

# CARTOUCHE

The official publication of the Northern California Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt  
January 2023

## Dr. Stefania Mainieri, UCLA Ancient Egyptian Yellow Coffins from Thebes: A Holistic Approach to Studying Complex Objects



**Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, 3 p.m. Virtual talk via Zoom  
About the Lecture**

Yellow coffins are a specific class of artifact that appeared in Thebes at the end of the New Kingdom and were used for more than a millennium, peaking during the 21st Dynasty (ca. 1069-945 BCE). Called yellow for the color of the background, they are

anthropoid in shape, with rich textual and iconographical apparatus and with a detailed rendering of the human face and hands. Even though this complex class of materials has been (and is still) intensively studied, a specific and peculiar element of them has never been considered before: the geometry and the volume of the objects that render the human forms. A new project is focusing on these aspects through the help of new technologies — photogrammetry and 3D models — which allow us to digitally switch off the paint and observe in a better way the geometrical elements.

The ways of rendering the anthropoid forms (i.e., mouth, ears, forearms, or hands) could indicate, in fact, specific productions, also corroborating a posited common origin of the material as well as hinting at the possibility of identifying craftspeople operating in workshops. The approach used in the project combines digital technologies and traditional approaches of analyses with the aim to study in a holistic way this complex class of materials.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcevgjwiE93FNbx5XqhR3deJL5BkDePC](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcevgjwiE93FNbx5XqhR3deJL5BkDePC)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Save the email, as you will need the link it contains to join the meeting.

## About Stefania Mainieri



**Dr. Stefania Mainieri** completed her PhD research at the University of Naples “L’Orientale” (UniOr) on the Egyptian Collection of the Archaeological Museum of Naples (MANN). She was also one of the curators of the new permanent exhibition of the Egyptian Collection at the MANN, which opened in 2016.

Specializing in museography, Egyptian funerary archaeology and New Technologies, she is presently a Researcher at the Museo Egizio di Torino and Visiting Associate Researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles for a research project on yellow coffins named “Faces Revealed.”

## From the President

Happy 2023!

Many of you have seen the “Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs” exhibition at the deYoung in San Francisco. Some of us are going as a group Jan. 14, and are looking forward to Q&A with Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Ancient Art Curator **Dr. Renee Dreyfus** after our visit.

The FAMSF’s Ancient Arts Council is sponsoring several Ramses-related talks in conjunction with the final weeks of the exhibition, which closes Feb. 12. They’ll all be held at 2 pm in the deYoung’s Koret Auditorium. The museum is in Golden Gate Park at 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive.

Saturday, Jan. 21

**Dr. Rita Freed**, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
*Ramses the Great Through Nubian Eyes*

The Battle of Kadesh looms large in our perception of Ramses the Great—and, to judge from his many representations of it, in his perception of himself. But how did he represent himself in Nubia? And what was life like in Nubia under Ramses’ rule? These and other questions will be addressed in this lecture.

Saturday, Jan. 28

**Dr. David Silverman**, University of Pennsylvania  
*Ramses the Great: How “Great” Was He?*

Saturday, Feb. 4

**Dr. Rita Lucarelli**, University of California, Berkeley  
*Ancient Egyptian Imagery of the Beyond in the Ramesside Period*



**From National: Tutankhamun Centennial Lecture**  
**Sunday, Feb. 5, 2 pm**  
**Koret Auditorium, DeYoung Museum, San Francisco**

**Dr. Aidan Dodson**  
***Tutankhamun: From Zero to Hero***



Free: advance registration required

This lecture will trace how Tutankhamun came to be written out of history soon after his death, and then how the earliest Egyptologists began to piece together evidence for his existence, and some of their theories as to his identity and place in events. We then trace the events that led up to the discovery of his tomb in 1922, catapulting the king from obscurity to universal fame.

ARCE National has in the past year been sending Egyptologists to cities near ARCE chapters to speak on Tutankhamun and ancient Egypt. The idea is to leverage the centennial of KV62's discovery to raise awareness of ARCE and to boost membership in local chapters including ours.



The Bay Area speaker is a favorite of our chapter and a personal friend of many of you – prolific author and frequent NorCal guest **Dr. Aidan Dodson**.

Dr. Dodson is an honorary full Professor of Egyptology at the University of Bristol, UK, where he has taught since 1996. A graduate of Liverpool (BA) and Cambridge (MPhil, PhD), he was Simpson Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo for the spring of 2013, and Chair of Trustees of the Egypt Exploration Society, the UK equivalent of ARCE, from 2011 to 2016. He has been a member of ARCE for some 30 years and is currently part of the Missouri chapter. Professor Dodson is the author of more than 25 books and 400 articles and reviews, the most recent book being [\*Tutankhamun, King of Egypt: His Life and Afterlife\*](#), published last month by AUC Press.

Advance registration is required: [register here at arce.org](https://www.arce.org).

Note that Golden Gate Park is crowded on weekends and that a main access road to the deYoung, JFK Drive, is closed to vehicular traffic. Plan accordingly and consider taking public transit if possible. The N streetcar line runs from BART and stops a few blocks from the museum. It's also possible to take a rideshare to the front of the museum at 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

All talks below are Sunday, 3 p.m. Pacific time and are live at UC Berkeley's Social Sciences Building unless noted.

Jan. 15, 2023 **Zoom lecture**

Dr. Stefania Mainieri, UCLA

Ancient Egyptian Yellow Coffins from Thebes: A Holistic Approach to Studying Complex Objects

Feb. 5, 2023

Dr. Aidan Dodson

Tutankhamun Centennial Lecture, DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, 2 p.m.

Feb. 12, 2023

Dr. Peter Brand, University of Memphis

Ramses II and the Hittite Empire: War & Peace in the Late Bronze Age

March 12, 2023

Dr. Branko van Oppen, Tampa Museum of Art

Roman Egyptian Mummy Portraits and the Artistic Circle of the St. Louis Painter

April 2023: Chapter lecture TBD

April 21-23

ARCE National Annual Meeting, Minneapolis Marriott City Center

May 7, 2023

Dr. Geoff Emberling, Kelsey Museum, University of Michigan

New Perspectives on the African Empire of Kush: Excavations at Gebel Barkal

May 20-22

ARCE Virtual Annual Meeting