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CURRENT EGYPTOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN CROATIA

Abstract: *Over the last years, much Egyptological research has been conducted in Croatia across various different fields. The Croato-Aegyptica Electronica (CAE) project has been in progress and, at several museums across the country, ancient Egyptian artefacts have been analysed and new exhibitions created. At the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, a radiological study of Egyptian mummies has been conducted and open lectures with a variety of keynote speakers, as well as a workshop on the language of Middle Egypt, have been held. Finally, university curriculums have changed, new publications (articles, catalogues and books) have appeared and international conferences have taken place. In this paper, the authors aim to provide an overview of the Egyptological activity which has occurred in Croatia over the past decade.*

Keywords: *Egyptian collections in Croatia; Croatian Egyptology; CAE project; database*

The Croato-Aegyptica Electronica Project (CAE)

The ultimate goal of the project is to create a targeted database of all ancient Egyptian antiquities from the institutional and private collections of Croatia (Tomorad M. [ed.] 2004-2013).

Short history of the project

The first phase of the project's development began in late 2001, when the idea was first suggested (Egyptian Antiquities in Croatia: Computerised

Processing of Sources and Literature) at the *Historical Research, Study of History and Computerisation* international conference (December 10-12, 2001, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia). Over the next two years (2002-2003) the first team of researchers was established and project development was initiated (M. Tomorad, I. Uranić, G. Zlodi, H. Gračanin, I. Malus Tomorad, M. Gračanin). During the same period (with the help of P. Selem, PhD), we gained the support of all the relevant museums and institutions to begin a study of their Egyptian collections with the aim of publishing all the material as an online digital catalogue. After making a successful application (2003) to the Ministry of Science, Education, Technology and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, we were in possession of the requisite funding to start the project's development in early 2004. After resolving our financial issues, the project team was able to commence the second phase of project development. In the first half of 2004, the first project website known as Croato-Aegyptica Electronica was created. M. Gračanin designed and programmed the whole site. A few hundred pages of text written by M. Tomorad, I. Uranić, H. Gračanin and I. Malus Tomorad were added to the site. In May 2004, the Croatian version of the website was launched at <http://infoz.ffzg.hr/cae>. The English version, which differed slightly from the Croatian, was launched at the end of June 2004. In July 2004, the CAE database became accessible online.

In September 2004, the site obtained its own domain (www.croato-aegyptica.hr) and the first version of the database, which consisted of a selection of 120 artefacts from the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, was incorporated into it (Tomorad 2004a). The CAE website was the first Croatian educational information website concerning the history of any civilisation of the world. It included information on: 1. the *Croato-Aegyptica Electronica* project; 2. the history of every Egyptian museum collection in Croatia; 3. links to the most important Egyptological websites; 4. the development of Egyptology; 5. an ancient Egyptian chronology from Prehistory to the Arab conquest of Egypt; 6. ancient Egyptian towns and sites; 7. Egyptian mythology; 8. ancient Egyptian history; 9. the famous monuments of Egypt; 10. everyday life in ancient Egypt.

The news database was constructed using free PHP and My SQL software as a powerful open-source programme designed to evolve through daily updates. It was divided into five categories: Egyptological discoveries in the field, exhibitions (past, current and future), lectures, conferences and symposiums and new Egyptological books in Croatian. The news section

of the website, which is currently not in service, contained information on new discoveries in Egypt, announcements of past, current and future exhibitions, details of lectures, conferences and symposiums on ancient Egypt in Croatia and of new books, catalogues and guides on ancient Egyptian history in Croatian (Tomorad 2004b; Tomorad 2006a, 131-142, 172-186, 199-200; Tomorad 2007a; Tomorad 2009). The site quickly became very popular, which resulted in its nomination for the Croatian scientific award for the popularisation of science in 2004. In 2006, the project stopped receiving the required financial support, which led to various problems. In 2007, the news section of the website was hacked and then, in early 2010, we lost our domain due to the introduction of certain new regulations at CARNet (Croatian Academic and Research Network). At the same time (early 2010), the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' server, which hosted the site, crashed and since that moment our database ceased to be accessible. In April 2011, M. Tomorad stopped working at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and became an Assistant Professor at the Department of History at the Centre of Croatian Studies of the University of Zagreb. As the main editor and the head of the project, M. Tomorad moved the whole 'old' website to a new address hosted by the Centre for Croatian Studies <http://www.hrstud.unizg.hr/sites.cae/>.

