



International Committee for Egyptology

**CIPEG Annual Meeting in Brussels
Musées royaux d'art et d'histoire
September 25 – 28, 2012**

ABSTRACTS

Keynote:

Thomas Schuler (ICOM DRTF) and **France Desmarais** (ICOM Paris)

Protecting Heritage in Revolution and Civil War: Challenge, Success and Limits

From 2005 to 2012, ICOM Secretariat and Disaster Relief Task Force (DRTF) have monitored more than 30 natural disasters, 3 wars and 8 conflicts.

The **four main tasks** will be described and illustrated by recent examples from the 'Arab Spring countries'.

Monitoring

- After an initial check of the situation, it will be decided, whether international assistance is needed and welcomed.
- In depth monitoring of threats and damages to heritage
- Reports of thefts and illicit traffic
- International heritage assessment mission

Networking / Communicating / Lobbying

- Our network partners
- Sharing information
- Raising awareness & Lobbying for heritage

Providing Assistance

- Improving protection measures
- First Aid to damaged heritage
- Recovery of affected heritage institutions

Evaluating a disaster and the response to it

- Retrospective: Lessons learned
- Proactive: Improving preparedness

Special attention will be given to ICOM's **fighting illicit traffic** and its two basic tools:

- The **Red Lists** (and the online database) classify the endangered categories of archaeological objects or works of art in the most vulnerable areas of the world, in order to prevent them being sold or illegally exported. Since 2000, eleven booklets have been published; the latest edition is focusing on Egypt.
- The **One Hundred Missing Objects** series presents a selection of objects that have been stolen and whose disappearance has been reported to the police. Each object is registered in the INTERPOL database. Since 1993, four booklets have been published.

Ossama Abdel Meguid

Actions toward Museums and Sites Crises: "Archaeology between Conflicts and Revolutions: Egypt"

We have greatly appreciated the decisive effort with which the Egyptian authorities have reacted to the critical situation, affecting artefacts protection and security, after the revolution phase, namely:

The well planned magazine areas compounds, built about 2006 and onward and scattered in the country, are now subject to increased and updated security measures, and/or improved maintenance, in order to receive the artefacts formerly stored in less secure various sites, such as tombs.

The concentration of the artefacts in secure magazines has led to an improved security situation,

Local reinforcements have been quickly installed in critical open air. The police presence in some magazines has been increased.

The fact that many guards, belonging to SCA, are now armed has led to an improved security situation; the number of armed guards will increase, after the appropriate training in use of firearms,

The rapid, exemplary and ongoing cataloguing of artefacts has led to an improved security situation, as noticed in museums and sites.

The rapid and effective police action has led to the recovery of many stolen artefacts and to the condemnation of attackers to long jail terms.

The ICOM publication of Egyptian Emergency Red List at Risk would help to recover more stolen artefacts in the near future.

Guillemette Andreu-Lanoë

News from the Louvre Museum : New Department dedicated to Islamic Art, New Wing dedicated to Roman and Coptic Egypt, forthcoming Exhibit in 2013.

Tine Bagh

Pharaoh's Palace – From the Ruins of Memphis to Copenhagen

Since the last CIPEG meeting in Poznan 2011, the Petrie exhibition 'In the Shadow of the Pyramids' has been on view from November 2011 till March 2012 at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen. A large number of the Petrie objects seen in the exhibition are not usually on display but were brought out into the light from the storerooms. Many of them are fragments that do not readily appeal to the general public, so how can these objects be given a new life? At the exhibition this was done by providing a context of where they were found, to what they belonged and, not least, by linking them to the story of Flinders Petrie and his excavations 100 years ago. The centrepiece was a large relief from a portal in the Palace of Apries. It had for many years been reduced to a sorry heap of fragments of limestone and old gypsum restorations and was newly restored for the exhibition. The relief is 2 x 2 metres and is not easily moved or fitted into the permanent display. It has, nevertheless, now found a suitable home in the museum's exhibition area called 'The Ancient Mediterranean'. Here it can now be viewed together with palace fragments from Assyria, Babylonia and Persia. The period of Apries – the 26th dynasty – is chronologically compatible with that of its companion exhibits, and it is thoroughly appropriate that an Egyptian palace is now also represented there. An overview of the Petrie exhibition with focus on the story of the journey of the Apries relief from Memphis to the Glyptotek is the topic of this paper.

