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Conference Report: CRE XI: 'Current Research in Egyptology' Eleven

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CRE XI was held in Leiden University (at the Lipsius building) from the 5th to the 8th of January 2010. This was the eleventh of the series of the 'Current Research in Egyptology' conference, designed to bring together researchers of different areas around the world.

On the 5th of January, at the beautiful Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Dr. R.J. Demarée of Leiden University, gave a spectacular lecture titled 'New Light on the reigns of the Later Ramesside kings'. The keynote speaker, throughout the demonstration of published and unpublished material, apprised the audience on the community of workmen at Deir Al-Medina. The lecture was followed by a welcoming reception.

Wednesday, the 6th of January, which was the first day of the congress, opened in the Lipsius Building with a session in politics, power and society, to be followed by a panel on funerary texts, which discussed various elements of a funerary and religious nature. The afternoon session of the day was dedicated to arts and artefacts, and the day progressed with the cross-cultural relations panel, presenting three interdisciplinary papers on Egyptian-Aegean and Egyptian-Anatolian interactions. Keynote speaker of the day was Dr. B.J.J. Haring with his paper 'Cursive and Monumental: worlds apart? The role of hieratic in the composition and copying of hieroglyphic texts'. Earlier on the same day, the attendees of the conference had been offered the chance to visit the exhibitions of the museum; among which, was the temporary exhibition *Het Egypte van Gustave Flaubert* (Gustave Flaubert's Egypt) which follows the famous French writer on his journey through Egypt.

The second day of the congress (the 7th of January) produced a vivid and enthusiastic discussion. The panels ran in two lecture rooms, and the first parallel session of the day examined aspects of religion and cultural identity. The subsequent papers considered aspects of Egyptian household archaeology and linguistics, with the proceeding round

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discussing Predynastic Egypt and Early Egyptian Christianity. The final contemporary session of the day was devoted to Middle Kingdom society and other papers of interdisciplinary approaches. A keynote lecture was given by Dr. M.J. Versluys, with his paper on Egyptology versus Egyptomania, followed by the congress dinner.

Friday, the 8th of January, was the final day of the conference. It featured three papers discussing Egyptian temples, three more lectures on texts - with emphasis on literature, the penultimate panel of the conference on Predynastic burial customs, and the closing session debating over Egyptology, Archaeology and Museology. During the Annual General Meeting, at the very end of the conference schedule, it was decided that CRE XII (2011) will take place at Durham University.

One should mention that apart from the rather interesting papers given in CRE XI, the lectures were also accompanied by a poster display, the presenters of which had the chance to talk about their research and receive feedback.

With about one hundred and twenty attendees, of forty different nationalities, CRE XI became the funnel of a multicultural discussion of Egyptological matters. Moreover, the beautiful and traditional city of Leiden, though covered in snow, offered a rather warm welcome to all of us.

Needless to say the 'Current Research in Egyptology' congress has undoubtedly become synonymous with the high standards of the future generation of Egyptologists. For the great success of the event, many thanks and congratulations go to the Organising Committee from Leiden University: Maarten Horn, Nico Staring, Joost Kramer, Daniel Soliman, Carina Van Den Hoven, Lara Weiss, Robert Pronk. Equally, to the Permanent Committee: Dan Boatright, Anna Garnett, Claire Malleson and Nicholas Wernick (Liverpool), Vicky Gashe (Manchester) and Kim Ridealgh (Swansea) and to the conference sponsors.

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The detailed programme of CRE XI and the list of sponsors can be found on <http://www.current-research-egyptology.org.uk/>