

The Swedish-Egyptian Society

Your suggestions
and/or
contributions
to your bulletin
are welcome.

2003-12-15

Årgång 4, nummer 12

The year end holidays are approaching and our fellow members of the Muslim faith have just completed their Ramadan month with a long "Eid" holiday. Most activities took place early this year but many of us had the opportunity to enjoy the lecture of our fellow member and Tourist Councillor given on the 6th of October and followed by an excellent dinner at the Restaurant Nivå on Sveavägen. The board has dedicated its 6th and last meeting of the year on December 2nd to plan the activities of next year and suitable measures to enroll new members, see Agenda for 2004.

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EGYPTIAN WINS ALTERNATIVE NOBEL PRIZE

Dr Ibrahim Abouleish is among the 2003 winners of the **Right Livelihood Award**, an award established in 1980 to honor and support groups of people and individuals around the globe who valiantly uphold the principles of right livelihood. The idea of 'right livelihood' is an ancient one. It embodies the principle

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A MEMORABLE JOURNEY TO THE TREASURES OF EGYPT

EARLY ON A SATURDAY MORNING IN THE END OF FEBRUARY 2003, A GROUP OF 22 PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE ARLANDA AIRPORT, STOCKHOLM.

They were members and friends of the Swedish-Egyptian Society, ready for a ten-days journey to Egypt under the professional guidance of Ms Gertie Englund, well-known Egyptologist at the University of Uppsala. The trip was planned by the Board of the Swedish-Egyptian Society and carried out by Egyptson Tours.

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

At the end of the year 2003, the Board and Auditors wish to present their best

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all Members and Friends of the Swedish-Egyptian Society

We are looking back at a year with a number of interesting activities for and with our Members, but even more so at those planned for

2004

Thank you for your support during the year that is about to finish.

For the Swedish Egyptian Society,

Richard Olsson

Chairman



(Forts. från sidan 1)

A MEMORABLE JOURNEY TO EGYPT CAIRO

The second day on the Sunday morning the group visited the Egyptian Museum in Cairo to see the collections and specially all the treasures from the tomb of Tuth Ankh Amon.



The three great pyramids at Giza were magnificent to see in the afternoon sun.

ABU SIMBEL

Very early on the fourth day, the group took a flight to Aswan with a connection south to Abu Simbel. It was really a great challenge, when Swedish engineers in the 60-ies planned the lifting of the two great temples built by Ramesses II. When the High Dam was constructed in order to supply a modernized Egypt with electric power, the two temples should have been drowned under the water in the new Lake Nasser. Financed by UNESCO the Swedish engineers designed a method to lift the old temples piece by piece to a new higher level and save them from the water.

A visit to the Abu Simbel temples is today a breath-taking experience and we returned by a flight to Aswan and the magnificent Old Cataract Hotel.



ASWAN

Day five was spent in the beautiful city of Aswan to visit the Nubian Museum, the Philae

temple and the High Dam.

NILE CRUISE

In the evening we boarded a fellucca, a traditional Egyptian sailing-boat, to take us to our cruise liner Beau Soleil, for a three-day Nile Cruise. It was relaxing, although cold in the wind, to sit on deck and see the landscape with the desert behind pass by. The ship stopped at Kom Ombo and at Edfu to make it possible to visit the temples there.

LUXOR

At the end of day seven we reached the city of Luxor, the old capital of Egypt, and saw the Luxor-temple illuminated in the sunset.

All the Saturday was scheduled for the great Karnak-temple in Luxor, and on the Sunday a bus took us to the Valley of the Kings, where we visited three of the tombs for old Pharaohs. There was time for an interesting stop at Hatchepsuts temple in Deir el Bahri before returning to Luxor and the evening Sound and Light Show at Karnak-temple.



BACK TO SWEDEN

After breakfast at the New Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor in the morning of the tenth day the group of 22 people returned to Cairo with a direct connection to Stockholm.

Each and everyone had during ten days gained memorable experiences and a number of new friendships.

Special thanks are given to Ms Gertie Englund, our guide and friend, who explained what we saw and answered our questions.

**RICHARD OLSSON
YLVA LINDSTRÖM (PHOTOS)**

(Forts. från sidan 1)

EGYPTIAN WINS ALTERNATIVE ...

