

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Newsletter

Editor: Jennette Boehmer

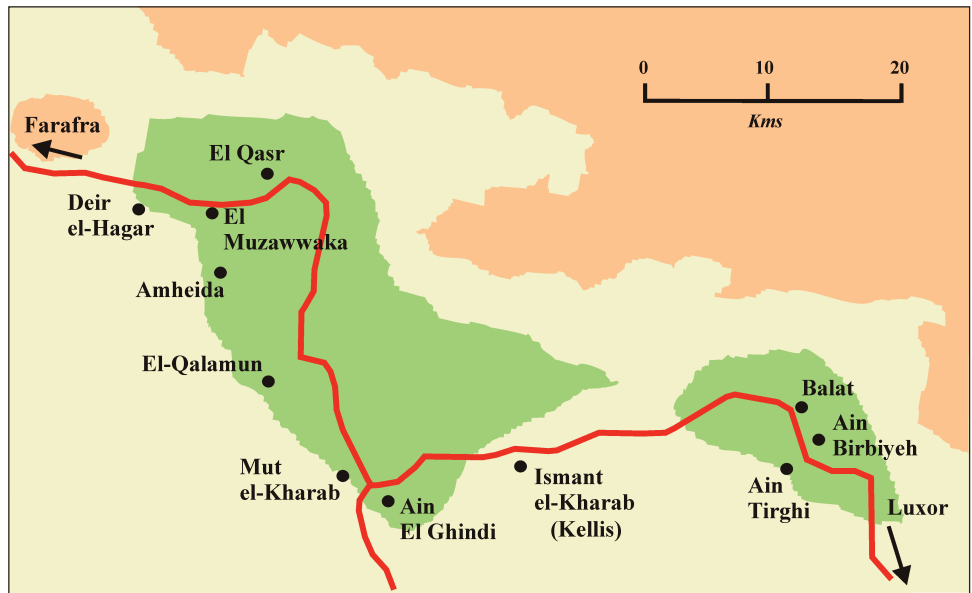
Spring 2008

STILL OUT IN THE DAKHLEH OASIS 30 YEARS LATER

A. J. Mills & P. G. Sheldrick

The Dakhleh Oasis Project (DOP) really began in 1977 with a journey made by Mr. Geoffrey Freeman and me into the oasis. The journey had been the result of a conversation I had had a few years earlier with the late Dr. Ahmed Fakhry during which he encouraged me to go there, telling me “it is the richest in ancient remains of all the oases”. That conversation was a turning point in my life and I have spent the past 30 winter seasons exploring the Dakhleh Oasis. Our journey occupied about ten days and soon the idea was formed that the oasis would be an ideal subject for a regional study. Not only were there historical remains that both stood above ground and lay under the soil (fig. 1), but also the natural phenomena that formed the environment of this out-of-the-way place.

Having spoken to various colleagues whenever the opportunity presented itself (for example, Colin Hope in the lift of the Garden City House Hotel; Rufus Churcher on the street in Toronto, etc.) and receiving encouragement from Nicholas Millet in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), a project was formed with the remit to “understand the relationship between environmental change and human activity.” The subject was to be the entire Dakhleh Oasis, apart from a small concession being studied by



map by Peter Robinson

the French Institute in Cairo; the time eventually turned out to be the 400,000 to 500,000 years from the Middle Pleistocene up to the present day. The (then) Egyptian Antiquities Service agreed and so we began. Our sponsors in the beginning were the SSEA and the ROM.

In 1978, six of us began the study with a walking survey of the oasis, looking everywhere for traces of ancient occupation, and for whatever could be seen of natural features. The survey began at the western side of the oasis and by the end of five seasons (1982) we had covered some four-fifths of the surface area of the present oasis basin, had recorded and indexed about 450 sites of all periods, and had come to a preliminary assessment of the landscape. By 1982, the project membership had grown to include several more archaeologists dealing with various subjects, including the Old Stone Age, Neolithic, and several historical periods, as well as the ancillary personnel who accompany the archaeologist – photographers, recording artists, architects, conservators – and to include geologists, palaeontologists and zoologists, and botanists. The group had become interested in most aspects of the oasis.



Fig. 1. One of the mud brick Roman period temples - this one has its pylon entrance largely intact.





Fig. 2. Date palms provide the biggest cash crop in Dakhleh.

