

Newsletter

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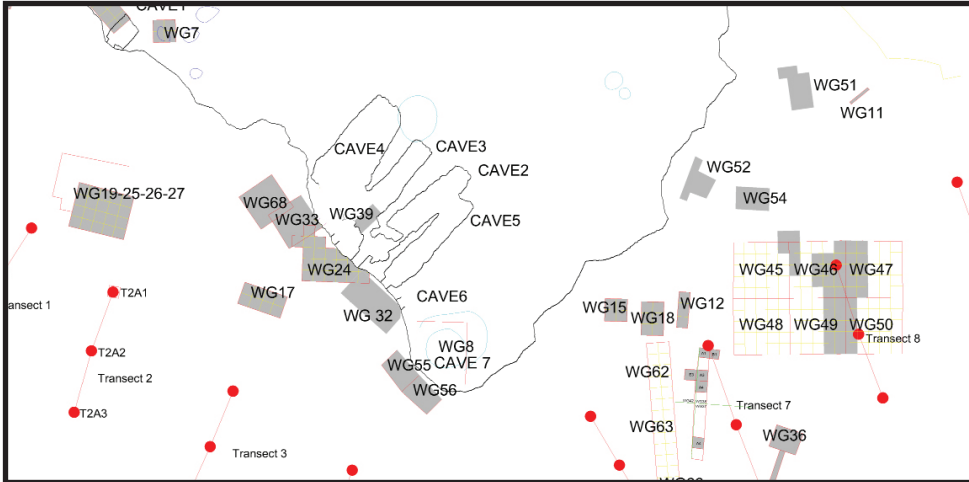
Spring 2011 #2



MERSA/WADI GAWASIS, AN EGYPTIAN HARBOUR ON THE RED SEA: AN UPDATE

Kathryn A. Bard & Rodolfo Fattovich

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CANADA



Plan of the excavated areas of the western coral terrace at Wadi Gawasis

Excavations at the pharaonic harbor of Saww, approximately 23 km south of the modern seaport of Safaga on the Egyptian Red Sea coast, have been conducted under the direction of Kathryn Bard, Boston University (BU), and Rodolfo Fattovich, University of Naples "l'Orientale" (UNO), since 2001. This was the harbor from which seafaring expeditions were sent to the land of Punt (and Bia-Punt), 1,000 km or more to the south in what is now eastern Sudan and Eritrea. To date, eight man-made caves have now been located at the ancient harbor site along the slope of the western fossil coral terrace, and excavations have been conducted within and outside these caves. These caves were used for storage, but there is also evidence of other activities inside some of the rock-cut rooms, including cooking and food processing, and the reworking of ship timbers. On the slope outside the caves, there is also evidence of activities, including packing and unpacking of supplies and goods, as well as the administration of goods and material, on ostraca and papyri. This is the area where expeditions from the Nile Valley would first arrive, via the Wadi Gasus and Wadi Gawasis.

One important aspect of the project has been to determine where the ancient harbour

was located. After three field seasons of investigations, Coastal Geologist Duncan Fitz Gerald and his graduate student, Christopher Hein, Department of Earth Sciences at BU, who conducted geological test trenches and auguring in Wadi Gawasis, have now determined that there was a large, sheltered embayment located considerably inland from the present shoreline. Now covered by wadi silts, this ancient paleo-bay explains the present inland location of the harbour facilities – the eight man-made caves, which were originally located above the northern shore of the harbor. Drilling has also demonstrated that the entrance to this embayment was narrow (150 m), but at least 10m deep – allowing for the passage of seafaring ships into the harbor.

Perhaps the most spectacular evidence at the site comes from Cave 5, where the coils of ship rope were found in 2005. According to Chiara Zazzaro and André Veldmeijer, at least 16 complete coiled ropes are in the upper layer and an estimated 10 coils are in the lower layer. Because of the fragile nature of these coils, they have not been removed and no excavations have been conducted here. Samples of the rope coils taken in 2011 and

examined microscopically by Paleo-Ethnobotanist Ksenija Borojevic (BU), and her student Rebecca Mountain, have now been identified as being made of papyrus, and imported as finished coils from the Nile Valley.

Well preserved remains of more than 40 wooden cargo boxes have now been excavated outside the entrance of Cave 6, and clay sealings of late Middle Kingdom style (only two of which had hieroglyphic inscriptions) were excavated in association with the boxes. Although the sand within and around the boxes was carefully sieved during excavation, nothing



Stela 29, reign of Senusret II

remained of the original contents of the boxes, which must have been unloaded here and packed into other containers for (easier) transport by donkey caravan to the Nile Valley. Elsayed Mahfouz (University of Assiut) translated the partially preserved, painted hieroglyphic inscription on box 2, which included a date of year 8 of the reign of a king, and a description of the box's

contents: “. . . the wonderful things of Punt.” A box later excavated in 2006-2007 included the cartouche of this king, Amenemhat IV (ca. 1786-1777 BC).

