

HOW THONIS-HERACLEION RESURFACED AFTER 1,000 YEARS UNDER WATER

Ancient Egypt's gateway to the Mediterranean—submerged and buried under layers of sand—is an eerie reminder of how vulnerable cities are to nature's forces

by Jack Shenker

He stood for centuries at the very edge of ancient Egypt, gazing down imperiously upon the trading ships as they blew in from the Mediterranean. His name was Hapy: god of fertility, lord of the river, life-giving steward of its floods. And, on his plinth at the western mouth of the Nile, a massive red granite gatekeeper to one of the greatest port cities on earth.

Until one day, probably towards the end of the second century BC, there was a tremor and the ground began to churn and liquefy at Hapy's feet. He wobbled, lurched, and then six tonnes of intricately carved stonework crashed into the sea.

In time, the rest of the settlement that Hapy guarded followed suit. A place written into the legends of antiquity – the site of the divine hero Heracles' first footsteps in Africa, and where Sparta's Helen famously sought refuge with her abductor, Paris of Troy – disappeared completely under water and was buried, seemingly forever, by layer upon layer of sand and silt.

In the early 2000s, however, a group of divers working off the Egyptian coast found a large fragment of rock under the seabed, and brought it up to land. It was a piece of Hapy, salt-encrusted but intact. They continued searching, and eventually unearthed six more. Around these pieces lay other treasures: the ruins of temples, shards of pottery, precious jewellery, coins, oil lamps, processional barges and busts.

"As an archaeologist, discovering a tomb is exciting, but it's the tomb of one individual," says Aurélia Masson-Berghoff, curator of the Sunken Cities exhibition at the British Museum. "Discovering a whole city, which was home to thousands and thousands of people over more than a thousand years ... Well, that's something else."

The home in question was Thonis-Heracleion. And now, more than a millennium after it was first submerged, Hapy's city is returning to the surface once again.



A recreation of what the city may have looked like.
Photograph: Yann Bernard © Franck Goddio / Hilti Foundation.



SUNKEN CITIES, EGYPT'S LOST WORLDS

British Museum from 19 May to 27 November 2016

Maev Kennedy

Fri 25 Mar 2016 20.01 EDT

Part of the ceiling of the British Museum's new exhibition space has had to be dismantled to allow the safe installation of three colossal Egyptian granite statues, which were recovered in 2001 from the water where they lay for more than 2,000 years since a wealthy harbour city was destroyed by earthquake and rising sea levels.

