



BLOOMSBURY

SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

ANCIENT EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST
HIEROGLYPHS, DEMOTIC, CUNEIFORM,
ARCHAEOLOGY, AND ANCIENT HISTORY

 = Online  = In person See pp. 6 – 11, 14 & 18 – 21 for course & study day details

COURSES

Sunday 19 January


 **A TASTE OF DEMOTIC** *Dr Luigi Prada*

Saturdays & Sundays, 25 – 26 Jan & 1 – 2 Feb

 **DEMOTIC: A BEGINNERS' COURSE**

Dr Luigi Prada

Saturday 22 to Sunday 23 March

 **BETWEEN EGYPT AND KUSH: THE HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND MONUMENTS OF LOWER NUBIA**



Dr Robert Morkot and Dr Henry Bishop-Wright

Sunday 23 March

 **A TASTE OF HIEROGLYPHS** *Mr Kit Devine*



Monday 7 to Friday 11 July

  **DISCOVERING THE HITTITES: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF A VANISHED CIVILISATION** *Dr Christoph Bachhuber* [OR...](#)



 **READING HIEROGLYPHS: PHARAOH & HIS FOLLOWERS** *Dr Luigi Prada* (for  see 18 Aug)

Monday 14 to Friday 18 July

  **EGYPT: LAND OF THE PHARAOS – AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT** *Ms Lucia Gahlin* [OR...](#)

  **PEOPLE, MATERIALS, AND TECHNOLOGY IN ANCIENT EGYPT: RESEARCH FROM URBAN AND DESERT LANDSCAPES** *Dr Elizabeth Bloxam, Prof. Emeritus Paul Nicholson, and Prof. Ian Shaw*



Monday 21 to Friday 25 July

  **CUNEIFORM: ITS WRITING AND LANGUAGES** *Dr Irving Finkel* [OR...](#)

  **SACRED LANDSCAPES AND EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMY** *Dr Bernadette Brady*

Monday 28 July to Friday 1 August

  **HIEROGLYPHS FOR BEGINNERS** *Mr Kit Devine* (for  see 18 Aug) [OR...](#)

  **THE ROYAL HAREM IN ANCIENT EGYPT & THE NEAR EAST: THE POLITICS OF SEX & FERTILITY** *Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones*

Monday 4 to Friday 8 August

 **HIEROGLYPHS FOR BEGINNERS**

Mr Kit Devine (for  see 28 Jul)



Monday 18 to Friday 22 August

 **READING HIEROGLYPHS: THINKING ABOUT MORTALITY**

Mr Kit Devine (for  see 7 Jul)

STUDY DAYS

Saturday 31 May


  **RETHINKING THE NARMER PALETTE** *Dr Kathryn E. Piquette and Mr Michael Oakey*

Saturday 27 September

 **ILLICIT TRADE IN CULTURAL ARTEFACTS: THE CASES OF EGYPT AND SUDAN** *Dr Marcel Marée*

BSS IN EUROPE

Thursday 3 to Sunday 6 April

  **EXPLORING ANCIENT EGYPT AT TURIN'S MUSEO EGIZIO** *Dr Luigi Prada*

Thursday 15 to Sunday 18 May



  **PERSEPOLIS, PALMYRA, AND PARIS: DISCOVERING THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AT THE MUSÉE DU LOUVRE** *Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones*

BSS IN EGYPT

Friday 28 February to Friday 7 March

  **HATSHEPSUT AND SENENMUT: INNOVATION & IDEOLOGY** *Dr Campbell Price*

Sunday 2 to Sunday 9 November

  **NUBIA: A JOURNEY THROUGH A DROWNED LAND** *Dr Robert Morkot*

We'd like to tell you a little bit about Bloomsbury Summer School:

- We offer courses and study days on ancient history, archaeology, languages, and literature, mainly of ancient Egypt and the Near East, taught by experts working in universities, museums, and field archaeology;
- We deliver our summer programme of 5-day courses at one of the world's leading universities, University College London (UCL), in the heart of Bloomsbury in central London;
- We also offer study days and short weekend courses run in person and / or online;
- We also organise courses in Europe and Egypt with visits to museums and archaeological sites;
- Although rooted in academia, we offer a relaxed and informal learning environment;
- Our lecturers are distinguished academics and specialists with world-leading expertise, but they are also friendly and approachable;
- 5-day summer courses have 19 teaching sessions of mostly lectures, but may include museum visits and other activities, whilst 4-day courses have 16 sessions, 2-day courses have eight, and 1-day courses have four sessions;
- Online and live-streamed courses are often video recorded, so if you cannot join us online or in London, you can still enjoy learning via the recordings and downloadable handouts;
- BSS not only offers well-taught courses in a range of exciting subjects, we also organise accompanying social events, all of which combine to create a rich learning experience you would struggle to find elsewhere;
- You are likely to go away after your time with us, not only inspired by a wealth of new material and ideas, but having made new friends.

At BSS, we are enormously fortunate to have **special access** to UCL's stunning museum collections and excellent university facilities.

Our classes, taught in the **Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology**, offer privileged access to this internationally important collection of Egyptian artefacts. The opportunity to handle ancient objects is one not to be missed; it is an exceptional experience. Our Bloomsbury location also allows us to include teaching sessions in the **British Museum**, just down the road.

We are offering once again the BSS experience in Europe. Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones will lead a course to the **Louvre in Paris (April)**, whilst Dr Luigi Prada repeats his highly successful trip to the **Museo Egizio in Turin, Italy (May)**.

We are proud to have organised at least one **BSS in Egypt** every year since 2009 (except 2020 – 2022). These courses in Egypt combine lectures and study sessions with site visits — a perfect learning experience. Early in 2025, **28 February – 7 March**, we will offer a course in **Luxor** taught by Dr Campbell Price; and in the autumn, **2 – 9 November**, a cruise-based course in the **Aswan** area, taught by Dr Robert Morkot.

We also stage at least two **BSS Study Days** a year. On **31 May**, Dr Kathryn Piquette and Mr Michael Oakey will team up for a study day on the **Narmer Palette**. On **27 September**, Dr Marcel Marée will lead a study day on the critical issue of the **illicit trade in antiquities**.

We are also running an appeal to support the **Christopher Coleman Awards**, a fund set up in memory of our founder, to help students who may not be able to afford our fees (p. 22). We continue our regular bursary offer as well (also p. 22).

Whether virtually or in person, we very much hope to welcome you to BSS in 2025.

