



REPORTS 2011 - 2012

President's Report

It is time once more for me to report on the work of the society over the last year, and, as usual, this duty is an unalloyed pleasure. It was gratifying to see the programme beginning and ending with speakers from Wales, a fact which illustrates the major role which the Principality has always played in British Egyptology. For me the highlight was my visit to lecture on 9 June which I greatly enjoyed. It was good to meet up again with old friends; attendance was excellent; and there were plenty of good questions to exercise my ingenuity. It was particularly pleasing to be able to deliver a lecture on the Late Period which was long a Cinderella area of Egyptology but has now become a major area of research activity, and I am delighted to see that these late interests now extend to the Roman Period which features in the programme for 2012/13. Indeed the range and variety of the society's programmes is one of its greatest strengths, and I am confident that this will continue.

I should also emphasize the importance of our Study Days. These have been a great success both in themselves and in fundraising contributing almost £2000 to donations above and beyond the Donation Fund from which £1500 was also awarded, this amount of support for Egyptological research is no mean feat in these straitened times.

I was delighted to hear that the Society was able to run two terms of an Intermediate Hieroglyphs course. The capacity to do this demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment of our members; for even at this level learning the language is a major undertaking. However, the effort is essential if anyone is really to come to terms with the Ancient Egyptians. Ultimately, it is only through the Egyptians' texts in their own language that this can be done. Translations are certainly better than nothing, but they are no substitute for the originals, even if we all have a long way to go in the interpretations of many of them.

In sum, it has been a good year, and all the signs are that the coming year will be every bit as good, if not better.

Alan Lloyd, President, TVAES

Chairman's Report 2011 - 2012

As with previous years it is my pleasure to present a positive report of our continued success during the last twelve months. It has been a year of both strength and stability for the society with solid and encouraging attendance at the monthly lectures. The health of the society was particularly evident last month at the Members Miscellany, with strong demand for speaking slots the quality of the presentations was truly impressive, and it proved to be a most enjoyable summer afternoon.

Last year I highlighted our Donation policy and fund-raising study days and I would like to do so again. This year in addition to endowing the Donation fund with £1500 we held two very successful fund-raising study days for the South Asasif Conservation Project and Gurob Harem Palace Project respectively. In total over the last two years we have raised well over £7000 in support of fieldwork and research in Egypt and Sudan, a truly amazing achievement for a local society.

Once more this year our lecture programme was supplemented by third party classes held locally and our own more specialised evening classes held in Reading. Indeed, for me one of the most important aspects of our provision is our Middle Egyptian Hieroglyphs class which ran for two terms last year and is scheduled to

resume for 30 weeks in October. Language is the most difficult aspect of the subject to incorporate within our monthly lecture programme, yet it is the decipherment and interpretation of Old, Middle and Late Egyptian that so much of our discipline is based on. These classes provide a unique local framework for more advanced learning in the subject and form part of a healthy broad-based provision to support our journey in ancient Egypt at many different levels.

This year we have been saddened to say goodbye to longstanding members Barbara Strange and Kate Holland. At the same time we are pleased to welcome new members and visitors in our midst as we continue our exploration of ancient Egypt and Sudan.

Chairman's Outlook 2012-2013

This year we have once again a full lecture programme primarily based at the Oakwood Centre, however due to availability constraints for two lectures we are trialling the Crescent Centre in Lower Earley. Following a kind and generous offer from John Wyatt a special additional fund-raising lecture will be held this year in memory of Kate Holland with proceeds donated to the cause nominated by Richard Grant, in order to maximise funds raised the Kate Holland Memorial Lecture will be held at the Allen Lab. At the same venue we have two study days planned, we are particularly privileged to host Dr Neal Spencer and some of this team for the major Amara West fund-raising study day in July. This promises to be a very special event, unique to TVAES, and a chance to hear the latest news from this fascinating Ramesside site in Sudan.

While in Egypt during June I was impressed by the optimism that still prevails despite the time it is taking to complete the revolutionary process. We have now decided the time is right to resume planning for the next official TVAES Study Tour to Egypt which is tentatively scheduled for late 2013. Meanwhile we hope to run a more local day trip during the course of the current academic year. Again we have a strong series of local classes through our partnership with the WEA with increased geographical and subject coverage for 2012-13. I hope you will as always take the opportunity to enjoy as many TVAES activities as possible during the year from our range of lectures, study days, trips and classes.

John Billman, Chairman, TVAES

Secretary's Report

Having just completed my second year as Secretary I am amazed how quickly time passes, looking back at yet another successful, interesting year with the Society. Our lectures during 2011 – 2012 included rare visitors to our shores like Dr Stephen Harvey from the US who introduced us to the legacy of Ahmose and the Tetisheri Project at Abydos, venerable veterans of Egyptology such as Prof Geoffrey Martin from Cambridge who revisited the tomb of Horemheb, and up-and-coming younger scholars like Dr Elizabeth Froom from Oxford who brought priestly graffiti from Karnak to life for us and Dr Richard Bussmann from UCL London, who bases his study of Early Dynastic provincial administration on seals and seal impressions from Hierakonpolis.