The Dakhleh Oasis is a depression lying beneath an escarpment of 400 metres. The modern oasis is an area of about 2000 km², running east-west for about 80 km, with a width of up to 25 km. The floor of the oasis was originally a lake bed and is relatively flat, interrupted by small, rounded hills which were originally formed under water at the mouths of springs. The bulk of the oasis is devoted to agriculture and the crops are mainly cereals (wheat, barley) and fodder (lucerne), with plenty of date palms (fig. 2) and small orchards of citrus and other fruits. Farming is largely done by hand as the result of a land and irrigation reform introduced by the Old Kingdom settlers in the third millennium BC. Much agricultural labour today is done communally by several farmers together.

The oasis is situated at the same latitude as Luxor and about half-way between the Nile and the Libyan frontier. It is roughly 800 km from Cairo in a south-south-westerly direction and about a 12-hour drive. Dakhleh Oasis is, incidentally, almost exactly at the centre of Egypt. It is the largest of the western oases, with a population of some 75,000. The capital town is Mut, at the centre of the oasis, and the population lives in many small villages and towns scattered across the region (fig. 3).



Fig. 3. A tiny farming hamlet nestled amongst its palm trees, the escarpment is its background.

Following the five-year survey of the oasis floor, we then began to excavate in places where we needed more detailed information. At the same time, the prehistorians continued to survey as they had found that Neolithic and older remains existed beyond the area of the oasis floor. The environmentalists were determining ancient landscapes to fit into the cultural remains that were being found. This outer 'ring' beyond the present oasis became known as the 'palaeoasis' and has served greatly to enhance our understanding of the earlier history of the region as well as the environmental history. One of our first excavations

was in a cemetery of Late Period remains, to gain an idea of the burial types and furniture, and to determine the quality of preservation of organic materials in the oasis. That site, called 'Ain Tirghi, gave us our first physical human remains as well as the knowledge that the state of preservation was good. The site was largely undisturbed and we were able to form a good impression of what might be expected elsewhere in the oasis.

What has eventually transpired is that our results have been of considerable interest to many colleagues, some of whom have come to join us in the oasis. The outcome of this has been that while we spend between four and five months in the oasis each season our numbers of participating scholars has steadily increased to the point where for the current season (2007-2008), we have a list of over 100 expedition members who will come at some time in the season to continue their specific studies.

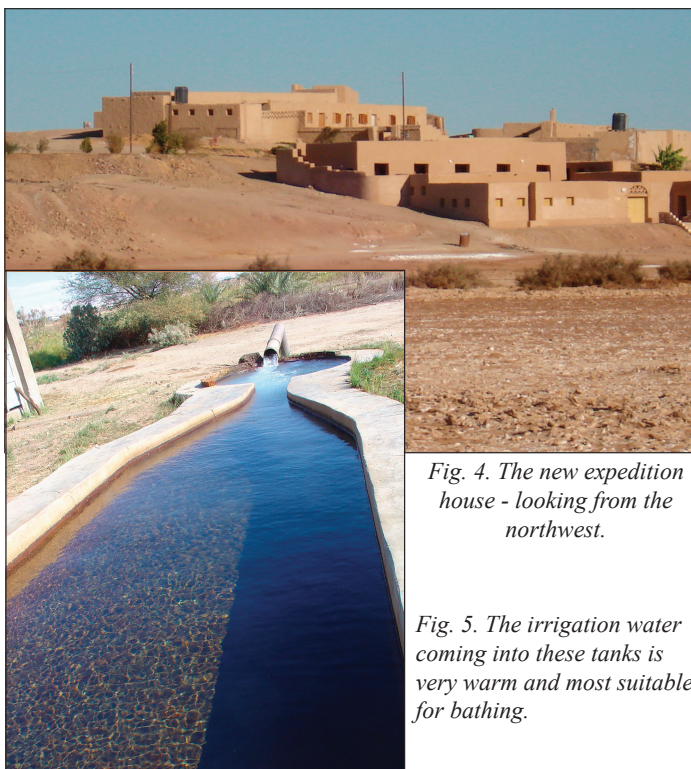


Fig. 4. The new expedition house - looking from the northwest.

Fig. 5. The irrigation water coming into these tanks is very warm and most suitable for bathing.

We now have two separate houses which have been built in the last few years and can accommodate about seventy participants at one time. The site chosen for our expedition quarters was the southern end of a large spring-mound, called 'Ain el Gindi. The first building to be built was an architect-designed structure which was to house conservation laboratories and classrooms. In another building we have twenty single bedrooms, six doubles, and work space for residents as well as living spaces (fig. 4). The third building to be erected was funded by Columbia University and designed by a Peruvian architect, and placed on the east side of the hill. It is interesting that the three buildings, all in mud brick, are so different in concept and feeling.

