

# Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

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## The Monastery at the First Pylon of Karnak Temple; A Case Study of the Contested Space Theory in Late Antique Egypt

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Summer 2015 #3

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In the second half of the first century early Christianity was on the rise in Egypt. From this time on early Christians adapted their life, art, habits, names, daily life language, and worship.<sup>2</sup> Christianization of ancient pagan sites became a phenomenon through the Roman Empire. Early Christians reused ancient temples and tombs as parts of monasteries and cities. Scholars use many terms to describe this incident like Christianization, Transformation, and Temple Conversion, indicating the different aspects of conversion from paganism into Christianity during late antiquity.<sup>3</sup>

The process of conversion in late antiquity should be read in political, religious, economic, and social contexts for better understanding. There was a world of social diversity and traditions behind each code or imperial edict. Although the imperial edict provides insight in aspects of the top down reign of an emperor, it does not cover society as a whole.<sup>4</sup>

Based on the historic incidents, there was a triangle with three main sides: the Roman emperor, pagans, and Christians. When the emperor stood for pagans, the latter persecuted Christians, but when the emperor embraced Christianity, he ordered the abandon of pagan cults and temples; hence Christians initiated temple conversion processes. Theodosius the Great ordered the ban of paganism and the abandonment of ancient cults, temples, and habits; hence Christianity began to flourish and reached its peak becoming the official religion of the Roman Empire.<sup>5</sup>

The abandoned temples were not converted directly to Christian worship, but it was an indirect conversion throughout Late Antiquity. This phenomenon went parallel with an increase in construction of churches. The church of the Holy Sepulcher at Jerusalem is the earliest known example of transforming a temple to Christian church, which was done during the reign of Constantine.<sup>6</sup> Direct conversions from pagan to Christian place of worship are almost exclusively attested after the middle of the fifth century.<sup>7</sup> Temples that were not converted were abandoned and often disappeared because they were victims of stone robbery and spoliation.<sup>8</sup>

According to Richard Byliss, the fate of the temples was deconsecrating rather than destruction. When Christianity became the official religion in the Roman empire of the fourth



Figure 1. Coptic Shell

century, temples were neglected. Thus, the destruction of the pagan sites was not so much a matter of violent Christianization as it was a simple matter of a lack of resources available to restore them.<sup>9</sup>

According to Christianity “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein”.<sup>10</sup> Psalm 26 says: “For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens”. In the book of Kings the prophet Elijah, confronted the priests of Baal.<sup>11</sup> Elijah was one of the best-known Old Testament prophets and an inspiration for early monks by living ascetic life and challenging secular or pagan concepts and their clergy.

The Coptic monks considered all ancient deities as demons; hence they inspired people to suppress ancient cults and to proceed to temple conversion. The monks were the first groups to reuse temples.<sup>12</sup> It is clear then, that early Egyptian Christians did not set out to destroy temples, or systematically dismantling pagan buildings.

Although Theodosios the great ordered the closure of temples empire-wide, his order did not have had the impact that has been ascribed to it. There were also many temples protected by law in many cities and at least practicing the ceremonies of pagan worship was allowed even after abandoning the temple.<sup>13</sup>

The fate of temples varied from time to time and place to place, and did not directly depend on the imperial laws,<sup>14</sup> so



Figure 2. Remains of Coptic Building on the West of First Pylon, Karnak Temple

each state of the Roman empire must be studied in a part and then this may open the way for further comparative studies to investigate the different attitudes of early Christians toward the buildings of ancient religions and to investigate the different factors that made them reusing these sites in either religious and non-religious purposes.

The economy played an important role as well. With the passage of time Egypt lost much of its special status in the Roman Empire. Moreover, the Egyptians suffered many financial problems during the Roman era. The relation between Egypt and Constantinople started to strain since 451 A.D, especially after the council of Chalcedon.<sup>15</sup> Also the taxation system was unfair.<sup>16</sup> Although some emperors donated to the construction of new churches, but there was not a known strategy to endow or to donate for this purpose during Byzantine era.

