, Golden House Publications, 2009).

Dr Exell will give a short presentation on her work which will be followed by a reception at which members will have the opportunity to chat to Karen over a glass of wine and to buy a copy of her book at the special discount price of £25 (normal price £30). Further Golden House Publications will also be available at discount prices on the night. For tickets please see the application form on p. 8 or book online: www.ees.ac.uk/events/index.html

AGM and ANNUAL LECTURE

Saturday 12 December 2009, 3-5pm

The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Egypt Exploration Society will be held on Saturday 12 December in the Brunei Gallery Theatre, SOAS at 3pm. Further information and the agenda can be found on p. 3. The meeting will be followed at 4 pm by the Society's annual lecture:

Dr Penny Wilson, *Water, Water Everywhere...*
The Dynamics of Life in the Nile Delta: Past and Future Prospects

Dr Wilson will present the results of the Delta Survey in the western and northern Nile Delta and recent excavations at Sais and discuss the distinctive character of Delta life in the past from the point of view of landscape, movement of people and animals, and day to day life. Her talk will also address the future of archaeological work in the Delta in the face of modern environmental and social pressures. Dr Wilson is Field Director of the joint University of Durham / EES mission to Sais and Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. She is also co-author, with Dimitris Grigoropoulos, of the Society's recently published eighty-sixth Excavation Memoir, *The West Delta Regional Survey, Beheira and Kafr el-Sheikh Provinces*, which will be on sale at the study day (see p.2) and after the lecture. **Entry to the lecture is free of charge to EES members.**

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 12 December 2009, 5-7 pm

The Brunei Gallery Suite, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Tickets: £10 (EES members), £12 (non-members). Students: £8 (EES members), £10 (non-members).

The Society's Christmas party will be held in the Brunei Suite at SOAS following Dr Wilson's lecture. Members are warmly invited to join us for a glass of wine, a mince pie and the chance to discuss the Society and its work with Trustees, staff and field directors. We are always very keen to meet our members and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day. For tickets please see the application form on p. 8 or book online: <http://www.ees.ac.uk/events/index.html>

WINTER OFFICE CLOSURES

The London Office and Library will close at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 23 December 2009 and reopen after the Christmas/New Year holidays at 10.30 am on Tuesday 5 January 2009.

The Cairo Office will be closed on 29-30 November 2008 (Eid el-Adha)*, 17 or 18 December (Islamic new year)*, 27 December (following Christmas Day); 1 January 2009 (New Year's Day), 7 January (Coptic Christmas), 26 February (Prophet's Birthday)*. *Subject to lunar observation.

LONDON SEMINARS



The following seminars will be held in The Committee Room, The Egypt Exploration Society, 3, Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG. Attendance is limited to 30 places and these events usually sell out very quickly so early application is strongly recommended. Coffee and tea is provided on arrival and before the afternoon session, and there is a one hour break for lunch. Lunch is not included but there are many restaurants/café's in the nearby Lamb's Conduit Street and Brunswick Centre. Members may also bring packed lunches to eat in the Office.

To book tickets please see the application form on p. 8 or book online: <http://www.ees.ac.uk/events/index.html>

Falcons, Ibises, Baboons and Dogs: new research at the Sacred Animal Necropolis, North Saqqara

Saturday 30 January 2010, 11 am – 4 pm (including a one hour lunch break)

Tickets (available to members only): £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student members).

Some of the largest and most productive excavations ever undertaken in Egypt were those of the Society at the vast network of catacombs, and associated cultic buildings now known as the Sacred Animal Necropolis, North Saqqara. Although the most intensive fieldwork was undertaken during the 1960s and 70s study and publication of the material is ongoing, and much of the site remains unexplored.

The seminar will be led by **Dr Paul Nicholson**, The Society's Vice-Chair and Reader in Archaeology at Cardiff University, who has been heavily involved in fieldwork and research at the site for many years and has recently begun a new project working on the dog catacombs. Dr Nicholson will be discussing the new work in the context of the site as a whole.

