

**Session title: EUROPEAN EGYPTOLOGISTS IN EGYPTIAN  
ARCHAEOLOGY: A MODERN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

**Organizers:** Amanda-Alice Maravelia, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia  
Galina A. Belova, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

**Discussant:** Alicia Meza, Metropolitan College, New York, USA

**Time:** Thursday afternoon

**Room:**

**Session abstract:**

When an egyptological session was officially incorporated for the first time in the agenda of the *European Association of Archaeologists*, during the EAA 7<sup>th</sup> Conference in Esslingen (Germany, 2001), subsequently during the EAA 8<sup>th</sup> Conference in Thessaloniki (Hellas, 2002), during the EAA 9<sup>th</sup> Conference in St Petersburg (Russia, 2003), and then during the EAA 12<sup>th</sup> Conference in Cracow (Poland, 2006), we were not expecting such a warm welcome even by colleagues who are not Egyptologists. This year's session endeavours to continue and stabilize this fruitful tradition, which tries focusing on European Egyptology and its various aspects. We hope to explore and discuss various themes, which should be mutually interesting enough both for Egyptologists and for specialists in European Archaeology. This year's session will be bi-faceted: (i) it will host papers on Egyptian Collections in European Museums (as well as their history) and Museology; issues of Orientalism, colonialism, appropriation and the like, through the prism of the history of acquisition of certain European collections (comprising Egyptian and other Oriental artworks) are also warmly welcome to be discussed; (ii) it will try to shed light on an interdisciplinary approach between European Egyptologists and European Archaeologists, in their so common endeavour to study the very dynamics of past cultures, based either on field work (excavation reports related to Egyptian Archaeology) or on theoretical work (History, Anthropology, Archaeoastronomy, etc). The main topic and lodestar of this egyptological session will be the modern interdisciplinary interpretation of the material culture of Ancient Egyptians, through various artefacts hosted in European Museum Collections and their history.

**Paper abstracts:**

**KOM TUMAN ... THE «ISLAND» OF MEMPHIS**

Galina A. Belova, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

The Russian Institute of Egyptology in Cairo (RIEC) conducted the 5<sup>th</sup> regular season of archaeological works at the site of Kom Tuman (Memphis) in 2007. The field works that were accomplished during the season could be divided in two parts: 1. Archaeological excavations in 2007; and 2. Soil investigations. More specifically:

1. There were attempts made to localize the so-called *Dimick Building*, which was put on the survey map of Memphis by Dimick in 1955 and was accepted by many scientists as it is. To the present day, some theoretical efforts were undertaken to identify this building with some structures in the field, but any positive result was not reached because of the necessity to excavate the huge territory. This was very important for the historical reconstruction of the place to be ensured in one of the two possible statements: the above mentioned building really existed or was it a «falsification» presented in the complex of walls which were visible in the time of Dimick's activities and was considered as a single structure by him? That's why during the season 2007 the excavation area was extended and covered as a whole 15 x 7 squares (of 10 x 10 m<sup>2</sup> each). Among other tasks of the season was the further investigation of the structures, which were discovered in the previous seasons: the detailed study of the architectural remains of buildings and the possible comparison of their remains with the *Dimick Building*.

2. The results of soil investigations makes it clear that the Nile flowed very close to the excavated area in the past, and bounded it from North-East. That explained the efforts of the local population to strengthen the area under construction with the help of some water absorbing material: i.e., limestone chips, fragments of fired clay, fragments of pottery, & c. These very materials reduce the humidity of the soil and permit someone to built long-lived structures. This method of construction accounts for the density of the foundations' levels as well as for their configuration.

## **STUDIES OF THE SEAWORTHINESS AND MANOEUVRABILITY OF THE EGYPTIAN SEA-GOING VESSELS OF THE NEW KINGDOM**

Alexander Belov, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

Based on the analysis of the images and the models of the ships of that period an attempt is undertaken to estimate the major qualities of the ship such as floatation, stability, running speed and manoeuvrability. Apart from this, the service performance is being analysed as including displacement and carrying capacity. Special attention is paid to the rigging of trade and military vessels of the New Kingdom. The changes in the rigging are considered in the course of the Middle and New Kingdoms.

## **FORGING FUTURE COLLABORATIONS IN EUROPEAN AND EGYPTIAN EGYPTOLOGY**

Fekri Hassan and Aloisia de Trafford, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London, UK

Paradoxically, the emergence of *science* as a salient feature of the modern world coincided with the establishment of European Nationalism and European Imperialism, which in practice often led to tacit or explicit exclusion of scientists from the colonised nations, particularly in the Humanities which were dominated by scholars who focused their attention on these political agendas. Egyptology is no exception. As a result, the collection, display and interpretation of ancient Egyptian artefacts, society and history were mainly the prerogative of Europeans and later Americans. In

the 1920s when Egyptians recognised the importance of *ancient Egypt* in their struggle for Independence, they began to valorise ancient Egypt and to engage in egyptological research. However, even after Egypt gained her Independence in 1954, the bastions of egyptological learning were still mostly dominated by European and American Universities and their national research centres in Egypt.