Laurent Bavay

The "Lost Tomb" of Amenhotep: a Case of plundered Theban Paintings

In 2009, the Belgian mission in the Theban necropolis discovered an unknown tomb on the hill of Sheikh Abd el-Qurna, immediately south of TT 29. The owner of the monument is Amenhotep, a deputy of the overseer of the seal-bearers under the reign of Thutmose III. His titles and genealogy soon revealed that the tomb had been mentioned already in the late nineteenth century by Swedish egyptologist Karl Piehl, before its location was lost again for the next 120 years. Three seasons of excavation allowed to partly clear the chapel of the tomb, largely filled with debris as a result of the collapse of the ceiling in the southern part of the transverse hall. The paintings originally decorating the walls of the chapel have almost completely disappeared, leaving only parts of the ceilings with their geometric polychrome patterns and bands of hieroglyphic texts. Clear traces of cuttings as well as a saw blade discovered on top of the debris leave no doubt about the fate of the paintings, plundered to be sold in the antiquities market. A comparison of the description left by Piehl with our own observations at the time of the rediscovery reveals that this plundering took place before 1882-83. Because of the scale of the looting, very little remains to identify the style and iconography of the paintings. However, during the 2012 season, some large fragments have been found laying on the floor of the chapel, fallen from the walls already in ancient times. Particularly, the representation of an elegant woman presents an exceptional quality, which could help to locate other fragments of this tomb possibly kept in museum or private collections around the world.

Michèle Broze,

La porte ptolémaïque du deuxième pylône du temple de Karnak: étude épigraphique et théologique

Marie-Cécile Bruwier

In Search of Cleopatra's Temple: Excavations by the Royal Museum of Mariemont in Alexandria

The Musée royal de Mariemont possesses the fragments of a colossal statue. These fragments, the bust of a woman and two hands, were part of a colossal Ptolemaic statue – possibly a dyad of Cleopatra VII and her co-regent Caesarion – that was erected in front of a temple in Alexandria. Fragments of the same statue (head and left leg) are also kept in the Graeco-Roman Museum of Alexandria. The primary goal of our research was to locate this temple. Based on the study of old publications and a new documentary survey we believe its actual location might be at the intersection between Lewa Mohamed Fawzi Moadz and Tout-Ankh-Amon streets.

In 2004 a geophysical prospection was initiated on this site. It confirmed the presumption of the temple's location. Thus, a systematic archaeological research has been undertaken on the site since 2008. Core drills and boreholes followed by archaeological excavations prove that this site was occupied, at least from the 2nd century B.C to the 5th-6th centuries A.D. The first sanctuary was most probably transformed and reallocated during the Roman period. The site was also used, even recently, as a quarry, which is testified by big blocks of granite and the state of preservation of the works of art. Some major changes also occurred during the 19th century with the modernization of Alexandria. Stone blocks were thus dismantled or

cut away and limestone was reduced to chalk as shown by the lime kilns discovered in 2011. Some of our current findings corroborate the different testimonies and descriptions of travellers and cartographers of the past centuries. But so far we do not have enough definitive proof that this site was the location of our statue's temple. Hopefully, further excavations in next year's season will uncover many more secrets still in situ that can provide us with new answers and accurate identifications.

Simone Burger

Ramesside greywacke Statues and Fragments: potential for united Statue Sections

The following paper discusses the possible matching of a small fragment from the Museum of Art and History in Brussels (E6660) to a statue of Ramesses II in the Cairo Museum, which was part of the Karnak Cachette. The matching of these two sections came about through an analysis of stone type and iconography. The methodology for this match depended more upon chance than a scientific approach in its initial phase. The author would like to discuss the possibility of creating a more reliable data bank of fragments using more uniform terms for stone type, such as greywacke and schist, etc as well as dating criteria.

Marek Chlodnick

Tell el-Farkha. The Life of Discovered Objects after Excavations

During 15 seasons of excavations at Tell el-Farkha, hundreds of thousands of archaeological artifacts were excavated. Almost 1200 of them received status of inventory objects and have been registered in the Register Book of the SCA. Among them are masterpieces of the Egyptian Art like golden and ivory figurines.

The golden treasure as well as deposits of ivory figurines and some other objects have been taken in 2007 to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo for exhibition. They are still there, displayed in the vicinity of the Narmer palette. After three seasons of conservations they are in quite good condition. They survived a time of the revolution in Cairo in 2011 without any damage. In 2009 the second group of objects was selected for the Museum of the Ancient Egyptian Civilization in Giza. Fifty objects are now undergoing conservation in the Conservation department of that museum. The selection of the objects was done without the consultation with the excavators and the criteria of the selection are not always clear to us.