All these points led to a Christian reuse of ancient temples and it extended in Egypt to the reuse of ancient tombs.

### The Coptic Monastery at the First Pylon of Karnak Temple

Copts reused many places in the precinct of Karnak in the form of churches, monasteries, and buildings for their cells.<sup>17</sup> They reused the area around the first pylon as a monastery, hence dwellings are situated a round the area of the first pylon. There is a Coptic shell (Fig. 1) adorns the back of the southern tower. The monastic brick buildings were added on east and on the west of the pylon (Fig. 2). The mud brick building situated behind the southern tower is suggested to be for cells or a library. A church was built on the south of the first pylon as its remains still visible there. There are remains of monastic cells on the north of the first pylon. Stone vessels were found on the north of the pylon indicating the existence of a bakery.

Coptic graffiti were distributed on the surfaces of the southern tower of the pylon. Many Coptic representations cover the row of nine columns, which precedes the temple of Ramses III. The Coptic graffiti on the columns varied. Some of them present Greek letters, while some represent warrior saints. The example at (Fig. 3) shows a Coptic representation of a bark surmounted by a chapel of the Holy Cross. It is notable that the Cross chapel is darker in color if compared with the surface around it, which may support the idea that Copts used their hands to get the blessings from it.

Based on the different shapes of crosses left by Copts on the site, I suggest naming this monastery “Monastery of the Holy Cross”.

The monks, who reused this part of Karnak temple, led Cenobitic life (they lived in monastic community) not ascetic or semi-ascetic life. This conclusion is based on the monastic remains, which included a church in the south, cells, library, bakery, in addition that it was inside Karnack temple, which offers protection as an enclosure wall for these monastic buildings.

The Coptic additions on Karnak temple show that Copts did not destroy, but reused parts of the temple. It is preferable to use the term “temple conversion” rather than “temple destruction” while discussing the fate of ancient Egyptian temples in late antique Egypt,<sup>18</sup> because this conversion was for practical reuse more than the idea of the dramatic destruction of ancient temples or civilizations.



Figure 3. Bark with a Chapel of the Coptic Cross, on the 7th column, First Court, Karnak Temple.

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> I'd like to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of Professors; Nur Eddin, Weilleke Wendrich, Kathlyn Cooney, and Jacco Dielemann, who directed and guided me while preparing this paper in UCLA.
- <sup>2</sup> See: Bagnall, R., S., *Egypt in Late Antiquity*, New Jersey, U.S.A, 1993, Pp. 278-288.
- <sup>3</sup> Read: Youssef, M., *The Rule and Relations of Coptic Church, from Establishing the Church till 431 A.C*, Vol. I, 2nd ed. Cairo 2000.
- <sup>4</sup> Byliss, R., *Provincial Cilicia and the Archaeology of Temple Conversion*, Oxford, 2004, P. 119.
- <sup>5</sup> Kákosy, L., “Paganism and Christianity in Egypt”, in *Coptic Encyclopedia*, ed. Aziz, S., Atiya, Vol. 6, New York, 1991, Pp. 1865-1871.
- <sup>6</sup> Deichmann, F. W., *Rom, Ravenna, Konstantinopel, Naher Osten. Gesammelte Studien zur Spätantiken Architektur, Kunst und Geschichte*, Wiesbaden, 1982. Pp. 56-94.
- <sup>7</sup> Read the fourth chapter of Byliss, R., *Provincial Cilicia ...*, Pp. 50-56.
- <sup>8</sup> Hahn, J., et al, “From Temple to Church; analyzing a Late Antique Phenomenon of Transformation” in *Hahn, J., et al*



(eds), Vol. 163, *Religions in the Graeco-Roman World From Temple to Church Destruction and Renewal of Local Cultic Topography in Late Antiquity*, Leiden, 2008, P. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Byliss, R., *Provincial Cilicia ...*, Pp. 8-31.

<sup>10</sup> Psalm 24.