Development of the CAE database (2004-2012)

Our online *CAE* database, which was accessible online from July 2004 to January 2010, offered various kinds of information on the artefacts (collection, inventory number, origin, date, material, techniques, description, inscriptions with transliteration and translation, images etc.). It was built using the M++ application, which is based on MS Access, Visual Basic script and C++, and contained more than 20,000 code lines. From early spring 2004 to late 2008, we managed to analyse and process artefacts from the Mimara Museum of Zagreb (Collection of Ancient Civilizations), the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb (Egyptian and Antiquities Department), the Museum of Contemporary Art of Zagreb (the Benko Horvat Collection), the Archaeological Museum of Split, the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula, the Archaeological Museum of Zadar, the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek, the City Museum of Varaždin and a variety of other town and regional museums with minor collections (Tomorad 2007a; Tomorad 2009). At present, the *CAE* database contains approximately 3000 analysed, and documented artefacts. Once finished, the final product (which will be available across various media formats) will provide both domestic

and foreign researchers and cultural institutions with a comprehensive insight into the rich wealth of Croatian Egyptological material, offering a quick practical way to search through the whole inventory. It will also display data in a suitable manner for the consumption of the general public.

Domestic and international presentation of the project (2003-2012)

The project has been presented at various domestic and international conferences since early 2003: *Geschichte und neue Medien/History and New Media*, 9-11 April 2003, Berlin, Germany; *Prvi hrvatski simpozij o nastavi povijesti*, 27-29 November 2003, Opatija, Croatia; *Third Central European Conference of Egyptologists*, 12-14 May 2004, Warsaw, Poland; *II. kongres hrvatskih povjesničara – Hrvatska i Europa*, 29 September – 3 October 2004, Pula, Croatia; *Ancient Studies – New Technology 3: The World Wide Web and Scholarship in Ancient, Byzantine, and Medieval Studies*, 3-5 December 2004, Harrisonburg, Virginia, United States of America; *Serbian Archaeological Society – Section for Near Eastern Archaeology*, 20 May 2005, Belgrade, Serbia; *CIDOC 2005*, 24-27 May 2005, Zagreb, Croatia; *Informatique et Egyptologie 2006*, 8-10 August 2006, Oxford, United Kingdom; *VIth Central European Conference of Egyptology – Egypt 2012: Perspectives of Research*, 5-7 July 2012, Cracow, Poland; *CIPEG 2012: Collections at Risk: New Challenges in New Environments*, 25-28 September 2012, Bruxelles, Belgium.

The future development of the CAE project

The future development of the project is extremely dependent on the securing of funding from sponsors and/or institutions. The financial crisis in Croatia is one of the major factors halting project development, since we have simply been unable to find anyone to invest in the project. As far as our theoretical plans are concerned, future project development can be divided into several phases: 1. the analysis and documentation of the remaining collections and their entry into the database; 2. the development of the new website, which will contain a few hundred pages of new texts and images. The majority of the material has already been prepared by a whole new team of collaborators (M. Tomorad, I. Uranić, H. Gračanin, I. Malus Tomorad, D. Pernjak, D. Štruklec, M. Diklić, P. Šćukanec Rezniček, M. Štefanić, K. Šekrst, M. Čavka) with the help of foreign Egyptologists and Orientalists; 3. the inclusion of the newly-created website into the online Egyptological journal; 4. the development

and implementation of a completely new online digital *CAE* catalogue prepared by G. Zlodi, I. Uranić and M. Tomorad; 5. the implementation of the *CAE* database into GEM (The Global Egyptian Museum). The Global Egyptian Museum (<http://www.globalegyptianmuseum.com>) was formed at the beginning of 2003 and, at present, the whole virtual museum contains almost 20,000 artefacts from museums located all over the world. It was created originally under the aegis of the CCER (Centre for Computer-aided Egyptological Research, Utrecht University), but it is controlled today by CIPEG-ICOM (Comité International pour l'Égyptologie du Conseil International des Musées) and the Centre for the Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (Cultnat) in Egypt; 6. the transliteration and translation of all Egyptian inscriptions on our artefacts; 7. the documentation of all private collections of Egyptian antiquities in Croatia; 8. the publication of a series of catalogues as books and CD-ROMs; 9. the creation of online interactive historical maps of ancient Egypt from the Prehistoric period to the end of Byzantine rule in Egypt.

M.T.

Analysis of ancient Egyptian artefacts from the museum collections of Croatia

Approximately 3840 ancient Egyptian artefacts are housed in 25 museum institutions in Croatia (Tomorad 2006a, 6-36; Tomorad, forthcoming), whilst at least 550 to 700 artefacts are currently in the possession of private owners (Tomorad 2003a, 78-79; Tomorad 2005, 23; Tomorad 2006a, 37; Tomorad, forthcoming). During the period from 2004 until the end of 2012, more than half of the collections were examined and the vast majority of these were analysed by experts and published in various historical and Egyptological periodicals. Most of this work was conducted as part of the *Croato-Aegyptica Electronica* project.