Life in camp is geared to the work, starting often before sunrise and not ending until midnight for some. We do try to eat our evening meal together so that conversations can evolve around recent finds and ideas. Some members will spend the entire day at a computer, entering data and analysing the material; others will be excavating in the field from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Bathing, when living in a large group, becomes a social necessity;

and in camp there are two different facilities. The first of these is hot showers, the heaters having been given to the project by a member who hates cold showers; the second are the many hot springs around the oasis (fig. 5). It is a great treat to submerge oneself in an open-air tank that has a water temperature of 35° to 38° C. Even on the coldest nights, one emerges glowing and warm! Over the past 30 seasons, it is a measure of the quality of our life and work that quarrels never seem to arise.

The interests of the project are wide and we will try to give you a brief idea of the range. We are especially interested in the environments, both past and present. So our geological team is reconstructing all the various landscapes since the Middle Pleistocene – how the oasis floor has changed, what effects the winds and water have had, what alterations man has made, and a multitude of other questions which will enable the reconstruction of the oasis at various times. The zoologists provide insights into climate history, vegetation, surface water, and the animals which co-habited with man and formed a great part of his diet. Botanists likewise can tell from the vegetation at any one time precisely what climatic changes were occurring, what plant foods were available, and the economy of the area. The archaeologists generally limit themselves to time periods and so demand of the environmentalists information regarding their particular period to form a background to the human activity they study. In addition, all the studies of the archaeologists are designed to provide as complete a description as possible of the particular site and period being considered. These data are then used to compare the oasis with other oases, the Nile Valley, and the Saharan and sub-Saharan regions as a way to understand trade, influences, migration, and long-distance communication, which may be the result of climatic variation and change, or the result of other human needs.

Another major enterprise of the project is that of conservation. One temple has been cleaned and rebuilt (fig. 6)



Fig. 6. Deir el-Hagar Temple, a first century temple dedicated to Theban gods. Restored by the Dakhleh Oasis Project.

and another is currently being brought to light. At a third site, Ismant el-Kharab, is a painted plastered shrine which needs careful restoration and reconstruction (fig. 7). A decorated stone tomb has been cleaned and opened to the public, and there are plans to restore and present two adjoining tombs at El Muzawwaka

which have good painted plaster decoration. Of course, small finds and portable objects are conserved at the time of discovery or soon after.



Fig. 7. The remains of Roman period buildings standing above the ground at Ismant el-Kharab (modern Kellis).

The Dakhleh Oasis continually surprises us by producing new and unexpected phenomena. Most of these are the result of long hours in the field, others are serendipitous. Fred Leemhuis, who is leading a team that is restoring a medieval village – El Qasr - having walked around his village for several seasons looking at medieval buildings, discovered a massive Roman period wall in his path towards the end of last season. Elsewhere, following intensive examination of the ground, Maxine Kleindienst and Rufus Churcher realized they had a large round depression in a part of the oasis. NASA experts, including an ‘impactologist’, believe this to be the result of a meteorite strike, and they are particularly interested in this because our archaeologists, using artefacts, can date it to the Late Pleistocene. One begins to wonder about the WOW effect on survivors in the area at the time.

Colin Hope, in his excavations at Mut el Kharab temple enclosure, discovered a block bearing part of the name of Thutmosis III. This is the first occurrence of this XVIII Dynasty expansionist pharaoh in the Western Desert. The geologists, together with the geoarchaeologist, have realized the existence of large lakes in the oasis in the Late Pleistocene. Evidence shows the lakes to have been at least 35 m deep and quite substantial in surface area. The god Tutu is known from the New Kingdom onwards in Egypt, but at Ismant el-Kharab there is the only temple dedicated to him in all ancient Egypt. In addition, a temple at ‘Ain Birbiyeh that was opened for the first time in 1985 is dedicated to Amun-Nakht, a deity new to Egyptology. Plenty of surprises have not made us blasé about our oasis, but rather we look forward to each season’s new excitements.