<sup>11</sup> See: 1 Kings 18:17-39

<sup>12</sup> For further reading about the attitude of monks toward paganism read: Brakke, D., "From Temple to Cell, From Gods to Demons; Pagan Temples in the Monastic Topography of the Fourth-Century Egypt" in Hahn, J., et al (eds), Vol. 163, *Religions in the Graeco-Roman World From Temple to Church Destruction and Renewal of Local Cultic Topography in Late Antiquity*, Leiden, 2008, Pp. 91-112.

<sup>13</sup> Byliss, R., *Provincial Cilicia...*, P. 31.

<sup>14</sup> Read: Byliss, R., *Provincial Cilicia...*, "The Fate of the Temples", Pp. 8-31, and "Between Temple and church", Pp. 58-

64.

<sup>15</sup> Capponi, L., *Roman Egypt*, in Classical World Series, London, 2011, Pp. 39-40.

<sup>16</sup> For more about taxation system in Roman Egypt read: Coquin, R., "Taxation in Roman Egypt", in *Coptic Encyclopedia*, ed. Aziz, S., Atiya, Vol. 7, New York, 1991. Pp. 2202-2207. Lewis, N., *Life in Egypt under Roman Rule*, Oxford, England 1983; Vol.1 in American Society of Papyrologists, Classics in Papyrology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, 1999, Pp. 156-184.

<sup>17</sup> Read: Ghaly, E., *The Coptic Additions on the Ancient Egyptian Monuments in Qena Governorate from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, Unpublished Master Thesis, Fayoum University, Egypt. 2011, Pp. 168- 236.

<sup>18</sup> Dijkstra, J., *Philae and the End of Ancient Egyptian Religion, A Regional Study of Religious Transformation (298-642 CE)*, Leuven (Belgium), 2008, P. 94.

## 'A Day in the Life...' - Personal Dig Diaries Rexine Hummel

### Saturday, May 23, 2015

My flight over was long and uneventful. We had Thursday and Friday to recuperate and acclimatize to the heat while team members dribbled in. We are a large team (about 19 people) many of them U of Arizona students. I have a lot of new names to learn. About half of us are in the hotel (mostly the older group) and the rest are in rented flats about a 10 minute walk from the hotel.

Saturday morning we were all up bright and early to get the boat that leaves from the hotel dock at 6 AM. The hotel kindly opens the dining room for breakfast just for us at 5 AM. Across the Nile we are met by two vans to take us to the site. New this year is another colossal statue of Amenhotep III that has been reconstructed and erected by the Swiss and Germans at the edge of our site because it is the closest flat empty space to its original location on the northern gateway of the king's temple. These statues have been lying in pieces in the farmers' fields beside the temple where they fell during an earthquake in antiquity. When we arrived the workmen were waiting for us. Our equipment and pottery and bones from last year were kept in a cave that went under the road and has been bricked up all year. The bricks were removed and baskets of equipment began emerge. This season the possibility of renting a house right beside the dig became possible. The family that lived there (possibly renters themselves) had agreed to move to another house and allow us to have their house. It had fans, high ceilings a bathroom and one room was air conditioned. It was perfect except there was very little light allowed in. Windows are small to keep out the heat and the few electric bulbs were very weak. The air-conditioned room was therefore given to the photographer who had her own light source and I won a sitting room with a fan. On the site the canvas tent was erected with one side rolled partway up and a canvas roof for extra space. I spent most of the time in the house which was blessedly cool setting up my pottery department. There was still no official permission from the higher ups that we could bring the pottery into the house. I wanted to get started on the backlog of pottery from 2013. I had talked to Debbie Donnelly



with whom I have worked in previous digs to come and help draw sherds. Debbie is an ex-navy person who now is in charge of all the security of the new grand museum at the pyramids. Her real love is archaeology so she is spending her two week holidays with us. I will really miss her when she has to go back.