The biggest collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities is housed in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb (Tomorad 2005, 3-11; Tomorad 2003a, 31-48). The museum possesses three different collections of artefacts related to ancient Egypt.

The collection of the Egyptian department contains approximately 2300 artefacts, of which the majority consists of small, plastic art like scarabs, amulets, shabtis, and statuettes of the gods. There are also valuable examples of stelae, books of the dead, mummies and sarcophagi. Chronologically, most of the collection comes from the Middle Kingdom, the New Kingdom,

the Late period and the Graeco-Roman period. Unfortunately, the precise provenance of the artefacts is mostly unknown (Monnet Saleh 1970; Tomorad 2006a, 6-10; Uranić 2009). During the period from 2004 until the end of 2012, all the artefacts from this collection were examined and described in the *CAE* database. In 2009, a team of medical doctors led by Mislav Čavka and the museum's curator, Igor Uranić, started to examine all of the human and animal mummies. The results of this examination and analysis were published in a series of journal articles (see References) and in the museum catalogue entitled *Mumije, znanost i mit* [*Mummies – Science and Myth*] (Uranić 2012). In 2009, the Egyptian department published a new catalogue (Uranić 2009) and a typological study of 312 shabtis from the Egyptian Department was also conducted and later published (Tomorad 2011a). The Archaeological Museum in Zagreb also stores a variety of artefacts connected to the worship of Egyptian cults in the territory of Roman Illyricum. At present, at least 36 such objects may be found in this department (Tomorad 2003a, 40-42; Tomorad 2005, 7; Tomorad 2006a, 10-11; Tomorad, forthcoming). The majority are statuettes of gods (Isis, Serapis, Hermes-Thot, Isis-Fortuna, and Harpocrates) and many other artefacts can also be associated with the worship of the Egyptian deities. In 2004 and 2005, most of these artefacts were examined and then described on the *CAE* database. During recent archaeological seasons, several new artefacts have been discovered that still need to be examined and analysed.

Finally, the Numismatic Department of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb owns a very large collection of currencies. Two collections are associated with ancient Egyptian civilisation, one containing Ptolemaic coinage and the other coins from the Alexandrian mint of the Roman province of *Aegyptus*. At least 164 examples of Ptolemaic coins from all periods of the Ptolemaic dynasty are contained within the first collection (Tomorad 2005, 8-9; Tomorad 2006a, 12-14; Tomorad, forthcoming), whilst the numismatic collection from the Roman imperial Alexandria mint (dating from Augustus to Constantine I) is even larger, as it includes at least 520 coins (Tomorad 2005, 9-11; Tomorad 2006a, 14-16; Tomorad, forthcoming). In 2011, a student by the name of Mihaela Diklić examined, described and analysed 45 coins from the Roman imperial Alexandria mint in her M.A. thesis.

The Mimara Museum of Zagreb houses the second largest ancient Egyptian collection in Croatia, which is divided into two collections: the Collection of Ancient Civilisations (containing 32 ancient Egyptian

artefacts [Tomorad 2006a, 16-17]) and the Glass Collection (with 470 artefacts and glass fragments [Ratković-Bukovčan 2001; Tomorad 2006a, 18]). From 2004 to 2012 the whole collection was examined and then described on the *CAE* database, but only parts of it were fully analysed. The whole Glass Collection, which contains artefacts from the New Kingdom to Late Antiquity, was published in 2001 (Ratković-Bukovčan 2001). Only three ancient Egyptian artefacts from the Collection of Ancient Civilisations have been published in the last few years. In 2009 and 2012, these three artefacts (vessel, inv. no. ATM 230; bowl/plate, inv. no. ATM 231; small bottle, inv. no. ATM 233) from predynastic Egypt were fully analysed and published in journals (Tomorad 2009g, 541-544; Tomorad 2013a).

The Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula houses 39 ancient Egyptian artefacts, which can be divided into three large groups. The first group consists of 15 artefacts connected to the worship of Egyptian cults in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The artefacts from this group were found during archaeological excavations in the Istria area and are connected with the cults of Serapis, Isis, Isis-Fortuna, Jupiter-Amon, Hathor and Achelous. The second group consists of seven bronze artefacts, mostly of a votive nature. The third group consists of 17 artefacts, which are mostly Egyptian shabtis and amulets that were parts of the collection of an unknown Austrian donor (Džin 2001, 18-21; Jurkić-Girardi 2001, 5-17; Uranić 2001; Tomorad 2003a, 48-49; Tomorad 2005, 16-17; Tomorad 2006a, 24-25; Tomorad 2007b, 43; Tomorad, forthcoming). The whole collection was fully examined, analysed and then described on the *CAE* database from 2004 to 2005. Ten artefacts were later reexamined and published in 2007 (Tomorad 2007b).

