

Old News

June 2011

Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research

Public Lecture

Manning Clark Theatre 6

Wednesday June 15



Disaster and Recovery:

Lessons from the destruction of the archaeology and natural history store in Weston

Mary Clare Swete Kelly

The Australian National University owned several properties that were damaged in the firestorm that hit suburban Canberra on the 18th January 2003. These included a facility in the suburb of Weston that housed the collections of the Department of Archaeology and Natural History. At the time of the fire, it held materials that had been collected by archaeologists and natural historians since the inception of academic research in these areas at the ANU, nearly fifty years ago. The first half of this presentation will detail the state of the stores at the time of the fire and the subsequent recovery efforts. In the second half, the collections themselves will be discussed, as well as the role of disaster preparedness and response in ensuring the long-term survival of collections.

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly became involved in the salvage of the Weston storage facility while completing her PhD in the Department of Archaeology and Natural History, ANU. This has led to an ongoing interest in collections management and disaster intervention. Mary Clare is currently the Heritage Archaeologist for the ACT Heritage Unit.

Following are the dates for CAS/CAR public lectures for 2011

Third Wednesday every month

August 17 September 21 October 19

November 16 AGM (One week later than usual)

Please note these dates in your diary

If there is a change in these dates for any reason they will be highlighted on our website

www.cas.asn.au



ACT Symposium 2011

Saturday 23 July 2011, 9am - 4.30pm

Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatrette,

McCoy Circuit, Acton

Heritage and Planning: Partners in Development

What works well, what hasn't been a success and what has fallen through the cracks.

COST : \$50 per person - Students \$25 . Ticket price includes:
Morning & afternoon tea, lunch and after sessions drinks & nibbles.

Event sponsored by:

Canberra Archaeological Society Inc; Centre for Archaeological Research (CAR); Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists; National Trust of Australia (ACT); Institute of Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts, ANU; Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage UC; Canberra and District Historical Society; Biosis Research; Godden Mackay Logan, Navin Officer Heritage Consultants; ICOMOS, Significance International.

Further Information: contact@cas.asn.au or phone 0408 443 243.



History of the Canberra Archaeological Society Inc

CAS members past and present met at Benedict House in Queanbeyan on Sunday 22nd May to reminisce, rummage through the records and gather material for our fiftieth anniversary history booklet.

The video camera was running and Cynthja Bolton's pen was flashing across the page to record the adventures (and misadventures) of the society. Jack Golson was kind enough to share his memories of the very beginnings of CAS – way back in 1963. The society emerged as a response to the rise of serious research into Australian archaeology,



and CAS has been at the forefront of research, public archaeology and lobbying for heritage in our region ever since.

While some of the stories were deemed unfit for print, the editors believe that there'd be no fun in that!

To learn more about what Helen Cooke



and Trish Saunders found at Tea Gardens (and made off with in sacks slung across their backs), or why Helen wore a nappy over her head during field work at Mulligan's Flat, well, you'll just have to buy the book!



In the meantime, we need your help. Whatever your past association with CAS, we want to hear about it. Memories of field trips you have been involved with, your favourite CAS moments and any memorabilia or photographs you may have lying around all form part of our history. To get involved, please contact committee member Cynthja Bolton who is coordinating



the project at cynthja.bolton@anu.edu.au or call her on 0431 221 813,. Look out for future get-togethers and get involved in writing our history (it really is lots of fun).

We would especially appreciate you passing this message on to friends you made in CAS who no longer attend meetings and let them know that we would like to hear from them too.

Many thanks to everyone who attended on Sunday, and to the staff at the delightful Benedict House for hosting the event.

Public-Private Partnership Created Between Egyptian Government and International Coalition to Protect Egyptian Antiquities

WASHINGTON AND CAIRO - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt (representing the Egyptian side and acting as coordinator between parties) and the International Coalition to Protect Egyptian Antiquities (the Coalition) today announced they have reached mutual agreement to cooperate on a comprehensive plan to protect Egypt's archaeological and cultural heritage sites and artefacts, which will be a cornerstone in the basis for tourism revenue as Egypt builds a successful economy.

The Coalition, led by the George Washington University Capitol Archaeological Institute, the Archaeological Institute of America, the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the National Geographic Society, was in Cairo May 16-18 at the invitation of the Egyptian government for a series of meetings with senior Egyptian government officials, private sector and archaeological experts.