So, a well-rounded picture of life in the Dakhleh Oasis region emerges and we see the effects of man’s influence on his environment, how his changes can be beneficial or otherwise. We also see the adaptations that mankind makes to his activities, to his surroundings and to himself and the effects the adaptations have both in the long term and immediately. Of course, one of our most important contributions will be in offering information to similar areas as considerations for development. Man has often had difficulty in accepting the lessons of history, but we hope that perhaps someone will observe what happens in such marginal areas and learn what not to do, if not what to do.

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT EGYPT IN CANADA

Mark Trumpour

'of Captains and Kings . . .': From the outset of the In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada Project, I fully expected that at least some material in Canada's Atlantic provinces might have been brought back by early seafarers. This indeed proved to be the case in Saint John, where the New Brunswick Museum (NBM) has a claim to being Canada's oldest continuing museum. According to NBM's web site, the museum was officially incorporated as the "Provincial Museum" in 1929, although its lineage actually goes back to 1842, when Dr. Abraham Gesner opened the Museum of Natural History in one room of the Saint John Mechanics' Institute.

Income from the new museum was not enough to sustain Gesner, and "in 1843 the collection passed on to his creditors who, in turn, donated it to the Mechanics' Institute." An annual report in 1863 described it as,

[a] large and valuable collection of minerals, a great variety of zoological specimens, and many Chinese, Indian and other curiosities [that] frequently receives additions from foreign sea captains and others who get into their possession foreign articles of an attractive description.

One "foreign sea captain" was a Captain Aikman of the SS Peerless. Museum records, as reported by current Curator of Canadian and International Art Andrea Kirkpatrick, state that in June 1899 Aikman donated the "[f]oot of one of Rameses the Great's princesses, from Aswan." Since there is no record of any royal children being buried at Aswan, presumably the identification of the foot was part of the sales pitch to the good captain. Another Aikman donation was a mummified falcon "from the tomb of Rameses II." Again, the place of origin is likely exaggerated. His other gifts included:

- A flute "as used in the time of Moses."
- Coins "from ruins of a buried city on site of which Pompey's Pillar stands."
- Coins "from the ruins of old Alexandria."
- 23 large Egyptian and other photographs.

Aikman also gave natural history specimens to the Natural Sciences Department. In June he gave a lizard "from the 3rd cataract of the Nile" and a "Rose of Jericho." In October, he gave "an Egyptian snake, 5 ft. long, 2 Egyptian lizards and 5 Egyptian beetles."

Naturally, I was curious as to who this good captain might be. With a little digging, I learned that Captain James Aikman was born in Edinburgh, Scotland about 1840. He was the first master of SS. Peerless, a steel-hulled, single-screw steamer commissioned in 1898. Lloyd's Register tells us he sailed her for Hall Bros. Steam Ship Co., with Newcastle as port of registry. The maiden voyage took them to Port Saïd, Egypt, where he put into port on November 10, 1898 after a 21 day trip from England. His ship's papers were signed by the Consul there, and record that the ship left for home



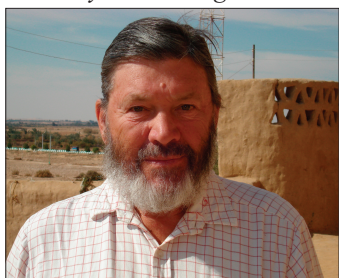
Top: Different Islamic tombs within Qalamun, a hilltop village in the background.

Above: The ubiquitous donkey and cart. Every family owns at least one.

Left: Mansour Beyumi has worked with the Dakhleh Oasis Project since 1978 and is now chief cook, mechanic and driver, builder, and general factotum. We could not do without him!

Additional Reading: There is a series of articles by various project members in *Ancient Egypt*, magazine issues February/March, 2007 through December/January, 2008. An official web site of the DOP can be found through the links in the SSEA web site www.thessea.org. There are also a number of articles about the DOP in the *JSSEA*, from vol. 9 onward.

Anthony J. Mills is the founder of the Dakhleh Oasis Project and is the field director as well as currently excavating at 'Ain el Gazzareen, an Old Kingdom settlement, and at 'Ain Birbiyeh, a Roman temple. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at University College London and at the University of Durham, and a Research Associate in the ROM.



Peter G. Sheldrick is a family physician in Chatham, Ontario, whose lifelong interest is Egyptology. He is the longest-serving volunteer member of the Dakhleh Oasis Project, having not missed a season since 1979 and is an active member of the "Bone Team."

again on Nov. 26, arriving back in Hull, England on December 15. Their cargo is not stated.