Our very best wishes,

DR KATHRYN E. PIQUETTE
Director

FOUNDED IN 1990, BSS ENDEAVOURS TO PRESENT THE FINEST PROGRAMME OF SUMMER COURSES IN EGYPTOLOGY AND ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, LANGUAGES, AND LITERATURE, AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

In 2025, we are offering more than **15 intensive courses and study days** on hieroglyphs, demotic, and other aspects of ancient Egyptian archaeology, history, and culture, as well as on ancient Near Eastern archaeology, writing, and language. In addition to our normal 5-day summer courses, in the spring our Egyptian hieroglyphs and demotic taster days are back by popular demand. We offer these online courses over weekends to accommodate participant work schedules. All our courses and study days are intended for interested adults of all ages, whether lifelong learners or students wishing to broaden their studies. Courses and study days are described on pages 6 – 11, 14, and 18 – 21.

NB: *Courses will be online prior to 7 July, after which we will provide in-person and online teaching, with video recordings available afterwards for most courses. Some information below applies to in-person teaching only.*

BSS COURSES

Our courses offer you:

- Expert tuition provided by university lecturers, museum staff, and archaeologists;
- Online / live-streaming teaching for almost all courses, as well as access to the video recordings;

- Commencing on 7 July, in-person teaching including:
 - Classes in the **Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology** and the **British Museum** (where relevant);
 - Refreshments throughout the day;
 - Social events designed to enrich the BSS experience, including a buffet welcome lunch, reception in the UCL Institute of Archaeology, and end-of-course drinks party.

RECOMMENDED READING

Listed for each course at www.bloomsbury summerschool.co.uk (click the Courses tab); details will also be sent with your booking confirmation.

LOCATION

We are ideally located in the heart of Bloomsbury, with easy access to many of London's museums, galleries, shops, cinemas, and West End theatres.

FINDING US

BSS is easily reached by public transport. We are within walking distance of three main-line train stations (Euston, St Pancras, and King's Cross), and of several underground stations. Please note that there are no car parking facilities at UCL, nor is there free parking nearby.

CATERING

When teaching takes place in person, refreshments are available all day, every day of your course, and a buffet lunch is provided on the Monday. You can make use of the inexpensive catering facilities on the UCL campus, serving everything from breakfast through to sandwiches

and hot meals in the early evening. Alternatively, you may wish to take your lunch alfresco in Gordon Square, or enjoy a range of local pubs, cafés, and restaurants.

FEES

In most cases, our standard (**Std**) fees apply after 10 January / 28 February, with **EARLY BIRD (EB)** discounts available for bookings made (and paid for in full) up until then.

Per person per UK-based **course**:

- 1-day course online: EB **£30** / after 10 January Std **£35**
- 2-day course online: EB **£110** / after 28 February **£120**
- 4-day course online: EB **£220** / after 10 January **£240**
- 5-day course in person: EB **£350** / after 28 February **£370**
- 5-day course online: EB **£270** / after 28 February **£290**

Per person per **study day**:

- In person: EB **£40** / after 28 February Std **£45**
- Online: EB **£30** / after 28 February Std **£35**

NB: the EARLY BIRD rate applies only to full payments received before cutoff date

NB: *If you cannot attend on the day, note that many courses and study days will be available on video recording afterwards. A non-returnable deposit of £100 is included in the cost of each 4- and 5-day course; the 1-day and 2-day course fees are non-returnable (but see the cancellation policy below).*

Please note our BSS bank details:

Account name: Bloomsbury Summer School
Bank: National Westminster Bank plc
Bank address: Tottenham Court Road Branch,
45 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 2EA, UK

UK payments:

Sort Code: 56-00-31; Account No.: 33996008

International payments:

BIC: NWBK GB 2L
IBAN: GB52 NWBK 560031 33996008

For those who would struggle to pay our course fees we may be able to offer a modest discount, see p. 22 for advice on bursary places. Students considering studying archaeology or ancient history at university are encouraged to apply for the Christopher Coleman Awards (see also p. 22).

BOOKINGS

To book one or more of our courses, simply complete the booking form (found inside this brochure or on our website) and send it to us with the deposit / full fee (see below). Fees are payable by bank transfer (details above), cheque (in sterling), or via PayPal on our website: www.bloomsbury summerschool.co.uk.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

In the event of customer cancellation* of a booking, or withdrawal without notice, a scale of charges will apply, so you might like to take out suitable insurance cover. Refunds will be given in accordance with the following scale, LESS the £100 deposit (no refund for 1- or 2-day courses*):

- Notice of 6 weeks or more: 100%
- Between 6 weeks and 3 weeks: 50%
- Less than 3 weeks and no-shows: no refund

* Cancellation by BSS: 100%

COURSE DESCRIPTION **SUN 19 JANUARY** (1-DAY ONLINE ONLY)

A TASTE OF DEMOTIC

Course Director: **Dr Luigi Prada** (Uppsala Univ.)

This 1-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.

This course offers you the unique opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of Graeco-Roman hieroglyphic texts — a fascinating subject rarely offered, even at the university level. Through this taster class, over a single day, you will be introduced to the main principles of the hieroglyphic script at the time of Cleopatra and

the Roman emperors, with its increased complexity and surprising creativity. Together, we will also look at and make sense of the most complex examples of such writings, which are found in cryptographic texts. You will learn how these intriguing scriptorial practices are rooted in earlier hieroglyphic writings from the Dynastic Period, including the New Kingdom. The writing examples that we will tackle together include the inscription of Somtutefnakht (narrating Alexander the Great's conquest of Egypt), the inscriptions of the Ptolemaic High Priests of Ptah in Memphis, and obelisks erected by order of Roman emperors, to name but a few.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **25 – 26 JAN & 1 – 2 FEB** (4-DAY ONLINE ONLY)

DEMOTIC: A BEGINNERS' COURSE

Course Director: **Dr Luigi Prada** (Uppsala Univ.)

This 4-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.

Demotic is both the name for the script and for the phase of the ancient Egyptian language used between the 7th century BCE and the 3rd century CE in Egypt (with some sporadic use as late as the 5th century). The script is known for being highly cursive, much more so than hieratic, and for being supposedly impenetrable. In this 4-day

course, Luigi — an Egyptologist who specialises in Demotic — will prove to you this is not the case! You will be introduced gradually to the features of the Demotic script and grammar, and learn how to recognise common signs and words. By the end of the course you will be able to read sentences from original texts. We will focus on Ptolemaic Demotic, with particular attention to one famous Demotic literary text known as 'The Instructions of 'Onchsheshonqy'.

NB: *This course can be attended by complete beginners.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION **SAT 22 – SUN 23 MARCH** (2-DAY ONLINE ONLY)

BETWEEN EGYPT AND KUSH: THE HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, AND MONUMENTS OF LOWER NUBIA

Course Co-Directors: **Dr Robert Morkot** (Friends of the Petrie Museum) and **Dr Henry Bishop-Wright** (Cardiff University)

This 2-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.