The Nubia Rescue Campaign (1960-1971) was a remarkable collaborative effort which brought together Egyptologists from many countries, mostly in Europe, and could have been an ideal opportunity to forge further cooperative projects in capacity building and infrastructure not only to deal with the impact of the construction of the Aswan High Dam but also with the exponential rise in tourist numbers visiting Egyptian Museums and sites since the 1960s, and the growing threats to archaeological sites from population pressure, agriculture and building.

Recently the European Commission has developed several programmes aimed at enhancing collaboration among scholars from European States with the participation of scholars from non-European neighbouring countries, including Egypt. This is a step in the right direction, which has the potential to forge a new future for collaboration between European and Egyptian archaeologists and Egyptologists if a strategic action plan is followed which needs to include:

1. Supporting the establishment of the proposed Egyptian Heritage Institute with its unprecedented emphasis on programmes in Museum display, site management, Museum interpretation, conservation of sites and Collections and heritage economics.

2. Promoting international projects that aim to encourage intercultural dialogue through events, Museum interpretation and displays, exhibitions and publications.

3. Taking advantage of the ongoing efforts by the Egyptian government to build the Museum of Civilisation and the Grand Egyptian Museum to foster international collaboration for the development of guidelines for Museum displays, curation and management of these, and other provincial Museums.

4. Support interdisciplinary collaboration in the fields of digitisation as a means of making available (where possible on open access websites) a digital library of: (i) Museum artefacts; and (ii) scholarly reference works.

## **FUNERARY CONES FROM THE THEBAN TOMB OF THAY (TT 23)**

Sergej Ivanov, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

*Funerary cones* is but a collective term defining objects that most frequently had a conical shape and were made of pottery which were meant for a specific sepulchral use. The base of a cone was usually stamped with a private's name and its owner's titles. These cones were considered to be a kind of «magic nails» put in friezes on the facades of New Kingdom private tombs. Besides their protective function, the cones were legal evidence for the tomb's ownership and an additional depositary for the owner's name, in case that this last was accidentally erased from inside the tomb. Funerary cones are considered today to have also a solar connotation, pointing both to the daily regeneration of the deceased and alluding to the sun's disc (as of their bases') circular shape. However, the majority of the cones were never discovered *in situ*. Due to tomb usurpation, robbery, collecting of souvenirs and other human activities in the Theban necropolis, they are found in tens of tombs and actually

hundreds of meters away from their original location. This paper is focused on a number of such cones found by the Russian Archaeological Mission in Luxor inside or in the nearest proximity of the Tomb of Thay (TT 23, royal scribe of pharaoh's dispatches, temp. of King Merenptah) at Sheikh abd el-Qurna. Though none of the cones originates from TT 23, they give us a possibility to reconstruct some furtive pages from the antique history of the Theban necropolis of the nobles.

## **COLUMN BASES FROM KOM TUMAN (MEMPHIS)**

Alexej A. Krol, RIEC and CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> campaigns of the archaeological excavations of the RIEC at the site of Kom Tuman, which in Antiquity was the northern part on the ancient city of Memphis, a peculiar type of stone objects were discovered. They were lying in foundation trenches of the external walls of a building, the actual function of which is still debatable, but which could be part of Pharaoh's Apries' palatial complex. All these objects have almost equal dimensions and a semicircular shape. Taking into consideration that these objects were certainly found in the secondary position we may assume that originally the stones have been used as column bases of some temple or palatial complex, which later on was dismantled. Some construction elements of this complex were reused as the filling of foundation trenches of the building excavated by the Russian Mission.

## **CYPRIOTE POTTERY IMPORTS IN EGYPT FROM THE LATE NEW KINGDOM TO THE XXII DYNASTY: THE EGYPTIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Sabine Lämmel, Römer und Pelizäus Museum, Hildesheim, Deutschland

The question of Cypriote pottery imports to Egypt during the Pharaonic Period has been given only a limited attention in past scholarship. Although individual imports have been reported whenever identified, little effort has been made to attempt interpreting these very finds in their wider context and understanding their meaning in the backdrop of the Eastern Mediterranean systems of trade and exchanges. This paper will address this issue, focusing on the transitional phase of the end of the second and early first Millennia BCE. At that time, a series of important changes are noticeable in the pattern of Cypriot pottery imports to Egypt, with the dramatic decrease, if not, as is often argued, the wholesome disappearance of such products in the XX and XXI Dynasties followed by their reappearance in the XXII Dynasty. The discussion will be divided into two main sections:

- I. The first will provide a brief reassessment of the current state of knowledge regarding Cypriote pottery imports to Egypt throughout the period concerned here and compare it to that of the late XVIII and XIX Dynasties. It will place particular emphasis on sites from the Egyptian Delta, such as Tanis, Qantir and Buto where ongoing research and excavation work have the potential to shed light on the subject discussed here. Among others, questions related to the nature of such imports (fine ware versus transport/storage vessels) and their context (funerary, cultic or domestic) will also be addressed.

