Bid Proposal for Hosting the Thirteenth International Congress of Egyptologists (ICE XIII) in Leiden, 6-12 August 2023
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LEIDEN
Congress City
Leiden has been home to Egyptology since Caspar Reuvens took charge of the large collection of Egyptian antiquities that were bought for the Leiden museum. In 1818, Reuvens became the world’s first Professor in Archaeology. In the 19th century, Dutch Egyptology was based in the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden and the names of Conrad Leemans and Willem Pleyte are still ranked among the founding fathers of Egyptology. From Pieter Boeser onwards, in 1910, Egyptology was taught at the university, and the field has continued to flourish under Adriaan de Buck, Adolf Klasens, Jac. J. Janssen and my immediate predecessor Joris Borghouts. The Leiden Papyrologisch Instituut was founded in 1935, with its emphasis on Demotic legal material, in combination with Greek. The Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten is an independent foundation. Established in 1948, it aims to provide essential services for the study of the ancient Near East and Egypt.

The Egyptology department is now part of the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies. It teaches all phases of the ancient Egyptian language and culture. The staff has expertise across a wide range of disciplines, including urban archaeology, texts from Deir el-Medina, Abnormal Hieratic, Coptic Papyrology and Graeco-Roman temples and religion. Annual field-work projects in Egypt are organised in Saqqara, Luxor and the Dakhla Oasis, in close cooperation with the Nederlands-Vlaams Instituut (NVIC) in Cairo and the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities.

Despite this long and distinguished tradition, to date Leiden has never hosted the ICE. In fact, among the major centres of Egyptology worldwide the Netherlands is the only country that has not yet had this honour. Perhaps it is now time to remedy this situation?

For the ICE 2023 we have arranged venues right in the centre of Leiden, all a short walking distance of each other and of the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden. The city is a lively student town, with many restaurants and bars, and hotel accommodation can be found in Leiden itself, but also in The Hague, close to the beach in Noordwijk and in Amsterdam, all of which are within 20-40 minutes easy reach from the conference venues.

As for the promotion of Egyptology as a discipline, we have all sorts of ideas, including poster presentations and conference discount sales stands of important publishers in Egyptology – Leiden-based Brill, long-time partner Peeters, and any other interested publishing houses – at a location that will also be accessible to the general public for maximum media coverage. The ICE 2023 comes with a communication plan to ensure this.

I would be very honoured if Leiden were to be elected to host the Thirteenth International Congress of Egyptologists, and I look forward, together with my colleagues and our partner institutions RMO and NINO, to greeting the members of the International Association of Egyptologists in our city.

Prof. Dr Olaf E. Kaper

on behalf of the organising committee: Dr Miriam Müller, Dr Koen Donker van Heel, Fania Kruifj, Dr Daniel Soliman, and Carolien van Zoest MA.
Letter of support

International Association of Egyptologists

For the attention of the International Committee of the Thirteenth International Congress of Egyptologists 2023 (ICE2023)

c/o Institut für Ägyptologie und Archäologie der Altertumswissenschaften
Günter-Grimm-Lehrstuhl
Mohrstr. 55
55099 Mainz
Germany

Leiden, April 2019

Dear members of the International Committee of ICE 2023,

I am writing to you with regard to the Thirteenth International Congress of the Society of Egyptologists due to take place in 2023 (ICE 2023). I would be delighted if the Board of Directors of ICE 2023 decided to host this Conference in Leiden, the Netherlands. Our City Council attaches great importance to hosting highly prestigious conferences such as yours that no city would wish to lose to the scientific society.

There are many reasons why Leiden would be the ideal city to host your conference. For instance, the city is home to the National Museum of Antiquities. This museum holds one of the world’s top ten Egyptian collections. The museum’s highlights are the complete 3,060-year-old Egyptian temple from the village of Ta‘ah. This temple was a gift from Egypt to the Dutch people, in gratitude for the country’s role in a UNESCO rescue operation in the 1980s. This impressive monument can be admired in the entrance hall of the museum. The acclaimed programme of Egyptology at Leiden University has its roots in the 19th century when Leiden’s National Museum of Antiquities acquired its famous collection of Egyptian artefacts. The one-year Egyptology master’s programme covers a wide range of subjects, from the history of Pharaonic, Greco-Roman and Christian Egypt.

