



REPORTS

President's Report

The society has enjoyed a particularly successful year. The Lecture Programme of 2010–11 offered a rich bill of fare covering a wide range of material from Egyptian shipping to archaeology, art history, foreign relations, and religion. Unforeseen circumstances, such as adverse weather conditions, did get in the way at times, but these obstacles were circumvented without great difficulty. It was particularly gratifying to see the evening courses including a thirty-week programme of classes in Middle Egyptian since ultimately it is impossible to come fully to grips with the Ancient Egyptians without some knowledge of the language, and the more of it you know, the better. The Study Days and External Courses were equally enterprising and provided an excellent range of programmes.

A particularly valuable part of the Society's work has been the development of the Donation Fund which was able this year to make a series of ten small awards totalling £2000. This was a splendid achievement and has made a significant contribution to a range of archaeological projects including on-going work at Hierakonpolis, Moalla, el-Bersha, Saqqara, Giza, and Amarna as well as funding research on documentation for the Amheida Project and epigraphic recording in TT16. These grants have not been made simply to scholars resident in the United Kingdom but also to those working in Russia, Belgium and the United States. Many of these missions operate alongside Egyptian or Sudanese colleagues, and this, together with the wide spread of our donations, marks and encourages the international cooperation which has long been one of the great strengths of Egyptological research. In the same order of things the Society can congratulate itself on raising £1800 through a highly successful study day on behalf of the Sudan Archaeological Research Association.

Alan Lloyd, President, TVAES

Chairman's Report 2010 - 2011

I'm delighted to report that we have enjoyed another successful year both in terms of lecture and class provision as well as in operations and finances. The lecture programme in particular has been tremendously well supported coming close on occasions to filling even our new larger venue at Oakwood.

As with every year we encountered challenges, with the weather in December, with a delayed start to the Hieroglyphs course and with late speaker changes in May or June. However with a rare Sunday lecture we rescheduled the missed December event, and our Middle Egyptian Hieroglyphs class now coming to the end of its 30-week first year has been very successful with a very high retention rate and a desire of class members to study further. These challenges seem trivial compared to events in the last year in Egypt itself, the Egyptian revolution while liberating politically brought concern for museum artefacts and ancient sites alike. However normality is returning, foreign missions are working, and the recent appointment of Mohamed Abdel Fattah as the new Secretary General of the SCA appears to be cementing a policy of business as usual.

Returning to society matters, I could not conclude this report without mentioning two things that for me stand out as real highlights of the TVAES year. The first was our fully subscribed Study Tour to Middle Egypt with Professor Barry Kemp. While far from restful, this was a wonderful and stimulating tour, an experience that I'm sure all participants will remember for a long time. Secondly it is the implementation of the Donation Policy with the initial award of £2000 agreed at the 2010 AGM. The first set of awards has been made to ten very worthy Egyptological causes, a substantial achievement for a regional society. When this is combined with the

£1800 raised at the SARS fund-raising day we can be truly proud of the significant contribution that our own local society is making to the discovery of more about the ancient past in Egypt and Sudan.

Chairman's Outlook 2011-2012

This year in response to continued growth in attendance we scheduled our full lecture programme at the Oakwood Centre, with only study days remaining at the Allen Lab. Two of our three study days this year will be fund-raising, providing an opportunity to gain some very special speakers and combine this with supporting work in Egypt.

We are starting to see new members through our partnership with the WEA as an organiser of local Egyptology classes. This year this provision is being expanded geographically with a focus on daytime classes complementing our own courses which will remain in the evening. As a supplement to our range of classes, last year I reported that we hope to develop a strategy for local community marketing, while real progress was made last year in planning it is this year that we must turn to implementation.

As Egypt schedules elections we hope for a year of peaceful transition enabling the people of Egypt to enjoy the fruits of their revolution. At home, we anticipate another busy year of activities, with fingers-crossed for a snow-free sequence of second Saturdays this winter.

