

Current Research in Egyptology 2021

Proceedings of the Twenty-First Annual Symposium,
University of the Aegean, 9-16 May 2021

Edited by

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Access Archaeology





ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD
Summertown Pavilion
18-24 Middle Way
Summertown
Oxford OX2 7LG
www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978-1-80327-376-1
ISBN 978-1-80327-377-8 (e-Pdf)

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Ceremonial shields featuring smiting scenes, TT40. Davies and Gardiner 1926: pl. 25.

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Contents

Foreword.....	iii
Introduction	vii
List of paper presentations.....	ix
List of poster presentations.....	xiv
List of keynote lectures.....	xvi
Reared in prehistory: uncovering the evidence for children in ancient Egypt.....	1
<i>Mona Akmal M. Ahmed</i>	
The ‘commander of the ruler’s crew’: some remarks about a high military title in the Second Intermediate Period and the Egyptian army in the 17th dynasty	27
<i>Francesco de Gaetano</i>	
Spectacle of imperial splendour: the presentation of gifts and tributes ceremony in the 18th dynasty	40
<i>Ziting (Rebecca) Wang</i>	
Festivals and duties: aspects of religious life found in ancient Egyptian personal correspondence	62
<i>Sue Thorpe</i>	
Sun, moon, and myth: the function and symbolism of fish in water features of ancient Egyptian formal gardens.....	76
<i>Jayme Reichart</i>	
Being annihilated or being satisfied in the Duat. About the dynamic of the <i>sw.wt</i> in the New Kingdom Books of the Underworld	95
<i>Mariano Bonanno</i>	
‘And all large and small cattle’ - Is there a ‘zoogony’ in the Religious Hymns of the New Kingdom (c. 1539-1077 BC)?	108
<i>Guilherme Borges Pires</i>	
Water, protection and destiny: an interpretation of the <i>wr.t</i>-demon.....	132
<i>Gabriele Mario Conte</i>	
The transmission of themes and motifs between copy and innovation: the decorative programmes of the late monumental tombs	150
<i>Valeria Tappeti</i>	

Unpublished Greek and Demotic papyri from Graeco-Roman Tebtunis: a research project at the University of Parma	159
<i>Nicola Reggiana and Alessia Bovo</i>	
The Πλοιαφέσια in the Greek landscape: a local expression of a global festivity	173
<i>Dafni Maikidou-Poutrino</i>	
Iconographical and iconological study of the snake-footed Anubis in Alexandria: connections and new creations	190
<i>Beatriz Jiménez Meroño and Francisco L. Borrego Gallardo</i>	
Eggs in Graeco-Roman Egypt: food, medicine, ritual	203
<i>Dimitris Roumpekas</i>	
The scarab, from amulets to magical gems: transmissions and transpositions of an emblem of the pharaonic civilisation.....	214
<i>Dominique Barcat</i>	
The role of Greek loanwords in Coptic magical texts. Mere technical terms or indicators of scribal education?	237
<i>Krisztina Hevesi</i>	

Foreword

Aegean Egyptology (AE): the cradle of Egyptological knowledge and research in Greek academia

By a fortunate circumstance the current proceedings of the Current Research in Egyptology 2021 international conference, which was organised by the Aegean Egyptology (AE) research team under the aegis of the Department of Mediterranean Studies (DMS) of the University of the Aegean in May 2021, coincide with the 20th anniversary of the formal establishment of Egyptology in Greece. It was back in 2002 and the bright vision of the members of the DMS Temporary Academic Committee, predominantly among them Professor Ioannis Seimenis (Head of DMS, 2001-2003) and Professor Socrates Katsikas (Vice Rector of the University of the Aegean, 2000-2003), that inaugurated Egyptology as an academic discipline in Greek academia. Upon my election as Lecturer in Egyptology in 2003, AE was officially formed and established the credentials for the rapid development of Egyptology along the lines of pioneering research and innovative teaching within the fruitful environment of DMS, an ‘area-studies’ Department which focuses diachronically on the south-eastern Mediterranean region.

