

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

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Dig Diary: December 2017

Rexine Hummel

Winter 2017 #1

S.S.E.A
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December 19, 2017

Dear friends and family,

Sorry to take so long but getting *wifi* appears to be a problem. Steven Shubert and I, the only Torontonians on the project, arrived exhausted in Cairo after 20 hours of flying on a plane with screaming infants. We arrived the day that president Trump announced the moving of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and the whole Middle East was tense and prepared for trouble. For the first time we had to wait at the airport for a police escort. We are staying again at the Cataract Pyramids Resort, a huge hotel south of Cairo on the Saqqara road. Since we were the only guests in the hotel last year the Alabama team members were very surprised to discover that our reservations were changed to make room for THE AFRICAN YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS and the MISS ARAB WORLD BEAUTY CONTEST. Since our rooms are temporary for three nights we can't unpack. The rooms are small and we are very crowded living with two in a room and all our dig stuff in with us.

Shakira, the young girl from the Isle of Sark is once again my roommate. I love rooming with her since she is always cheerful and sings opera. Unfortunately my arthritic knee and hip are acting up so I am having a problem with the long distances between our room and the dining room and further still the lobby. The rooms are set around a very long swimming pool. I have to set out walking to dinner much earlier than my colleagues since I walk so slowly with my cane. I see a cart parked outside the dining room sometimes so I hope to arrange for some rides.

The dining room is packed with nerdy little chess-playing boys and young girls with Cleopatra makeup and



Hard at work with my potery recording

6 inch heels. It is a very interesting scenario. We arrived on a Thursday evening which is the typical wedding night. We were eating our first dinner on the outside patio when we heard the drums beating alongside us as the wedding party progressed slowly toward the pavilion at the end of the swimming pool. We joined the wedding party with our cameras clicking. The group of drummers led by a very talented clarinet player sang and danced around the newly-weds. We found ourselves in the midst of the guests who were all extremely well dressed. As we approached the entrance to the wedding pavilion (with the director, Sarah, taking video) I think it was the father of the bride who invited us into the reception. We were embarrassed and declined citing our inappropriate attire. He told us to go and change our clothes and come back.



'Pottery parties' on site

SUCH IS Egyptian hospitality.

Day One at Lisht: I stayed back since I would not be useful setting up tents.

Day Two: It's colder than I expected.

It is only 55 kilometres to Lisht but the main road is full of speed bumps and abundant traffic which includes humongous trucks, minibuses, donkey carts, three-wheeled cars, motorcycles and many farm animals being walked to their fields. It takes us 1 and one half to 2 hours to travel to our destination if all goes well. Coming home is worse. We often run into huge traffic jams where we just sit in the minibus and listen to the horns. The major bottleneck is at a bridge where the main flow of traffic changes from two way to one way and all the northbound traffic is suddenly faced with three lanes of cars coming towards us so that we are forced to cross the bridge in order to continue north. Inevitably a donkey cart or cow is stuck in the middle and no car or truck is willing to back up and clear the mess. On these occasions we are lucky that we have a police car accompanying us with sirens and blue flashing lights. We also have a very large heavily armed policeman in the front seat of our minibus and another security man in the seat by the door. When all else fails our policeman gets out and persuades some of the trucks to move an inch here and there so they can untangle the knot and get the traffic moving again. One day it took 3 hours to get back to get back to the hotel. My hip was very unhappy when we finally arrived. We all are unhappy about the time wasted in travelling to the dig but this hotel is the furthest south and closest to Lisht.

I will get back to you when I can. The day is so

long we are all exhausted when we arrive back.

December 22 : Merry Christmas!

This is a very interesting dig. They are excavating the entrance way and hall of a large Middle Kingdom tomb, both areas of which contain multiple deep burial shafts. This large tomb, obviously of an important nobleman, was hacked up by robbers in antiquity so among the finds there are human bones, mummy wrappings, and burial objects. Buckets of pottery, however are threatening to bury us. The objects (mostly fragments of limestone with hieroglyphs inscribed on them in high relief) are overwhelming the object registrar, the photographer and the artist.

