



TESSA



EGYPT



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT
CENTRE FOR EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES

UCT

*Treat yourself with a special New Year's present
That brings you to Egypt in Cape Town!*

From the Cape to Cairo

Monday 15 – Friday 19 January 2024 7.00 pm
Lecture Hall LT3 Kramer Building Middle Campus, UCT

Course Fees R550, or R110 for individual lectures

Duration of lecture,
including Questions and Answers is 1 hour.

Curated by the Egyptian Society of South Africa (TESSA), this five-lecture course aims to raise interest in the study of Ancient and contemporary Egypt. The guiding question of this course is:

'How does Ancient Egypt inspire South African scholars, artisans and artists in Egyptology, architecture, medicine, comparative religious studies and in the arts and literature?'

The course draws on local expertise in the study of
Ancient and contemporary Egypt.

*Joseph Koetsier, course coordinator for TESSA
(Sherab.koetsier@gmail.com)*

Lectures

- Ancient Egypt in Cape Town: the antiquities collection in the Iziko Museums of South Africa.
Dr Jessica Nitschke (Monday 15 January)
See page 7 below
- The influence of Egyptian architecture on local architecture in South Africa.
Dr Andre van Graan (Tuesday 16 January)
See page 8 below
- The Ancient Egyptian origins of western medicine.
Prof. Sebastian van As (Wednesday 17 January)
See page 9 below
- Reading Ancient Egypt: mainstream and esoteric conceptions.
Dr Dewald Bester (Thursday 18 January)
see page 10 below
- Poetry in Ancient Egypt.
Joseph Koetsier B.Ed. M.Ed. (Friday 19 January)
see page 11 below

For information and booking of tickets

<https://summerschool.uct.ac.za/cape-cairo>

<https://www.webtickets.co.za/performance.aspx?itemid=1534474281>

Tickets are also available at the door.

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THE EGYPTIAN SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Egyptian Society of South Africa (TESSA) was founded in 1966 in Cape Town and is dedicated to the study and enjoyment of ancient Egypt's glorious past and its meaning in contemporary Egypt and the world.

Our membership is open to everyone fascinated with the mysteries of Ancient Egypt. Our monthly lectures are at the St Georges Grammar School, Mallet Hall, Richmond Street, Mowbray. They are on the last Tuesday of every month and are given (free to members) with guest experts, travelers and archaeologists.

Members receive "Shemu", our quarterly journal containing news, articles on all aspects of Ancient Egyptian life.

Our Reading and Reference library holds 700 books on Egyptology together with a selection of video/DVDs and topical magazines.

The society leads field trips and outings to visit museums, exhibitions and other Egyptian artefact collections in South Africa and assists in promoting interest in the Egyptian collection at the Iziko Museum at the South Africa Slave Lodge (<https://www.iziko.org.za/museums/slave-lodge/>), corner Adderley and Wale Streets, Cape Town.

Visit our website:

<http://egyptiansociety.co.za/>

and our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/353552841373111/>

COME AND JOIN US
AND COMPLETE THE ATTACHED MEMBERSHIP FORM!

Test your knowledge about Ancient Egypt



Ancient Egypt the Rosetta Stone History Channel (46 minutes)

Do you want to know how the Hieroglyphs of Egypt were deciphered and how you can learn the basics of reading them?

Consult: *Jean-François Champollion*,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Fran%C3%A7ois_Champollion

and try to answer the following questions:

1. Was the French Philologist Jean Francois Champollion (1790-1832) the first scholar who attempted to decipher the hieroglyphs?
2. From which countries do the scholars come who made earlier attempts?
3. When was the knowledge of how to read the hieroglyphs 'lost'?
4. Did the hieroglyphic texts contain info about other civilizations in the Middle East?
5. What role did Napoleon play in the exploration of Egypt?
6. How big was his army he sent to Egypt?
7. What role did the academics and scholars play in Napoleon's expedition?
8. In what year was the Rosetta Stone found and where?
9. What was the content of the text on the stone, dating back to 300 BC?
10. Which dynasty was then in power?
11. How did the British acquire it?
12. Did the French have a copy of the Rosetta Stone?
13. Was there any expectation about the content of the hieroglyphic texts?
14. Did the hieroglyphs reveal any biblical mysteries?
15. What is a cartouche and what role did they place in decoding the hieroglyphs?
16. What did the magician say about Champollion to his mother before he was born?
17. What languages did Champollion master?

