

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

Editors: Peter Robinson, Lyn Green Éditeur adjoint: Jean-Frédéric Brunet

Assistant Editor: Gayle Gibson



Digitally Unwrapping the University of Alberta's Egyptian Mummy¹

Nancy C. Lovell

Spring 2018 #2

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

History

The University of Alberta acquired a Ptolemaic Period mummy by donation from a local family in 1979. Although there is no record of the mummy's discovery and travel out of Egypt, by the early 1950s the mummy was in the possession of a Mr. Woodrow in Stanmore, Middlesex, England. Recollections of Woodrow friends and family members are inconsistent, but the predominant story is that George Woodrow purchased the mummy in England but was unable to keep it in his home, and therefore stored it in a shed belonging to his father, John Woodrow. Several years later, George emigrated to Canada and settled in St. Albert, a city that is part of the greater Edmonton area. When his father died, in 1967 or 1968, George returned to England to settle his father's estate and shipped the mummy to Edmonton.

George then lent the mummy to a friend, Wilson Stewart. Mr. Stewart toured the province in a retired Edmonton transit bus with the mummy as his only passenger, the bus serving as a travelling museum that also included graveyard paraphernalia. Mr. Stewart was a self-styled genealogist and president and founder of the Edmonton Limestone Cemetery and Genealogical Society. A colourful character, he repeatedly asked Edmonton City Council for permission to put the mummy on display in a downtown building, with the rent deferred indefinitely. This was denied by the city land department when it transpired that he had already received a deferral from the Edmonton Transit Service for payment of \$600 for the bus. As far as can be determined, the bus was never paid for. When Mr. Stewart's health failed the mummy was stored in an abandoned shed at the Edmonton Hotel (no longer extant) until May, 1971, when the shed was broken into. Police took the mummy to the Chief Coroner's Office for examination and, as the identity of the mummy's owner was unknown at this point, the Anthropology Department at the University of Alberta was asked to take temporary custody of it. Fortuitously, the secretary to the Chief Coroner recalled newspaper accounts of the travelling mummy display and directed the Anthropology Department to



Figure 1 Woodrow and Mummy

Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart informed the department that the owner of the mummy was George Woodrow, and contact was made with the Woodrow family. Members of the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Classics considered the mummy and its coffin to be of significant scientific and cultural value and arranged their transfer to the university, as a temporary loan from the Woodrow family, for safe and secure storage. The mummy and coffin were in very poor condition by this time: the head of the mummy was detached from the body, the wrappings were in disarray, and the coffin was in several pieces.



Figure 2 Foot case

The earliest known photograph of the mummy dates to 1952 and shows Mr. Woodrow standing beside the mummy, which is upright in its coffin (Figure 1). The painted shroud is mainly intact but when the university acquired the mummy only a piece from the foot case, approximately 45 cm² was preserved (Figure 2). The rather creepy appearance of the face is due to the use of a fabric sling to keep the mummy from tipping out of the coffin. Two eye hooks were screwed to the inner floor panel of the coffin at some point and served as anchors for the sling. The nature of the original head covering is unknown, but the characteristics of the neck and shoulders of the shroud suggest that a painted mask may have adorned the head at one time. Regrettably, many of the masks in museums around the world were detached from mummies and are of unknown provenience; it was not uncommon for antiquities dealers to separate a mummy from its mask, or its coffin, in order to get more money by selling the pieces independently.

After George Woodrow's death in 1979, the university acquired the mummy and coffin as a permanent donation and embarked on an ambitious multidisciplinary project for their restoration and study. The coffin wood was identified as cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) by Professor Al Grimmer, Department of Agricultural Engineering, and the shroud was identified as linen by the Textile Analysis Division of the Department of Human Ecology. Samples of the coffin wood and the linen wrappings were sent to the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon for radiocarbon dating: dates of 2320 +/-



Figure 3 The UAlberta mummy

125 years BP and 2115 +/- 105 years BP were obtained, providing consistent results that indicated a Ptolemaic Period date. Experts from the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa undertook the repair of the mummy (Figure 3) and its coffin and provided recommendations for future treatment and storage protocols.