Day one was hot but I kept relatively cool in the house. The lady of the house (a mother of three young girls) gave my pottery assistant Tracey a tour of the house. For a village house I was shocked at how comfortable the house was with a modern kitchen, a large flat screen TV in the central room/dining room, a bathroom with both a squat toilet and a sit down toilet, and a bathtub. Tracy took pictures so perhaps I can steal them from her and show you a village house. So far all goes well.

### Monday, May 25, 2015

Somehow I am the only team member given a hotel room on the 5th floor. I love it. I have an amazing view from my balcony of the west bank. Most of the time it is too hot to sit there but early in the morning and at night it is possible. The rest of the time you can dry your clothes almost in minutes, which has some advantages. At night all the tombs and temples are lit up



and it looks beautiful and spooky at the same time.

Monday we started in the nice cool village house. Permission to have the sherds leave the site and come into the house was not given so we had to move ourselves up to the tent so that we could work on the pottery. The house will continue as a refuge from the heat if anyone feels unwell. It is also a nice clean location to eat second breakfast at 10 AM. This is first breakfast for the students in the flats since they don't have the advantage of breakfast with their room as we do in the hotel. We all take turns paying for second breakfast (about \$10 -12 for food for 19 people). From the local village falafel and fuul bean sandwiches appear, tomatoes and cucumbers and white cheese, pickles and sometimes water melon.

So far all goes well. The tent is much hotter than the house but the light is good because one side is open to the air. I have a table and stool to work on and a metal table with a screened surface to dry the washed sherds. My wonderful helper Tracy is very interested in becoming a ceramicist. She is very attentive to me and finds my glasses and pencil when these items are hiding on me. She also keeps me organized which is a huge help. Many of the students are interested in pottery so I have spent some down time teaching them how to recognize certain pots from differing time periods. This is the first dig that I have been on where other people are interested in pottery. The students are exceptionally nice to me. They carry my backpack for me and watch out for me getting out and into the van and the boat. We have to carry two bottles every day in our back pack and that is heavy for me to carry. The boss actually checks to make sure that we have drunk at least one bottle (1.5 litres) by 10 AM. Some days I need 3 bottles.

They are making an arrangement to have a woman come in to one of the empty flats and make a big dinner for everyone. She is a single mom with three kids and it is good for her. She does all the shopping and cooking and cleaning up. Everyone contributes 50 Egyptian pounds every day which is less than \$10 Canadian. It is good for the students in the flats since we walk to them every day for dinner. The one huge drawback for me alone is the staircase. The flat is on the 4th floor which is really the 5th because there is a ground floor. All the ceilings are about 18 feet high so I am sure that adds at least another floor. I feel like I need a defibrillator by the third floor. My knees don't like the situation either. The dinners have been excellent but it is a huge dinner and I am always thirstier than I am hungry. The flat is close to the shopping area so when I am there I take



advantage of the area and shop on the walk home. Last night I bought apricots and bananas at a little supermarket.

### May 26,27,28

Well, we have had an eventful three days! On Tuesday morning while we were sailing across the Nile at 6AM in the morning we all commented on how still, muggy, and unusually hot it was. The under-the -road cave was unbricked again and out came all our equipment and pottery. It became very hot very quickly, especially for those working out in the sun. Everyone was encouraged to drink more water. By 9:00am it was 40 degrees and I was not feeling so great so I emptied a packet of rehydration powders into my second bottle. Within 10 minutes I felt better (hot, tired but well). My colleagues noticed and as they faded I gave them powder packets for their drinks. Suddenly one of the Egyptian workers passed out and was carried down to the garden hose near the house. I have never seen this before. These men are very proud and surprised themselves that they had fainted. Then another worker passed out. By the time the third worker was carried off the site the director was getting anxious and ordered everyone into the shade. Apparently it was 48 degrees at 11AM. All of a sudden my powder packets became important. Up until then they were regarded as the "quaint little old lady powders". I gave the director an empty packet container so he could purchase a large amount of them. He planned to put them into the workers' water source. It is unfortunate that they taste awful but hey are exceptionally cheap here. The dig ended early that day around 12:30. We were a hot and sweaty group that returned to the boat that day. I have a problem with the salty