They have built an area for our pottery now called the "Ceramic Emporium" with an area that holds the incoming buckets of sherds to be washed, another area where we have three screened drying tables, and tables for us to draw on along a brick wall that protects us from the wind.

Although we get up at 5:15 A.M., we don't get to the dig until 7:30. It is usually cold first thing in the morning. We have a tea man who offers us tea or coffee whenever we wish.

Our pottery place is situated beside "Cafe Canada" where all the food for breakfast and lunch is made. It is called Cafe Canada because it is full of Canadian red chairs decorated with maple leaves from Canadian Tire. It is always buzzing with activity since the guards and police hang out there to smoke and gossip.

Again we notice the increased police and army presence. We are accompanied everywhere by a police car or truck. There seem to be many men walking around the site carrying large guns. Even up in the hills surrounding the site I see vans and soldiers. We certainly have a lot of protection. We have been requested by security to always travel together when we are away from the dig site or the hotel complex so the police can be with us. They also think it is too dangerous for us to go to church at Christmas. It is a very sad situation here.

This is the first Christmas that I have not been with my family. I miss them a lot and will be anxious to get home. We will actually be working on Christmas day. I come home on the 29th of December.

December 23

I had an exciting day today. The director's husband, Greg Mumford is an old friend of mine from 'way back, He plotted in secret to have a wooden carrying chair made for me, just like an Egyptian palanquin that carried the pharaohs. I have been struggling through the

soft sand with my cane and Greg had threatened to get some strong men to carry me from the minibus to the dig area. When we were about to leave today he told me to turn around and there was this chair sitting there in front of the dining tent. I was told to get into it and about eight men lined up to shoulder the poles and hiked me jerkily into the air. I felt like I was on a camel.

We headed for the van with a crowd of onlookers all taking videos with their phones and laughing. As we threaded our way through the tombstones of the surrounding cemetery they broke into song. I thought that they would drop me when they started to clap to the music but they just hoisted the poles to their shoulders leaving their hands free to clap. It was rather embarrassing but a lot of fun. Greg says that this is my official transportation to and from the minibus for the rest of the dig. Some of the village children stood around the van watching this performance with mouths agape. Nearby a beautiful water buffalo with huge eyes also watched this foreign spectacle while she chewed on some foliage. Shakira is threatening to put the video on Facebook.

There are three more days of digging with baskets of sherds pouring into the ceramic emporium. Bettina has gone home, leaving Mahmoud and myself to finish up and we will be hard pressed to even get all the pottery washed, dried and packed away for next year. There is also some



Commuting to site in pharaonic style!

mending and gluing to do. It is my favorite job, but it can be frustrating trying to find pieces that join from a thousand look-a-likes. The work requires a lot of standing and I get very tired, but I love it.

Merry Christmas again.

Report on the 2017 SSEA/SEEA Scholars' Colloquium/Symposium

This year's presentations once again began with a lecture in memory of Sally L.D. Katary on Thursday night. The lecture was presented by Dr. Nancy Lovell, Prof. Emerita at the University of Alberta, on *Digitally Unwrapping Graeco-Roman Mummy*. The SSEA/SEEA would like to thank Dr. Nancy Lovell for donating her time to this fund-raising lecture.

Friday, November 4th was the first day of the **Scholars' Colloquium**. As usual, it featured a number of presentations by international scholars, and once again the posters were presented on this day, in the lobby of 5 Bancroft Ave. The posters were: *Preliminary study of a Ptolemaic period coffin at the University of Alberta*, Prof. Nancy C. Lovell, Emeritus University of Alberta; *Conversion and Death: Can Changes in Burial Practices Indicate Adoption of a New Religion?* Prof. Kerry Muhlestein and Bethany Jensen, Brigham Young University; *Fag el-Gamous Pottery with "Kill Holes"*, Brian Christensen, Cannon Fairbairn, and Prof. Kerry Muhlestein, Brigham Young University; *Queen's University Egyptian Coffin Project: Identification and Characterization of a Dynasty 25 'White' Coffin Using Computed Tomographic (CT) Imaging and Instrumental Analysis*; [presentation on Sunday] Victoria Kablys, Queen's University, Dr. Andrew J. Nelson, The University of Western Ontario, Prof. Amandina Anastasiades, Queen's University.