Another thousand objects, was left in 28 boxes stored in Mendes. They are waiting for better times in the future museum in Mansura.

Unfortunately time spent in the boxes, moved many times from place to place, with only preliminary conservation during the excavations, show us that the condition of some of them is not satisfactory. Fortunately a few years ago a new, safe storerooms has been built in Mendes. The conditions for the conservation work and storage the objects there are quite good. We hope that in the forthcoming year 2013 we can start conservation works on these objects.

Luc Delvaux

Rescued from the Fire:

The Reconstruction of some Monumental Sculptures of the Egyptian Collection

On February 19th, 1946, a violent fire devastated the large hall of the building of the Antiquity of the Royal Museums of Art and History. Five important large-sized Egyptian monuments were then destroyed or very severely damaged by the flames. Two of them only lost some chips of stone and had their surface damaged: the statue in quartzite of Khonsu or Re-Horakhty (E.5188), of the end of the 18th dynasty, and the pink granite pyramidion of an obelisk of Ramesses II (E.1836). Three other monuments are generally regarded since as irremediably destroyed: a 26th dynasty naos of pink granite (E.5283), the sarcophagus of the steward Yupa, contemporary of Ramesses II, in quartzite and pink granite (E.5189) and the lintel of gray granodiorite of Seti I (E.407). During the installation of the current reserves of the Egyptian section, about the middle of the years 1960, the stone fragments recovered in the ruins of the destroyed building were gathered in a heap, without any classification being carried out. Since, this important cluster of fragments, often weakened and blackened by fire, considered as belonging exclusively to the sarcophagus of Yupa (E.5189), remained unused and unexploited. Within the framework of the reorganization of the reserves of the Egyptian section, a project of sorting and arrangement of these fragments was essential. This operation aimed also to determine if it would be possible to consider the rebuilding and the restoration of certain monuments destroyed by the fire of 1946, in order to return to the Egyptian collection some of its most spectacular and monumental works.

Dina Faltings

Moving the Egyptian Collection of the University in Heidelberg - The Dangers of Change

In 2008 the first steps were taken to change the housing of the Collection of the Egyptological Institute in Heidelberg which contains about 6000 objects with 3000 of them being on display. The reason for changing were mainly climatic conditions being so bad that the objects were at risk. In 2009 we were told by the director of the university that the move should be finished within 1 year. In 2010 the progress was still at about 50%, namely producing a concept and preparing the objects for packing. In September until December 2011 - in spite of several obstacles - the actual move was accomplished. The concept could be realized with some minor changes and the new presentation is nearly finished. Dangers and risks for the objects occurring in the move will be introduced. Advantages and disadvantages of the new exhibition will be shown.

Hedvig Györy

Egyptology and Museumpedagogy, a Budapest Case Study

Many children are interested in Egypt all around Hungary, but their needs and opportunities are different. To meet their wishes, the museum pedagogical team in the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, offered them various types of activities, which will be presented in the lecture.

Tom Hardwick

Mathematics Meets the Market: The Sale of the MacGregor Collection

The sale of the collection of the Revd. William MacGregor at auction in 1922 was the largest single dispersal of objects on the antiquities market in nearly 90 years; MacGregor objects are now found in museums and private collections worldwide. The discovery of two sources relating to the purchasers and prices paid at the sale allows an unprecedented degree of analysis of the successes and failures of the sale, the possible motivations of the purchasers, and the taste of the time.

Dirk Huyge

The Aurochs of Qurta: "Ice Age" Art along the Upper Egyptian Nile

The existence of pre-Holocene rock art in North Africa has been a subject of debate for several decades. Recent finds in Egypt, specifically at Qurta in the Upper Egyptian Nile Valley, now provide the first evidence for a Pleistocene age of sophisticated figurative rock art in the northern part of the African continent. Wind-blown sediment partly overlying petroglyph panels at the site of Qurta II has provided a range of optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dates demonstrating that the minimum age of the rock art is ~15,000 calendar years. The reliability of the dating results is proven through both internal procedural checks and external evidence from micromorphological analysis, providing solid evidence for the rock engravings at Qurta being the oldest thus far found in North Africa.

