

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

Editors: Gabriele Cole, Lyn Green | Editorial Assistant: Peter Robinson



NOVA SCOTIA AND MUMMY STUDIES - IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT EGYPT IN CANADA: UPDATE

Mark Trumpour

Summer 2014 #3

S.S.E.A
PO Box 19004 Walmer
360A Bloor St W
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 3C9
CANADA

In November I had the pleasure of visiting Nova Scotia, staying in a charming 19th-century inn in Halifax.



Home of the Dalhousie Art Gallery
Photo M. Trumpour

While I was there, I was able to arrange to visit the store-rooms of two local institutions which I knew to have a few ancient Egyptian items in their collections. They are the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the Dalhousie Art Gallery (DAG). It was the DAG that offered the biggest surprise.

The DAG today is located in a new, purpose-built facility in the university's Art Centre, to which it moved in 1971. The full-time professional staff there has turned a small operation into one that meets current museological standards.

The DAG's collection began with various gifts made to the University. Significant early acquisitions include an important group of historic European prints donated by the Carnegie Foundation in 1926, and three fine oil sketches by Group of Seven member A.Y. Jackson. The gifts became part of the Gallery's collection when it was officially formed, and it continued to grow through donations, bequests and direct purchases from artists and dealers.

Among the early donations was a small group of ancient Egyptian items, apparently given by Dr. John Cameron

in 1930. At least some of them were from Cameron, but not all were fully documented¹. The items include: 4 shabtis, 4 strings of beads, an amulet, a beautifully painted piece of mummy cloth, and – the real surprise – the well-preserved head of a mummy. While the items in the collection are relatively common, they hold particular interest because of their donors. Why are they significant?

Dr. Cameron (1873 – 1960), who donated all but the mummy's head, was a well-known, Scottish-born chair of anatomy at Dalhousie, with a particular interest in ancient remains. Cameron graduated from the University of Edinburgh in anatomy in 1898 and on graduating took up appointments first at St. Andrews University and then, in 1905, at Manchester University.

While in Manchester in 1908 he was recruited by the famous Egyptologist, Dr. Margaret Murray, who was also at Manchester University. As he recounted later in a personal memoir, "...during that brief sojourn [I] had a unique experience. The mummies of two minor princes of the 12th Dynasty of ancient Egypt had just been presented to the university museum. Permission was granted for these to be unwrapped, and Dr. Murray the eminent Egyptologist asked me to collaborate with her in this unusual undertaking."²

The mummies were Khnum-nakht and Nakht-ankh, owners of the famous "tomb of the two brothers". Cameron joined a team of "experts in textiles, chemistry, etc."³, in what was the first multidisciplinary study of a tomb's contents. He took the lead for the investigation of the human remains and contributed a chapter to Dr. Murray's publication of the work, *The Tomb of the Two Brothers*⁴. This pioneering effort might be considered to be the forerunner of and inspiration for the Manchester Mummy Project, initiated

1 As a former curator noted, "...some of the objects were packed away in their boxes and never accessioned. This is why the mummified head of an Egyptian scribe is not listed..." Susan Gibson Garvey (2003), *The Collection*, p. 125.

2 Cameron, John (1952). *Life's Epitomé*. Bournemouth, England. Pardy and Son. privately published, p. 7

3 Cameron (1952), p. 8

4 Murray, Margaret Alice (1910). *The Tomb of the Two Brothers*. Manchester Museum. Available online at <https://archive.org/details/tomboftwobrother00murr> as of February 2014.



Dr. John Cameron, 1917
Courtesy of the Dalhousie Photographic Collection, Dalhousie University Archives

by Dr. Rosalie David almost 70 years later.

On the significance of Murray's efforts, Dr. David commented: "When Margaret Murray brought together a team of medics and scientists to investigate two mummies in the Manchester collection in 1908, it was a real watershed in mummy research. It placed such studies on a scientific and academic basis, instead of the frivolous "unrollings" of mummies performed in front of society audiences in the early nineteenth century."⁵

In 1915, Dr. Cameron moved to Canada and took up the position of professor of anatomy at Dalhousie University. He brought with him the evidence of his interest in ancient Egypt, now housed in the DAG. Where he acquired the objects is not certain, but since no trips to Egypt are recorded in the available sources on Cameron, it is possible that they were given to him as a thank you for his contribution to the autopsy and publication. It is known that members of the large audience that attended the autopsy were offered pieces of the mummy cloth⁶; if this was done for those who merely attended, what reward may have been offered those who actually participated? None of the DAG objects dates to the same period as the goods from the tomb of the two brothers.

Arriving as he did during World War I, Dr. Cameron was able to devote his talents to the Canadian war effort, enlisting as a part-time doctor in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and was on hand to treat the innumerable wounded during the terrible Halifax harbor explosion of December 1917. This photograph shows Cameron in his

military uniform.

Health issues forced Dr. Cameron into early retirement in 1931, at which time "Jock", as he was affectionately known to his friends and students, returned to live in England. His donation dates to this time. He also left Dalhousie an endowment for the Professor John Cameron Prize in Anatomy, and has two rooms in the Department named after him.

