

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

Editors: Melissa Campbell; Jennette Boehmer

2010-2011 #1



CAIRO CALLING NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

Kei Yamamoto



It is a really exciting time for museum-goers in Egypt these days. The Egyptian government is making a concerted effort to modernize older museums and build new ones all around the country, showcasing various aspects of its long history and rich culture. In November 2010, for example, the Museum of Islamic Art re-opened after many years of renovation. Its state-of-the-art display is matched only by the quality of the museum's superb collection. In the coming years, Egypt is set to unveil a number of new local museums including the Suez National Museum, the Fayum Portrait Museum in Fayum, the Akhenaten Museum in Minya, and the Sohag National Museum, all of which will surely attract many visitors, but none of them will match the two new major museums that are currently under construction in the Cairo area, namely the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Fustat, and the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) in Giza.

I relocated to Cairo at the beginning of September 2010, since I was hired by the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt to lead a small team of Egyptologists to compose and edit

various types of exhibition texts for the GEM. Upon arrival, however, my team learned that the GEM was not ready to receive us until December. In the meantime, we were assigned to work at the NMEC for the months of October and November. We welcomed the opportunity, since it would be interesting to observe the difference between the two museums and to find out what objects are going to which museum. In the first instalment of this new column, I will report on the NMEC.

The NMEC is located roughly 4 km south of downtown Cairo and 2 km east of Mar Girgis metro station in Old Cairo (also known as Coptic Cairo). The neighbourhood is rarely visited by tourists since it used to be full of low income housing, sketchy cemeteries, and ubiquitous mounds of garbage. In recent years, however, the Egyptian government has been working very hard to "gentrify" the neighbourhood by cleaning up the area and building sustainable attractions for both Egyptian and foreign tourists. The area always had a huge potential because of its rich history and natural resources. Egyptian history buffs might quickly recognize that this neighbourhood corresponds to the archaeological site of Fustat. Founded in the mid-7th century, Fustat was once the national capital of Egypt. It flourished in the early Islamic period, especially in the 12th century. This vast archaeological site has been (and still is) off-limits to tourists. In addition to the Jewish temples and Christian churches in Coptic Cairo, the museum is also situated near the Mosque of Amr Ibn el-As, the oldest mosque in Egypt that traces its origin back to the mid-7th century. In the distance, to

the northeast, NMEC visitors will also see the shiny silver dome of the 19th century Mosque of Mohammed Ali at the Citadel. Less well-known is the area's natural beauty, in the distance is the dramatic vertical wall of Moqattam Cliff. The quarries there have provided Egyptian builders with limestone blocks ever since the Pharaonic period. In sharp contrast to the dry, rocky desert in the distance, a natural spring at the east end of Fustat feeds a fairly large lake called Ain el-Sira, which is surrounded by thickets of papyrus all year around. Its surprisingly clear water and lush vegetation attracts many species of birds. Like our avian friends, humans will surely be happy to escape the noise and pollution of the downtown area and visit this cultural and natural gem.

When completed, the NMEC will be a rather special museum in Egypt, because it will cover the entire history of Egypt from the prehistoric to the modern era. In this respect, it is very different from other museums in Egypt. The Egyptian Museum in Cairo focuses on pharaonic material; the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria on Greco-Roman objects; the Coptic Museum on early Christian material; and the Museum of Islamic Art on medieval art. In contrast, visitors to the NMEC will be able to experience the whole span of the nation's history and appreciate the change and continuity of its culture.

The museum's layout is interesting too. One could actually think of the NMEC as a cluster of multiple museums. At its core is the historical museum, displaying objects in the usual chronological order, thus providing the visitor with basic historical background. Then, surrounding this core

S.S.E.A.
P.O. Box 578
Station "P" Toronto
Ontario M5S 2T1
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museum are a number of museums dedicated to more specific themes, such as “the Nile,” “State and Society,” and “Belief and Thinking.” In the Writing Museum, for example, the visitor will be able to see how the writing system and media evolved from pharaonic hieroglyphs carved on stelae to beautiful Islamic calligraphy, to the texts typed on a modern computer!

The NMEC objects will be drawn from many museums around the country. The Egyptian Museum in Cairo will be the most important contributor of pharaonic items. Many artefacts will be familiar objects from the Egyptian Museum’s permanent galleries, while others will be coming out of the museum’s vast underground vaults. In addition, the NMEC’s permanent galleries will exhibit many objects from storage magazines at various archaeological sites, including Alexandria, Giza, Saqqara, El-Kab, Luxor, and Aswan. In other words, many items that no one has seen since archaeologists unearthed them will be on display.

The biggest highlight of the museum’s pharaonic objects will be the royal mummies. The mummies will be displayed in darker tomb-like galleries, located quite appropriately on the basement level. There, NMEC visitors will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face some of the most celebrated pharaohs. They include: Seqenenre Taa who died in his battle against the Hyksos, the female pharaoh Hatshepsut whose mummy was identified (?) recently, the warrior king Thutmose III who extended Egypt’s border to the maximum, the powerful pharaoh

Amenhotep III who lived at the height of Egypt’s history, and the great builder Ramesses II who enjoyed an extremely long reign. Unlike at the Egyptian Museum, where all the mummies are laid side by side in a large room, these are planned to be displayed at the NMEC individually, each with his/her respective coffin and funerary equipment. The latter includes the extensive and very intriguing collections of Amenhotep II and Thutmose IV’s burial goods. I’m sure the pharaohs will be happy to have some of their funerary objects back for the first time since the 21st Dynasty when the priests moved their bodies to royal mummy caches!