AE comprises of postgraduate, doctorate/postdoctorate researchers and external collaborators under various research and funding schemes and aims at the promotion of Egyptology in Greece through the elaboration and implementation of pioneered international and interdisciplinary research projects, the organisation of scientific colloquia, conferences and specialised workshops, the development of specialised Egyptological courses on undergraduate and postgraduate levels, e-learning programmes and summer schools.¹ More recently, AE was implemented by the first postgraduate programme (Master of Arts) in Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology (2014 onwards) and the Laboratory for the Ancient World of the Eastern Mediterranean (2015 onwards).²

The current research projects of the AE are developed along four main axes:

- The cultural appropriation of certain ideas/symbols and the mobilisation of Egyptian motifs and personae in Greece with the multidimensional Aegyptiaca material from the archaic sanctuaries in the Aegean and mainland Greece as the main area of research (Aegyptiaca Project, in collaboration with Bonn University and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Dodecanese);³
- The AEgySca Project: the multiple implications of Egyptian and Egyptianizing scarabs in the Aegean, 8th-6th century BC (MIS 50049415).⁴ Since scarabs are the largest category of

¹ For more information on the past and current AE research activities, see <<http://aegeanegyptology.gr>>.

² See <<http://ema.aegean.gr>> and <<https://dms.aegean.gr/en/laboratories/laboratory-of-the-ancient-world-of-eastern-mediterranean/>>.

³ Recent project outcomes include Apostola E. and P. Kousoulis 2019a. Exotic offerings in the archaic Rhodian sanctuaries: a critical synthesis of the Egyptian and Egyptianizing votives. *Athens University Review in Archaeology* 2 (2019): 103-116; Apostola, E and P. Kousoulis 2019b. Aegyptiaca in archaic Greece: Preliminary remarks on scarabs and scaraboids from the Sanctuary of Ialysus (Rhodes). *Göttinger Miszellen* 258: 9-20; Barcat, D. and P. Kousoulis 2019. Les vases et figurines en faïence entre Rhodes et le Delta: contexte artistique et usages funéraires. *Revue Archéologique* 2.68: 321-39; For more information, see <<http://aegyptiaca.gr>> and <<http://aegeanegyptology.gr/the-aegyptiaca-project-ecumene-and-economy-in-the-horizon-of-religion/>>.

⁴ Apostola, E., P. Kousoulis and Ch. Papadaki 2021. Egyptian and Egyptianizing scarabs in the Aegean (8th-6th BC): The Sanctuary of Hera Akraia-Limenia at Perachora as a case study. *Chronache di Archaeologia* 40: 61-102. This research is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund- ESF) through the Operational Programme ‘Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014-2020’ in the context of the project ‘Aegyptiaca as indicators of religious and cultural interaction in the Southeastern Mediterranean: The

Aegyptiaca in the Aegean, they can be used as a very representative sample for a thorough interpretation of the complete corpus, promoting future research in this field. Previous scholarship, based only on typology, states that a special category of scarabs, known in the bibliography as ‘Lindos-Perachora’ or ‘Rhodes-Perachora’ may also have been manufactured on the same island – from the latter half of the eighth century BC to the first quarter of the seventh century BC. The existence of many series of almost identical pieces is a crucial element requiring further investigation since it could indicate the existence of a workshop there or nearby. The project reinvestigates the typology and archaeological context of scarabs from Perachora, Heraion of Argos, Ialysos and Lindos.

- The publication of the funerary material from the Egyptian collection in the National Archaeological Museum with the 21st dynasty coffins as the focal point of research (in collaboration with the National Archaeological Museum, Athens)
- The semantics of the anti-god perception in the Egyptian belief system with the Apophian ontology, polymorphism, naming and their magico-ritual accentuation as the principal areas of research (part of the international and interdisciplinary Ancient Egyptian Demonology Project, University of California at Berkeley and Swansea University).⁵
- MAGIAM - Magical Interactivity in the Ancient Mediterranean: phenomenology, semantics, empiricism. Elements and aspects of magical interactivity and praxis in the ancient Mediterranean with a special focus on the designating criteria, problems of definition/perception and development along the lines of the ‘official’ cults, as well as phenomenological modes of familiarity and symbolism.⁶

Ongoing and recently completed doctorate research⁷ is characterised by an exceptionally high standard of originality and focus on a variety of often unexplored fields in Egyptology, archaeology and the ancient world of the eastern Mediterranean, such as the iconographic semantics of the human body in Egyptian art,⁸ the Aegyptiaca material from Archaic Greece,⁹ the Egyptian diplomatic system and foreign relations with the Near Eastern kingdoms of the Late Bronze Age,¹⁰ new approaches to the Egyptian and Aegean ritual gestures of the Bronze Age,¹¹ aspects of the foreign deities into the Egyptian

multiple implications of Egyptian and Egyptianizing scarabs in the Aegean (8th-6th century BC)’ (MIS 50049415). For more information, see <<http://aegeanegyptology.gr/aegysca-project/>>.