18. Which key names guided him to breaking the code?
19. What role did the names of Ra and Ramses play in the breaking of the code?
20. What career did Champollion pursue after his great discoveries?
21. What is the meaning of Champollion's 1827 expedition to Egypt?
22. What did these ancient decoded texts teach us about the soul of Egypt?

For more information

Collier, Mark and Manley, Bill. How to read Egyptian hieroglyphs. A step-by-step guide to teach yourself. British Museum Press, London, 1998, 179 pages (3 copies are available in the TESSA library in Mowbray).

Kamrin, Janice. Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs. A practical Guide. The American University in Cairo, Cairo, 2005

More is available on the internet, including free lessons in Hieroglyphs, see among other:

<https://tombraderhorizons.com/2013/03/11/10-fantastic-free-resources-for-learning-egyptian-hieroglyphs/#>

Close-ups of the content of the 5 lectures

Lecture 1

Ancient Egypt in Cape Town: The Antiquities Collection in the Iziko Museums.

Dr Jessica Nitschke (Monday 15 January, 07:00-08:00PM)

There is a small collection at the Slave Lodge in the Iziko Museums of South Africa in Cape Town with an interesting history. This lecture will present the following: the history of how these artefacts came to be in Cape Town and how they have been displayed and studied; the current exhibition (reinstalled in 2018) and its goals; and the future of the collection in light of the mission and heritage priority of the Iziko Museums.

Recommended Reading

Boshoff, A. and Cornelius, I. 2002. The Egyptian collection in Iziko Museums of Cape Town, South Africa. In Eldamaty, M. and Trad, M. (eds.), *Egyptian Museum Collections Around the World Volume I*. Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities, pp. 133–142.

http://academic.sun.ac.za/antieke/iziko/Documents/Boshoff&Cornelius_Egyptian_Collection_in_Iziko_Museums.pdf

Stevenson, A 2019. *Scattered Finds Archaeology, Egyptology and Museums*. London, UCL Press (<https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/95150>)



Dr Jessica Nitschke is a Research Fellow in the Department of Ancient Studies at Stellenbosch University and Editor of *The Ancient Near East Today*. She received her B.A. in Classics and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology from the University of California, Berkeley. She has carried out archaeological fieldwork at sites such as Tel Dor (Israel) and Tell Timai (Egypt) and is involved in the curation and study of Egyptian antiquities in South African collections, including the recent exhibit *Kemet: Life in Ancient Egypt* at the Iziko Museums South Africa.

Lecture 2

The influence of Egyptian architecture on local architecture in South Africa.

Dr. Andre van Graan (Tuesday 16 January 2023, 7:00-8:00PM)

In the 19th century, an interest in ancient Egypt and its iconography captured the interest and imagination of both scholars and designers following the invasion of Egypt by Napoleon's forces and the subsequent British occupation of Egypt. The interest resulted in the development of a new design vocabulary that drew on Egyptian imagery and applied it to architecture and diverse items such as decorative objects and furniture. Coupled with was an engagement with the culture and learning of ancient Egypt. Designers and scholars in South Africa also drew on this influence, designing buildings of learning using Egyptian motifs. This influence was reawakened in the 20th century with the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen in the 1920s and inspired Art Deco design. Today, the climatic responsiveness of Egyptian design offers a range of design possibilities for South African architecture.

Recommended Reading

Humbert, J-M. and Price, C. 2011. Imhotep Today - Egyptianizing Architecture. Abingdon: Routledge



André van Graan is a heritage architect, working in Cape Town. He spent many years as an academic, lecturing in architecture at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, where he was also the course coordinator, as well as lecturing on the MPhil Conservation of the Built Environment course at UCT. He holds a PhD from UCT and has a research interest in the influences on architecture in the 20th century.

Lecture 3

The Ancient Egyptian Origins of Western Medicine.

Prof Sebastian van As (Wednesday 17 January 2023, 7:00-8:00PM)

The Ancient Egypt civilization spanned 3 millennia and represents the cradle of Western Medicine; it gave rise to the initial concept of health as well as the earliest records of medical care. Egyptian medicine was closely related to religion and myths. Thoth, the God associated with healing, the role of the Ibis and the Nile Theory will be discussed. Predominantly based on the currently available papyri, this lecture will also highlight some of the basic ancient Egyptian concepts regarding health and provide some information on various aspects of ancient medical care including medical and surgical therapies.

Recommended Reading

Ahmed M. Metwaly, Mohammed M. Ghoneim, Ibrahim.H. Eissa, Islam Elsehemy, Ahmad Mostafa, Mostafa M. Hegazy, Wael M. Afifi, Deqiang Dou. 2021.

