



The Egypt Society of Bristol

NEWS UPDATE

Issue 9

September 2002

Chairman's Dig

We are now on the threshold of a new ESB season, which promises to be a bumper one, beginning with two lectures in October. The first is by a young Canadian scholar who has been studying the diffusion and influence of the *Description de l'Égypte*, the mammoth publication of Egypt's monuments that was the fruit of Napoleon's expedition to Egypt in 1798. This expedition is often cited as the jumping-off point for modern Egyptology, and the *Description* as the starting point of scientific publication, so this promises to be a fascinating insight into this seminal period.

The Autumn lectures very much focus on the way that ancient Egypt has been placed before the modern world. The next lecture looks at its influence on the great novelist Sir Rider Haggard (1856-1925), famous for *King Solomon's Mines* and *She*, and the November one on the shenanigans that surrounded the recovery of royal mummies from the royal cache at Deir el-Bahari in 1881. Much has been written on them, but as our lecturer will show, the whole story is still elusive. In this connection, members may have seen that the 'missing' mummy of Ramesses I seems to have been identified in a museum collection in the U.S.A. The Chairman has previously examined this mummy, and fully concurs with it being a Ramesses (although with a residual thought that it might be VII!). The interesting thing is that it came out of Egypt in the 1860s, whereas the conventional story has the cache of royal mummies only being found by tomb robbers in 1871

Following a break in December, while the ESB heads off to Egypt (we are already plotting a trip to **Middle Egypt** for 2004), January begins with a welcome return by Colin Reader, who gave us an excellent talk on the Great Sphinx a little while ago. He has recently returned from Saqqara, where all kinds of interesting features have been revealed by scientific survey. The AGM in February is accompanied by a lecture on the 'vestal virgins' of the god Amun by the Chairman, and the Winter Party. The party – and at least some of the earlier

lectures – will feature a special raffle in addition to the usual one: this is to support

Adopt-a-mummy

Some of you will remember a feature in the *Evening Post* which looked at a scheme to sponsor the restoration and redisplay of the animal mummies in the Cairo Museum. The Director of this project, Dr Salima Ikram, will be lecturing in Bristol in March, both for the ESB and delivering the Amelia Edwards Memorial Lecture at the University. Salima is an outstanding speaker – those with long memories may remember her speaking in Bristol a few years ago; others may recall her as the Best Man (*sic*) at the Chairman and Treasurer's wedding What we would like the ESB to do is to sponsor an animal and present her with a cheque when she is over. The star prize will be a limited edition 'Animal Mummy Project' signed by Salima, one of which be modelled by an Officer at Autumn lectures.

The summer term will feature a fascinating look at the vanished world of Nubia, now lost beneath the waters of Lake Nasser through the medium of the slides of the late Professor J. Martin Plumley of Cambridge University, who directed rescue work there in the 1960s. The year will then be rounded off with an exploration of Egyptian dreams, part of an area of ancient Egypt that we have little investigated in earlier programmes, but hope to do more regarding in future years.

A few places are still available on **Oxford** trip next month. The Ashmolean Museum has one of the UK's outstanding collections, while the city has of course many other attractions. If you'd like to come along, please return the appropriate form on page 3.

Plans are also afoot for future trips as well as the aforementioned Egyptian trek – please see the bottom of the next page for information on a potential visit to **Belgium** and the **Netherlands** next year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks!

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<http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Archaeology/html/staff/egyptsoc.html>

PROGRAMME 2002/2003

Tues 8 October 2002: Lecture, *A Description of Conquest? : the costs and benefits of France's Egyptian invasion.*
Andrew Bednarski, Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge **CHANGE OF SPEAKER**

Sat 12 October 2002: Day trip to Oxford (*see booking form on next page*): £12.00

Tues 29 October 2002: Lecture, *Rider Haggard and Egypt* Shirley Addy **CHANGE OF DATE**

Tues 26 November 2002: Lecture, *Caches, Cliffs and Kings: the Truth Behind the Royal Mummies*
Dylan Bickerstaffe

7 to 21 December 2002. Trip: Lower Egypt

Week 1 will cover the archaeological sites around Cairo, including Abu Rowash, Giza, Abusir, Saqqara, Dahshur, Lisht, Meidum and Hawara; week 2 will cover the Delta, including Alexandria, Mendes, Bubastis, Tanis and Heliopolis. *Week 1 ONLY: £925; week 2 ONLY: £799; BOTH weeks together: £1,495 (all per person, sharing).*

For full details and a booking form contact the Chairman.