The construction of the new High Dam at Aswan and the creation of the reservoir, referred to as Lake Nasser or Lake Nubia, was one of the major

projects of the late 1950s and 1960s. The resulting UNESCO campaign to record the archaeology and preserve the ancient monuments of Nubia is now best remembered for the relocation of the temples of Abu Simbel. The archaeology and history of Lower Nubia revealed by the UNESCO campaign, and the two surveys preceding it, attest to a complex history of interactions between the people of Lower Nubia and Egypt from the Predynastic to the Byzantine Periods. This short weekend course traces that history and archaeology, highlighting the preserved monuments and the array of material that can be found in museum collections.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **SUN 23 MARCH** (1-DAY ONLINE ONLY)

A TASTE OF HIEROGLYPHS

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (Independent)

This 1-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.

For those of you intrigued by learning how to read hieroglyphs and perhaps wondering whether to take the plunge, this 1-day course will show you

the basics behind reading ancient Egyptian and also give you a taste of the way we do things at Bloomsbury Summer School.

NB: *This course assumes you have no prior experience in the subject but, through a series of presentations and reading sessions, by the end of the day we will show you how to read some pharaonic monuments on display in world-famous museums.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 7 – FRI 11 JULY** (5-DAY IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

DISCOVERING THE HITTITES: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF A VANISHED CIVILISATION

Course Director: **Dr Christoph Bachhuber**
(University of Oxford)

***This 5-day course will be held in person
and live-streamed; also available on video
recording afterwards.***

This course will introduce you to the culture, history, and civilisation of the Hittites — overshadowed by their contemporaries in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia — through a close

examination of the archaeology, and overview of relevant scripts, texts, and languages. It will examine the origins of the Hittites, their cities in central Anatolia / modern Turkey, and their expansion into an empire contemporary with, and in conflict with, New Kingdom Egypt and the Mycenaeans. Journeying through the Hittites' cultic landscapes in the mountains of central Anatolia, we will delve into the remarkable and diverse pantheon that bound them ideologically to both the landscapes of their home, and to the territories and people that they conquered. Finally, we will examine why the civilisation of the Hittites vanished so totally, such that Homer and Herodotus were not even aware of them.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 7 – FRI 11 JULY** (5-DAY IN PERSON ONLY) FOR ONLINE SEE 18 – 22 AUG

READING HIEROGLYPHS: PHARAOH AND HIS FOLLOWERS

Course Director: **Dr Luigi Prada** (Uppsala Univ.)

***This 5-day course will be held in person only
(for online course see p. 14).***

Once again, we have prepared a new course for lovers of ancient Egyptian textual culture! This year's readings will focus on a chronologically-varied selection of hieroglyphic texts related to the central figure of the Egyptian state: Pharaoh. We will delve into royal ideology through writings about being pharaoh, serving pharaoh — and even competing with pharaoh. From the kings of the Fifth Dynasty to a First Intermediate Period nomarch, we will meet well-known figures from

Egyptian history, as well as more obscure ones, including banished temple priests and courtly officials overly eager to please their sovereign. Readings will include the funerary inscription of Rewer, a royal letter from the late Old Kingdom, the Coptos decree of King Nubkheperre Intef, a tract known as the 'King as Sun Priest', and the inscription of Somtutefnakht, amongst others (the selection can be fine-tuned based on class interest).

NB: *This is an advanced reading class for students with good experience of hieroglyphic Middle Egyptian. A couple of the texts that we will read pre-date the Middle Kingdom, but their language is largely identical to standard Middle Egyptian (and any unusual grammatical features will be highlighted and explained by your tutor).*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS **MON 14 – FRI 18 JULY** (5-DAY IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

EGYPT: LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

Course Director: **Ms Lucia Gahin** (Former BSS Director)

This 5-day course will be held in person and live-streamed; also available on video recording afterwards.

This introduction to the history of ancient Egypt will open up to you the long and glorious history of ancient Egypt through sites we can visit in Egypt today — temples, towns, and tombs. Through beautifully illustrated lectures and museum visits, we will explore the reigns of household names — Tutankhamun, Khufu, Ramesses — but also of many lesser-known pharaohs. Tracing the highs and lows of this fascinating civilisation, we will explore art, architecture, and literature accessible today in the unique landscape of Egypt and in the museums of the world. Your understanding of ancient Egyptian history and archaeology will be further enhanced by a practical session exploring UCL's 19th century facsimiles of the Book of the Dead, an introduction to reading the hieroglyphic cartouches of pharaohs, a visit to the British Museum's fabulous Egyptian galleries, and a very special opportunity to handle ancient objects in the Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology. This will be a rich and varied course introducing you to the extraordinary history of ancient Egypt.

PEOPLE, MATERIALS, AND TECHNOLOGY IN ANCIENT EGYPT: RESEARCH FROM URBAN AND DESERT LANDSCAPES

Course Co-Directors: **Dr Elizabeth Bloxam** (Northeast Normal University), **Prof. Emeritus Paul Nicholson** (Cardiff University), and **Prof. Ian Shaw** (University of Liverpool)

***This 5-day course will be held in person
and live-streamed; also available on video
recording afterwards.***

This course explores the interaction of the people of ancient Egypt with the materials and technologies that were central to life in the Nile Valley, and which enabled the production of some of the world's greatest monuments and artefacts. Your tutors bring a wide range of archaeological perspectives on the procurement, production, and social contexts of material culture during the pharaonic period. Their very distinct viewpoints derive from decades of archaeological research across a diversity of cultural landscapes, from the densely populated urban sites in the Nile Valley to the remotest desert locations. Through fascinating case studies deriving from your tutors' own research and fieldwork, as well as object-handling sessions, you will delve into the detailed analysis of Egyptian workshops producing ceramics and glass; processes of social and political change and technological innovations in New Kingdom cities; and the impact of social mobility and power on craft specialisation, using evidence from remote outposts of Egypt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 21 – FRI 25 JULY** (5-DAY IN PERSON ONLY)

CUNEIFORM: ITS WRITING AND LANGUAGES

Course Director: **Dr Irving Finkel**
(The British Museum)

This 5-day course will be held in person only.

