

IAE Computer Group Meeting 2006

First announcement and call for papers

It is our pleasure to announce that a date has been set for the next meeting of the IAE Computer Group (*Informatique et Egyptologie*, I&E), which last met properly in Pisa in 2002.

Thanks to the kindness of Diane and Dag Bergman, the meeting will take place in Oxford, UK, on 7-10 August 2006.

We are indebted to Professor John Baines for his invaluable advice and assistance in making this Oxford meeting possible.

It is hoped that a meeting of the committee of the AEB will be convened at the same time.

Practical information

The meeting will be centred in Worcester College, <http://www.worc.ox.ac.uk>, one of the smaller Oxford colleges, one which has beautiful gardens and which will form an attractive centre to our operations. It is a mere three to five minute walk from the Griffith Institute and Ashmolean Museum (see map <http://www.ox.ac.uk/aboutoxford/maps/map.pdf>). Accommodation and some meals will be available there for those who require it.

Further practical details will be compiled shortly, but the arrival of participants is envisaged for Monday 7th August, with the meeting taking place on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th, and departure on Thursday 10th.

Please do not contact Worcester College directly, but address any enquiries to Diane Bergman, Dag Bergman, or Nigel Strudwick (see email addresses below).

Themes

Now that most professional Egyptologists have access to IT and many technical problems have been solved or can be solved by colleagues or by others in their own institutions, I&E no longer needs to be so concerned with technical problems as it has been in the past. It is our aim to try and broaden the appeal of the meeting to encompass those who are doing important and relevant work to Egyptology, but who have until now shied away from our meetings, thinking perhaps that they are themselves not specialised enough to come, or do not have the relevant expertise. Computer technology now so pervades our lives that most of us cannot exist without it, and the technology is being put to very interesting uses.

The following four themes are suggested as the basis of the sessions:

Bibliography

One of the greatest potential contributions which IT can make to any subject is to make access easier to the ever-expanding amount of bibliography. The AEB, the management committee of which is hoped will be present at the Oxford meeting, has led the way for

many years, and is presently its best approach in an Internet age. There are many issues in how such projects can be made available.

Museums and Archival collections online

Many Egyptological museums now have sections or substantial parts of their collections online. There are many issues as to how this should be done, and what standards and approaches can or should be taken.

The Internet—archiving, recommendation

The Internet has become a major element in the work of many Egyptologists in the past ten years, and with the greater access to high-speed technology, it promises to become more and more central to our lives. Many excellent sites have been set up, but many sites are plagued by occasional unavailability, or by the need to move service providers. Ways need to be adopted to control this. Also, the plethora of sites out there can be daunting to all, and we must remember that we are inevitably addressing ourselves to a wider public.

Techniques need to be found to review and recommend sites to help those whose limited expertise may send them down the wrong path.

Projects

The meetings of I&E over the years have seen the launching of projects by many individuals. Individuals are invited to present projects which have a considerable IT component that will be of interest to participants. Presenters who have previously reported on their projects at these meetings are asked to present major changes rather than incremental progress reports.

Contact Information

Enquiries about the conference should be addressed to Diane Bergman at the Sackler Library of the Ashmolean Museum:

diane.bergman@sackler-library.oxford.ac.uk

A web site for the meeting will soon be made available through the *Egyptology Resources* site in Cambridge (<http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/egypt>).

We look forward to welcoming you to Oxford.

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