

1882

# The Egypt Exploration Society

## News and Events Autumn/Winter 2008

3 Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG

Phone: + 44 (0)20 7242 1880

Fax: +44 (0)20 7404 6118

E-mail: [contact@ees.ac.uk](mailto:contact@ees.ac.uk)

[www.ees.ac.uk](http://www.ees.ac.uk)

Blog: <http://egyptexplorationsociety.tumblr.com/> • Photos: <http://www.flickr.com/egyptexplorationsociety>

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/4ofceb>



# LONDON STUDY DAY

## Every Beautiful Thing: materials, craft and technology in ancient Egypt

**Saturday 13 December 2008**

**The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG**

**Tickets: £22 (EES members), £25 (non-members) Students: £15 (EES members), £17 (non-members).**

- 09.30 Doors open for registration and a sale of books in the foyer to the Brunei Gallery Theatre
- 10.20 Opening remarks by the Society's Chairman, Dr Ian Shaw, who will chair the study day
- 10.30 Dr Elizabeth Bloxam, *Ancient quarrying in dynastic Egypt: fresh perspectives on the technological, logistical and social organisation*
- 11.15 Ms Janine Bourriau, *The story of a wall and a drain: amphorae, the non-biodegradables of antiquity*
- 12.00 Coffee/tea and biscuits
- 12.20 Dr Felicity Wild, *Qasr Ibrim and the Textile Revolution*
- 13.05 Dr Janet Ambers and Dr Rebecca Stacey, *The Colours of Eternity: pigments and techniques used in the wallpaintings of Nebamun*
- 13.50 Summary of the day's talks and discussion chaired by Dr Shaw
- 14.00 Lunch (please make your own arrangements)

**Dr Elizabeth Bloxam** is a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellow at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. The pyramids, obelisks, colossal statues and temples of ancient Egypt are testament to an outstanding cultural heritage made of stone. Although much is known of the architectural and building achievements behind such monuments, the technical and logistical feats involved in quarrying and transporting large quantities of stone, and the social organisation behind these activities, remains poorly understood. Dr Bloxam will present some new perspectives on these issues, particularly in relation to quarrying between the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, from an examination of data collected during recent archaeological research at key ancient quarries in Egypt. Technologies used in the extraction of stones such as granite, gneisses, basalt, quartzite and gypsum, as well as evidence that can provide insights into how stone was transported from quarries, will be discussed. In addition, elements of quarry infrastructure that can provide perspectives into the social organisation of these activities will be reviewed and compared with the written sources.

**Dr Janine Bourriau** is a Senior Fellow at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge and will be talking about Egyptian amphorae of the 1st century BC from the Anubieion at Saqqara, and Buto in the Delta. The amphorae reflect pottery making traditions going back at least 200 years to the beginning of the Ptolemaic period and at the same time they show the amphora industry on the eve of the changes ushered in by Roman occupation. If there is any doubt as to the value of investigating major change through such an obscure corner of contemporary life as amphora production, there is only one word to say: wine. Who made it, how did it arrive at its destination and who drank it? These are questions at the heart of how the elite lived.

**Dr Felicity Wild** is a freelance archaeological consultant. The recent excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society, at Qasr Ibrim in Lower Nubia have concentrated on the earlier levels at the site, the Napatan (c. 8th – 3rd century BC) and the Meroitic (1st century BC – 4th century AD), when the principal influences on the site came from the south. The textiles studied from these levels fall into two distinct groups, those from the Napatan being of linen, whereas those of the Meroitic were almost entirely of cotton, a fibre almost unknown in Egypt at the time. The nature and character of the two assemblages will be discussed, with the different technologies that they imply and the light that they can shed on the production and use of textiles during the two periods.

**Dr Janet Ambers** is a scientist specialising in Radiography and Raman spectrometry in the Dept. of conservation and scientific research at the British Museum. **Dr Rebecca Stacey** is a specialist in organic chemistry/analysis, natural products (resins, gums, tars, bitumen, fats and waxes) and food residues, in the same department. As part of a recently completed program of study and conservation of the spectacular wall paintings from the 18th Dynasty tomb of Nebamun in the British Museum, both the organic and inorganic components of the paints used have been investigated. The range of materials found and the challenges of identifying them will be discussed in the context of what is known from other Egyptian tombs. The properties of the materials used and the implications of these for painting technique will also be considered.