Dr. Rosalie David, Keeper of Egyptology at the Manchester Museum and a world-renowned expert on Egyptian mummies, came to Edmonton to assist with analyses and with preparations for an exhibit of the mummy. The condition of the inscriptions on the coffin was so poor that infrared photography was used to aid decipherment of the inscriptions. Unfortunately, the name of the individual could not be discerned, but Dr. David and Professor Richard Smith of the Classics Department at the university were able to translate the legible hieroglyphs on the lid of the coffin as: "Scribe in the house of Ptah", "Lector priest", and "Son of a man who held the same titles". The last inscription speaks to the ancient Egyptian practice of a son assuming his father's job and social position. As a scribe the man would have been able to read and write the ancient Egyptian language in at least two scripts, hieroglyphic and hieratic, and perhaps also Demotic. As a lector priest he would have recited spells and hymns during ceremonies and temple rituals. We can take our cue from sculptures and painted images to assume that he was shaven of hair and wore a wig and a kilt (shendyt) when attending to his official duties. At the head of the coffin are depictions of the four sons of Horus and a table laden with food and other items needed by the mummy's spirit in his afterlife. On the footboard are typical prayers for the benefit of the deceased. Hieroglyphs show the backbone of Osiris, a symbol of stability, and beneath it the symbol for protection. There is a prayer to the alter ego of Osiris, the Ram god of Busiris or Mendes known as Ba-neb-Djedju, protector of the backbone of Osiris and thus the protector of the body of the individual.

Both x-rays and CT scans of the mummy were taken in 1981 by Dr. C. G. Baker of the Faculty of Dentistry and Dr. W. R. Castor of the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton.² They published a brief report of their results in 1982,³ and panels depicting some of the x-rays and scans were installed in the exhibit of the mummy. "O Osiris, Live Forever," was mounted in the summer of 1982 in the gallery at Ring House 1 at the university. Ring House 1 housed the Art Gallery and Museum from 1971 until 1988. Since 1988, the university has not had a central museum building, but instead is home to a distributed network of 29 collections across campus, which primarily support teaching and research functions.

After the exhibition, the mummy and its coffin were placed in temperature- and humidity-stable storage. They have been removed for study and display only three times in the intervening years: for imaging studies in 1996, for display in 2015, and for further imaging studies in 2016.

Digital Imaging Studies

Although an x-ray and CT study had been undertaken in 1981, because of advances in imaging technology a new series of x-rays and CT scans were obtained at the University of Alberta Hospital in 1996 and in 2016, and we were able to confirm,

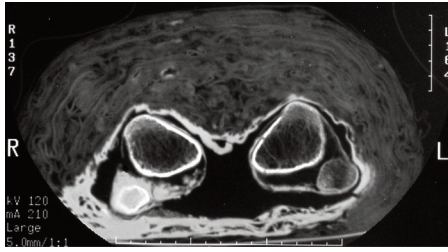


Figure 4 Scan through legs

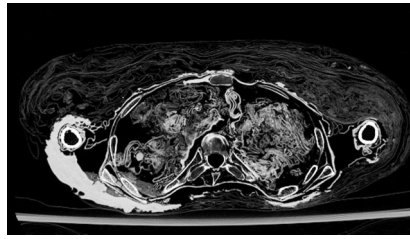


Figure 5 Scan showing body cavity



Figure 6 Dental image showing teeth

The images in Figures 4 and 5 show cross-sectional images that are viewed as if you were looking from the feet toward the head

revise, and refute some of the initial interpretations. One of the early conclusions was that an amulet, a canine tooth from a carnivorous animal on a leather thong, had been placed around the deceased's neck. In spite of the very dense nature of a tooth, it could not be seen in the 1996 and 2016 images. It was only through the archival investigation of photographs taken in 1981 that the puzzle was solved: the mummy had been x-rayed and CT scanned before restoration, with the wrappings in disarray, and the dense "object" was actually a piece of resin-impregnated fabric lying on top of the mummy's chest.