You will find Leiden to be a lively and welcoming city with an abundance of more than 3,000 monuments, museums and theatres spread throughout the beautiful and historic city centre. After Amsterdam, Leiden boasts Holland’s most important and picturesque canal belt. The lively university town also offers a great variety of affordable restaurants offering international cuisine and a wealth of attractive shops. All these facilities are within walking distance of the railway station and are in close proximity to one another. Our city is conveniently located just an hour by train from Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport and can be easily reached by car.

I look forward to welcoming you to Leiden for the ICE 2023 Congress.

Yours sincerely,

John Leliesveld
Mayor of the City of Leiden
Why the 13th ICE should be in Leiden

This bid for the 13th ICE is made jointly by the Leiden University Department of Egyptology, the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (RMO), the Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten (better known as the NINO) and the Papyrologisch Instituut, Leiden.

Leiden has been and still is a long-established Egyptology magnet for students and colleagues from all over the world. The Egyptian antiquities of the RMO rank among the top-10 collections worldwide. The specialised and near-complete Leiden libraries, three in all, cover anything from the Archaic Period to Byzantine Egypt, and beyond. For students, Leiden University offers a student curriculum that is not easily found elsewhere, ranging from a Cairo Semester (during which MA students see Egyptology in the field, visiting many excavations and institutes) to Abnormal Hieratic, and from state-of-the-art Egyptian archaeology to Epigraphy and the texts from Deir el-Medina, taught by some of the leading specialists in the world.

We are joined in this bid by the various private, non-profit organisations in the Netherlands offering high-quality courses and lectures in Egyptology to the general public, in particular the Friends of Saqqara, Huis van Horus, Huub Pragt Egyptoloog, and Mehen.

We will be happy to welcome you in 2023!
Members of the Academic Committee and Bid Supporting Institutions

Academic Committee

- At Universiteit Leiden: Dr Renate Dekker, Dr Rob J. Demarée, Dr Koen Donker van Heel, Dr Ben Haring, Dr Cisca Hoogendijk, Prof. Dr Olaf Kaper, Dr Miriam Müller, Prof. Dr Miguel-John Versluys, Prof. Dr Jacques van der Vliet, Dr René van Walsem
- At RMO: Petra Hogenboom MA, Prof. Dr Pieter ter Keurs, Dr Daniel Soliman, Dr Lara Weiss
- At NINO: Dr Carina van den Hoven, Carolien van Zoest MA
- At Foundation Huis van Horus: Dr Nico Staring
- At NVIC: Dr Marleen De Meyer

ICE Bid Supporters

- Gemeente Leiden
- Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam
- Nederlands-Vlaams Instituut in Cairo
- Huub Pragt Egyptoloog
- Stichting Mehen (Den Haag)
- Huis van Horus (Leiden)
- Friends of Saqqara (Leiden)
- Textile Research Centre (Leiden)
- Dispuut Pleyte (Leiden)
The Leiden University Department of Egyptology

- Goes back to the lectorship of Pieter Boeser, established in 1910.
- The first chair in Egyptology was established in 1939 for Adriaan de Buck.
- The edition of the Coffin Texts was compiled by De Buck in Leiden.
- The Annual Egyptological Bibliography, forerunner of the present Online Egyptological Bibliography, was edited in Leiden between 1948 and 2010.
- The texts from Deir el-Medina have been one of the focal points of research in Leiden since Jac J. Janssen, resulting in the Deir el-Medina Database at https://dmd.wepwawet.nl, and many publications.
- Apart from the current staff, several former staff members still do research and contribute to the teaching curriculum. These are Dr René van Walsem, Dr Louis Zonhoven, Dr Rob Demarée and Prof. Dr Jacques van der Vliet.
- Some forty students are enrolled in the current BA and MA programmes in Egyptology, and some fifteen are working on PhD theses.
- There are on-going field-work projects in Egypt in Saqqara, together with the RMO, and in Dakhla Oasis. MA students are regularly invited to take part in these expeditions.
- A special position for Coptology was created in 1988.
- Staff members have their offices inside the NINO library.
The Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten (NINO)

- Facilitates scientific research on the ancient Near East, including Egypt, through its excellent research facilities.
- Provides a variety of fellowships and grants in support of students and researchers working in the Netherlands and internationally.
- Maintains the NINO Near Eastern Library, with 43,000 titles principally on Egyptology and Assyriology.
- Is located in the Humanities Campus of Leiden University, at a short walking distance from the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden.
- Will be relocated to a newly renovated building directly next to the main University Library in the upcoming years.
- Publishes two journals (Bibliotheca Orientalis and Anatolica), three monograph series (PIHANS, Egyptologische Uitgaven, and Achaemenid History), as well as incidental publications.
- Owns the largest and most important collection of clay tablets and cuneiform inscriptions in the Netherlands.
- Houses important archival collections on the Near East, with photographic collections and a historic archive.
The Rijksmuseum van Oudheden

- The Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (RMO) holds one of the world’s most important ancient Egyptian collections.