**Dr Ian Shaw** is the Chair of the Egypt Exploration Society and Senior Lecturer in Egyptian Archaeology at the University of Liverpool. He was co-editor, with the Society's Vice-chair, Dr Paul Nicholson, of *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)

# EES EGM and AGM



**Saturday 13 December 2008, 3-4pm**

**The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG**

**Entry to the meetings and lecture is free to EES members.**

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Egypt Exploration Society will be held on Saturday 13 December in the Brunei Gallery Theatre, SOAS at 3pm. The EGM will be followed by the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Society. It was the Committee's view that the Society's Memorandum and Articles of Association should be changed in order to bring the society into line with the recent Companies and Charities Acts, and to modernise aspects of its governance, to allow it to pursue its aims more effectively. These changes will be discussed at the EGM. Notices, agenda and further information are provided in a separate leaflet included with the Autumn mailing, and are also available on the Society's website ([www.ees.ac.uk](http://www.ees.ac.uk)), and from the London office.

## ANNUAL LECTURE

The meetings will be followed at 4 pm by the Society's annual lecture which is intended to complement the preceding study day (see p. 2):

### **Dr Paul Nicholson, *An Ancient Industrial Estate at Amarna***

Dr Nicholson is the Society's Vice-chair and Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Cardiff University. Dr Nicholson will be talking about his work at Amarna which was recently published by the Society as the eightieth Excavation Memoir, *Brilliant Things for Akhenaten*. Entry to the lecture is free of charge to members.

## XMAS PARTY - MULLED WINE and MINCE PIES!

**Saturday 13 December 2008, 5-7 pm**

**The Brunei Gallery Suite, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG**

**Tickets: £10 (EES members), £12 (non-members). Students: £8 (EES members), £10 (non-members).**

The Society's Christmas party will be held in the Brunei Suite at SOAS following Dr Nicholson's lecture. Members will be treated to mulled wine and mince pies and be offered the opportunity to talk to staff, officers and trustees about the Society and its work. There will also be another opportunity to talk to the Amelia Edwards Project Directors (see below and separate leaflet). We are always very keen to meet our members and to have their thoughts so please come and join us for a bit of festive fun! For tickets please see the application form on p. 8.

## WINTER OFFICE CLOSURE

**The London Office and Library** will close at 4.30 pm on Friday 19 December 2008 and reopen after the Christmas/New Year holidays at 10.30 am on Tuesday 6 January 2009.

**The Cairo Office** will be closed on 8-11 December 2008 (Eid el-Adha)\*, 25 December (Christmas Day); 28 or 29 December (Islamic new year)\*, 1 January 2009 (New Year's day), 7 January (Coptic Christmas), 9-10 March (Prophet's Birthday)\*, 19 April (Coptic Easter), 20 April (Sham el nassim), 25 April (Sinai Liberation day) and 1 May (Labour day).  
\*Subject to lunar observation.

## AMELIA EDWARDS PROJECTS

The Inaugural Amelia Edwards Projects were launched after the Deir el Medina study day at SOAS on 25 October 2008. Project representatives gave presentations on their proposals and were on hand at the reception afterwards to discuss plans with members and to answer their questions. A number of donations were received at the launch, and several of those who were present have become members of the 'Amelia Edwards Group'. Further funds will be required if all three projects are to run however and all contributions are very welcome therefore! For further information and a donation form please see the separate leaflet (included in the autumn mailing) or go here: <http://tinyurl.com/6y7qgb>

The study day itself was also a great success. Almost two hundred members were treated to excellent presentations by some of the foremost writers on the subject, and feedback received so far has been very favourable. Many thanks to all those who attended!



# LONDON SEMINAR

## From Excavation to Exhibition ancient Egypt in museums\*

**Saturday 21 March 2009, 11am – 4 pm (including a one hour lunch break)**

**The Committee Room, The Egypt Exploration Society, 3, Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG**

**Tickets (available to members only): £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student members).**

\*Due to popular demand the Society is running this seminar for a second time. Tickets for the first event on 22 November 2008 sold out so quickly that a waiting list had to be created (those on the list will have priority in booking for the second event). Places will be limited as usual by the size of the Committee Room, and we expect the event to be very popular again so early application is strongly recommended.

As before, the seminar will look at the formation of Egyptian collections and the role of museums in bringing ancient Egypt to the public and as the interface between research-based Egyptology and the public's perception of ancient cultures. The seminar will be led by:

**Dr Ashley Cooke**, Head of Antiquities & Curator of Egypt & the Near East, National Museums, Liverpool  
**Dr Karen Exell**, curator of Egypt and Sudan, the Manchester Museum

Attendance at EES seminars is limited to 20 places. Coffee and tea is provided on arrival and during the afternoon session, and there is a one hour break for lunch. Lunch is not included but there are many restaurants/café's in the nearby Lamb's Conduit Street and Grays Inn Road. Members may also bring sandwiches to eat in the Office.