Sabina Malgora

The Camillo Leone Museum Egyptian Collection, Italy

A small but well interesting Egyptian collection is kept at the Camillo Leone Museum in Vercelli, where people can also admire findings from the prehistoric age to the XVIII century.

The Leone Museum was founded in the year 1907, when Mr. Leone, a wealthy notary, did leave his rich collection of antiques (beside some real estates) to the Fine Arts Institute. In the 1931 the President of the Fine Art Institute appointed the Director of the Turin Municipal Museums, Dr. Vittorio Viale, as Director of the two Vercelli Museums, the Leone and the Borgogna. He reorganized the collections: the Leone was specialized in Ancient Art and the Borgogna became Art Gallery. The Egyptian collection is made out of two groups of findings, one from the notary Leone and one from the lawyer Francesco Borgogna. Most finds of the Egyptian collection were unknown to the public, but, thanks to the VercelliViva Cultural Association, sponsored by the Piedmont Region, a catalogue has been published last year. All objects come from the funerary equipment with unknown provenance.

We do count in Italy other similar small Egyptian collection, although we have to recognize to the Vercelli collection some original aspects, due to the real modern approach of his collector.

Mr. Leone gave value to an object not only considering its beauty, the skill of the craftsman and the clear function, but also, and even more, looking to its meaning for the history as well as the different information, that could be gathered from it, to better understand the history; he wanted that his collections could be worth for the community. In fact people can easily feel how this Egyptian collection is highly appraised, not only thanks to the good value of the findings, but also because from many years it is part of the town history, so we may see its mark in the town culture of the past as well as we will see it in the future.

Badawi Mohamed Ismael

New Methods of Handling and Care of Collections in grand Egyptian Museum and National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

New methods used in insurance and safety are used to take care for the museum collections in the grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. The paper includes modern methods for applications of modern technology, for the collections at risk with new challenges in a new environment. Also included is the use of modern methods in the field of fire fighting self such as gas and environment-friendly system. Water mist in fire effects especially inorganic artefacts. The application of anoxia in treatment and care of museum collection are used for some museums in Egypt.

Carmen Pérez Die and Esther Pons Mellado

The new Installation of the Egyptian and Nubian Room at the Museo Arqueológico Nacional, Madrid, Spain

The National Archaeological Museum in Madrid is currently undergoing a complete renovation, both of its architecture and of how its collections are exhibited. The new rooms housing Egyptian and Nubian antiquities are being installed at present, but are not yet complete. At the CIPEG Meeting in Brussels the museographic project for the new Egyptian and Nubian exhibition and the display criteria adopted are presented.

Campbell Price

Research and Reorientation: Redisplaying Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the Manchester Museum

At the end of October 2012, The Manchester Museum - Britain's fifth largest Egyptology collection - will open its refurbished Ancient Worlds galleries, exactly 100 years after Flinders Petrie inaugurated the first Egypt galleries there. This paper presents a number of new approaches to the display of ancient Egypt at Manchester, and the ways in which research – past and present – is being used to contextualise the collection.

Recognising the long tradition of the appliance of science to Egyptology at Manchester, the new displays integrate a number of modern technological approaches to the Egypt and Sudan collection. State-of-the-art CT-scanning of two Roman portrait mummies brings up to date the innovative work of the Manchester Mummy Project. The new Ancient Worlds galleries also integrate experimental archaeology, such as the firing of faience, and the use of geophysical maps to resituate votive objects from Saqqara in their original sacred landscape. It is hoped that while reflecting the importance of Manchester's scientific contribution to Egyptology, a diverse range of current research will bring to life areas of the collection that have previously been overlooked.

The decision to significantly reduce the number of mummies on display reorients the display of the collection towards life and material culture. More objects will be visible than ever before, satisfying a desire expressed in public consultation for more material on display. Improved access will also be achieved through extensive use of digital content on a mobile website. The challenges and opportunities faced in making this information available to as wide an audience as possible, both within the Museum and remotely, form the core of this paper.

Arnaud Quertinmont

The Royal Museum of Mariemont: Egyptology at the Dawn of 2013

The Royal Museum of Mariemont, the only Research Institute of the Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles owns the second largest collection of Egyptian artefacts in Belgium. The challenge before us is to adopt a modern museology that enables not only to improve the conservation conditions of the objects but also to enhance the educational information given to the public for a better understanding of the History of Ancient Egypt.

