

INSCRIPTIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea

Issue 22

November 2006

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Graduation News

On the 28th October 2006 eight students, 6 of whom are Friends members including our ex-Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Catering officer, received their Higher Education certificate of Egyptology from DACE (Department of Adult Continuing Education).

The certificate was set up in 2003, under the guidance of Stuart Williams and Ken Griffin, following a demand in the subject. Each student undertook ten classes (100 credits) before working on a 20-credit dissertation project of their choice. Modules ranged from classes on Egyptian history, religion, art and architecture, material culture and the Valley of the Kings. While a number of the students work full-time, others are retired and so the classes provide the opportunity for the students not only to socialise but also to stimulate their interest in Egyptology. It is hoped that this certificate is only a stepping-stone for a number of students to pursue a BA degree in Egyptology here in Swansea.

DACE classes in Egyptology are run on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30-8.30pm.

by Ken Griffin



(Left to Right) Barry Mort, Jennifer Williams, Stuart Williams, Sheila Nowell, Karen O'Flanagan, Merlys Gavin, Ken Griffin, Su Taylor. Missing from photo: Andrew Feather and Susan Godding.



The Museo Egizio in Torino, Italy

'The road to Memphis and Thebes passes through Turin.' —Jean-François Champollion

In March 2005, I had the good fortune to visit the Museo Egizio (Egyptian Museum), in Torino, Italy. While I have been interested in ancient Egypt since I was ten years old, this was the first major collection I had ever seen. It was impressive and easily the best part about my short visit to Italy.

Torino, site of the last Winter Olympics, is an industry town with a strong connection to the car company Fiat. It is also a border town, known as the 'most French town in Italy' and the 'most Italian town in France.' The cuisine is accordingly delicious. Its further cultural claim to fame is the resting place of the Shroud of Turin, held at the Baptista church. It is free to visit the Shroud.

It is not free to visit the Museo Egizio, but for me the price was definitely worth it. Paying €6.50 to visit this museum and its Fine Arts counterpart, the Galleria Saubauda, was probably the best investment of the whole trip. The sheer size of the museum is complemented by its collection of artefacts that are physically large. High-ceilinged rooms lead on and on, filled with larger-than-life statuary, sarcophagi, pieces of tombs, and so on. The museum, for example, owns eleven huge standing and ten seated statues of the goddess Sakhmet alone! I got a good photo of my travelling companion Yvonne standing next to the chapel of Ellesija, illustrating the imposing size.

Unsurprisingly, the museum's collection of small, everyday artefacts is also quite fine. Some of my favourite objects were ancient Egyptian jewellery in bright colours that looked like they might have come from a shop today, and preserved sandals that quite resembled our modern flip-flops. While the huge statuary is impressive, I'm more touched by the smaller, quotidian artefacts. Accompanying the jewellery were beautiful cosmetic vessels, bowls, and dishes.

The Egyptian fascination with preparing the body for life after death was well-represented in the Museo Egizio with an notable collection of funerary artefacts. There were many examples of canopic jars, which I had heard of but never seen before, as well as hundreds of shabtis, amulets, and other burial objects. There were rooms full of enormous sarcophagi of stone and wood and huge displays of fragile papyri from *The Book of the Dead*. Perhaps the real showstoppers were the mummies.

When I was young, I was terrified and fascinated by mummies. I had a book that showed photos of the wizened mummies of a man and an eighteen-year-old girl. These practically gave me nightmares much in the way photos of bog people did. As I got older and learned the process of preservation, the terror lessened and the interest took over. I enjoyed seeing the well-displayed mummies of individuals such as Kha and Merit, but I confess I was more excited to see the multitude of mummified animals (of which the Egypt Centre itself has a varied collection). Leaving the mummies behind, the Museo had a good collection too of Ptolemaic and Roman artefacts, periods I was unfamiliar with.

The museum was very well-maintained, and the staff helpful. It was of great help to me that the object captions were in English as well as Italian. It was easy to spend upward of three hours in the museum before stumbling out, dazed and ravenous. Yvonne and I ended our expedition with vegetarian pizza and Italian ice cream.

For more information on the Museo Egizio, see <http://www.museoegizio.org/>

by Leslie McMurtry

Dates for your diary

Please note the following forthcoming meetings of the Friends:

22 November 2006

A Forgotten Period: The Egyptian Thirteenth Dynasty

A lecture by Wolfram Grajetzki of the Petrie Museum

6 December 2006

Hatshepsut: Puppet, Martyr or Usurper?