The Archaeological Museum of Split stores 66 artefacts connected to the diffusion of Egyptian cults in the Roman province of Dalmatia (Selem 1997; Tomorad 2003a, 52-55; Tomorad 2005, 18-19; Tomorad 2006a, 22-24; Tomorad, forthcoming). The whole collection has been fully examined and analysed by various researchers and all of the artefacts have been thoroughly described on the *CAE* database.

The collection of the Archaeological Museum of Zadar possesses at least 23 Egyptian cult artefacts found during excavations in the territory of Zadar (ancient Iader) and the surrounding area (Tomorad 2003a, 51-52; Tomorad 2005, 20; Tomorad 2006a, 27-28; Tomorad, forthcoming). These artefacts were analysed and then described on the *CAE* database between 2004 and 2006.

The Archaeological Department of the Museum of the City of Varaždin stores seven ancient Egyptian artefacts (Tomorad 2002; Tomorad 2003a, 71-72; Tomorad 2005, 20-12; Tomorad 2006a, 30; Tomorad and Uranić 2006a; Tomorad, forthcoming). Six artefacts, which belonged to the noble Psthory-Varady family, were examined and analysed by M. Tomorad and I. Uranić (2006a) in 2005 and then published. A small scarab was donated to the museum after 2007, but it has not yet been examined or analysed (Tomorad, forthcoming).

The Archaeological Department of the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek stores ten artefacts connected to Egyptian cults worshipped in the Roman province of Pannonia (Tomorad 2003a, 73-74; Tomorad 2005, 21; Tomorad 2006a, 29; Tomorad, forthcoming). All of these have been fully analysed and in 2005 they were described on the *CAE* database.

The Museum of Contemporary Art of Zagreb houses eleven ancient Egyptian artefacts (Tomorad 2003a, 70; Tomorad 2005, 21-22; Tomorad 2006a, 28-29; Tomorad, forthcoming). All of them have been analysed and in 2005 they were described on the *CAE* database.

The Archaeological Collection of the Franciscan monastery in Sinj contains six Egyptian artefacts (Selem 1997; Tomorad 2003a, 75-76; Tomorad 2005, 22; Tomorad 2006a, 31; Tomorad, forthcoming). They have been analysed several times and in 2005 they were described on the *CAE* database.

All the other smaller institution collections have been recently examined and their artefacts have been listed by M. Tomorad (2003a, 73-76; 2005, 22-23; 2006a, 32-34; forthcoming).

Over the course of 2004 and 2005, the well-known Marović (ex-Carrara-Bratanić) and Domančić private collections (Selem 1997; Tomorad 2003a, 78-79; Tomorad 2005, 23; Tomorad 2006a, 35; Tomorad, forthcoming) of ancient Egyptian artefacts were reanalysed and then described on the *CAE* database.

Since 2004, specialist studies of shabtis from all the collections have been conducted and published in various periodicals (Tomorad 2004c; Tomorad 2006b; Tomorad 2011a; Tomorad 2011b; Tomorad 2012a; Tomorad 2013b).

M.T.

The latest radiological research of the five ancient Egyptian mummies and other mummified remains from the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

Five mummified human bodies are kept inside the Egyptian collection of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb (inv. nos 655-658, 667-668, 687: inventory book of the Egyptian Department of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb; Uranić 1994; Uranić 2003a; Uranić 2009, 91-101, 107-112). The first one to be supplied was the famous 'Zagreb Mummy', which arrived in 1862 (Rendić-Miočević 1986; Tomorad 2003a, 81-89; Tomorad 2003b; Uranić 2009, 107-112). A further two mummies (of Shepenun and Kareset) were part of Franz Koller's collection, which was purchased by the National Museum in 1868 (inv. no. 667-668; Monnet-Saleh 1970, 174-181; Uranić 2009, 91, 94). The acquisition of the 'fifth mummy', donated by bishop Juraj Haulik, also dates to the 19th century (inv. no. 666; Tomorad 2003a, 36; Tomorad 2005, 4), whilst the mummy of Amun's singer, Kaipamu, was a gift from the Egyptian government in 1971 (inv. no. 687; Gorenc and Rendić-Miočević 1974; Uranić 1994; Tomorad 2003a, 36-37, 141-142; Uranić 2003a; Uranić 2009, 94-97). Apart from the complete human mummies, there are also some parts of mummies: three heads, three arms and two legs, as well as five animal mummies (inv. nos 655-658: inventory book of the Egyptian Department of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb; Uranić 2009, 97).

