



# The Egypt Society of Bristol

## NEWS UPDATE

Issue 10

January 2003

### Chairman's Dig

First, a happy New Year to everyone! It has been a busy year, culminating in the Society's trip to Egypt in December. We visited an amazing range of sites, ranging from those dominated by the stately forms of the pyramids to ... well, a muddy field with a lot of water in the middle, and a few bits and pieces of stone! One or more articles on the trip will appear in future issues, but to be going on with, a snapshot of our intrepid party outside our hotel at Giza.



One of my major jobs for the next couple of months is to put together the programme for 2003/4. I have a long list of potential victims, but if anyone has any particular requests, please let me know.

We are now only a few weeks away from this year's Amelia Edwards Memorial Lecture, which promises to be a really good one. As a bonus, the ESB is co-sponsoring this year's speaker, Dr Salima Ikram, who will therefore also be talking to the ESB while she is in Bristol. So make sure that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March are firmly in your Egyptological diaries. Salima will also be drawing the winning ticket in for our **Adopt-an-Animal-Mummy** scheme raffle — for which the Treasurer will continue to sell tickets ....

If you are interested in the proposed trip to Belgium and the Netherlands and have not yet sent in a slip, please fill in the one overleaf and let me have it back by 1 February. Also, if you have not yet responded regarding the Winter Party or your subscription renewal, forms are included in this

mailing. I encourage people to make use of the bankers' order facility — you'll never forget to pay again and thus avoid the wrath of the Treasurer (and I *know* what this is like ...).

Looking forward to a great 2003!



### French Flavour to First Lecture of New Season

The first lecture of the new season which took place on 8th October 2002 was extremely well attended. Our speaker for the lecture was Andrew Bednarski who is completing his PhD at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. The title of his lecture was *A Description of Conquest? The Costs and Benefits of France's Egyptian Invasion* and dealt mainly with the impressive volumes called *Description de l'Egypte*, produced following Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Egypt, which began in 1798. We learned many interesting facts about the invasion: Napoleon took 36,000 men with him including 151 scholars to study such things as architecture flora and fauna and customs of the local people; the scholars' ages ranged from 15 to 50; ... and owing to military secrecy, the expedition's members had no idea where they were going until they were out at sea!

The volumes of the *Description* took nearly 30 years to produce in full and copies were sent all over the world as gifts to rulers of different countries. Not surprisingly, following Nelson's defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of the Nile, English reviews of the volumes were rather cool, preferring books produced by other scholars.

I spoke with Andrew after the lecture and asked him how much the volume would have cost at the time of publication. Interestingly, several versions were produced of varying quality. The most expensive was the version sent out as gifts to other countries which was printed on vellum and had hand tinted plates. This would have cost over 1,300 Francs which, at the time, was a considerable amount. This lecture looked at yet another aspect of Egyptian history and was an excellent beginning to what promises to be a season of talks on varied and fascinating subjects.

**Margaret Curtis**

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# PROGRAMME to June 2003

**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)

## 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.

To: Dr Aidan Dodson  
93A Redland Road  
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**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 1 FEBRUARY 2003**

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 .....