The morning session on Friday included: *New Kingdom Queens: The Ascending Gender Paradox* by Prof. Kelly-Anne Diamond, Villanova University; *Ramesside Queens' Tombs and the Development of the Deir el-Medina Iconographical Tradition* by Dr. Heather Lee McCarthy, NYU Epigraphical Expedition to the Ramesses II Temple at Abydos; *"Datation du règne d'Apophis en fonction de l'éruption de Santorinet du Papyrus Rhind"* by Independent Scholar Siro Trevisanato; *The Amduat: Mapping the Theban Landscape?* Peter Robinson, SSEA/Poynton Egypt Society; *From Crypt to Cult: Pyramid Texts on Middle Kingdom Mortuary Stelae*, by Dr. Rune Nyord, Freie Universität Berlin.

The afternoon session on Friday saw presentations by Hannah M. Herrick, University of Arizona, *Using Cultural Interconnections to Investigate Meroitic Iron Smelting*; Amy Wilson, SUNY Cobleskill, *Female Terracotta Figurines from Kom Wasit and Kom al-Ahmer, Egypt*; Prof. Joana Campos Climaco, Federal University of Amazonas, Manaus-Brazil, *Images of Alexandria during Roman times: sophistication, hugeness and polemics*; and Prof. Ian Begg, Trent University, Giulia Deotto, University of Padua, and Giorgia Cafici, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, *Reconsidering the Roman presence at Tebtynis: the area of the vestibule of the Soknebtynis temple*.

Saturday's Symposium, **AEGYPTUS Egypt under Roman Rule** opened with *Egypt under Rome: A brief overview*, by Dr. Gregory Dundas, and then examined the role of kingship under Roman rule in Egypt with two papers: *Where the Pharaoh dwells: Ancient Egyptian Kingship and Rome*, by Nicola Barbagli (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa) and *Caesar Augustus, Savior of the World*. By Dr. Dundas. The ordinary life (and death) the citizens of Roman Egypt was explored in the lectures *Fitting in and Standing out: Multiculturalism of Roman Egypt* (Dr. Emily Cole, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York), Profs. Lincoln Blumell, *Daily Life in Roman Egypt: An Epistolary Survey* and Kerry Muhlestein, *Of Portraits and Papyri: Egyptian Burial in the Roman Era* of Brigham Young University. Prof. Blumell was this year's Patricia Paice Speaker. The world of the gods in Graeco-Roman Egypt was discussed by Prof. John Gee of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, *Götterdämmerung: Egyptian Religion in Roman Egypt*; and Prof. Janice Yellin of Babson College, *Meroe and Roman Egypt: The last centuries of a shared devotion to Isis in her temple at Philae*.

The **Colloquium**, with its 20-minute scholarly presentations, resumed on **Sunday** at 11am with *Observations on the restoration of the Hypostyle Hall in the aftermath of the earthquake at Karnak in 1899*, Prof. Jean Revez, Université du Québec à Montréal; *Graffiti in the desert: ancient visitors of Kharga Oasis and their epigraphic remains*, Prof. Nikolaos Lazaridis, California State University Sacramento; and *Archaeology in the Digital Age: Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Archaeology of Hibeh*, Prof. Jean Li, Ryerson University.

During the lunch break, there was an opportunity to make a virtual visit to the reconstructed by Kris Howald of Sheridan College.