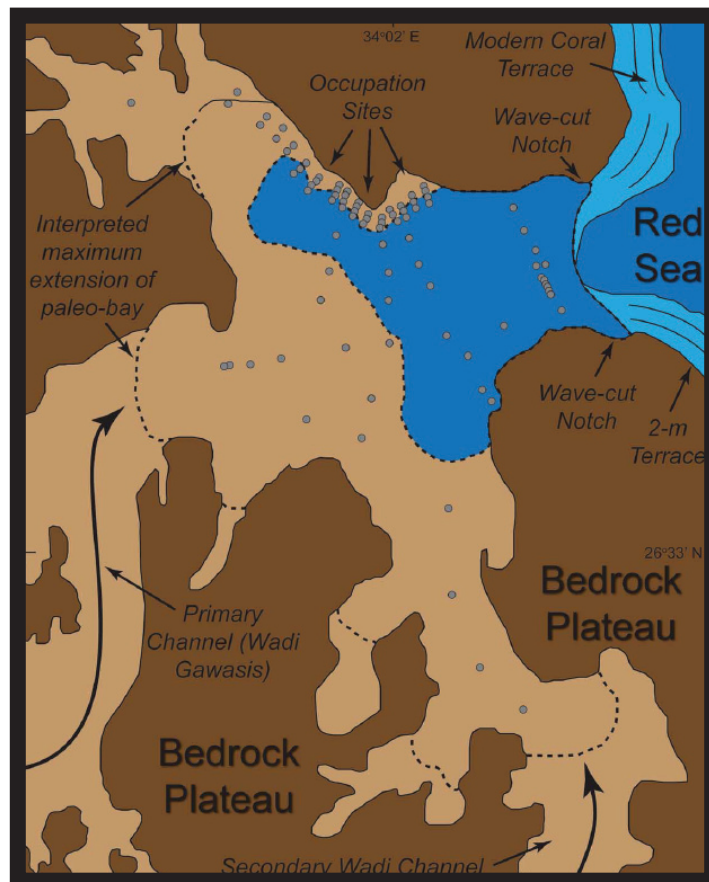
Since 2005-2006, more inscribed limestone stelae have also been excavated at the harbour site including two with the cartouche of Amenemhat III (ca. 1831-1786 BC), each dating to different years of his reign (year 23 and year 41), evidence of two different expeditions under this king. An unfinished stela excavated at the entrance to Cave 7 is dedicated to two deities: “Osiris Wadj-wer” (Osiris of the Great Green, i.e., Red Sea) and Horus the Great. “Osiris Wadj-wer” is a unique title of a maritime god for the harbor. Another inscribed stela (Stela 29) dating to year 2 of Senusret II was found outside Cave 8; it had probably fallen from the area above, on top of the terrace. According to Elsayed Mahfouz’s translation, this text is about an expedition to Bia-Punt, directed by the herald Henenu.

Excavations in 2007-2008 along the western slope of the coral terrace (WG 33) uncovered the remains of a mud-brick platform structure, but its use is uncertain. A later hearth made in this area contained Egyptian pottery of the late 12th and early 13th Dynasties, and sherds of a Canaanite Ware that is known to have been imported on a large scale to the site of Tell el-Daba in the eastern Nile Delta (Manfred Bietak, personal communication). More sherds of Canannite Ware were subsequently excavated in a dump in the harbour area in 2009-2010.

Also in 2007-2008 an unusual shrine structure, which consisted of an arrangement of four large upright stones, was excavated to the east of the entrance to Cave 7. Unlike the excavated deposits in other areas of the terrace slope, which typically have evidence of wood-working, administrative activities, and accumulated materials from expeditions, evidence of such activities was missing here. Nearby at the entrance to Cave 7 (in WG 55) four rod-like pieces of ebony, now in fragments, were also excavated and identified by Rainer Gerisch (Free University, Berlin), along with two Minoan potsherds. The rods of ebony suggest the original shape in which they were imported from Punt, where ebony trees grew. Two Minoan potsherds were found in the same stratigraphic unit, but they were from different pots dating to very different periods. Identified by Ceramicist Sally Wallace-Jones (Norwich, UK), one potsherd is characteristic of the Proto-Palatial period, possibly as early as ca. 2000 BC, of the white-banded style of MMIB Kamares pottery – and is the earliest known Minoan pottery in Egypt; the other potsherd is from a shallow bowl of Fine Buff Crude Ware of the MMIIIA, ca. 1700 BC.

In 2009-2010 the entrance to an eighth cave was located by Kathryn Bard, working with Tracy Spurrier. Cave 8 had been carefully cleared out at some point, probably in the later 12th Dynasty, and only a few sherds of early 12th Dynasty pots were found in corner areas or along the base of the rear wall. Along with the few Egyptian potsherds were sherds of an unknown black ware, with a few traces of burnishing. Reconstructed by Wallace-Jones, this jar had been made on a fast wheel, with a wheel-made ring base and jar handle.

Below the terrace with the man-made caves, Rodolfo Fatovich conducted large-scale areal excavations in the beach area (WG 45/46/47/48/49/50) above the harbour, which provided firm evidence of the use of this part of the site in the Middle Kingdom, mainly during the 12th Dynasty. Two main phases of use were identified. The earlier phase part of the area may have been used for storage, with large jars aligned along the edge of the shore line of the ancient beach. In the later phase most of the area was used as a camp with evidence of large hearths and many fish remains from sailors’ meals. The large storage jars from the beach area’s earlier phase of use were mainly of Nile C Ware and its variants, which were made in Upper Egypt and brought to the site by



Area of the ancient harbor/embayment, courtesy of C. Hein & Duncan FitzGerald

caravan across the desert, an estimated 9-10 day trek.

Ceramics were studied by Wallace-Jones, who also identified wooden discs that were used as jar stoppers, formerly thought to be pulleys or reels.

Ceramics from the Nile Valley are providing more information about the organization of the seafaring expeditions sent from the ancient harbor and suggest that the expeditions were supplied from different parts of the valley. Many impressed clay sealings have also been excavated at the site, which suggest administrative offices that were responsible for organizing expedition supplies. One sealing (S08/04) with a hieroglyphic inscription, translated by Elsayed Mahfouz, contains the title of the “overseer of the books of the temple of the town,” which suggests that some expedition supplies came from an Egyptian temple, not a government administrative center.

In the second phase of use of the beach area, more Egyptian pottery from the Nile Valley was also identified by Wallace-Jones. These ceramics were in a wide range of forms, suggesting a mixed use of the area: for small-scale storage, food preparation, and consumption. Two potsherds of Nile E Ware were excavated there; these ceramics originated in the Nile Delta. Canaanite sherds found in other areas of the site may have been brought here with supplies from the eastern Delta, including the Nile E Ware. Also excavated in the camp area were potsherds of wares from Eritrea and the Aden region of Yemen (Malayba Ware), identified by Andrea Manzo, (UNO).

The ceramics from Eritrea and Yemen suggest possible locations of Punt, and the destination of the seafaring expeditions, on both sides of the southern Red Sea. Tools of obsidian, which also come from sources on both sides of the southern Red Sea region, have been excavated at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis as well.