The NMEC will also showcase some artistically or historically significant items from the Egyptian Museum. For example, the many objects from the tomb of the 1st Dynasty vizier Hemaka will include the earliest known sheet of papyrus and mysterious perforated discs usually identified as spindle whorls. This museum will also highlight the artefacts from the Early Dynastic cemetery site of Helwan, including the 2nd Dynasty stelae which were quite unusually placed on the ceiling of the tombs. The beautiful objects from the late 12th Dynasty tomb of Princess Neferuptah exemplify Middle Kingdom jewellery-makers’ superb skills and excellent taste. Furthermore, the museum will contain the entire assemblage of funerary equipment that belonged to the Deir el-Medina artisan Sennedjem and his family members from the 19th Dynasty. Overall, however, the NMEC’s focus will be on more mundane objects, such as

agricultural tools, pottery vessels, bronze mirrors, scarab seals, and cosmetic boxes. I welcome this emphasis on so-called “minor art,” because museum visitors often miss these objects in larger art museums despite the fact that they reveal much more about the daily life of ordinary ancient Egyptians than the grand statues of the gods and kings. As of January 2011, the NMEC’s “soft opening” is scheduled for September 2011. In other words, the museum will not be fully open at that date, but some sections will be finished and inaugurated officially. The architecture itself is very nearly completed. The workers must focus on the interior finishing, and the preparators will have to install object cases and mount 150,000 artefacts. The museum still needs to set up visitor centres, restaurants, gift shops, and all sorts of offices. The staff needs to be hired and trained. All of these add up to an enormous task, and schedule is certainly tight. But I can see that they are working very hard to meet the deadline and moving toward the completion of this museum. Once finished, the NMEC will be one big showcase of the whole Egyptian civilization for years to come.

Kei Yamamoto received his PhD in Egyptian archaeology at the University of Toronto. He has participated in a number of archaeological projects at Abydos and written several articles about the site. In 2010-2011, he is working in Egypt, preparing exhibition texts for the new Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza. He is a SSEA trustee (2004 - present) and vice president. Photograph courtesy of Helena Pereira.

EGYPT 101: PHARAOH FACT OR FICTION?

Steven Shubert



Steven Shubert at Mendes.

The curse of Tutankhamun has been around as long as I can remember, but what about his murder? Suddenly everybody but me seems to think that Tutankhamun was murdered. How long has it

been since King Tut was murdered? OK, if he was murdered it was some 3,300 years ago, but it is only fairly recently that the idea of King Tut’s murder has taken off and has gained as much notoriety as his supposed curse. I searched Google’s¹ database of some 5 million digitized books printed between A.D. 1800 to 2000 and compared the two phrases “Tut’s death” and “curse of King Tut.” My results revealed that the phrase “Tut’s death” appears from about 1922 until ca. 1930, which would correspond with the time of the discovery and publication of Tutankhamun’s tomb, and once more briefly in the 1960s. The phrase “curse of King Tut” rises in popularity from ca. 1968 to 1980 and then falls from 1980 to 1990. From 1990 to 2000 both expressions appear with “Tut’s death” being slightly more popular than “curse of King Tut.” The concept of King Tut’s murder has become a part of popular culture, spread via various television specials and documentaries. Surely when watching ancient Egyptian re-enactments on their screens viewers

realize that these are just fiction, products of the producer's imagination, don't they? I've traced the idea that Tutankhamun was murdered back to the 1998 publication of Bob Brier, entitled appropriately enough *The Murder of Tutankhamen: A True Story* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons). Brier developed the King Tut murder theory for a TV show on The Learning Channel. Casting a segment of ancient Egyptian history in the guise of a traditional murder mystery is a stroke of genius. Tutankhamun comes to the throne a child about nine years old and dies after a reign of ten years, just as he reaches adulthood – coincidence, Brier thinks not. He gives credit to Arthur Mace for the idea that Tutankhamun may have been done in. The following quote from Mace discusses Tutankhamun in the *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum* (1922-23) p. 6:

It was Eye, moreover, who arranged his funeral ceremonies, and it may even be that he arranged his death, judging that the time was now ripe for him to assume the reigns of government.

The god's father Ay, who succeeded Tutankhamun as pharaoh, is depicted in Tutankhamun's tomb performing the opening of the mouth ceremony. It is possible that he bumped off Tutankhamun in a bid for power. But Ay was probably connected with the royal family, possibly being Nefertiti's father, and Tutankhamun's real or step grandfather, so it is equally possible that he did all he could to preserve the continuation of his family in power. Nevertheless, in scenario after scenario, it is Ay who becomes the villain in Tutankhamun's death. The rumour is that Zahi Hawass believes that Horemheb is the real villain, but otherwise if ever there was a proverbial butler who did it, Ay is the man. Bob Brier calls himself a paleopathologist (a specialist in ancient diseases) and much of his book is taken up with a discussion of x-rays to suggest that Tutankhamun died from a blow to the back of the head above the neck. Tut would have had to have been lying down or sleeping, because otherwise it would be a pretty odd place to strike at someone. Brier (p. 53) mentions a suggestion put forward that Akhenaten suffered from Marfan's syndrome, but doesn't indicate that it was from Toronto's Alwyn Burridge; he does include her *JSSEA* article in his bibliography though. Paul Doherty, a prolific mystery writer with an Oxford PhD in history, takes up the suggestion that Tutankhamun may have inherited Marfan's syndrome from Akhenaten, but alas fails to mention Alwyn's article.