After selling out last year, we are thrilled that Dr Finkel will offer this course once again. Plunge adventurously into the world of cuneiform and consider all the reasons why it is so important and interesting. Irving will lead you through the origins and development of the cuneiform script over more than 3,000 years, and how it works;

the diverse uses to which cuneiform was put; the different languages that it was used for; and some of the amazing discoveries that have been made. You will read inscriptions in Sumerian and Akkadian in a way that will explain the writing fearlessly and communicate the differences between the two — the primary cuneiform languages. Other topics will be: the school and its curriculum; healing the sick; telling the future; and the survival of Mesopotamian knowledge at the end of the story. There will be some real tablets for handling, one session on how to write cuneiform on clay with lolly-sticks, and an exclusive British Museum tour for those who are still undaunted.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 21 – FRI 25 JULY** (5-DAY IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

SACRED LANDSCAPES AND EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMY

Course Director: **Dr Bernadette Brady**
(University of Wales Trinity Saint David)

This 5-day course will be held in person and live-streamed; also available on video recording afterwards.

This course takes you into the world of Egyptian cultural astronomy — an indigenous astronomy in which the ancient Egyptians blended their observation of the heavens with their theology, and then embedded it into their landscape.

During this week, we will engage with the celestial phenomena which influenced pharaonic and Ptolemaic architecture, imagery, and deities. The course will cover the role of stars from the Pyramid Texts through to the Middle Kingdom star tables, decans, and the later Ramesside star clock — as well as the sun / Ra, and the moon and the shifting nature of Khonsu. Additionally, we will consider the celestial deities of Thoth, Seshat, Isis, Nephthys, and Osiris-lah through the New Kingdom celestial ceilings and the Books of the Sky. Finally, we will look at the cosmological maps of the Ptolemaic Period. Extensive handouts will be provided.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 28 JUL – FRI 1 AUG** (5-DAY IN PERSON ONLY) FOR ONLINE SEE 4 – 8 AUG

HIEROGLYPHS FOR BEGINNERS

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (Independent)

This 5-day course will be held in person only (for online course see p. 14).

We are pleased to offer our popular beginners' hieroglyphs course this year. The course is a unique introduction to the world of Egyptian hieroglyphs specially written for BSS and requires no prior experience of the subject. Through a

series of presentations and practical sessions, you will progress from the basics of Egyptian hieroglyphic writing to learning the language of the ancient Egyptians — and do so from day one by reading ancient monuments available online or on display in world-famous museum collections.

NB: *This course is intended for complete beginners but may well appeal to anyone wishing to refresh their knowledge of hieroglyphs, too — an intense and rewarding experience.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 28 JUL – FRI 1 AUG** (5-DAY IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

THE ROYAL HAREM IN ANCIENT EGYPT AND THE NEAR EAST: THE POLITICS OF SEX AND FERTILITY

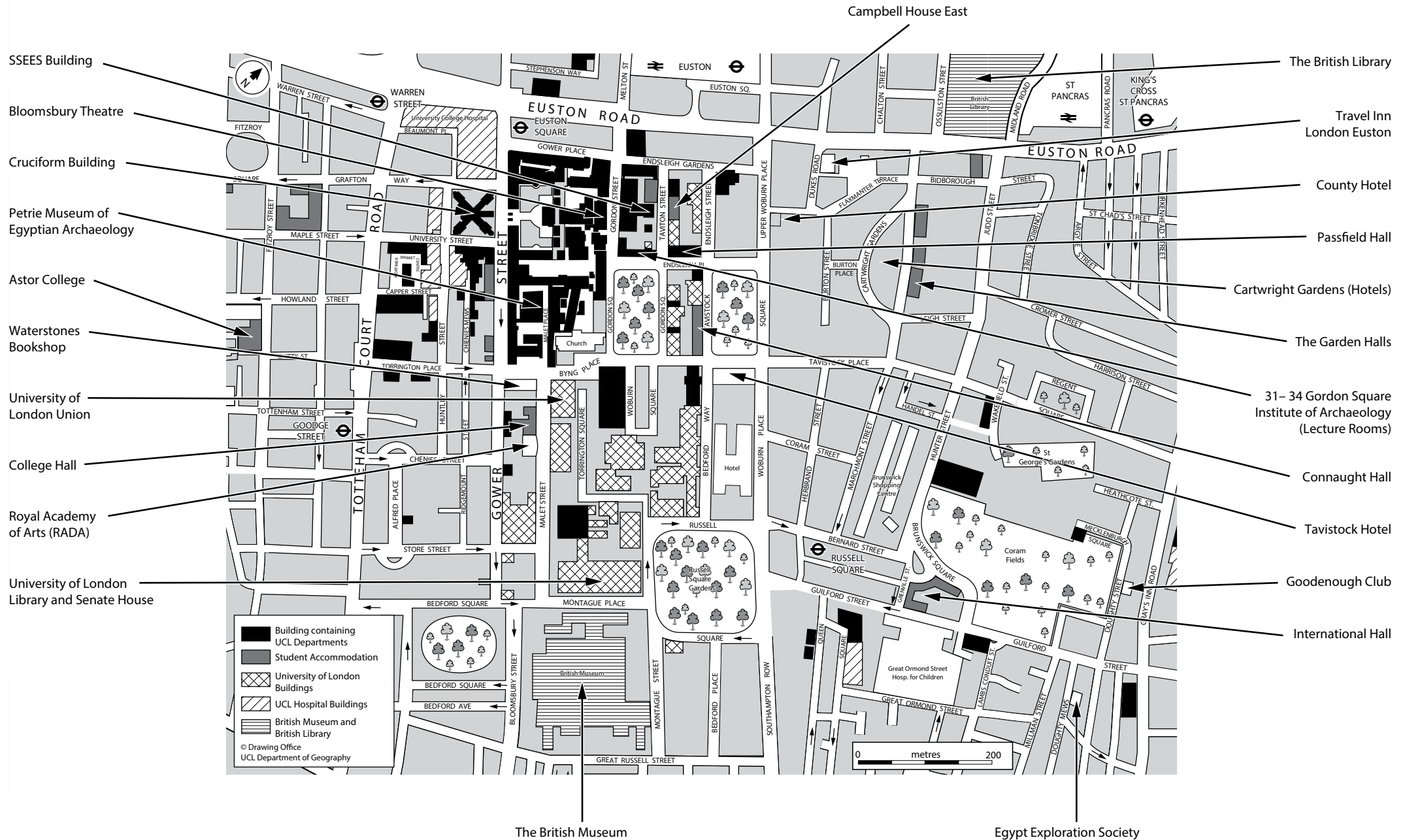
Course Director: **Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**
(Cardiff University)

This 5-day course will be held in person and live-streamed; also available on video recording afterwards.

'Harem' conjures the popular image of a closely guarded pleasure-palace filled with scantily clad nubile courtesans idling away their days in languid preparation for nights of sexual adventure in a sultan's bed. This course aims to liberate the ancient harem of this damaging western delusion and dispense with the Orientalist clichés entirely.