I am particularly pleased that the Society has been able to organise two fundraiser study days in 2012, which were led by their respective mission directors and gave members rare insights into two current field projects in Egypt as well as raising respectable sums for both. One of these, held in March, was a joint effort with the South Asasif Conservation Trust, and aimed to put the tombs currently being excavated there in their artistic and historical context (£ 1000 raised). The July study day introduced the audience to the Gurob Harem Palace Project in the Fayoum, the role of Gurob in the Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean as well as to the history of archaeology at the site (£ 880 raised).

Again, the quality of our programme has attracted quite a few visitors over the year, and our membership is stable. However, as a Society we need to look forward and be mindful of the need for new audiences and members. Committee member Gerry Palmer is applying his professional expertise to this challenge, and has

just initiated the creation of a small informal community marketing sub-committee to start work on long-term strategies over the coming year.

This summer saw the production of another edition of the TVAES Newsletter, produced by Beth Asbury who has now returned from Egypt. The Summer 2012 Newsletter again presented an interesting and informative mix of Society news, tributes, lecture reports (including topical non-TVAES events), exhibition and book reviews as well as the now traditional crossword. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage members to contribute to the next issue.

The Society has just held a very successful Members Miscellany on 19 August, at the Novotel in Friar Street Reading. More than forty members congregated to enjoy a two-course buffet carvery lunch followed by nine excellent member's presentations on an astonishing variety of topics ranging from the Age of the Sphinx to Late Period mud-brick structures, included contributions on the working people of Amarna and Deir el-Medina, two Egyptian Middle Kingdom forts in Nubia and aspects of the Anuket, Min, Horus and Seth as well as tales of Beth's adventures in Egypt. Thanks to Committee member Anette Oliver for organising the venue, the lunch and all the other little details that guaranteed a pleasant gathering.

As TVAES Secretary, the administration of the Donation Fund is one of my responsibilities. The Donation Sub-Committee was appointed in October 2010 and over the following months adopted the procedures that permitted the launch of the first round of awards in spring 2011 for funds totalling £ 2,000. Eight out of the ten 2011 Award Winners have been paid; two project directors (Dr Campbell Price of the Saqqara Geophysical Survey Project and Dr Glenn Godenho of the Liverpool Mission to the Tomb Complex of Ankhtifi near Mo'alla) have asked for their awards to be carried over for one year as they were unable to resume field work during the 2011 – 2012 season. Several of the 2011 award winners will present the results of their recent work to the Society over the forthcoming year.

The spring 2012 round of awards offered funds totalling £1,500 and attracted fifteen applications, nine of whom were successful in winning sums ranging from £ 50 to £250. Three of the award winners, Dr Eleonora Kormysheva (Dr Renee Friedman (Hierakonpolis Expedition) and Prof Barry Kemp (Amarna Trust), had also won awards in 2011. This year's winning projects include one Western Desert survey mission (Kharga Oasis) and two missions operating in Northern Sudan, thereby widening the geographical scope of the Society's activities. Four of the 2012 award winners have been paid to date. One of them, Dr Neal Spencer, Curator for Egypt and the Sudan at the British Museum, will lead our prestigious Amara West study day in July 2013. Details of the current year's awards can be found on page 7 of the 2012 Newsletter.

As Secretary of the Donation Sub-committee I keep receiving extremely positive feedback from mission directors about the Donation Fund: even small sums awarded seem to have had a disproportionately large impact in terms of raising our Society's profile among professionals in the field. Therefore I am very pleased that at our last Committee meeting our Treasurer endorsed the viability of a third TVAES Donation Fund for 2013 totalling £ 1,500, rising to £2000 if an appropriate level of gift aid is received from the HMRC, and hope that Society members will agree to fund it.

Birgit Schoer, Secretary, TVAES

Treasurer's Report: Financial Statement 2011-2012

Income		Expenditure	
Opening Balance	£ 10,689.58	Speakers Fees	£1,114.45
Membership & Visitors	£2,066.22	Hieroglyphs Course	£2,955.80
Course Fees	£5,490.50	Stationery	£622.80
Bags	£4.00	Refreshments	£142.67
Raffle	£508.00	Donations	£1,741.22
Magazine Sales	£83.00	Insurance	£211.42
Refreshments	£394.51	Subs	£45.00
TVAES Store	£161.59	Room Hire Meetings	£1,368.14
Donation	£51.00	Room Hire Evening Classes	£889.40
Members' Miscellany	£989.00	Day School	£609.34
		South Asasif Donation	£1,000.00
		SARS Donation	£1800.00
		Gurob Donation	£880.00
Total	£20,437.40	Total	£13,380.24
		Balance at Bank	£7,057.16
		Outstanding	
		Donation Fund	£418.50
		Members' Miscellany	£989.00
		Revised Balance at Bank	£5,649.66

Erica Morland, Treasurer, TVAES