Early research using a conventional X-ray was carried out during the 1970s, but some mysteries concerning the Zagreb mummies which were left unsolved have now been resolved thanks to modern CT technology. The results obtained were quite interesting and in some cases drastically changed our view of the mummies. In December 2012, the *Mumije, znanost i mit* [*Mummies – Science and Myth*] exhibition opened in order to display all the mummies alongside the results of the research conducted on them from 2008 to 2011 (16 December 2012 – 1 March 2013; Uranić 2012).

I.U.

Paleoradiological examination of the mummified remains from the Egyptian Collection of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb was carried out at the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology of the University Hospital of Dubrava.

All 19 specimens were scanned with two X-ray projections (RadSpeed Sapphire, Shimadzu Europa GmbH, Duisburg, Germany) and using the CT scanner (Sensation16; Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany) with

a 16 x 0.75 collimation, reconstructed at 0.75mm section thickness and 0.7mm reconstruction increment (RI). In the autumn of 2012, another mummified head was scanned by MRI and a total of 17 specimens were scanned using MR (Magnetom Avanto, Siemens Healthcare, Erlangen, Germany) to acquire three-dimensional (3D), spoiled gradient-echo based UTE images (Nielles-Vallespin *et al.* 2007, 74).

Only the published results will be mentioned here. Studies of the unidentified mummy have been in progress since 2008 and have most recently been published in *Radiographics* (Čavka, Petaros and Boščić *et al.* 2012, 2151) and *Collegium Antropologicum* (Čavka and Glasnović *et al.* 2010, 797, 803) and presented at the *1st Bolzano Mummy Congress* (Čavka *et al.* 2009, 19) and the *18th European Meeting of the Paleopatological Association* (Čavka and Boščić *et al.* 2010, 64; Kavur *et al.* 2010, 130). Kareset's results have been published in *Collegium Antropologicum* (Čavka, Petaros and Ivanac *et al.* 2012, 281) and presented at the *7th World Congress on Mummy Studies* (Čavka and Ivanac *et al.* 2011, 136). At the *7th International CROSS (CROatian Student Summit)* (Komnenić *et al.* 2011, 30), two mummified heads were presented. Other data, including CT-MR signal comparison, the psychological components of paleopathological entities and other forensic results was presented at the *5th Congress of the Croatian Society of Radiology* (Čavka and Tičinović *et al.* 2010, 96), the *19th European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association* (Čavka, Petaros and Komnenić *et al.* 2012, C2-3), the *3rd Croatian Psychodermatological Congress* (Čavka and Bušić *et al.* 2012, 63), the *European Congress of Radiology* (Čavka and Ivanac *et al.* 2012, C-2562) and featured in the *22nd International Journal of Legal Medicine* (Petaros *et al.* 2012, S172).

The 'fifth mummy' contains a 40-year old female from the Late period. Suspected healed fractures of her ulna and radius have been confirmed and two artefacts were also found within the mummy. These were a 90cm long metal bar that reinforced the mummy's lower parts and a tubular structure in the head (Čavka and Janković *et al.* 2010, 797). After the first usage of a CT-guided biopsy in mummy studies, this was confirmed to be the monocotyledon stick that had been used during excerebration (Čavka, Petaros and Boščić *et al.* 2012, 2151). The mummy once called Kareset ('the lady of the house') has been confirmed to be five centuries older than previously thought and its male sex has been determined. Lytic changes scattered across the skeleton indicate the presence of Hand-Schueller-Christian's disease and this discovery represented the first case of the use

of clinical MR in differential diagnosis in paleopathology (Čavka, Petaros and Ivanac *et al.* 2012, 281).

Other results have been published in Čavka's (2013) PhD thesis entitled *Radiological analysis of mummified remains from the Egyptian Collection of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb*.

In 2010, a new hypothesis concerning Akhenaten was proposed. Its authors proposed the presence of homocystinuria, a disease similar in appearance to Marfan's syndrome, but with autosomal recessive inheritance (Čavka and Kelava *et al.* 2010, 255). The article has been cited several times and has recently served as a point of reference in several scientific letters (Retief and Cilliers 2011, 628; Ashrafiyan 2012, 23; Kelava and Čavka 2012, 58; Čavka and Kelava 2013, 278).

M.Č.