sweat leaking into my eyes and burning while i am working. I went home and collapsed on the bed. I have never been so tired. I was released from walking all the way to the apartment and climbing the stairs. Stephanie brought me a meal from dinner to my room. We soon heard the news that the heat in Cairo had reached a record high. Severe sandstorms were engulfing the city and all the schools and government buildings were closed and that the heat wave was to continue until Thursday. The powders helped for the next two days and no other person passed out despite the 48 degree heat. It is now Friday, our one day off and it feels a little cooler. A group has gone hiking from Deir el Medineh, and over the mountain to the Valley of the kings. I think they are crazy. I am staying right here to organize my work and stay cool. Another group has gone to visit Abydos and Dendera.

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015**

We arrived this morning at the site, rested after our one day holiday and happy that it would be a little cooler after the heat wave. 106 degrees sounds wonderful after three days of 120 degrees. You can imagine then, how surprised we were to find that our tent had blown down in a wind storm. The main metal support of the roof had snapped and our furniture and paper supplies were flying around the site. Luckily the guard and the villagers managed to grab all our stuff and take it into the house that we rent. We stood around sadly unable to work while they tried to re-erect the tent. Some old tree trunks were brought in to help support the sides. Finally, our pottery team dragged a little table into the shade by the cliff wall and began to work. Considering all the distractions we got some work done. When we moved back into our side of the tent which is just a tarp roof attached to the main tent I noticed big rocks on the roof to hold it down in the wind. It seemed a little scary to be sitting under in case of another collapse. We are still working on the huge 2013 backlog. Every now and again I take a walk out on the site to get a visual picture of where my sherds are coming from. In between I send students out to make little maps of the area in which they are digging. The students are lovely and very helpful. On the boat ride back to the East bank where our hotel is Tracy found a huge spider riding on my backpack. She called it a “jumping spider” and jump it did on to her and then someplace else. I was very surprised then when I walked into my hotel room, dumped my bag on to the bed and found him again on my backpack. He must have jumped back without my seeing him. Now I like Canadian spiders but I did not know anything about this new visitor so I



picked him up carefully using my scarf and put him out onto the balcony. He immediately jumped onto the railing and down to the 3rd floor balcony. He still seemed quite healthy but I did not see where he went from that balcony. He sure lives up to his name. Maybe he is waiting for someone to open the door.

After all that drama I undressed and went into have a shower. The water squirted and sprinkled out allowing me to get damp and then stopped completely. It turned out that a water pipe had broken out in the street exactly in front of our front door. The entire hotel had no water all night and the next day. We woke up to no water and left for the field as unwashed as we had returned the day before. We had bottled water to drink and clean our teeth with. No toilet, No shower. I was yearning for a litter box. Apparently the workmen needed one piece of equipment so they stopped working until the stores opened the next day. Thank goodness when we got back the water had returned. Wow, do we appreciate it!

I apologize again for no photos but we are forbidden at present. If you want to see photos of this expedition you can easily google ‘University of Arizona Egyptian expedition’. I have work to do sorting pot drawings.

**Friday, June 12, 2015**

The best time here is at 4:30 AM. I usually wake up then (it might be the loud call of prayer that causes me to awaken) and I step out onto my balcony. I am very careful to leave my shoe in the door, having already had the drama and acute embarrassment of being locked out on the balcony once before. The air is cool and fresh and the sky is beginning to lighten. I can barely make out the mountains across the river where all the tombs of the ancient dead are located. In the evening the doorways of the tombs are lit producing a very eerie and spooky but attractive effect. But now they are dark and those within are allowed to sleep in darkness. The birds obviously like this time also since they are bustling around in the tops of the flowering trees and making an awful racket. The swimming pool which is on a boat docked in front is all lit up as well as some areas of the garden. The flickering lights and shadows are very intriguing. Out on the Nile you can just see outlines of the long barges sailing up to Cairo with their cargoes of sand, gravel or limestone blocks destined for the cement factories. If I look to the side I can see the main street (the Corniche) all the way down to the Winter Palace Hotel. The streets are empty now except for a few police vehicles. As the city wakes up that same street will soon be alive





with horses, taxis, buses, donkey carts and people.