John Billman, Chairman, TVAES

Secretary's Report

I have enjoyed my first year as Secretary and wish to thank members for bearing with me. The 2010 – 2011 season has seen an exciting and varied programme of lectures, courses and study days. I am proud to say that the quality of our programme is attracting attendance from far afield, including visitors, and the membership looks healthy – by mid-August an impressive number of people had confirmed their membership for 2011 – 2012, and that was before the start of the new season's programme.

Since last September our Society has benefited from the marketing, design and general PR experience of new Committee member Gerry Palmer, who is currently working on a variety of strategies for spreading the word about TVAES and Egypt in the wider community. Gerry has also started to produce some stunning colour posters to advertise our events.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Malcolm Butler for having set up and maintained our website over the years, with all the hard work and patience that involved. Malcolm has recently decided to stand down as TVAES webmaster; the task has been taken over by Gerry Palmer, who has updated the format and appearance of the site.

This summer saw the production of another edition of the TVAES Newsletter, produced from Cairo by our Committee member Beth Asbury. Members were treated to another edition packed with interesting features, including lecture summaries, book reviews, a cross word and members' reports on memorable visits of Egyptian sites and museums on several continents. Having a Cairo-based editor also meant the inclusion of her interesting reports from Egypt. On behalf of Beth I would like to encourage members to contribute to the next issue.

Thanks to donations by Society members, the TVAES library has grown to a total of 461 volumes. Potential borrowers may access the library catalogue on the website from <http://www.tvaes.org.uk/about.library.php>.

As TVAES Secretary, the administration of the Donation Fund established last years has been one of my responsibilities. The Donation Sub-Committee was appointed in October 2010 and first met in December, and over the following months adopted the procedures that permitted the launch of the first round of awards in spring 2011 for funds totalling £ 2,000. Despite a very slow start, the fund was many times oversubscribed by the time applications closed. We received a total of eighteen applications, of which seven were submitted by British - based missions, including one from Reading University. In addition we had applications from Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and the US. We were able to award sums ranging from £80 to £330 to ten of the applicants in May. Details of the awards made can be found at <http://www.tvaes.org.uk/about.grants.php>, as well as on page 7 of the last Newsletter.

To date, the awards won by two of the applicants have been paid out. Recent communications suggest that the field work of some of the award winners may be delayed by difficult conditions in Egypt, but hopefully these will improve soon as a result to the recent announcements made by the SCA, and we hope that all the award-winning missions will be able to complete successful seasons in the winter 2011 – 2012.

As Secretary of the Donation Sub-committee I have received extremely positive feedback from mission directors about the Donation Fund, a unique feature among British Egyptology societies. Even small sums awarded seem to have had a disproportionately large impact in terms of raising our Society's profile among professionals in the field.

I hope that members will agree to fund a second round of the Donation Fund in 2012, and that the fundraising study days planned for the forthcoming season will further enhance our Society's status among sponsors of Egyptological fieldwork and research.

Birgit Schoer, Secretary, TVAES

Treasurer's Report: Financial Statement 2010-2011

Income		Expenditure	
Opening Balance	£ 5,711.63		
Membership & Visitors	£1,972.22	Speakers Fees	£3,555.67
Course Fees	£7836.00	Stationery	£354.51
Bags	£22.00	Refreshments	£44.02
Raffle	£397.75	Donations	£387.00
WEA Payment	£61.60	Insurance	£203.42
Refreshments	£388.90	Subs	£112.00
TVAES Store	£346.59	Room Hire	£1,390.49
Total	£16,736.69	Total	£6,047.11
		Balance at Bank	10,689.58
		Outstanding	
		Donation Fund	£ 1690
		SARS Day School	£1,800
		Tutor's Fees (hieroglyphs)	£2000
		Total Outstanding	£5,490
		Revised Balance at Bank	£5,199.58

Erica Morland, Treasurer, TVAES