The donor of the mummified head was a well-known Canadian artist, Donald Cameron Mackay. Born in Fredericton N.B. in 1906, he studied fine art at the Nova Scotia College of Art (NSCAD) and at the University of Toronto, then taking a job teaching at NSCAD. Starting in 1939 he also taught a course in fine arts at Dalhousie. The course included lectures on archaeology and ancient art.

Mackay was well known for his "cabinet of curiosities", some of which undoubtedly served as teaching aids for his lectures. The mummy head, said to be the "head of a scribe, New Kingdom or later", was donated in 1979 to the DAG.

Subsequent to my visit, conservator Michelle Gallant was able to arrange for a CT scan. The results will be shared for comment once the analysis is complete.



Photos of mummified head by Mark Trumpour, with permission of the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Special thanks to Preparator/Conservator Michele Gallant and to Dianne Landry of the Dalhousie Archives.

⁵ "Under Wraps: Rosalie David in Conversation". *Archaeology online*. February 6, 2001

⁶ From a contemporary report, quoted in David, Rosalie and Tapp, Edmund (1992). *The Mummy's Tale: The scientific and medical investigation of Natsef-Amun, Priest in the Temple at Karnak*. London, Michael O'Meara, p. 96, Thanks to Curator Dr. Campbell Price, Manchester Museum, for bringing this to my attention.

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

Rexine Hummel

May 23

After an 11 hour flight on Egypt Air, a 6 hour wait in Cairo Airport, and a 1 hour flight to Luxor, I have finally arrived safe but tired at the hotel. There are very few tourists in Luxor, so the hotel is almost empty. I think they have closed the 4th and 5th floors because most of us who are staying at the hotel are on the third floor facing the Nile. I love the view from my balcony. I look down on a series of terraces: two gardens, a stone terrace and a terrace tiled like a chessboard. The hotel swimming pool is located on an old boat that is moored at the edge of the Nile. I don't use the pool as it is so hot out and exposed to the sun.



A view from the hotel

The plan was to meet at 5 PM in the lobby and all go out for dinner together. There are six young female graduate students and one male student, mostly from the U of Arizona. Four of the girls are staying at a flat nearby to save money. I am still trying to learn all their names. They are all pretty, have long hair and look similar to one another so learning their names is a challenge. I enquired at the desk about getting internet access for ten minutes and was told that they did not sell time but only megabytes and the smallest cost \$20. Option two is finding a vodaphone store and buying a USB stick that gives you the internet. The stick with 8 gigs on it will cost me about \$40 and should last at least a month. I wish they had this service at home.

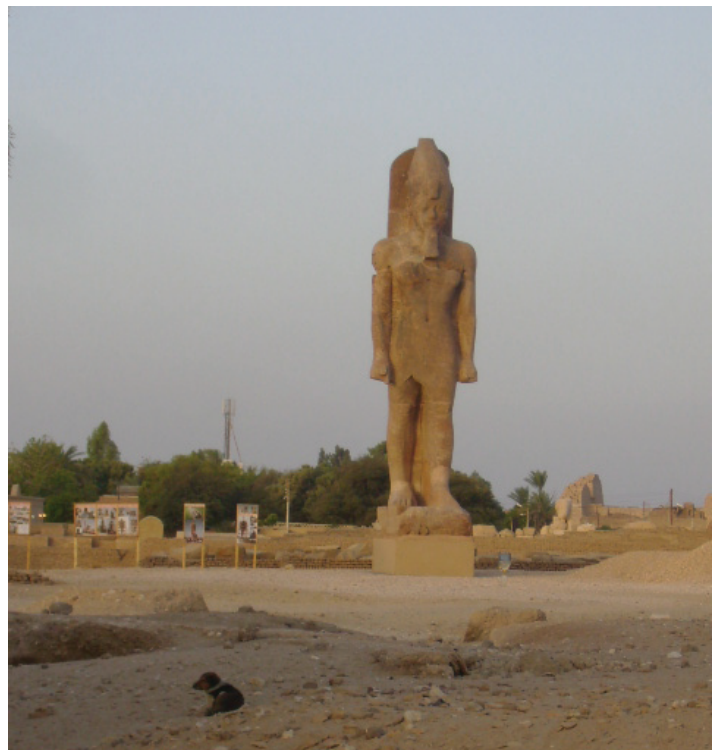
The closest restaurants are quite a long walk from our hotel and cluster in an area that is popular with British ex-pats who have retired to Luxor. They even have a grocery store in the area that has British foods, McCormick hobnob cookies, treats and cosmetics at inflated prices. We all walked together and I noticed immediately how few tourists were here and how many establishments have closed down. The young people chose a pizza place where I had a salad with

feta cheese. After dinner Stephanie, one of my more mature colleagues, and I took a horse and buggy ride back to the hotel. The buggy drivers are really suffering from lack of business. So far I have only unpacked my pottery tool kit and put out my work clothes for tomorrow.

May 24

I got up at 4:45 AM this morning eager to see the old site again. I had breakfast with three of the older members: my friend Stephanie, a lawyer from New York, Dick Harwood, a lawyer from Arizona, and Suzanne, a medical technician from Arizona. They are all amateur Egyptologists who take a leave of absence every year to join the dig. I went outside on the stone terrace and drank in the fresh clean air and marvellous view. A battalion of birds had settled in the trees and were chirping loudly and jostling for space. A couple of hot air balloons were up in the air (a sign that there were some tourists about). The temperature was perfect and it was good to see flowers again after such a long, cold winter.

