

Amarna Study Day, Saturday, May 26th, 2018
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge

Programme

10.00 The Study Day begins

Welcome and introduction (10 mins: Prof Paul Nicholson, Chairman, Amarna Trust)

Lecture 1. The Great Aten Temple as newly revealed (Barry Kemp)

11.15–11.45 coffee break

Lecture 2. Envisioning statuary from the Great Aten Temple in the light of recent finds (Marsha Hill)

1.00–2.00 buffet lunch

Lecture 3. Life under Akhenaten — excavating the cemeteries of Amarna (Anna Stevens)

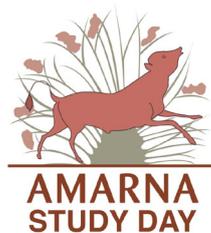
3.00–3.30 break

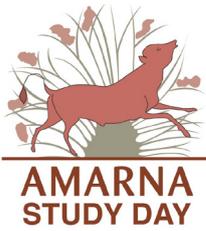
Lecture 4. Safeguarding Amarna: understanding threats and planning for the future (Gemma Tully)

4.15–5.00 Discussion, summary, thanks and farewell

Participants in the Study Day are encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussion.

Posters will provide supplementary illustration and will present research not covered in the day's lectures.





The Great Aten Temple as newly revealed: a story of a few big decisions and many lesser ones.

Barry Kemp (director, Amarna Project)

High on Akhenaten's agenda was the creation of a place where the Aten could be appropriately honoured, namely, the 'House of the Aten'. The grand design for this was only begun, however, some years after the foundation of the city. The ground on which this building was erected, whilst serving basically the same purpose of honouring the Aten, was also subject to piecemeal changes sometimes of short duration. They imply a management of the temple precinct that was responding to changing needs or demands, but whose? The lecture will include a close look at the evidence for a wooden building that seems intended for the king's presence.

Envisioning statuary from the Great Aten Temple in the light of recent finds

Marsha Hill (Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

Recent excavations and older finds from Petrie and the EES reveal much about the statuary that stood in the temple. The statuary in the two areas of the temple had different emphases, and revisions seem to have taken place in the statues displayed in the Sanctuary as they certainly did in the Long Temple. Moreover, although statuary of the royal family follows royal wishes, a few statues along with the existence of other items that might be or probably are non-royal dedications point to the existence of an array of practices, including statuary provision, that involved a broader populace in the temple. Recent finds like the torso of Nefertiti and the gypsum head of the king, along with Petrie/Carter finds in the MMA will be among those discussed.

Life under Akhenaten - excavating the cemeteries of Amarna

Anna Stevens (assistant director, Amarna Project)

For more than 10 years now, the Amarna Project has been excavating the cemeteries of the people of Amarna, gaining a wealth of new information about how these people experienced life under Akhenaten. What roles did they play at Amarna? How did they approach death and burial in this time of religious change? What was their quality of life? This talk will present the results of this long-term, multidisciplinary study of life and death at Amarna – and share the latest findings from the Spring 2018 excavations at a new cemetery near the North Tombs.

Safeguarding Amarna: understanding threats and planning for the future

(Gemma Tully)

Dr Gemma Tully specialises in working with local communities living alongside archaeological sites. At Amarna, Gemma is working with the excavation team and staff at the Visitor Centre to develop projects that will involve local residents in assessing and ameliorating threats to the site. The work will engage a wide range of community groups, from school-aged children to local elders, to share knowledge about Amarna and to help sustain and promote the site for future generations.