The Night of Counting the Years: royal mummies and robbers

Saturday 20 February 2010, 11 am – 4 pm (including a one hour lunch break)

Tickets (available to members only): £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student members).

“Collecting my senses, I ... at once saw that they contained the mummies of royal personages of both sexes; and yet that was not all. Plunging on ahead of my guide, I came to the [end] chamber ... and there standing against the walls or here lying on the floor, I found an even greater number of mummy-cases of stupendous size and weight.”

So wrote Émile Brugsch of his inspection of the cache of Royal Mummies which had been discovered, and subsequently kept secret by the Abd er-Rassoul brothers who lived in the hills of the necropolis. This seminar focusses on the cache, the brothers' secretive dispersal of some of the objects to the antiquities market, and the material that remained for Brugsch to discover when their secret was finally blown. Recent work at the site of the cache will also be discussed.

The seminar will be led by **Dylan Bickerstaffe**, independent researcher and author of *Refugees for Eternity: Identifying the Royal Mummies Pt. 4: The Royal Mummies of Thebes* (Canopus Press, 2009).

During the second part of the day we will be showing the 1969 dramatisation of the events surrounding the discovery, *Al-Mummia*, better known as *The Night of Counting the Years*. The film was shot on location in and around the tombs of the Theban west bank and is now recognised as a classic of Egyptian cinema. It will be shown in Arabic with English subtitles. **John J Johnston**, an expert on ancient Egypt in cinema, has kindly agreed to provide an introductory talk on the movie.

Coptic Thebes: life in the 7th and 8th centuries AD

Saturday 17 April 2010, 11 am – 4 pm (including a one hour lunch break)

Tickets (available to members only): £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student members).

During the 7th and 8th centuries Thebes was the location of a bustling Coptic community, in which both Deir el-Bahri and Medinet Habu played key roles. Edouard Naville, on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund, was responsible for the removal of the Coptic elements at the former site in his 1895/6 season, while the latter was cleared between the 1880s and 1920s, in a decidedly *ad hoc* fashion. Little physical evidence of this period remains at either site. However, a rich corpus of textual material exists and it is this, in conjunction with what archaeological evidence we have, that enables a reconstruction of life in the region during this time. This seminar will present new research on this material and will be led by:

Dr Jenny Cromwell, Lady Wallis Budge Junior Research Fellow in Egyptology, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford.



The Third British Egyptology Congress (BEC3)

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September 2010, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG

* SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS *

The Egypt Exploration Society, The Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, British Museum and University College London invite the submission of papers for presentation at the Third British Egyptology Congress (BEC3) to be held in September 2010 in London.

The aim of the Congress is to provide all those involved in scholarly research in Egyptology in the UK with a forum to discuss their work and to share ideas, not only with each other but with a wider audience as well. The emphasis is very much on the informal: contributors will be required to talk for 20-25 minutes on research undertaken since the last event in March 2008, regardless of what stage it has reached. The papers will not be published but summaries will be made available online.

The sponsors welcome contributions from all UK-based scholars involved in academic research in Egyptology, regardless of affiliation or status. Submissions will be peer-reviewed and should take the form of an abstract of 100-300 words in length, in MS Word (.rtf, .doc or .docx) or pdf format, which should be sent with a covering note including the contributor's name, institutional affiliation (if applicable) and status / job description (student, lecturer, curator, independent researcher etc.) to:

bec3@ees.ac.uk

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 5 pm, Monday 1 February 2010.

In the event that we are unable to accommodate all contributors some will be invited to present their work in poster form. Provisionally, registration fees will be as follows: Speakers £30, student speakers £20. **Payment is not required at this stage;** a full announcement giving details of fees for speakers and non-speakers will be included in the Spring (2010) mailing.

EVENING CLASSES

From Dung Beetles to Double Crowns: amulets and other adornments in ancient Egypt with Carol Andrews

Tuesdays 9 February – Tuesday 16 March (6 lectures), 7.00 - 8.30 pm
The Egypt Exploration Society, 3 Doughty Mews, London, WC1N 2PG
Fee: £80 (EES members), £100 (non-members).