I walked down the steps to the boat launch and saw my old friend, the boatman who remembered how difficult it was for me to get on and off the boat. There appears to be an effort this year to place the boat so that I can get in more easily. The young director Dr. Creasman, also sees to it that I am helped on to the boat. The boat ride across the river is one of the highlights of the day. The temperature is



Colossal statue of Amenhotep III

cool and fresh in the morning and we get a close up view of the few balloons in the air. On the West Bank we all piled into a minivan and drove to the site. On the way we passed the tourist site of the colossi of Memnon (the two huge seated stone statues alone in a field). They are the only visible remains of a temple of Amenhotep III left standing after an earthquake destroyed the temple in antiquity. Recently, however, the German Institute has begun digging the site and have found wonderful things. They have excavated and found fragments of more large statues and these are standing on the site clearly visible from the road. The biggest surprise for me was the colossal statue erected on the south side of OUR site. It was found lying in the nearby field and our site was the closest and easiest place to put it. The Egyptians have known it was there for 40 years but never had the funds to erect it. The Germans paid for it and it is beautiful, almost in perfect shape. They think it originally stood at the entrance to the north gate of Amenhotep's temple. It gives a sense of elegance to our site. We think of it as guarding our site but the director says it is haunting the site.

Plans are underway to erect a large tent on the site so that we can keep our pottery and tools safe overnight. A guard has been hired. It should be up by tomorrow. Today we just retrieved the trunks and boxes of pottery left over from last year. They are promising me a large table to work on. The temperature reached 38 degrees (100F) and I am still getting used to it. I was glad to leave the site at 1 pm and return to my air-conditioned room and try to revive. Each year it gets harder. I don't like this aging process.

May 31st

I have so much to catch up on I don't know where to begin. Election fever has taken over the Egyptian government. The polls were to open on Monday morning. Sunday night as I sat on my balcony, military helicopters flew back and forth over the Nile for whatever reason I do not know. Army tanks were noticeable on the streets so they must have been expecting trouble. The population was much less excited about the election and more than half just ignored it. It is hard to be keen when you already know what the outcome will be. By late Monday night the government declared Tuesday a holiday and urged more people to vote. Most of the polling booths were bereft of voters so they declared another day of being able to vote. Obviously SiSi wanted an overwhelming mandate. It did not work.

I almost forgot to describe the tent. Egyptians are masters of making tents but the boss had particular orders for this one. It had to be strong, able to be zipped up at night to keep the tools safe and had to protect us from the sun. It had a high peaked roof so that the heat would rise and cute little windows with curtain flaps. It really was quite beautiful.

On the street and in the market everyone has seen or heard of the white tent. So when we say we work there everyone knows exactly where we are. The tent however heats up during the day and sometimes we bake.

After the election Luxor quickly got back to normal although there are lots of cars decorated with flags and loudspeakers driving around town. There are still very few tourists and most of the restaurants are closed. Last Thursday



The White Tent

night our whole group went to a restaurant called Genesis in the nearby town of Karnak. It featured British decor like flags and British drinks trying to attract the local British retirees. It also had a waterfall inside and a small zoo which included a horse, pheasant and a variety of birds. I was promised a camel but it was no longer there. In the front there were comfy chairs grouped around low tabletops mounted on fish tanks. You drink your drinks and watch the fish swim around. Finally they take your order for food. They were not expecting a group of 15 and there was only one poor cook in the kitchen. He must have been very stressed when he saw us. They took our orders and as our food was cooked it was brought out one or two at a time and we were accompanied to small tables set for eating dinner. I ordered lamb chops and was surprised to find 6 meaty chops on my plate. They were delicious and I hope to go back again sometime. Everyone said their food was extremely good so kudos to that poor cook. I took three chops back to the hotel for my next night's dinner. While we waited some of the group played pool. Dance music was put on and I found myself tapping my toe to Glen Miller's "In The Mood". More of my kind of music followed and I at least enjoyed it.

The heat has become an issue. This morning started

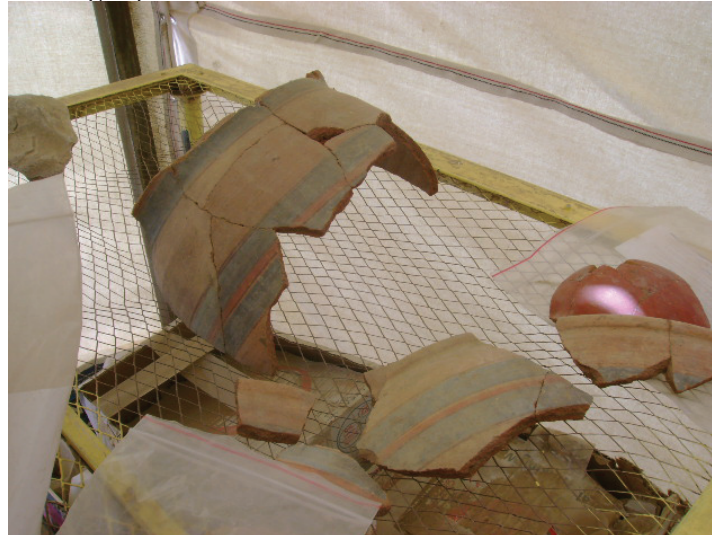
out at 6am, hazy, breathless and humid. It was an ominous start of the day. By noon it had reached 46 degrees (115 F) and there was still no breeze. We all are expected to drink 3 litres of water before 1pm. It is easy to do. I even put some rehydration powders into the last 500 ounces of my water as a preventative of heat stroke. Everyone was suffering today, especially those working out in the direct sun. My pottery is being washed outside and finally I just could not go out to process anymore and it had to be carried into the tent for tomorrow. I will have to rethink the processing system to try and avoid the heat more. We don't have many options however. Early this morning I looked up and saw a Hot air balloon descending right over the tent. I could see the people in the basket looking at us. You could see the huge flame in the middle of the balloon. The workmen who carried hoe-like tools, as a joke raised their hoes as if they were rifles and aimed them at the balloon. The balloon made a hasty retreat and the men all broke up laughing. I must look up the weather forecast and see if I can survive this dig.

