



Are proud to present an illustrated Lecture on

“Doodles, Debris or Dedications: Figured Ostraca from Deir el Medina”

- Date:** Saturday, June 8th at 1.30 pm
The lecture lasts approximately 2 hours including a break.
- Speaker:** Dr. Joanne Backhouse
- Location:** Lecture Theatre, Chesterfield Central Library New Beetwell, Street,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1QN
- Admission:** Free to Members, Day-Visitor £5 on the door.
- Requirements:** No previous knowledge required, our group is aimed at everyone with a love of ancient Egypt.
- Topic:** Doodles, Debris or Dedications: Figured Ostraca from Deir el Medina

Ostraca are sherds of either broken pottery or limestone. The workers of Deir el-Medina, the village which housed the royal craftsmen in the New Kingdom, used these for notes, often inscribing them with hieratic text, detailing work, organisation and personal letters.

Over 5000 ostraca have been recovered from the site. Most contain hieratic text, while a smaller number have an image drawn upon them; these are referred to as figured ostraca. They are generally the size of the palm of a hand and are drawn in outline, with limited colour fill. With the exception of votives, few contain text. This talk will examine a particular genre of images, those depicting women in domestic or outdoor settings, often with a child. These scenes are important as the women are the main protagonists; they are the focus of the narrative. This is rare in Egyptian art, which often shows women as the wives and daughters of the male patron. The nature of the images and function of the ostraca will be considered, examining who drew them and for what purposes. The relationship between the ostraca and material culture (objects) will also be examined.

Please see our website www.egyptology-ssae.org for further details.

Email us at egyptologyssae@gmail.com

Or give us a call on 01246 276771 or 0115 9235912