

Preface

Professor Rosalie David OBE has made a significant contribution to Egyptology both within Manchester University and far beyond. Presented on the occasion of her seventieth birthday in May 2016, this volume reflects the major Egyptological themes that have characterised Rosalie's academic career. 'Pharaonic sacred landscapes' addresses the ways in which the ancient inhabitants of the Nile valley conceptualised their landscape – funerary, ritual, mythic – and is a reminder that Rosalie's doctoral research involved a detailed study of the hieroglyphic inscriptions in the Sety I temple at Abydos; 'Magico-medical practices in ancient Egypt' includes contributions that represent her lifelong interest in Dynastic pharmacy and medicine; 'Understanding Egyptian mummies' reflects the pioneering work of the Manchester Museum Mummy Project, which Rosalie initiated, and the subsequent application of the 'Manchester method' to the study of mummified remains elsewhere; chapters presented under the heading 'Science and experimental approaches in Egyptology' stand testament to Rosalie's innovative approach to understanding ancient materials and technologies.

But these academic themes, and Rosalie's many books and articles, are not the whole story. Away from her laboratories and museum galleries, Rosalie has worked tirelessly to bring Egyptology – once perceived as the rather dull preserve of elderly gentlemen – to the widest possible audience. This has involved everything from formal teaching sessions through numerous television and radio appearances to advising awestruck schoolchildren on their future careers. By inspiring others to study the past she has brought great joy into many lives, and for this she is respected and admired throughout the world.

We hope that Rosalie will enjoy reading these articles written by colleagues who have benefited from her teaching, research and friendship. Many others would have liked to contribute, but were prevented from doing so by the

constraints of time and space. They all send their best wishes to the 'Mummy Lady'. Happy birthday, Rosalie!

Campbell Price, Roger Forshaw, Andrew Chamberlain, Paul T. Nicholson, Robert G. Morkot and Joyce Tyldesley

Rosalie David: a biographical sketch

Joyce Tyldesley

Ann Rosalie David was born in Cardiff, Wales, in 1946, to parents Idris and Edna. Her father was a captain in the Merchant Navy, and it was perhaps from him that she inherited her fascination with travel and all things foreign. Her interest in Egyptology was first sparked at primary school, when a teacher talked about ancient Egypt and showed what Rosalie later realised was a reconstruction drawing of the three Abusir pyramids. This inspired the six-year-old Rosalie to tell her parents that she wanted to spend her life studying ancient Egypt. Clearly she already possessed the determination that would characterise her academic career, as she never changed her mind.

Aged eleven, Rosalie won a scholarship to Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff, which focused on the Classics. Still determined on a career as an Egyptologist, Rosalie selected subjects relevant to Egyptology. Avoiding games as much as possible, she studied Greek and Latin. Her holidays were spent working in the National Museum of Wales as a volunteer.

Rosalie first visited Egypt aged nineteen when, as an undergraduate student at University College London (UCL), she was awarded a travel grant donated by an anonymous American. She was able to see all the usual sites – and many unusual sites not normally visited by tourists – and this confirmed her impression that she was indeed studying the right subject. She found that she loved Egypt from the outset, both as a country and as a subject for academic study.

Rosalie had chosen to study at UCL because it offered a degree that included Egyptology as part of a wider study of the ancient world. One of just six students, and the only student to specialise in ancient Egypt, she had the valuable – but daunting – experience of individual tuition from the great philologist Raymond Faulkner. She graduated from UCL in 1967, and moved to the University of Liverpool to study for a PhD with Herbert Fairman. She took

as her subject religious ritual within the Egyptian temple, focusing on inscriptions on the Abydos temple of Sety I. This required an extended stay at Abydos, where often she and the famous Omm Sety were the only temple visitors. On one occasion she overheard Omm Sety, in conversation with the son of King Farouk, describe her as the 'little lady Beatle from Liverpool' – this being the 1960s, and the height of Beatle-mania.

Back in Liverpool, Rosalie undertook some undergraduate teaching, following Fairman's good if somewhat brief advice to 'sit in front of the class, and if they begin to look bored, change tack'. At the same time she started to become involved in adult education, teaching evening classes around the north-west of England. She discovered this to be a very different form of teaching: challenging, exciting and, when done correctly, very rewarding. This experience – and her awareness of the great public interest in ancient Egypt – would eventually lead to the establishment of the internationally renowned Certificate in Egyptology at the University of Manchester. The certificate, which started life as a conventional taught course, then evolved via a postal course to be fully online, is today one of a suite of online courses taught from Egyptology Online in the University of Manchester. Many Egyptologists, amateur and professional alike, have gained their first glimpse of ancient Egypt through Rosalie's certificate course.

After nine months working at the Petrie Museum in London, Rosalie joined the Manchester Museum as Assistant Keeper of Archaeology in 1972. In so doing she became the latest in a line of women Egyptologists, starting with the formidable Margaret Murray, to take charge of the Manchester collection. She found the entire collection inspiring, but it was the mummies which really interested her. This was unusual. Egyptologists, in the 1970s, tended to avoid mummies, regarding them as rather tasteless objects of public fascination unsuitable for academic study. But Rosalie recognised that the mummies were essentially desiccated bundles of information, and realised that Manchester University, with its close links between the museum, the hospital and the medical teaching departments, was an ideal place to pursue a programme of serious academic mummy studies.

