

FRANK FILCE LEEK

By D. M. DIXON

THE death of Mr Frank Filce Leek occurred on 26 January 1985, eleven days short of his eighty-second birthday. Born in London in 1903, he entered King's College Hospital Dental School in 1926 and qualified in 1930. Thereafter he had a brilliant career for many years as a dental surgeon in Lincoln and Hemel Hempstead. He was made an Honorary Member of the Dental Association of South Africa and the Sociedad Peruana de Ortodoncia.

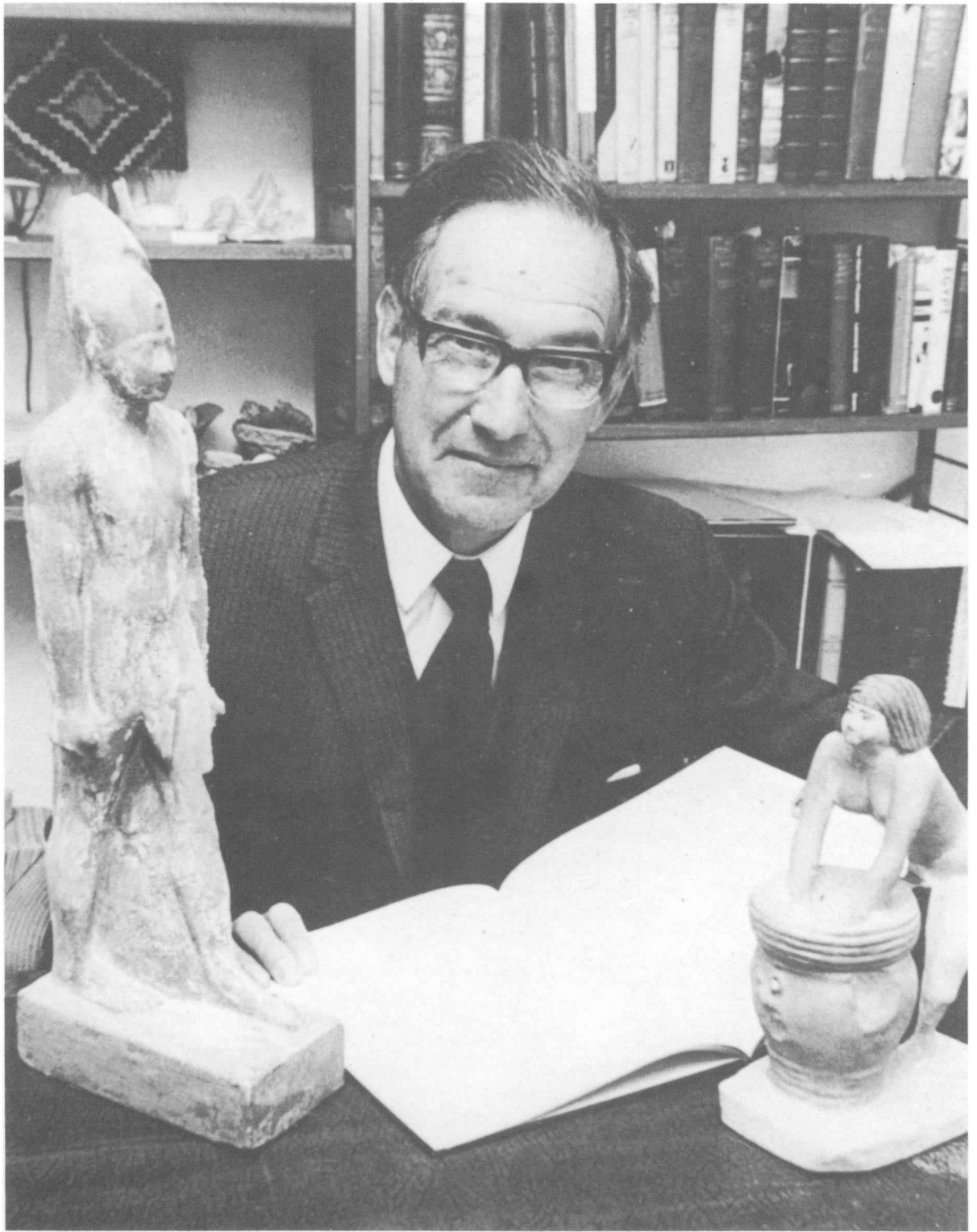
Frank Leek was a man of broad interests: travel, music, ornithology, horticulture, and the archaeology of Roman Britain. His Egyptological studies were concentrated on the dental history of the ancient Egyptians and related questions of diet and environment. In 1968 he assisted Professor R. G. Harrison of Liverpool University in the re-examination of the mummy of Tutankhamūn, a task which was undertaken in the tomb under somewhat trying circumstances.