# LONDON SEMINAR

## In the Grip of a Rebel - the First Intermediate Period in Egypt

**Saturday 18 April 2009, 11am – 4 pm (including a one hour lunch break)**

**The Committee Room, The Egypt Exploration Society, 3, Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG**

**Tickets (available to members only): £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student members).**

Drawing on current research, this seminar will look at the key players during Egypt's First Intermediate Period and provide a structure for this notoriously tricky period of Egyptian history. The seminar will be led by **Dr Glenn Godenho**, Lecturer in Egyptology at the University of Swansea, who will provide case-studies to illustrate the social and political transformations of this period and how they culminated in patterns of rulership evident in the Middle Kingdom.

For information on the number of places available, refreshments, lunch etc. at EES seminars please see above under 'From Excavation to Exhibition'.

**N.B. Tickets for the seminar on The Island of Amun - the Delta site of Tell el-Balamun (28 Feb 2009) have almost sold out. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Society as soon as possible.**

## SPECIAL SALE of EES PUBLICATIONS

The special sale of EES publications advertised in the Summer mailing will be continued at least until January 2009. The full list of titles in the sale is available at <http://tinyurl.com/6773rb>. To request a paper copy please contact the London office.

In addition, the Society has recently published two new memoirs: Eugen Strouhal, *The Memphite Tomb of Horemheb Commander-in-Chief of Tutankhamun*, IV *Human skeletal remains* and A. B. Lloyd, A. J. Spencer and A. el-Khouli, *Saqqâra Tombs III. The Mastaba of Neferseshemtah*. Both are available from Oxbow Books, 10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EW Telephone: +44 (0)1865 241249. Fax: +44 (0)1865 794449 E-mail: [orders@oxbowbooks.com](mailto:orders@oxbowbooks.com). [www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com)



# PRIVATE VIEW of the NEBAMUN PAINTINGS

## A special event for EES members

**Monday 9 March 2009**

**The Nebamun galleries, The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG**

**Tickets: £10 (EES members), £7 (EES student members).**

The famous wall paintings of Nebamun will go back on display at the British Museum early in 2009 (See *EA* 33 (2008), pp. 21-4). With the generous cooperation of staff in the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan the Society has organised a special private view of the paintings for members on 9 March 2009, from 6 – 8 pm. The new Nebamun galleries, in which the paintings will be redisplayed - “not as isolated fragments but as parts of the decorated wall of an Egyptian tomb-chapel” - are relatively small and places are therefore quite limited in number, and early application is strongly encouraged. Tickets cost £10 for EES members and £7 for student members. Please see the application form on p. 8.

## EES CONFERENCE JUNE 2009

### ‘New Explorations’

**Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June 2009**

**The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG**

Members will be aware that 2008-9 is the last year in which the Society will receive a grant-in-aid from the British Academy, which had previously been used to fund the majority of our fieldwork. In preparation for this the Society launched an Excavation Fund in 2005 to provide a new means of supporting its projects (see p. 6). Thanks to the generosity of our members and other donors the appeal has raised sufficient funds to support a number of small projects in 2009, and we are delighted to announce that the results of the work to be undertaken in the next few months will be presented to the membership at the annual conference in June 2009. ‘New Explorations’ will feature presentations on work at Gebel Ramla, Tell Basta, Saqqara, Tell el Amarna, the Dakhla Oasis, Karnak, Sesebi, and in the archives at Doughty Mews, and also the latest news from our major survey projects in the Delta and at Memphis.

**Full details including synopses of the talks will be sent to members in the Spring mailing.**

## EES TOUR to EGYPT

The Society’s 125th anniversary tour to Egypt was a great success (see *EA* 33, pp. 37-8 and <http://tinyurl.com/54rf82>) and a second, which will visit a different selection of sites, is now being planned for **Spring (probably March / April) 2010**. We are delighted to announce that Professor Alan Lloyd, the Society’s former Chairman, has again agreed to accompany EES members on what promises to be another thrilling visit. Further details will be included in the Spring mailing.

## The Third British Egyptology Congress (BEC)

**Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September 2010**

**The British Museum, London WC1B 3DG**

BEC3 will be held in London on 11 and 12 September 2010 at The British Museum, London. The event will be organised jointly by the EES, The British Museum and University College London, and, as in the past, will provide an opportunity for colleagues, students, independent researchers and others to share the latest results of their work and to provide a forum for discussion both formally, in the lecture theatre, and informally, over a glass of wine. The first two events, in Cambridge and Liverpool respectively, were a great success and we hope to build on this on 2010. Further details will be provided in future mailings and on the Society’s website.