Did Aikman actually reach Aswan or Thebes, as some of the donated items seem to suggest? Well, given a total stay in Egypt of 16 days, this seems unlikely. What seems more probable is that he made his purchases in the market in Cairo. Will we ever know what moved Aikman to donate his precious souvenirs to a fledgling museum in a far-flung corner of the British Empire? Probably not. However, it is possible that his 1899 stopover in St. John was not his first. He may well have visited earlier with a prior command, the SS Bretwalda, forming a connection with the province in the process.

The Museum continued to grow from these humble beginnings and opened in a new location at Market Square in April, 1996. Today it offers three floors and 60,000 square feet of exhibition space. Its Egyptian collection numbers some 120 artefacts, and what is on view today is the result of the efforts of Alice Lusk Webster.

Beginning as curator in 1935, Webster worked tirelessly to gather artefacts from around the world to create a cohesive collection to illustrate major creative developments throughout history. Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) was the source of much of the Egyptian collection. In a heartening example of public institutions working together in the public interest, Webster persuaded the ROM to donate a selection of items surplus to its needs.

The result is a fine cross-section of Egyptian items, ranging from prehistoric days to the Roman era, and including everything from ceramics and stone-ware vessels to bronze figurines of the gods, *ushabtis*, amulets and scarabs, a bronze mirror, a stone-mason's mallet, and a few mummified remains. Current curator Andrea Kirkpatrick terms Dr. Webster a "dynamo" and a personal hero of hers. Certainly she left a wonderful legacy to eastern Canada.

Ancient Egypt in Canada Project Gets Results:

Thanks to the research and networking involved in the In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada Project, it appears that a unique coffin in Montreal, in dire need of conservation work, will be getting the treatment it so richly deserves.

Last summer, fellow project researcher Denis Goulet and I met with staff from the Canadian Museum of Civilization and had very congenial discussions. One of those we spoke with was Curator of Physical Anthropology Dr. Jerry Cybulski. He was subsequently in touch with me to ask if I knew of any items from Canadian collections that they might incorporate into an upcoming show.

From work on the project, I knew of the wonderful 26th Dynasty Memphite coffin of Hetep-Bastet hidden away in the store-room of the Galerie de l'UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal). It had been damaged in 1969 in an unfortunate incident and never repaired. Therefore, I made a pitch that it should be conserved and used in the exhibition.

Curator of Atlantic Provinces Archaeology Dr. Matthew Betts has just advised that it appears this will indeed occur, and a priceless treasure will be restored and showcased for the Canadian public. The show, *World of the Pharaohs*, runs Nov. 11, 2008 to Aug. 16, 2009.

More information about the In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada Project can be found on the SSEA website www.thessea.org, follow the links to fieldwork, In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada, or go directly to the project website <http://sseamontrealvip.homestead.com/Project-EN.html>. As described on the project website,

[t]his project seeks to identify and describe Egyptian artefacts in museums across Canada, in order to publicize the museums and to publish the artefacts, something that many smaller – and even some larger – institutions do not always have the resources to do. This will make the collections more accessible to both researchers and the general public. At the same time, the project will broaden interest and awareness in this most ancient of cultures by describing the connection of the existing collections with the individual Canadians involved in their creation, and the impact ancient Egypt continues to have on monuments and creative arts in all regions of Canada.

This SSEA project reports through Dr. Brigitte Ouellet, president of the Montreal chapter. Project researchers/contacts include: Mark Trumpour (Toronto chapter; central Canada contact); Denis Goulet (Montreal chapter; eastern Canada contact); Steven Larkman (Calgary chapter; western Canada contact).

For more on the history of the New Brunswick Museum and its current activities check its website <http://www.nbm-mnb.ca>. The Canadian Museum of Civilization website is <http://www.civilizations.ca>, follow the links to site index, site map, and exhibitions for more on the forthcoming World of Pharaohs exhibit. Further information about the Galerie de l'UQAM can be found at <http://www.galerie.uqam.ca>.

REPORT ON THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Lyn Green

On November 2nd, 2007 the SSEA held its annual general meeting in the Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. Members from Uruguay, Great Britain, the United States, and all over Canada gathered to vote in a new board of trustees, offer thanks to some outgoing board members, and discuss the exciting possibility of two new SSEA chapters.

The Toronto chapter of the SSEA, which had existed as an active entity since a meeting of members in May of 2007, was officially recognized as a new chapter. The Toronto chapter is headed by Deirdre Keleher as president and maintains the active calendar of lectures and events already in existence for southern Ontario members.