Consequently, the Royal Museum of Mariemont has undertaken a complete reorganization of its storages. Objects are now better preserved in an adapted environment with good security conditions. The showcases will also be redeveloped. By the dawn of 2013, we will thus display a selection of new objects, with most of them revealed to the public for the first time, in a modern museology improving the quality of the presentation. Furthermore, another challenge is to adopt new educational resources for school groups but also for both individual adult visitors and adult audience in order to provide a better understanding of the History of Ancient Egypt.

It is actually essential to ensure the dissemination of knowledge and to allow visitors, wherever they are in the world, to access to the Egyptian Heritage. Like several museums around the world, we have begun a digitalisation campaign of our collections. A selection of catalogs and visitor guides of our Egyptian collection are now available online for free, as well as videos and podcasts of lectures and talks. Our participation in the Global Egyptian Museum, a very important project, must be seen in this context. We have also recently 3D scanned some of the Egyptian objects. These new resources will be available on the museum website by 2013.

Sonia Ramzi

L'Association Internationale "Les Amis des Musées d'Egypte": Coopération avec le CIPEG. Projets présents et futures

Annamaria Ravagnan

The Role of Training in the Prevention of Attacks to the Cultural Heritage: An Experience in Lombardy Region

The defense of cultural heritage, which is naturally exposed to all kinds of attacks and vandalisms, especially during wars, is a major and unresolved problem, despite the existence of Aja Hague Convention, exclusively dedicated to the protection of monuments, archives, libraries and museums during armed conflicts.

The loss of more of 80% of the 200.000 old and rare volumes collected in the historic Egyptian Scientific Institute, set on fire on 17th December 2011, during the so-called Egyptian revolution, represents a remarkable example of the role played by a good emergency plan in case of disaster like this. In fact most of the volunteers which helped in recovery manuscripts and books burned had no experience of the intervention of recovery volumes partially wet, partially burned and partially wet and

burned, despite the presence inside the emergency teams of some scholars. In addition the lack of an updated catalog of books and manuscripts kept in the Institute made difficult an exact classification of losses

Lombardy Region in 2011 established for the first time a preventive and emergency plan to preserve libraries, archives and museums and collections in particular from all kinds of damages.

The plan foresees interventions on professional people directly involved (guards, policemen, conservators and museum directors, volunteers, cultural associations, firefighters, etc.) in terms of intensive courses, practice and triage preparation and on general public to make them aware and sensitized to cultural heritage protection.

We are confident that only through continuous training actions, especially on young people, we can protect our cultural heritage.

Maarten Raven

New Challenges at Saqqara: Plunder and Repair at the Dutch Excavations

The excavations in the New Kingdom necropolis at Saqqara started in 1975 as a cooperation of the Leiden Museum and the Egypt Exploration Society. From 1999, the project became a joint mission of Leiden Museum and Leiden University. So far, fifteen tombs have been uncovered which date to the end of Dynasty 18 or the Ramesside Period. Foremost among them are the monuments of Horemheb and Maya, both of them contemporaries of Tutankhamun. From 2004, the expedition started a site management project which has now led to the overall consolidation of the tombs. Just when the project was drawing to an end and the site was ready to be opened for tourists, the Egyptian revolution broke out. This led to widespread plunder of the Saqqara cemeteries, and rumours started spreading about intentional vandalism and the total destruction of several monuments. The Leiden team was back on site in February 2012, and can now report on the actual situation at Saqqara. On the whole, the damage was not too serious and could be easily repaired. A full inventory of the expedition's storerooms demonstrated that the number of stolen goods was also negligible. On the other hand, the situation is still far from settled and further challenges may present themselves in the future.

Mervat Seif el-Din

The Egyptian Revolt and its Effect on the Antiquities

On the 25th of January 2011 the Egyptian people succeeded to change their political regime and although it passed peacefully in comparison with the other Arabic revolts, but it has bad side effect on the Egyptian Antiquities. The unawareness of the Egyptian with the values of their heritage, the unacceptable behavior of some of them, the absences of security forces, the poverty and the chaos all over Egypt all of these are the reasons of the plundering and smuggles the Antiquities. The danger does not threat only the unknown archaeological sites but also the museums. Therefore all the Archeologists and Egyptologists all over the world have to pay attention to these very important and dangerous issues still till nowadays occur in Egypt and in all the Arabic countries.

Regine Schulz

Can Museums help Society to fight Cultural Dementia?