Doherty in 2002 published *The Mysterious Death of Tutankhamun: Re-opening the Case of Egypt's Boy-king* (London: Robinson); in many ways this book refutes the theories advanced by Brier. Doherty (p. 180) notes:

Bob Brier's rather dramatic description of an assassin creeping into the royal bed chamber and striking Pharaoh on the back of the head is highly suspect...

Tutankhamun may have been physically weak with poor eyesight, especially if he had inherited Marfan's syndrome. The depictions of Tut with a walking stick and the many canes found in his tomb support this diagnosis. Further study of the Tutankhamun x-rays leads Doherty to suggest that Tut may have died of a brain tumour. Doherty (p. 79) suggests that Ay was the head of an "Akhmim mafia" and a statesman comparable to Metternich or Bismark. The evidence for haste in the mummification and burial of Tutankhamun is ascribed to Ay's need to secure his succession to the throne before Horemheb could intervene with the army.

But Horemheb has the last hooray, as it were; in a fanciful reconstruction Doherty has him defeat the Akhmim gang after Ay's death, invoke the *damnatio memoriae* on them and send Ankhnesenamun to a marriage far, far, far away (perhaps in Syria?).

In 2006 Doherty published a fictionalized account of Tutankhamun's death entitled *Year of the Cobra* (London: Headline). His non-fiction account may have come first because he was associated with a 2002 Discovery Channel Special on the death of King Tut. But in the end the producers chose to go with two policemen and FBI profilers from Utah USA, named Michael King and Gregory Cooper. Their book entitled *Who Killed King Tut: Using Modern Forensics to Solve a 3,300 Year-old Mystery* (New York: Prometheus Books) appeared in 2006. The idea was to use modern investigative techniques on an ancient murder; King and Cooper (p. 48) indicate that "a murder 3,325 years old isn't much of a problem even if all the witnesses and forensic evidence disappeared long ago." After all they had interviewed so many serial killers that "it didn't matter whether that criminal roamed the earth in 1300 BCE or in the twenty-first century" (p. 167). After a lot of discussion of reasonable suspicion (RS), probable cause (PC), motive opportunity and means (MOM), the result is that Ay not only murdered Tutankhamun, but Akhenaten, Smenkhkare, Nefertiti, the Hittite prince, and Ankhnesenamun to boot. Then, after the death of Ay, the murders stop. Being "bogged down in minutiae" (p. 154), Egyptologists had failed to notice this!

To be fair, King and Cooper claim no offense to Egyptologists, but their claim to be using scientific evidence in such a speculative work is troublesome. For example, they provide a deposition from the "HIGH COURT OF THE PHARAOH OF EGYPT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF THEBES" against the "PRIME MINISTER AND VIZIER TO TUTANKHAMEN" Ay (p. 198). If this were presented as being from Utah, then perhaps it would be clearer that it was purely a work of fantasy; surely they do not mean to imply that ancient Egypt had a legal system comparable to that in the US, do they?

Again the line between fact and fiction is blurred in the 2009 publication by James Patterson and Martin Dugard entitled *The Murder of King Tut: The Plot to Kill the Child King. A Nonfiction Thriller* (New York: Little Brown & Co.). Best-selling author James Patterson tells three tales in this book. The first is how he wrote the book, including memos to himself to "be there" for the reader. The second tale is Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, spiced up by an affair between Carter and Lady Evelyn Carnarvon. The third tale deals with ancient Egypt; Akhenaten is "well-read and smart" according to Tiye, but called a "whelp" by Amenhotep III. Is there a word for "whelp" in ancient Egyptian, for "well-read"? Tutankhamun is severely wounded in a chariot accident, and then murdered by a blow to the head. Ay is again a serial killer, responsible not only for killing Tut, but Ankhnesenamun as well. I am not sure of the categorization for this tale – theory, speculation, creative thinking, fantasy, and fabrication come to mind; it is certainly not "nonfiction" thrilling or otherwise. Television shows, media hype or publishing publicity to the contrary, having the word "true" or "nonfiction" in a book title is not enough to distinguish fact from fiction.

Using real characters, locations, and cultures from the past is all part of the genre of historical fiction, to which I think we can assign all the books reviewed here. But if you are going to read a fictional account of Tutankhamun's death, why not choose an

¹The website is <http://ngrams.googlelabs.com/>. See also the article by Patricia Cohen "In 500 Billion Words, New Window on Culture" in the Dec. 17th 2010 issue of the New York Times p. A3 (http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/17/books/17words.html?_r=1). My thanks to Richard MacCallum for this reference.

unabashed, unapologetic, manifestly fictional who-dunnit? Nick Drake's 2010 mystery novel *Tutankhamun: The Book of Shadows* (New York: HarperCollins) fits the bill. In this second volume of a planned trilogy, his detective named Rahotep is a "Seeker of Mysteries" with the Thebes Medjay (police). Along with his pet baboon, Thoth, Rahotep comes to the aid of Ankhesenamun in her time of trouble when Tutankhamun is killed in a chariot accident. But the mysteries don't end there... Ay, Ay, Ay – yes, the butler did it!