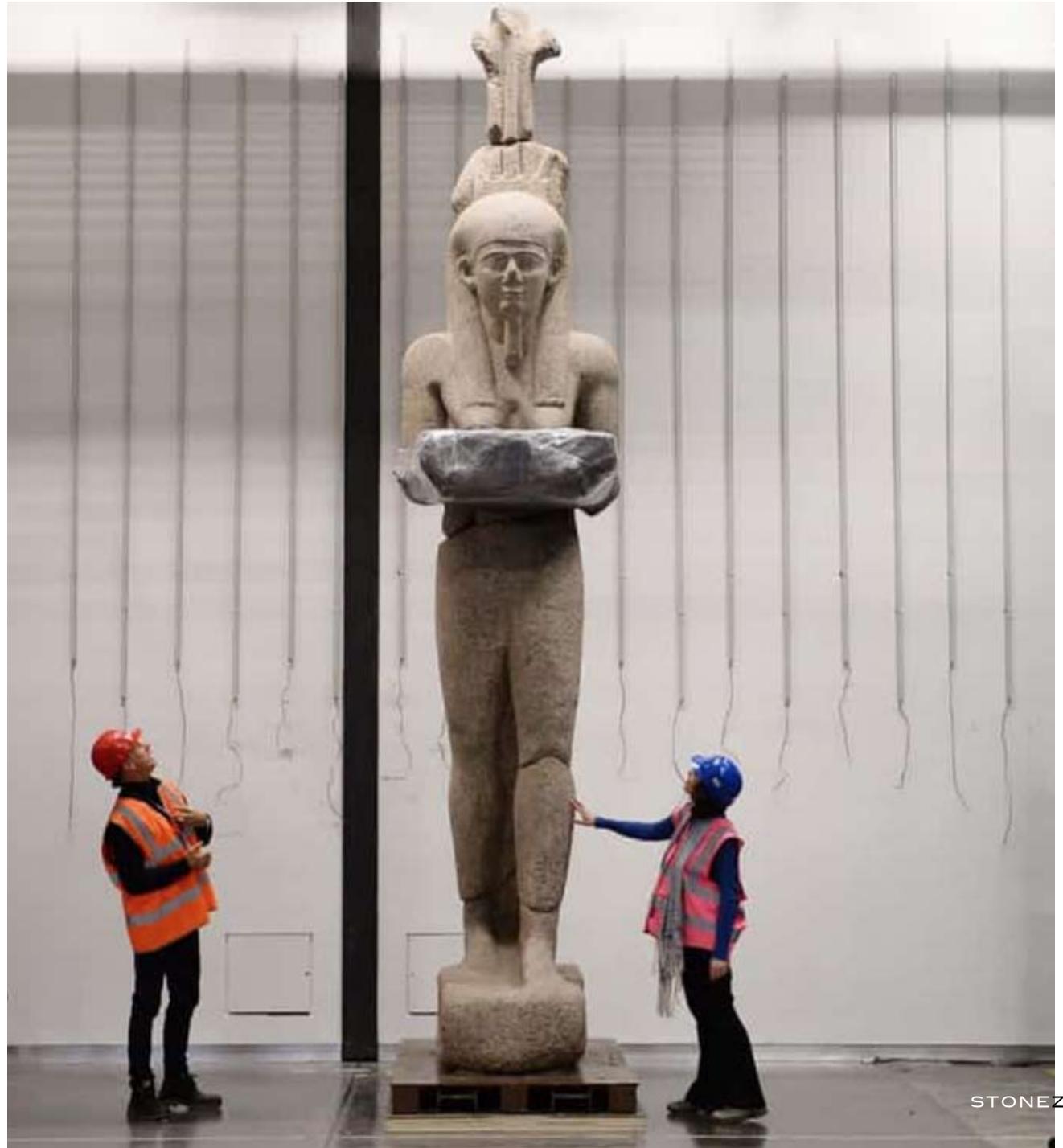
The pink granite statue of Hapy, a personification of the Nile flood that was crucial for the country's fertility and wealth, weighs more than six tonnes and stands 5.4 metres, the tallest object ever to come to the museum on loan, and the tallest ever discovered of an Egyptian god.