Prof. Thomas Schneider of the University of British Columbia attended the AGM to bring up the possibility of a new chapter in Vancouver, an idea which is still in its infancy. However, SSEA members present offered enthusiastic support for this idea. Members of the SSEA in British Columbia might wish to get in touch to offer their support for the idea of a west coast chapter. As well, minor but important amendments to the bylaws were passed in the sections dealing with membership categories, the formation of chapters, and voting procedures. The amended bylaws will be available to members on the SSEA website in the not-too-distant future we hope.

SSEA SYMPOSIUM 2008

ANCIENT EGYPT AND NUBIA: GOLDEN KINGDOMS OF THE NILE

Lyn Green

The night also saw the resignation of two of the SSEA's valued trustees. Prof. Robert Chadwick, one of the founding members of the Montreal Chapter/Chapitre de Montréal, has been pivotal to the growth of the SSEA. Our long-time editor of the *JSSEA* and President of SSEA-USA Gene Cruz-Uribe, also announced his resignation from the board, although he will continue on with some of his other activities. For years Cruz has toiled unceasingly to bring the *Journal of the SSEA* into existence despite all kinds of difficulties. Although Prof. Cruz-Uribe resigned as *JSSEA* editor with volume 34, his contribution to the Society will not be forgotten. He has also made sure that the SSEA has been able to offer scholarships to graduate students through the Missy Eldredge fund and, when possible, travel grants. He has agreed to continue with this work and, with the generous help of private donors, this year we will offer not only the Missy Eldredge Scholarship, but a travel grant as well.

Our national trustees for 2007-2008 are: Dr. Lyn Green (president and Scholars' Colloquium coordinator), Kei Yamamoto, University of Toronto (vice-president); Arlette Londes (treasurer and hospitality coordinator); Dr. Brigitte Ouellet (president, Montreal chapter/chapitre de Montréal and co-director of our Egypt in Canada Project); Steven Larkman, Mount Royal College (Calgary chapter president); Prof. John Gee of Brigham Young University (Scholars' Colloquium coordinator and new editor of the *JSSEA*); Prof. Jean Revez, Université de Québec a Montréal (associate editor, *JSSEA*); Jean McGrady (board secretary and Toronto chapter rep); Nicole Brisson (Montreal chapter/Chapitre de Montreal rep); Mark Trumpour (Egypt in Canada); Peter Robinson (co-webmaster); Dr. Peter Sheldrick (Dakhleh Oasis Project rep); Prof. MaryAnn Wegner, University of Toronto; Rexine Hummel; Alwyn Burrige, University of Toronto; Prof. Sally Katary, Laurentian University; and Prof. Vincent A. Tobin, Emeritus of St. Mary's University, Halifax. Many of our trustees are involved in multiple committees, such as fundraising, publicity, and in organization of our Scholars' Colloquium and Symposium. Some donate their talents as contributors to the newsletter and designers and producers of the beautiful items sold at our Symposium.

We are also aided by Prof. Cruz-Uribe, Emeritus of Northern Arizona University, continuing to administer the Missy Eldredge Scholarship and travel grant; Jennette Boehmer, editor of the *SSEA Newsletter*; Chris Irie, webmaster of <http://www.thessea.org>; past President Gayle Gibson of the Royal Ontario Museum and past Chair Ronald Leprohon of University of Toronto, who actively help out in organizing our national events. Gayle is also still very much a hands-on volunteer for events like mailings, as are our many of our Toronto-area trustees. Last mentioned, but certainly not least, Deirdre Keleher, is our administrative and membership secretary. Deirdre is also president of our Toronto chapter.

We would also like to thank the Dept. of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto for allowing us to use their premises for our AGM and to express appreciation for those members who came and gave us their input, especially those who traveled hundreds or even thousands of kilometers. And finally, we would like to express our sincerest thanks to all the volunteers who help the SSEA run smoothly, not only during the annual general meeting but all year round, donating time, paintings, money — and sometimes muscle — to help the cause.

Nubia and Egypt, two great kingdoms "alike in dignity", grew and flourished side by side along the banks of the Nile. For over 5000 years they contended for supremacy in north-east Africa and produced some of the most stunning art and architecture in history. This November, join a panel of international scholars as they follow the tangled threads of competition and dominance that make up the complex relationship between these two magnificent civilizations.

As the centrepiece of the SSEA's AGM weekend, our 34th Annual Symposium will take place this November 1st at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Information on entrance fees and speakers will be available in the next newsletter.