Workshop on the Middle Egyptian language at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

The autumn of 2012 saw the very first course of Middle Egyptian take place in Croatia. Since university syllabi do not offer many Egyptological courses and the Linguistics departments tend to focus on Indo-European languages, Afro-Asiatic languages (specifically Egyptian studies) have often been neglected. In an attempt to put this right, the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb continued its successful series of ancient Egyptian thematic lectures with a workshop focusing on Middle Egyptian and hieroglyphics. Over a period of two months, Egyptologist, Igor Uranić, and comparative linguist, Kristina Šekrst, held six two-hour lectures. The number of participants varied from lecture to lecture, but in the end 20 people (mostly university students) were able to pass the course and receive official certificates.

The course consisted of both theoretical aspects and more practical exercises that had to be completed in order to obtain the official certificate. The first block of lectures focused on hieroglyphic script, its context within Afro-Asiatic languages and certain basic grammatical features. The next thematic block included a thorough analysis of nominal and pronominal parts of speech alongside related exercises and translations. The third part of the series centred on the verbal aspect, enabling students to construct and translate sentences and also to recognise and form different tenses and aspects. The final lecture was dedicated to the peculiarities of Middle Egyptian syntax and participants translated fragments and passages from original Middle Egyptian texts into Croatian and *vice versa*.

Since the group had performed so impressively in meeting the course objectives, the participants requested an advanced course, which was then held in March and April 2013. The students were able to further develop their linguistic skills while studying new grammatical features and peculiarities. The focus was on text analysis and reading, so the advanced participants were able to apply their acquired grammatical knowledge and to improve their familiarity with Middle Egyptian language, texts and culture.

In order to make this course a tradition, the same lectures were held in the autumn of 2013 all over again, in the hope that the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb would play a part in the increasing interest in Egyptology in Croatia. A plan now exists to create a Middle Egyptian textbook in Croatian for future student perusal.

K.Š.

Public lectures with keynote speakers at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and as part of Croatian Studies at the University of Zagreb

Over the last couple of years, the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb has organised special public lectures on various topics from ancient history. In 2012, the following events were held: Amanda-Alice Maravelia's lecture on *Ancient Egyptian Collections in Greece* (Winter 2012), Igor Uranić's lectures on *Jezik i pismo faraonskog Egipta* [*Language and Script of Pharaonic Egypt*] (May 2012) and *Prvi faroni* [*The First Pharaohs*] (September 2012) and finally Danijel Rafaelić's lecture on *Amarna na filmu* [*Amarna on Film*] (November 2012). At the end of February 2013, Beatrix Gessler-Löhr from the University of Heidelberg presented a lecture entitled *Who discovered the tomb of Sethi I?* She also gave a lecture on *The New Kingdom Necropolis of Saqqara Worldwide – Excavating in Museums* for Croatian Studies students at the University of Zagreb (March 1, 2013).

Ancient Egyptian exhibitions in Croatian museums

In mid-April 2005, the new permanent exhibition of the Ancient Egyptian Department of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb was opened. The collection consists of 600 selected items from different periods of Egyptian civilisation from the Middle Kingdom to the first centuries AD. The exhibition is divided into several categories: bronze statues, sculptures, papyri, stelae, coffins, tomb accessories, jewellery and amulets, cosmetics and vessels and shabtis. A separate room is dedicated to the Zagreb Mummy

and the famous *Liber Linteus Zagrebiensis*, the longest known Etruscan text in the world. Both of these items are accompanied by texts and pictorials (Tomorad and Uranić 2006b). Two guides to the exhibition are published in Croatian and English (Uranić 2005a; Uranić 2005b). The layout of the Egyptian exhibition was designed by the architect, Mario Beusan, whilst the man who thought up the concept was Igor Uranić, an Egyptologist and the curator of the Egyptian Collection (Tomorad and Uranić 2006b).

In July 2012, the *Egyptian Collection from the Archaeological Museum of Dubrovnik* exhibition opened in the Museum Naronia in Vid near Metković. The exhibition remained open until the end of the summer of 2012. Selected artefacts from the Egyptian Collection (which contains 197 items in total) were displayed here. They were mostly small votive statuettes of gods, shabtis, scarabs, amulets and other funerary equipment (Tomorad, forthcoming).

In mid-December 2012, the new *Mumije, znanost i mit* [*Mummies – Science and Myth*] exhibition opened in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. Whilst the exhibition was running, all human and animal remains kept in the museum were placed on display. An explanation of the mummifying procedure, modern medical analysis, MR, radiological and bacteriological research and of other matters was also provided. The exhibition remained open until the end of February 2013 (Uranić 2012).

M.T.