The Manchester Museum Mummy Project was established with the help of various experts throughout the university. Its two main aims were to look for evidence of disease and cause of death while gaining evidence of life and death in ancient Egypt, and to develop a standard method of examining ancient human remains that could be used worldwide. Work started with the re-examination of the 'Two Brothers', mummies originally autopsied by Margaret Murray seventy years previously. Then in 1975, a mummy in a very poor state of preservation, was unwrapped and autopsied in June 1975. This, thanks to the involvement of television, brought mummy studies to the wider public. It even inspired a political

cartoon in the *Daily Telegraph*, which showed Prime Minister Harold Wilson unwrapping a mummy labelled 'The Social Contract'.

Her groundbreaking mummy work led to the award of a personal chair in 2000 and her appointment as Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2003 for services to Egyptology. It also led to the establishment of a master's degree in biomedical Egyptology, which would allow the Mummy Project team to pass on their expertise to future generations of scientists. Out of this grew the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology within the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester. The centre was opened in 2003 with two ceremonies, attended by the Earl of Wessex and the Egyptian Consul General. Subsequently, it has published groundbreaking research on projects as diverse as Egyptian pharmacy (demonstrating that the remedies used by the ancient Egyptians were indeed effective), animal mummies and the work of Grafton Elliot Smith.

Rosalie's considerable achievements are, of course, all her own. But she has asked me to mention here two very special people whose support has been invaluable, and 'I can't imagine how everything would have developed without them!'

The first is Kay Hinckley, who was a passenger on a Swan Hellenic Nile cruise on which Rosalie was guest lecturer in the 1990s. From this initial meeting arose Kay's great interest in the biomedical mummy studies being carried out at Manchester. Kay was to provide considerable financial support for Egyptology at Manchester University over many years. At first, this was focussed on research into schistosomiasis in ancient Egypt, and then, in 2003, her patronage enabled the university to establish the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology (an institution which carries her initials).

The second special person is Rosalie's late husband, Antony Edward David. Antony gained a degree in Egyptology from Cairo University and the Diploma in Archaeological Conservation from the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. He met Rosalie in Egypt 1969, and they were married in Alexandria and Cardiff in 1970. Antony then pursued a very successful career in archaeological conservation, retiring in 2004 from his position as Head of Conservation for Lancashire County Museums Service. His research interests included the conservation and preservation of mummies, and he shared joint publications with Rosalie on mummies and other Egyptological subjects.

In 2012 Rosalie retired as Director of the KNH Centre, assuming the title of Professor Emerita. She assures me that this is not so much a retirement as a freedom from university administration that will allow her the opportunity to catch up with her writing. I have no doubt that she will continue to enrich the field of Egyptology for many years to come.

My first meeting with Rosalie David

Kay Hinckley

When I think of the wonderful character and ability of Rosalie David, I cannot help but feel that it was no accident that our lives crossed. People are often sent at the right time in one's life to give a clear direction and help enhance the future.

Rosalie and I first met when I was a passenger on a Nile boat where she was a lecturer. I was amazed at the number of lectures she gave and, indeed, by the wonderful support given to Rosalie by her late husband Antony. Through a mutual friend we soon became very close. I was so interested in her lectures that I took notes and, having read them, Rosalie suggested that I join her Certificate of Egyptology course at the University of Manchester. It was wonderful to have a year of excellent teaching, which I thoroughly enjoyed. The present certificate course is delivered by Joyce Tyldesley, another clever Egyptologist and an example of Rosalie's fine judgement of people.

The KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology was born at a table in Christie's Bistro, Manchester University, where Rosalie told me the history of Egyptology at Manchester, and gave me her vision for the future. Afterwards I felt that here was another Jesse Haworth and Flinders Petrie partnership. I was attracted by the possibility of enabling young and clever people to achieve their interests and fulfil their talents. It was very pleasing to be able to endow a chair in a field that Manchester did not previously have: a chair in Egyptology had been an unfulfilled dream of Margaret Murray, and a reminder of the fact that many of Flinders Petrie's archaeological finds were donated to the museum by Jesse Howarth in the hope that they would form the basis of a teaching department.

We had an official opening of the KNH Centre by HRH Prince Edward, followed by an official dinner for the great and good of the university. Since then, my interest and financial support have been rewarded one thousand fold. The centre has gone from strength to strength and each member of the

team has been totally admirable. We have even had a lovely romance among the centre staff! Rosalie and I wish her successor at the KNH Centre, Andrew Chamberlain, every success.

In the Valley of the Kings some years ago, Rosalie and I had just visited three tombs when a prominent Egyptian walked up to us and said, 'Ah Rosalie David; when you are in Egypt, she sings.' After thanking him sincerely, Rosalie turned to me and said, 'Come on Kay, we are going to a fourth tomb.' I think no finer tribute can be paid to a most remarkable career.