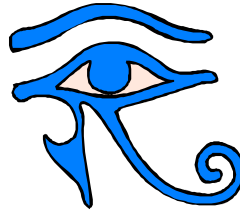


ESSEX
EGYPTOLOGY GROUP



Newsletter 61
July 2010

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|------------------------|---|
| 4 th July | Recreating an Ancient Egyptian Market Place - Members |
| 1 st August | “Free Mike Night” – 10-minute presentations by Members |
| 5 th Sept | Queen Hatshepsut - Beloved Queen or wicked stepmother? – Victor Blunden |
| 3 rd Oct | Alexander the Great and the conquest of Egypt – George Hart |
| 7 th Nov | The Egypt Exploration Society at Saqqara – Dr Aidan Dodson |

JULY MEETING

This month we are recreating the Market by the River based on the New Kingdom village at Deir el-Medina. This will give you a chance to practice your bartering skills since coinage was not then in use. Come along, learn and enjoy yourself in this practical session.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING

GOING TO GOD’S LAND: EGYPT’S TRADE WITH PUNT – LUCIA GAHLIN

Evidence of the trade with Punt is known from the 5th to the 20th dynasty. The trade was exotic animals, cattle, ostrich eggs and feathers, ebony, ivory, eye paint, gold, but primarily for incense (called *antyw*). *Antyw* was also thought to have medical properties (it was used in prescriptions in Papyrus Ebers). It is not known, for certain, which resin tree produced *antyw* but it is thought, from reliefs at Deir el-Bahari, to be more likely frankincense than myrrh.

The ancient Egyptian word for trade goods, plunder or tribute was the same – *inw* – so it is difficult to decide what was traded, taken or given. However all indications are that weapons and jewellery were traded with Punt. The Palermo Stone (5th dynasty) says that 80,000 measures of *antyw* were brought from Punt. The steward of King Mentuhotep (11th dynasty), Henenu, records that 3,000 men went from Thebes to Quseir on the Red Sea coast to build boats for sailing to Punt. Henenu’s inscription at Wadi Hammamat records that he had 80 wells dug en-route for water.

It was at this stage in her fascinating talk that Lucia posed the question "where was Punt"? Punt was called "God's land" or "Divine land", but unfortunately the ancients also called other places these names too! In Ptolemaic times it was used as a term for Cyprus but this has been discounted as the ancient site of Punt. Early scholars first put it on the Arabian peninsula, then east Africa. Today it was thought to be east of the Red Sea because of Deir el-Bahari reliefs of giraffe and rhinos, but those rhinos are now thought to be an Asiatic variety not African which puts Punt back onto the Arabian peninsula. Possibly. What is agreed is that the Egyptians went via the Red Sea to Punt, because fish in Deir el-Bahari reliefs are varieties known in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. At the Red Sea coast evidence has been found of Middle Kingdom shipbuilding; planks of wood, cargo boxes and even rope have been discovered.

During the reign of Hatshepsut *antyw* trees were brought back from Punt, roots included, for planting in Amun's temple garden. Other scenes from Deir el-Bahari show Puntite houses on stilts with a ladder to the entrance. Today similar houses are known from Sudan and Ethiopia. The men of Punt are shown with longish hair and long curling beards, their kilts had tails and they wore large beads as jewellery.

During the reign of Rameses III, Papyrus Harris I records an expedition to Punt, and incense is shown on the walls of Medinet Habu. After this there is no more evidence of trade with Punt but Lucia suggested this might be because Egypt opened up more trade routes with the Mediterranean coast.

A fascinating lecture leaving everyone with the question "where was Punt"!!

Janet Brewer

[Note: an email has been received from Lucia - she has checked up on the nationality of Edouard Naville and he was in fact Swiss and not French as she said.]

AUGUST MEETING AND BOOK AUCTION

Our August meeting will be a "free mike night" and we encourage you to talk for up to 10 minutes on a subject that you enjoy. A ten minute talk is only about one and a half pages of typescript and if you have photographs, even shorter. Give it a whirl. We will all be interested in what you have to say. See Alison and let her know of your intention to talk.

At the same meeting we will be holding our popular book auction - so sort out those books that you are no longer reading and bring them to our July or August meetings - Clare will look after them until the event.

SACKLER LECTURE 2010

The British Museum will be hosting the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Lecture on Monday 2nd August at 6.00pm followed by a reception in the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery. Professor Charles Bonnet (Professor Emeritus, University of Geneva) will be lecturing on "The Egyptian Town at Dokki Gel".

Ticket £20.

Telephone 020 7323 8181 or website <http://www.britishmuseumshonline.org/icat/lectures>

IPSWICH MUSEUM EVENT – TUESDAY 3RD – FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST

The new Egyptian gallery at the Ipswich museum are holding a series of events aimed at children (suitable for ages 7+). Join the High Priest as he teaches his apprentice about the mummification process and the journey to the Afterlife.

Sessions throughout the day – cost £2 per person.

Advance booking essential, call 01473 433691. Excellent Egyptians @ Ipswich Museum

GUROB HAREM PALACE PROJECT CONFERENCE SATURDAY 3 JULY 2010, 10.00 – 16.30pm

Run in conjunction with the Petrie Museum this one-day conference explores Gurob, an important site in the Fayum with many objects on display in the Petrie Museum and Manchester Museum from this 'harem palace' town. The GHPP team have been working there since 2005 re-evaluating Flinders Petrie's work and planning and surveying the site. In 2010 the first excavations took place since the work of Brunton and Engelbach in 1920 – come and hear all about the latest season and help to support future work.

Venue: Institute of Archaeology, 31 Gordon Square WC1 and the Petrie Museum

Tickets £40 / GHPP members £30, includes lunch and refreshments.
Cheques payable to 'Friends of the Petrie Museum (Gurob)'
sent to Jan Picton, Petrie Museum, Malet Place, London WC1E BT

For further details telephone 07761 823129 or j.picton@ucl.ac.uk

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Essex Egyptology Group AGM will be held on Sunday 1st August – following the usual monthly meeting.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda should be forwarded to janet.brewer@btopenworld.com or ring 01277 231606.

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

All articles express the views and opinions of their authors

Please e-mail to eeg_newsletter@btinternet.com

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