In early 2010 the Society will be running classes on some of the most commonly found types of object on archaeological sites in Egypt: amulets, including scarabs, and other adornments. The classes will be taught by Carol Andrews, formerly Assistant Keeper in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum and author of numerous books including *Amulets of Ancient Egypt*, *Ancient Egyptian Jewellery* and *Egyptian Mummies*.

Amulets, and jewellery incorporating amuletic elements, were believed to endow the wearer (whether living or dead) by magical means with the properties they represent. They were first made in Egypt as early as 4,000 BC and whether crafted from precious metal, semi-precious stones or less valuable materials, not only represent examples of Egyptian art but provide a vital source of evidence for religious and funerary beliefs. These lavishly illustrated lectures will cover, in some detail, the types of amulet, their symbolism, and supposed powers. Carol will make liberal use of the British Museum's extensive amuletic collections as well as material discovered by the EES in its excavations, and participants will be encouraged to make use of the extensive library facilities at Doughty Mews where they will find a vast amount of relevant literature.

Although the course is unaccredited and as such written work is not compulsory, participants have the option to undertake project work, essays and/or workbooks under the supervision of the tutor to enhance their learning and engagement with the course material. Classes will be held on the following Tuesdays:

9 February, 16 February, 23 February, 2 March, 9 March, and 16 March.

Enquiries should be addressed to Chris Naunton (chris.naunton@ees.ac.uk or c/o The EES - details on the front of this newsletter). Places are limited to 25 and early application is strongly recommended. To book a place on the course please complete the application form on the back of this newsletter and return it with your payment, or book online: <http://www.ees.ac.uk/events/index.html>

CAIRO LECTURES

EES lectures are held in the auditorium of the British Council at 7.00 pm.
Enquiries: Mrs Faten Saleh, EES Cairo Office, c/o British Council, 192 Sharia el-Nil, Agouza, Cairo.
Phone: +20 (0)2 33001886. E-mail: ees.cairo@britishcouncil.org.eg



26 October. Dr Karol Mysliwiec, *The Tomb of Ny-ankh-Nefertem in Saqqara (6th Dynasty)*

16 November. Dr Nabil Swelim, *Pyramid Status*

23 November. Dr Yusef Mazhar, *Theories of Pyramid Building*

For further information about site visits and further lectures in Cairo please contact Faten (details above).

LONDON CONFERENCE: *Disciplinary Measures? Histories of Egyptology in a Multi-Disciplinary Context*

Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 June 2010, London, venue tbc.

This conference is sponsored jointly by The EES, The Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and The Heritage Studies Research Group, University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology.

Disciplinary Measures? aims to provide a discussion forum for the increasing number of people working on the history (or histories) of the discipline of Egyptology. The conference is not limited to Egyptologists but seeks to set the multiple histories of Egyptology in a broader, multi-disciplinary context, concomitant with the manner in which studies of the discipline have emerged in recent years. The conference aims to stimulate critique and constructive dialogue as its title suggests and will benefit from the involvement of three diverse institutions, the combination of whose separate goals embodies its aims. The SOAS Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies provides a suitable environment to discuss the place of the - arguably colonial - discipline of Egyptology in the postcolonial world and with the involvement of the EES, Britain's learned society for Egyptology, such discussions will be strengthened by the involvement of Egyptologists. Furthermore, the expertise provided by UCL's Institute of Archaeology in the field of Heritage Studies (not to mention its links with the Egyptologist Flinders Petrie) adds a further element, allowing for a fuller understanding of Egyptology's (not insignificant) place within current heritage discourse. For further information, or if you are interested in contributing a paper, please contact William Carruthers: w_carruthers@yahoo.com.

The third day of the conference - Saturday 12 June 2010 - will be an EES study day, featuring speakers including: Elliott Colla, David Jeffreys, Jaromir Malek, Stephen Quirke and Donald Reid. Tickets will be available from March / April 2010; full details will be included in the Spring mailing.