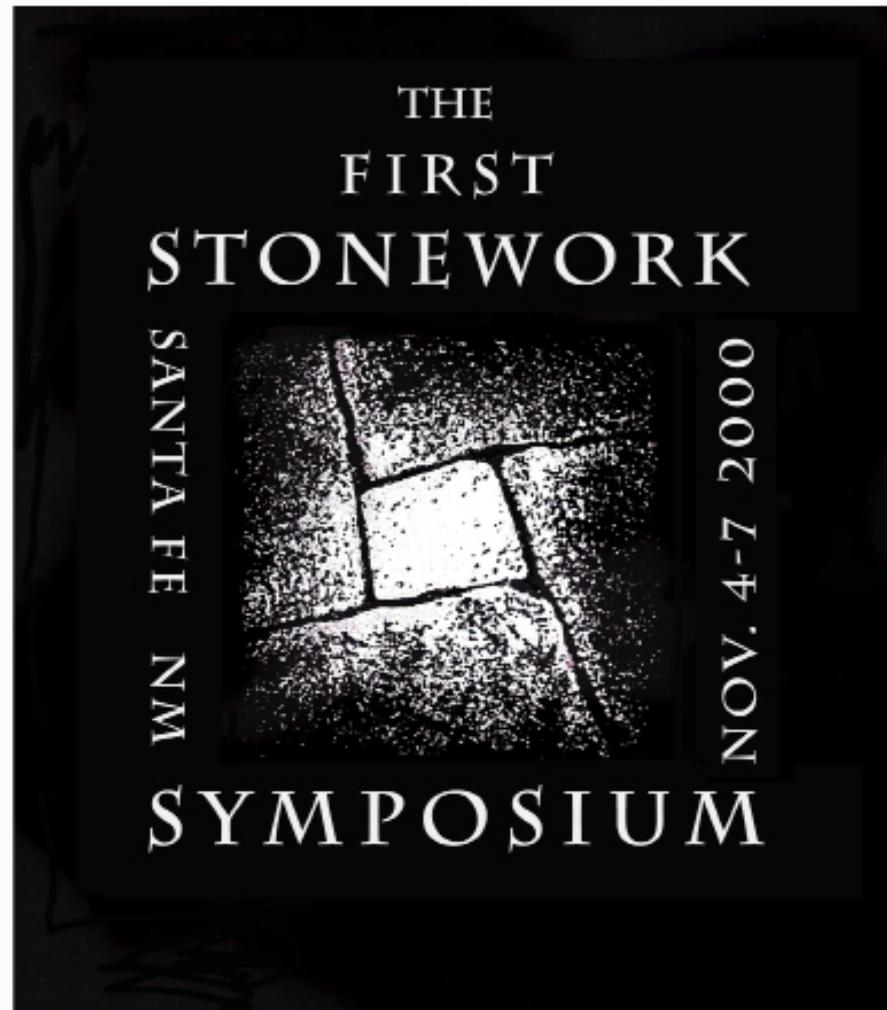
The space was measured and remeasured before Hapy arrived by truck and rail from Paris, along with his giant companions, Ptolemy II and his sister and queen Arsinoe – together weighing almost 20 tonnes. Hapy, with his crown of papyrus reeds, fitted with just 40cm to spare.

"It has been an anxious day – but they look magnificent," said Aurelia Masson-Berghoff, the curator of the exhibition *Sunken Cities, Egypt's Lost Worlds*, which opens at the museum in May.

The statue of Hapy will greet visitors to the exhibition as it once greeted sailors and merchants arriving at the port of Thonis-Heracleion. It stood facing the sea, outside the magnificent temple of Amun-Gereb, which was built on the central island of the city at the mouth of the Nile Delta. Its ruins now lie 10 metres beneath the waves more than 2km from the coast.

Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/PA





This was the artwork for the FIRST STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM in 2000 which was the first-ever 'festival' anywhere honoring stonemasonry.

It was also the occasion for the establishment of the STONE FOUNDATION, the event during which a small group of friends and fellow stonemasons who had been conducting stonemasonry workshops since 1984 became an international membership organization.

This design, made well before the event occurred, expresses confidence that there would be other Stonework Symposiums to follow—and, as it turned out, there have been. . .16 of them.

The 17th annual gathering will be taking place NEXT MONTH in Ventura, California. It is being organized by STONEXUS Magazine and Art City Studios on behalf of the Stone Foundation. Check this out please and pass it along.

<https://stoneworksymposium2018.net/index.php>

INTERNATIONAL STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2018 VENTURA CALIFORNIA OCTOBER 24-28

A SUMMARY OF THE SCHEDULE:

- Stone Carving and Walling Workshops.
- The Rocknockers' Rendezvous and Symposium Registration.
- Camaraderie, Conversation and Rocknockers Ale, a Special Brew.
- Three Mornings of Demonstrations and Hands-On Activities, (including a Stone Foundation General Membership Meeting.)
- Three Communal Lunches, followed by. . .
- Three Afternoons of Interesting Long-Form Presentations.
- Dispersal to Ventura's Old Town for Dinner, followed by. . .
- Three evenings of Interesting Short-Form Presentations.
- The Lithic Olympics, a Day of Stone-Related Games, followed by. . .
- A Splendid Saturday Night Dinner.
- A Sunday Morning Communal Public Art Project.