- It is one of the largest museums in Leiden, with over 150,000 archaeological artefacts; in 2018 it welcomed 223,777 visitors.

- The RMO is also a prominent centre of Egyptological research, with historical ties to Leiden University.


- The RMO Egyptian collection covers nearly all aspects of the pharaonic culture and later periods.

- One of the museum’s highlights is the 2,000-year-old Egyptian temple from Taffeh, donated by Egypt to the Netherlands in gratitude for our country’s role in the UNESCO Nubian rescue campaign.

- The museum is dedicated to Egyptological research of the highest standard. It has, for instance, been a pioneer in the scientific analysis of mummies using CAT-scans.

- The museum currently participates in several international research projects, such as the *Vatican Coffin Project* and the *Transformation of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo Project*.

- The museum’s flagship project is the yearly archaeological expedition to Saqqara (now a joint project with Leiden University and the Museo Egizio in Turin). One of the aims of the mission is to contextualise the objects from the Memphite necropolis that the museum acquired in the 19th century.

- Since 2017, *The Walking Dead Project* directed by RMO curator Lara Weiss is studying the use of space and daily life in Saqqara.
Facts & Figures

Over 3,000 monumental buildings.

88 bridges

60 bars.

200 restaurants.

13 museums, including four national museums: RMO, Museum of Ethnology, Lakenhal, Boerhaave.

35,000 students incl. 3,500 international students

28 kilometres of canals in the city centre.

Leiden has 35 alms-houses that were built around courtyards from the 17th century onwards.

Birthplace of many famous Dutch painters, such as Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Jan van Goyen, and Lucas van Leiden.

There are well over 100 international poems painted on public walls all over the town as a tribute to poetry.

Hortus Botanicus founded in 1590.
Leiden, City of Culture

- 340,000 inhabitants (agglomeration).
- 35,000 students.
- 200 restaurants.
- 60 bars.
- 22 hotels, with 3,000 hotel rooms in Leiden and the wider region.
- 13 museums, including four national museums: RMO, Museum of Ethnology, Lakenhal, Boerhaave.
- In the Dutch Golden Age, the 17th century, Leiden was the largest city in the Netherlands after Amsterdam.
- Over 3,000 monumental buildings.
- 28 kilometres of canals in the city centre, with 88 bridges.
- Leiden has 35 alms-houses that were built around courtyards from the 17th century onwards.
- Hortus Botanicus founded in 1590.
- Birthplace of many famous Dutch painters, such as Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Jan van Goyen, and Lucas van Leyden.
- There are well over 100 international poems painted on public walls all over the town as a tribute to poetry.
AMS RTM TRAIN

Aberdeen 01:30
Antwerp 00:54
Athens 03:30
Barcelona 02:00
Beijing 08:30
Berlin 01:40
Brussels 00:55
Budapest 02:10
Bukarest 02:55
Caïro 04:30
Copenhagen 01:25
Florence 01:55
Frankfurt 01:45
Geneva 01:35
Girona 01:50
Innsbruck 03:15
Kohn 03:39
Lille 02:25
London 01:00

Distances to other cities

Amsterdam 45 km
Beijing 7850 km
Berlin 685 km
Brussels 185 km
Cairo 5100 km
Copenhagen 820 km
Düsseldorf 230 km
Florence 1067 km
Hamburg 495 km
London 517 km
Luxor 3570 km
Manchester 860 km
New York 5900 km
Paris 495 km
Prague 900 km
Rhodes 3450 km
Seoul 8550 km
Strasbourg 610 km
Toronto 6000 km
Toulouse 1165 km
Vienna 1150 km
Warsaw 1225 km
Zurich 825 km

AMS RTM TRAIN

Lyon 01:50
Luxor 07:05
Manchester 01:25
Montpellier 01:40
Moscow 04:05
New York 06:30
Nice 02:00
Paris 01:00
Prague 01:30
Rome 02:15
Rhodes 03:40
Sofia 02:50
Split 02:00
Stockholm 02:00
Toulon 01:50
Toulouse 01:55
Valencia 02:15
Vienna 01:40
Warschau 01:55
Easy access by air, rail and road

Getting there

The Netherlands is widely considered one of the most accessible countries in Europe. With its main hub Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, its frequent railway connections, extensive network of multi-lane motorways, numerous international bus connections and ferry links with the UK, it offers travel for every budget.