Steven B. Shubert has been a librarian with the Toronto Public Library since 1989. He received his PhD in Egyptology from the University of Toronto in 2007, has participated on archaeological excavations in England, Egypt, and Greece, and has contributed to such publications as The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt (2001) and The Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt (1999). He will be speaking on the "murder" of Tutankhamun in the Tea & Murder series at the Wychwood Branch of the Toronto Public Library on February 17th at 2pm. The talk is free and all are welcome to attend. Photo courtesy of author.

EGYPT'S SUN KING: THE 2010 SYMPOSIUM OF THE SSEA Lyn Green



Dr. Mahfouz with Dr. Rehab Assem in conversation at the break

The 36th annual symposium of the SSEA was held on Saturday, November 6th, 2010 on the University of Toronto (U of T) campus. The speakers were: Prof. Betsy Bryan (Johns Hopkins University), Prof. Eric Cline (George Washington University), Dr. Catharine Roehrig (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Dr. Sarah Symons (McMaster University), the SSEA's Dr. Lyn Green, and Gayle Gibson of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Prof. Bryan presented both the introductory/keynote paper and an overview of the art of the reign of Amenhotep III. Gayle Gibson provided an overview of the royal family tree at the end of the 18th Dynasty and Dr. Green discussed the power of the royal women. International diplomacy was the topic of Prof. Cline's talk, while Dr. Roehrig and Dr. Symons revealed the extraordinary accomplishments of the reign, in the form of the palace of Amenhotep III at Malqata and his water-clock – the earliest known astronomical clepsydra in the world. (More information about the clepsydra can be found at the SSEA website in Sarah's guest column *Ask an Egyptologist*: <http://www.thessea.org/columns.php?articleID=62>.)

Hospitality was provided by our co-sponsor, the ROM, and organized by Arlette Londes with the aid of her very patient husband Jean. During the breaks, attendees browsed the book tables of David Brown Books, Benben Publications, ARCA books, and the SSEA's own sales tables. Trustee Jean McGrady, who is taking over as chair of the fundraising committee, oversaw the sale of various volumes donated to the SSEA. Deirdre Keleher also organized and supervised the sale of various fundraising items. This year, we were greatly aided in setting up by a host of volunteers, including various graduate and undergraduate students, and by Sylvester's Restaurant, who opened especially for our symposium. The SSEA would like to thank all its volunteers for their hard work and reliability.

THE 2010 SSEA SCHOLARS COLLOQUIUM Lyn Green

This year's scholars' colloquium attracted Egyptologists from Egypt, Canada, the United States, England, and Germany. The Friday session was hosted by the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and the Sunday session took place on the University of Toronto (U of T) campus. Hospitality on Sunday was provided by our co-sponsor, the ROM, and organized by Arlette Londes, our hospitality coordinator. The Friday papers and their presenters were: *New Results on the Ramesseum Dramatic Papyrus: its condition, fabrication & translation*

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE JSSEA

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities is soliciting articles for upcoming volumes of the *Journal of The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (JSSEA)*. These may be concerned with any aspect of pre-pharaonic, pharaonic or Coptic Egypt. Articles submitted are subject to a peer review process. Submissions are accepted in English, French, and German. The deadline for submission of articles to be included in volume 38 is March 31, 2011. Articles submitted before the deadline will appear in the fall of 2011. For more information or questions regarding the Guidelines for Contributors, email journal@thessea.org.

The Editors of the JSSEA

APPEL D'ARTICLES POUR LE JSSEA

La Société pour l'étude de l'Égypte ancienne sollicite auprès de la communauté scientifique des articles pour les prochains volumes du *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (JSSEA)*. Les articles, rédigés en anglais, français ou allemand, peuvent aborder les aspects les plus divers en rapport avec l'Égypte prédynastique, pharaonique ou copte. Les articles seront soumis à un processus d'évaluation par les pairs. Veuillez noter que la date limite pour la soumission des articles pour le volume 38 est le 31 mars 2011. Les articles acceptés paraîtront à l'automne 2011. Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements au sujet des recommandations à l'intention des auteurs, veuillez envoyer un courriel à journal@thessea.org.

Le comité rédactionnel du JSSEA

FUNDRAISING REPORT Jean McGrady

We reported in the last newsletter that we had a wonderful donation of books from the collection of Pat Paice given in her name by her husband Jeff Paice. Plus we had additional donations by Sally Katary and Roberta Shaw. We then heard from Ms. Eloise Hardy who very generously donated a number of books and other materials of an Egyptological interest to the SSEA. These items belonged to her deceased brother, the writer Robin Hardy. We have sold a portion of these items to those attending the last SSEA Symposium. We have a few future ideas for our fundraising endeavours. Please watch the newsletter for further details.