The final session of the weekend included more excellent papers: *Mystery bundles: x-raying the ROM's collection of animal mummifies from Egypt*, Gayle Gibson, Royal Ontario Museum; *The Early Christian Reuse of Ancient Temples of Monthu at Tud and Medamoud*, Dr. Emad Ghaly, Fayoum University, Winner of the Steven Larkman Travel Award; *Queen's University Egyptian Coffin Project: Identification and Characterization of a Dynasty 25 'White' Coffin Using Computed Tomographic (CT) Imaging and Instrumental Analysis*, Victoria Kablys, Queen's University, and Dr. Andrew J. Nelson, The University of Western Ontario, Prof. Amandina Anastassiades, Queen's University; *"There Is None Who Will Repeat Him Forever"*, Dr. Edmund Meltzer, Pacifica Graduate Institute; and *The holders of the title imy-r ssmt (Overseer of the horses) in the Ramesside Period*, Mostafa A. Shalaby, Ain Shams University, Egypt.

On behalf of the Society, the Symposium and Scholars' Colloquium Committees would like to thank all of the presenters for making this such a memorable weekend.

2017 Annual General Meeting of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities / La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne

The Annual General Meeting of The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne (aka SSEA/SÉÉA National) was held on November 3rd, 2017 in room 214, 4 Bancroft Ave., on the campus of the University of Toronto. The Society's Board of Trustees for 2017-2018 is:

Dr. Lyn Green, President/Présidente

Prof. Kerry Muhlestein, Vice President

Gayle Gibson, Vice President

Arlette Londes, Treasurer

Dr. Peter Sheldrick, Acting Secretary of the Board;

Chair, Bylaws and Policy Committee

Dr. Nicholas Wernick, Calgary Chapter Representative and Associate Webmaster

Cloé Caron, Montreal Chapter Representative/
French-Language Editor, *JSSEA*

TBA, Toronto Chapter Representative

TBA, Vancouver Chapter Representative

Dr. Edmund S. Meltzer, Editor, *JSSEA*
Peter Robinson, Webmaster and *SSEA Newsletter*
Editor
Dr. Jean-Frédéric Brunet, French-Language Editor,
SSEA Newsletter
Prof. John Gee

Rexine Hummel
Prof. Jacqueline E. Jay
Jean McGrady
Dr. Caroline Rocheleau
Dr. Nancy Lovell

The Membership and Administrative Secretaries of the SSEA/SÉÉA Head Office are John McGrady and Hanna Kurnitzki-West.

Thank Yous

Vincent Tobin

We are sorry to announce the departure of Prof. Emeritus Vincent A. Tobin from our list of Honorary Trustees, a position which he held for over a decade. Vince had been a member of several committees, heading the Scholars' Colloquium Committee for several years.

Assemblée générale annuelle 2017 de la Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte ancienne / Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities

L'assemblée générale annuelle de la Société pour l'étude des antiquités égyptiennes (SSEA/ SÉÉA National) s'est tenue le 3 novembre 2017 dans la salle 214, 4 avenue Bancroft, sur le campus de l'Université de Toronto. Le conseil d'administration de la Société (Trustees) pour 2017-2018 est:

Dr. Lyn Green, President/Présidente
Prof. Kerry Muhlestein, Vice Président
Gayle Gibson, Vice Président
Arlette Londes, Trésorière

Dr. Peter Sheldrick, Secrétaire par intérim du Conseil et Président du comité de la constitution et des règlements

Dr. Nicholas Wernick, Représentant du chapitre de Calgary et Webmestre adjoint

Cloé Caron, Représentante du chapitre de Montréal et Éditrice francophone, JSSEA

Poste vacant, Représentante du chapitre Toronto

Poste vacant, Représentante du chapitre Vancouver

Dr. Edmund S. Meltzer, Éditeur, JSSEA

Peter Robinson, Webmestre et Éditeur du SSEA Newsletter

Dr. Jean-Frédéric Brunet, Éditeur francophone du SSEA Newsletter

Prof. John Gee

Rexine Hummel

Prof. Jacqueline E. Jay

Jean McGrady

Dr. Caroline Rocheleau

Dr. Nancy Lovell

Les secrétaires aux membres et aux affaires administratives de la SSEA/ SÉÉA sont John McGrady et Hanna Kurnitzki-West.

