

Shine Bright LLCE Cycle Terminal

File 17 Exotic Britain

Egyptomania p. 200

Female presenter: Britons have been drawn to Egypt for centuries. Its scorched landscape is a far cry from this drizzly island.

Male presenter: From Belzoni, Carter, Carnarvon to yesterday, London's explorers have been braving the desert for centuries trying to explore Egypt's ancient wonders.

Female presenter: We sent Nicole on the road to see how Egyptomania has gripped London in modern times.

Dr Jasmine Day: To me, the fascination of ancient Egypt is the way that it continues to exert its power on us today. It's really not dead. We can see today the tremendous influence that the ancient Egyptians have had upon things like our own architecture, our art styles. The most amazing thing is that you can still meet real ancient Egyptians, you can see the mummies, you can look them in the eye. And really, that's the closest we're ever going to get to be able to jump into the Tardis and go back to ancient Egypt.

A taste for power p. 204

Jeremy Paxman: It was the Empire on which the sun never set -- or as some said, on which the blood never dried. At its height, Britain ruled over a quarter of the world's population. Many convinced themselves it was Britain's destiny to do so. Much of the Empire was built on greed and a lust for power. But the British came to believe they had a moral mission too, a mission to civilise the world. The builders of Empire were bold, they were adventurous, some were ruthless and some were just a bit unhinged. The sheer expanse of British Rule was breathtaking; it stretched from the wilderness of the Arctic to the sands of Arabia and the islands of the Caribbean.

There was a time when Britannia really *did* rule the waves – and it's a memory which has never wholly faded. Once, the Navy imposed blockades, sank enemy vessels at will, suppressed slavery, mapped the world's uncharted oceans and generally forced Britain's will onto foreign governments. That heritage helped Britain to believe she's still entitled to a place at the top table in world affairs.

How did such a small country get such a big head?

Man to Man p. 206

Man 1: Facial projection 108

Man 2: Facial projection 108

Man 1: Cerebral projection, 87.

(Later, in their study)

Man 1: Not it's right, absolutely right, 62 degrees. The great apes are almost always below 50 degrees, Negroes usually above 70 and the Mongols are between 73 and 77, and you Jamie, the perfect Caucasian, at 83 – which would seem to place our Pygmies in the middle... between the most evolved apes and the least developed human beings... My friends, you know what this implies?

Man 2: How certain are you?

Man 1: The results point in only one direction.

Man 2: You can't afford to be wrong here.

Man 1: I've checked and checked again.

Man 3: (Jamie) "My God!

Man 2: So... it looks like the world's gonna have to come to terms with the fact that Adam and Eve were a little black man and a little black woman. They're gonna have to repaint the Sistine Chapel!

Man 3: (Jamie) When you've left them alone, they... didn't seem to be troubled in any way?

Man 2: "Jamie, really no! They weren't troubled – wrong vocabulary my dear fellow. That would require an intelligence and a capacity for reflection. Our little couple are thousands of years away from all that!