(Christina Geisen, U of T); *The form and role of description in ancient Egyptian and Greek narratives* (Prof. Nikolaos Lazaridis, California State University at Sacramento); *Egypt's Sun Queen* (Christian Bayer, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Institut für Ägyptologie und Koptologie); *The form Kamutef* (Rehab Assem, U of Helwan, Egypt); *Sequencing the sAx-rites in the Memphite Elite Tombs of the Old Kingdom* (John S. Thompson, U of Pennsylvania); *Ramesside Queens' Tombs in Context* (Heather Lee McCarthy, Institute Museum of Art); of Fine Arts, New York University); *Review of the political and theological impact on 22nd – 25th Dynasty*

funerary practices (Dr. Lisa Swart, Perkiomen School); *A Better Afterlife: Egyptian Funerary Artefacts at the North Carolina Museum of Art* (Caroline M. Rocheleau, North Carolina); *The terminology of light in Egyptian religious literature - Some considerations on etymology, usage, and iconographic correlates (1) The terminology of sunrise* (Prof. Katja Goebis, University of Toronto); and *Beyond Myth and Religion* (Vincent A. Tobin, Emeritus St. Mary's University). On Sunday afternoon, another group of local and international scholars made their presentations. This shorter group of papers consisted of: *Scorpion in the Ancient Egyptian Sky* (Rosalind

Park); *A record of astronomical observations reconstructed from a bull sarcophagus lid* (Dr. Sarah Symons, McMaster University); *Icon Adaptation* (Prof. Betsy Bryan, Johns Hopkins University); *The Death of Seqenenre Tao* (Garry J. Shaw); *Recent findings at a late Old Kingdom fort at Ras Budran* (South Sinai) (Prof. Gregory Mumford, U of Alabama at Birmingham); *Real Places in the Coffin Texts* (Peter Robinson, Poynton Egypt Group/SSEA).

Abstracts for both the Friday and Sunday sessions are available on the SSEA web site: <http://www.thessea.org/events.php?show=schedule&year=2010>.

2010 SSEA/SEEA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *Lyn Green*

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA), Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne (SEEA), held its annual general meeting (AGM) in Toronto on Friday, November 5th, 2010. Changes to the board of trustees and new bylaw amendments were voted upon and ratified. Audited statements for the previous fiscal year and a budget for the upcoming year were presented and approved.

The new board of trustees is: Dr. Lyn Green (president), Dr. Kei Yamamoto (vice-president), Dr. Brigitte Ouellet (vice-president/Montreal chapter representative), Arlette Londes (treasurer), Mark Trumpour (asst. treasurer), Paul English (Calgary chapter representative), Zoe McQuinn (Toronto chapter representative), Elizabeth (Ruoying) Zhou (Vancouver chapter representative), Prof. John Gee, (editor, *JSSEA*) Prof. Katja Goebis (editor, *JSSEA*), Prof. Jean Revez (French-language editor, *JSSE*), Peter Robinson (webmaster), Dr. Peter Sheldrick (Dakhleh Oasis Project), Archie Chubb, Rexine Hummel, Jean McGrady, Prof. Mary-Ann Wegner.

The Board is now a mix of new and returning trustees. Archie Chubb, a founding member of the Montreal chapter and member of the society for 28 years, has joined the Board. The newly incorporated Vancouver chapter has chosen graduate student Elizabeth Zhou as their official representative and new Toronto Chapter President Zoe McQuinn now represents her chapter.

The SSEA lost two valuable Board members this year: Jennette Boehmer, who has been the editor of the *SSEA Newsletter*, and Deirdre Keleher, Toronto chapter representative. Deirdre, who has been active on many SSEA committees over the past decade, is the former Toronto chapter president. The SSEA would like to thank Deirdre and Jennette for their years of work on the SSEA Board and committees, and Deirdre for her contributions to her local chapter. We would also like to express our appreciation to our Honorary Trustees (Prof. Ronald Leprohon, Prof. Sally Katary, Gayle Gibson, and Prof. Emeritus Vince Tobin) for continuing to contribute so greatly to the success of the SSEA through their work on various committees. Many thanks are also due to all the members of the Board for 2009-2010, most of whom actively participated in several committees, and those who have been our

secretaries over the past year: Tracy Spurrier, Shirley Enns, Lance Bohaker, and Amber Hutchinson.

Other changes were announced at the AGM: Jennette Boehmer is stepping down not only as a trustee but also as editor of the *SSEA Newsletter*. Over the next year, Jennette will be assisting Melissa Campbell as she takes over editing of the *Newsletter*. After the publication of vol. 37 of the *JSSEA*, John Gee will hand over the position of *JSSEA* editor to Katja Goebis. We would like to thank Prof. Gee for his years of dedication to the *JSSEA*, and his offer to continue as a member of the journal's editorial committee. Jean Revez has agreed to become French-language editor of the journal. Sally Katary will continue as associate editor.

The winner of this year's Missy Eldredge Scholarship, funded by SSEA-USA, is Janet Khuu, a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto (U of T). Because the President of SSEA-USA, Dr. Gene Cruz-Urbe, was unable to be with us, the award was presented by Prof. Gerry Kadish. We are always pleased to award these scholarships and would like to thank the generous donors who make them possible.

The SSEA was also pleased to host two special guests this year: Prof. Linda Northrup, Chair of Dept. of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations (NMC) at U of T and Dr. Elsayed Mahfouz, Cultural Attache of the Egyptian Consulate in Montreal. Prof. Northrup attended to extend greetings on behalf of NMC to Dr. Mahfouz and to the new Consul for Cultural and Educational Affairs of Egypt in Canada, Mme Dr. Maysoun Omar, both of whom were made honorary members of the SSEA and presented with SSEA pins.

