

Editorial

— Gabriele Pieke

CIPEG launched this newsletter at the end of last year and we plan to produce two issues a year, to be published in May and November. We invite all members and friends of CIPEG to contact us and send articles on ongoing museum projects, exhibitions, conferences, or collection-related publications. Short guidelines for contributions can be found on the CIPEG website.

The newly elected board of CIPEG met in mid-December in Mannheim, Germany in order to launch the programme for the next three years. The most important agenda item was future venues and topics for the annual meetings. Planning for the ICOM General Conference 2016



Almost the entire CIPEG Board and the former Chairperson, Claire Derriks (front, left), at its first meeting.

has already been started. The overall conference theme in Milan will be "Museums and Cultural Landscape." Further, one of the main tasks of the Board was to update the draft version of the CIPEG Internal Rules which will be presented, and hopefully adopted, at

the General Assembly. It will be part of the next CIPEG annual conference 2014 in Copenhagen (26-29 August), and we hope to meet many of you on this occasion. ■

> cipeg.icom.museum

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CIPEG Annual Conference in Copenhagen, 26-29 August 2014

Archaeological Sources and Resources in the Context of Museums

The annual CIPEG Annual Meeting for 2014, hosted by Tine Bagh of the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek will take place in Copenhagen. It will be held at the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, close to the three Egyptian collections in the Glyptotek, the National Museum and Thorvaldsen's Museum. The conference theme will focus on archaeological material as part of collections or excavation projects of museums and the topics may include case studies, find-groups or individual objects.

The 1st call for papers [[link](#)] was sent out in January and the 2nd will be sent out shortly with more details on Copenhagen, hotels, and an optional tour to Roskilde on Saturday 30 August. The deadline for submitting abstracts is

25 July 2014. If you wish to attend the annual meeting without presenting a paper please also write to us before 25 July 2014 (tiba@glyptoteket.dk).

The Egyptian Collection in the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek with finds from the excavations of Flinders Petrie in Memphis and John Garstang in Meroë.

Conference fee: 25 Euros for CIPEG members and students and 50 Euros for non-members. ■



The bombing of the Islamic Museum and National Library

— Regine Schulz

Early in the morning of January 24th 2014 a car bomb exploded on Port Said Street in front of the Cairo police headquarters. Four people were killed. The blast destroyed major parts of the building, and severely damaged the museum complex opposite in Bab al-Khalq Square.

The neo-Mameluk building, opened in 1903, houses the Islamic Museum and parts of the National Library and Archives. Extensive reconstruction recently took place: in 2007 the Museum of the National Library and Archives reopened on the first floor; the Islamic Museum in 2010.

A week after the bombing representatives of UNESCO, ICOM, and Blue Shield visited to assess the damage. Christian Manhart (Chief of the Museum Section, UNESCO), Regine Schulz (Executive Council, ICOM), Riccardo Giordano (architect, Suresnes, France), and Shadia Mahmoud (DG, Dept. International Organizations for Cultural Heritage, MSA Egypt) participated in the mission.

The bomb blast passed through the building, destroying windows, doors, and parts of the roof. In addition, both



museums' displays were wrecked. The exhibits of the National Library Museum were largely protected by their bullet-proof showcases, but most of these were broken in the blast. The sprinkler system could not be stopped for two days. Seven rare manuscripts and three papyri were badly damaged by water and broken glass.

The situation in the Islamic Museum was worse. Many of the larger wood, bronze, and glass objects were displayed without vitrines or in less sturdy showcases, and severe damage occurred.

171 objects were badly damaged or completely destroyed. The Islamic Museum's conservators, under chief conservator Dr. Hamdy Abdel Monem, immediately began stabilization and reconstruction of the wood, stone, and stucco objects. Nevertheless,

reconstruction will take time and expertise. Specialist outside assistance will be needed for some of the most damaged pieces. Many of the glass mosque lamps are completely shattered, and it is not sure how much can be restored.

Several institutions have announced their willingness to assist and support the conservators (e.g. ICOM-CC, ALESCO, ARC-WH (Bahrain), the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, the Smithsonian Institution, the American Research Centre in Egypt, and the Romano-Germanic Central Museum). Financial support is also needed. The mission estimated the cost of a full restoration of the building and displays, excluding conservation, to be around \$24,500,000. ■

> www.islamicmuseum.gov.eg



A new director for the Museo Egizio Turin

— Daniela Picchi

The appointment of Dr. Christian Greco as director of the Museo Egizio Turin is an important item of Egyptological news. Before his appointment, Greco worked as assistant curator of the Egyptian collection in the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden Leiden from 2009; from 2011 he served as curator and, in conjunction with Maarten Raven, as joint field director of the Dutch archaeological excavations at Saqqara. In 2012 he was appointed as lecturer in the faculty of archaeology at Leiden University, teaching classes in Egyptian and Nubian material culture.