June 7th

We are all getting tired and are looking forward to a two day break to restart our engines. Dr Creasman has to go to Cairo for two days so the work stops. He wanted me to work the second day and I agreed if someone would work with me. There were volunteers to work but the inspector wanted both days off so that ended the discussion. It has turned out nicely, I needed the break. For two days we got to sleep in and have a leisurely breakfast. Instead of rushing in at 5am, we ambled in at 7, sat out on the terrace and ate. The weather at that time of day is perfect, a nice breeze, and a pleasant temperature. However we were not alone out there. Several very bold birds hovered over the table and even landed to eat our bread. If you went inside to get more food someone had to guard your plate. Under the table the mosquitoes were also enjoying their breakfast, munching on our ankles. It was beautiful out there but from here on I will enjoy the view from the window inside. There seem to be more tourists, Egyptian families and the British. One British man told me that he could fly here and have a view of the Nile and guaranteed sunshine for a fraction of what it would cost him for a room at the seaside in England. Some of them come for one or two weeks: they can travel around and see the sites in the mornings and sit around the pool in the afternoon. It is a real bargain for the British.

I spent most of the two days entering data into my computer because I have to hand in a report of the pottery at the end along with the director's report. It is hard to see the big picture when you are handling multiple bags of sherds from all over the site every day. The young people have made plans to travel and see sites. I envy their energy but I have seen most of the sites over the years and it is too hot out there for me. A group have taken the train to Aswan and then are hiring a taxi to cross the desert to Abu Simbel. I have

done that trip when I was much younger and it is gruelling. Another group are taking the micro buses and the ferry over to the west bank to visit the many sites over there. Even though we work there every day we don't get a chance to see any other sites. On each of the two days I met Stephanie in the lobby and we take a horse and buggy to the market behind Luxor temple, have a bite to eat at Snack time and then set out to help the Egyptian economy. THE Egyptians are suffering badly for lack of tourists and the buggy drivers complain that they can't afford to feed their horses. I love riding in the caleches even though it is a little difficult to get up into them and then get out again. The ride back to our hotel in the evening along the Nile is a very precious and relaxing experience.



Reconstructing Blue-painted pottery

I had a surprise last Thursday when I went down to our boat in the morning: the boatman proudly produced a very long narrow gangplank. I was a little horrified but with the security police holding my hand I bravely walked the plank on to the boat. My other option is to try and sit on the edge and swivel around into the boat. Whatever I do it appears to create a scene.

June 8th

Last night around 9 PM Pearce came to my door saying that the president had declared another government holiday for today to celebrate his inauguration. So I unpacked my bag that I get ready for the field each morning. A telephone call 30 minutes later said that we could work today so I repacked my bag. We did not know how any workmen would show up but there were a lot of them. They are desperate for work. The inspector appeared at the boat looking terrible. He had just gotten out of the hospital and still had a butterfly port still taped to his hand sticking out of his artery. He apparently had a tummy problem, had a high fever and he was on intravenous fluids. Why the port is still



The gangplank to the boat



Breakfast on site

in his hand I do not know. He tried to get another inspector to take his place but could not so he staggered out with us. Village houses are nestled close up to our site and one of them very close to us is rented by a Hungarian archaeologist who is trying to gather funds for her own dig. It is obviously much cheaper to live in Egypt while she waits for funds. She has a small cool garden with trees and a single bed made of reeds acting like a garden bench. We plunked the inspector there and he rested while we worked. We did stop an hour earlier for his sake.

The major break every morning is at 10am which is also called breakfast. The workmen retire to any shady area that they can find and eat a meal. We break and eat also. Ibrahim the man who is hired to supply tea to us brings a huge tray of food which is setup in the doorway of our tent. It is the only shady place that can catch a little breeze if one exists. We have fresh village bread, creamy cheese, falafel, fuul (bean and tomato dish) tomatoes and cucumbers and sour pickles. I will try and take a picture of it tomorrow. I find that I am too full from 5am breakfast to eat at 10 but I do find the pickles refreshing and it is a chance to sit with the team and hear what they are doing in the field.