Because a large number of cylindrical Middle Kingdom bread molds have been found at the site, Terry Childs (National Park Service, Washington, DC) and Ksenija Borojevic conducted a bread-making experiment in 2007 using ancient bread molds and dough from a modern bakery in Safaga. They were successful in making bread after preheating the molds. Borojevic also identified spikelets of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) from dry-sieved soil samples taken inside Cave 3, where the wheat had probably been stored. The spikelets were hollow, with the seeds eaten by pests, most likely weevils. Burnt grains of emmer wheat



"Uncle Sam" the snake robot on the move

and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were also identified in an industrial area, where a residue of barley seeds adhering together was excavated – perhaps from porridge or beer making.

Fieldwork at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis in the latest field season, 2010-2011, focused on the ancient harbour area, where Fattovich excavated the remains of five possible ramps/slipways made of mud-brick. The evidence of thousands of fragments of cedar chippings (gribble) and copper strips used in the mortise fastenings suggests that partly dismantled ships were hauled out of the water here and then ship timbers were salvaged by removing damaged areas. More areas along the western coral terrace slope were investigated and no new caves were located, although the evidence suggests concentrations of domestic activities. Cheryl Ward (Coastal Carolina University) and Chiara Zazzaro (University of Exeter) finished studying and recording the excavated ship timbers, including two huge blades of a ship-rudder, approximately 4m long, reused as a ramp, which were discovered in 2006-2007 outside the entrance of Cave 6. Howard Wellman (Wellman Conservation) conserved these timbers and placed them in a storage facility. A snake robot was also used by Howard Choset (Robotics Institute, Carnegie Mellon University) to explore the openings of Caves 6 and 7, which were too dangerous to enter because of the collapse of the rock-cut ceilings.

Thus, at Wadi Gawasis there is now significant evidence of a major pharaonic harbour, including ship timbers and rigging, stone anchors, and boxes that were probably used to carry imported materials back from Punt. Texts on stela left at the site describe the royal expeditions, and obsidian, ebony, and pottery from the southern Red Sea region demonstrate the distant contacts of this trade.

Other excavated material is providing information about how the site was used, mainly after the return of the seafaring expeditions to Egypt.

Funding was provided by a generous private donation of Mr. Wallace Sellers, Lahaska, PA; the Glen Dash Charitable Foundation; and grants from the University of Naples 'l'Orientale' and the Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient, Rome.

Reports of the excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis are available online: www.archaeogate.org.

A report of the first five years of excavation has also been published: *Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt. Archaeological Investigations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis Egypt, 2001-2005*, edited by Kathryn Bard and Rodolfo Fattovich. Naples: Università degli Studi di Napoli "l'Orientale", 2007. ■



Kathryn Bard & Rodolfo Fattovich at the entrance to Cave 8, found in 2009

Kathryn Bard, Associate Professor of Archaeology at Boston University, and University of Toronto PhD (1987), was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2010. The Academy was founded in 1780 to "give attention to literature and the sciences, superior to [their] differences, and animated by the generous principles, which liberty and independency inspire" (James Bowdoin, the Academy's first president). It is an independent policy research center with headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts that conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. The Academy's elected members are leaders in the academic disciplines, the arts, business, and public affairs.

Past members of the Academy include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, T.S. Eliot, Albert Einstein, and John F. Kennedy. Foreign honorary members include John Stuart Mill, Charles Darwin, Winston Churchill, and Steven Hawking. Fellows elected in 2010 include film director Francis Ford Coppola; actor John Lithgow; G. Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; and Samuel Palmisano, Chairman and CEO of IBM.

Rodolfo Fattovich is professor of Ethiopian Archaeology and Egyptian Archaeology at the University of Naples "l'Orientale," Italy. He has conducted archaeological fieldwork and research in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea since 1971. He has directed the Italian Archaeological Expedition in Sudan (Kassala) of the Oriental Institute, Naples, Italy (1980-1995) and co-directed with Kathryn A. Bard the UNO/BU Joint Archaeological Expeditions at Aksum, Ethiopia (1993-2003) and Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt (since 2001).

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT EGYPT IN CANADA: THE MANITOBA MYSTERY *Mark Trumpour*

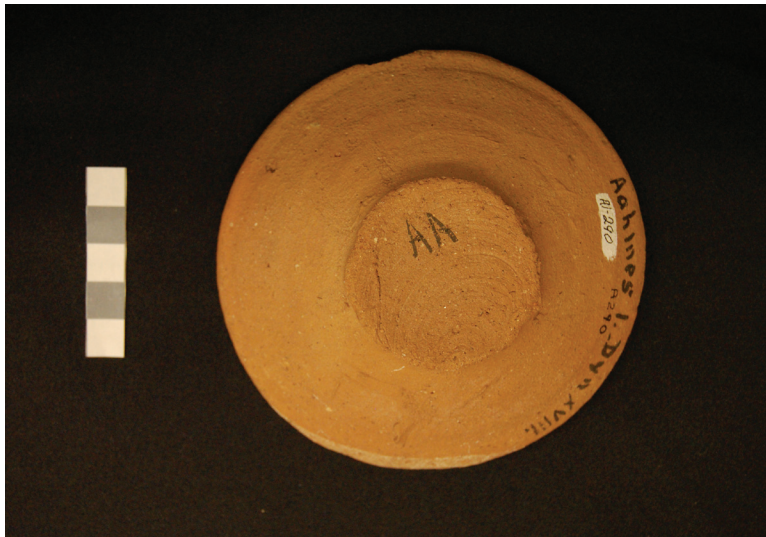


Figure 1: Plate XXIII, #6, Abydos III

The University of Winnipeg's (UofW) Anthropology Museum is believed to have acquired its educational collection through Dr. A.E. Hetherington (1867 – 1928, Dean of Divinity in his later years at then precursor to UofW, Wesley College) after his involvement in a series of excavations at the ancient city of Abydos, under Egyptologist Henri Frankfort between 1923 and 1926. The collection, allegedly procured from Hetherington, has until now remained supporting evidence of his participation in these digs, leading to their current display in the museum.