⁵ P. Kousoulis forthcoming. *Apep and the Anti-god Perception in the Egyptian Belief System* (Hans-Bonnet Studien zur Ägyptischen Religion) Berlin: Eb-Verlag. For more information, see <<http://aegeanegyptology.gr/ancient-egyptian-daemonology-project/>>.

⁶ Papadaki, C. 2022. *Elements and Aspects of Magic in Minoan Civilization*, post-doctoral research, University of the Aegean (in Greek); Kousoulis, P. forthcoming. Language and performativity of the ancient Egyptian magical discourse., in a Festschrift.

⁷ See <<http://aegeanegyptology.gr/phd-research/>>

⁸ Antonatos, P. 2012, *Interpretation of Pharaonic Egyptian Figures: Contributing to the study of human attitudes and movements*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of the Aegean, Rhodes (in Greek).

⁹ Apostola, E. 2015, *Interaction of Ideas, Symbols and Cultures in the Southeastern Mediterranean from the 8th-6th c. BC: Hybrid and theriomorphic entities of Egyptian origin in the Aegean world*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of the Aegean, Rhodes (in Greek).

¹⁰ Kontopoulos, G. 2021. The Egyptian diplomatic system in the LBA beyond the terms of ‘brotherhood’ and ‘equality’: The Egyptian ‘abandonment’ of power and aspects of Pharaonic identity and Kingship. Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of the Aegean, Rhodes.

¹¹ Kekes, C. 2021a. *Speaking Bodies: An Approach to the Egyptian and Aegean Ritual Gestures of the Bronze Age*. Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of the Aegean, Rhodes (in Greek); Kekes, C. 2021b. *Speaking Bodies: An Approach to the Egyptian and Aegean Ritual Gestures of the Bronze Age* (Preliminary Remarks), in M. Arranz Cárcamo, R.

pantheon,¹² ritual sacrificial landscapes and politics in the prehistoric Aegean (M. Lambrakis, in progress), Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean, the new solar theology in Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean during the Late Bronze Age and its survival during the transitional and early historical times (D. Garoufalos, in progress), study of the Fayum portraits of the National Archaeological Museum and the Benaki Museum (M. Katsigianni, in progress), and the development of a quite innovative and interactive Ancient Egyptian Learning Tool (AELT; D. Georgiou, in progress).¹³

AE is a modern research and educational body, which serves and promotes Egyptology in Greece, re-enhances the research profile of the DMS and places University of the Aegean in a predominant position within the vast and rich Egyptological community and tradition worldwide.

Panagiotis Kousoulis

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Sánchez Casado, A. Planelles Orozco, S. Alarcón Robledo, J. Ortiz García and P. Mora Riudavets (eds) *Current Research in Egyptology 2019. Proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Symposium, University of Alcalá, 17-21 June 2019*: 1-11. Oxford: Archaeopress; Kekes, C. 2018. Deities or Mortals? Reassessing the Aegean 'Outstretched Arm Holding Staff Gesture'. *Creta Antica* 19: 155-72.

¹² Kalaitzaki, A. 2022. The introduction of foreign deities in Egypt during the Late Bronze Age. Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of the Aegean, Rhodes.

¹³ See <<http://hieroglyphs.gr>>

Introduction

The Twenty-first international, postgraduate conference *Current Research in Egyptology* (CRE) was held online by the Department of Mediterranean Studies (DMS) of the University of the Aegean (Rhodes, Greece), from 9th to 16th May 2021. Although the Covid-19 crisis prevented the organisation of a live event, the first ever CRE virtual conference had two significant advantages. First, it gave the opportunity to participants to attend every presentation of the conference. Second, many people from all over the world, students, researchers, people who just have an interest in ancient Egypt without being specialists, had the chance to attend such a prestigious and globally recognised Egyptological conference. All these people who, in normal circumstances, would not have been able to travel to Greece to be physically present during the meeting.

