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4th February 2009

**Private Visit to the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College London,
Malet Place, London WC1E 6BT**

The Chairman and members of the Executive Committee of the British Egyptian Society invite you to a rather special evening at the Petrie Museum, arranged by our Executive Committee Member, Mrs. Cathie Bryan for Thursday 5th March 2009.

The Petrie Museum is a university museum. It was set up as a teaching resource for the Department of Egyptian Archaeology and Philology at University College London (UCL). Both the department and the museum were created in 1892 through the bequest of the [writer Amelia Edwards \(1831-1892\)](#).

Amelia Edwards donated her collection of several hundred Egyptian antiquities, many of historical importance. However, the collection grew to international stature in scope and scale thanks mainly to the extraordinary excavating career of the first [Edwards Professor, William Flinders Petrie \(1853-1942\)](#).

Petrie excavated literally dozens of major sites in the course of his career, including the Roman Period cemeteries at Hawara, famous for the beautiful mummy portraits in classical Roman style; Amarna, the city of king Akhenaten, sometimes called the first king to believe in one God; and the first true pyramid, at Meydum, where he uncovered some of the earliest evidence for mummification. In 1913, Petrie sold his large collection of Egyptian antiquities to UCL, thus creating one of the largest collections of Egyptian antiquities outside of Egypt. The collection and library were arranged in galleries within the university and a guidebook published in 1915. Most of the visitors were students and academics; it was not then open to the general public.

Petrie retired from UCL in 1933, though his successors continued to add to the collections, excavating in other parts of Egypt and the Sudan.

The collection is, of course unique, and a private visit is a privilege. A selection of drinks will be provided: red and white wine, juice, water... possibly lemonade. We have been offered an orientation lecture by Dr. Stephen Quirke, the museum's curator. Guests would be free to view the museum afterwards. As the collection is extensive, but in a confined area, the Petrie will organise simultaneous mini orientation-tours in groups of 6 or 8 so that the visitors can get a full flavour of the museum. Clearly this option is for those who really want to see the collection and perhaps learn something. Otherwise people can just browse and sip whatever they want to drink

We are expecting a lot of interest and so I should be grateful if you could complete and return the following slip to me as soon as possible. (My fax number is 020 8649 9798).

Yours sincerely, Noel Rands, Honorary Secretary

Please detach and send to 5, Brownlow Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5JT e.mail noelrands@compuserve.com

I /we would like to visit the Petrie Museum on 5th March 2009 from 5:30 to 7.30 p.m.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Tel/Fax/Email: _____