

Queen Kamel-ot of Slack

The identification of the Roman fort at Slack with King Arthur's legendary Camelot has received wide-spread publicity of late, not least a lengthy article on the subject on Daily Mail on-line. So it must be true! However, evidence is now beginning to emerge that the origin of the name might lie even deeper in the past and that there is a possible link with the Pharaohs of Egypt.

Queen Kamel-ot, thought to be related to King Tutenkamelotun, was undoubtedly the younger sister of Queen Cleopatra and said to be even more beautiful. So much so that when Mark Antony's eyes, and probably his hands, began to wander in her direction Cleopatra became so jealous that she banished her sister to the edge of the known world and to the one place which "most incurred the displeasure of the Gods", i.e. Slack.

Queen Kamel-ot seems to have accepted her fate with good grace and strove to create a new Valley of the Kings on the Pennine moors. There is little evidence left today of the pyramid she is thought to have raised on Wholstone Moor, although this is mainly due to the quarry company which sold the stone to build a multi-storey car park in Essex. Thus is our rich heritage squandered. However one important aspect of her Egyptian culture she had reluctantly to abandon - sun worship. This was mainly because no-one could actually remember ever having seen the sun at Slack.

Some more sceptical members of the Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society, (shame on them!) began to cast doubt on the authenticity of the Queen Kamel-ot legend. Their shrill and strident voices were, however, quickly silenced when a distinguished professor from the University of Machynlleth in Wales presented them with incontrovertible proof of the Queen's existence. Graffiti found in the underpass of the M62 motorway, and originally thought to be the work of Liam Pogson and his half-wit brother Ryan from Outlane, was identified by the professor as definitely the work of Queen Kamel-ot. All criticism was squashed and this evidence will be presented in a forthcoming book by the professor entitled "**Kamel-ot came on a Camel.**"

But one link with the Valley of the Kings still survives thanks to Queen Kamel-ot, - the dreaded curse of the Pharaohs which had such a devastating effect on the lives of Howard Carter and his friends. The mummified body of Queen Kamel-ot is buried in a golden casket now under the car park of the Outlane golf club. Any golfer who unwisely parks his 4 X 4 directly on top of the Queen will not only lose his match but most likely his balls as well, and nothing is more precious to a golfer than his balls, so there is always a spare parking space at the golf club. Use it at your peril!

So what of the future for Slack, which is proving to be such a rich source of historical controversy. Rumours are now starting to circulate on Facebook that Jane Austen had a cuddle with Bonnie Prince Charlie in the ruins of the Roman bath house. I will keep you posted!