Egyptology was established as a separate discipline almost twenty years ago in Greek academia and Aegean Egyptology Research Team (AE) was founded at the same time. A significant number of conferences and symposiums about Egyptology have been held since then in the University of the Aegean. Organising the 21st annual CRE, especially under so difficult circumstances, was both a challenge and a chance to bring together young and prominent scholars and researchers from all over the world, as well as to promote Egyptological and Papyrological research conducted by young scholars in the University of the Aegean and other Greek Universities.

The heart of every conference is its speakers. We would like to thank all the presenters who shared with us fresh knowledge from ongoing research on different topics of Egyptology and congratulate them on their research. For eight days we had the opportunity to attend 72 lectures and 18 poster presentations of the highest scientific quality, covering many aspects of the ancient Egyptian civilisation, from Predynastic times to the Byzantine period, and its interaction with other cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world. The presentations focused on ancient Egyptian architecture, various aspects of the ancient Egyptian religion, archaeology and the study of the archaeological material, language and texts, ancient Egyptian officials, kings, and priests, social stratification and matters of ancient Egyptian economy, ancient Egyptian interconnections, ancient Egyptian iconography and symbols, the human body and nature in ancient Egyptian perception, magic and medicine, the evolution of modern Egyptology and the implementation of new methods on field archaeology, Egyptology and the study of hieroglyphs and artefacts.

Special thanks are due to our colleagues – most of them conference participants – who chaired the sessions: José Manuel Alba Gómez, Clémentine Audouit, Martina Bardoňová, Marwa Bdr El Din, Mariano Bonanno, Linda Chapon, Wojciech Ejsmond, Ronaldo Gurgel Pereira, Taichi Kuronuma, Dimitra Makri, Uroš Matić, Vincent Oeters, Marie Peterková Hlouchová, Gyula Priskin, Mohamed Raafat Abbas, Hany Rashwan, Dimitrios Roumpekas, Raúl Sánchez Casado, Valeria Tappeti, Eleni Tsatsou and Justin Yoo.

We are particularly grateful to all the prominent scholars from Greece and abroad who kindly accepted our invitation to participate as keynote speakers in this conference: Prof. Joachim Friedrich Quack, Prof. Diamantis Panagiotopoulos, Prof. Panagiota Sarischouli, Asst. Prof. Myrto Malouta, Prof. Panagiotis Kousoulis, Prof. Ludwig Morenz, Prof. Panagiotis Pachis, Dr. Virginia Webb and Prof. Olaf Kaper. We are sure that all conference participants gained new insights from their expertise on various debate issues and valuable feedback from conversations with them.

This year's conference would not have been possible without the support of the University of the Aegean and the assistance of many individuals. We are very grateful to Prof. Panagiotis Kousoulis, Director of the Laboratory of the Ancient World of the Eastern Mediterranean and founder of the Aegean Egyptology Research Group, for his valuable assistance and continuous support throughout the organisation of this event and the editing of the volume. Many thanks should be given to the Rector of the University of the Aegean, Prof. Chrissi Vitsilaki, and the Vice Rector, Prof. Eleni Theodoropoulou, to the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Ioannis Seimenis, and to the Head of DMS, Prof. Aikaterini Frantzi, for making this Conference possible. Our special thanks go to Dr. Mina Vafiadou and Mr. Panagiotis Agouras for their technical support.

Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance of the following individuals: the members of Aegean Egyptology Research Group, Dimitris Garoufalis, Grigorios Kontopoulos and Christina Papadaki; especially the members Dimitris Georgiou, Maria Antigoni Katsigianni, Emmanouil Lambrakis, Eirini Skaroglou and Katerina Sofianou for their significant contribution to the presentation of the sessions; Michalis Papantoniou for permission to use his photographs from Rhodes and Anastasia Michail for the beautiful logos/banners of the conference. We are truly thankful to Justin Yoo for his valuable advice about the organisation and his help in promoting the conference through the social media.