A lecture by Kim Ridealgh of University of Wales Swansea

—followed by mulled wine and mince pies!

17 January 2007

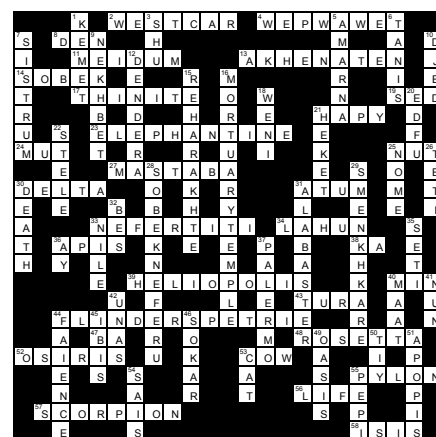
Images of the *Rekhyt* in Ancient Egypt

A lecture by Kenneth Griffin of University of Wales Swansea

All lectures are held in the Faraday A Theatre and begin at 7.00 p.m.

Crossword Solution

(see Page 5 for Crossword)





Editorial

Welcome to the twenty-second issue of *Inscriptions*. A big “thank you” to those who have contributed to this issue.

The editor and his wife would like to thank the Friends for their very generous gift of liquid refreshment which was much enjoyed! Unfortunately we were unable to accept it in person at the AGM because we were visiting India and Jordan at the time.

We would like to draw your attention to the Christmas goodies available from the Egypt Centre—see the back page.

We offer our congratulations to the members of the Friends who received their certificates and course credits in Egyptology this year. Well done!

Members may also like to know that an open course in Egyptology also runs on Friday mornings at the Glynneath Training Centre. Details are in the DACE brochure.

Please consider whether you can produce something to go into the next issue of *Inscriptions*. Contributions (which should be original, not copied from other published works which are subject to copyright) should be sent to the Egypt Centre, marked for the attention of Mike Mac Donagh.

Mike Mac Donagh

Objects in the Egypt Centre: Book of the Dead fragment



Simple Name: *Book of the Dead* fragment

Date: Late Dynastic-Ptolemaic (747-30BC),
Catalogue Number: W867

This piece of the *Book of the Dead* is Spell 15 and it depicts the hymn to the rising sun. The piece dates from the Late Dynastic to Ptolemaic Period (747-30 BC) and belonged to a man called Ankh-hapi, who was the son of Pa-khered-en-Min and Ta-ai-aset.

The scene along the top shows a funerary ceremony in front of a tomb. This scene usually illustrated Spell 1 in New Kingdom copies of the *Book of the Dead* but by the Late Dynastic and Ptolemaic Period could be used to illustrate Spells 1 to 15.

In the scene you can see Anubis propping up the coffin of Ankh-hapi beside a priest who is purifying using libation oil. You can also see the ‘Opening of the Mouth Ceremony’ being performed with an adze and the sacrifice of the bull.

Different copies of the *Book of the Dead* include different spells because different people chose different selections. Sometimes these rolls were placed in the coffins of the deceased and sometimes in Ptah-Sokar-Osiris figures.

This papyrus was sold in two different lots in a Sotheby Sale of 12.12.1932. We have one lot but we do not know the whereabouts of the other lot.

by Peter Jones



Mummy Says ... A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!





Shabtis with sticking out tongues!

A report from the CIPEG annual conference in Budapest

On 25th-28th September I was privileged to attend the CIPEG annual conference. I say 'privileged' because I had such a wonderful time, learnt a lot about other Egyptology museums and it was all paid for by CyMAL!

CIPEG stands for *Comité international pour l'égyptologie* (the International Committee for Egyptology), a branch of ICOM (International Council of Museums). I didn't know that either until recently. A colleague in Manchester told me about it and recommended joining. There isn't anything similar in Britain. The specialist subject network for Egyptology is still very new and finding its feet.

CyMAL kindly paid so I felt I had to tell the CIPEG group about our Egypt Centre and all the interdisciplinary stuff we do for children. Hopefully more people now know about us.