From 1975 to the time of his death, Frank Leek was a member of the team based at Manchester University which is engaged in a detailed investigation of environment and disease in ancient Egypt based upon the examination of mummified human and animal remains. He also participated in a similar project undertaken at the Bristol City Museum.

For nearly twenty years, Frank Leek's spritely figure was well known at international conferences on palaeopathology, where his papers were invariably thought-provoking and sometimes controversial. Many of his foreign colleagues will gratefully recall the prompt help which he frequently and ungrudgingly gave in supplying information, and in reading and correcting drafts of books and papers—often at the expense of delaying his own work. He was much in demand in medical and Egyptological circles as a lecturer, and in the course of this work he travelled thousands of miles both in Britain and abroad.

Between 1963 and 1983, he and his wife visited Egypt many times. A man of great drive and enthusiasm, Frank Leek's energy would have put many a younger colleague to shame, for most of his Egyptological research was undertaken after his formal retirement from dental practice. From 1966 onwards he produced a steady stream of papers, many of which appeared in the *JEA*.

He became a member of the Egypt Exploration Society in 1963, and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1966. An honour which gave him particular pleasure was his election in 1980 as an Honorary Member of the Swedish Academy of Medical Science.



FRANK FILCE LEEK
1903-1985

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8. 'Bite, Attrition and Associated Oral Conditions as seen in Ancient Egyptian Skulls', *Journal of Human Evolution* 1, 289-95, with one table, reprinted in D. R. Brothwell and B. A. Chiarelli (eds.), *Population Biology of the Ancient Egyptians* (London and New York, 1973).
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11. 'Teeth and Bread in Ancient Egypt', *JEA* 58, 126-32, with plates 28-32.

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12. 'Further Studies Concerning Ancient Egyptian Bread', *JEA* 59, 199-204.

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13. 'An Ancient Egyptian Mummified Fish', *JEA* 62, 131-3, with plates 20-2.
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18. 'The Dental History of the Manchester Mummies', in A. R. David (ed.), *The Manchester Museum Mummy Project. Multidisciplinary Research on Ancient Egyptian Mummified Remains* (Manchester), 65-77.

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21. 'Palaeodontology of the Nile Valley', *Paleopathology Newsletter*, no. 33, 9-12.
22. 'A Third Millennium Dental Profession in Egypt: Fact or Fiction?' in J. Dastugue (ed.), *Paleopathology Association, Third European Meeting—3^e Congrès Européen* (Ch. Corlet), Condé-sur-Noireau, 1981 (3rd European Meeting: Caen, 1980).

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23. 'The Palaeopathology of Skeletal Remains of some Relatives and Courtiers of the Pharaoh Cheops, c.2650 BC', *Papers on Paleopathology presented at the Fourth European Members Meeting (16-19 September 1982)*, Middleburg-Antwerpen. Paleopathology Association, Detroit, 7-8 (Abstract).

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31. Review of E. Strouhal and J. Jungwirth, *Die anthropologische untersuchung der C-Gruppen und Pan-gräber Skelete aus Sayala, Agyptische-Nubien* (Vienna, 1984), *JEA* 72, 229.

At the time of his death Frank Leek was preparing a volume on the food and plant remains from the tomb of Tut'ankhamūn for the Griffith Institute's Tut'ankhamūn's Tomb Series. His material is now in the Griffith Institute. He also prepared a report on skulls from tombs at Giza, to appear in *ASAE*. An appreciation of Leek, by E. Tapp, appeared in the *Paleopathology Newsletter*, no. 50 (June, 1985), 4.

Addendum

Science in Egyptology, ed. A. R. David (Manchester, 1986), which is dedicated to the memory of F. Filce Leek, contains two papers given by him in 1979 and 1984 respectively: 'Dental Health and Disease in Ancient Egypt with Special Reference to the Manchester Mummies' (pp. 35-42). 'Cheops' Courtiers: Their Skeletal Remains' (pp. 183-99).