This morning on the boat ride over to the West Bank Helen and Lea (the two professors from Tuscon who do the professional mapping of the site told us of their adventure the previous evening. Apparently when they returned to their apartment from dinner their key would not work in the door. They had their phones with them so they called the owner of the building, who called the key man who arrived fairly quickly with his helper. They could not open it either. Plan A was to go into the apartment above and try to climb down to the balcony below and get into their apartment and open the door from the inside. They couldn't do it. Plan B was to wake up the man in the apartment below and try to climb up from his balcony. Failure again!! Plan C - get ladder, put on man's balcony, climb up to Helen and Lea's apartment and climb in window on balcony. Success!! Door opened and problem solved and everyone is happy. It only took about an hour.

We are getting some more hot days. I have a thermometer on my table and I can watch it rise from 45 to 46 then 47 and then 48 in the shade between 12 noon and 1PM. The people from Arizona are used to it but I find it a bit alarming. We drink a lot of water.

#### **Friday, June 12, 2015**

The other day there was an incident at Karnak Temple. Amidst a pile of conflicting stories it seems that three men who were upset over the verdicts in some important trials in the Cairo courts tried to kill some policeman at Karnak Temple (a famous tourist site.) Two of the men jumped out of a car and began shooting at the police guards. The police shot back and detonated a suicide belt that one of them had been wearing. Both attackers were killed. Two policemen were injured by the flying shrapnel but are OK now. The remaining man in the car drove away and must have triggered his suicide vest because he also blew up. The news reports have gone overboard. While all this was happening our director was phoned by the head of the American Research Centre in Egypt and told there was an incident. We were all called off the site, the workmen into the shade by the house and all of us had to gather inside the tent. Soon we had the all clear phone call and we could resume work. We were told that if we heard loud voices or shots while we were working we were to immediately drop to the ground. I am still figuring out how to do that since my arthritis won't allow me to bend at the knees. Thank goodness I did not have to do it and we continued working until 1PM. During the boat ride back we were told that we were confined to the hotel for the night and to meet at 5 in the lobby for announcements. The people in the flat were taxied to their apartments. A guard was put at the door and they were to be driven back to the meeting. At the meeting we waited and waited for Helen and Lea only to learn that their lock was on the blink again and they were locked in this time. A whole new lock was installed for them finally. Officials from the Ministry of Tourism have all been visiting Karnak today to show tourists how safe it is.

Today is my one day off so we went to the Luxor Museum. It has some new coffins from a 17th dynasty tomb that the Spanish mission found this year. They are pretty neat. Afterwards Stephanie and I were invited to lunch at Reis Ali's house. As usual we sat alone while his young daughters served



us. While we ate, soup, spaghetti, French fries, chicken and kofta and bread Ali brought in a lap top and played a video /movie of the finding of the new tomb by the Spanish. Ali played a prominent place in it, of course, as well as Omar. After dinner we met his wife who had cooked the meal and with hugs and kisses all around we left to go back to the hotel. The movie is wonderful and I hope to get a copy of it if I can. All my papers and drawings are being copied today to go back to Arizona. I keep the originals to work on at home.

#### **Tuesday, June 16, 2015**

Today was our last day. We worked until 10 AM trying to finish all the pottery that we could. Unfortunately, despite a heroic effort by my ceramic team we have left a fairly hefty backlog for next year. The sherds have been interesting and I have enjoyed the work and especially the company. I am disappointed that I can't talk about or send photos about our work until we get the OK sign from the Antiquity office after they have checked everyone's photos. It could take several weeks. I did get a photo today from one of the team of the type of spider that followed me back to my room. She was excavating a cave-like structure and it was filled with these large yellow spiders. I have attached the photo of this amazing specimen. They are quite big. I have to pack tonight because I am being picked up at 5 AM to go to Luxor airport and the long journey home. I will see you soon.