Greco succeeds Eleni Vassilika, who was appointed director in 2005, and will complete the museum's transformation by combining scientific and managerial guidelines. Working with the head of the Foundation of the Museo Egizio, Dr. Evelina Christillin, he will finish this transformation, while still keeping the museum open to the public. The restoration and expansion project

began in 2009 and will be completed by April 1st 2015: the brave choice of keeping the museum open throughout the work has been widely appreciated by the visitors who, from the start of the project, have been in excess of 500,000 a year. 2013 saw a record 540,033 visitors, thanks to the opening of a temporary display in the basement.

Stabilizing and increasing visitor numbers, together with educational activities, are not the new director's only priority. First of all, Greco wishes to invest in research and international collaborations, as well as organizing at least two exhibitions a year in Turin, and many other travelling exhibitions. He aims to put on display as many as possible of the museum's 30,000+ objects, of which only a small part is presently on view. He will be aided in this by the doubling of the surface area of the museum to 12,000m² and the planned creation of visible storage rooms. In the meantime,

this loan programme will provide funds for conservation projects and archaeological research. The Museo Egizio will launch an intensive collaboration with the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, and, as partner of this prestigious institution, will continue the important excavation of the New Kingdom necropolis at Saqqara. This excavation, bringing Turin back to Egypt, is part of a plan to start international collaboration, and to give priority to research.

Remembering what Jean-Francois Champollion wrote in 1824, the new director stated in a recent interview: "The road to Memphis and Thebes passes through Turin." This will once again become true, both before and after the museum's reopening on April 1st 2015. ■

> www.museoegizio.it



Burial and Mortuary Practices in Late Period and Graeco-Roman Egypt

International Conference, Budapest, 17 - 19 July 2014

The conference is organised by the Egyptian Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest. Originally, the event was scheduled to begin on the 18th July, but due to the great number of interesting abstracts received, we decided to bring forward its start date to the 17th July. It has been our aim with this conference to provide a forum to present and discuss recent research and current themes on (human and animal) burial and mortuary practices in Late Period and Graeco-Roman Egypt, an issue that has become a major focus of interest over the past two decades. The thirty-nine papers are organised into ten sessions and will be presented in English, French and German. While the focus is on material culture, textual evidence is also

discussed by a number of speakers. The papers will address issues such as funerary literature, reconstructing rituals and beliefs from textual, visual and material evidence, funerary beliefs, stylistic traditions and workshops, treatment of the dead body, as well as dating and chronological problems, from different perspectives. In addition to published objects and archaeological sites, the papers also explore unpublished

materials kept in museum collections, as well as archival records relating to earlier excavations. Results of recent archaeological discoveries from a variety of sites will also be presented and discussed. For all queries, please contact the organiser, Katalin Kóthay:

katalin.kothay@szepmuveszeti.hu ■

> www.szepmuveszeti.hu



Discovering Tutankhamun

The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, July 24 - November 2, 2014

— *Liam McNamara*

Howard Carter's excavation of the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922 was one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. The name of Egypt's "boy king" is now synonymous with the glories of this ancient civilisation, and the spectacular contents of his

tomb continue to capture the public's imagination. This exhibition tells the story of the search for Tutankhamun's tomb and its discovery using Howard Carter's original excavation records that were deposited in the archives of the Griffith Institute at the University of Oxford. The meticulous recording

process and conservation work on the thousands of objects took Carter and his team an astonishing 10 years and for its time, the entire enterprise was a model of archaeological investigation. Against this backdrop of painstaking scholarship, the exhibition also explores the phenomenon of "Tutmania," when the world was gripped by all things Tutankhamun, from jewellery and clothing to dance music and curses. In the final section, the show re-evaluates what the tomb's contents can tell us about the king and his time, and explores various projects that have in recent years sought to ensure the preservation of Tutankhamun's tomb and its contents for future generations. For all of these projects, the Howard Carter archive in the Griffith Institute remains an invaluable resource. ■

> www.ashmolean.org