# ONLINE BOOK AUCTION

Members will be aware that 900+ Egyptology books were donated to the Society in 2008 by Mrs Edwina Iredale (see EA 33, p. 44). Many of the titles are already to be found in the Society's library. Of the duplicates, the rarest and most valuable will be passed to other Egyptology libraries, notably that of the University of Wales, Swansea. Many that are less valuable have been on sale as second hand books at the London offices and at recent EES events, allowing the Society to raise several hundred pounds for the acquisition of new books. A final section of the donation comprises those books which are available already in most Egyptology libraries in the UK, but which nonetheless are too valuable to be sold as simple second-hand books. In order to make these books available to as many people as possible, in the UK and beyond, and to maximise revenue from them, we have decided to auction the books online, through the well-known auction site, eBay ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)).

A full list of titles available with guide prices will be posted on the Society's website: [www.ees.ac.uk](http://www.ees.ac.uk)

Books will appear on eBay on **Monday 1 December 2008** and the auction will be open for bidding for ten days thereafter. eBay displays information about current bidding and notifies bidders whether or not they have been successful, at the close of the auction.

**The Society's profile at eBay is here: <http://myworld.ebay.co.uk/ees1882/>**

To browse the books available to see how much has been bid for each you should visit the 'listings' section by clicking the relevant links at the left hand side of the page.

All the money raised from the auction will be put towards the purchase of new books for the library. Members are reminded that they are able to borrow three books from the library at a time for a period of one month. The Society regularly sends books and photocopied articles to members outside London by post (members are asked to refund photocopying / postage costs). For further information or to make a request please contact the Librarian: [library@ees.ac.uk](mailto:library@ees.ac.uk), 020 724 2266.

## EXCAVATION FUND

Following an invitation circulated during August this year, the Society received a number of applications for grants from the Excavation Fund. We are delighted to announce that the Committee has now agreed to provide the full amounts requested for the following:

- The Epigraphic recording and conservation of wall paintings from the mammissi of **Ismant el-Kharab, Dakhla Oasis**, directed by Professor Olaf Kaper
- A geophysical survey of the unexplored area around the **Great Temple of Bastet at Tell Basta**, directed by Dr Daniela Rosenow
- A topographical and geological survey at **Sesebi, Sudan**, directed by Dr Kate Spence

Furthermore the Society will also be part-funding an investigation of the **Christian church and settlement in the area of the North Tombs at Amarna**, directed by Dr Gillian Pyke.

As reported on p. 5 the project directors will present the results of their work at the Society's annual conference, 'New Explorations' in June 2009.

## WHO WAS WHO IN EGYPTOLOGY

The third edition of *Who Was Who in Egyptology* (London, EES, 1995) is now, unfortunately, out of print. Members will be pleased to know however that the editor, Dr Morris Bierbrier, is now preparing a fourth edition, which is provisionally scheduled for publication in 2010. *Who Was Who...* has become an invaluable tool for anyone researching the history of Egyptology, which in turn is essential to your understanding of sites, monuments and ancient Egypt in general. The publication is a "A Biographical Index of Egyptologists; of Travellers, Explorers, and Excavators in Egypt; of Collectors and Dealers in Egyptian Antiquities; of Consuls, Officials, Authors, Benefactors, and others whose names occur in the Literature of Egyptology, from the year 1500 to the present day, but excluding persons now living." Dr Bierbrier would welcome members' suggestions as to who should be added to those who appeared in the third edition. Furthermore, Dr Bierbrier would be very keen to hear from any members who have additional information on the individuals included previously. Finally, the Society hopes to include many more photographs in the fourth edition than have appeared previously, and members are also asked to contribute any images they may have of individuals who are included. The Society cannot promise to include all photographs that it receives in the next edition but would gladly add them to its archives. Photographs or related enquiries should be directed to the Deputy Director, Chris Naunton ([chris.naunton@ees.ac.uk](mailto:chris.naunton@ees.ac.uk)).

# MANCHESTER

Enquiries: Professor Rosalie David, KNH Centre of Biomedical Egyptology,  
School of Biological Sciences, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PT.  
Phone: +44 (0)161 275 2647. E-mail: rosalie.david@man.ac.uk



The Northern Branch lecture programme is currently suspended pending the outcome of ongoing discussions with the University of Manchester. Members will be informed as soon as it is possible to arrange lectures again.