## Montréal Chapter report, 2014-2015 season

With the Montreal Chapter 2014-2015 season almost to a close, let's make a short recap of yet another activity-filled year. Public lectures at the Egypt consulate's Cultural affairs bureau showcased most promising students. From the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Jessica Bouchard conferred on royal ancestors and legitimisation for VIIIth to IIIrd centuries BC Nubian kings while University of Toronto's Sherine ElSebaie chatted about the Titanic years and the beginnings of mass tourism in Egypt. While very different in nature, both lectures were simply enthralling. Be on the look-out for these student's publications! Further public lectures, held in multiple locations this year, were given by prestigious visitors, Patrizia Piacentini (University of Milan) about gifts, sales and trafficking of antiquities, Julien Siesse (Sorbonne) on Royal sons of the late Middle Kingdom and SIP... who were not actual king's sons, and Nigel Strudwick (Memphis University) with Tomb robberies in Ancient Thebes and then Egyptian decrees, biographies, accounts and formulae in the Age of the Pyramids. Many member's lectures were also held this past season, these also being spread over multiple locations: Thomas Faucher (Univesité d'Orléans) had opened the year with a talk on Egyptian coins; Mostafa Zayed (UQAM) demystified the basic principles that underlain the Egyptian state; Michel Guay, in a similar vein, clarified how Ancient Egyptians understood their universe; and Jean-Paul de Lagrave illuminated the disappearance of a grand civilization. On a more mundane level, our members also partook in the Cultures Days with a wonderful workshop on hieroglyphs. Some also conferred in the Chapter's local AGM, notably to elect our executive council, with two new faces: Éliane Thomas and Michel Gervais. Many amongst us also made the trip to Toronto for the AGM week-end, scholar's colloquium and symposium. And certainly a nice time will be enjoyed by all at the upcoming annual pique-nique. The new season promises to be just as event-full; be sure to join us if you are around!

### 2014-2015 executive of the Montreal Chapter of the SSEA:

**Dr. Brigitte Ouellet**, Présidente / President (Comité de représentation nationale et internationale)

**Dr. Jean Revez**, Vice-Président / Vice- President (Comité des relations scientifiques)

**Nicole Brisson**, Secrétaire-trésorière / Secretary-treasurer

Conseillers - Counsellors

**Jean-Frédéric Brunet** - (Comité des communications écrites: Newsletter et Bulletin de liaison Escribe)

**Cloé Caron** - (Comité évènements et réseaux sociaux)

**Michel Gervais** - (Comité de la documentation électronique et relations étudiantes)

**Eliane Thomas** - (Comité des relations publiques)

Autres collaborateurs:

**Samuel Dupras** - Agent de liaison - Québec-Université Laval

**Valérie Martin** - Assistante-trésorerie et personne ressource

**Michèle Sylvestre** - Archiviste-base de données de la bibliothèque

**Jessica Bouchard** - Collaboratrice occasionnelle

Projet spécial -

À la recherche de l'Égypte ancienne au Canada / In Search of Ancient Egypt in Canada

**Martin Girard**, Chargés de projet (Québec, Est du Canada)

**Mark Trumpour**, Chargé de projet (Ontario, Centre du Canada)

**Dr. Brigitte Ouellet**, superviseure.

## Calgary Chapter report, 2014-2015 season

The Calgary had its final two lectures of the 2014-2015 season. The first one was conducted by Dr. Nick Wernick and was on the topic of ancient Egyptian Art. The overall aim of the talk was to point out some developments of ancient Egyptian artistic styles over the pharaonic period, while pointing out specific characteristics that help Egyptologists to date pieces. The final lecture was given by the SSEA-Calgary Chapter president, Dr. Julius Szekrenyes, on tomb contents of New Kingdom burials. It was an interesting discourse on the variety of goods that can be found in ancient graves including tools for daily life, items that relate with religious practices, and statuary. It was a good way to round out the year of lectures.

