



The Egypt Exploration Society *working in Egypt for 125 years*

EES e-newsletter #11, May 2011

Dear friends,

We hope you all had a good Easter and that those of you in the UK enjoyed the long weekend break for the Royal Wedding and May Day bank holiday. Our field teams, including that co-directed by the Society's Director, Patricia Spencer, have now all returned from Egypt for the summer. We now have a full complement of staff in the London office again, and are looking forward to a busy spring and summer of events and other activities.

FIELDWORK

Despite the upheaval caused by the revolution and the uncertainty surrounding the future administration and security of Egypt's archaeological sites, normal service was, thanks to our colleagues in the SCA, resumed shortly after the resignation of President Mubarak, and our teams were among the first to return to work in the field. Three EES-funded expeditions were active in the Delta region from early March onwards (see [map](#)) and all sent very illuminating reports on their work and the situation 'on the ground'. In the aftermath of the revolution, huge amounts of information, hearsay, rumours and worse were circulating, particularly on the internet, and with there being such widespread concern for the security of the archaeological sites, we must all be very grateful to our teams for providing regular reports and images as they went along. It has also been especially gratifying to note that more visitors visited Patricia and Jo's pages from computers in Egypt than from anywhere else in the world except the UK.



Extracting a 'stuck' drill core at Kom Usim

Joanne Rowland continued her survey of Minufiyeh Province in the central Delta, dodging rainstorms to identify and date sites and to establish which might merit more thorough investigations in future. Jo finished on a high note at the beginning of April, not least because of the circumstances in Egypt when the season began: “It was particularly important to me that the season should take place at this time and it has proven that everything is very much as usual in respect of our work in Minufiyeh. Our colleagues have been very welcoming, as have the inhabitants of the three main areas in which we have worked. Everyone is very interested in what we have been doing and looking forward to our return visits in the summer.” For more of Jo’s reports see [here](#).



Jeff Spencer and colleague measuring a red granite mill-stone at Kom El-Daba

Patricia and Jeffrey Spencer surveyed the site of Kom el-Daba, in the Northern Delta, which exhibits the remains of monumental mud-brick and some red-granite millstones, presumably the re-used remains of what would once have been a glorious building of some kind. They were also able to visit a number of sites in the region for the Society’s [Delta Survey](#). At the beginning of the season, Patricia and Jeffrey, along with numerous colleagues, attended the second joint SCA / EES Delta Workshop at the British Council in Cairo. Throughout the event Patricia was able to post updates on the talks – including her own, during which a small earthquake was recorded in Cairo! – several of which included the first reports of the situation at important sites throughout the region in the wake of the revolution. To read more of the workshop and Patricia and Jeffrey’s survey work please see [here](#).



Taking photographs of the trench in Area A Y/4

Finally, the joint University of Potsdam / SCA **Tell Basta Project**, which is supported by the EES as an Amelia Edwards Project, completed a successful season on the site of the ancient city of Bubastis. The expedition, directed by Eva Lange, focussed on the excavation of a series of buildings within the temple enclosure. A summary of the season’s work was recently posted to the Society’s website [here](#). From Autumn 2011 the expedition will be a joint one of the University of Potsdam, the new Ministry of Antiquities in Egypt (the successor to the SCA) and

the EES. We are very grateful to all those who supported the project in response to our annual fundraising campaign; without your support this valuable work could not have been undertaken.

CENTENARY AWARDS

Two research projects funded by the Society through the Centenary Award have been making good progress with work outside Egypt in the early part of this year. Firstly, Jenny Cromwell travelled to Copenhagen in February to study a series of unpublished Coptic documents in the University's collection. Jenny is the first to study these texts in detail and by the end of her stay was able to establish the collection represents the contents of the economic and administrative archive of a monastery in the 7th and 8th centuries AD. Jenny's report is available [here](#). Secondly, during March, H el ene Virenque spent two weeks at Doughty Mews studying the letters of Edouard Naville for her project "A Swiss Egyptologist on Her Majesty's Service". H el ene's work is shedding valuable light on Naville's work particularly his excavations in the Delta, not least at Tell Basta, providing a fascinating complement to the work of Eva Lange and colleagues (see above). To read more see [here](#).



Jenny Cromwell (left) in Copenhagen, and H el ene Virenque in the Society's archives at Doughty Mews.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO SPONSOR AN EES BOOK THIS YEAR - GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Thank you to everyone who has already supported the 'Sponsor a Book' initiative, we have done tremendously well so far but we still have a long way to go in order to fully sponsor the three texts below. We remain entirely committed to the full and comprehensive, scientific publication of all of our research to a standard that scholars around the world have come to rely on us to deliver. Unfortunately, the cost to do this is ever increasing and so, for the first time we are asking our members and friends to consider sponsoring an EES title in 2011. Your support will enable our expertise and research to reach new audiences.