Finally, some of the proposed bylaw amendments circulated in the last mailing were approved and will shortly be incorporated into copies of the bylaws available on the SSEA website. The two proposed amendments that passed were: 1. A change in designation of the \$60 individual membership. This membership is now called "Full Individual" membership. (Other categories of individual memberships are "Associate," "Life," "Honorary," and "Student.") 2. Electronic attendance (teleconferencing/videoconferencing) may now be counted for quorum in trustees' meetings. After the meeting, everyone adjourned for a reception organized by our extraordinary Treasurer/Hospitality Coordinator, Arlette Londes.

STEVEN LARKMAN

The SSEA is very sorry to have to announce that Steven Larkman, former trustee and Calgary chapter president, passed away on December 17, 2010. Steven was a mainstay of the Calgary chapter, having been both chapter president and vice-president, as well as the Calgary chapter representative on the Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2009. He was also involved in the SSEA project *In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada* for several years as its Western Canada representative. While on the Board of Trustees, Steven participated in several committees and was an enthusiastic advocate for his chapter. In 2009 Steven moved to Toronto and could be spotted every year at the book table of David Brown Books during the annual symposium and colloquium, as well as at local events organized by the Toronto chapter. Steven's infectious laugh and enthusiasm for all things SSEA and ancient Egypt will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

TORONTO CHAPTER REPORT Zoe McQuinn

Greetings and salutations from the Toronto chapter! On Friday, October 22, 2010 the Toronto chapter annual meeting of Ontario members (AMOM) was held and the 2010-2011 executive was elected: Zoe McQuinn (president), Jean McGrady (vice-president), Lyn Green (vice-president), Arlette Londes (vice-president), Maureen Britsch (vice-president), Erin Kerr (treasurer), Mark Trumpour (secretary), Les O'Connor (member-at-large), Christina Geisen (member-at-large), Deirdre Keleher (member-at-large). Much of our success as a new chapter of the society was facilitated by the wonderful work of Deirdre Keleher, our past president who this year respectfully declined nomination to the presidency. I would like to thank her on behalf of the new executive and our membership for all her hard work and excellent guidance. Our past treasurer Shirley Enns has also departed from our ranks. Shirley worked tirelessly for the chapter and ensured that our books and budget were always in immaculate order. Thank you to Shirley for all her efforts.

The Toronto chapter has begun another successful year with a diverse selection of lectures and activities. The season began with a fabulous lecture given on September 10th, 2010 by Dr. Ron Leprohon of the University of Toronto (U of T) entitled *Tut's Final Journey: The decoration programme in Tutankhamun's Burial Chamber*. The audience at SSEA Toronto movie night on September 24th could not help but laugh out loud through *The 10 Commandments*, a 2006 version of the story, starring Naveen Andrews and Padma Lakshmi. As you may have guessed

the movie was less than historically accurate -our favourite parts included the outrageous wigs and the surprise appearance of a temple built by Akhenaten in the Sinai!

On October 15th, Dr. Sarah Symons (McMaster University) delightfully educated the Toronto chapter regarding how the Egyptians viewed the ancient sky in *Astronomical Ceilings in Ancient Egypt*. Anyone who had the pleasure of hearing our November 3rd lecture *What Really Killed King Tut: the Hippo Heresy* given by Dr. Benson Harer, (California State University at San Bernardino) would have to agree that the arguments presented were very persuasive. The Hippo did it! Dr. Steven B. Shubert, our most esteemed friend, gave a humorous and poignant account of the career of a 19th century female Egyptologist on November 12th in *For the Love of Petrie: An Assessment of the Egyptological Career of Margaret A. Murray*. We concluded the calendar year on December 10th with a fascinating talk by Prof. El Molto (U of Western Ontario) entitled *Ancient DNA research in Egypt: An overview*. The lecture enlightened all regarding what ancient DNA can and cannot tell us.

This 2010-2011 season the Toronto chapter will be hosting another of its highly popular course series (as we did in 2009-2010). This fall our first course, entitled *Great Goddesses of Ancient Egypt*, taught by the incomparable Dr. Lyn Green, was a rousing success. Starting Thursday nights in February 2011, join Sherine el-Sebaie as she continues her popular course *A Virtual Tour of Egyptian Masterpieces around the World PART 2*. Details can be found at www.thessea.org. Our upcoming

lectures promise to delight, with research undertaken by U of T graduate students. These include: *Heron's Invisible Thaumata Devices: Religion and Deception in Roman Egypt* (Reuben Zaramian, Friday, January 14, 2011) and *Packing for Punt: Ancient Egyptian Activity at the Middle Kingdom Site of S3ww on the Red Sea Coast* (Tracy Spurrier, Friday, February 11, 2011). Due to the tragic loss of Steven Larkman (new to Toronto but a long time executive member of the SSEA Calgary chapter) we will not have the pleasure of hearing his talk *Where's The Beef: Cattle in Ancient Egypt*. The chapter is still planning a lecture to run on that evening in honour of Steven and his years of dedication to the society and to Egyptology. Please stay tuned for further announcements.