The 2003 Right Livelihood Awards go to individuals and organisations from New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea and Egypt working for disarmament, justice, partnership and environmental sustainability that each person should follow an honest occupation which fully respects other people and the natural world.

Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish was born in Egypt in 1937. In the year 1956, at the age of 19, he began his studies in chemistry and medicine at the University of Graz, Austria, receiving his Ph.D. in Pharmacology in 1969. Thereafter he engaged in pharmaceutical research, taking on the position as Head of Division for pharmaceutical research until 1977.

In 1975, on a visit to Egypt together with his family, he was overwhelmed by the country's pressing problems in education, overpopulation and pollution. His admiration for his country led him to establish in 1977 a comprehensive development initiative, which he called SEKEM.

SEKEM is establishing the blueprint for the healthy corporation of the 21st century. Taking its name from the hieroglyphic transcription meaning "vitality of the sun", SEKEM was the first entity to develop biodynamic farming methods in Egypt. These methods are based on the premise that organic cultivation improves agro-biodiversity and does not produce any unusable waste. All products of the system can be sold or re-used in cultivation, thereby creating a sustainable process.



BACKGROUND

Egypt's problems are interrelated and include overpopulation, environmental degradation, inadequate education and health care. Agriculture involves 40% of the workforce and remains the least developed sector of the economy. Cost of agricultural production has increased while the resource base has shrunk. Today, Egypt has become one of the world's largest importers of food. Because the country's problems are interrelated, SEKEM has built a thriving social and cultural base to address Egypt's crumbling health, educational and cultural preservation capacities.

Source: www.rightlivelihood.org



A special reception was given by Ambassador and Mrs Mohamed El-Dorghamy in honour of Dr Abouleish and his wife.

From left to right:

Dr Ibrahim Abouleish, Mrs Ibrahim Abouleish, Mr Jakob von Uexkull, Chairman of the Right Livelihood Foundation, Mrs Mohamed El-Dorghamy and Ambassador Mohamed El-Dorghamy.

Photo: Ahmed El-Dorghamy

(Forts. från sidan 1)

AGENDA FOR 2004

Febbruary: The first activity for 2004 will take place between 2-5 February. The lecturer will be either Ms Merit Gabriel or Mr Kontopoulos, depending of availability. Both are active members of the Society with strong connections to Egypt.

Many of us will certainly remember the very interesting lecture on **Greeks in Egypt** by Mr Kontopoulos earlier this year.

Ms Gabriel is a member of the Board and a seasoned lecturer and guide to Egypt, France and Italy.

The subject will be

CHURCHES OF UPPER EGYPT

As usual catering arrangements will be made. →

ENROLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

During its meeting on December 2nd, the Board decided to implement various measures to increase the number of members of the Society.

One of these will be to encourage the present members to spread the message among their friends and encourage them to enroll as members. This is the purpose of the extra message and payment slip enclosed. Additional copies are of course available on request.

The other was to create a home page.

Initially, this page will be hosted at the site of our secretary, Sami Baladi, and much of its content can already be viewed at:

www.baladi.se/swedegypt

At a later date, the Society will acquire its own site but in the meanwhile, this will provide you, and your friends, with handy information on the Society, Egypt, useful addresses in Sweden, etc. →

April 27th is the date set for the **next activity** which will be combined with the Annual General Assembly of the Society.

The arrangement will consist of two parts; first the General Assembly with free attendance for our members. This will be followed by a lecture by Ms Merit Gabriel and a dinner. The subject of the lecture will be:

ISIS IN ITALY

Although place and time have not yet been firmed please **book that date** already!

DATES AND PLACES

Exact date and place for each activity will be communicated at a later date by mail and on our new Internet site under "Activities" at

www.baladi.se/swedegypt .

By definition, the prime purpose of a site is to provide the latest news and the content will be reviewed at least once a month or more frequently as the need may be.

One page in particular is perhaps of special interest, namely the one called **Activities** since it will comprise an agenda of the planned activities but also an account of the latest as well as photos.

Needless to say, all members are welcome to contribute to enrich the site with text and material as well as suggestions.

Courtesy of Mr Ibrahim Khaili



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