Badrya Serry

The Role of Antiquities Museum in Preserving Archaeological Heritage in Alexandria

The Antiquities Museum plays an important role in spreading cultural and archaeological discoveries in Alex. Its mission is to promote research and creativity to all through different programs and activities.

New exhibition in our museum is to exhibit the archaeological discoveries that were found in Nelsons' Island in Abukir in Alexandria, this artefacts discovered by Italian excavations directed by Prof. Paulo Gallo (from University of Turin). This collection will be permanently exhibited in a new hall in our museum. The artefacts are more than two hundred finds of high archaeological importance, fundamental for understanding the life and material culture of the ancient inhabitants of the place. The collections of Nelsons' island are belonging to the period of the foundation of Alexandria till nowadays, showing the cultural daily life of the first Greeks of Alexandria through archaeological artefacts.

Francesco Tiradritti

Luigi Vassalli-bey (1812–1887). Egyptologist, Patriot and Milanese. An exhibition

Luigi Vassalli was born in Milano on January 8th 1812. He studied painting at the Academy of Brera and took part in several riots against the Austrian regime. Forced to exile he eventually reached Egypt where began to work as inspector of the monuments. When Auguste Mariette created the Service pour la conservation des monuments égyptiens he chose Vassalli as assistant he. After some years of work on the field Vassalli was appointed curator of the Bulaq Museum where he worked until his retirement.

The Art Library of Milano organized an exhibition dedicated to Luigi Vassalli to celebrate the bicentennial of his birth. In this occasion his papers and watercolors have been displayed together with some of the books and documents that were in the Vassalli's library, sold by the Museum of Fine Arts of Boston to the city council of Milano in 2000. The exhibition was the occasion to reassess the importance of Luigi Vassalli for Egyptology.

Mladen Tomorad

Egyptian Collections in Croatia and Croato-Aegyptiaca database

Approximately 5000 Egyptian artifacts (dated until the Arab conquest in 642 AD) are housed in Croatia. Most of these can be found in museums but various objects are also housed in private collections. Most of the artifacts are smaller objects such as scarabs, amulets, shabtis, tablets made of different materials, jewelry, fertility symbols, and statuettes of deities as well as footwear, various vessels and canopic jars, animal images, and male and female statues. Within this vast number of objects, larger groups can be identified, like the statues of gods made of different materials (primarily Osiris and Isis), various wooden and stone stelae with the inscriptions and paintings of mostly sepulchral character, inscriptions on papyrus and linen, Books of Dead. The sarcophagi for the burial of human and animal remains of different material, mummies and mummy wrappings form a group in their own right. Thirteen completely or fragmentary preserved sphinxes from the Diocletian's palace in Split are also worth mentioning. The most important collections are housed in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Archaeological Museum in Split, the Archaeological Museum in Zadar, the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula, the Archaeological Museum in Dubrovnik, the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek, the Museum of Ante Topić Mimara in Zagreb. Smaller collections can be found in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, and in the regional and town museums across Croatia (the Museum of the City of Varaždin, the Franciscan monastery in Sinj, the St. Euphemia monastery in Kapor on the island of Rab, etc.).

In this paper I will present history of our collections, a small presentation of each collection, and will give short introduction of Croato-Aegyptiaca database, which is part of Egyptological project Croato-Aegyptiaca Electronica.

Willem Van Haarlem

The Papyrus Puzzle, or how to unlock a Random Papyrus Collection?

Recently, the Allard Pierson Museum took over a neglected papyrus collection from the Special Collections section of the Amsterdam University Library. It was assembled by the late Professor of Papyrology at the University of Amsterdam, Dr. P.J. Sijpestein. During many years, he purchased papyrus lots at many auctions. Together with complete Greek papyri, of which most are already published, these lots often included papyrus fragments in Coptic, Hieratic and Demotic script as well, together with early Arabic texts on paper, varying in sizes from thumbnail to A4, and several hundreds in total. As an initial step, they are now being identified and catalogued, together with being photographed. The next step will be the conservation of these fragments. Some of them were loose and simply kept in paper folders; others were kept between yellowing plexiglass frames, secured with deteriorating tape. Finally, the more coherent texts should be available for study and publication.

Ben van den Bercken

University Collections and Collections History

The past few years have seen an increasing amount of research concerning academic heritage. University collections and university museums are not only becoming increasingly the stage of research on culture historical topics, but also on collection history. The knowledge about a collection's past is crucial to understand its present situation, but also its future problems and possibilities.