SSEA SCHOLARS' COLLOQUIUM 2008

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities invites all doctoral level graduate students and senior scholars to submit proposals for papers to be given at this year's Scholars' Colloquium. The deadline for submission is **OCTOBER 1st, 2008**. The SSEA Scholars' Colloquium will be held on **Friday, October 31st, 2008 and on Sunday, November 2nd, 2008** in the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queens' Park, Toronto, Canada.

Proposals for Scholars' Colloquium papers will be accepted from graduate students and senior scholars in the fields of Egyptology, Anthropology, Classics, Fine Arts, Archaeology, Nubian Studies, and related fields on ANY topic connected with pharaonic, Roman or Coptic Egypt, but must represent an original contribution to the field. Papers may not exceed 20 minutes in length.

Since a limited number of proposals will be accepted, papers will be vetted by committee. Interested scholars should send a title and brief abstract of their proposed paper to the Scholars' Colloquium coordinators at ssea@byu.edu. Please note that only proposals submitted in electronic format [i.e. via email] will be considered.

The SSEA is also holding its annual Symposium that weekend. It will take place on November 1st at the Royal Ontario Museum on the topic *Ancient Egypt and Nubia: Golden Kingdoms of the Nile*. Scholars' Colloquium papers are not limited to the topic of the symposium. Please note that the SSEA is soliciting proposals for the Scholars' Colloquium only. Please also note that no funds are available to aid speakers who wish to attend. There is no charge to speak in the colloquium and registration is not required. Attendance at the Scholars' Colloquium is free and open to all. A registration fee is required to attend the Saturday symposium, however. For more information on the symposium, email info@thessea.org or visit <http://www.thessea.org>

SSEA TORONTO CHAPTER REPORT

Deirdre Keleher

Everything is rolling along nicely with the “new” Toronto chapter. On March 14th, Prof. Mary-Ann Wegner of the University of Toronto gave a lecture entitled *Night of the Jackal: Wepwawet and the Sacred Landscape of Abydos*. The lecture focused on the ancient jackal deity Wepwawet, and examined the spatial relationships between the movements of celestial bodies and elements of the built and natural environment at Abydos to see what they might reveal about the ancient ritual landscape.

On April 11th, the chapter had a special members-only event. Dr. James Harris of the University of Michigan gave a lecture entitled *X-Raying Royal Mummies with the University of Michigan Expeditions*. Dr. Peter Sheldrick kindly brought a light table so those assembled could view the x-rays.

Our final lecture of the spring season took place on May 2nd when Anika Nater (University of Toronto) gave a lecture entitled, *Quest for Eternity: Royal and Non-Royal Funerary Monuments of the Old Kingdom*. The lecture discussed similarities and differences between royal and non-royal funeral complexes and the ritual functions that may have been associated with them.

The chapter is pleased to announce our first SSEA excursion, “Tripping with the SSEA”. On Sunday, September 14th, 2008 the chapter will be taking a trip to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario to see a production of Shaw’s *Caesar and Cleopatra*. If anyone would like to join the trip please send \$125.00 to the chapter at P.O. Box 578, Toronto, ON M5S 2T1. The cost includes return transportation (Toronto-Stratford), buffet brunch, a lecture by Dr. Lyn Green about the historical Cleopatra, and a ticket to the play!

We are also very excited because, for the first time, we will be running a summer lecture series in Toronto. The series will include:

- May 28, 2008: Gayle Gibson (Royal Ontario Museum) *Great Discoveries in Egyptology!*
- June 18, 2008: Deirdre Keleher (Royal Ontario Museum) *A Many Splendored Thing: Love and Sex in Ancient Egypt*.
- July 16, 2008: Dr. Steven Shubert (SSEA/Toronto Public Library) *The Greeks Rule: How the Greeks Shaped Our Perception of Ancient Egypt.*,
- Aug. 20, 2008: Dr. Lyn Green (SSEA president) *Oh, those Ptolemies! A guide to achieving total dynastic decadence in 200 years or less.*

All summer lectures will take place at 4 Bancroft Ave., room 323 and will begin at 7 pm.

Please keep your eye on the website www.thessea.org for updates about upcoming events, including the New Year’s Party planned for July 26th and the summer lecture series.

SSEA CALGARY CHAPTER REPORT

Steven James Larkman

The Calgary Chapter has had a great 2007 - 2008. This year we had nine presentations to the chapter and its members, the largest number of presentations in the chapter’s history. All presentations have been held in the East Arts Building at Mount Royal College in Calgary.