We are particularly grateful to Anna Kalaitzaki, co-head of CRE 2021 Organising Committee, for her vital contribution to the successful organisation of the conference, the peer review and the preparations for the editing of the volume. Special thanks go to Eirini Skaroglou for her help in the editing of the papers.

For the selection of the final papers we used an anonymous peer review system. Our sincere thanks go to our expert anonymous reviewers for their prompt and kind response to our call and their valuable comments on the first drafts of the papers.

The present volume includes fifteen Egyptological and Papyrological studies by young scholars, which investigate a great variety of topics, i.e. social, and religious aspects of life in ancient Egypt, ritual and magic, language and literature, ideology of death, demonology, iconographical issues and intercultural relations, from the Prehistoric to the Coptic period. The wide chronological and thematic range of the papers is representative of the multifaceted, interdisciplinary, and innovative character of modern Egyptology.

We would like to send our best wishes to the hosts of the next CRE conference to be held in Montpellier (Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3) in September 2022.

Electra Apostola and Christos Kekes

Editors of CRE 2021 Proceedings

List of paper presentations

Akmal M. Ahmed, Mona

Reared in prehistory: Uncovering the evidence of prehistoric children in Egypt

Alarcón Robledo, Sergio

New Perspectives on Ancient Egyptian Monumental Architecture

Alú, Cristina

Theorizing models of cultural interaction on the margins of ancient Egypt

Audouit, Clémentine

An Encyclopedia of the body in Ancient Egypt and Ancient Near East

Barcat, Dominique

From scarab seals to roman gems

Bardoňová, Martina

'Nothing that surrounds us is object, all is subject': Does a tomb has a biography? The case of QH 35n

Bělohoubková, Dana

Where have all the women gone? The so-called Royal Harem Suite in Malqata Palace

Blasco Torres, Ana Isabel

Lexical Fossilization of Old, Middle and Late Egyptian Terms in Graeco-Egyptian Anthroponymy (Graeco-Roman Period)

Bonanno, Mariano

Being annihilated or being satisfied in the Duat. About the dynamic of the sw.wt in the New Kingdom Books of the Underworld

Borges Pires, Guilherme

'And all large and small cattle' - Is there a 'zoogony' in the Religious Hymns of the New Kingdom (ca. 1539-1077 BC)?

Callegher, Silvia; Gottardo, Martino; Iannarilli, Francesca; Pancin, Federica

The Hellenistic shades of Napata

Calomino, Eva Amanda; Scaro, Agustina

Local special findings in domestic contexts of a frontier post in the Egyptian Delta. The small finds of Tell el-Ghaba (North Sinai, Egypt) between the 10th and 7th centuries BC

Channell, Zuleika

Ancient Hands: An Initial Palaeographic Analysis of Painted Decoration on Twelfth Dynasty Coffins from Asyut

Chapon, Linda

The decoration, function and location of niches in New Kingdom temples: A reappraisal

Conte, Gabriele Mario

Water, protection and destiny: an interpretation of the wr.t-demon

Cornwell, Rachael

Grammaticalization and the Linguistic Cycle in the History of the Egyptian Language

Dautais, Louis

For a Global and Diachronic Approach to Egypto-Aegeans Interconnections (17th-12th c. BCE): A New Methodology

De Gaetano, Francesco

The 'Commander of the Ruler's crew': some remarks about a high military title in the Second Intermediate Period and the Egyptian army in the XVII dynasty

De Maré, Charly

Between Philology and Anthropology: The Animation of the Cult Statue in the Daily Temple Ritual

De Pietri, Marco

The 'Aegyptiaca' found in Turkey: a glimpse on Egyptian and Hittite relationships

Ejsmond, Wojciech

The Temple Complex at Gebelein in Light of Current Research

El-Behaedi, Raghda (Didi)

Detection and 3D modeling of New Subsurface Archaeological Structures at Hermopolis (el-Ashmunein)

Ellaimony, Mohga

Tattoo in Ancient Egypt; of Egyptian or Nubian origin

Ismail, Khaled Essam Mohammed

The unpublished female figurines of the late period and the Greco-Roman periods: concept and the function

Ezzat, Azza

The Middle Kingdom Soul houses: A Mediator between Offering Tables and T-shaped Pools