Remerciements

Vincent Tobin

C'est avec tristesse que nous annonçons le départ du Prof Emeritus Vincent A. Tobin de notre liste de fiduciaires honoraires, poste qu'il a occupé pendant plus d'une décennie. Vince avait été membre de plusieurs comités, à la tête du comité du Colloque Annuel pendant plusieurs années.

New Editor announcement for the society's journal, JSSEA

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne is very pleased to announce the following new appointments to the Editorial Staff and Editorial Board of the Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities:

Sarah Ketchley PhD, Co-Editor and Technical Editor;

Sarah Schellinger PhD, Assistant Editor;

Simone Burger PhD, Dan Deac PhD, and Nikolaos Lazaridis PhD, Members of the Editorial Board.

They are joining

Edmund S. Meltzer PhD, Co-Editor;

Cloé Caron PhD Cand., French Language Editor;

Lyn Green PhD, Assistant Editor;

Katherine Blouin PhD, Katja Goebis PhD, Jacqueline E. Jay PhD, Ronald J. Leprohon PhD, Nancy Lovell PhD, Caroline Rocheleau PhD, Peter Sheldrick MD, and Mary-Ann Wegner PhD, Members of the Editorial Board.

Thank You Jackie!

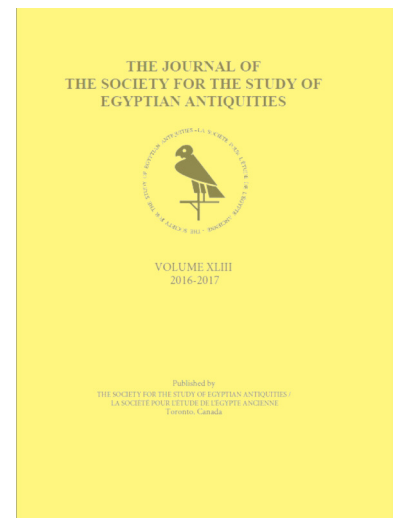
Along with all who have worked with the Journal for the past four years, and the Board and membership of the Society, I want to express profound and heartfelt thanks to Professor Jacqueline E. Jay, whose increased teaching and administrative workload at Eastern Kentucky University has made it necessary for her to step down as Co-Editor of the JSSEA. We have worked together on four volumes that have already appeared – 40, 41, 42 and 43, including memorial tributes to our dear colleagues and friends Jack Foster and Ted Brock. We are proud of them and Jackie has the right to be very proud of her accomplishments. She has also done significant work on the next two volumes that are still in progress.

When I first learned that Jackie and I would be co-editing the Journal, I was very pleased, having encountered her excellent papers at ARCE meetings, and having had the pleasure of meeting her and discussing Egyptological questions of mutual interest. In these past four years, she has been not only a respected colleague and dedicated coworker, but a true and supportive friend. Her hard work, professionalism, stellar standards, teamwork, and mastery of both Egyptology and editing have enabled the entire process to run smoothly, on deadline and within budget, and have reaffirmed the respect and confidence of our colleagues and attracted new contributors.

I am very glad that Jackie is staying on as a member of the Editorial Board, and that we will still have the benefit of her wise counsel and helpfulness.

So once again I say Thank You Jackie! But it is an understatement.

Ed Meltzer



Montréal Chapter report, Fall 2017

Last fall in Montréal the Chapter organised two public lectures and held its annual general meeting. The first lecture, in league with the celebrations of our City's 375th anniversary, was titled "*L'Égyptomanie à Montréal: entre inspiration et amalgame (1840-2017)*". It was on September 27th, on the UQAM campus and the speaker was Guillaume Sellier, MA student from that university. Rather unusual – and yet fascinating – look at some familiar sites, and some less... Egypt is all over town!

The second lecture was read at the cultural bureau of the Egypt consulate in Montréal on the 25th of October by Professor Didier Devauchelle of Lille 3 University. It was titled "*Kouchites, Saïtes et Perses au Sérapéum de Memphis*" and its aim was to introduce the audience to the rich historical documentation from the Serapeum, but we were also treated with pictures from the current and very promising excavations. For the history, your reporter had himself given a lecture about this very archeological site over 10 years ago... To hear of the upcoming reopening of the Lesser Vaults was a blast to say the least!

