

THE PARLOUR

THE OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARTIST SETKEN



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SELF PORTRAIT WITH THE COFFIN OF KING SHOSHENQ II



This is the first painting I have completed since July last year: a six month hiatus and my longest period of not painting since I recommenced in 2012. It features one of my favourite antiquity treasures – the falcon headed silver coffin of King Shoshenq II. I first became aware of the piece when I was working in the shop of the Gold Of The Pharaohs exhibition in Brisbane in 1988, a job I took as an unemployed actor.

The painting is my first self-portrait in a very long time. You can read more about this painting [here](#).

MY BOOK NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER

THE KING OF MELBOURNE

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF DAVID SYME, HIS NEWSPAPER: THE AGE, AND THE LEGACY OF HIS MONUMENTAL TOMB

special pre-order price \$50-

(until May 17)

Pre-orders have opened for my forthcoming book due to be published later this year.

The story of the tomb from inception to present is covered, with much information previously unpublished. I completed writing earlier this year, and have most recently engaged both an editor and a layout specialist.

Until May 17, I am offering the pre-order rate of AUD\$50- with free postage within Australia.

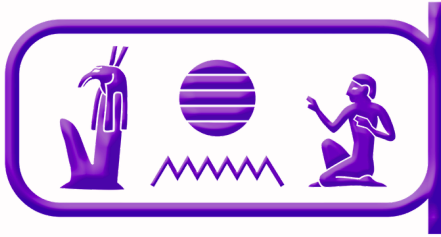
I am using the pre-order funds to pay for the publication costs, but production costs will certainly outstrip this offer!



The artist circa 1988 or 89
Actor headshot
photo credit: unknown

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VICTORIAN OCCULT CONFERENCE



I am excited that my talk A Monumental Egyptian Tomb In Melbourne will be presented as part of the program for the Victorian Occult Conference in Ballarat next month on May 16th.

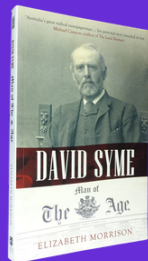
The event will be held at the heritage-listed Ballarat Mechanics Institute in the Minerva Room.

The 2026 version of the talk includes more information about David Syme's spiritual life, the importance of his contact with Gerald Massey, his relationship with Alfred Deakin (the conference is being presented in Deakin's former electorate after all!) and Syme's final book, "The Soul: A Study And An Argument".

The conference features finely curated lectures on alchemy, magick, astrology, occult history, theurgy and more, and a market.

Get your tickets now at www.victorianoccultconference.com

VALE LIZ MORRISON 1936 - 2026



It is with sadness that I report the passing on March 2nd of Dr. Liz Morrison, author of the definitive biography of David Syme, published in 2014.

We met last year and discussed our work, Liz also being fascinated with the tomb and insightful enough to connect Syme's early interest in learning classical languages to the elaborate mausoleum.

Liz came to one of my talks and was kind enough to write a testimonial soon afterwards.

A kind, intelligent and elegant lady, she had written to me only a few weeks ago to ask that I update her on the progress of my book. My condolences to her son Andrew (whom I met) and the rest of the family.

BES DOLL

This adorable, plush doll came as an unexpected gift from Dr. Jasmine Day, who actually **made** it!

It is the god Bes - the divine dwarf Who was god of hearth and home. Go to Jasmine's shop [Little Egypt](#), catch her on [Instagram](#), and at her [Academia page](#).

p.s. it's a tail

