

GRIFFITH INSTITUTE  
Sackler Library  
1 St. John Street  
Oxford OX1 2LG  
Tel. and Voice mail +44-(0)1865-278097  
Fax +44-(0)1865-278100  
Email [griffith.institute@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:griffith.institute@orinst.ox.ac.uk)  
[www.ashmolean.museum/Griffith.html](http://www.ashmolean.museum/Griffith.html)

The Griffith Institute Archive  
Report for the period January 3 to December 22, 2005

**1. Staff.**

The staffing shortage which seriously affects the work on the *Topographical Bibliography* also applies to the work in the Archive (the division of time is left to me to organize and varies according to circumstances but is, approximately, 2 to 1 in favour of the *Bibliography*). We are now regarded as the foremost Egyptological archive in the world and the number of scholars who come to consult our records is increasing; at the same time the staffing level has been reduced. Mr Keunjoo Kim has worked as a part-time scanner operator for one day a week.

**2. Archive closures.**

Many of the visiting scholars require considerable help with the Archive material which they wish to consult. Furthermore, the nature of much of our records is such that full-time supervision is essential. The only workable solution which is also fair to the users of the Archive is to organize their visits more efficiently and concentrate them into a shorter period of time. This has been achieved by introducing a timetable of Archive closures. The closure periods are announced three months in advance on our website, on the Ancient Near East network, on the EEF network and on the list maintained by Jack M. Sasson in the USA. Example:

*Please note that the Archive of the Griffith Institute will be closed during the following periods:*

*Monday, February 6, 2006 - Sunday, February 19, 2006*

*Monday, March 6, 2006 - Sunday, March 19, 2006*

*Monday, April 3, 2006 - Monday, April 17, 2006*

*Monday, May 1, 2006 - Sunday, May 14, 2006 and Monday, May 29 (Bank Holiday)*

### 3. Funding.

The annual budget of the Archive has been reduced to one third, £2,000. This just about covers the expenditure on the basic conservation material but would not allow us to start a new more ambitious project.

### 4. Fund raising for the Archive.

We have been able to raise modest sums of money from visiting groups. The current donations fund contains about £2,000.

### 5. Archive activities.

The *Tutankhamun: Anatomy of an Excavation* database now contains all the Burton photographs for which we have negatives in our Archive, and all the excavation journals.

The following material has been conserved in a substantial way (rebound, interleaved, etc.): the Emma Scott photographic album containing 19th-century studio photographs of Egypt; an album of 19th-century studio photographs of Egypt presented to us by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter; Edward Lane's manuscript of his Arabic dictionary, the Henry Wellcome portfolio of watercolours; two albums of plans and drawings by Sir Charles Barry; the Kate Bradbury journals. Some of this work has been funded from donations. Minor conservation measures have been taken on a daily basis for a number of other records.

Photographs taken by J. P. Simpson in Egypt in 1888, lent to us by their present owner, have been scanned, identified and made available on the Griffith Institute's website; printed copies are available for consultation in our Archive. Notes on this project have been published in the latest issues of *Egyptian Archaeology* and *Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East: Notes and Queries* 26 (Winter 2005), and an article will appear in the forthcoming issue of *Discussions in Egyptology*.

The squeezes made by W. Spiegelberg in TT 11 and 12 have been scanned and made available to the Spanish Mission working in these tombs.

The papers of Sarah Clackson have been sorted out by Miss Nicola Harrington. Their renumbering and rehousing is in progress.

### 6. Projects started.

Tracings and photographs of the Saqqara material in the papers of Battiscombe Gunn have been sorted out for scanning and re-housing.

Howard Carter's *Biographical Sketches* are being scanned in preparation for transcribing and publication.

Some of the remaining Reginald St Alban Heathcote negatives have started being scanned to a 6000 pixel resolution.

Howard Carter's albums of photographs, his collection of lantern slides and all record cards are being checked for any additional Burton photographs.

## **6. Visitors.**

Visitors from the UK, Egypt, Russia, USA, France, Belgium, Australia, Spain, Canada, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Italy came to our Archive on 131 occasions. 95 of these were individual visitors, 36 came as members of a group.

## **7. Accessions.**

The following are the more important accessions of the archive during 2005 (minor accessions not listed):

Thirty-six photographs of the sarcophagus of Sethos I, from tomb KV 17 in the Valley of the Kings, now in London, Sir John Soane Museum (presented by Mr John Ruffle).

Some 21 boxes of the papers of the late John Gwyn Griffiths (1911-2004), Professor of Classics and Egyptology, University College of Swansea (presented by Professor Griffiths' sons).

Twenty-five albumen prints of 19th-century 'studio photographs' of Karnak (presented by Mr. John Ross).

