



There's a Hippopotamus in My Cemetery!

Dr. Renée Friedman, Director, Hierakonpolis Expedition; Heagy Research Curator, Dept. of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, British Museum, London

Sunday, May 20, 2012 ♦ 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. ♦ Bowers Museum, Santa Ana ♦ FREE

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Special Exhibitions: Sacred Gold: Prehispanic Art of Colombia, Museo de Oro; the Atocha Cross Luncheon reservations for Tangata, a Patina Restaurant: 714.550.0906

Hierakonpolis is one of the most important archaeological sites for understanding the foundations of ancient Egyptian society. Best known as the home of the exquisite ceremonial Palette of Narmer, so-called the first political document in history and attributed to the first king of the first dynasty at about 3000BC, it contains far more. Well before the construction of the pyramids, Hierakonpolis was one of the largest urban centers along the Nile—a vibrant, bustling city containing many of the features that would later come to typify Dynastic Egyptian civilization. Stretching for over three miles along the edge of the Nile flood plain, already by 3500 BC it was a city of many neighborhoods and quarters. Over a century of archaeological research, continuing with the present Hierakonpolis Expedition, has confirmed this vast site's central role in the transition from prehistory to history of the rise of early Egyptian civilization.

There are intriguing aspects to the excavations at Hierakonpolis, including finding burials of many exotic animals, such as giraffes, elephants, and the latest, a hippo. Egyptologists continue digging in the elite cemetery, trying to understand the purpose of interments.

Hierakonpolis always delights, and Dr. Friedman has a fun way of presenting her material. The 2010 ARCE-OC tour visited her site in 2010 and loved every minute of it. She will just have returned from her latest field season, and we are thrilled to host her for this engaging talk and learn about her newest discoveries. For more information, be sure to visit her website at <http://www.hierakonpolis-online.org/Default.htm>

Dr. Renée Friedman

Renée Friedman is an American Egyptologist who earned her Ph.D at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1996, she has been the director of the Hierakonpolis Expedition and the Heagy Research Curator for the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum, London.

Dr. Friedman's most recent TV appearances have been "The Birth of Civilisation" (2009) and "The Scorpion King" segment in "Egypt Unwrapped" (2008). She co-authored "Egypt Uncovered" with her husband, the eminent Egyptologist Vivian Davies. The book incorporates thought-provoking new ideas on Predynastic sites.