The cause of this man's death can't be determined from the information we obtained from the imaging studies, although we can rule out some causes. Castor and Baker had interpreted an area of increased density in the marrow space of the fibula in the right lower leg as indicating a cancerous tumour and suggested that this could have led to his death. Density measurements obtained in the 1996 scans, however, showed that the anomaly was due to the infiltration of embalming resin into the bone. Mummification in ancient Egypt reached its apogee during the New Kingdom, but by the Ptolemaic Period the art was in decline. Typical practice at this time involved pouring a fluid resin (primarily made of oil of juniper, with the additional of camphor, myrrh, and other aromatics) into the body cavity after the removal of the internal organs; it was also painted onto the skin of the body, which was then wrapped in strips of linen. The improved resolution of cross-sectional images taken from CT scans in 2016 show clearly how the resin pooled under the body and infiltrated the bone in the right lower leg (Figure 4). This improved resolution also makes it possible to visualize the packing of the chest cavity with bundles of rags and the wrapping of linen around the body (Figure 5), as well as the embalmer's incision in the lower left abdomen.

There is no evidence in the images of major trauma or chronic infectious disease, although the man could have died from an acute infection or by drowning, neither of which would leave traces on the skeleton. He was probably too young to have died of heart disease or other degenerative conditions. While we do not know precisely how old he was when he died, the absence of arthritis in his skeleton and a slight degree of tooth wear indicate that he was under 40 years of age.

That is not to say that he enjoyed a life free from pain. He suffered from periodontal disease that caused receding gums, and he had lost the first molar tooth on both sides of the lower jaw, probably due to painful cavities and subsequent abscesses.

First molars typically erupt in children at about six years of age, and because of the pits and fissures on their surface they easily trap food particles that lead to cavities. Dried fruits, such as dates and figs, were compact and portable sources of energy in ancient Egypt but they tend to cause cavities because they stick to the surfaces of teeth. A small cavity on the surface of the second lower molar, which would have abutted the first molar, supports this interpretation (Figure 6).

Finally, we were able to gain a better understanding of the mummification process. An x-ray of the torso shows a curvature in the lower spine that was first diagnosed as a pathological condition known as scoliosis (Figure 7), but the



Figure 7 Scoliosis in the mummy

curvature actually results from the treatment of the body soon after the application of molten resin. The resin pooled on the right side of the body, as seen in Figures 4 and 5, but it also seeped through the wrappings to pool on the right side of the coffin's inner floor panel. These features indicate that the body was placed in the coffin in a tilted position (probably not intentionally) while the resin was still fluid, with the right side of the body lower than the left. The shifting of the bones of the spine resulted from that tilted position since there was not enough packing in the abdomen to hold the bones in place.

Conclusion

Through imaging technology, we have been able to digitally unwrap the mummy to obtain information about this man's health and about the mummification process, without

irrevocably damaging the body by subjecting it to an autopsy. This ensures that our scribe remains whole, as his embalmers intended.

Nancy C. Lovell is Professor Emerita of Anthropology, at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

1 A version of this paper was presented to the SSEA as the 2017 Sally L. D. Katary Memorial Lecture.

2 X-rays of Egyptian mummies were first taken in 1896, a year after Roentgen discovered the properties of x-radiation. Computed tomographic (CT) scanning was developed by Hounsfield and entered into medical practice in 1971, although a full body scanner was not made until 1975. The first CT scan of an Egyptian mummy head was made in 1976, and of a full body in 1977, both sets of mummified remains coming from the Royal Ontario Museum and examined at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children by Drs. P. K. Lewin and D. F. C. Harwood-Nash.

3 Castor, WR and Baker, CG. 1982. CT of an Egyptian mummy. CT Clinical Symposium Volume 5, Number 10 (reprint)

Queens of Ancient Egypt Our 2018 Symposium

This autumn, the SSEA/SÉÉA will hold our Annual Symposium on the topic of "Queens of ancient Egypt".

This year's symposium, held in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting and Scholars' Colloquium has been scheduled for NOVEMBER 3rd, 2018.