OTHER DATES for the DIARY

Thursday 3 December 2009. EES Bolton Lecture: Dr John Peter Wild, *Cotton - the New Wool: Egypt and the Ancient Cotton Revolution*. Bolton Museum & Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, 7.30 - 8.30 pm. Details: Ms Rachael Rattigan: +44 (0)1204 338764. E-mail: rachael.rattigan@bolton.gov.uk

Friday 11 and Saturday 12 December 2009. Leiden Symposium: *Qasr Ibrim, between Egypt and Africa: a case study of cultural exchange*. For further information visit <http://tinyurl.com/yzgbpkt> or contact Mrs Carolien van Zoest: c.van.zoest@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 May 2010. EES / Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF) / Ancient Egypt and Middle East Society (AEMES) Study Weekend. Hosted by AEMES at Horncastle Residential College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6BW. For further information please contact Sue Kirk: sue.kirk12@btinternet.com

THE EES ONLINE

The Society launched a new version of its website during August. The address remains the same - www.ees.ac.uk - and you are strongly encouraged to visit the site if you have not done so recently. As well as completely overhauling the look and feel of the site, several new features have been added including a regularly updated page of news stories, a photo gallery, and a much improved page for the Society's events with the facility for booking and paying for tickets online.

Secondly, four new videos incorporating photos from the Society's archives and footage from the Oral History Project interviews were uploaded to the Society's YouTube page in September: <http://tinyurl.com/ykhqh9u>.

Do pay us a virtual visit, and let us know what you think!

BOOKING FORM

Thursday 26 November 2009. Book Launch: Karen Exell, *Soldiers, Sailors and Sandalmakers* (see p. 4).
Tickets: Entry is free of charge but as numbers are limited application for tickets as normal is required.

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Tickets: £23 (EES members), £26 (non-members); Students: £15 (EES members), £17 (non-members).

Saturday 12 December 2009. Members' Christmas Party (see p. 4).
Tickets: £10 (EES members), £12 (non-members) Students: £8 (EES members), £10 (non-members).

Saturday 30 January 2010. Seminar: *New research at the Sacred Animal Necropolis, North Saqqara* (see p. 5).
Tickets: £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student associate members).

Tuesdays from 9 February to 16 March. Evening Classes: *From Dung Beetles to Double Crowns* with Carol Andrews (see p. 6)
Course fee: £80 (EES members), £100 (non-members).

Saturday 20 February 2010. Seminar: *The Night of Counting the Years: royal mummies and robbers* (see p. 5).
Tickets: £12 (EES members), £15 (non-members).

Saturday 17 April 2010. Seminar: *Coptic Thebes: life in the 7th and 8th centuries AD* (see p. 5).
Tickets: £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student associate members).

STUDY DAY TICKETS include refreshments mid-morning. Lunch is not included but there are many restaurants/café's on Southampton Row, just a few minutes walk from SOAS. SEMINAR TICKETS include tea/coffee on arrival and after lunch. Lunch is not included but there are many restaurants/café's in the nearby Lambs Conduit Street and Brunswick Centre. Members may also bring sandwiches to eat in the Office.

Please send me the following tickets:

EVENT	TICKET RATE	No. of tickets	Total £
Exell Book launch	tickets - FREE of CHARGE		
Pre-/Early Dynastic study day	tickets at members' rate (£23)		
	tickets at non-members' rate (£26)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
	student tickets at non-members' rate (£17)		
Christmas Party	tickets at members' rate (£10)		
	tickets at non-members' rate (£12)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£8)		
	student tickets at non-members' rate (£10)		
Sacred Animals seminar	tickets at members' rate (£20)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
Carol Andrews evening classes	fee at members' rate (£80)		
	fee at non-members' (£100)		
Counting the Years seminar	tickets at members' rate (£20)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
Coptic Thebes seminar	tickets at members' rate (£20)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
	TOTAL		

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Egypt Exploration Society'. **Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.** Additional copies of this form are available from the London office on request. **It is also now possible to book tickets for all the above events online at <http://www.ees.ac.uk/events/index.html>**

Name

Address.....

Day-time telephone numberE-mail address