Jessica, a grad student at Arizona arrived today and she is supposed to be my full time assistant. She is hoping to be a ceramicist. Unfortunately she does not know Egyptian pottery nor does she draw but she was spectacular in keeping me organized and tidying up my table so I could find things. She is also trained in data entry and is a much better typist than I am so that should be some help to me. I am enjoying the people here. They treat me very well considering I am two and a half times their age.

June 10th

It is still hot but we struggle on. It is hitting over 40 everyday and the tent feels like an oven. I sit at a large table down one side processing pot sherds while the registrar of

finds sits behind me facing a table on the opposite wall. We are back to back with only a narrow passage between us. Today in the field they came upon a large deposit of bones, animal mixed with human. They all have to be identified, measured, counted, and finally passed to the photographer for photos. I feel like I am in a mortuary. The conversation behind me consists of: "pass me the arm, careful of the fingers, I have a whole foot here with its mummy wrappings still in place, two whole skulls just came in, ugh! Something fell out of this skull, photograph it anyway, are these arm or leg bones,?" There is a slight odor coming from some of them that puts off the younger students. It is a little surprising considering that they are at least 2500 years old. I had an urge to take a photo of a hand clutching one of my beer jars but it seemed a little disrespectful so I refrained.

Back at the hotel, we shower, eat a bun that we have saved from breakfast, rest a bit and I at least have lots of data entry to do for the pottery. We usually have a team meeting around 5pm in the lobby to discuss the work and discover what needs to be improved. We often go out afterwards as a group to a restaurant to eat dinner or we eat in the bar of our hotel. It is dark by 7 PM and that is usually when the power goes out. My room is very close to the elevator so I can feel along the wall for my door. Usually the generator comes on for the elevator but I have memorized the feel and location of the emergency button just in case I am stuck in there in the dark. The power is usually off from 10 minutes to an hour. That is when you go out on the balcony and watch for the lights to come back on.

June 11th

It is coming close to the end of the dig but multiple buckets of pottery are still coming up to the tent stressing our system and increasing our work load. I am expected to hand in a preliminary report on the pottery as we leave. I seem to be focused on the bark and am missing the tree as well as the forest. It is hard to get the big picture when faced with a 1000 separate bags of pottery. Stephanie is leaving in

a few days and dinner invitation season is in full swing. As the dig gets near to the end several of our senior workers insist on having some of us or our whole team for dinner. On the 11th of June it was Ali who had just Stephanie and me for dinner. Our Reis or headman belongs to a family that originated from Coptos (Arabic Quft). The Quftis were trained as skilled diggers by Petrie in the 1800s and to this day they are known for their skills. Reis Ali and Reis Omar are brothers in a family that has 7 boys and 3 girls.

Ali has his own household with wife Mona and two daughters and one son. Although they still have strong ties to Quft they live in the village of Karnak. The residential area is a warren of concrete buildings serviced by very narrow dirt streets that won't admit cars. Ali came to the hotel and got us in a van which dropped us off in the main street and we followed him straight in, then left and then right . We could never have found it ourselves. The government sure does not spend any money on the local people. At the house we entered a cubby hole with a cement staircase, followed him upstairs where we were ushered into the living room where a table was set for two people – us. It is the custom for the guests alone to eat while we are served by our host. We presented our hostess gift of pastries to his wife and sat down at the table. Soon homemade bread was carried in along with tomato and cucumber salads and my favorite mashi, which is stuffed green peppers and zucchini, and some barbecued chicken. Quantity is important in Egypt. The table must groan with food so that our host can try and force us to eat more. We sat alone and ate and barely made a dent in the food. I am sure not a morsel was wasted. During the meal Omar, Ali's younger brother arrived and sat with us but did not eat and told us that Ali was called away to help settle a dispute between two villagers. Because he is a Qufti and considered an outsider as well as being well respected in the community he apparently is often called to settle disputes. Ali tells us that the neighbours all help each other. If there is a fire everyone runs with any liquid they can carry to help and they often have the fire out before the fire department arrives. The houses are all joined together and they store straw and reeds on the roof so that fire is a real hazard here. I also learned that before we arrived Ali was employed to hire the workers and far in advance of our arrival he personally went to every house in the village and promised employment to one man in every house. Depending on how many workers were needed the work would be doled out fairly. This ensured that the villagers had a stake in the project and they knew exactly what our goal was. (that we were not Foreigners coming to take their antiques). I was quite impressed with the method. Omar said that he had been on an excavation in the Delta where an irate villager had come out with a gun because they thought foreigners were taking advantage of them. Omar said that later he took the female director of the project around to many houses in the village to explain what they were doing and peace was attained. It's amazing

what a little knowledge can do. After the meal was finished we said our thank-yous, hugged all the female members of the household, I had some pens to give to the kids and we were driven back to the hotel.

Tuesday June 17, Egypt

Today was pack-up day. Although the pottery department was still steaming ahead trying to finish drawing that final bag of sherds, the rest of the crew was doing an inventory of all our tools and equipment. The last seven days have been a race to the finish line and we have been working non stop. The temperature some days reached 47 degrees (117F). It sucked the energy out of me and I don't know how the young people and the Egyptian workers can carry heavy loads and bend up and down for hours in this heat. When it is hot and still like this the air is heavy with dust and it is hard to breathe.