The harem was a political institution where dynastic identities were fostered, endorsed, and maintained. True — absolute power lay in the hands of kings, but within the royal harem of every palace, garrison or tent, the policies of even the greatest kings could be swayed by his mother, a wife, or favourite concubine. Sex between the king and women of the harem was never purely for pleasure, but embedded in a complex politics of dynastic reproduction. Any Orientalist trivialisation of the royal harem as a brothel-like pleasure palace fails to do justice to its central role in ancient societies, from pharaonic Egypt to Sumer and later Babylonia, Assyria, and Persia, as well as the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, and Ugarit in relation to the Hittite and Neo-Hittite worlds.

DISCOVERING BLOOMSBURY



COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 4 – FRI 8 AUGUST** (5-DAY ONLINE ONLY)

HIEROGLYPHS FOR BEGINNERS

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (Independent)

This 5-day course will be held online; also available on video recording afterwards.

We are pleased to offer our popular beginners' hieroglyphs course online also: the course is a unique introduction to the world of Egyptian hieroglyphs specially written for BSS and requires no prior experience of the subject. Through a

series of presentations and practical sessions, you will progress from the basics of Egyptian hieroglyphic writing to learning the language of the ancient Egyptians — and do so from day one by reading ancient monuments available online or on display in world famous museum collections.

This course is specifically intended for complete beginners but may well appeal to anyone wishing to refresh their knowledge of hieroglyphs too. It has always proved to be an intense and rewarding experience.

COURSE DESCRIPTION **MON 18 – FRI 22 AUGUST** (5-DAY ONLINE ONLY) FOR IN PERSON SEE 7 – 11 JULY

READING HIEROGLYPHS: THINKING ABOUT MORTALITY

Course Director: **Mr Kit Devine** (Independent)

This 5-day course will be held online (for in-person course see p. 8).

As usual we have planned a new course for those of you who love to experience the culture of pharaonic Egypt up close by reading ancient texts. This time we will be exploring responses to the inevitability of death as expressed in a selection of sources. In particular, we will look at *The Dialogue of a Man with his Ba*, an extraordinarily dark work of Middle Egyptian literature which takes the form of a dispute between a man and this aspect of his soul, as

well as excerpts from harpists' songs, and spells from the Book of the Dead (the selection can be fine-tuned based on class interest).

NB: *This is an advanced reading class for students with good experience of hieroglyphic Middle Egyptian. Normally we expect you to have taken both BSS courses HIEROGLYPHS FOR BEGINNERS (first stage) and HIEROGLYPHS: THE NEXT STEP (second stage) beforehand. As a rule of thumb, before you begin this course you should be comfortable reading all the texts in How to Read Egyptian Hieroglyphs (see Recommended reading). Nevertheless, do not worry about the intensity of this course; throughout the week there will be plenty of time for your own work and for questions and answers with your tutor.*

NB: *We will be planning more online Egyptian language courses with Dr Luigi Prada during the autumn, so do check our website for updates.*

BSS DIRECTOR AND TEACHING TEAM

BSS DIRECTOR

Kathryn E. Piquette received her PhD in Egyptology from University College London (UCL), specialising in early Egyptian writing and art. In addition to lecturing at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, Kathryn is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the UCL Dept of Information Studies and the Centre for Digital Humanities, where she teaches digital approaches to cultural heritage and works as an imaging specialist for UCL Advanced Imaging Consultants. She took over directorship of BSS in 2019, having directed and coordinated several BSS courses over two decades. A longstanding member of the Friends of the Petrie Museum, Kathryn has served as Student Representative and Membership Officer, and is now on the Board of Trustees. She is also a member of the Egypt Exploration Society. Her archaeological fieldwork includes excavation in Peru, Jordan (Petra), and Egypt (Wadi Natrun, Hierakonpolis, Giza), and work as advanced digital imaging specialist at Qubbet el-Hawa, Deir Anba Hadra, Philae Temple, the C2 Project: Royal Cache Wadi survey, and several other projects in Egypt. Among her publications is the Open Access monograph *An Archaeology of Art and Writing: Early Egyptian labels in context* (2018) with supporting online database, and the freely available co-edited volume *Writing as Material Practice: Substance, surface and medium* (2013).

BSS COURSE DIRECTORS AND STUDY DAY SPEAKERS

Christoph Bachhuber is an archaeologist who specialises in the earliest cities and states of Western Asia with a regional, fieldwork focus on ancient Anatolia / modern Turkey. As Co-Director,

he recently completed the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project (KRASP) including research on the landscapes at Neolithic Çatalhöyük and a new Hittite city discovered by KRASP. Christoph is Lecturer in Archaeology at St. John's College, University of Oxford, and is Teaching Associate in Archaeology in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Oxford).

Henry Cosmo Bishop-Wright studied Classics and Ancient History at the University of Exeter (BA, MA), where he also completed a PhD (2021) examining the Egyptian-Nubian frontier c.300 BCE – 300 CE. He subsequently co-curated the British Museum exhibition *Luxury and Power: Persia to Greece* (2023). Henry is currently a Post-doctoral Research Associate (Leverhulme) at Cardiff University where he is working on Saqqara's Sacred Animal Necropolis. Henry is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA).

Elizabeth Bloxam is Visiting Professor of Egyptology at Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China. Her research interests and scholarly recognition have centred on ancient society and technology in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. She has held lecturing posts at leading universities in the UK, Australia, and China, and has led multi-disciplinary surveys and excavations in some of Egypt's most important ancient quarry and mining sites. She is currently directing fieldwork in the Wadi Hammamat region of Egypt's Eastern Desert and has published widely in international journals.

Bernadette Brady is a lecturer on Egyptian religious astronomy and sacred landscapes. She holds a PhD in Anthropology (2012), an MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology (2005), and

an MA in Egyptology (2022). Since 2008 she has been a tutor in the Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where she lectures on sacred geography and cultural astronomy. In her Egyptology work, she is a co-director of the Kemet Klub. Her research interests lie in varying forms of cultural astronomy and astrology and sacred geography.

Kit Devine recently finished his MPhil in Egyptology at the University of Oxford, where he studied Demotic and Graeco-Roman hieroglyphs and wrote a thesis on the Narmouthis ostraca. His current research is focused on multilingualism and multiculturalism during the Graeco-Roman period. He previously studied Egyptology and Classics at the University of Liverpool (BA), where he studied Old, Middle, and Late Egyptian, Coptic, Greek, and Latin.

Irving Finkel is the Assistant Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian script, languages, and cultures in the Department of the Middle East in the British Museum. He learned cuneiform from Prof. W. G. Lambert at Birmingham and wrote his PhD thesis on spells for the exorcism of demons. He was subsequently Research Associate at the University of Chicago, and Assistant to Miguel Civil. Since 1979, he has been looking after and researching the BM's collection of some 120,000 tablets. He is especially interested in Mesopotamian literature, ideas, medicine, and magic and is committed to explaining cuneiform and the world of Mesopotamia accurately to as wide a public as possible.