In May 2008, on behalf of *In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada*¹, York University Masters Student Gabrielle Cole traveled to UofW's Anthropology Museum to document and photograph the Hetherington collection. A pot dated to the time of Aahmes (more commonly known today as Ahmose I), founder of Dynasty 18, was located in the museum's collection database. Several of the UofW artefacts bear field markings from Abydos. Figure 1 shows one small pot marked with the letters "AA", attributed to the artefact upon excavation, indicating the site of the terrace temple of Ahmose. Charles Trick Currelly (1876-1957), under William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853-1942), excavated sites connected to this king, and in 1903 excavated a large number of objects bearing the same markings, "AA," from a large field deposit at Abydos.

A query to the Egyptian Exploration Society (EES) confirmed that a collection of objects from various ancient Egyptian sites was sent to Winnipeg in 1903.² If indeed Hetherington excavated this collection, the transfer may suggest that Hetherington excavated with Currelly at Abydos in 1903, but the UofW's Hetherington

collection is also comprised of materials foreign to Abydos, (for example, two wooden items from Deir el-Bahri bearing the cartouche of female pharaoh Hatshepsut, Ma'at-ka-re) and the origin of these foreign objects in the collection remains unexplained. A "star" piece in the museum's display is part of the lid of a child's ceramic coffin, bearing the likeness of the god Bes. The piece is identifiable as No. 6 in Plate XVIII of Abydos III¹ which came from inside the Abydos structure known as the Shuneh el-Zabib. Many other pieces in the collection bear field markings from cemeteries inside the Shuneh.²

Henri Frankfort's excavations went nowhere near the Shuneh, therefore it is unlikely that Hetherington dug under Frankfort. The fact that Hetherington was very much involved with his duties as Dean of Divinity during the years of these excavations warrants further doubt of his involvement in them.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, I began collecting evidence for Hetherington's involvement in Abydos excavations before 1930. Figure 2 details the archaeological history of Abydos from 1899 – 1926. The reports invariably document all individuals who assisted in the excavations, and no mention of Hetherington's name can be found in any of these reports. Ambiguous biographical material about Hetherington suggests that he may have been in Egypt during the 1903/4 field season,⁵ but the vagueness of the information leaves us questioning the validity of this claim. A later dig in 1906 - 1909 conducted under John Garstang was not published in its entirety, which may account for the absence of Hetherington's name, if he did indeed participate. A suggestion from Dr. Kei Yamamoto led us to the Victoria Figure 2:

- **1899 – 1901:** Excavations by A.E. Mace of the Egyptian Exploration Fund (EEF)
- **1901 – 1903:** William Matthew Flinders Petrie, also for the EEF. One of Petrie's assistants was Charles Trick Currelly, later to become the first Director of Archaeology at the ROM. The excavations were published in three volumes, Abydos I, Abydos II, and Abydos III
- **1906-1909:** John Garstang on behalf of Abydos Excavations Committee (affiliated to the Liverpool Institute of Archaeology). Work not fully published
- **1909 – 1910:** Eric Peet and Edouard Naville
- **1925 – 1926:** Henri Frankfort

1. In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada is sponsored by the Toronto-based Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA). The travel was supported by a grant from York University.

2. EEF distribution lists, provided by Chris Naunton, Egypt Exploration Society, August 2010.

3. Ayrton, Edward R., Currelly, C.T. and Weigall, A.E.P., 1904. *Abydos, Part III*. (EEF Memoir 25). London: Egypt Exploration Fund.

4. Thanks are due to Dr. Kei Yamamoto, who has himself excavated at Abydos and is familiar with the Abydos field markings. He identified several of the markings, as well as the coffin lid pictured in the excavation report (reference in note 3). He also recognized Hatshepsut's cartouche.

5. Porsilb, Charlene. *Gamblers and Dreams: Women, Men and the Community in the Klondike*. 140



“A query to the Egyptian Exploration Society (EES) confirmed that a collection of objects from various ancient Egyptian sites was sent to Winnipeg in 1903.”

Figure 3: Child's Ceramic Coffin Lid Bearing the Likeness of Bes

University archives at the University of Toronto, where evidence of a possible acquaintance between Currelly and Hetherington was revealed. Victoria University was the alma mater of Currelly, who graduated with a BA in 1898. Their records reveal that Hetherington was also one of eight students, Currelly among them, to earn a Bachelor of Divinity (BD) degree that year. Hetherington and Currelly shared similar postgraduate experiences travelling on missionary work, Hetherington to the Klondike and Currelly to Dauphin, Manitoba, outside Hetherington's Winnipeg home town.

Three files from the Victoria University archives relate to the former Victoria College Museum and the Egypt Exploration Fund (EEF). They contain correspondence received by then-Chancellor Nathanael Burwash⁶. Of at least seventeen letters to Burwash from Currelly, two refer to Winnipeg.

On January 11, 1903, Currelly wrote to Burwash about the large quantity of material he acquired, and arrangements for their shipment home:

It is purely a question of the shipping. I am anxious to load in all possible and an arrangement could be made later with Winnipeg and BC or Montreal to take some representative bits. I am especially anxious about the pottery as it is the only chance that will ever be. It costs about £3 per 100 lb. Prof Petrie says to ship directly from here...

Again in a letter dated March 29th 1904, he refers to his numerous acquisitions:

We shall of course keep the best for Victoria but I thought one [case of antiquities] might go to Winnipeg and one to BC or Montreal. Roman lamps will be well represented as I bought about 400 covering almost the whole Roman period down to the Arab conquest...