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities / La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne 2018 Scholars' Colloquium Call for Papers

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne invites all doctoral level graduate students and senior scholars to submit proposals for papers to be given at this year's Scholars' Colloquium, to be held November 2nd and 4th, 2018 in Toronto. The deadline for submission is AUGUST 31st, 2018. Those who need early acceptance to apply for travel grants are urged to apply before this deadline, and to indicate the reason for needing early notification in their covering email.

Proposals for Scholars' Colloquium papers will be accepted from graduate students and senior scholars in the fields of Egyptology, Anthropology, Classics, Fine Arts, Archaeology, Nubian Studies and related fields on ANY topic connected with predynastic, pharaonic, Hellenistic, Roman or Coptic Egypt, but must represent an original contribution to the field. Presentations may be given in either English or French. Papers may not exceed 20 minutes in length.

Since a limited number of proposals will be accepted, papers will be vetted by committee. Interested scholars should send a title and brief abstract of their proposed paper to the Scholars' Colloquium Coordinators at scholarscolloquium@thessea.org or sseacolloquium@gmail.com. Please note that only proposals submitted in electronic format [i.e. via email and in the appropriate template] will be considered. Abstracts must not exceed 350 words in length. Acceptances of papers will be issued in September. As noted elsewhere in this Newsletter, the SSEA/SÉÉA is also holding its 42nd Annual Symposium that weekend. Papers accepted for the Scholars' Colloquium are not limited to the topic of the symposium, and no preference will be given to proposals based on topic. Please also note that the SSEA is soliciting proposals for the Scholars' Colloquium only.

Beginning in 2018, the fee previously applied only to attendance at the Saturday Symposium will be applied to the whole weekend. This means that all participants in the Scholars' Colloquium will be expected to pay the appropriate registration fee in advance.

Call for Posters

SSEA/SÉÉA Annual Meeting

November 2nd - 4th, 2018

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne is now inviting proposals for poster contributions for its Annual Meeting, to be held November 2nd - 4th, 2018 on the campus of the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

Proposals for Poster Session will be accepted from organizations, projects, expeditions, graduate students and senior scholars in the fields of Egyptology, Anthropology, Classics, Fine Arts/Art History, Archaeology, Nubian Studies, ancient Coptic Studies and related fields on must represent an original contribution to the field. Posters may address any aspect of ANY topic connected with predynastic, pharaonic, Hellenistic, Roman or Coptic Egypt. However, poster presentation is best suited to material with a strong visual impact, rather than a great reliance on text. Posters may be in either English or French. (Ideally, posters will be available in a bilingual version.)

Poster abstracts will be published in the conference abstracts booklet. Authors of posters will have the option of uploading a pdf of their poster to the SSEA/SÉÉA website. Please note that the production and delivery of posters to the conference is the responsibility of presenters. If they wish the SSEA/SÉÉA to deal with printing and mounting the posters on their behalf, they must cover the costs.

There will also be a limited number of poster positions available for notices of scholarly projects or organizations in Egyptology, Nubian Studies, Coptic Studies, Near Eastern Studies or Ancient Mediterranean Studies

Since a limited number of proposals will be accepted, posters will be vetted by committee. Interested scholars should send a title and brief abstract of their proposed poster to the Scholars' Colloquium Coordinators at scholarscolloquium@thessea.org or scholarscoll@thessea.org. Please note that only proposals submitted in electronic format [i.e. via email] will be considered. Proposals must not exceed 350 words in length. Acceptances of posters will be issued beginning in mid-October. The final deadline for receipt of proposals for posters is September 30th, 2018.

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne is also holding its Scholars' Colloquium and 42nd Annual Symposium on the same weekend in NOVEMBER, 2018. Papers accepted for the Scholars' Colloquium and the poster sessions are not limited to the topic of the symposium, and no preference will be given to proposals based on topic. Please also note that the SSEA/SÉÉA is soliciting proposals for the Scholars' Colloquium and poster sessions only.