## BOLTON EXHIBITION

Bolton Museum & Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, 7.30 pm.  
Details: Mr Tom Hardwick: +44 (0)1204 332212. E-mail: tom.hardwick@bolton.gov.uk

**'Egyptomania': an exhibition at Bolton Museum and Archive Service  
7 February - 9 May 2009.**

## CAIRO

EES lectures are held in the auditorium of the British Council at 7.00 pm.  
Enquiries: Mrs Faten Saleh, EES Cairo Office, c/o British Council,  
192 Sharia el-Nil, Agouza, Cairo.  
Phone: +20 (0)2 3001886. E-mail: ees.cairo@britishcouncil.org.eg

**24 November**, Dr Nabil Swelim, *The Dry Moat of the Step Pyramid Complex*

**25 December 2008 - 6 January 2009**, Field trip to the Gifl el-Kebir and Minya province

For further details of the lectures and field trips run from the Cairo office please contact Faten at the above address.

## BISI / BIRKBECK / EES JOINT STUDY DAY

### From Babylon to Amarna: Ancient Middle Eastern Interactions in the Days of Akhenaten

**Saturday 7 February 2009.**

**Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1**

**Tickets: £40 (£20 concessions).**

This event, organised in association with the EES, is the fourth in the Birkbeck and British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) Mesopotamia series.

The 14th century BC was a period of vibrant cultural relations throughout the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean. Exotic goods were widely traded and triggered distinctive international styles, while the Mesopotamian cuneiform writing system was adopted in large parts of the Middle East to write local languages. Babylonian, which was the international language of the age, was also the language of the Amarna letters of Pharaoh Akhenaten. These letters have been the most famous witness of this dynamic time since their discovery in the late 1880s. Important new discoveries in Middle Eastern archaeology now allow us to bring this fascinating international age into sharper focus.

Speakers: Dr Paul Collins, (British Museum), Dr Jack Green (Ashmolean Museum), Dr Frances Reynolds (University of Oxford), Dr Daniel Schwemer (School of Oriental and African Studies), Dr Kate Spence (University of Cambridge). ZIPANG performance - Nergal & Ereshkigal and The Ballad of the Former Heroes. Organized and Chaired by Mariana Giovino and Frans van Koppen, Birkbeck College, Faculty of Lifelong Learning.

Places are limited so early enrolment is advised. To enroll by telephone (full fee only) or to ask about concessions please ring 020 7631 6627, quoting course code FFAR146NO ACB. Application forms are available from the EES and also at <http://tinyurl.com/593bcl>.

# DATES for the DIARY and BOOKING FORM

**Saturday 13 December 2008.** Every Beautiful Thing: materials, craft and technology study day. (See p. 2)  
 Tickets: £22 (EES members), £25 (non-members) Students: £15 (EES members), £17 (non-members).

The study day will be followed by the EGM,AGM and Dr Nicholson's lecture, for which no tickets are required. (See p.3)

**Saturday 13 December 2008.** Members' Christmas Party. (See p. 3)  
 Tickets: £10 (EES members), £12 (non-members) Students: £8 (EES members), £10 (non-members).

**Monday 9 March 2008.** Members' private view of the newly refurbished Nebamun Galleries at the British Museum. (See p. 5)  
 Tickets: £10 (EES members), £7 (EES student members).

**Saturday 21 March 2009.** From Excavation to Exhibition: a seminar on ancient Egypt in museums. (See p. 4)  
 N. B. This is a repeat of the event first held on 22 november 2008.  
 Tickets: £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student associate members).

**Saturday 18 April 2009.** In the Grip of a Rebel: a seminar on the First Intermediate Period in Egypt. (See p. 4)  
 Tickets: £20 (EES members), £15 (EES student associate members)

STUDY DAY TICKETS include refreshments mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Lunch is not included but there are many restaurants/café's on Southampton Row, just a few minutes walk from SOAS.

SEMINAR TICKETS include tea/coffee on arrival and mid-afternoon. Lunch is not included but there are many restaurants/café's in the nearby Lambs Conduit Street and Grays Inn Road. Members may also bring sandwiches to eat in the Office.

**Please send me the following tickets:**

EVENT	TICKET RATE	No. of tickets	Total £
Technology study day	tickets at members' rate (£22)		
	tickets at non-members' rate (£25)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
	student tickets at non-members' rate (£17)		
Christmas Party	tickets at members' rate (£10)		
	tickets at non-members' rate (£12)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£8)		
	student tickets at non-members' rate (£10)		
Egypt in Museums seminar	tickets at members' rate (£20)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
Nebamun Private View	tickets at members' rate (£10)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£7)		
First Int Period seminar	tickets at members' rate (£20)		
	student tickets at members' rate (£15)		
	TOTAL		

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Egypt Exploration Society'. **Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.** Additional copies of this form are available from the London office on request. An electronic application form is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/647uxr>

Name .....

Address.....

.....

Day-time telephone number .....

E-mail address .....