2. In the second section, the material evidence will be examined within a greater East Mediterranean ambit. Cypriote pottery imports to Egypt will be set against the background of a series of recent theoretical frameworks arguing for the existence of a significant shift in the structure of trade relations affecting the whole region at the transition from the second to the first Millennium BCE. According to such theories, this period saw the emergence of an informal system of trade, in which Cyprus played an important role, and which portended the collapse the «elite-based» system of exchange. Confronting such proposals to the Egyptian archaeological evidence (though not dismissing important textual records, such as the XX Dynasty *Report of Wenamun*) opens up new ways of interpreting the ancient Egyptian history, shifting the emphasis on long-term processes instead of concentrating on specific historical events. Furthermore, it provides a good opportunity in order to test novel and alternative approaches to the socio-political and economic history of the ancient Near East.

### **A STELOPHOROUS STATUETTE OF AN ADORER WITH A HYMN TO THE SOLAR GOD RE (NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF ATHENS)**

Amanda-Alice Maravelia, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

We study an unpublished stelophorous statuette of an adorer, bearing a hymn to the ancient Egyptian solar god Re. This is kept at the premises of the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. The text of the hymn is in a very poor state of preservation and significant parts of it have been obliterated through time. However, that very statuette, dedicated to Re by a certain overseer of the scribes named Beben (*Bbn*) during the New Kingdom, offers us several clues as to the context of its religious semantics, expressed by the prayer to the solar god (which we try to reconstitute in our paper). Furthermore, a comparative discussion is presented concerning the text of this hymn with another similar hymn on a statuette of the same Collection and with certain hymns to Re coming from the *Book of the Dead* (e.g.: *pAny* in the British Museum = BM EA 10470, & c.).

### **THE PHOENICIAN HERITAGE IN THE GUADALQUIVIR VALLEY: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MATERIAL CULTURE AND RELIGIOUS THOUGHT**

Alicia Meza, Metropolitan College, New York, USA

As the Phoenician trade routes extended towards the Western Mediterranean Sea, new colonies and centres developed with commerce. The centre of Ancient Gadir was of a paramount significance in this new commercial exchange. The Phoenician exchange extended far inland along the Guadalquivir River and its valley. Phoenician temples dedicated to their gods were erected, and religious cults were established in the whole area overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Along with trade the Phoenician passed on the religious rituals and artefacts that were revealing not only their beliefs, but also the tendencies of Egyptian religion and art. Today the Archaeological Museum at Cadiz seats on a street called *Calle del Tinte* or the *Dye Street*. Numerous

Egyptian statuettes and other egyptianizing objects are in exhibition in the Museum and also in the Museum's vaults. One of the most beautiful of these statuettes and the most revealing is the Carambolo statuette, which is in the Archaeological Museum in Seville. An investigation of these objects will be attempted here, although not extensive but rather interesting.

### **SMALL OBJECTS FROM THE TEMPLE DEPOSITS AT TELL IBRAHIM AWAD, EGYPT**

Tatjana A. Sherkova, CES/RAS, Moscow, Russia

During the course of excavations of the Russian Team at the temple of Tell Ibrahim Awad deposits were found containing small objects from the time of the foundation of this sanctuary in the Early Kingdom. They are figurines, religious symbols, & c. This paper is dedicated to the iconographic analysis of small objects, having as principal goal the study of magical practices in ancient Egypt.

### **A CHILD'S TUNIC FROM BYZANTINE EGYPT AT THE BENAKI MUSEUM**

Sophia Tsourinaki, SEN Textile Art Centre, Athens, Hellas

The Benaki Museum comprises an important collection of Egyptian textiles collected by Antonis Benaki, who was born in Alexandria, into a prominent family of the Hellenic *diaspora*. The Coptic Collection contains 340 fine textiles covering a period that extends roughly from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries CE. Of special interest is a virtually complete woollen tunic with hood, which stands out for a number of reasons. The examination of its subject matter, the style of representation and the workmanship give an impressive idea of the Early Byzantine garments in Egypt. A full description of the garment will be presented here, together with the weaving procedure and the type of loom. Parallel examples in the Benaki collection will also be comparatively discussed.