We have three new titles in the offing, and we seek sponsors for the following:

G T Martin, *The Tomb of Maya and Meryt I: The Reliefs and Inscriptions*

An attractive volume containing line drawings and photographs of scenes in this beautiful and highly important 18th Dynasty tomb which the Society discovered in 1986 in collaboration with the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden.

Estimated cost: £8,000

M L Bierbrier (Ed.), *Who Was Who in Egyptology* (4th Edition)

This has always been our best seller and is an increasingly valuable research tool for Egyptology. The forthcoming version will include many new biographies and photographs and will be an EES publication of critical importance.

Estimated cost: £3,000

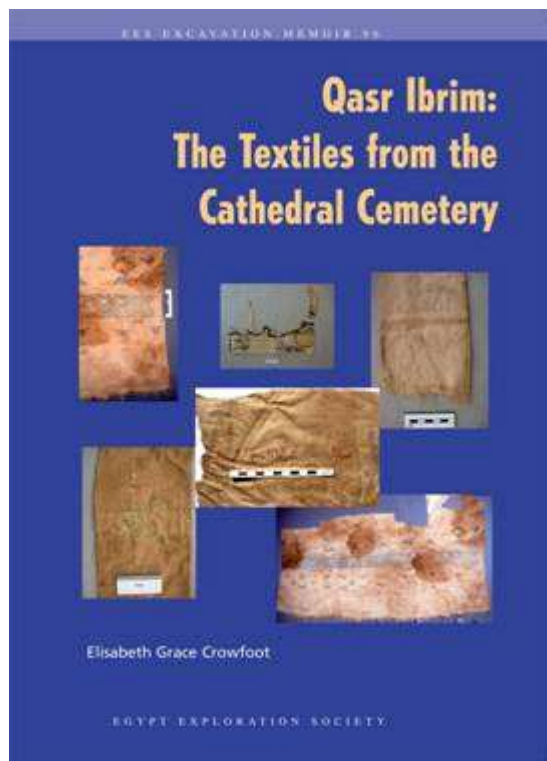
P J Parsons (Ed.) *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri 78* (Graeco-Roman Memoir 99)
An Olympic themed edition, which will focus on sports and circus-related documents.
Estimated cost: £8,000

All three books are scheduled to go to press in Autumn 2011 – Spring 2012. Donations of any size will be warmly welcomed and will help us to publish our research: all contributions will be acknowledged. Anyone who donates over £50 will be thanked in the books themselves and donors who give over £300 will also receive a complimentary copy of the book they have sponsored.

If you would like to discuss making a donation, please click [here](#) or alternatively contact Victoria Perry: victoria.perry@ees.ac.uk or by phone: 07899 995357.

NEW PUBLICATION

The Society's latest Excavation Memoir, *Qasr Ibrim: The Textiles from the Cathedral Cemetery* by Elisabeth Grace Crowfoot is now available to order.



The front cover of Qasr Ibrim: The Textiles from the Cathedral Cemetery

Elisabeth Grace Crowfoot was an expert on ancient textiles and in 1976 she was invited to join the Society's expedition to Qasr Ibrim, after having worked in Cambridge on textiles from the Ibrim seasons in the 1960s. She worked with the expedition until 1984, analyzing, sorting, washing and cataloguing textiles as they were excavated, assisted in the field by Nettie Adams. Miss Crowfoot had completed this text before her death in 2005 and it has been edited for publication by Nettie Adams.

The dry height of the site of Qasr Ibrim above the Nile river has resulted in superb preservation of organic material. The textile collections from the excavations have already become one of the largest from any site in the middle Nile valley. They are unique as an unmatched sequence, dating from the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty to the Late Ottoman Period and ranging from the domestic remains of town life and tiny exotic imports of the site's great years to the cast off garments and furnishings, pitifully mended and re-mended, from ages of disaster and decline.

The important textiles from the Cathedral cemetery at Qasr Ibrim, including those from the burial of Bishop Timotheus, are published here with detailed descriptions and a photographic record of the most significant pieces.

To place your order please see [here](#) or contact Rob Tamplin (rob.tamplin@ees.ac.uk, 020 7242 1880).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As always we have a programme of what we hope you will consider to be very exciting events lined up for the next few weeks.



Can the pyramids themselves show us where the ancient capital city of Memphis was during the Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom? Find out on 25 June...