Lucia Gahlin directed BSS from 2009 to 2019, having taught BSS courses and played a role in its organisation since 1994. She lectures widely on ancient Egypt and leads archaeological tours

to Egypt (including for Andante Travels). She has worked at the UCL Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, particularly on its material from Amarna. She has been Honorary Research Associate at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, Chair of the Friends of the Petrie Museum, and Trustee of the Egypt Exploration Society. She has worked as Small Finds Registrar at Tell el-Amarna.

Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones holds the Chair in Ancient History at Cardiff University. He has written widely for both academic and public audiences. His books include: *The Cleopatras: The forgotten queens of Egypt*; *Persians: The age of the great kings*; and *Designs on the Past: How Hollywood created the ancient world*. His work has also featured in magazines and he has often appeared on the BBC, Channel 4, Netflix, and on other media. Future publications include *Babylon: The great city* for Wildfire Books and *The Harem in the Ancient Near East* for Palgrave MacMillan.

Marcel Marée is Assistant Keeper at the Department of Egypt and Sudan in the British Museum, with expertise in pharaonic material culture, epigraphy, provenance research, and the art market. In 2018, he initiated the Circulating Artefacts project to monitor, document, and analyse cultural artefacts seen in the trade, and to detect irregularities. Marcel lends frequent expertise to heritage professionals and authorities around the world. He speaks at conferences and workshops about heritage crime, hosted by (among others) INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and many academic institutions. Marcel is a founding member of the OSCE's Heritage Crime Task Force.

Robert Morkot gained his BA and PhD from University College London, with part of

his postgraduate studies spent at Humboldt University of Berlin. He then held a post-doctoral position at the University of Oxford and has since taught for many years in various UK universities. Robert has worked on the Eastern Marmarica Coastal Survey, as well as serving as Chair of the Society for Libyan Studies and on the Committee and Board of the Egypt Exploration Society. Robert is currently President of the Friends of the Petrie Museum and Chair of ASTENE.

Paul T. Nicholson is Professor Emeritus of Egyptian Archaeology at Cardiff University. He has directed excavations in Egypt at sites such as Tell el-Amarna, Memphis, and Saqqara, as well as working with colleagues at sites such as Hatnub and Berenike. He is co-editor (with Ian Shaw) of *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology* (2002) and author of *Brilliant Things for Akhenaten: The production of glass, vitreous materials and pottery at Amarna site O45.1* (2007), and *Working in Memphis: The production of faience at Roman period Kom Helul* (2013), as well as numerous papers on technology, animal cults at Saqqara, and photography in Egypt.

Michael Oakey is Vice-Chairman of Sussex Egyptology Society — a Registered Charity and one of the UK's leading regional groups of its kind. He has been passionate about Egyptology since childhood, with a particular interest in how objects are made. Alongside a four-decade career as an aviation-history journalist, editor, and publisher, he has made time to attend BSS every year since 1994 (including occasional teaching), and has developed a keen interest in ancient Egyptian stonecarving techniques. His Egyptological publications include articles in national newspapers and in the much-missed *Kmt* magazine.

Kathryn E. Piquette See BSS Director on p. 15.

Luigi Prada was educated in both Egyptology and Classics, first in Italy and then in Oxford. He works primarily on textual and cultural-historical studies, with a focus on Egypt's later phases. He has held academic positions in the UK, Germany, and Denmark, and is now Assistant Professor of Egyptology at Uppsala University, Sweden. He is also active in the field, both in Egypt as Assistant Director of the Oxford Expedition to Elkab (Ashmolean Museum), and in the Sudan, and is the president of Associazione Amici Collaboratori del Museo Egizio di Torino (Society of Friends of the Museo Egizio, Turin).

Campbell Price is Curator of Egypt and Sudan at the University of Manchester's Manchester Museum, one of the UK's largest Egyptology collections. He has a PhD in Egyptology from the University of Liverpool, where he is an Honorary Research Fellow. His research focuses on elite monuments of the First Millennium BCE, particularly on sculpture, and the representation of ancient Egypt in museums. Recent publications include: *Golden Mummies of Egypt: Interpreting identities from the Graeco-Roman period* (2023); and *Brief Histories: Ancient Egypt* (2024). He is Chair of Trustees of the Egypt Exploration Society.

Ian Shaw is Senior Research Fellow in Egyptian Archaeology at the University of Liverpool. His research focuses primarily on ancient human activity in urban contexts and remote desert environments. His fieldwork includes excavation at Tell el-Amarna, Memphis, and Gurob, as well as survey and excavation at many Egyptian quarrying and mining sites. His publications include *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt* (2000), *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology* (2000, co-edited with Paul Nicholson), and *The Oxford Handbook of Egyptology* (2020; co-edited with Elizabeth Bloxam).

BSS STUDY DAY **SAT 31 MAY** (1-DAY IN PERSON AND ONLINE)

RETHINKING THE NARMER PALETTE

Speaker: **Dr Kathryn E. Piquette** (UCL), and **Mr Michael Oakey** (Independent)

This study-day will be held in person and live-streamed; also available on video recording afterwards.

Join us for a special study day dedicated to one of ancient Egypt's most prominent examples of early pharaonic art and writing — the Narmer Palette — viewed from the fresh perspectives of recent advanced digital imaging and experimental archaeology. This greywacke slab is carved with complex and often violent scenes conventionally interpreted in the contexts of royal ideology and

the emergence of a unified Egypt. The day focuses on artefactual and technological facets of this and related carved palettes, including material traces of the processes of creation and use. Four sumptuously illustrated lectures feature high-resolution computer-enhanced images that reveal in compelling detail individual toolmarks, possible evidence for scene adjustment, damage and repair, and some marks that raise the possibility that the palette was incomplete. New research using experimental archaeology to reproduce toolmarks will be presented for discussion. In-person participants will also be able to handle a full-scale replica Narmer Palette, and examine modern samples of carved stone and replica tools.

BSS STUDY DAY **SAT 27 SEPTEMBER** (1-DAY IN PERSON ONLY)

ILLICIT TRADE IN CULTURAL ARTEFACTS: THE CASES OF EGYPT AND SUDAN

Speaker: **Dr Marcel Marée** (British Museum)

This study day will be held in person.