The Ministry and the Coalition formed a Public-Private Partnership, agreeing to develop a framework that commits resources to site protection, including protective walls at archaeological sites and increased training of law enforcement personnel; a nationwide satellite imagery analysis initiative; a complete database of Egypt's antiquities based on inventories of Egypt's museums and storage facilities; an education and awareness campaign; and longer term small business and green archaeological site programs.

"Egyptian antiquities and sites are among the most historically significant and important in the world. In times of political transition, ancient sites and artefacts are often targets of international crime and illicit activity," said Deborah Lehr, Capitol Archaeological Institute Chairman. "We commend the Government of Egypt for its efforts and are delighted to be working together to develop and implement short and long term solutions to ensure protection of Egypt's invaluable cultural heritage."

"The protection of monuments and sites by the Egyptian authorities during and after the revolution differs completely from other such situations like for example what took place in Iraq. We would like to develop and increase our capacity to protect those sites and monuments," said Egyptian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Sherif Elkholy.

Ambassador Iman el Farr, Egyptian Deputy Assistant Minister for Cultural Agreement and Protocol Affairs, stressed the importance of finalizing the framework agreement to be signed by the two parties in order to begin delivering on agreed upon initiatives and raising the funds needed for implementation.

"This is a landmark agreement and establishes a new system for all of us to work on our mutual goal of protecting Egypt's archaeological sites," said Peter Herdrich, Chief Executive Officer of the Archaeological Institute of America. "It's a great day for archaeology in Egypt."

Ancient Egyptians and Lung Disease

Yes, it's back to those ancient Egyptians again with another story of how they faced similar environmental health hazards as we do.

Recent research examining the lung contents of fifteen mummies, including those of nobles, has proposed that the ancient Egyptians may have been exposed to air pollution which affected their health.

Particulates, tiny microscopic particles that irritate the lungs, have been linked to a wide array of modern-day illnesses, including heart disease, lung ailments and cancer. The particulates are typically linked to post-industrial activities, such as fossil-fuel burning.

The mummies examined came from a broad cross section of Egyptian life. Some were ordinary workers who lived in a remote oasis community while others were nobles, priests and priestesses of the upper strata of Egyptian society. One mummy, whose lungs had been rehydrated for examination, revealed particulates and evidence of tissue scarring. The mummy was that of a nobleman who lived about 3,800 years ago.

The question now facing researchers is why were particulates so prevalent in Egyptian society? While ancient Egypt was a preindustrial society, its people did engage in cooking, metal working and mining, all activities that can generate air pollution. In addition, the Egyptian climate, with its deserts and sandstorms, would have whipped up any grounded particulates into the air where they could easily be inhaled. Research into the origins of these tiny particles in the ancient Egyptian air is continuing. Experiments including the burning of different sources of fuel used by the Egyptians and examining the particles they create; and the analysis of sand particles from archaeological sites are being tried.

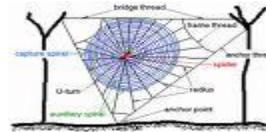


This mummy was discovered in Dakhleh Oasis, a remote outpost in southwest Egypt. He lived around 1,800 years ago, at a time when the Romans occupied Egypt; he died when he was 20-25 years old. Although much of the mummy remains are lost, the area around the lungs, where particulates were found, is well preserved.

(Image courtesy of Dakhleh Oasis Project)



Interesting Websites



Even those of you with no great interest in marine (or is it maritime) archaeology should have a look at the fabulous website of the "Queen Anne's Revenge", the flagship of good old Blackbeard (the fore-runner of today's merchant bankers) that sank in May 1718. The artefacts recovered are fascinating. I didn't see Captain Jack Sparrow's compass as seen in every part of the franchise "Pirates of the Caribbean", but there's a lot of other goodies, plus info on conservation, etc.

www.qaronline.org



Central TAG (TAG 2011) 33rd Meeting of the Theoretical Archaeology Group

Date: 2011-12-14

Description: The 33rd Meeting of the Theoretical Archaeology Group will be held at the University of Birmingham, 14-16 December 2011. This three-day conference is a major event in the archaeological calendar. Parallel sessions are accompanied by a plenary session, reception and of course, the TAG Party.

Contact: centraltag@contacts.bham.ac.uk

URL: www.centraltag.wordpress.com



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<http://dougsarchaeology.wordpress.com/list-of-archaeology-journals/>

A personal request: if you are thinking about publishing some research soon *PLEASE CONSIDER OPEN ACCESS.*