Tues 7 January 2003: Lecture, *Saqqara: a personal perspective*
Colin Reader, National Museums of Scotland Expedition to Saqqara

Tues 11 February 2003:

- Annual General Meeting (at 1830)
- Lecture, *The God's Wives of Amun* (at approx 1900)
Dr Aidan Dodson, Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol & Chairman, ESB
- Winter Party (at 1945): £6.00 (*see booking form on next page*)

Monday 3 March 2003: University of Bristol Amelia Edwards Memorial Lecture,
Forts, Fountains, and Footprints: Recent Work in Kharga Oasis, Egypt
Dr Salima Ikram, Associate Professor of Egyptology, American University in Cairo
Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building at 1715
NB: this is a University event, not organized by the ESB, but all are very welcome.

Tues 4 March 2003: Lecture, *Creatures of the Gods: Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt*
Dr Salima Ikram, Associate Professor of Egyptology, American University in Cairo

Tues 13 May 2003: Lecture, *Prof Plumley, Qasr Ibrim, and the Egypt Exploration Society in Nubia.*
Chris Naunton, Librarian, Egypt Exploration Society.

Tues 10 June 2003

- Lecture: *Dark Passage: Dreams in Ancient Egypt*
Dr Kasia Szpakowska, Lecturer in Egyptology, University of Wales, Swansea
- Summer Party (at 1945)

STOP PRESS

Summer/Autumn 2003 Brussels & Leiden

The cities of Brussels and Leiden house two of the most important European Egyptian collections. The ESB is considering running a weekend trip to see them in the latter half of next year. The approximate itinerary would run as follows:

Friday	fly Bristol-Brussels; check into hotel for 2 nights
Saturday	morning train to Leiden; visit National Museum of Antiquities; return to Brussels evening
Sunday	morning visit to Royal Museum of Art and History; fly Brussels-Bristol evening

The approximate cost would be £300, based on a person sharing a room.

If you may be interested, please fill in the appropriate form on the next page; there is no commitment, but it would be helpful to be able gauge interest and preferred dates.

ESB lectures are held in Lecture Room 1, Department of Archaeology, 43 Woodland Road, Clifton, at 1845. Doors open at 1815. Street parking available in the vicinity. Disabled access is available.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Although there will be another mailing in the New Year, some may wish to pay their subs and book for the winter party sooner rather than later, or grab a last-minute place on the Oxford trip. If so, please fill in the appropriate form(s) below and return them as soon as convenient: it certainly aids us if we can avoid an avalanche of subs and bookings all at the same time!

Regarding subs, the option of paying by bankers' order continues to exist: if you would like to do so in future, we'll be happy to provide you with details.

To: Dr Aidan Dodson
93A Redland Road
Bristol BS6 6RB

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 1 FEBRUARY 2003

Please send me tickets for the **ESB Winter Party 2003**, @ £6 each. I enclose a cheque for £ (payable to 'Egypt Society of Bristol') & a **stamped addressed envelope**.

Name

Address

..... e-mail

To: Miss Dyan Hilton
93A Redland Road
Bristol BS6 6RB

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 1 FEBRUARY 2003

I enclose a cheque for £ (payable to 'Egypt Society of Bristol') & a to renew my **ESB subscription** for 2003.

I would like to pay in future by bankers' order Yes/No

Name

Address

..... e-mail

To: Dr Aidan Dodson
93A Redland Road
Bristol BS6 6RB

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 1 DECEMBER 2002

I/we (... persons) would be interested in the **Brussels/Leiden** trip. Preferred dates would be in (*tick any or all*):

July August October Impossible dates

Name

Address

..... e-mail

To: Dr Aidan Dodson
93A Redland Road
Bristol BS6 6RB

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 8 OCTOBER 2002

Please send me tickets for the ESB trip to **Oxford**, @ £12 each. I enclose a cheque for £ (payable to 'Egypt Society of Bristol') & a **stamped addressed envelope**.

Name

Address

..... e-mail