We are privileged to have Dr Marcel Marée lead this important study day on a topic of great concern to us all. Over recent decades, archaeological sites in the Middle East and North Africa have seen a sharp increase in illegal digging. Artefacts excavated and exported without authorisation are flooding the international

art market on an unprecedented scale. This is not just a product of the Arab Spring and its aftermath. Looters and traffickers of the 21st century exploit the new technologies of the internet, encrypted messaging, and social media, through which they trade largely unhindered with clients around the world. Subject specialists are slow to recognise that they have a critical role to play in counteracting this scourge. Therefore, in 2018, the speaker launched Circulating Artefacts (CircArt), a project for cultural experts to scrutinise the art market through in-depth provenance research. Initially focused on artefacts from Egypt and Sudan, CircArt has helped identify and recover thousands of smuggled antiquities.

BSS IN EUROPE **THU 3 – SUN 6 APRIL** (4-DAY IN PERSON)

EXPLORING ANCIENT EGYPT AT TURIN'S MUSEO EGIZIO

Course Director: **Dr Luigi Prada**
(Uppsala University)

Following its success last year, we are thrilled to offer once again a long-weekend course on the collections in the Museo Egizio (Egyptian Museum) in Turin, Italy. One of the largest institutions in the world — alongside those in Cairo — to be exclusively dedicated to the antiquities of ancient Egypt, the Museo Egizio is also the oldest such institution, founded in

1824. Through a combination of lectures and visits to the museum, participants will discover its history, admire its masterpieces, and familiarise themselves with the entire collection, as well as with selected artefacts of particular significance.

The provisional schedule is:

Day 1: Flight to Turin. Check in to hotel for three nights; introductory lecture.

Day 2: Morning lecture at the hotel, visit to the Museo Egizio (inc. lunch break); welcome dinner.

Day 3: Morning lectures; visit to the Museo Egizio (including lunch break).

Day 4: Free day for sightseeing; flight home.

BSS IN EUROPE **THU 15 – SUN 18 MAY** (4-DAY IN PERSON)

PERSEPOLIS, PALMYRA, AND PARIS: DISCOVERING THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AT THE MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

Course Director: **Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones**
(Cardiff University)

The Musée du Louvre (Louvre Museum) in Paris is a treasure-trove of Near Eastern antiquities. The Department of Near Eastern Antiquities is divided into three collections: Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Levant (Syria, Phoenicia, Canaan, and Cyprus). We will explore each of these collections in turn. In addition, the Louvre is hosting 10 major works from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. In some cases, a pair of objects has been reunited for the first time, whilst in others, pieces complement each other by virtue of specific historical features of their respective collections.

Following the success of BSS's first field course in Europe (at the Museo Egizio, Turin), this Paris-based course is an opportunity for you to discover one of the world's greatest collection of antiquities. Through a combination of lectures and visits to the Louvre, you will discover its many masterpieces, and focus on a number of selected artefacts of particular significance.

Provisional itinerary:

Day 1: Eurostar from London to Paris. Check in to hotel for three nights; introductory lecture.

Day 2: Morning lecture; visit to the Louvre (including lunch break); welcome dinner.

Day 3: Morning lectures; visit to the Louvre (including lunch break).

Day 4: Free day for sightseeing before return journey to London.

THE PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology here at UCL plays an important role in the BSS programme, whether virtually or in person. It houses more than 80,000 objects from the Nile Valley. Most of these are from the excavations of William Matthew Flinders Petrie, the 'Father of Egyptian Archaeology', during the late 19th and early 20th century. Petrie became the first Edwards Professor of Egyptology at UCL in 1893 and the college subsequently acquired his collection, which, with that of Amelia Edwards, forms the core of the museum as we know it today.

The collection can claim a number of 'firsts', among them the oldest known woven garment, monumental sculpture, calendar, and gynaecological papyrus. It also has the largest collection of Egyptian pots, Middle Kingdom papyri, weights, and Roman Period mummy portraits outside Egypt. The collection is uniquely important because much of it comes from documented excavations, providing an unparalleled insight into the way ancient people lived and died in the Nile Valley. The Petrie Museum remains a valuable resource for today's scholars, students, and public alike.

The Petrie Museum was the first museum in the world to make its entire catalogue available for study via its online database. Its commitment to accessibility was publicly recognised by the highly prestigious Museums and Heritage Award for Excellence, which the museum won in 2005. The museum celebrated its centenary in 2015 with a fine exhibition *Characters and Collections* and an accompanying book, downloadable for free here: www.uclpress.co.uk/products/82987.

New Friends of the Petrie Museum are always warmly welcomed. Friends are invited to attend monthly (in-person and online) lectures and object-handling seminars, as well as a host of special events including study days, book launches, book auctions, parties, day trips, and tours to Egypt and museums around the world. Friends also have access to the excellent Edwards Egyptology Library in the UCL Institute of Archaeology. Even if you live miles from the Petrie Museum, it is well worth becoming a Friend in order to support one of the world's most important collections of Egyptian antiquities. Friends fund the much-needed conservation of objects in the collection.

Please contact Chair of the Friends of the Petrie Museum Dr Joanne Rowland for further information: pmf@friendsofpetrie.org.uk.

For courses taught in person, BSS students benefit from a unique opportunity to learn from Petrie's teaching collection in the manner he intended. These courses often include exclusive-access visits to the museum and / or object-handling sessions – intimate contact with the material culture of ancient Egypt for enriching the learning experience.

We recommend you visit:
www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/petrie-museum
www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk
www.friendsofpetrie.org.uk

BSS IN EGYPT

BSS in Egypt is a very special learning experience — courses taught in Egypt, offering a programme of classes and visits to archaeological sites, often including those usually closed to visitors but opened specially for BSS by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. Our 13 BSS in Egypt courses to date have been directed by Prof. Barry Kemp, Mr John Romer, Dr Robert Morkot, Dr Stephen Harvey, Dr Peter Lacovara, Dr Bill Manley, Dr Bernadette Brady and Dr Anna Stevens. We base ourselves in one hotel for the entire course. Thus far, our courses have taken place in Cairo, Minya, Sohag, Luxor, and Aswan.

BSS IN EGYPT **FRI 28 FEBRUARY – FRI 7 MARCH 2025** (8-DAY IN PERSON)

HATSHEPSUT AND SENENMUT: INNOVATION AND IDEOLOGY

Course Director: **Dr Campbell Price**
(University of Manchester)

In early 2025, we bring you a course focusing on life and times of two of Pharaonic Egypt's most intriguing figures: Queen Hatshepsut and her most trusted official, the High Steward Senenmut. Taught by Dr Campbell Price, classes will take place in our hotel, the historic Winter

Palace in Luxor, and related site visits. We will explore the ancient religious heartland of Thebes and encounter the extensive and innovative monuments the pair created to glorify the gods and maintain their own memory for eternity. This course includes private access to Senenmut's tomb at Deir el-Bahri as well as special opening of MMA504 to view the famous erotic graffiti. Group meals provide an opportunity to discuss the course and site visits, and to socialise with the Course Director and fellow students.