So what did I learn? Well, I learnt about different approaches to ethics and was a bit shocked to hear of some of the antics of a very well respected British museum, but I shan't mention by name as they weren't there to defend themselves! The story goes that a certain museum on the continent had wanted to purchase an artefact, a stela, not of a high monetary value but with interesting information thereon. Their director said they couldn't buy it as provenance could only be traced back to the 1980s. Most museums have in their policies a statement saying that they won't accept items from places such as Egypt which were taken out of Egypt after 1971. This is to try to protect against the acceptance of items looted from Egypt. However, a certain British museum purchased it anyway! There is of course the argument that the said item may have been lost for ever

if it was not purchased by the museum.



I was also interested to learn about the plans for the new Berlin Egyptological Museum. Dietrich Wildung told us all about the building and the display of the artefacts. He also explained how the bust of Nefertiti has now become a symbol of Berliners' identity.

We heard about the plans for a number of new museums in Egypt itself and the training of the curators there. Nadja Tomoum has the job of ensuring that they are fully

trained in museology and explained how she had started to ensure that this was the case for the curators at Cairo's Coptic museum. She certainly has a job with a lot of responsibility. I would also like to thank her for a gift of a book on sculptor's models. This has now been added to the Egypt Centre's library so it can be consulted by all.

On the subject of libraries, Christianne Henry has the job of managing the huge

Egyptological library belonging to the Walters Art Museum. Like us, rather than have a library that is only for the use of the staff (as some museum libraries are), they decided to make their library available to all, but like us do not lend material. Despite the fact that they have a vast collection of books, the problems they have are exactly the same as the problems that we have!

We heard all about the value of the *Book of the Dead* project by Irmtraut Munro and you will be glad to know that the project now has digital images of our *Books of the Dead*. The intention is that good digital images are made available to researchers but that the holding museum still retains rights to copyright etc.

I also learnt about the Late Period moulds which just about every museum has in its collection but I thought I'd tell you about them in the next Issue of *Inscriptions*. So watch this space.

I also saw some really great objects. The catalogue for the Budapest Museum is now in our library if anyone wants to see it. Personally I was very interested in a funny-looking shabti with a sticking out tongue. I kid you not, that shabti had a bright red tongue. I was told by the education officer that there are similar ones in Cairo and it is believed that the sticky out tongue represents the overseer. I presume this is because overseer, in ancient Egyptian, literally means 'one who is in the mouth of....'.

As well as the above, the sun shone and a good time was had by all. So a thank you to CyMAL for funding the visit and to Sybil Crouch, my line manager, who let me go.