A week earlier was our AGM. This year's most notable event was the election to the executive committee of Dr. Moustafa Zayed. The board otherwise remains the same with Cloé Caron, President; Prof. Jean Revez, Vice-President; Nicole Brisson, Treasurer; and as councillors, Dr. Brigitte Ouellet, Dr Jean-Frédéric Brunet, Michel Gervais as well as Martine Dumais, our liaison with Laval University. Also noteworthy was the announcement of an upcoming special exhibits on the Queens of Ancient Egypt to be set up at the Pointe-à-Callière Museum next spring. But the Chapter as lots of activities upcoming, starting the January. So, if you are in town, be sure to hop by!

Toronto Chapter Report, November 3th 2017

The Toronto Chapter had a very successful 2016-2017. The Lecture Series was a great success with a wide variety of topics, including: Dr. Sahar Saleem (Cairo University) "*Rewriting history: CT scanning of Ancient Egypt*", Gayle Gibson (Royal Ontario Museum) "*The Ties that Bind- Cloth Offerings to Hathor from Deir el Bahari*", Dr. Katja Goebis (University of Toronto) "*Some Performative aspects of Egyptian myth*", Dr. Dinitri Laboury (University of Liège) "*Painters and Painting in the Theban Necropolis during the 18th dynasty*" and Thomas H. Greiner (University of Toronto) "*Blue like the Night Sky: Lapis Lazuli in Ancient Egypt*". The Chapter also co-sponsored a lecture, in partnership with the Royal Ontario Museum, by Dr. Fekri Hassan (Emeritus, University College London) "*Early Egypt: Climate, Chaos and Civilization*". The summer lectures explored sites that might be less well known to our members. Dr. Lyn Green (President, Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities) "*Balat: City of the Oasis*", Annissa Malvoisin (University of Toronto) "*Meroe: The Capital of Kush*", Gayle Gibson (Royal Ontario Museum) "*Tanis: The Second-hand Capital and its Untouched Royal Tombs*" and Dr. Steven B. Shubert "*Wet and Wild: the Nilotic Mosaic at Praeneste*". Finally, the social committee organized a pub night after the May lecture and the wonderful Arlette Londes organised the Chapter's Annual New Year Dinner which took place at Hotel Novotel on July 8th. A great time was had by all! The Toronto Chapter did not award the Nicholas B. Millet Travel Scholarship in 2016-2017. The Chapter's financial picture was very good in 2016-2017. The Chapter finished the year with \$4, 1820.07 in general revenue; \$2, 369.91 in our Speakers Fund and \$1, 074.90 in the Dr. Nicholas B. Millet Travel Scholarship Fund.

The Toronto Chapter President for 2017-2018 is Thomas Greiner. The Officers of the Chapter executive are: Stephen Ficalora, Gayle Gibson, Erin Kerr, Arlette Londes, Zoë McQuinn and Taylor Bryanne Woodcock. Members-at-large of the executive are: Sami Akhnoukh, Leslie Cowger, Deirdre Keleher, Aleksandra Ksiezak, Letitia Mancini and Les O'Connor.

The Toronto Chapter is looking forward to an equally successful 2017-2018!

Collegially,
Deirdre Keleher

Notice:

As of October 2017, Toronto Chapter has a new Executive, new email address, and new website:

Website: <https://sseatoronto.wordpress.com/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/torontossea/>

Twitter stayed the same: <http://twitter.com/sseatoronto>

Email: sseatoronto@gmail.com

For information on the new Chapter Executive, visit: <https://sseatoronto.wordpress.com/chapter-executive/>



Toronto members enjoying their Annual New Year dinner

Wanted!!

Volunteers to help with our Calgary and Vancouver Chapters.

If you want to help one of these Chapters, or you want more details, please email: info@thessea.org

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.