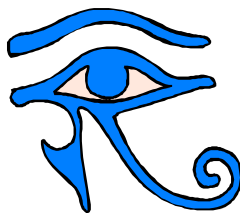


ESSEX  
EGYPTOLOGY GROUP



Newsletter 71

June 2011

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 5<sup>th</sup> June Lager Louts of the New Kingdom – Rosalind Janssen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Art – Martin Davies
- 7<sup>th</sup> August Lecture – speaker and subject to be advised
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sept Misadventures in Egyptology – Caroline McDonald
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct The Petrie Museum through art and conservation – Gemma Aboe

### **THIS MONTH**

This month we welcome back Rosalind Janssen whose research lies in the field of textiles, artefact studies and the history of Egyptology. She is a past curator in the Petrie Museum, teaches widely including at Birkbeck, UCL, and is the author of numerous books.

### **LAKE NASSER CRUISE**

They changed our flights, they changed the airport and finally they changed our boat but eventually in late February we found ourselves in Aswan ready to embark on our Lake Nasser cruise.

On a boat with 70 double cabins there were only 20 passengers so it was virtually our own personal trip. We set off on our lightly laden boat and enjoyed the peace and quiet of an empty lake, we were the first and only boat out since the troubles.



We made a leisurely pace along the lake stopping off at various small temples along the way. Some of these are Greco Egyptian in origin but still worth a visit even though one or two involved a trek through the sands in extremely hot weather! My favourite was Kalabsha – here are some amazing reliefs that depict Ramses II doing what he does best – smiting and receiving tribute. The images of various animals that survive are truly amazing, gazelles, leopards and even

ostriches so clearly depicted. And I must admit to having a real soft spot for the little stunted Osirid figures on the temple columns.

However the real highlight of the trip, and the reason for our visit, was most certainly approaching Abu Simbel from the water and seeing this incredible edifice grow and take shape before our very eyes. The sound system on the boat played Van Gels at full volume as we approached and it was a very moving experience.

In the morning, after the coach parties had left, our two groups of 10 entered the temple. After many visits to Abu Simbel it was the only time I have ever been alone in the inner sanctum – I stood and gazed at the quartet of figures for what seemed ages. Left to roam at leisure we spent a very happy morning there. The only downside was the set of very steep steps up to the site. After another afternoon relaxing in the sun we set off back up the steps for the Son et Lumiere show, it was magical, then back down the steps, this time scarily in the dark, for dinner. It was a truly amazing day.

I would really recommend this cruise, it's relaxing but informative and for me something different to the usual Luxor stay/cruise. And anything that features Abu Simbel has to be good..... even with the steps!

Lesley Kelly

## **BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

A group of members and friends visited the BM during May for a "behind the scenes" tour of the Egyptian collection. Divided into two groups we were led by two curators at the museum, John Taylor and Margaret Maitland.

First we were taken to the library - ooh itchy fingers, all those wonderful volumes - then onto the stone store, where I found my all-time favourite statue had just returned from a short holiday (I was shocked when his plinth was empty the month before). The organic store holds mummies, and bits of mummies, a wonderful wig of human hair from the NK, textiles and mummified birds that were brought back by Victorians as souvenirs, donated to the museum when they began to pall and now the bell jars they are in are museum pieces in their own right.

In the papyrus store must be hundreds of papyri that are placed between two pieces of glass and the edges taped together. The small finds store, pottery store (lovely black top red ware) and archive.

In all a most fascinating, but far too fast, tour of the bits and pieces of the museum that don't, quite, make it up to the display.

Janet Brewer

## **EGYPTOLOGY WEEKENDS AT MADINGLEY HALL**

The University of Cambridge runs weekend residential courses at Madingley Hall, a lovely Elizabethan mansion with beautiful gardens to the west of Cambridge. Egyptology always gets a mention in the history and archaeology section. They've just had a course on Ancient Egyptian mathematics and astronomy but coming up in March 2012 is: "From pit tombs to

pyramids - the origins of ancient Egyptian society". It's run by Dr Alice Stevenson. I haven't been on an Egyptology course there but the course I did attend was excellent - as was the food! Their whole catalogue for the next year is fascinating: I could go on a course every weekend!

The web address is [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk)

Alison Woollard

## **STUDY DAY - SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

The Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society are holding a study day on Saturday 16th July "Archaeological discoveries in the land of Kush" by Dr Derek Welsby

Cost £30 (inc buffet lunch)

Location: The Allen Lab, University of Reading.

<http://tvaes.memja.plushost.co.uk/Whiteknights.htm>

Further details from Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society [www.tvaes.org.uk](http://www.tvaes.org.uk)

## **ESSEX EGYPTOLOGY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Group's AGM will be held at 5.00pm on 4th September (after the lecture). If any member would like to put forward a resolution, would they please pass details to the Secretary at the next EEG meeting, 3rd July, for inclusion in the August edition of the newsletter.

Janet Brewer

This month thanks go to Lesley Kelly and Alison Woollard

The Essex Egyptology Group Committee comprises  
Clare Banks (Treasurer) – Janet Brewer (Secretary) – Eamonn Gray (Publicity)  
Lesley Kelly (Membership) – Alison Woollard (Programme)

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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