



Moose on the Loose

World traveler...

Student of life...

Moose Extraordinaire...

By Monty Moose



In...EGYPT!

Hello, fellow Belcarrians, and a special thank you to the Barnacle Editor, Cecily Baptist, for having invited me to share some of my travels with the readership. I must admit that I am still a Belcarra “newbie”, having only been in the Village for a scant 9 years. Of late, however, I have had the opportunity to do a little traveling with my Belcarra neighbours, and dear Cecily thought it might prove interesting to share some of my experiences.

For just a little “background synopsis”, I have been a working Grade 2 Classroom Stuffle since 1996. I recently discovered that I could actually put my true “age status” on my Facebook page! (Watch out if you try to connect with me, though, because there are several Monty Moose’s about... in England, the USA, and maybe more!) At this point, I am a seasoned traveler (in suitcases, purses, mailing bags, pack-sacks, cars, trains, helicopters, cruise ships, and airline seats) and have been to 6 continents (can’t find anyone going to Antarctica!) I was the original member of the website www.canozconnection.com, but eventually had to break out on my own with www.montymoos.com. After reading last month’s Barnacle article, I can see that I really need to attend to updating my website! I am actually quite conversant on the Internet now and have hosted visits from my dear teacher friends from Australia, South Africa, and New York. (BTW, they all think Belcarra is absolutely MARVELOUS! ...obviously!!!)

But I digress... I have been invited to tell you something about my exciting trip to Egypt with neighbours John and Mayling (now my honorary “Uncle John” and “Auntie Mayling”!) Thank goodness we went in the fall, before all those demonstrations and riots that are going on now! Of course we were all tingling with excitement when we arrived in Cairo. We visited the 19th century Mohammed Ali mosque but they seemed to have full time carpet repairs going on! (What! No magic carpets?) The trip down the Aswan canal had the very essence of Ancient Air. Poor Auntie Mayling was busy taking photos and Uncle John was caught up in the tour guide’s history lesson, but I got to REALLY soak it all in... a pair of sunglasses, a comfy lounge chair and a cool drink was all I needed for a moose-ificent meditation session. After a visit to the Aswan Dam, we got to do a little sailing on the feluccas on the Nile! The Kom Ombo temple was very instructive. The Egyptian gods had animal heads... although I couldn’t seem to find one with a moose head. It’s too bad that they hadn’t invented escalators yet, because the temple of Hatshepsut in the Valley of the Kings sure had a lot of stairs! The pyramids at Giza are one of the Seven Wonders of the World, you know, and they really are shaped like our square-based pyramid math blocks at school. Amazing! However, I was so exhausted and hot that by the time Auntie Mayling took my photo in front of the Sphinx, my antlers were drooping! I perked up when we went into a shop and got to see how they make papyrus paper... I even got my own papyrus bookmark!

It’s always fun to have something to remind you of your holiday, and I’ve decided to learn more about hieroglyphs. This kind of writing was invented about 5000 years ago! The Egyptians used pictures to write their words. It can be written left to right, right to left, or top to bottom! You have to look at the animals’ faces to know which way to read! This language was used for almost 4000 years, and then the meanings were lost. It wasn’t until 1799 that the Rosetta Stone, the key to translation, was discovered. Try out some of my links to learn more about hieroglyphs yourself!

I’m also excited to start reading my new book called “Code Quest: Hieroglyphs” by Sean Callery (www.kingfisherbooks.com). I get to solve the Mystery of the Golden Cat and then write my own secret messages with the accompanying CD!

Try out your own name in hieroglyphics! |
Can you guess what this says?



Hint: M_nt_ M__s_

A **BIG** thank you to Uncle John and Auntie Mayling
for taking me on my Egyptian holiday!

Moose Tracks on the Internet

You can see some photos of our trip on my website.

<http://www.teacherwebshelf.com/canozconnection/montymoos/gallery/10-egypt>

Type your name in hieroglyphs (and check other links about Egypt too!)

<http://www.eyelid.co.uk/e-name.htm>

<http://www.touregypt.net/enam/>

A guide and web directory to Egyptian writing

<http://www.isidore-of-seville.com/hieroglyphs/>

Hieroglyphs

<http://www.greatscott.com/hiero/index.html>

An amusing activity where you invent your own “history of hieroglyphs”

http://www.neferchichi.com/ml_hieroglyphs.html