A notebook containing P. E. Newberry's notes concerning G. Daressy's *Recueil de cônes funéraires* (presented by Dr Donald Ryan and his son, Mr Samuel Ryan).

Prints and scans of some 50 photographic images made from negatives taken in Egypt in 1888 by James Parker Simpson (the copyright of these photographs belongs to Mr Simon B. Simpson OBE).

Some additional papers of Professor Mordechai Gilula.

## **8. Scanning.**

The major task accomplished in 2005 has been the re-scanning to a 6,000 pixel resolution of all our Burton photographs (1837 items) associated with the tomb of Tutankhamun. There have been quite a few specialized scanning orders requested by scholars, including the

Spiegelberg squeezes from TT 11 and 12 made for the Spanish Mission led by Dr José Galán.

### **9. Return of the Carter material from Bonn.**

Material from the Carter papers which was lent to the exhibition *Howard Carter, der Ausgräber Tutanchamuns*, in Bonn, Ägyptisches Museum der Universität Bonn, November 4, 2004 - May 1, 2005, has been returned in perfect order.

### **10. Cooperation with scholars, museums and television.**

Copies and scans of our Archive material have been made available to several travelling exhibitions and museums putting on displays connected with the large Tutankhamun exhibitions in the USA and to many individual scholars. The BBC Television filmed in our Archive in connection with their recent blockbuster television series about Howard Carter and Ancient Egypt. These activities create significant income for the Institute.

### **11. The website (<http://www.ashmolean.museum/Griffith.html>).**

Webmaster: Jonathan Moffett. Editor and Egyptologist responsible for the content: Jaromir Malek.

The website was created with the Archive in mind and so it is included here, but it now performs a number of other functions:

- (a) general information;
- (b) accessions of the Sackler Library in Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern studies (this is based on the list supplied by Mrs Diane Bergman but edited by me; we have looked after this for the past ten years);
- (c) Griffith Institute publications;
- (d) *Topographical Bibliography*: this includes an online version of Volume 8 Parts 1 and 2 (*Objects of Provenance Not Known: Statues*), sample texts of the new volume (8 Part 3);
- (e) *PIE (Publications in Egyptology)*: since the *Annual Egyptological Bibliography* is ailing, this provides easy access to the libraries which publish their accession lists;
- (f) Griffith Institute Archive: closure times, accessions; list of records in the Archive; ISAD(G) forms for individual records; archive material available online, such as lists of transcripts of hieratic papyri and ostraca;
- (g) *Tutankhamun: Anatomy of an Excavation* (database of Tutankhamun tomb records);

(h) *The Search for Tutankhamun* (Howard Carter's records from before the discovery of the tomb);

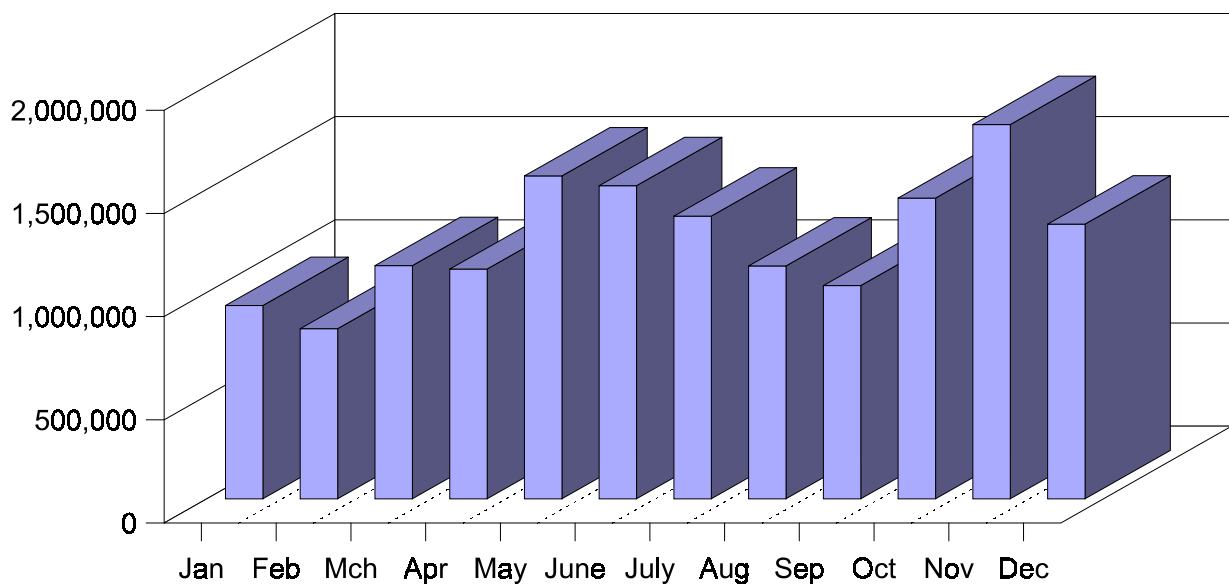
(i) *Chariot to Heaven* (short Internet-based novel for young people set in ancient Egypt and written by Jaromir Malek and Mary Ann Bradley; this is now being read in class at several schools in the USA);

(j) *The Sphinx Nose* (brief encyclopaedia of Egyptology for young people).