### **NEW DATA ON ANCIENT COPTIC ANTHROPOLOGY FROM THE FAYOUM OASIS IN EGYPT**

Sergej V. Vasiliev, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, RAS, Moscow, Russia and Svetlana B. Boroutsckaya, Moscow State University M.V. Lomonosov, Moscow, Russia

143 human remains of the medieval Coptic population from the necropolis of Deir el-Banat (Fayoum, Egypt) were studied. Among them 45.5 % relates to females; 40.6 % to males and 13.9 % to juveniles of an age younger than 17. The possible very early age of death of the adults is distinguished. The majority of females (61.1 %) died at an age before 30. The second peak of mortality was at the age of 35-40. Only 1.5 % of women reached the age of 50! The death rate among males differs. They also had a very high mortality at the age 18-30 (46.6 %), but many of them reached and even over-lived the age of 40 (24.2%). The low death rate among children is worth to be

noted! 54 skulls (29 males and 25 females) were investigated and described according to the complete craniological program. The results will enable us to understand how homogeneous was the population, or in other words whether our sample was representing autochthonous or allochthonous populations. During the examination of the skulls the following cases were noted: 1. a case of trepanation in the area of saggital suture; 2. a case of chopped wound also in the area of saggital suture (in both cases those individuals remained alive). The male's skulls from the necropolis of Deir el-Banat have middle dimensions by length, breadth and height and they are mostly dolichocran. The shape is mostly ovoid. The nose is not long and fairly narrow; according to indexes, the semotic breadth and height were very prominent parameters and the frontal and occipital bones had middle dimensions. The face had middle breadth and height with relatively small malar diameter. The orbits' shape was nearly rounded with a little bit dropped lateral edge. Nose-molar and zygo-maxilar angles were evidence of the good horizontal profile of the face. Female skulls from the necropolis of Deir el-Banat were fairly long and middle by breadth and height. They were mesocran although showing a tendency to be dolichocran. They were mostly ovoid by the shape, although several rhomboid skulls were also examined. Parametres of frontal and occipital bones were middle in the universal scale. The faces were narrow, the malar diameter was small with middle upper facial height. The nose was narrow, not long, and very prominent. Orbits were small by dimensions and rounded by shape. Nose-molar and zygo-maxilar angles were small, a fact which means a good profile of the face. Thus, the studied craniological material belonged to a Europeoid and most probably homogeneous group. A further analysis will be connected with comparative studies, which will enable us to understand the origins of this group (whether it was mixed with a Hellenic population or if it was autochthonous). Besides, 70 separated long bones of post-cranial skeletons were investigated according to the complete osteological program. All female long bones were very gracile, as well as all male long bones of hands. Male femora and tibia bones were gracile, but in some cases very massive. We calculated the height of people from Deir el-Banat. The average stature of men was 169.5 cm (varying between 163 and 179 cm). So, men varieties had a middle body length. The average height of women was 155.4 cm (varying between 150 and 160.5 cm). We also studied the limb's proportion of 4 male and 5 female skeletons. The ancient Copts (men and women) were characterized of relatively longer legs, *antebrachium* and *crus*, and relatively little width of shoulder and pelvis. All women bones and the bones of several men have a poor muscular relief of the hand's bones. The study of muscular relief revealed that one part of men had the next well developed: *tuberositas deltoidea*, *cristae tuberculi majoris et minoris*, *tuberositas ulnae*, *tuberositas radii* and relief of *supinator*. Most of the people from the medieval Deir el-Banat possessed a well-developed relief of the leg's bones; these were: *tuberositas glutea*, *linea intertrochanterica*, *trochanter major* and *epicondili medialis et lateralis femoris*, *tuberositas tibiae* and *linea musculi solei*. Thus, we could suppose, that people from Deir el-Banat were compelled to walk much time. The typical pathology of the post-cranial skeleton was the strength porous of the long bones. The research of cranial pathology revealed that frequent cases of *palate porous*, *cribra orbitalia* and *alveolisis* were accompanied by teeth's loss.

## **STUDIES OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN FOOTWEAR: TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS. PART VII: COILED SEWN SANDALS**

André J. Veldmeijer, PalArch Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

When looking at reliefs and paintings, one gets the impression that the ancient Egyptians went barefoot most of the time. Though undoubtedly they did on occasion, many Museums all over the world house large quantities of footwear, and various texts and finds show that sandals (especially) were a common commodity. Manufacturing techniques of the footwear are fairly limited, but the variation is quite large. Here, the category of coiled sewn sandals is presented. As usual in studies of ancient Egyptian footwear, the present paper focuses on the technological aspects and includes a description. Other aspects will be discussed only briefly and will be dealt with in more detail at a later stage of the project. Footwear terminology follows Goubitz. The following terms are used to refer to the various directions of the foot and its footwear: the *ventral surface* is the surface that faces the ground, and the *dorsal surface* is the surface that faces upwards; the *lateral side* is the side that faces outwards, and the *medial side* faces inwards. The front end or toe can be referred to as *anterior* and the back or heel as *posterior*.