Les Reines de l'Égypte Ancienne

Notre Symposium 2018

Cet automne, la SÉÉA/SSEA tiendra son symposium annuel sous le thème "Queens of ancient Egypt" («Les reines de l'Égypte ancienne»). Le symposium de cette année, qui aura lieu en marge de notre réunion annuelle des membres et du Colloque, se déroulera le 3 NOVEMBRE 2018.

Colloque Annuel de la Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne /

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities, Édition 2018

Appel à Contributions

La Société pour l'étude de l'Égypte ancienne/The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities a le plaisir de vous annoncer qu'elle prépare l'édition 2018 de son colloque annuel qui se tiendra du 3 au 5 novembre 2018 sur le campus de l'Université de Toronto à Toronto au Canada. À cette occasion, la Société invite les doctorants, les chercheurs postdoctoraux, les professeurs et les autres membres de la communauté scientifique à soumettre leur proposition de présentation orale avant la date limite du 31 août 2018. Les candidats doivent démontrer que leur proposition constitue une contribution nouvelle et non publiée à l'avancement du savoir dans les champs de l'égyptologie, de l'anthropologie, des études classiques, de l'histoire de l'art, de l'archéologie, des études

nubiennes ou dans tout autre domaine dont le cadre spatio-temporel est l'Égypte prédynastique, pharaonique, gréco-romaine ou copte. Les présentations, qui peuvent être faites en anglais ou en français, ne devraient pas durer plus de vingt minutes. Le temps de présentation étant limité, seul un certain nombre de propositions pourra être accepté, suite à leur évaluation par un comité de sélection. Les personnes intéressées à faire une communication au colloque sont invitées à en envoyer le titre et le résumé [d'un maximum de 350 mots, par courriel et dans le modèle approprié sera considéré] au comité organisateur à l'adresse courriel suivante: scholarscolloquium@thessea.org ou scholarscolloquium@gmail.com. Les candidats recevront une réponse à leur soumission en septembre. Ceux qui auraient besoin d'une réponse plus rapide, pour obtenir une subvention, par exemple, sont invités à soumettre leur proposition bien avant la date limite du 31 août, tout en prenant soin de bien indiquer la raison nécessitant un traitement plus rapide.

Veillez prendre note que la SSEA organise également la 42e édition de son symposium annuel le samedi 3 novembre 2018, soit la même fin de semaine que le colloque. Le présent appel à contributions ne vaut que pour le colloque et les sujets proposés par les candidats n'ont pas à être en lien avec la thématique principale du symposium.

À partir de 2018, les frais précédemment appliqué seulement pour la participation au symposium samedi sera appliqué à l'ensemble du week-end. Cela signifie que tous les participants au colloque des chercheurs seront tenus de payer les frais d'inscription appropriés à l'avance.

Recherché: Propositions d'Affiches Réunion Annuelle de la SÉÉA/SSEA 2e - 4e Novembre 2018

La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne / The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities est présentement à la recherche de résumés de présentations scientifiques sous forme d'affiches en vu de sa réunion annuelle qui se tiendra du 2e au 4e novembre 2018 sur le campus de l'Université de Toronto à Toronto au Canada.

Les propositions acceptées auront été soumises par des étudiants universitaires des cycles supérieurs ou par des chercheurs seniors œuvrant dans les domaines de l'égyptologie, de l'anthropologie, des études classiques, des beaux-arts, de l'histoire de l'art de l'archéologie, des études nubiennes ou coptes, ou encore de tous domaines reliés. Les affiches elles-mêmes pourront porter sur n'importe quel thème relié à l'Égypte prédynastique, pharaonique, hellénistique, romaine ou copte, pour peu qu'elles présentent une nouvelle contribution à la discipline n'ayant jamais fait l'objet d'une publication antérieure. Considérez de plus qu'une présentation sous forme d'affiche est particulièrement appropriée pour du contenu à forte teneur visuelle et sied moins bien à une quantité importante de textes. Les affiches pourront être en français ou en anglais ou, encore mieux, bilingues.