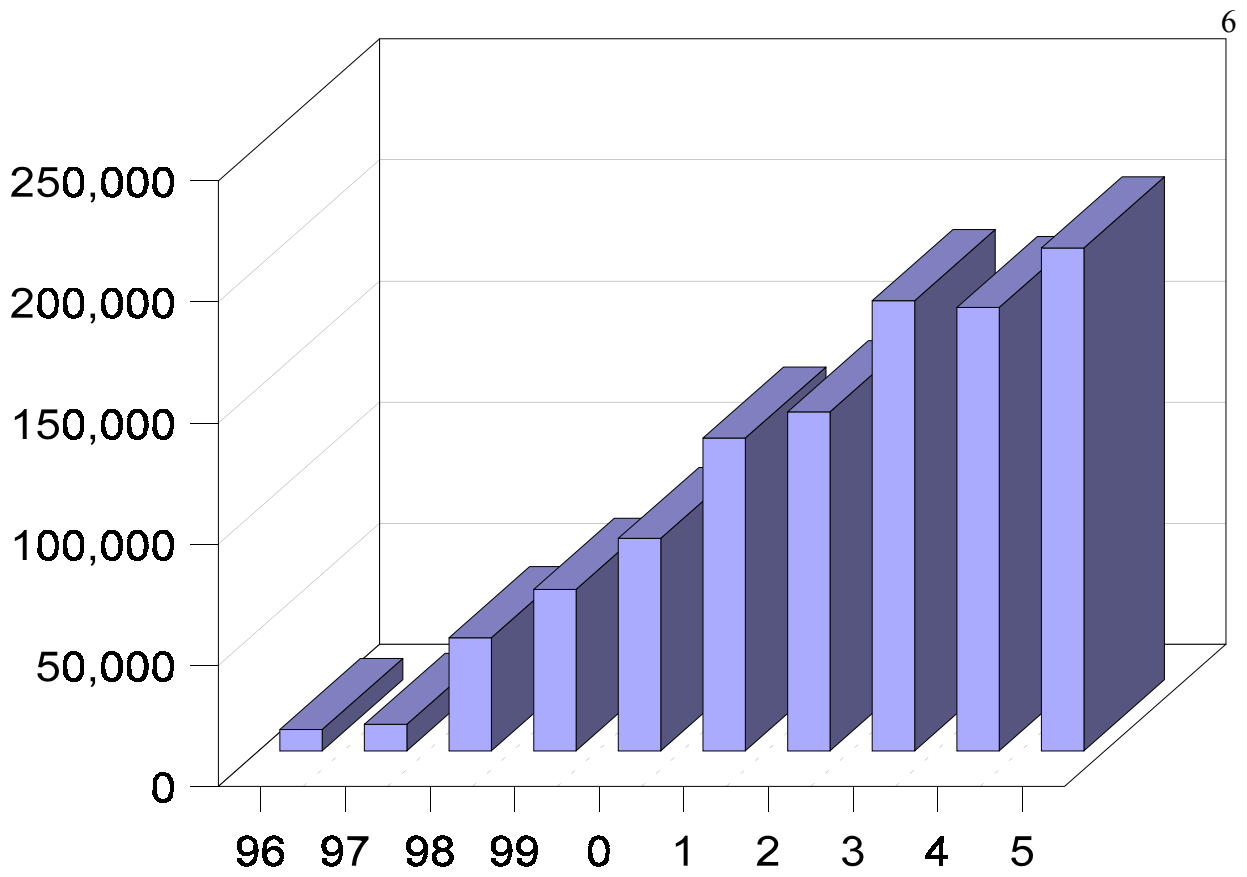
(k) *Egyptian and Levantine Mirage*: databases of 19th-century 'studio' photographs of Egypt and the Levant in the Archive;

(l) a gateway for a number of other Egyptology sites of importance.

The website was started in 1995 and has become the most popular specialized Egyptology website. In the year 2005, we had 15,218,580 successful request for pages ('hits'), averaging 1,268,215 per month. The monthly statistics of successful requests for pages in the year 2005 are as follows:



The numbers of visitors (based on monthly figures) have been rising steadily (207,631 in the year 2005):



Jaromir Malek  
Editor of the *Topographical Bibliography* and Keeper of the Archive