Session notes 2021

‘In conversation’
Revealing the Characters behind the Petrie Museum Collection
20 August

‘In conversations’ focus on a particular theme or current issue in the culture and heritage sector. They work alongside our e-learning modules and will add an extra dimension to your ‘core skills’ sessions. They are informal discussions with colleagues across the sector and while we can’t deliver ‘live’ sessions the ITP team aim to ask the questions you would be asking if you were in the room with us!

In this ‘in conversation’ Anna Cottle talks to Anna Garnett, Curator at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology about their project ‘Revealing the Characters behind the Petrie Museum Collection’.

Introduction

This ‘in conversation will focus on the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and their project ‘Revealing the Characters behind the Petrie Museum Collection’.

Anna Garnett is the Curator at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology having previously worked for Manchester Museum and the British Museum. She has extensive experience of international fieldwork projects as a Ceramicist, Small Finds Registrar and Archaeological Illustrator. Her further research interests include the material culture of ancient and modern Sudan, New Kingdom sculpture, the history of British Egyptology, and the reconciliation of ancient Egyptian and Sudanese object collections.

Anna has long-time links to the International Training Programme having been an ITP departmental representative at the British Museum, hosting ITP fellows at the Petrie Museum and joining us in Aswan for the ITP+ course in Museum interpretation.

The ‘Revealing the Characters behind the Petrie Museum Collection’ is a project that demonstrates a new way to talk about the history of a museum highlighting those involved in

the discovery and development of the collection. The project aims to look at the origins of collections and the often 'hidden histories' that can be shared around identity and inclusion.

Anna will also look at why and how these creative stories around museum collections are so important – particularly for museums and galleries with local audiences and more limited resources – to be able to interpret and re-interpret their collection.

Course resources

The links below will provide you with more information on the theme of the session. Additional resources are provided with this session which aim to give you reading material that you may find useful – both now and in the future.

The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/petrie-museum

Welcome to, and tour of, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmR-JZVheI8oX2eMfWDFCggZzApMXlrd6

Revealing the Characters behind the Petrie Museum Collection
https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/museums/2020/09/28/revealing-the-characters-behind-the-petrie-museum-collection/

Museum Next, What makes a great museum label?

https://www.museumnext.com/article/what-makes-a-great-museum-label/

Museums and Heritage, Museums need to write conversational text to be more inclusive
https://advisor.museumsandheritage.com/blogs/museums-need-write-conversational-text-inclusive/

Museum Development Yorkshire, A practical guide for text interpretation
https://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Practical-guide-for-text-interpretation-2017.pdf

The British Museum, A question of interpretation
https://blog.britishmuseum.org/a-question-of-interpretation/

The British Museum, From the British Museum and Citi: 'Gateway' objects - storytelling in the Money Gallery
https://blog.citigroup.com/2011/12/from-the-british-museum-and-citi-gateway-objects---storytelling-in-the-money-gallery/

ITP+ Course on museum interpretation, handy guide and report
https://bmitpglobalnetwork.org/2019/01/08/itp-course-museum-interpretation-report-and-handy-guide/