A road runs along the western side of our dig and probably covers part of our ancient site. The road is high on an escarpment and our dig comes right up to the wall of the escarpment. While they were digging the men discovered a huge cave which goes in under the road. Dr Creasman had an engineer friend come out to test the safety of continuing to dig in the cave because the authorities are worried about the road collapsing. The decision was made to stop digging but to shore up the large interior room with bricks and create a storeroom for our artefacts, bones and pottery. They had hoped to put a door and lock on it but the plan fell through because of a worry about security and the entrance was bricked up and sealed. Next season they will have to tear down the bricks to get back in.

Today we finished at 11 AM and were taken to a restaurant for a final team lunch. It was a set menu . We could have chicken or beef or vegetarian but along with that came



Animal bones ready for storage



of beans cooked in tomato and onion sauce, filled us up before we even received the main course. Back at the hotel everyone was required to hand in a copy of their notes from the season. Mine of course, was a mighty stack of papers describing the pottery which the director photographed with his camera while he sat and talked to us. He has promised to return the last batch to me by 9:30 tonight so I can pack them into my suitcase. Everyone is kind of weary and looking forward to home. Tomorrow a few of us are going early to the west bank to visit Ted Brock who is working in the tomb of Merenptah. I am hoping to get a late check-out tomorrow and be at the Luxor airport in time for takeoff to Cairo at 6:30pm. I have a long wait in the Cairo airport until my plane leaves for Toronto after midnight.

mezze which is almost a meal in itself. Mezze is akin to hors d'oeuvres. Small dishes of flat village bread, hummus, fried eggplant with tomatoes and cucumbers, small salads, dishes

Rexine Hummel:

Long time SSEA member and current Trustee Rexine Hummel has over 30 years of experience as a ceramicist. She has developed expertise in the daunting hidden mysteries of the pottery of numerous time periods, including late Old Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, Middle Kingdom, Second Intermediate Period, New Kingdom, Third Intermediate Period, Saite Persian Period, and early and late Roman Periods.

Rexine has participated in a variety of digs under the tutelage of a number of internationally respected scholars. Over three decades, she has worked for the Akhenaten Temple Project (under Donald B. Redford) and dug with its excavations at East Karnak and Tel er-Rub'a (Ancient Mendes). In addition, Rexine has served as ceramicist at Tel Borg (James Hoffmeier); Tel Tebilla and Tel Ras Budran (Gregory Mumford); Temple of Tausert (Richard Wilkinson and Pearce Paul Creasman); and the Luxor and Karnak Temples Dewatering Project (Edwin C. Brock), and at El Hibeh under the directorship of Prof. Carol Redmount of the University of California at Berkeley.

In this issue, she describes her days while working while working at the University of Arizona expedition under Dr. Pearce Paul Creasman.

These are Rexine's personal 'daily life' experiences, they do not include excavation activities or results. For more information about this significant project see our Fall 2013 Newsletter.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE DAKHLEH OASIS PROJECT

Peter Sheldrick

On March 9, 2014 the Dakhleh Oasis was hit with a horrendous rain and hail storm. Torrents of heavy rain and hail stones the size of "hazel nuts in the shell" fell in less than an hour. The Dakhleh Oasis Project dig house, made entirely of traditional mud brick, suffered heavy damage when water carrying mud and other debris poured through the roofs and into the rooms. Repair costs may go as high as \$5,000. Donations for this cause may be made directly to the SSEA.

Dakhleh Oasis Project dig house, showing large puddles of water and hail stones.



TORONTO CHAPTER REPORT

Christina Geisen

Greetings from the Toronto Chapter. Our members enjoyed talks on Cleopatra and the Ptolemies in the framework of our annual summer lecture series. Dr. Lyn Green presented on “*By your power’: Egyptian gods and goddesses in the Age of the Ptolemies*”. Silvia Zago talked about “*The dramatic fate of Alexandria – the sunken capital of the Hellenistic World*”, while Dr. Steven Shubert discussed “*Ptolemaic Egypt @ ROM: Multicultural Mosaic or Two Solitudes?*”. The series will end with a presentation by Aleksandra Ksiezak on “*The game of throne – Ptolemies: the most dysfunctional family in history*”.

Additionally, our members celebrated the ancient Egyptian New Year at the Café Nicole of the Novotel Hotel with a three course buffet menu.

The planning for the upcoming lecture series (September 2014 to April 2015) is in progress. The series will already begin with a highlight in September. Dr. Emily Teeter (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago) will be presenting on “*Popular Religion in ancient Egypt*”.



Past President Gayle Gibson and long-time member Jocelyn Badovinac at the 2014 Toronto Chapter Ancient Egyptian New Year Dinner

Montreal Chapter Report

Jean-Frédéric Brunet

This past year was a most eventful one for the Society in Quebec; with the Montreal chapter offering its usual mix of public conferences, mini-lectures and special events while also exploring new and exciting fund raising opportunities.

