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The Griffith Institute Archive
Report of the Keeper of the Archive
for the nine-month period December 23, 2005 to September 30, 2006
(the previous report covered the period from January 3 to December 22, 2005)

1. Staff.

The *Topographical Bibliography* staff also administers the Archive. The theoretical division of time is about 2 (*Top. Bibl.*) to 1 (the Archive) but this is organized in a flexible way and varies according to circumstances. In the first nine months of 2006, the time spent on the *Topographical Bibliography* heavily outweighed that on the Archive.

Our part-time scanner, Mr Keunjoo Kim, was succeeded by Ms Jenni Navratil in August 2006. The scanner operator works for one day a week.

2. Archive closures.

Severe staff shortage has forced us to keep the Archive closed during the first two weeks of each month. The dates of closures are announced on our web pages and elsewhere at least three months in advance and there have been no problems with this arrangement.

3. Funding.

The annual budget of the Archive, £2,000, just about covers the expenditure on the basic conservation material (mainly boxes, and this year also some new shelving for Archive stacks) but does not allow us to start on any more ambitious projects or spend money on accessions. For these we have to resort to funds which we have raised ourselves or rely on cooperation with other institutions.

4. Fund raising for the Archive.

I have been able to raise modest sums of money, mainly from visiting groups. In the course of 2006 we spent £1,000 on acquiring two albums with 19th-century photographs of Egypt. The current Archive donations fund contains about £1,350.

5. Archive activities, including scanning.

Tracings and photographs of some of the Saqqara material in the papers of Battiscombe Gunn have been scanned and re-housed.

Howard Carter's collection of lantern slides has been checked for images not available as negatives. About a dozen such photographs have been identified.

Work continued on expanding further the *Tutankhamun: Anatomy of an Excavation* database. The current effort concentrates on Howard Carter's notes made in preparation of the final publication which he never accomplished.

Howard Carter's unpublished biographical sketches have been scanned and their transcripts are now being edited in preparation for publication.

Some of the negatives of Reginald St Alban Heathcote (1888-1951) have been scanned to a 6,000 pixel resolution. Some 800 still remain to be scanned.

Following a request, the papers of Robert Eisler (1882-1949) have been scanned in their entirety.

Over 200 prints made by W. M. Flinders Petrie between 1887 and 1890 have been scanned in preparation of a database *Petrie's Photographs of Egypt* (prepared jointly with the Friends of the Petrie Museum).

An album of drawings and watercolours by the Revd. A. C. Ainslie (1831-1903) and the newly acquired albums with 19th-century photographs have been repaired.

Minor conservation measures have been taken on a daily basis for a number of other records.

6. Visitors.

Visitors from fifteen countries (Australia, Denmark, Egypt, Eire, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA) came to our Archive on 232 occasions, some of them as members of groups. We organized special evening visits on the occasion of the *Informatique et Égyptologie* conference in August 2006.

7. Accessions.

The following are the more important accessions of the archive during 2006 (minor accessions not listed):

Twenty-nine albumen prints of 19th-century photographs of various sites in Egypt. (Presented by Mr. John Ross).

Two albums containing albumen prints of 19th-century photographs of Egypt. (Purchase.)

Some additional papers of Professor Mordechai Gilula. (Donation.)

Some additional papers of Joan Crowfoot Payne connected with her *Catalogue of the Predynastic Egyptian Collection in the Ashmolean*. (Transfer from the Department of Antiquities of the Ashmolean.)

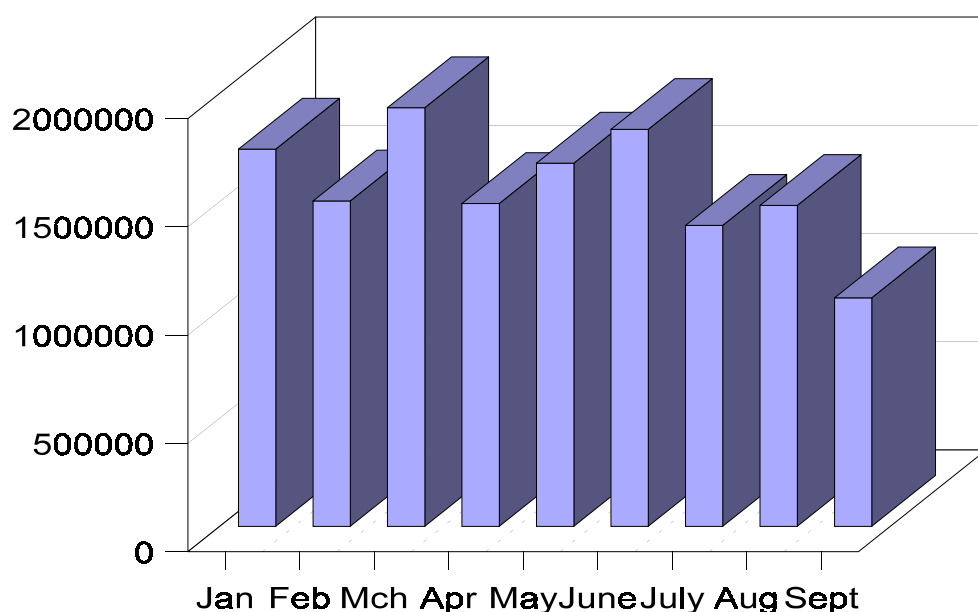
8. Publicity.

