



Bealby, M. (2011) 'Conference report: The Third British Egyptology Congress / BEC3' *Rosetta* **9**: 96-98.

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## **Conference report: The Third British Egyptology Congress / BEC3**

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The Third British Egyptology Congress took place at the British Museum, on the 11th and 12th of September 2010. The congress was organised by the Egypt Exploration Society (EES), the British Museum department of Egypt and the Sudan and University College of London (UCL). It is estimated that over 200 delegates participated in the colloquium, representing numerous academic and cultural institutions and societies from the UK and abroad. Sixty speakers and ten poster presenters introduced the latest research in Egyptology through the course of the weekend.

On Friday, the 10th of September, delegates had the chance to pre-register during a welcoming reception organised in UCL by the friends of the Petrie Museum. On Saturday and Sunday (the 11th and 12th of September), the British Museum main amphitheatre and the two lecture rooms, which were used for the needs of the colloquium, were filled with researchers who enthusiastically attended the lectures and discussed research posters.

The organisers of BEC3 encouraged contributions of a broad and interdisciplinary content. The schedule comprised presentations of a wide chronological and geographical range: from the Egyptian past to the international perception of Egyptological research in modern times. As a result, a large number of issues were covered. With topics ranged from the history of Egyptology, to the latest news in the field, Egyptology in the museum and on the World Wide Web; in BEC3 there was something for everyone. Papers and poster displays stimulated lively discussion, both inside and outside the lecture rooms.

Four plenary lectures were given over the two days. Patricia Spencer (Director

of the EES) talked about the past, present and future of Egypt Exploration Society, in a paper titled 'Living in interesting times: the EES in the 21st century.' John Tait (Edwards Professor of Egyptology, UCL), discussed current research in demotic texts in a paper titled 'The written and the remembered.' John Taylor (Assistant Keeper in the Department of Ancient Egypt and the Sudan at the British Museum) highlighted the role of the British Museum in Egyptological research in his paper titled 'Recent work of the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan.' Finally, Michael Jones (Associate Director, American Research Centre in Egypt (ARCE) Egyptian Antiquities Conservation Project), referred to cultural heritage management in Egypt in his paper 'Zones of transition: conserving cultural heritage sites in the living environment of Egypt today.'

Mark Lehner (Director, of Ancient Egypt Research Associates), was the keynote lecturer on the Saturday evening. Dr Lehner presented the latest research at Giza in his paper entitled 'Khentkawes of Giza: new light on a well-known site,' and passionately shared with the audience his extensive experience in excavations in Egypt. The keynote lecture was followed by a reception in the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery, at the British Museum.

On the Sunday afternoon, the congress proceedings were summarised by Alan Lloyd (EES Vice President and former Chair). The Third British Egyptology Congress provided the opportunity for the attendees to get together, follow the latest Egyptological updates, re-view the past, present and future of Egyptological research and discuss the changes and challenges that are going on in the field. It is a common wish that such splendid events could be conducted in the future.

We would like to thank the organisers for their exceptional hospitality throughout the course of the event. It is now known that the next British Congress of Egyptology (BEC4) will take place in Oxford in 2012, and we are all looking forward to it.

## Appendix

The oral presentations of the colloquium were grouped in the following panels:

- The New Kingdom and First Millennium
- Fieldwork, sites and monuments (parts I, II)
- Egyptology in practice in museums and online
- Death and the dead
- Conception and presentation of Ancient Egypt
- History of Egyptology: reception studies I and II and the role of EES
- Artistic production
- Funerary practices and beliefs
- Cult practice and religious beliefs
- Script, language and texts
- Iconography and representation
- Warfare and the military
- The latest research at Gurob
- Identity and self-representation

A full programme is available at:

<http://www.ees.ac.uk/userfiles/file/BEC3Programme01.pdf> [PDF]

Full abstracts are available at:

<http://www.ees.ac.uk/userfiles/file/BEC3Abstracts01.pdf> [PDF]