The fall of 2013 most certainly proved itself a treasure trove of fond memories for many chapter members as not one, but two!, distinguished French scholars made it across the Atlantic to give Public lectures. In September, we had Prof. Pascal Vernus (Paris, Sorbonne), who gave a fabulous talk on the so-called “erotic” Turin papyrus. Rather modestly titled “*L’amour au pays de Nefertiti*”, it was all but chaste! The month of October was all dedicated to Prof. Frederic Servajean (Montpellier, Université Paul Valéry; director, Institut égyptologique François Daumas). His public lecture gave us fresh and fascinating new insights into the famous battle of Qadesh. Very generous of his person, Prof. Servajean also gave, besides private events for students only, a mini-lecture on Deir el-Medineh TT335, a wonderful full-day seminar on the Ancient Egyptian concept of time (*Djet* and *Neheh*) and a further public lecture, this one jointly organised with the UQAM history department and the AEPOA on the Tale of the Two Brothers.

The year’s further public lectures were given by two most promising students in Egyptology. In December, we had “Possible use of honey in the Ancient Egyptian beer brewing” by Aleksandra Ksieżak, a *PhD* student in Egyptian

archaeology from Toronto University. Aleksandra’s visit was made possible thanks to a new joint program of the Montréal and Toronto chapters that invites a student from one city to lecture in the other. Then, in February, we had one of the winners of last year’s Elizabeth King Daimsis scholarships, Cloé Caron with “*Le Noun et le caractère fondamental de l’eau dans la pensée cosmogonique égyptienne: origine, fertilité et renouvellement*”. Cloé has recently begun a *PhD* under the supervision of UQAM professor Jean Revez. All public lectures were held at the Education and Cultural Affairs Office of the Egyptian Consulate in Montréal. Each time, they generously offered food and drink to the attendees.

In between these two public lectures, in January, we also had a second (after Servajean’s) day-long seminar. Titled “*Les oiseaux dans la pensée et la religion de l’Égypte ancienne: exemple de l’oie*”, it was hosted by Mostafa Zayed, another *PhD* student of Jean Revez and winner of the Elizabeth King Daimsis scholarship. As part of their prizes, both scholarship winners had also attended the annual symposium held just a few weeks before Mostafa’s seminar. That had enabled them to present further lectures as part of the Scholar’s Colloquium.

Besides that of Servajean, already mentioned above, we had 3 additional mini-lectures during the season. They were all given in the wonderful room of the Maison de l’Afrique. In November we had a *PhD* student from Université

de Montréal, Nancy Duval, who lectured on “*La divination par tirage au sort en Égypte à partir du IIIe et IVe siècle ap. J.-C.*” and made herself an attempt at predicting our future, Roman Egypt style. More recently, in this year’s April, we had Katherine Blouin, professor at the University of Toronto, talk about “*Dis-moi comment tu t’appelles, je te dirai qui tu es: Noms de lieux et représentations du paysage dans le nome mendésien (Delta oriental du Nil) d’après les papyrus grecs*”. Then, in May, Dany Roy, a long-time friend of the Chapter, and master stone cutter for ARCE and other organisations, told us of his role in the “*Restauration du Temple de Khonsu à Karnak*”.

Besides this loaded academic program, the last season had a few noteworthy social events. Back in

September and November, we held thematic kiosks for the *Journées de la culture* and for the UQAM’s *semaine interculturelle*, respectively. Sandwiched in between was an important moment for our democratic lives with the chapter’s AGM. John Vickers was elected to the executive board. In March, in the midst of great pump, we held our very first benefit concert. The enthusiasts musicians of the ensemble Flûte Alors!, four new-generation recorder players, offered a wonderful performance of classical and contemporary music, adding some orientalisng touches here and there. And finally, no season of the Montreal chapter would be complete without our annual *pique nique* and fundraising auction. The new season’s activities will soon be launched, see you there!

CALGARY CHAPTER REPORT

A number of events are planned for the coming season including the following talks.

October 3 - Dr. John Humphey from Classics Dept, U of C, on Herodotus’ description of the Ancient Egyptians.

November 7 - Dr. Kenneth De Long, from Music History, U of C, on the opera Aida.

December 5 - Planned Christmas dinner

February - Julius Szekrenyes – End of the 19th Dynasty and Dynasty 20

March – Dr. Kevin McKeough, title to be advised.

April - We are planning to have Dr. Nancy Lovell talk to the Chapter about Anthropology in the cemetery at Mendes.

May - We are hoping that Dr Chris Naunton from the Egypt Exploration Society of Great Britain will be able to come to give us a talk on some aspect of the EES’ work in Egypt

At the time of going to press, we are still waiting to confirm some of the talks for 2015, so please visit the SSEA website to confirm when our talks are confirmed

VANCOUVER CHAPTER REPORT

Christine Johnston

Over the last year, the Vancouver Chapter of the SSEA enjoyed a fantastic series of lectures, including a number of talks in collaboration with the Vancouver chapter of the AIA. These events covered a broad range of subjects including Egyptian History and Archaeology, Historiography, Women’s Health, and contemporary Egyptian politics. The Chapter also enjoyed success in a number of fundraising endeavours, most notably a highly fruitful bake-sale held at the well-attended Mark Lehner lecture.

With summer ending, we are excited to kick off the 2014/2015 year and our fall lectures in September. The Vancouver Chapter is always looking for members who are interested in becoming more involved with the chapter administration and fundraising. Please contact the sseavancouver@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about the chapter and the opportunities available to volunteer!