These letters unearth the possibility that much of the museum's collection may originate from the EEF by influence of Currelly and a university acquaintance and not from Hetherington at all. One last archival teaser leaves open the possibility that Hetherington might have been in Egypt during significant dates. In a letter from Abydos dated December 11, 1902, Currelly makes a suggestion:

I suggested [to Petrie] taking a Vic man each year for one year only. A Vic man of the BD [Bachelor of Divinity] class just finishing preferred to have the position as a sort of scholarship... A man who will work is what is wanted – not a specialist – but a man for routine work... accounts... measuring pits... holding tapes... etc. The appointment would be made by you and Dr. Wallace a year ahead so the man could arrange accordingly then leave for London where I would meet him and show him how the London world was arranged.⁷

Was Currelly's suggestion acted upon? Was a "BD" man – Hetherington – sent over to work with the EEF? Unfortunately, we have no confirmation. The date of Currelly's suggestion means it is possible that Hetherington participated in excavations, most likely during the 1903/4 season, and this would help explain the presence of the Abydos material in the UofW museum. However, if Currelly and Hetherington did indeed work together, it is curious that it is never mentioned in either Currelly's memoirs⁸ or the excavation reports. Further archival research in Winnipeg and with the EES in London may yet reveal what actually transpired. ■



Mark Trumpour

Mark Trumpour is an SSEA Trustee and lead researcher for "In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada", regularly contributing updates on the project to the Newsletter. He is also a departmental associate in Near Eastern and Asian Civilizations at the ROM and volunteer gallery interpreter.

For more on the Egypt in Canada project see the SSEA website (www.thessea.org) and follow the links to Fieldwork/In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada.

6. Victoria Archive File: Correspondence re: Egyptian Exploration and Artifacts, 1902-1909. Personal Papers, Nathaniel Burwash. Box 10. #92-002.

7. Ibid. Box 10. #92-002

8. Currelly, Charles Trick. *I Brought the Ages Home*. 1956. Ryerson Press, Toronto.

“A DAY IN THE LIFE...” - PERSONAL DIG DIARIES

Rexine Hummel



Current Page:

Left: Gullhas around tree.

Middle: Rexine Hummel and Lyla at work in the storeroom.

Right: Nile ferry boat.

Next Page:

Left: Howard Carter's Old Dig House
Middle: Moving The Sarcophagus
Box

Right: Aly Hassan Storage Room

Nov. 1/2010: This past week has been a beehive of non-stop activity. I arrived in Cairo at 10:00 pm Saturday night October 30, 2010 and went to Lyla and Ted's flat. Monday morning Lyla and I had a 9:30 meeting with the American Research Centre. At ARCE, our wonderful agent, Madame Amira, served us tea and coffee and confirmed the days that we wanted to work. Then we had to pay her the money up front for the salary of an Egyptian inspector who would be assigned to us.

Around 11:00 am Amira took us in the ARCE car to the Supreme Council of Antiquities which is in Zamalek, an island on the Nile. We met an Australian mission there trying to get their permits as well. Finally we were ushered into the inner sanctum and again were offered tea. After much handshaking, tea, and signing of papers we left with the precious document, four pages all in Arabic. I have to carry it with me at all times as well as having to get other signatures from dignitaries in the Luxor area. We have purchased two tickets for two chairs on the first class night train to Luxor for tomorrow night so that should be the next adventure.

Nov. 2/2010: Lyla and I spent all day repacking for the dig and at about 7:00 pm we got a taxi and set out for the Giza train station. The traffic was horrendous and I feared many times that we would never make the train. We went so slowly that we had a good view of the back streets of Cairo. Finally we arrived and amazingly still had some time to spare. The train puffed into the station around 10:30 and we dragged the bags to the door and hoisted them up the steep step into the train along with a multitude of others. We shuffled along looking for our compartment only to find that already 5 of the 6 seats were occupied in ours. With much shouting and gesturing by the train official two tourists were ejected from our seats and we fell into our assigned places. Across from me sat a very tall and athletic looking fellow. Lyla commandeered him to pile all the big bags onto the tiny table under the window. We pulled into Luxor around 7:00am sleep-deprived and grumpy. We were picked up by a cheerful old friend, Omar Farouk in his brother's taxi (he has 9 brothers and 3 sisters) and taken to our rented flat a block away from the Nile.

We just had time to throw our luggage into the flat and leave for an appointment with Mansour Boraik, the chief inspector of Luxor. We raced to his office to find that he was out and we were sent to Karnak Temple to find him. The guards gave us a young man to lead us on a very circuitous route until we finally found him at the dig site of the Sphinx Avenue. He signed our papers right there and told us that we must cross the river to get our papers signed by the chief inspector of the West Bank. Lyla found a boatman who would take us across for 16 Egyptian pounds (about \$3) and then hired a taxi on the other side to take us to his office. More tea drinking and at last the final signature was on our document. We were assigned our own inspector, a very nice gentleman, Yasser Ahmed.

Nov. 6/2010: Our work place is very interesting. The location is out in the desert behind Howard Carter's old dig house. You remember that Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb and spent most of the rest of his life processing all the precious objects. Today they



have made his house into a museum and are actually opening a tea room in it to be run by the Winter Palace for the tourists. Any day now all traffic will stop and the wife of President Hosni Mubarak will come by to celebrate the opening. The staff of the museum have been trying to grow grass and flowers around the building since I have arrived to gussy it up for the occasion.

The local micro-bus that we take every day from the ferry stops short of Carter House and we have to get out and trudge up the hill to a huge penitentiary-like building surrounded by a tall wall with gun turrets and huge metal locked gates. Welcome to the Aly Hassan grand storage magazine for local antiquities. All the local missions digging in this archaeologically rich area have to send all their finds up to this magazine when their dig is finished. Because the Arizona project that I am on does not have its own local storage all the pottery goes up here every year. The place is guarded by armed soldiers.

On the first day that Yasser Ahmed took me there we went first to meet the head man who looks a little like Richard Gere and whose name I never did catch. We drank tea while he examined all my special documents and then I was lead out to one of the many magazines that held the trunks of the University of Arizona. Inside the big wide hall were about 20 trunks from the University of Arizona (U of A). We spent the day dragging each one out, opening it and deciding which ones had pottery inside. Our first problem involved the keys. Each trunk had two locks but each key ring labeled with the number of the trunk had 10-15 keys on it. The inspector with infinite patience tried every key from every ring in every lock until he opened every trunk except two. I now have to get official permission from Arizona and the inspectorate to break the locks and replace them. We managed to find pottery in about 10 of the trunks and so we set to work.