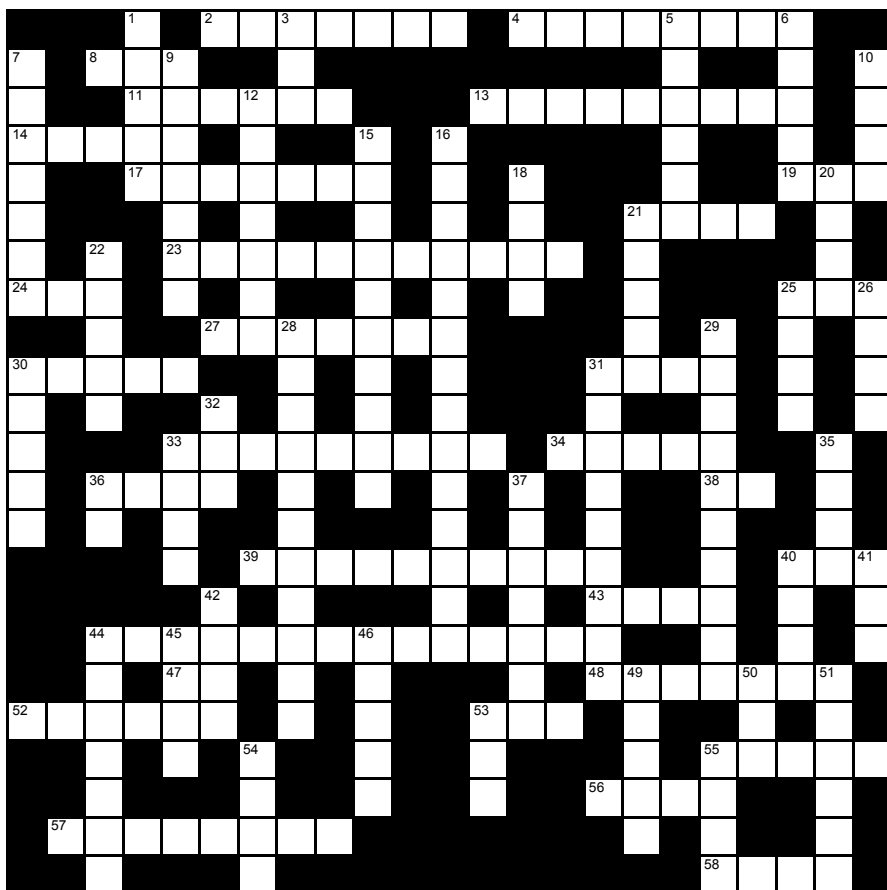


by Carolyn Graves-Brown





Crossword



Clues

Across

- 2 Famous papyrus telling of Snefru's daily life (7)
- 4 The Opener of the Ways (8)
- 8 Dynasty 1 king recorded on the Palermo stone (3)
- 11 Ruined pyramid, possibly Huni's (6)
- 13 Infamous "heretic" pharaoh (9)
- 14 Crocodile god (5)
- 17 Period when Egypt was ruled by kings from This (7)
- 19 A festival to renew the king (3)
- 21 God of the inundation (4)
- 23 An island at Aswan (11)
- 24 Vulture-goddess (3)
- 25 Sky-goddess (3)
- 27 Egyptian tomb resembling a bench (7)
- 30 Where the Nile spreads out as it approaches the sea (5)
- 31 Creator-god of Heliopolis (4)
- 33 Principal wife of Akhenaten (9)
- 34 Site of Senusret II's pyramid (5)
- 36 Sacred bull (4)
- 38 Life-force of the deceased (2)
- 39 Site of first known sun-temple (10)
- 40 Fertility god (3)
- 43 Type of limestone used to case the Great Pyramid (4)
- 44 Great archaeologist (8,6)
- 47 Personality of the deceased, often represented as a bird (2)
- 48 A famous stone bearing inscriptions in Hieroglyphs, Demotic and Greek (7)
- 52 God of death and resurrection (6)
- 53 Animal representing the goddess Hathor (3)

- 55 Massive ceremonial gateway (5)
- 56 This House is upstairs in the Egypt Centre (4)
- 57 Dynasty 0 king who appears on a macehead (8)
- 58 Sister of Osiris and mother of Horus (4)

Down

- 1 The black land (5)
- 3 God of air and sunlight (3)
- 5 City founded by Akhenaten (6)
- 6 Delta city where Psusennes' tomb was found (5)
- 7 A musical rattling instrument (7)
- 9 Vulture-goddess of Upper Egypt (7)
- 10 A pillar representing stability (4)
- 12 Site of a famous temple of Hathor (7)
- 15 Sun god embodied in the Sphinx (2,8)
- 16 A place for the cult of the dead (8,6)
- 18 Famous noble of Dynasty 6 (4)
- 20 Site of a large temple of Horus (4)
- 21 Frog goddess (5)
- 22 A block on which records are inscribed (5)
- 25 An administrative region in Egypt (4)
- 26 First ruler of the 6th Dynasty (4)
- 28 Last queen of the 12th Dynasty (11)
- 29 Successor to Akhenaten (10)
- 30 This House is downstairs in the Egypt Centre (5)
- 31 A marble stone used for fine statues (9)
- 32 Dwarf god who protects the home and childbirth (3)
- 33 A great river that flows through Egypt (4)
- 35 Birth name of two 19th Dynasty pharaohs (4)
- 36 Successor to Tutankhamun (2)
- 37 5th Dynasty stone recording king lists (7)
- 40 Goddess of justice and harmony (4)
- 41 God of the primeval ocean (3)
- 42 5th Dynasty ruler with small pyramid (4)
- 44 Ceramic glazed with blue or green (7)
- 45 White bird with long curved bill (4)
- 46 Hawk-headed god of the Memphite necropolis (5)
- 49 A fertile area in the desert (5)
- 50 Principal wife of Amenhotep III and mother of Akhenaten (3)
- 51 Snake-god of the underworld (6)
- 53 Animal representing the goddess Bastet (3)
- 54 Delta city with early temple to Neith (4)
- 55 Name of two 6th Dynasty rulers (4)

Solution on page 2.

by Daphne MacDonagh





Need Presents?



The Egypt Centre

Open 10-4, Tuesday
to Saturday

(Opposite The Library)
Come in and Browse

Pictures are examples only