Les résumés des affiches seront publiés dans le livret de l'événement. Les auteurs des affiches auront aussi l'option de télécharger une version pdf de leur affiche sur le site web de la SSEA/SÉÉA. Veuillez s'il-vous-plaît noter que la production et l'envoi de l'affiche jusqu'au site de la conférence relèvera de la responsabilité du présentateur. Si celui-ci veut que la SSEA/SÉÉA s'occupe de l'impression et de l'installation de l'affiche, il devra en défrayer les coûts.

Il y aura aussi un nombre limité d'emplacements d'affiches disponibles pour la présentation de projets académiques ou d'organisations œuvrant en égyptologie, études nubiennes, coptes, proche-orientales ou des antiquités méditerranéennes.

Puisqu'un nombre limité de propositions pourront être acceptées, les soumissions seront choisies par l'entremise d'un comité. Les intéressés doivent faire parvenir un titre et un bref résumé (d'un maximum de 350 mots) de leur proposition d'affiche au comité organisateur, à scholarscoll@thessea.org ou à scholarscolloquium@thessea.org. La date limite pour la réception des résumés est fixée au 15 septembre 2018. Les réponses aux soumissions commenceront à être annoncées dès la mi-octobre.

La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne / the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities tiendra aussi son Colloque et son 42e symposium annuel lors de cette même fin de semaine. Les soumissions acceptées pour le Colloque et la session d'affiches ne sont pas limitées au sujet du symposium et aucune préférence ne sera accordée aux soumissions sur la seule base de leur sujet. Veillez enfin prendre note que la SSEA/SÉÉA n'est à la recherche de soumissions que pour le Colloque ou les affiches.

Calgary Chapter Report:

(Remembered Members)

Paul English

A longtime supporter of the Chapter, **Janice Clark**, died in December. A regular face at our meetings, she continued to attend even whilst quite ill and receiving treatment. Her obituary was just published in March in the Calgary Herald: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/calgaryherald/obituary.aspx?n=janice-lynn-clark&pid=188415146&fhid=31288>

Chapter Past President **Dr. Julius Szekrenyes** died in early March. He led the Chapter for many years as President and more recently as Past President continued to be very active - booking lecture rooms and hotels, arranging speakers and providing refreshments. Always willing to give lectures to the chapter he also helped attract new members to the group from the students of his continuing education classes, which he taught at the University of Calgary for many years. He made invaluable contributions to the chapter over a sustained period and he will be greatly missed as a friend and passionate advocate for Ancient Egypt. His obituary can be found at: <http://www.mhfh.com/szekrenyes-julius-william/#comment-375986>

We also have a tribute to Dr. Szekrenyes by a friend:



JULIUS JUSTIFIED

By Dan Bruce

Egyptologists are a rare species in Canada, and the further west one goes, the rarer they become. For so long we were able to bask in the light and warmth that radiated from Julius. We do indeed miss his presence.

Julius was ever watchful for opportunities to indulge his interest in Ancient Egypt, and being the generous person that

he was, he was equally concerned to find ways of sharing his appreciation and knowledge of one of the greatest performances ever on the stage of the world, the Pharaohs. Living in British Columbia, there was a great natural barrier between the Szekrenyes household and my own, but that pile of rocks did not prevent my having access to Julius' extensive expertise in his subject. Perhaps that should really be in the plural, as there were several subjects that he could expound on: philately, music, food and how to eat it, and Hungarian civilisation were also in his repertoire. One had to be awake when visiting, as he enjoyed word play, and was good at it, at unexpected moments.

I have many indelible memories of visits to Calgary, with Julius as Master of Ceremonies. The tour of the bookshops, somewhat like a pub crawl in London, the search for the latest and best in Asian cuisine, and taking the incumbent canines for walks. One can usually discern a great deal about a person by observing their relationship with their dogs. Julius prepared and cooked customised meals for his when special dietary needs became evident.

Julius introduced me to the SSEA, and on several occasions I was honoured with the request to be a guest speaker at meetings. It was also Julius and his family that hosted T. G. H. James, then Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum on his first speaking tour of Western Canada. This led up to and established the Annual International Guest Speaker Tour, a function of the Kelowna Museum while I was Asst. Director.

