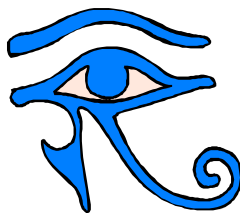


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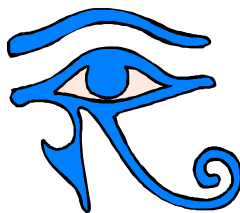
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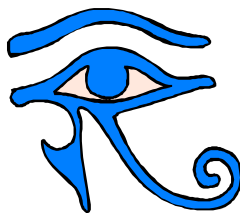
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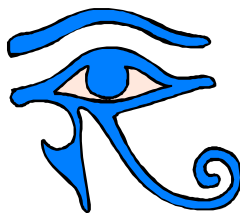
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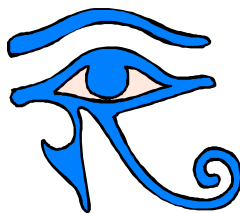
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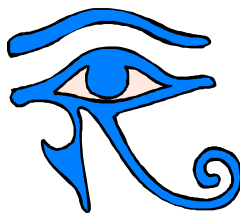
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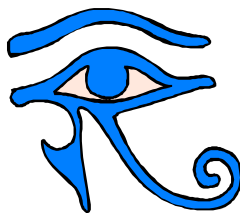
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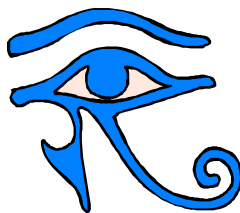
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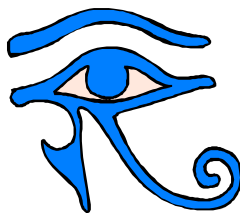
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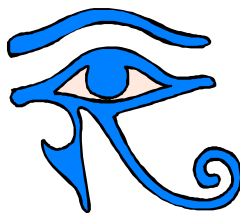
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Thoth was worshipped at Hermopolis where he was believed to be one of the forces behind creation. In Thebes they associated a different god with the Moon and with medicine; Khonsu, believed by the Thebans to be the son of Amun, people flocked to his shrine to be healed of their ailments or to have evil spirits driven out.

One account of the long battle between Horus and Seth describes how Horus lost both his eyes. Another claims that it was his Moon eye that was torn out, the eye was found and

restored to its original position by Thoth, an action symbolising restoration of the cosmic order. Horus was resting beside an oasis when Seth crept up on him in the form of a black boar. As Horus slept, Seth ripped out his left eye and flung it beyond the edge of the world. Horus awoke and retaliated by ripping off Seth's testicles. But there was nothing that he could do about this eye, which seemed lost forever. Meanwhile, deprived of its Moon the night sky sank into blackness. Thoth again came to the rescue, ever the peacemaker during the conflict between the two Gods; he scoured the chaos beyond the world's confines until he discovered the missing eye. It had been shattered by its fall, but Thoth pieced it together, and restored it to its owner. The Eye of Horus was thereafter represented by the wedjat amulet (Eye of Horus). In the book of Two Ways Thoth is referred to as the Moon God.

Extract from *Mystic Moon* By Linda Louisa Dell
Published by Capall Bann this summer.

SOBEK



Sobek, the crocodile god of the ancient Egyptians, was usually depicted as the body of a man, with the head of a crocodile, and as such, was a frightening and powerful deity. George Hart (1986) states that Sobek first appeared in Old Kingdom religious texts, and is sometimes referred to as 'Rager', which seems a suitable name for the Egyptians' crocodile god. George Hart (1986) also mentions Sobek's title, 'Lord of Bakhu'; legend has it that a temple of carnelian existed at the mountain of Bakhu, the mountain of the horizon. Other cult centres for Sobek, existed in Kom Ombo and the Faiyum, where the ancient Egyptians lived round a lake full of crocodiles. Sobek went under many names, including Sebek, Sochet, and Suchos (in Greek), and the Egyptian people, during the Ptolemaic dynasty, continued to worship him at Crocodilopolis. A number of mummified crocodiles exist.

There are conflicting accounts of the nature of Sobek. Some believe he was evil and destructive, while others say he was a repairer of the evil that Set had done. The Pyramid Texts and The Book of the Dead both cite Sobek's assistance to the deceased. He restored the deceased's eyes and mouth, protected him/her from Set, and lead them to 'heaven'. Some believed that Sobek had a four-fold nature, in that he represented the four elemental gods: Ra (Fire), Shu (air) Geb (earth) and Osiris (water).

The swamps and riverbanks of the Nile were naturally associated with this god, and Geraldine Pinch describes Sobek as, 'the protector of...fishermen, bird-catchers and washermen.' (Pinch p40). Pinch goes on to state that Sobek was also, 'the brutal instrument of fate who snatched people to sudden deaths.' (Pinch p40). But Sobek also came to symbolise the produce of the Nile and the fertility it brought to the land.

Bibliography

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Egyptian Myth, a very short introduction	Pinch G (2004)	OU Press
Marguerite Kramer		

REVIEW OF VISIT TO THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, OXFORD

I recently had a day trip to Oxford - did I see any "dreaming spires", no - I spent the whole day inside the museum.

The Egyptian collection is housed in four galleries and objects range from pre-dynastic to 700AD. There are beautiful black topped pots, the Scorpion macehead (it's huge!), a statue



of King Khasekhemy, an ostrakon of The Tale of Sinuhe, scarabs, seals, jewellery and a complete shrine from Nubia of King Taharqa. There are middle kingdom funerary models and boats and an extraordinarily beautiful bunch of glass grapes from Amarna.

The museum is vast and I only saw the Egyptian collection in detail. On a whistle-stop tour of the rest I saw King Alfred's jewel and the cape belonging to the father of Pocohontas. Taking in a gallery talk about the origins of writing, a lunch in their cafe and

afternoon tea on the rooftop terrace it was a very enjoyable and thrilling day (the Scorpion macehead is just so big!).

Janet Brewer

TUTANKHAMUN: ANATOMY OF AN EXCAVATION

The Griffith Institute, Oxford, have put Howard Carter's notes, object cards and diaries and Harry Burton's photographs on-line. <http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/gri/4tut.html>

STUDY TOURS WITH SUZANNE LAX-BOJTOS

Suzanne is a tutor at Birkbeck, University College London, and organises a number of study tours

Luxor and the Eastern Desert	February 2011
Dublin for the National Museum	May 2011
Leiden for the Rijksmuseum	June 2011

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This month thanks go to Linda Louisa Dell and Marguerite Kramer

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

All articles express the views and opinions of their authors

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