An item on our work on Carter's documentation of the tomb of Tutankhamun was published in *The Guardian*. Central Television filmed in the Archive and featured our work in their news programmes.

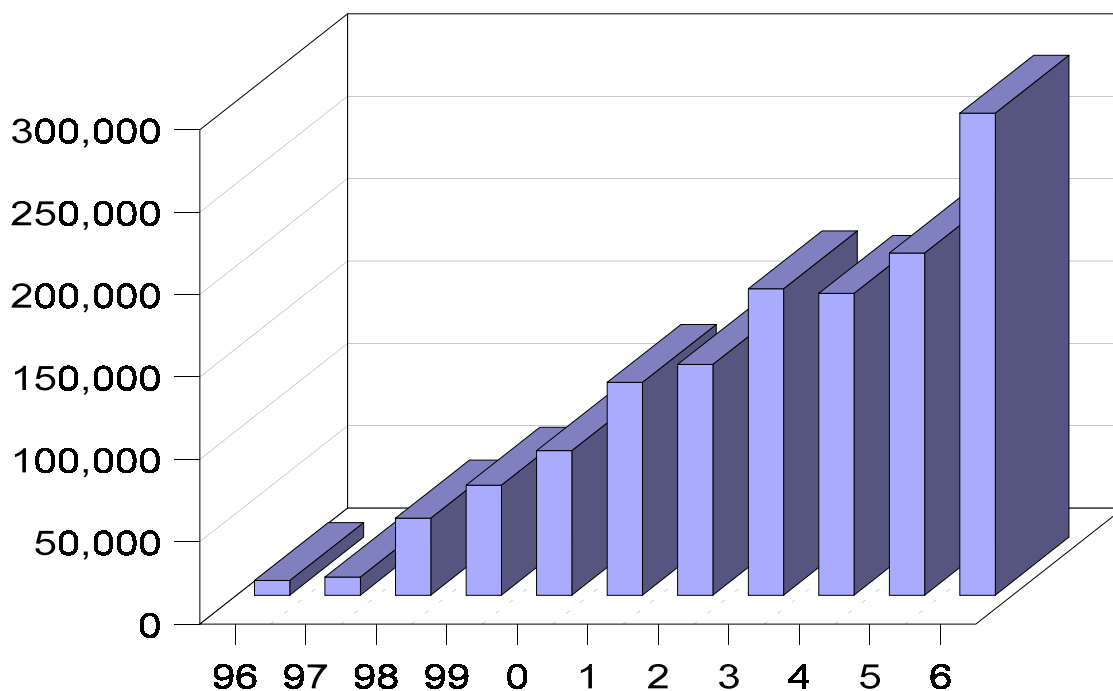
9. The website (<http://www.ashmolean.museum/Griffith.html>).

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

The website was started in 1995 and has become probably the most popular specialized Egyptology website in the world. The Archive section is only one of twelve. It contains a list of records in the Griffith Institute Archive, ISAD(G) forms for many of the papers, several databases including *Tutankhamun: Anatomy of an Excavation*, *The Search for Tutankhamun*, *Egyptian Mirage*, *Levantine Mirage* and *J. P. Simpson's Photographs of Egypt*, annual lists of Archive accessions, etc. In the first nine months of the year 2006, we had 14,101,297 successful request for pages ('hits'), averaging 1,566,210 per month. The monthly statistics of successful requests for pages are as follows:



The annual numbers of visitors (based on monthly figures) have been rising steadily (in the absence of figures for the last three months of the year 2006, the figure 292,428 is extrapolated from those for the previous nine months):



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