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. Are you a member of the SSEA? The SSEA/SÉÉA has Chapters in Calgary, Alberta, Montréal, Québec, Toronto, Ontario and Vancouver, British Columbia. The Chapters host lectures and events on Egyptological topics. Full Individual and Student Memberships in the Society includes a volume of the scholarly Journal of the SSEA and the SSEA Newsletter, and free or discounted admission to SSEA events. Associate Membership in the SSEA includes the Newsletter and free or discounted admission to events. Associate Membership is only open to members in provinces which have a Chapter. All categories of membership, excluding institutional members, are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting. To apply for membership, write to the address on the front of this Newsletter or email us at info@thessea.org. For updates, schedule changes, and further information, see the SSEA website at: www.thessea.org.

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SSEA/SÉÉA

Every year, on the weekend of the Annual Symposium and Scholars' Colloquium, the entire voting membership of the SSEA/SÉÉA hold their ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in Toronto to elect the Board of Trustees which governs the Society through the parent, "national" organization ("Head Office") and pass the Society's budget, approve the audited financial statements and vote on amendments to the Society's Bylaws, which also govern local Chapters.

The national organization organizes the Annual Symposium and Scholars' Colloquium and all publications, including the Journal and Newsletter and maintains the database of members.

If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting of The SSEA/SEEA, you may also send a proxy, using the salmon-coloured form which will be mailed to you.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on November 14th, 2014 from 5:30pm. The AGM will be followed by a reception.

SCHEDULE FOR THE 2014 AGM WEEKEND

Thursday, November 13th 7pm – Lecture sponsored by the Toronto Chapter of The SSEA.

This event is free and open to all. This event takes place in room 323, 4 Bancroft Ave.

Friday, November 14th, 9am to 4 :30pm – Scholars' Colloquium Day 1; held in 5 Bancroft Ave. This event is free and open to all.

Friday, November 14th, 5 :30 pm onward – Annual General Meeting of the SSEA/SÉÉA; This event is held in room 323, 4 Bancroft Ave.

Saturday, November 15th, 9am to 5pm – 40th Annual Symposium, held in room 1050, 5 Bancroft Ave. For pricing, see below.

Sunday, November 16th, 11am to 4pm - Scholars' Colloquium Day 2; held in 5 Bancroft Ave. This event is free and open to all.

Make a contribution to the future of *The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities /* *Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne*

In the past few years, our Journal and Newsletter have both increased in size and quality. This improvement comes at a cost. Rising postage prices and delays in the production of our journal have put us in a financially challenged position. In addition, the software which has run our website since 2006 is about to become obsolete, and we will no longer be able to offer electronic membership or offer online access to our publications unless there are substantial investment in a new platform.

The Head Office of the Society, which is responsible for the production of the Journal and Newsletter, and the maintenance of our website, receives only a portion of each membership and uses this not only for our publications, but also for the maintenance of membership records, for the cost of paying an auditor and for scholarships and other support of Egyptology.

If you can make a donation, please consider doing so. If you have not renewed for this or last year, please consider rejoining and make a donation for any 'missing years' in return for backnumber copies of all newsletters and journals. If you have unwanted academic books which can be sold to raise money, we welcome them and will give you a tax receipt.

AGES OF CHAOS?
Demystifying Ancient Egypt's Intermediate Periods
Our 40th Annual Symposium

This fall, the SSEA/SÉÉA will hold our Annual Symposium on the topic of “The First, Second and Third Intermediate Periods”. This year’s symposium, held in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting and Scholars’ Colloquium has been scheduled for NOVEMBER 15th, 2014. This event is ticketed. Prices are:

Price (at the door): \$85 SSEA Members; \$95 for non-members; \$45 non-member Students; \$40 member Students. \$5 discount on all categories for early registration. For more information on scheduled speakers, visit www.thessea.org.

To register, pay us directly or register at <http://www.uoftix.ca/view.php?id=1119>. (Service charges apply for UofT Tix).



AGES OF CHAOS?
Demystifying Ancient Egypt's Intermediate Periods
Notre 40e Symposium Annuel

Cet hiver, la SÉÉA/SSEA tiendra son symposium annuel sous le thème des « Les Première, Deuxième et Troisième Périodes Intermédiaires ». Le symposium de cette année, qui aura lieu en marge de notre réunion annuelle des membres et du Colloque d'érudits, se déroulera le 15 NOVEMBRE 2014 sur le campus de l'université de Toronto à Toronto au Canada. Des frais d'entrée seront exigés : \$85 SSEA Membres; \$95 non-membres; \$45 non-membres étudiants; \$40 membres étudiants. Il ya un rabais de 5 \$ sur toutes les catégories d'inscription précoce. Pour renseignements additionnels, info@thessea.org ou visitez www.thessea.org.

Achetez vos billets directement de SSEA/SEEA Siège Social ou en ligne (avec frais de service) à <http://www.uoftix.ca/view.php?id=1119>

2014 SCHOLARS' COLLOQUIUM AND POSTER SESSION

This year's Scholars' Colloquium Papers and Poster Session will take place on November 14th and 16th in 5 Bancroft Ave. Friday, November 14th (Day 1) will take place from 9am to 4:30pm. Day 2 will begin with presentations from the Poster Session and take place from 11am to 4pm in 5 Bancroft Ave. Schedules for both days of this event will be available online at www.thessea.org. These events are free and open to all.