BSS IN EGYPT **SUN 2 TO SUN 9 NOVEMBER 2025** (8-DAY IN PERSON)

NUBIA: A JOURNEY THROUGH A DROWNED LAND

Course Co-Directors: **Dr Robert Morkot**
(Friends of the Petrie Museum) and
Dr Henry Bishop-Wright (Cardiff University)

Later in 2025, we are thrilled to bring you a new cruise-based course on Lower Nubia, the region between the First and Second Nile Cataracts. This area comprised independent chiefdoms and kingdoms, often fought over by the larger

kingdoms of Kush to the south and Egypt to the north. Its own culture was deeply influenced by both regions. The result is a long, complicated history and archaeology that is revealed in the standing monuments and rich archaeology. On this course you will visit monuments salvaged when the High Dam was constructed, and examine the influence of Egypt and Kush on the region. The lectures explain this history and, using the records of earlier travellers, attempt to give an impression of a fascinating and austere beautiful country before the building of the first dam.

THE CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN AWARDS

In honour of our late founder, Christopher Coleman, and with the generous support of his family, we established in 2024 the Christopher Coleman Awards. Each year BSS will be awarding at least two free places on 4- and 5-day courses. Applicants should be those considering university study on topics relating to the ancient world. To apply contact Kathryn:

kathryn@bloombsburysummerschool.co.uk

Application deadline is two months prior to the start date of the chosen course.

Please support the Christopher Coleman Awards with a donation! Scan the QR code below for details or send your donation via bank transfer to the BSS account (see p. 5; please include "CCA" in your transaction reference). Cheques also gratefully received.



THE BSS BURSARY SCHEME

BSS continues to run a modest bursary scheme, offering unfilled places on our courses to those who would find it challenging to pay our course fees. A small number of applicants will be offered places for c.30% off the full standard fee (discount applies to 4- and 5-day courses only).

To apply for the BSS Bursary, you need only email a brief statement of your situation and wishes, putting your chosen courses in order

of preference. You may apply for as many courses as you like. After you have sent in an application, try to keep your diary clear of important engagements for the relevant week(s). The process of awarding bursary places usually begins about one month before the start of a course. There is no guarantee that a bursary place on a given course will arise at all; even when bursary places do become available, they sometimes do so rather late in the day, as a consequence of last-minute student cancellation.




BSS WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Do keep an eye on our website:

www.bloombsburysummerschool.co.uk

Here you will find BSS news items, photographs, the contents of this brochure, information about our study days, BSS in Egypt, and booking forms. You will also find options to pay for our courses and study days.

You will also find a link to our Facebook page. We are also on Bluesky and Instagram.

 Bloomsbury-Summer-School
 @bloombsbury-ss #BSS2025
 @bloombsbury_ss #BSS2025

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available during the summer in reasonably priced university halls of residence close to BSS.

NB: *If you wish to book accommodation, you need to make your own arrangements. Bookings do not usually open up until February / March.*

University of London Halls of Residence

include:

COLLEGE HALL

In Malet Street between RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) and Waterstones Bookshop on Malet Street. A 5-minute walk from BSS.

CONNAUGHT HALL

Overlooks the gardens of Tavistock Square. A 3-minute walk from BSS.

INTERNATIONAL HALL

Located close to the shops and restaurants of the Brunswick Centre in Lansdowne Terrace close to Russell Square. A 15-minute walk from BSS.

THE GARDEN HALLS

Located in Cartwright Gardens. A 10-minute walk from BSS.

Prices start at £45.50 per night for a single room without breakfast. Self-catering apartments are also available from £70 per night.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: We would like to thank the UCL Institute of Archaeology, UCL Library Services, UCL Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, the British Museum, the Egypt Exploration Society, Sussex Egyptology Society, and The Accordia Research Institute, for their support.

For further information and to book, visit:
london.ac.uk/staycentral or contact:
Tel: +44 (0)20 7862 8881
Email: staycentral@london.ac.uk

For a room in a UCL Summer Residences, visit:
www.ucl.ac.uk/residences or contact:
Tel: +44 (0)20 7529 8975
or +44 (0)20 7387 4537
Email: accommodation@ucl.ac.uk

There are also plenty of hotels close to BSS. Please get in touch with Kathryn at BSS if you need further advice on accommodation.

ENQUIRIES

We will be happy to provide any further information about Bloomsbury Summer School. Enquiries should be addressed to:

Dr Kathryn E. Piquette
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c/o The Accordia Research Institute
42 Runnemede Road
Egham TW20 9BL
UK

Tel: **+44 (0)77 9155 8195**

Email:
kathryn@bloombsburysummerschool.co.uk
Web:
www.bloombsburysummerschool.co.uk

 TESTIMONIALS

Each time I attend a BSS lecture I leave with new insights! BSS has opened so many ancient Egypt doors for me — it has changed my life! Thank you, BSS!

Holly Silver

During 2021, BSS freed me and allowed my mind to soar — across the Atlantic to London via Zoom, and from there to Egypt — through brilliant lectures by extraordinary teachers.

Cindie Lovelace

I've been to BSS every year since 1994 — the chance to immerse myself in Egyptology for a week or two, with great teachers and friendly fellow students, is something I absolutely treasure.

Mick Oakey

BSS is the highlight of my year — the unique combination of learning, sharing, focusing for a whole week on a chosen topic in a friendly and approachable environment, renewing old friendships, and the added privilege of lectures by people who are household names in Egyptology and Ancient Near East circles, is what keeps me coming back.

Gill R.

BSS has been a major part of my life for over 15 years, and I cannot sing its praises highly enough. The course teachers have always made the material accessible and fun whilst never compromising on academic quality and rigour. BSS has made ancient cultures and languages — Egypt, Mesopotamia, Mesoamerica — come alive for me in a way I could never have experienced on my own.

Dr Richard Jennings

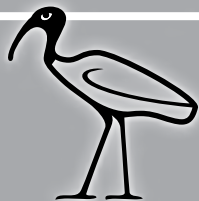
BSS IN EGYPT

This was my first time in Egypt and I must say it was truly magical. I was so overwhelmed by all the sites that we got to see and my face literally hurt from smiling.

Imogen Olliver-Kneafsey

Bill Manley is inspirational and very hard working. His energy and desire to share his immense sea of knowledge with us was so special. I can't thank you all enough. You deserve glittering accolades for organising such a smooth-running, magical, and safe experience.

Vanessa Lee-Miller



FRONT COVER IMAGE: Computer enhanced composite image showing a detail of the obverse of the Narmer Palette (JE 32169, Egyptian Museum in Cairo). **IMAGE:** © KATHRYN E. PIQUETTE

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