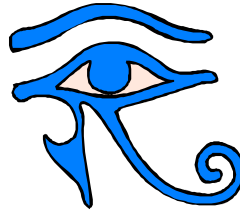


ESSEX
EGYPTOLOGY GROUP



Newsletter 54
December 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| 6 th Dec | Christmas Fund Raising Event |
| 3 rd Jan | An Introduction to Egyptian Literature – Joseph Clayton |
| 7 th Feb | Excavating the Dead (Part 2) – Joyce Filer |
| 7 th Mar | From Hollywood to Thebes: in search of Natacha Rambova – Rosalind Janssen |
| 4 th April | The end of the 18 th Dynasty – Sue Moseley |

DECEMBER MEETING

This month is our Christmas Fund Raising Event on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society. (The results of the vote were 16 for the EES and 11 for the Amarna Trust.)

We have a full range of fun activities – a quiz, senet tournament, blind auction, raffle, guess the weight of the Christmas cake, Eastern-style music, food and drink and that all-important event – wrapping the mummy in (economy!!) loo paper.

2010 CALENDARS

The last few Essex Egyptology Group 2010 calendars are now on sale, £12 each from Lesley Kelly.

SEEKING YOUR VIEWS

Recently we asked if the group had any suggestions for the meetings. We received feedback from 8 of you. Mostly you have enjoyed the lecturers we have invited, we have noted those that you did not. We have decided to keep the practical workshops because many of you do enjoy participating. Two members feel that the 2011 Group Holiday should consider Cairo and Alexandria, costs will be sought during 2010.

One member asked whether recommended reading (novels and texts) could be included. We can ask lecturers to let us know their recommendations and print them in the Newsletter. Also all members are encouraged to do the same. Personally I can recommend the novels of Elizabeth Peters (available at the library); try the first one “Crocodile on the Sandbanks”, if you like that there are another 15 or so more!

GROUP TRIP

Alison Woollard is planning a weekend visit to Turin in mid-April 2010. The Turin Museum (Museo Egizio) houses 30,000 exhibits; founded in 1824 with the purchase of 8,000 pieces from the collection of Drovetti. The museum is well worth a visit – plus all that Italian food and wine. If you would like information, e-mail Alison on a.woollard@virgin.net.

TOMB OF TUTANKHAMEN

Restoration work is due to be carried out on the tomb of Tutankhamen. A five-year project will clean and restore the wall paintings. It has not yet been decided whether the tomb can remain partially open or whether it must be closed – or when the work will start.

HAS THE TOMB OF QUEEN CLEOPATRA BEEN FOUND?

Has archaeological digging at Taposiris Magna, just outside Alexandria, found the area of the tomb of Cleopatra? Dr Kathlen Martinez thinks so – she found tunnels, a cemetery, coins and another season to work. More information when available.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Over the next couple of issues we thought that you might like to “meet the committee”, so ..

Alison Woollard is very much an Essex girl - born in King George's at Ilford she went to school at Woodford and then ended up (after a few detours) teaching English in Hedingham, Chelmsford and currently Brentwood.

It was the art teacher at Woodford who started her interest in Egyptology by creating a beautiful drawing on the board in coloured chalks of the back of Tutankhamun's throne as part of first year history lessons in the autumn of 1965. She queued for five hours to get into the Tut exhibition in the British Museum in 1974 and can remember as clearly as if it was yesterday staring at the statue of Tutankhamun standing on a small boat aiming a harpoon.

She's only been to Egypt twice so there's a lot of catching up to do when retirement finally arrives and she's no longer confined to the school holidays. She also hopes to do courses at Birkbeck - when she retires!

Egypt has proved very useful in English teaching. Classes have had to pose as figures in Egyptian wall paintings in order to understand the difference between representational and non-representational art and literature. Thinking about questions such as 'How would not knowing where the sun goes at night affect your view of the world?' have helped A-level Literature classes to understand how people in different times and societies might have very different views of the world - for example how the world is very different for women in nineteenth century novels!

Lesley Kelly is known to most of you as the Membership Secretary for the EEG. She lives in Harold Wood with her two cats Frank and Jesse (the James boys cos they're outlaws!) In addition to being an EEG officer she is also a local councillor on Havering Council.

She first got involved when the EEG began and still remembers the very first meeting in the Albert pub trying to compete with a televised football match. Her passion for Egyptology started with a school project when she was about 7 years old and she has been hooked ever since. She has visited Egypt on many occasions, the first time in 1996.

The 18th Dynasty is, for her, the most interesting period with Hatshepsut, the female Pharaoh, a particular favourite.

BIRKBECK SATURDAY SCHOOLS

Birkbeck are holding two Saturday schools in 2010. The first on Saturday 27th March "Daily Life in Ancient Egypt" followed on Saturday 12th June with "Kings and Pyramids in Old Kingdom Egypt". Birkbeck Saturday schools are very popular and each day has five Egyptologists lecturing on the subject. The day costs £42 and is from 10am-5pm. Details either from their web site or 020 7631 6627.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

This month thanks go to Alison Woollard and Lesley Kelly

The Newsletter Editor, Janet Brewer, welcomes all articles, letters, reviews and quizzes.

Please e-mail to eeg_newsletter@btinternet.com

You can visit our web site at www.essexegyptology.com

The Committee – Alison, Clare, Eamonn, Janet, Lesley and Rita
Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Health! Prosperity! Life!