The Toronto chapter, in cooperation with the Costume Society of Ontario, will be hosting a mini-symposium on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 10am (Room 1050, 5 Bancroft Ave. U of T). A series of four experts will lead us as we delve into *Eternal Style: Fashion and Decorative Arts in Ancient Egypt and their influence in Modern Times*. As the great Coco Chanel said, "A style does not go out of style as long as it adapts itself to its period."

The social committee will be hosting a quiz night on May 7th. Put your Egyptology thinking caps on and let hilarity ensue! Stay tuned for information regarding the topic of our very popular summer series and the annual New Year's party! And remember, for current information regarding 2011 events please check the website (www.thessea.org).

VANCOUVER CHAPTER REPORT

Andrea Francis

The Vancouver chapter of the SSEA is now half way through its inaugural year. Since you have heard from us last we have solidified our first elections and the new executive consists of: Andrea Behan (president), Erica Mitchell (vice president external

CORRECTION NOTICE:

The names of two of our members listed in *Recognizing Loyalty* (issue 2009 – 10 #3) should have been spelled as follows: Morris L. Bierbrier; and Eugene Cruz-Urube.

affairs), Carrie Arbuckle (vice president internal affairs), Dr. Thomas Schneider (academic liaison), Chelsea Gardner (treasurer), and Nicholas Kraus (secretary). We are working hard to make the second half the year as exciting as the first. As outlined in the previous chapter report, we welcomed James Hoffmeier (Trinity International University, Divinity School) who spoke on Egypt's *New Kingdom East Frontier Defence System*, based on his work at Tell Borg. Shortly thereafter we welcomed David George, who not only spoke on his time at Mendes which included a fascinating film portion, but gave us the treat of an afternoon learning about *Photography in Archaeology* the very next day. This was very enlightening and fun for the members and graduate students who attended. We then enjoyed our first joint lecture with the Vancouver chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) in which Carol Redmount (UC Berkeley) gave us an account of her recent excavations at El-Hibeh. Last but certainly not least was the December lecture by Jane Roy of the University of British Columbia (UBC) who enlightened us on Egypt's neighbours to the south in her

talk *Visiting the Neighbours: Contact and Exchange between Egypt and Lower Nubia in the 4th millennium BC*. It was very exciting to see the attendance of our lectures steadily rise as we shared our passion for Egypt with more and more of Vancouver. Next we have an exciting program planned to finish the academic year. We have lectures featuring our own Thomas Schneider (UBC) on Thursday, February 10th, and Dr. Thomas Hikade (UBC) on Thursday, March 3rd, and as well are excited to welcome Scott Noegel (U of Washington) in a joint lecture with the Vancouver School of Theology on Wednesday, March 31st. As per usual, modest refreshments will be provided at each of these lectures and anyone is welcome to join us as we take our speaker for a nice dinner and casual conversation, usually before or after the lecture. Our last event will be a barbeque for members which will also serve as our AGM. During the BBQ portion of the event we will be featuring an alternative history asking: what if the Amarna age never ended? To this end we have cheekily named it The Amarnaque. To compliment this line-up and raise funds for the following year we are consulting

with the Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies Student Association on their annual Masked Gala in which they notoriously give all proceeds to an academic cause. This year the food, drinks, music, and entertainment will all be inspired by ancient Egypt. The Gala evening will be held Friday, March 11th from 6:30 to midnight at Heritage Hall (3102 Main St.). Tickets can be purchased through the CNRS (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) department office. This is everything that we have planned at this moment, but as always we will be looking for opportunities as they arise for more events both social and academic.

We are already planning for our second year and are enthusiastic about the prospects for the Vancouver chapter's future! We would also like to take this opportunity to thank SSEA headquarters for their patience, assistance, and support in our inaugural year. With their help, slowly but surely we are getting our footing and enjoying every minute of it!

MONTREAL CHAPTER REPORT Jean-Frédéric Bruneta

The Montreal chapter's fall 2010 season proved to be among the busiest ones we've ever had. It began on September 30th with a public lecture held, as usual, at the Egyptian Consulate in downtown Montreal. The lecture was given by Lydia Bhérier-Vidal, a museologist from Laval University in Québec City. Her topic was about a Québec City seminary's small but lovely Egyptian collection, one of the oldest in Canada. This collection, which is presently kept at Québec's Musée de la Civilisation, is being restored and studied, with partial help from the SSEA (through the *Ancient Egypt in Canada Project*). It was the second public lecture, concluding the chapter's 2010 activities on December 16th. This lecture also was special for the chapter, as it was given by Perinne Poiron, the first ever winner of our new Heritage Scholarship. Her topic concerned the early Ptolemys, more specifically how they had cleverly interwoven traditional pharaonic practices and ideologies into their own essentially Greek conceptions of power. Between these two regular public lectures, we also had a very special lecture series by none other than famed Emeritus Professor of Egyptology Jan Assmann (U of Heidelberg, Germany). On October 12th and 13th, two conferences were given at McGill University's wonderful Birks Heritage Chapel, as part of the university's prestigious annual Birks Lecture Series. Then a third lecture was given at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) on October 14th. The theme of the lectures was the transmission of knowledge from ancient Egypt into our occidental civilization's cultural, religious, and intellectual memory. Dr. Assmann also visited the students of our vice president Dr. Jean Revez. To have such an internationally renowned speaker visit us in Montreal was a great honour for us, and we must absolutely thank our partners: McGill's Center for Research on Religions, the Association pour

l'étude du proche-orient ancien, both the History and Religious Studies departments of UQAM, and the Institut d'études internationales de Montréal.