University curriculum

At present, there are seven institutions in Croatia that include the history of ancient Egypt in the courses they have on offer. The majority only provide the students with a rudimentary knowledge of ancient Egyptian history and culture in subjects taken during the first year of study in a History degree. History of Art students at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb can study basic facts regarding ancient Egyptian art in a subject dealing with the *Art of Ancient Civilisations*. The Archaeology and Linguistics courses at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zadar do not include any subject related to ancient Egyptian history. Therefore, History students in Croatia seem to be able to gain the most knowledge of ancient Egypt, but curriculums differ greatly from institution to institution.

Since the 2005/2006 academic year, students at the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb have been able to learn the basics of ancient Egyptian history in the *History of Early Civilisations* course (B. Olujić and J. Osterman). In this course, the development of several of the earliest centres of civilization (including Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria, Iran, Anatolia, and the Eastern Mediterranean) is examined comparatively, diachronically and synchronically. At the same faculty, full professor Petar Selem gave a series of lectures entitled *Egyptian Religion* until his retirement in 2006. However, since this time nobody has taught a subject specifically related to ancient Egypt. At graduate level, students can enrol in *History of the Ancient East I* (B. Olujić and J. Osterman) and *Historical Anthropology of the Ancient World* courses (B. Olujić and J. Osterman).

History students at the Department of History of the University of Pula can also acquire some knowledge of ancient Egypt in two courses. These are the mandatory *Introduction to the Ancient World* course (R. Matijašić) and the elective *History of Ancient Egypt* course (K. Buršić-Matijašić).

At the Department of History of the Faculty of Philosophy in Osijek, students may enrol in a course entitled *History of Ancient Egypt* (Z. Đukić).

At the Faculty of Philosophy in Rijeka, students can enrol in the *Cultural History of the Ancient East* course, which contains three lectures on ancient Egypt (V. Munić).

At the Faculty of Philosophy in Split, students can acquire a basic knowledge of ancient Egypt in a course entitled *History of Ancient Civilisations* (I. Vilogorac), which is analogous to the course at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb.

At the Department of History of the University of Zadar, students can only enrol in the general *History of the Ancient World* course, in which they can attend four lectures on the history of ancient Egypt.

At the Department of History of the Centre for Croatian Studies of the University of Zagreb, History students could learn about ancient Egypt from 2005 to 2012 in the *History of the Ancient World* course (E. K. Glazer and M. Tomorad), but this course was split into three separate courses in the 2012/2013 academic year: *Prehistory and Early Civilisations* (E. K. Glazer), *History and Culture of Ancient Egypt* (M. Tomorad) and *History and Culture of the Greek and Roman World* (M. Tomorad and V. Vukelić). At both undergraduate and graduate level, there are several elective courses related to ancient Egypt: *Introduction to Egyptological Studies I* (M. Tomorad), *History of the Old Testament People* (E. K. Glazer),

Myths and Religious Customs of the Ancient World (E. K. Glazer), *Burial Customs and Architecture of Ancient Egypt* (M. Tomorad), *Sources of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome* (M. Tomorad), *Historiography of the Ancient East, Egypt, Greece and Rome* (M. Tomorad), *History and Museum Studies* (M. Tomorad), *Material Sources of Ancient History* (M. Tomorad), *Language and Scripts of the Ancient World* (E. K. Glazer), *Introduction to Egyptological Studies II* (M. Tomorad), *Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome in Motion Pictures: Real Facts vs. Myths and Fiction* (M. Tomorad). At postgraduate level, PhD students can also specialise in ancient Egyptian history with various courses relating to research methodology and work with material sources in the museum collections (M. Tomorad and J. Balen).

M.T.

Publications

The period between 2002 and the end of 2012 was very productive as a great number of publications dedicated to the history and culture of ancient Egypt were issued and several new books were published. The first of this series was a book by Igor Uranić entitled *Stari Egipat: povijest, književnost i umjetnost drevnih Egipćana* [*Ancient Egypt: History, Literature and Art of the Ancient Egyptians*] (2002; 2005c, 2nd revised ed.), which was also the first scientific book on the subject written by a Croatian scholar since 1967. A year later, Mladen Tomorad published *Egipat u Hrvatskoj: staroegipatske starine u hrvatskoj znanosti i kulturi* [*Egypt in Croatia: Ancient Egyptian Antiquities in Croatian Science and Culture*] (2003a), the first book about the genesis of the ancient Egyptian collections of Croatia and the development of Egyptological research in the country since the middle of the 19th century. In April 2005, I. Uranić published *Egipatska zbirka, vodič* and *Egyptian Collection Guide*, a guide to the Department of Egyptology at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. Several months later, he also published *Ozirisova zemlja i njeni odjeci na zapadu* [*The Land of Osiris: Egyptian Mythology and its Echos in the West*] (2005d), which was the first scientific book concerning ancient Egyptian religion and mythology written by a Croatian scholar. In 2005, Vesna Jurkić-Girardi published her book on the ancient cults of Roman Istria entitled *Duhovna kultura antičke Istre. Knjiga 1: Kultovi u procesu romanizacije antičke Istre* [*Spiritual Culture of Ancient Istria. Book 1: Cults in the Process of the Romanisation of Ancient Istria*]. In 2006, Petar