Our big event for early summer will be the study day in June on ***Egypt in the Age of the Pyramids*** and we are delighted to announce that David Jeffreys, Director of the Society's Survey of Memphis, will be joining us to discuss the problem that 'One of our cities is missing! (Where was Memphis in the Old Kingdom?)'. David's intriguing theory is that the shifting location of pyramid sites over time might also provide a clue to the location of Egypt's capital in the early days of Egyptian history. David will be joined by Jaromir Krejčí on the royal pyramids at Abusir, Richard Bussman on Administration and material culture in Old Kingdom society, and Joanne Rowland who will be discussing her recent discovery of the first evidence of monumental Old Kingdom remains in the Quesna region. At the time of writing there are still tickets available for this event; for the full programme or to book your place please see [here](#).

As part of our aim to reach an ever wider audience we will be hosting a series of events throughout the UK during 2011. The next of these will be taking place on 28 May at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, in conjunction with the exhibition *Secret Egypt: Unravelling Truth from Myth*. This study day, entitled *Excavating Ancient Egypt: New Finds by the EES* will act as a showcase for current EES research, with talks from Karen Exell, Chris Naunton, Chris Kirby, Penny Wilson and David Jeffreys. Tickets and the full programme are available [here](#).

Tickets are also still available for the seminars on [The Oxford Expedition to Egypt \(OEE\): Practical and Academic Insights](#) (London, 4 June) and [The Self-Presentation of Ancient Egyptian Rulers and their Subjects](#) (11 June, Durham). The seminar on [The Daily Life of the Pharaohs](#) has, however, now sold out (see below).



The Society's page at USTREAM

Our seminars continue to be very popular and well received, and we have been considering how we might make them more easily available to a wider audience. At the February event on *Exciting Near Eastern Adventure(r)s Abroad in North and South* with Professor Kenneth Kitchen, we tested the viability of broadcasting the talks live using the platform provided by [USTREAM](#). Having solved one or two technical issues raised during the trial, we announced that the next seminar on [5,000 Years of Tradition: mudbrick architecture ancient and modern](#) would also be broadcast live. This proved to be a great success, effectively doubling our audience for this particular event. The talks were all recorded as well and can be viewed [here](#), and we hope that those of you outside the UK will enjoy making use of this means of 'attending' our events in future. The next event to be broadcast ([here](#)) will be [The Daily Life of the Pharaohs](#) seminar, on Saturday 30 July.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION YEAR 2011/12

The new subscription year is upon us and we would like to thank all those who have already paid their subscription dues either by Direct Debit or by returning the subscription forms enclosed in the last mailing. If you're not sure whether you've renewed your subscription or if you have any queries regarding your membership please contact roo.mitcheson@ees.ac.uk or call +44 (0)207 242 1880.

Special Offer for Renewing Members

Recommend the Society to a Friend and we'll give you £20 off your subscription.

At the start of the new subscription year we want to give something back to those who support us and what better way than helping to spread the word about the Society's work? We know that you, our members, are as passionate about our Society as we are and because of this we think you will be able to help us to ensure we are able to continue our vital work in Egypt. We would like to reward you for your passion and enthusiasm in supporting our work by inviting you to take part in our "Recommend to a Friend" scheme.

Simply Recommend the EES to a Friend making sure they record your name when they join as a Full or Joint Member online, through the post or over the phone. Then, once you renew your membership, you'll receive a cheque for £20 from the Society!

Student Associate? Recommend the Society to a Friend and get them to record your name (as above) and receive two free tickets to an EES Study Day. Free tickets are limited so don't miss out! It's that simple and it's a great way of spreading the word about the important work of the EES.

THE NEW NEWSLETTER



The front cover of the revamped EES newsletter

We hope you enjoy reading our electronic newsletter; having the option to send news to you, our supporters, on a more regular basis than would otherwise be possible has been a great boon for us, especially, in the last few years as we have had more and more to tell you about. For us, electronic communications are now an essential means of keeping you in touch with what we're doing, but our print communications remain as important as ever, and this is reflected in the recent revamping of our print Newsletter, the latest issue of which was mailed to members in March. What had, until the last issue, been simply 'News & Events', had grown in recent years from four A5 sides detailing little more than lectures in London and Cairo, into 12 A4 pages featuring a much expanded programme of events, items of news, and short illustrated articles particularly on recent work undertaken in the archives. The Newsletter now appears exclusively in print form, although a preview of one of the articles, on the Society's discovery of the XIth Dynasty Temple at Deir el Bahri, is available [here](#).

We hope that members will consider the Newsletter to be an added benefit of subscribing to the Society, but also that it might provide an incentive for those of you who are not yet members, to join. All members, including Associate members (£18 in the UK), receive three issues of the Newsletter per year; for further information, or to join – which we strongly encourage! – please see [here](#).

All best wishes,
The EES team

To unsubscribe to this newsletter please e-mail admin@ees.ac.uk with 'UNSUBSCRIBE' in the subject line.

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