One item of business that was conducted was the SSEA-Calgary's annual elections. Dr. Szekrenyes had indicated to the chapter executive that he would like to step down from 'president' role and serve in an advisory position. As a result, Nick Wernick, put his name forward and was elected by the members present at the final meeting. The rest of the chapter executive decided to serve next season in their same roles. Currently, the chapter executive is ironing out their schedule and requests members to keep themselves apprised of developments through the SSEA-Calgary website <http://www.calgaryssea.ca/>

### 2015-2016 executive of the Calgary Chapter of the SSEA:

**Nicholas Wernick** - President

**Paul English** - Vice President

**Julius Szekrenyes** - Member at Large/Advisor:

**Mary Macdonald** - Executive Member:

## 2015 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 financial statements and vote on amendments to the Society's Bylaws, which also govern local Chapters. Any proposed Bylaw Amendments will be available in advance of the AGM on the SSEA website, [www.thessea.org](http://www.thessea.org).

The national organization organizes the Annual Symposium and Scholars' Colloquium and all publications, including the Journal and Newsletter and maintains the database of members. All members of any chapter of the SSEA or SÉÉA are members of the national organization and entitled to vote. If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting of The SSEA/SÉÉA, 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 6th, 2015 from 5:30pm. The AGM will be followed by a reception.

### Schedule for the 2015 AGM Weekend

**Thursday, November 5th, 7pm – Lecture.**

This event is open to all. Location will be announced on SSEA website.

**Friday, November 6th, 9am to 4:30pm – Scholars' Colloquium Day 1;** held in 5 Bancroft Ave. This event is free and open to all.

**Friday, November 6th, 5:30 pm onward – Annual General Meeting of the SSEA/SÉÉA;** This event is held in room 323, 4 Bancroft Ave.

**Saturday, November 7th, 9am to 5pm – 41st Annual Symposium,** held in room 1050, 5 Bancroft Ave. For pricing, see below.

**Sunday, November 8th, 11am to 4pm - Scholars' Colloquium Day 2; held in 5 Bancroft Ave.** This event is free and open to all. Colloquium Posters will be on display in the foyer outside the lecture theatre.

### *Egypt's Threatened Treasures: Plunder and Restoration, Past & Present*

#### **Our 41st Annual Symposium**

This fall, the SSEA/SÉÉA will hold our Annual Symposium on the topic of "*Egypt's Threatened Treasures: Plunder and Restoration, Past & Present*". This year's symposium, held in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting and Scholars' Colloquium has been scheduled for **NOVEMBER 7th, 2015**. This event is ticketed; a fee for entry is required. All events will be held on the campus of the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. This is a paid event. Entrance fee is charged: \$85 SSEA Members; \$95 non-members; \$45 student non-members; \$40 student members. There is a \$5 discount on all early registration categories. To find out more, visit <http://symposium.thessea.org> or email us [info@thessea.org](mailto:info@thessea.org)

### *Egypt's Threatened Treasures: Plunder and Restoration, Past & Present*

#### **Notre 41e Symposium Annuel**

Cet hiver, la SÉÉA/SSEA tiendra son symposium annuel sous le thème des «*Egypt's Threatened Treasures: Plunder and Restoration, Past & Present*». Le symposium de cette année, qui aura lieu en marge de notre réunion annuelle des membres et du Colloque d'érudits, se déroulera le **7 NOVEMBRE 2015** sur le campus de l'université de Toronto à Toronto au Canada. Ceci est un événement payant. 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 en savoir plus, visitez <http://symposium.thessea.org> ou écrivez-nous à [info@thessea.org](mailto:info@thessea.org)

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Editors: Peter Robinson, Lyn Green Éditeur adjoint: Jean-Frédéric Brunet. The views expressed in the SSEA newsletter are those of the Editors and Contributors and not necessarily those of the SSEA. © The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities / Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte ancienne 2015. All photos and illustrations in this issue have been provided by the article authors unless stated otherwise.