Falduto, Elisabetta

Magicians - Monks: Forms of continuity of magical-religious practices of the pre-Christian tradition in Egyptian monastic environments (4th-7th century)

Galazzo, Daniela

The use of quartzite (silicified sandstone) in statuary and monuments in Ancient Egypt during New Kingdom

Gilbert, Emily

The Influence Behind Ramesses II's Changing Depiction for his Royal Children

Hevesi, Krisztina

The Role of Greek Loanwords in Coptic Magical Texts

Honzl, Jiří

Romans in the house of god - Adaptation in the religious sphere in Roman Egypt as seen through the Latin inscriptions and their context

- Hulková, Lucia
Changing Burial Customs in the Eastern Nile Delta during the Second Intermediate Period and early New Kingdom
- Józefowicz, Ewa
Hatshepsut's Portico of Obelisks: Scenes Connections
- Junge, Friederike
Light my fire – Notes on burning rituals in Early Dynastic burial contexts
- Kapiec, Katarzyna
Oils Imported to Egypt – A New Insight to the Origins, Production, and Trade Routes
- Kontopoulos, Grigorios
Patterns of exchange in LBA Egypt: Royal gifts in the Amarna Age
- Kumar, Nisha
The Beginnings of a Consumer Society: Beer Production in Predynastic Egypt
- Kuronuma, Taichi
Ceramic assemblage in the Predynastic cemeteries: Morphological combination and consideration on the usage in mortuary context in terms of ideological and social aspects
- Landrino, Martina
An already well-known (?) administrative document from Deir el-Medina
- Maikidou-Poutrino, Dafni
The Ploiaphesia in the Greek landscape: a local expression of a global festivity
- Małacka-Drozd, Natalia
Was there an urban policy for the Nile Delta during 3rd millennium BC?
- Marković, Nenad
The priesthood of the divine Apis bulls: a prosopography
- Matić, Uroš
Pottery fragmentation and abrasion at third millennium BC Kom Ombo, Upper Egypt
- Miller, Jordan
Red images in the Amduat of Thutmose III
- Mosleth King, Maiken
Dining with the Dead: the Totenmahl in Roman Egypt
- Muñoz Perez, Carmen
Bring me an Amulet for the Afterworld. The Use and Reuse of Egyptian Funerary Amulets in the Mediterranean Area
- Noria-Serrano, Beatriz
Foreign servants in Middle Kingdom households

Oeters, Vincent

Not a curse 'of' but rather 'on' the mummy?! Frans Jonckheere, the alleged mummy of Butehamun, and the rise of the study of ancient Egyptian medicine in Belgium (1939-1956)

Orfanidis, Georgios

Alexander III of Macedon, the Founder of Alexandria: Reading behind the Obvious through Sources and Statues

Pancin, Federica

Late Bronze Age Hathoric and female-headed vessels: a formal and functional comparative study of some Eastern Mediterranean materials

Priskin, Gyula

Stars and objects in the Opening of the Mouth ceremony

Rashwan, Hany

Against literary genre as a theoretical colonisation of modernism: Arabic literariness in the Ancient Egyptian literature

Rocha da Silva, Thais

Experiencing Privacy in the Amarna Workmen's Village

Rogers, John

Diodorus Siculus' account of Saite Egypt: A house of mirrors?

Roumpekias, Dimitrios

Eggs in Greco-Roman Egypt: Food, Medicine, Ritual

Rózsa, Anett

Harpocrates vs. The Solar Child: The roles of the Egyptian child deities on a lotus / in a boat (in private, magical practices)

Sánchez Casado, Raúl

Regulations for the Old Kingdom mortuary cult

Schrauder, Julienne Nadêge

With one mind and one mouth? About the influence on and of Coptic hymns

Schutz, Manon Y.

Of beds and klinai...

Sidpura, Taneash

The Fly on the Wall: foreign intrusion or protective device?

Takács, Daniel Viktor

What is in between: Types of liminality in ancient Egypt?