INTERNATIONAL STONEMASONRY SYMPOSIUM 2018

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 24-28

The RETURN of the
ROCKNOCKERS

& the LITHIC
OLYMPICS

THE 17TH ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE STONE TRIBE. . . .CALLING ALL STONEMASONS & STONE ARTISTS, STONE ARTISANS, STONE CARVERS & STONE CUTTERS, STONE SCULPTORS, STONE QUARRIERS, STONEMASONRY CONTRACTORS, STONE SUPPLIERS, ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, STONE BALANCERS, GEOLOGISTS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS, SCHOLARS & AFICIONADOS

**ARCHITECTURAL
STONE CARVING
WORKSHOP**

OCTOBER 17-23

<https://stonemasonrysymposium2018.net/>

**DRY STONE WALLING
INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP**

THE SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 17-23

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS should plan on traveling to Ventura on (or before) October 16th. Registration will take place at the Anacapa Brew Pub on Main Street between 8:00 and 10:00 PM. The Workshop will commence at Art City Studios at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the 17th.

OCTOBER 23

ROCKNOCKERS' RENDEZVOUS and STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS should plan on traveling to Ventura on (or before) October 23rd.

As always, the evening before the Symposium commences there will be a convivial get-together—the **ROCKNOCKERS RENDEZVOUS**. This will occur concurrently with **SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION** at the **CLOCKTOWER INN**, the Symposium host hotel.

ROCKNOCKERS' ALE, a special beer prepared for us by Anacapa, the local brewery, will be served.

REGISTRATION

will continue at the same place on Wednesday morning, October 24th.

OCTOBER 24-28

Wednesday through Friday, MORNINGS:

individually or in groups, Symposium attendees can spend the mornings as they please. . .

- viewing a demonstration of skilled STONE CARVING;
- viewing a demonstration of DRY STONE WALLING;
- BALANCING STONES along the promenade
- Or watching others balance stones;
- playing STONE BALL BOCCE or watching others play;
- visiting ART CITY STUDIOS;
- HOBNOBBING, hanging about or touring around;
- hiking or biking. Or surfing if you are so inclined

At 11:00 on Friday morning there will be a **STONE FOUNDATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**. Members interested in being involved in the Stone Foundation's operations are invited to gather at the Symposium venue and discuss its activities, its administration, its future form and function.

Wednesday through Friday, AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS,

LUNCH will be served at **NOON** at the Symposium venue, the **VENTURA COUNTY MUSEUM** (see map) followed by interesting and informative 'long-form' presentations throughout the **AFTERNOON**.

We will disperse for supper and reassemble at the venue in the **EVENING** for 'short-form' presentations, the PerchaKucha **8 MINUTE SHOW-AND-TELL**. All Symposium participants are encouraged to bring 20 images of their own work, stonework in their region or stonework they saw travelling. Each of the 20 images will be shown for exactly 20 seconds, time enough to describe and answer questions.

OCTOBER 27, Saturday

The **LITHIC OLYMPIC GAMES**. Events will take place at Art City Studios, Mission Park and elsewhere.

A SPLENDID SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER:

A communal meal at a place to be determined. We feel that such a meal is a fitting close to the Symposium, but the Symposium budget is not sufficient to cover it. Therefore we invite **SPLENDID DINNER DONORS** to contribute to the cost of the meal. There is an opportunity to do so on the registration form, also during registration.

THE CAIRNATHON, a communal dry stone art project will take place at Emma Wood State Beach, a long, curving, stony beach just west of Ventura that sometimes has good surf. Its more than two mile length is covered with sea smoothed stones, large and small. It is an excellent place for stone balancing and cairn building.

