



INTERVIEW WITH BARRY JOHN KEMP

THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF INVESTIGATION IN ANCIENT AKHETATEN

I recently participated in a conference in Bagno di Romagna where the speaker was a truly outstanding personality in the study of Ancient Egypt: Professor Barry John Kemp. I had already had the opportunity to meet him personally a few years ago and can still recall the excitement I felt about our discussion. So, when I learnt that Professor Kemp was due to participate in another conference about the city of Amarna and its people, even if far away from where I live, I decided to go. I could not miss this opportunity. Upon arriving at the event I was delighted to discover that this famous Egyptologist was already there, at the conference room at the Palace. I approached him and even though I already knew how approachable he is, I was still very happy when he was willing to talk again at that moment. I mentioned that I am a staff member of *MediterraneoAntico Magazine* and that I could not miss the opportunity to ask for the honor of having an interview, to which he kindly agreed. Then I left him to his duty, the conference began and, as foreseen, his stories and images enchanted all the attendees. I went home feeling exhilarated and already thinking about the questions I could ask Professor Kemp. With their excavations at the site of Tell el Amarna (ancient Akhetaton), Professor Kemp and his team have brought to light a number of new archaeological sites, providing new perspectives to the study and understanding of this ancient city. Professor Kemp is an eminent world famous Egyptologist, professor emeritus at the University of Cambridge and Director of the Amarna Project. In 1992 he was nominated a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA) and recently, in 2011, he has been appointed by the



Workmen's Village house, Gate Street 8. At the top is the main living-room, with a low bench set close to a pottery hearth. The upturned limestone table is as found. The right centre is occupied by the remains of a brick staircase that led to an upper floor. To the left is a smaller room, perhaps a bedroom with low sleeping-platform.