We started with a presentation by the Chapter President, Steven James Larkman, at the beginning of October, 2007. Recent lecturers have included Prof. John Gee of Brigham Young University, who presented on *An Overview of the Egyptian Temples*; and on May 2nd Dr. Mary McDonald, a long-time member of the Dakhleh Oasis Project, gave a presentation entitled *From human origins to the origins of the Egyptian Civilization: fieldwork in Kharga Oasis, Western Desert of Egypt, in the 2006 – 2008 field seasons*.

We will finish this year’s lectures on June 6th with Hend Badawi’s presentation on *Hatshepsut and the Royal Family*. Hend will discuss the origins of the Egyptian people, the composition of the royal family, and the composition of the royal family at the time of Hatshepsut. Hend has worked as an architect in Egypt, Algeria, and Canada, and has recently moved to Calgary from Montreal. She received a Post Graduate Diploma in Egyptian Civilization at Helwan University, Cairo, and holds a guide permit for ancient sites in Egypt.

The Calgary Chapter will be resuming its program of presentations with a new line up starting in September/October 2008. To find more information, please check out our website located at <http://www3.telus.net/public/james135/CalgarySSEA.htm>.

Ideas Wanted: Names for New SSEA Donor Classes

Kei Yamamoto

In order to show our gratitude for generous financial support, the SSEA is in the process of establishing a formal donor appreciation system.

We will create several categories based on the amount of donation made each year, and we will thank our contributors with special recognitions and benefits.

Now we need your help! Please think up great names for these three to four classes of donors, whose generous contributions are vital to our existence and activities, and send your ideas to us.

Contact: Vice President, Kei Yamamoto (Email: k.yamamoto@utoronto.ca).

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES (USA)

2008 RESEARCH PRIZE COMPETITION

The SSEA (USA) is pleased to announce the 2008 competition for two research prizes. The awards are made possible by the generous contributions of the Logan Family Trust and Mr. David Berg. Each prize (in the sum of approximately \$3000 US) will be awarded to the individual who presents the best application.

The competition is open to doctoral students and recent post doctoral students from universities in the United States and Canada who study any aspect of ancient Egypt. The subject of the research may cover any area of ancient Egypt from pre-dynastic times through Coptic Egypt. This year one of the prizes is reserved for an application conducting research in an area which was of interest to the late Professor Klaus Baer (University of Chicago).

The intent of these prizes is to assist in the completion of significant Egyptological research. For doctoral students it is often the case that some additional travel to Egypt or to one or more research collections housed in museums is needed to complete work. These prizes hope to support applicants conduct that type of research travel. Applicants who are just beginning their research are also eligible to apply.

An application will consist of:

a) a single sheet with name and complete contact information of the applicant, title of the proposal, institution attending or just finished, name - daytime phone number - email address for 1 or 2 references, indicate membership in SSEA or ARCE;

b) a two (2) page narrative description of the topic of the proposal and research plan. This should include details on whatever travel is intended and what preparations have been made and/or permissions have been applied for to conduct this research;

c) a one (1) page bibliography; and

d) a one (1) page budget.

If needed, applicants may attach 1-2 pages of drawings or photographs in .pdf format.

All applications will be submitted in electronic form as a single Corel Word Perfect (.wpd) or MS Word (.doc) file (with optional .pdf attachment). Applications will be in 12 point type (Times Roman font), single spaced, and 1 inch margins. Any application not following these requirements will not be acknowledged or judged. It is assumed that all applicants are members of SSEA or ARCE.

All applications and questions should be sent to: eugene.cruz-uribe@nau.edu.

Application deadline: midnight PDT, MAY 30, 2008. It is anticipated that the prizes will be announced by the beginning of July 2008.

Recipient(s) of these prizes are expected to present the results of their research at the annual meeting of either the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (Canada - normally held in November) or the American Research Center in Egypt (USA - normally held in April).

Please pass this information on to colleagues and students who may be interested.

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SSEA? The SSEA, with headquarters in Toronto, Ontario, and chapters in Calgary, Alberta, Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto, Ontario holds meetings from September through May and features guest lectures on Egyptological topics. Membership includes a volume of the scholarly SSEA Journal and the SSEA Newsletter. To apply for membership, write to the address on the front of this Newsletter.

For updates, schedule changes, and further information, see the SSEA Website at: www.thessea.org