The aim of this thesis was to answer the question how the development and use of collections aegyptiaca related to the development of Egyptian archaeology and Egyptology in Northwestern Europe in the 19th and 20th century. Two collections in particular were concerned: the Ägyptologisches Museum Georg Steindorff of the University of Leipzig, and the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology at University College London. To trace out the context of these collections it was necessary to get an overview of the general history of the university museum and university collection and an overview of the key developments in the disciplines of Egyptian archaeology and Egyptology. Next was the placement of the historiography of the collections in Leipzig and London in a wider frame of Northwest European university collections aegyptiaca, but also in a wider historical and science-historical frame. This enabled us to compare the collections of Leipzig and London on their educational, research and public functions.

This research showed that three periods can be distinguished in 19th and 20th century Egyptian archaeology and Egyptology: the 'period of the pioneers' 1820-1890; the 'period of the gatherers' 1890-1945; and the 'period of the processors' 1945-2000. There were different conditions in Leipzig and London that made the birth and development of the university collections aegyptiaca favorable. Among these were the presence or absence of a national collection of aegyptiaca, the imperial aspirations of the nation state, the presence of academics with a background in classical languages and the development of Von Humboldts research orientated educational model. The relation between the collection and the disciplines of Egyptian archaeology and Egyptology is one of exchange that operates mainly within the educational and research functions of the collection. In this exchange we see knowledge, personnel, ideas, methods and tools move to further the collections and the disciplines. It can be concluded that the collections trained a new generation of Egyptologists and archaeologists. The collections have inspired and harbored research that revolutionized Egyptology and especially archaeology. The collections could develop because of a basis in the public, providing a fascination for ancient Egypt and subsequent financial support to conduct the collection-enlarging fieldwork. It has become clear that the historiography of

university collections of aegyptiaca is still an infant field of research. The collections lure and deserve attention as the vanguard of Egyptology and Egyptian archaeology in 19th and 20th century Northwestern Europe.

Paula Veiga

A Rescue from Oblivion

A collection of 103 ancient Egyptian artefacts (originally 134) belonging to the University of Porto, Portugal, is now housed in a new room after a turbulent story. Formerly owned by the Berlin Museum, these artefacts were offered to the Portuguese authorities in 1926, after the release of a ship containing valuable Assyrian artefacts (448 crates) brought from excavations during the period preceding WWI (1903-1914).

This ship in particular was imprisoned in Lisbon's docks (1916), under the pressure of the British, and was later returned to Germany. The collection included other artefacts (e.g. Polynesia), now scattered in other Portuguese museums.

Some of the artefacts in the Egyptian collection are still packed and stashed in an office room, and will not be displayed in the near future. The human mummies in this collection were already scanned and a study is underway, paused by the lack of funds. The sarcophagus of the male mummy is also being studied; its inscriptions, images, and the type of wood employed in its manufacture.

A fire in 2009, happening in the room displaying both the Egyptian collection and zoological items almost damaged some of the pieces, as the ceiling broke down with water weight.

The new room is, in the opinion of this researcher, inadequate to impact some interest on the audience. The choice of artefacts displayed was conducted on a personal level, and the silence of the university in order to sign protocols with other public entities to restore the mummies, and some other artefacts, reflects the general lack of interest on antiquities.

Eugène Warmenbol

Sarah Belzoni et sa momie: aux origines des collections bruxelloises

Sarah Belzoni (1783-1870) is obviously not « just » the widow of Gianbattista Belzoni, the well-known strongman and adventurer who discovered the tomb of Seti I. Ten years after his death, she settled in Brussels, living there from 1833 tot 1857, in the company of a mummy, which was sold in 1847 to the « Musée royal d'Artillerie, d'Armures et d'Antiquités », ten under the curatorship of Antoine G. Schayes, who was, typically, mostly collecting Egyptian antiquities for himself. It was the first mummy to be bought by a public instance in Belgium. Sarah Belzoni obviously had other things with her, drawings and sketches by her husband and herself, most of which are now in the Bristol Museum, and casts, part of which are also in the Brussels Museums. We will be examining why she came to Brussels, who her friends were and where she knew them from, how she became acquainted with the masonic circles of the city, and what her contribution to egyptology in Belgium might have been. Sadly, the silent witness who lived with her for so many years, the so-called « scribe Butehamun », is no more, or almost, as only his head was kept after a most destructive autopsy performed in 1939.