THE PLAN: pairs of participants, selected by lot, will build—in the morning at low tide—a long line of equidistant cairns just above the waterline, each of them five or more feet tall. The building of the cairns and the vista later in the day when the cairns will be partially submerged will be great photo/video opportunities. The next day, if the California State Park Service requires it, we will disassemble the cairns so that the beach looks as it did previously—unless they are amenable to let the sea do that over time.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

VENTURA BEACH

This popular surfing beach (there are boards and wet-suits available to rent in town). Great place to watch the sunset

ART CITY

<http://artcitygalleryandstudios.com/ventura/> Studios, Gallery and a raw stone resource. This is where the stone carving workshop will take place. (Also the finals of the Lithobolos Olympic event.) More than a dozen sculptors have studios here and the owner, sculptor Paul Lindhard procures and sells stone to other sculptors. The two acre domain is thickly populated with multifarious lithic specimens. Some serious Lithobolos is played here.

SANTA BARBARA

Just 30 miles north of Ventura, this classy town has a lot of interesting stonework. A map will be provided to aid in locating it. Happily the Lotusland Botanical Gardens were untouched by the fire in December. An enchanting place, if you wish to visit, make a reservation well in advance (Open to the public only on Wednesdays and Saturdays.) <http://www.lotusland.org/>

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

(<https://www.nps.gov/chis/index.htm>)

The Channel National Park is just offshore, within sight. In 2011 we visited Santa Cruz Island courtesy of the NPS, we are trying to arrange that again, hopefully on Sunday afternoon (after the CAIRNIVAL project).

HEARST CASTLE

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hearst_Castle

This splendid estate, designed by architect Julia Morgan for William Randolph Hearst, is in San Simeon, CA 180 miles to the north of Ventura. As a visit here would consume an entire day, it would best be scheduled on the Tuesday before the Symposium, or on the following Monday.

REGISTER FOR THE SYMPOSIUM HERE:

<https://stoneworksymposium2018.net/images/registration.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL STONEWORK SYMPOSIUM 2018

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 24-28

ARCHITECTURAL STONE CARVING
& MALLORCAN DRY STONE WALLING
WORKSHOPS OCTOBER 17-23

ART CITY STUDIOS
SITE OF ARCHITECTURAL
STONECARVING WORKSHOP,
SCULPTURE DEMONSTRATIONS
AND A LITHOBOLOS COURT

**GRANT PARK, SITE OF
INTERNATIONAL DRY STONE
WALLING WORKSHOP**

**SITES OF PREVIOUS
WALLING WORKSHOP
PROJECTS—THE JAPANESE
CASTLE RAMPARTS AND THE
GREAT WALL OF VENTURA**

**VENTURA
BIKE DEPOT**

**SITE OF OTHER
LITHIC OLYMPIC EVENTS**

**SITE OF LITHIC OLYMPIC
WHEELBARROW STEEPLECHASE
EVENT**

**EMMA WOOD
STATE BEACH
CAMPGROUND**

**EMMA WOOD
STATE BEACH, SITE
OF COMMUNAL ART
PROJECT**

**VENUE FOR
PRESENTATIONS,
MEETINGS**

**CLOCKTOWER INN, THE
SYMPOSIUM HOST HOTEL**

**LITHOBOLOS TOWN
VENTURA**

ANACAPA BREW PUB

AMTRAK STATION

**Ventura County
Fairgrounds**

**Surfer's Point
at Seaside Park**

**STONE BALANCING WILL TAKE PLACE
EVERY MORNING ALONG THE BEACH IN
VIEW OF THE PROMENADE**

THE RETURN OF THE ROCKNOCKERS TO VENTURA



LITHIKOS GALLERY

ALBERT
HETTINGER,
SKULPTUR

Basalt is the most primal solid material of the earth. Molten magma cools down and transforms into stone. A shrinking process creates closely conjoined, geometrically formed columns. When the cooling process is very slow, perfect hexagonal forms are created in accord to a universal physical law.

These basalt columns are thus envoys from a primordial state—ambassadors of the beginning. Irregularly shaped and sheathed in their own brownish skin, the stones appear figure-like to the beholder. Some of the sculptures above, with a vertical cut connecting heaven and earth, are divided into two halves: one rough, the other uncovered and smooth.