We decided to work out in the open courtyard to get the light. We were a little surprised that the pottery was unwashed so we have been washing it in an old paint can and drying it on railing. It is a little tacky doing that in an official storeroom but it needed doing. It has been very hot and we constantly shuffle our little tables following the shade. The work can be tedious but every now and then we come upon a very interesting foreign or decorated sherd that keeps us happy. The guards are very good to us, bringing us tea constantly. Sometimes they come to us complaining of horrible headaches and they want aspirin. I went to the pharmacy last night to buy some aspirin to keep on hold for them.

Nov. 18/2010: The Big Eid is upon us. I read that Tuesday was the day of sacrifice. Amira had told me that she ordered two sheep to be butchered for her and her son for the big Eid (celebration akin to our Christmas). All Muslims that can afford it must sacrifice an animal, which is then butchered and divided into three parts, one for the

butcher, one for her own family, and one to be given to the poor. She says that she distributes the meat into small plastic baggies to be handed out. I read that the true believer must sacrifice the animal himself or at least be present to insure that it is a meaningful religious moment and not trivial. This is also the day that the meat is distributed to the poor. To give up one third of such an expensive item is truly a generous deed for a lot of Egyptians who are not rich.

We stayed inside Wednesday working on the pottery trying to decide what vessels to prepare for publication in the time that we had. Of course there is never enough time for what I want to do.

The flat we are staying in is part of a complex called the Rezeiky Camp. It is owned by a Christian family called Rezeiky. During this holiday the parking area has been filled with tour buses dragging large red boxcars behind them full of sleeping accommodation. The buses take people around to see the sites. The first night of the Eid they had a party with music and a belly dancer around the pool. I must say that we have a lot of advantages such as free wi-fi. Mr Rezeiky has told us he can get us whatever we want. For the main part we live on tomatoes, cucumbers, soft cheese, and village bread. I love the bread here. Work begins again tomorrow and we have to start off by 7:15.

Dec. 5/2010: All we do is work, work, and work. On Friday, our day off, we go to the library and work there looking up parallels for our pots. There are always unknown forms of strange clays that come up. One in particular bothered me for several weeks. The shape of the rim was unusual and the fabric looked vaguely like some clay that was popular over 500 years before our corpus.

One day I was standing in the sunlight peering through my new 20x magnifier at this strange piece when the guard came up to me and asked me whether it was ancient or modern. I answered "Very ancient." He replied, "No it is modern we make them in the village." I replied it had to be ancient. He took me by the hand and led me to a group of water jars sitting around a tree in the courtyard. I saw that the rim shape was similar but they were gray on the surface and ours was pink. I said I needed a broken piece and he went and got me one. He was right. They were one and the same. When I researched them some more I found out that the same jars have been in circulation for about the last 200 years. I can now add some history to our temple site. Sir Flinders Petrie spent a few days excavating our site in the early 20th century. I can see now that his workmen must have broken their water jug at that time and their rubbish has been re-excavated by our team. It is a good marker for a disturbance in the trenches that we are digging.

We have had some visitors in the last few weeks. The American Getty Museum arrived with a bunch of keen Italian conservators bringing a huge box lined with foam. They are apparently

going to restore the coffin lid of King Tut and they are preparing a special container in which to carry it. I hear that they will begin work in the New Year.

Today was the second run off of the election. On the real election day last week all the minibuses were appropriated by the people running the elections and we had to stand in the hot noon sun for 30 minutes before we could catch a ride home. Next Tuesday is the Islamic New Year and a big holiday.

Dec 7, 2010: We are almost finished processing all the sherds. The Supreme Council of Antiquities requires a report as does Richard Wilkinson, the director of the Queen Tausert Project. Morning starts when we leave our flat at 7:00 am. It is quiet, the temperature cool, and we flag down a microbus to take us close to the ferry. We have been successful with the blue-striped buses but sometimes they take us in some unknown direction away from the river and we have to quickly jump out. These buses when filled (they have snap down seats in the aisle) can carry 15 people but they operate on the idea that you can always fit in one or five more. People jostle four into places for three, they move in with the driver, and the remaining stand outside on the running board hanging onto the roof. Everyone seems cheerful and off we go. One hands the 50 piaster fare to the one in front and he passes it along to the driver. Change comes back the same way. We hop off and walk to the ferry.

I love the view of the river in the morning. The hot air

balloons are floating over the West bank as the mist begins to dissipate. The ferry boats themselves have been gussied up for the tourists. They have added extensions on the front and back to make them look like ancient Egyptian boats. The ride across is pleasant and we gird our loins for the struggle ahead to try and find the bus that will take us to the right place. We yell out "Upper Gurna" in Arabic and most of the buses pass us. The drivers on the West bank are a happy lot. The drivers chat and laugh, drum their fingers on the steering wheel in time to the music, weave in and out, and pick up and drop off passengers. This is real multitasking. The vehicles always have their sliding side door open and my greatest fear is that I will go flying out on some curve. If I have the seat near the door I hang on for dear life.

We head inland past the agricultural fields. Every morning I watch an old man ploughing with two oxen yoked together with tree branches. His plough is another branch just like you see in the ancient scenes on the tomb walls. I am always surprised when all of a sudden the two colossal statues of Memnon appear out of the mist in an empty field. We pass the Spanish, Hungarian, and German Missions who have already started to excavate along-side the road that we are on. We are usually the last to get off and then we have to trudge up the hill past Carter's old dig house until we reach our building. We salaam everyone, shake hands, ask about everyone's health. To get home we do the whole thing in reverse. ■

SAD NEWS: JOHN L. FOSTER

The SSEA is greatly saddened to announce the death of one of its oldest and dearest friends, John L. Foster, on January 25, 2011. Dr. Foster was a 30-year member of the SSEA, a former trustee of the Board of Directors and a frequent presenter and attendee at the SSEA's Annual Scholars' Colloquium and symposium in the 1980s and 1990s. His greatest contribution to Egyptology came from his study of the structure of ancient Egyptian verse. He published extensively on a variety of related topics, such as grammatical structures in literary texts and the thought couplet. Volume 4 of SSEA publications *The Maxims of Ptah-hotep* was one of these important studies. Dr. Foster also had a long association with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago concurrent with his tenure at Roosevelt University. This relationship was formalized at his retirement when he became a research associate of the OI. He was also an active member of the American Research Center in Egypt and in the 1990s edited their journal, JARCE, for some years.

