

Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Ancient Egypt:

The UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology

On March 25, 2006 from 1.00 – 5.00pm five eminent Egyptologists will showcase the breadth and depth of Egyptology. John Baines (Oxford University, UK), Joris F. Borghouts (Leiden University, The Netherlands), Fayza Haikal (American University Cairo, Egypt), Janet H. Johnson (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago) and Alain Zivie (CNRS, Paris) are visiting UCLA. This public lecture program marks the official start of the UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology. It is sponsored by UCLA's International Institute, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, and the Office of Vice Chancellor, Research.

Place: Lenart Auditorium, Fowler Building

Free entrance, parking in Sunset parking (structure 4) for \$ 7

Program:

- 1.00 – 1.30 Willeke Wendrich (NELC, UCLA)
Introduction: the UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology
- 1.30 – 2.00 Alain Zivie (Director, CNRS Egyptology, Paris, France)
The rediscovery of the New Kingdom "Nobles Tombs" in the Saqqara Necropolis
- 2.00 – 2.30 John Baines (Professor, Egyptology, Oxford University, Great Britain)
How did different social groups communicate with one another in ancient Egypt?
- 2.30 - 3.00 Joris F. Borghouts (Professor, Egyptology, Leiden University, the Netherlands)
The evil character of Apopis: magic, ritual, and Book of the Dead
- 3.30 – 4.00 Janet Johnson (Professor, Egyptology, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago)
Philae, Nubia and Isis: Rome, Meroe and Christianity
- 4.00 – 4.30 Fayza Haikal (Professor, Egyptology, American University in Cairo, Egypt)
Ethno-Egyptology and Cultural Continuity in Egypt
- 4.30 – 5.00 *Brief notes* by Jacco Dieleman, Willem Hovestreydt, and Noel Schweitzer

5.00pm Reception offered by the Egypt Exploration Organization Southern California and the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology



Alain Zivie

The rediscovery of the New Kingdom "Nobles Tombs" in the Saqqara Necropolis

For over 20 years, the French Archaeological Mission at the Bubasteion, has been excavating in Saqqara, the necropolis of Memphis. Under direction of the speaker, the mission has brought to light hitherto unknown rock-cut tombs of the New Kingdom. The beauty of these tombs equals the splendour of the Nobles tombs in Thebes. Their discovery has also important historical implications.



John Baines

How did different social groups communicate with one another in ancient Egypt?

Ancient Egypt was a long, thin country that focused around its capital cities in major historical periods. Most of what we know about the civilization derives from elites, generally near the capital, and presents their views, tending to show the society as ideally harmonious or to assert that the elite cared and provided for others. In part, that vision legitimized social inequality. Since writing was restricted to the elite, written sources cannot document the oral and material channels of communication that must have existed between elites and others, and between the center and outlying regions. We should also ask how non-elites were motivated to contribute their labor to elite undertakings and how far different sectors of society shared similar values. This paper explores possible approaches to such questions, focusing on archaeological evidence from the Old Kingdom while also analyzing material such as elite tomb decoration. The aim is to throw light on how values were transmitted through social customs and variations within them, as well as being imprinted in material culture.



Joris F. Borghouts

The evil character of Apopis: magic, ritual, and Book of the Dead

This talk is a discussion of the various roles and functions the archenemy of the cosmos, the dragon or snake Apopis, assumed in the different domains of religious beliefs and practices in ancient Egypt. The precarious balance of cosmos and society was threatened at night when the sun god traveled on his bark through the underworld and had to engage in battle with Apopis to overcome the forces of destruction. This imagined event was as dangerous as

it was crucial to the workings of nature - and thus as a consequence central to Egyptian religion.



Janet Johnson:

Philae, Nubia and Isis; Rome, Meroe and Christianity

This talk will present an historical overview of the cultural, religious, and political developments in Roman period Nubia until the "conquest" of Christianity. This region to the south of modern-day Aswan, known as the Dodekaschoenus or Twelve-Mile Land in the Roman period, served as a buffer between Egypt and the Meroitic kingdom of Sudan for many centuries. It is one of the few places in the ancient Near East where we can study in close detail the transition from traditional Egyptian worship to Christianity and eventually Islam. The talk will take a look at the role of the famous temple of Isis at Philae, at the first cataract, and shed new light on its functioning with the help of some of the Demotic ostraca found at that temple.



Fayza Haikal

Ethno-Egyptology and Cultural Continuity in Egypt

The purpose of this presentation is to re-place Ancient Egypt in its cultural context, as a part of the Ancient Middle East with which it shared many aspects of its culture and even more so to link with its Present and show its impact on its people's daily life. The understanding of specific aspects of today's culture can help us better understand the past and vice-versa. This paper will present examples of analogies between ancient and modern Egypt in the language and the beliefs in order to underline the continuity and the persistence of certain aspects of this culture in spite of the changes in language and religions which occurred in the country in the course of its long history. Needless to say that continuity can also be detected in arts and crafts, but these will not be presented in this paper. The paper will focus on folk beliefs and funerary religion and try to understand the processes of transmission and adaptation which sustained their development and allowed them to reach us. Understanding folk beliefs, analyzing roots of words can help us to better reach the soul of the culture and transmit it better in the Encyclopedia about to be born.