Traditional ancient Egyptian medicine: A review, *Saudi Journal of Biological Sciences*, 28, (10), 5823-5832

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1319562X21005027>

AB van As, R Brown, Tutankhamun- Africa's first reported road traffic victim? *S Afr J Surg* 2023;61;240-243 <https://doi.org/10.36303/SAJS.4183>

Professor Sebastian Van As has been head of the Trauma Unit at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa for 20 years. His unit treats close to 10,000 injuries in young children every year and this is increasing with road accidents topping the list.



In 2018 he won the Alan Pifer Research Award. The award recognises the important research he has conducted over the past 20 years into child safety in South Africa. During the last two years he developed research connections with the University of Limpopo. Professor van As is an active member of The Egyptian Society of South Africa.

Lecture 4

Reading Ancient Egypt: Mainstream and Esoteric Conceptions.

Dr Dewald Bester (Thursday 18 January 2023, 07:00-08:00PM)

Egyptology is a well-established and professional field of Academic study, at least since the 1820's. Yet, shadowing this scholarly enterprise are multiple Esoteric conceptions of Ancient Egypt – broadly identified as Egyptosophy by Erik Hornung. Esoteric Egypt embraces perspectives rejected by Academic study, including Pyramid mysticism, occult initiations, and links to lost civilizations. This lecture will explore one esoteric vision of Ancient Egypt, that of the Theosophical Society, in relation to more mainstream conceptions. By comparing views on set themes, and identifying underlying rationale's, we will come to an understanding what we are doing in the study of Ancient Egypt.

Recommended Reading

Bester, Dewald. 2012. *The Veil of Egypt: The Constitution of the Individual and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt as portrayed in The Secret Doctrine of H. P. Blavatsky*, co-founder of the Theosophical Society. M.A. Thesis: UNISA.

Hornung, Erik. 2001. *The Secret Lore of Egypt: Its Impact on the West*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Naydler, J. 2005. *Shamanic Wisdom in the Pyramid Texts: The Mystical Tradition of Ancient Egypt*. Rochester, Vermont: Inner Traditions.

Zabkar, Louis V. 1968. *A Study of the Ba concept in Ancient Egyptian Texts*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.



Dewald Bester (PhD) is long-standing member and current President of the Theosophical Society Cape Town Lodge. He is an independent scholar with an interest in the Academic study of religion and the emerging field of Western Esotericism. He is employed as a Customs Manager in the Logistics Industry.

Lecture 5

Poetry in Ancient Egypt

Joseph Koetsier B.Ed., M. Ed. (Friday 19 January 2023, 7:00-8:00PM)

Poetry as a literary genre is a distinguished component of Classical Egyptian Literature all the way back to the Old Kingdom (circa 2700 BC – circa 2200 BC). It covers all dimensions of Ancient Egyptian culture and can be found on temple walls, in inscriptions in tombs and written on a sarcophagus or even on the feet of mummies. I will explore some of the genres and show some interesting attempts to ‘reconstruct’ the recitation of these poems in Middle Egyptian on the site of The National Museum of Language (virtual only), in Maryland, USA and in Music. I will also add one of my own poems, inspired by a visit to Queen Titi’s tomb and the tomb of Amen Khopshef (or Amen Herkhepshef), son of Titi and Ramses III (20th Dynasty) who reigned between 1187–1156 BCE.

Recommended Reading

Deleanu, Daniel. Poems in Hieroglyphic Egyptian, Lulu.com (May 16, 2010), 44 pages (<https://www.amazon.com/Poems-Hieroglyphic-Egyptian-Daniel-Deleanu/dp/0557451558>). Hieroglyphs and English translation.

The National Museum of Language (virtual only), in Maryland, USA (<https://languagemuseum.org/exhibits/the-power-of-poetry-exhibit/poetry-from-egypt/ancient-egyptian-poetry/>)



Joseph Koetsier is a retired Senior Lecture in Cross-cultural Educational Studies and Lifelong Learning from Groningen University, the Netherlands and UWC, South Africa. He did field work and consultancies in India, Sri Lanka, Mozambique and Suriname. He is a published poet and a committee member of The Egyptian Society of South Africa (TESSA), specialised in ‘Ancient Egypt as a source of inspiration for classical composers’ and ‘Egyptology in Eastern Europe’.

How to become a member of The Egyptian Society of South Africa

Complete the membership form attached to this booklet

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Send a copy of your form to the treasurer:
084-7743972(WhatsApp) or email sherab.koetsier@gmail.com
We will conform your payment and membership number.

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