The SSEA plans to memorialize John Foster more fully in upcoming publications.



Arlette Londes and Helene Moussa distributing program literature

'WORD ON THE STREET' 2010

Lyn Green

On Sunday September 26, 2010, thousands of book-lovers and lovers of knowledge in general took to the streets of Toronto in search of some food for thought. The SSEA joined with the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) - Toronto Society, and other local scholarly organizations such as the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies (CSCS) to raise interest in our events, publications, and programs. Arlette Londes and Helene Moussa joined the crowds to pass out flyers with information about the SSEA symposium, Toronto chapter courses and lectures, and St. Mark's Coptic Museum, while inside the booth Mark Trumppour (SSEA), Lyn Green (SSEA), Irene Kritikopoulos (AIA), Paula Gheorghiadé (AIA), and other volunteers spoke to interested passers-by about the AIA "Digging the Past" outreach program, and the lectures and other programs available from the AIA, SSEA, and CSCS. Paula Gheorghiadé of AIA Toronto is owed a great vote of thanks for organizing so much of this event.

DEATH ALONG THE NILE: UNCOVERING THE SECRETS OF EGYPT'S LOST TOMBS

On November 5, 2011, The SSEA/SÉÉA and the ROM will once again team up to present an exciting day of papers on the latest discoveries from Egypt. This year's focus is on current archaeology of tombs and cemeteries, with reports presented from those working in the field in Egypt. Speakers scheduled to appear include Otto Schaden, responsible for the excavation of the first new tomb discovered in the Valley of the Kings since Tutankhamun, and Suzanne Onstine, who is working in the tomb of the noble Panehsy at Thebes. This year's mixture of field reports on tombs, cemeteries, and their inhabitants will provide a truly exciting look at the process of archaeological discovery, and at what excavations can teach us about life and afterlife in ancient Egypt.

THE DAKHLEH OASIS PROJECT

2009 – 2010 Field Season *Peter Sheldrick for Tony Mills*

The 32nd season of the Dakhleh Oasis Project was in the field from November 16, 2009 to March 2010. The following is a very brief summary of activities. Overall Director Anthony Mills continued work on the Old Kingdom site of 'Ain el Gazzareen. He excavated in Building C, which is a complex building that may have been a mud brick temple. Ceramics indicate a date from Dynasties IV, V, and VI. Dr. Colin Hope and his team from Monash University in Australia continued working in Ismant el-Kharab (Kellis). Dr. Gill Bowen excavated at Dier Abu Metta, a church with surrounding settlement and graves.

Adam Zielinski continued his conservation and restoration of the temple of Amun-Nakht at 'Ain Birbiyeh. An electronic resistivity survey revealed a huge city surrounding the temple, larger than any other town in the oasis. Professor Fred Leemhuis continued his work in el-Qasr, mainly in the underlying Roman town of Castrum. Dr. Roger Bagnall and his team from New York University continued work at the town of Amheida, ancient Trimithis. He is completing the reconstruction of a Roman town house, complete with wall paintings.

The Polish team continued work on petroglyphs. The physical anthropologists finished analyzing the 700 skeletons from the Kellis 2 cemetery. Further details may be learned from our website (www.thessea.org).



TUTANKHAMUN'S FOOTWEAR

Studies of Ancient Egyptian Footwear

André J. Veldmeijer

The footwear is analysed here in detail for the first time since the discovery using Carter's records and Harry Burton's excellent photographs along with the author's analyses of the objects, all of which are housed in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo and the Luxor Museum. Several specialists contributed to the volume discussing the different materials (gold, vegetable fibre, leather, gemstones) that were used in the footwear
312 pages, 413 illustrations [292 illustrations in full colour, 50 illustrations in black and white and 71 line drawings], hard cover

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AMARNA'S LEATHERWORK

Part I: Preliminary Analysis and Catalogue

André J. Veldmeijer

This volume, the first of two, presents the detailed description of the leather objects (among which are chariot leather and footwear) excavated at Tell el-Amarna, accompanied by colour photographs and line- and construction drawings. It describes the Amarna Leatherwork Project as well as initial interpretations of the material, including the results of comparative studies made by the author.

290 pages, 413 illustrations [292 illustrations in full colour, 50 illustrations in black and white and 71 line drawings], hard cover

forthcoming from Uitgeverij DrukWare



TRIBUTE TO STEVEN LARKMAN

Julius Szekrenyes

The members of the Calgary Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities mourned the death from cancer of Steven Larkman on December 17, 2010. We had a memorial lecture in his honour on Friday, February 4, and we spoke of Steven. He had been our president for two years, from June 2007 to June 2009

before he left for Toronto to continue his studies in Egyptology. He had done a lot for us in that short time - he brought our finances into shape, made many good plans for our future, and gave many lectures. Steven was noted for his enthusiasm and knowledge of ancient Egypt, and his intelligence, kindness, friendliness, and unfailing cheerfulness. We will miss him.

The ancient Egyptian prayer for the dead is appropriate in memory of Steven:

An offering which the King gives to Osiris, lord of Busiris, the great God, lord of Abydos, so that invocation offerings may be made, of thousands of bread, beer, alabaster, linen from the perfect and pure divine offerings on which a god lives for the honoured one Steven Larkman.

VANCOUVER CHAPTER REPORT

Andrea Francis

The SSEA Vancouver rounded off its inaugural year with a lecture by Dr. Scott Noegel which was held on April 14th at 7pm in room 527 at the Vancouver School of Theology. His lecture was titled *Divine Dreams and the Power of Interpretation in the Ancient Near East* and it was both informative and entertaining.

We will be holding our annual general meeting (AGM) on May 7th at 10am on the University of British Columbia (UBC) campus. We will be holding elections during this meeting for the 2011/2012 year and we highly encourage attendance. It will be a great time to get involved in the SSEA and share your thoughts and ideas on next year's events. For more information please contact sseavancouver@gmail.com. After the AGM we will be hosting our "Amarnaque" at a nearby location for all of our members. The event will be a friendly barbeque with food and drinks available as well as academic discourse as always. This event is intended to thank all our members for a great first year!