By air

- **Through Amsterdam Airport**
  Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is a mere 15 minutes from Leiden via a direct train connection (6 times per hour) or by car. The airport is served by 106 airlines, including a number of low-cost airlines such as EasyJet, RyanAir, Transavia, Corendon, Eurowings, Norwegian and Vueling that fly to 300+ destinations in Europe and the rest of the world. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is the third largest and the busiest airport in Europe.

- **Through Rotterdam - The Hague Airport**
  A smaller airport, serving mainly European cities and offering direct connections to some 40 destinations. Low-cost carriers such as Transavia, Jetairfly, Vueling, Corendon and TUI are among the airlines that serve Rotterdam - The Hague Airport. Travelling time by car to Leiden is approximately 25 minutes.

By rail

- **High-Speed Trains**
  The Netherlands is served by ICE high-speed trains to and from Germany, stopping in Rotterdam and Amsterdam and running as far as Basel and Zurich in Switzerland, Vienna and Innsbruck in Austria and Aarhus and Copenhagen in Denmark. Thalys high-speed trains run to and from Belgium and France, with the possibility of transferring in Lille to the Eurostar to the UK and Paris and to northern Spain.

- **Regular International Trains**
  Leiden is situated on the main railway line from southern European countries to Amsterdam and are connected by one stop-over in Utrecht with main railway lines to countries in the north and east of Europe.

- **National Trains**
  National rail transport in the Netherlands is among the most frequent and the most reliable in the world. With over 400 railway stations serving more than 1,200,000 passengers every day, the network is very dense and well serviced.

  Leiden Central Station is in the top 10 list of largest railway stations in the Netherlands and has direct connections to Schiphol international airport, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht as well as numerous smaller cities.

By road

If for some reason public transport is inconvenient, it is of course possible to travel to Leiden by car. An extensive network of multi-lane, toll-free motorways connects Leiden with all Europe’s major cities. Travel is facilitated by the fact that border controls have been eliminated within the Schengen and EFTA area. Leiden enjoys a central location in Western Europe, making distances to other European cities easily manageable. Leiden city centre can be reached by car using the A4, A44 and N11 motorways. The city centre is a low-traffic zone, but Leiden has a city parking plan: a free shuttle bus service is available from parking locations on the edge of the historic centre to any desired location within the city.

In summer, you can also be transported to the city centre by water taxi.

- **Flixbus**
  Leiden is on the Flixbus network, which connects our city with 1000+ European destinations and offers rides for very low prices.
Venues: The ICE 2023 will use a series of venues in the historic centre of Leiden that are all situated close to each other. These are the Pieterskerk, Stadsgehoorzaal, the RMO, Trianon, and the Volkshuis.

Pieterskerk
The ICE will have its plenary sessions inside the Pieterskerk, a beautiful historic building in the centre of Leiden. Construction of the church started in 1390 and it took 180 years to complete. The building has not been in use as a church since 1971, but it is a spectacular location for major events.

The Stadsgehoorzaal (Municipal Concert Hall) is a monumental venue in the historic centre, just 10 minutes walk from the Leiden Central Station. It was built in 1891 with a neo-Renaissance facade. It has three modern halls for our conference sessions, and its foyer will therefore become the heart of the daily activities during the six days of the lecture sessions.

In the immediate vicinity are the large halls of the Trianon Theatre, an art deco cinema opened in 1927, and the main hall of the Volkshuis (1899), and the auditorium of the brand-new MBO-Rijnland building.
Contact Information

Egyptology Section bid for ICE 2023
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www.facebook.com/EgyptologieLeiden
email: ice2023@hum.leidenuniv.nl
www.universiteitleiden.nl/ice2023

The Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO)
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P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands
www.nino-leiden.nl
www.facebook.com/NINO.Leiden
email: c.h.van.zoest@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Leiden Papyrological Institute
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www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/humanities/papyrological-institute
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