A further lecture, from our mini-lecture series held at Librairie Monet, took place on November 24th. Egyptologist Cédric Gobeil, who is currently doing post-doctoral research at UQAM, brought us on a wonderful virtual tour of the Temple of Dendara, an archaeological site he knows very well since he has personally dug there. As usual, our chapter's activities cannot all be confined within university walls. Sometimes, it's fun to gather in different ways. On October 4th, for example, we had our annual general meeting, in which all members of our local executive were re-elected. A month later, on November 5th, while some of us (including your favourite reporter) were joining SSEA members from across Canada (and beyond!) in Toronto for the annual symposium, colloquium, and AGM, others donned their Egyptian costumes for yet another day of learning and fun. For an afternoon, the Saul Bellow Library was somehow transformed into a little corner of the Nile, to the amazement of kids and grown-ups alike. Finally, the fundraising supper was held on December 8th in a new location, the Centre St-Pierre, rather than in a restaurant as in previous years. This allowed us to bring in our good friends of the Café-Restaurant Jounieh as caterers, and enjoy yet a second little corner of the Nile! The evening's theme was *A Meeting of Gods and Goddesses* and despite the major changes in the formula, the most important constant remained: great games and fun for all! In the end, the event was a great success, perhaps even our best fundraiser supper so far. With replenished granaries and many projects in mind, 2011 should be another busy year for ancient Egypt in Québec!

CALGARY CHAPTER REPORT

James Morison

Jānis Svilpis joined the Calgary chapter as the new treasurer at the beginning of September. Thank you to Gary Lloyd for his work over the last three years. The current executive is now: Julius Szekrenyes (president), Paul English (vice-president), Dr. Mary McDonald (executive member), Jānis Svilpis (treasurer), and James Morison (secretary). LECTURES: *Travelogue of Egypt* Date: October 1st, 2010. Speaker: Dan Bruce. Dan has worked as a cowboy in the US and Canada, and is a bronc rider, cattle history expert, past manager of tourism at the Nicola, and Eight Mile ranches, artefact restoration expert, past curator of the Kelowna Museum, and current curator of the historical site of Fintry. Dan provided a travelogue of Egypt based on a couple of recent tours there; *Abydos* Date: December 3rd, 2010 Speaker: Julius Szekrenyes. Julius is the president of the Calgary chapter of the SSEA. Abydos is one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt. In addition to many important temples, Abydos is home to the tombs of many early pharaohs. *The Copts: who are they? Their heritage and culture; then and now* Date: November 5th, 2010 Speaker: Kamal K. Botros Ph.D. Kamal is a member of the Coptic Church in Calgary. He gave presentations on the Copts, the Christians of Egypt, to the Calgary SSEA in previous years. In this talk Kamal provided an overview of the history and culture of the Copts. Some of the slides from his presentation can be found here: <http://www.slideshare.net/GeorMar/coptic-church-kamal-botros>.

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR COPTIC STUDIES

Helene Moussa and Jitse Dijkstra

The Canadian Society for Coptic genesis in 2008 when it held its first Symposium of Coptic Studies. CSCS was then incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in May 2009. The dual purpose of the society is to bring together individuals interested in Coptic Studies and promote the dissemination of scholarly information on Coptic studies through the organization of meetings/conferences and the preparation of scholarly works for publication. One of the major accomplishments of the society is the publication of the first *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies*, which includes papers presented at the 2008 CSCS symposium. Members of the CSCS may purchase the journal for \$25. An additional \$5.00 will be charged for mailing within Canada. Online orders will also be processed from the publisher, Gorgias Press, New Jersey, USA: <http://www.gorgiaspress.com/bookshop/p-57249-boutros-ramez-journal-of-the-canadian-society-for-coptic-studies-volume-1.aspx>.

This year's Coptic Studies Symposium, *Coptic Heritage: Dynamics and Diversity*, is hosted by the University of Ottawa and co-sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Classics and Religious Studies, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (University of Ottawa), the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies and the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The symposium's keynote lecture will be given by Dr. Jacques van der Vliet of Leiden University in the Netherlands. He will speak about *Pesynthios of Koptos / Qift (569–632) and the Rise of the Egyptian Miaphysite Church*. Professor van der Vliet is one of the world's foremost scholars of the Coptic language, art, and culture and is currently president-elect of the International Society for Coptic Studies (IACS). Registration begins at 9:00am February 26th, 2011. For more information (including the program) see <http://www.copticismuseum-canada.org/>.

This will be the fourth annual symposium sponsored by CSCS. These symposia have covered a wide range of Coptic scholarship including theology, archaeology, textiles, papyrology, art, and music. Each symposium welcomed an international Coptologist. Names include Dominic Bénazeth (Louvre Museum), Fr. Bigoul al-Suriani (al-Surian Monastery in Egypt), and Stephen Davis (Yale University). The organizers of this and the three previous Coptic symposia have also made it a point to encourage students, the future generation of Coptologists, to present papers. For membership applications and information on upcoming activities please write to: **Canadian Society for Coptic Studies, c/o Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, 4 Bancroft Avenue, Toronto, ON M5S 1C1. Or e-mail: cscs@utoronto.ca**



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