To say that Julius is missed would be an overwhelming understatement. He was my channel of communication with the SSEA, and I would always enjoy lively discussions on various aspects of Ancient Egyptian culture.

From the heart of the pyramids, I would repeat:

*“Grown are his falcon wings,
Plumes of the holy hawk;
His power has brought him,
His magic has equipped him!*

*Make your seat in heaven,
Among the stars of heaven.”*

Montréal Chapter report, Winter and Spring 2018

This season has been a big one in Montréal! The year kicked in with a wonderful set of lectures by Sorbonne Professor Pierre Tallet, all of which were delivered within the UQÀM campus. It began back on January 25 with a public conference titled “Le site archéologique de Ouadi el-Jarf et la découverte du journal de Merer, haut responsable du chantier de la grande pyramide de Chéops” and finished four days later with a second public conference, this one named “Les expéditions en Mer Rouge”. In between them, Dr. Tallet also treated us with wonderful full day (Jan. 27) seminar about “Manger et boire en Égypte ancienne”.

A member’s lecture followed during the following month of February (on the 13th), which was held in the cozy setting of the Maison de l’Afrique Montréal. PhD student Jessica Bouchard (UQÀM) gave a fascinating lesson of historiography with a talk titled “Une dynastie du néant? Parcours historiographique de la quête des origines du Royaume de Kouch”. Montreal Gazette columnist Henry Aubin, past SSEA symposium speaker, attended the lecture and gave Ms. Bouchard a signed copy of his book “The Rescue of Jerusalem”. Yet another full day Seminar was held the following month (March 17), given by a long-time friend of the Chapter, the professional stone cutter Dany Roy, dealing with his life-long passion concerning “Introduction aux techniques et matériaux de construction utilisés dans l’Égypte Ancienne”. That month was closed (on the 28th) by a further public conference by none other than our dear President, PhD candidate Cloé Caron. Her talk was concerned with “La multivalence du Nou(ou) dans les Textes des Pyramides : Stratigraphie préliminaire d’un concept”. But don’t

let yourself be fooled by the word preliminary... President Caron’s thesis is taking shape in a most promising fashion!

As winter finally, but all too gradually lets spring begin, the month of April was also quite an occupied one. Early in the month, members of the chapter’s executive council were invited to the official opening of the most wonderful new Egypt-themed exhibition in town. “The Queens of Egypt”, at Pointe-à-Callière Museum is a small but truly fascinating display of both grandiose and day to day artefacts dealing with the life of women thousands of years ago. Actual archeological finds are accompanied with wall projections from the creators of the latest Assassin’s Creed video game. These really give the visitor a sense “being” in Ancient Egypt. Not to be missed, for sure! Then, towards the end of the month, we received Carla Mesa Guzzo, PhD candidate from the University of Toronto, who gave us an excellent introduction to “Maces and Daggers from the Royal Ontario Museum’s Egyptian Collection”. Her talk notably sparked the interest of Egypt newly appointed cultural attaché, to whom we had been introduced at Pointe-à-Callière Museum a few weeks earlier. The month ended with many of our student members attending the colloquium of the Association des études du Proche-Orient ancien (AEPOA), “Power and its manifestations”, which included quite a few Egyptological talks.

As this season comes to a close, a final public lecture still lies ahead as I write this column (but will certainly be history by the time you receive this Newsletter), Nevine Kamal’s “Du chantier de fouilles aux archives scientifiques”, programmed for the 10th of May. See you next year!

Gene Cruz-Uribe



The SSEA/SÉÉA is greatly saddened to announce the death of Dr. Eugene Cruz-Uribe, former editor of the JSSEA and long-serving Trustee of the Society, current Honorary Trustee of the Society, President of SSEA-USA, brilliant scholar and one of the warmest and funniest people in academia. The SSEA/SÉÉA will miss him as a President of SSEA-USA, which raised money for scholarships such as the Missy Eldredge. He also gave generously to the Sally Katary Student Travel Fund and other initiatives. This is a great loss for all of us that had the privilege of knowing him.

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.