Tappeti, Valeria

The transmission of themes and motifs between 'copy' and 'innovation': the decorative programmes of the late monumental tombs

Tatar, Ömer
Ptolemaic Coins Found in Lycia

Taterka, Filip
An Uncanny Inscription from Hatshepsut's Punt Portico in Deir el-Bahari
Thorpe, Sue
Festivals and duties: aspects of religious life found in ancient Egyptian personal correspondence

Tsatsou, Eleni
Greco Egyptian Magical Amulets: some observations on Greco-Roman gems that are found in situ

Venier, Claudia
New Kingdom women burials around the 'harim-palace' of Medinet el-Gurob

Vilaró Fabregat, Jaume
Non-stola yellow coffins of the Twenty-first Dynasty: schemas, patterns and relationships between texts and iconography

Ursache, Georgiana; Tesser, Elena; Ciampini, Emanuele M.; Antonelli, Fabrizio
Clay sources for Meroitic pottery from Natakamani palace in Napata

Wang, Ziting (Rebecca)
The presentation of inw ceremony: evidence from the 18th Dynasty

Zohair, Mohamed
Away from me, O' You Crooked of Lips: Practical and Mythical Controlling Modes of the Post-mortem Insect Colonization

List of poster presentations

Antoniadou, Christina

The militant aspect of Anubis in the literary sources

Belal, Hadeer

Water-Jar stands from the Coptic Museum

Cavillier, Giacomo

The 'Kay Project': The 'Cliff tombs' in Theban necropolis

Garzón Rodríguez, Judit

Archaeological-philological-ethno-historical study of fundamental aspects of the penis, its symbolism and meaning in Ancient Egypt

Georgiou, Dimitris

Ancient Egyptian Learning Tool (A.E.L.T.)

Iamarino, María Laura

Amarna, Memphis and Thebes landscapes: a comparison with a multiscale approach

Jiménez Meroño, Beatriz; Borrego Gallardo, Francisco L.

Iconographical and iconological study of the snake-footed Anubis in Alexandria: connections and new creations

Katsigianni, Maria Antigoni

Fayum portraits: a comparative study from the Egyptian Collection of the National Archaeological Museum of Athens and the British Museum

Kaźmierczak, Magdalena

Distribution of the pottery vessels within the graves at Tell el-Murra cemetery

Kučová, Stanislava; Musil, Jiří

ARSW and its Importance for Dating of Late Roman Contexts in the al-Hayz Oasis, Bahariya, Western Desert, Egypt

Lavador Novais, Raquel

The preservation and presentation of Self in Egypt and Mesopotamia in the 3rd millennium BC: Portrait aesthetics challenges

McGuinness, Kevin

Who's Been Sleeping in Sitre-In's Sarcophagus

Pessolano, Maria Linda

Egyptian and Egyptianizing Scarabs from the necropolis of Pontecagnano

Reggiani, Nicola; Bovo, Alessia

Unpublished Greek and Demotic Papyri from Graeco-Roman Tebtunis: A Research Project at the University of Parma

Reichart, Jayme Rudolf

A Typology of Formal Garden Scenes from Private Eighteenth Dynasty Theban Tombs Prior to the Amarna Period

Shahawy, Eman Mohsen

Workers and Workshops of mosaics in Egypt during Greco Roman period

Zaky, Reham

Social differentiation in Neolithic communities in the Middle Nile Region

List of keynote lectures

Kaper, Olaf

A Shrine to a Falcon God at Berenike

Kousoulis, Panagiotis

Aegean in Egypt: Current research projects of the Aegean Egyptology

Malouta, Myrto

Greek polis, Roman foundation: how Egyptian was Antinoopolis?

Morenz, Ludwig D.

The Sinaitic 'He'-tribe and the genesis of the alphabet 4000 years ago

Pachis, Panayotis

Social Space and Stratification of Power: Cultural Frames and Generic Space in the Isis-Sarapis Cult during the Graeco-Roman Age

Panagiotopoulos, Diamantis

A Minoan Heterotopia in Egypt (?). On the Toreador Frescoes at Tell el-Dab'a

Quack, Joachim Friedrich

Near Eastern deities in Egyptian magical texts of the New kingdom: Some methodological considerations and a case study on Anat and the servant of Hauron

Sarischouli, Panagiota

The Greco-Egyptian Iatromagical Formularies in Context

Webb, Virginia

Past and Future perspectives on Aigyptiaka in Iron Age Greece