Selem published *Helena u Egiptu* [*Helen in Egypt*], his new study of ancient Egyptian cults in the Graeco-Roman period. In 2008, P. Selem republished his older works, some of which dated back to the 1960s, in a book entitled *Lica bogova* [*Faces of the Gods*]. After a lengthy re-examination and analysis of artefacts from the Egyptian Department of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, I. Uranić (2009) published them all in a new catalogue in a book entitled *Aegyptiaca Zagrabensis. Musei Archeologici Zagrebiansis Catalogi et Monographiae 4* [*Aegyptiaca Zagrabensis. Catalogues and Monographs of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb 4*].

A great number of scientific articles have also been published in various domestic and international journals. These articles were written by A. Bugarski-Mesdijan (1), I. Čukman Nikolić (1), M. Diklić (3), Z. Dukat and I. Mirnik (1), K. Džin (2), K. Giunio (2), E. K. Glazer (1), G. Gradiček (1), V. Jurkić Girardi (4), R. Koščević (1), R. Menalo (1), H. Malinar (1), D. Pernjak (2), L. Ratković-Bukovčan (2), P. Selem (5), P. Šćukanec Rezniček (2), K. Šekrst (1), D. Štruklec (2), M. Štefanić (1), M. Tomorad (44) and I. Uranić (16). These articles covered a wide range of topics dealing with ancient Egypt: art, architecture, collections, culture, funeral customs and beliefs, mummification, history, linguistics, religion, cults and mythology, everyday life, hunting and fishing and games and sports.

Over the last couple of years, 16 scientific articles have been written on the process of mummification and the analysis of human and animal mummified remains from the Egyptian department at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. These articles were written by a team of medical doctors from the Dubrava University Hospital led by M. Čavka. In 2013 and 2014, five new books were intended to be printed (Šekrst and Uranić 2014; Uranić 2014; while other are in the process of preparation). At the time this article was written, over 40 new scientific articles written by M. Čavka, I. Čukman Nikolić, M. Diklić, K. Džin, K. Giunio, E. K. Glazer, V. Jurkić Girardi, D. Pernjak, L. Ratković-Bukovčan, P. Selem, P. Šćukanec Rezniček, K. Šekrst, D. Štruklec, M. Štefanić, M. Tomorad and I. Uranić were in various stages of preparation for print and they were expected to be published in the following 12 to 18 months.

M.T.

International conferences

The Department of History of the Centre for Croatian Studies of the University of Zagreb and the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb organised the international *Research of the History and Culture of the Ancient Near East and Egypt in Southeast Europe* conference from June 18-20 in 2012. 29 researchers, university professors and custodians from Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia and the United States of America participated in the conference and the open table held on June 20. The main topics of the conference were as follows: 1. the history of research of the ancient East and Egypt in Southeast Europe; 2. the history of the ancient East and Egypt in educational curriculums (primary schools, high schools and universities); 3. current research (archaeology, history, linguistics, oriental cults and religion); 4. publishing and translations; 5. museum and private collections and museology; 6. current projects and the usage of information technology (Tomorad 2012b).

M.T.

International Summer School of Ancient History and Egyptology

At present, university professors, curators and other scholars in Croatia are planning to organise an international summer school focused on ancient history and Egyptology (Zagreb, Croatian Studies and the Archaeological Museum) with several universities from various countries of the European Union and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Belgrade (Serbia). The plan is to initiate it in either the summer of 2014 or 2015 if all the paperwork can be completed and appropriate financial support can be found. It is now planned that the areas to be covered will be archaeology and the culture and history of ancient Egypt and the rest of the ancient world. This will be supported by lectures given by scholars from all over Europe, Egypt and the Near East.

M.T.

Conclusion

Over the last decade, Egyptology in Croatia has finally become an international matter and our scholars have started to participate in international conferences and projects. At the same time, the number of new articles and books has dramatically increased, our scholars have

started to publish their work in various international publications and more and more papers have been published in domestic historical journals. At the universities, topics and courses related to ancient Egypt have started to become more common and relevant. In the last couple of years, a number of new exhibitions have also been organised in various museums. All these recent and planned activities show that Croatian scholars have a strong desire to become an important part of the great Egyptological community. We all hope that this will be a successful undertaking.

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