We would like to thank everybody for their hard work and participation. We would like to especially thank all the speakers who have brightened our lecture halls and enlightened our minds. In addition we would like to thank the Vancouver chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Vancouver School of Theology for working directly with us to bring you some of our lectures. Last but not least a big thank you to the SSEA headquarters for all their support.

CALGARY CHAPTER REPORT *James Morison*

The Calgary chapter held a lecture in memory of Steven Larkman on February 4, 2011. Before the lecture, Julius Szekrenyes (chapter president) talked to the membership about Steven Larkman and the contribution that he made to our group. Steven's parents contacted Julius to offer Steven's collection of Egypt related books to the SSEA. Julius suggested that the books should go to Mount Royal University where Steven had taught. The membership agreed with his suggestion. We showed a pre-recorded lecture on Early Predynastic Egypt. Julius supplemented the recording with some additional material after the screening. The Calgary chapter has three more presentations planned in our Winter/Spring 2011 schedule. Additional information is available on our website: www.calgaryssea.ca

EVENTS

Date: March 4, 2011.

Title: *Encaustic Demonstration and Slide-show Presentation.* **Speaker:** Tracy Proctor

Date: April 1, 2011.

Title: *Ancient Egypt in the Nineteenth Century: Egypt in Victorian Popular Culture and the Emergence of Egyptology.*

Speaker: Kevin M. McGeough Ph.D.

Date: May 6, 2011.

Title: *Dakhleh Oasis Project.*

Speaker: Dr. Mary McDonald

2011 SSEA SCHOLARS' COLLOQUIUM CALL FOR PAPERS

The Scholars' Colloquium Committee

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne 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 **August 31, 2011**. The Scholars' Colloquium will be held on Friday, November 4, 2011 and on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at a location to be announced in 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 predynastic, pharaonic, Hellenistic, Roman, or Coptic Egypt, but must represent an original contribution to the field. Presentations may be given in either English or French. 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. Abstracts must not exceed 350 words in length. Acceptances of papers will be issued in early to mid-September. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the SSEA is also holding its 37th Annual Symposium that weekend. Papers accepted for the Scholars' Colloquium are not limited to the topic of the symposium, and no preference will be given to proposals based on topic. Please also note that the SSEA is soliciting proposals for the Scholars' Colloquium only. 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 www.thessea.org.

STEVEN LARKMAN MEMORIAL TRAVEL GRANT:

This year a special travel award has been set up in memory of Steven J. Larkman, former president of Calgary chapter, by his friends and colleagues. This award will be available to aid scholars wishing to travel to Toronto to present at the 2011 SSEA Scholars' Colloquium. This award will be given to aid scholars who would not otherwise have funding to travel to the event, and will be given as partial reimbursement of travel costs upon presentation of original receipts. Scholars wishing to apply for this award must be members of the SSEA and must have submitted their entire presentations for consideration in advance of the date of the symposium. If you would like more information about this award, or if you would like to make a donation, please email info@thessea.org.

Colloque annuel de la Société pour l'étude de l'Égypte ancienne (SSEA) Appel à communications pour l'édition 2011

La Société pour l'étude de l'Égypte ancienne/The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities a le plaisir de vous annoncer qu'il prépare l'édition 2011 de son colloque annuel qui se tiendra à Toronto les vendredi 4 novembre et dimanche 6 novembre 2011. À cette occasion, la Société invite les doctorants, les chercheurs post-doctoraux, les professeurs et les autres membres de la communauté scientifique à soumettre leur proposition de communication avant la date limite du mercredi 31 août 2011.

Les candidats doivent démontrer que leur proposition constitue une contribution originale à l'avancement du savoir dans les champs de l'égyptologie, de l'anthropologie, des études classiques, de l'histoire de l'art, de l'archéologie, des études nubienues ou dans tout autre domaine dont le cadre spatio-temporel est l'Égypte prédynastique, pharaonique, gréco-romaine ou copte. Les présentations, qui peuvent être faites en anglais ou en français, ne doivent pas excéder une durée de vingt minutes.

Les propositions seront évaluées par un comité de sélection et seul un certain nombre de propositions pourra être accepté. Les personnes intéressées à faire une communication au colloque sont invitées à envoyer le titre et le résumé (maximum de 350 mots) de leur présentation au comité organisateur à l'adresse courriel suivante: ssea@byu.edu. Les candidats recevront une réponse à leur demande au plus tard à la mi-septembre.

Veillez prendre note que la SSEA organise également la 37^e édition de son symposium annuel le samedi 5 novembre 2011, au courant de la même fin de semaine que se tient son colloque. Le présent appel à communications ne vaut que pour le colloque et les

sujets proposés par les candidats ne doivent pas obligatoirement être liés à la thématique principale du symposium.

Aucun frais n'est associé au colloque, tant pour les conférenciers que le public; le colloque est d'ailleurs ouvert à tous, sans inscription préalable. Des frais d'admission s'appliquent cependant dans le cas du symposium. Pour de plus amples renseignements à ce sujet, veuillez écrire à info@thessea.org ou visiter notre site web à www.thessea.org

LA BOURSE DE MOBILITÉ STEVEN LARKMAN

Une bourse de mobilité est offerte cette année en mémoire de Steven J. Larkman, ancien président du chapitre de la SSEA à Calgary qui nous a malheureusement quittés. Gracieuseté de ses amis et collègues, cette bourse a pour but d'aider financièrement les chercheurs ne bénéficiant pas autrement de sources de financement leur permettant de venir à Toronto pour faire une communication à l'édition 2011 du colloque annuel de la SSEA. Les récipiendaires pourront obtenir un remboursement partiel de leurs frais de déplacement sur présentation de leurs reçus. Les chercheurs désirant postuler pour cette bourse doivent être des membres en règle de la SSEA et avoir soumis préalablement le texte et/ou la présentation PowerPoint de leur conférence en entier avant le début du colloque pour être admissible. Pour de plus amples renseignements au sujet du colloque ou si vous souhaitez faire un don, veuillez écrire à info@thessea.org