

International Association of Egyptology (IAE)  
- Candidature for Position of President

**Name:** Dr Christopher Naunton

**Statement of Affiliations:**

Current post: Director (CEO), The Egypt Exploration Society (London and Cairo)

Member of the following societies: American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE), British Egyptian Society (Supervisory Board Member), Friends of the Petrie Museum.

**Professional Qualifications:**

BA Ancient History & Archaeology (University of Birmingham 1999)

MPhil Egyptology (University of Birmingham 2001)

PhD Egyptology (University of Swansea, 2012)

**Introductory Note:**

I believe that the Association's most important role should be to provide a forum for discussion of the views and concerns of its members, and to give the international community of Egyptologists a united voice on the key issues, such as:

- The various threats to archaeological sites and museums in Egypt
- The challenges associated with publishing Egyptological research, particularly in the digital age
- The increasing importance of archives documenting sites and monuments and past archaeological work in Egypt

Such a united voice would:

- be influential in helping to guide the policies and practices of the individuals and institutions in our field. It would also;
- provide a focus for us all to coordinate our efforts and to pool resources more effectively;
- provide our colleagues at the Ministry of Antiquities with a single point of communication with the international community.

Success in this will give us the best possible chance of tackling these key issues in the coming years.

In offering myself as a candidate for the Presidency of the Association I want, above all, to take the opportunity to share my view that the Association has great potential, and to suggest a few activities that might help it to improve (see next page). I will support whichever of our colleagues is made President (and Vice-President), whether any of my suggestions are adopted or not. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share some thoughts and wish the successful candidates the best of luck in what, no doubt, will be a challenging four years!

#### Four year plan for the activity and development of the Association:

1. The Council, under the leadership of the President, should be asked to **identify 3-6 of the most pressing issues** for international Egyptology by February 2016; These should be circulated to the membership for comment, additions etc. and a final list agreed by August 2016;
2. The Council should then convene a series of **working parties** of colleagues with particular expertise in those areas, to formulate a statement on the current position in each area by February 2017;
3. The Council should then organize a series of **smaller meetings of the Association (workshops)**, focusing on these issues, to be organized by the working parties, to take place between February 2017 and August 2019;
4. The conclusions and outcomes of these workshops should be **brought the International Congress** for further discussion among the wider membership of the Association.
5. The Council should prepare an **annual report** to be published in August each year to include the following:
  - A statement of activities, including any which have received IAE funding
  - A statement of finances
  - A statement of membership numbers and a list of members
  - A report on any of the workshops that have taken place during the year, and any outcomes
  - Information on future workshops, calls for papers, and future items for discussion
  - Information on the organization of the following Congress

The report would provide IAE members with a much clearer idea of what the Association is doing and aims to do, than at present. It would help focus the thoughts of its members, and provide greater encouragement for them to engage in discussions.

6. In order to facilitate further discussions, in addition to the Workshops, which will allow members to meet in person to discuss the issues that are most relevant to them, the Council should **establish a forum online to enable members to contribute comments, topics for discussion etc.**

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I do not pretend to have covered all possibilities here. However, I believe that if the Association can be much more **transparent** in showing what it does, **inclusive** in involving its members in discussions, and **decisive** in agreeing priorities and actions accordingly, it will be well-placed to make a genuine contribution to Egyptology worldwide. It will need effective leadership in order to bring this about, and I am confident that the membership will elect a suitable candidate to take up the task.

Dr Christopher Naunton  
London, 28 May 2015