

# Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

Editors: Peter Robinson, Lyn Green Éditeurs adjoints: Jean-Frédéric Brunet, Gayle Gibson



## The Identification and Conservation Treatment Planning for a Third-Intermediate Period Coffin: Phase II

Winter 2019 #1

S.S.E.A  
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CANADA

*Kaoru Yui, Emy Kim and Mark Trumppour*

**In 2014-2015, the Master of Art Conservation program at Queen's University obtained fragments from three Egyptian coffins dating to the Third-Intermediate Period from the Stanford Museum. Both technical analysis and digital imaging were performed on the anthropoid inner coffin AA2190.A, referred to internally as the white coffin. This coffin was chosen for special attention because it is a rarer type of coffin and in more vulnerable condition. The materials, layering structure, and areas of loss and vulnerability of the coffin were examined. Previous Newsletter updates have discussed this earlier work.**

The current research project has been planned and is being undertaken by a second year Queen's Art Conservation student, Kaoru Yui, under supervision of professors Emy Kim and Alison Murray.

The study of the white coffin is to address the following points in this research project:

- Identification of the materials that remain unstudied
- Evaluation of possible conservation treatment methods and materials
- The ethical considerations surrounding the treatment of the decontextualized mortuary object
- The entire research project includes steps towards the long-term goal of reconstructing the coffin.

The identification of the unstudied materials, wood species used for the dowel and spline, adhesives used to adhere linen to the wood substrate, and binding medium for the pigments will enhance our understanding of the construction technique of the white coffin. The wood used for the dowels and spline is expected to be different from the one used for the mainboard. The adhesive and binding medium is most likely to be protein-based adhesives that were used widely in ancient Egypt<sup>1</sup>. The results can be compared with more common type coffins such as the yellow types to ascertain whether the white-type coffin production follows fairly similar techniques used for the more common type coffins.

One of the long-term goals since Queen's acquired the white coffin was to reconstruct the fragmentary pieces. As a first step forward, the evaluation of proper conservation materials and methods of cleaning, and consolidation will be conducted. The stabilization of each fragment will be the most important criterion when handling the coffin for any further conservation treatment.

This research project serves to enhance the understanding of the white coffin in terms of its materialistic culture, as well as its historical, spiritual and conceptual values.

Here is what has been accomplished in these areas:

The identification of wood species used for the dowel and splines are conducted with the use of a Hirox digital microscope which was funded by the Isabel & Alfred Bader Fund, a Bader Philanthropy, and polarized light microscopy (PLM). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) may also be an option for analytical technique depending on the degree of success achieved by the other two techniques. Three sections of wood (radial, transverse, and tangential) are examined. The results are currently been compared using an online free database, Tervuren Xylarium Wood Database, that were provided by Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium.

To assess the conservation methods and materials, conservation treatment was carried out on one of the white-coffin fragments (AA2190.A.11). Surface cleaning methods and consolidation of wood and friable pigments were evaluated. Saliva, distilled water, tap water, pH adjusted water and cosmetic sponge were tested to find out the best option for surface cleaning.

The testing revealed that the paints are extremely sensitive to water and moisture. It proved that the use of cosmetic sponge is the best way to clean the dirt without damaging the pigment layer. The hieroglyphs became more legible. Before and after cleaning images are shown below (fig. 1, 2). A few

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stabilization methods for wood and paints were also evaluated. For this particular fragment, 5% Paraloid B-72 (thermoplastic resin) in toluene and 1% Klucel G (hydroxypropyl cellulose) in ethanol were used for wood and paints stabilization; however, there were darkening and colour changes depending on different areas. Therefore, more tests should be conducted to find out the best conservation method for the rest of the white-coffin fragments.

### What are the next steps?

The research project is still in the early stages. In order to establish a better understanding of the true values of the coffin, the three goals of material identification, evaluation of the conservation methods and materials, and the ethical issues surrounding the coffin fragments, will be further explored.



Figure 1: Before treatment: Coffin fragment AA2190.A.11

In a related development, the Project has been in contact with the institution in California where further fragments of the Stanford Museum coffins reside. These have remained unexamined up to now, but it is hoped that we can gain further information on how they relate to the fragments at Queen's: Do they come from other coffins, or are they additional fragments from the same coffins we are currently studying? If they are from the same coffins, then they may give further information on the provenance of the coffins, and on the names of their owners. These contacts are in the early stages.



Figure 2: After treatment: Coffin fragment AA2190.A.11

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## Report on the 2019 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. Lyn Green, on *Women in ancient Egypt: The Real Housewives of Deir el Medineh*. The SSEA/SEEA would like to thank Dr. Green for donating her time to this fund-raising lecture.

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> was the first day of the Scholars' Colloquium. As usual, it featured a number of presentations by international scholars. The morning session on Friday included: *Poverty in ancient Egypt* (Prof. J.J. Castillos, Uruguayan Institute of Egyptology); *Le langage des dieux* (Nadine Guilhou, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier); plus a trio of papers on the Dakhleh Oasis: *Martyrs or Mercenaries? Investigating the trauma in Egypt's Fag El-Gamous cemetery* (Dr. Casey L. Kirkpatrick, University of Western Ontario and Dr. Roselyn A. Campbell, Getty Research Institute); *Dakhleh People I have Known: Trauma* (Dr. Peter Sheldrick, Dakhleh Oasis Project) and *Disease History from Bioarchaeological Research in the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt* (Dr. J. 'El' Molto, Research Scientist and Emeritus Professor, University of Western Ontario).

The afternoon session on Friday saw presentations by Bianca Grier, Masters Student, Museum Studies, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto (*Medical Access in Deir el-Medina*); Dr. Edmund S. Meltzer, Pacifica Graduate Institute (*The Brooklyn Museum Snake Papyrus: Questions of Language and Zoological/Medical Understanding*); Dr. Dawn Power, University of Toronto (*Catfish-Headed Deities In The Book Of Caverns*) and Lonneke Delpout (MA), Leiden University (*The horse in ancient Egypt: what is depicted versus how it is depicted*). The last-mentioned was an experiment with having a totally video presentation.

Saturday's Symposium, *ANIMALS IN ANCIENT EGYPT* was explored by a roster of speakers from Europe and North America. Dr. Robyn Gillam (York University) gave a keynote paper on *Animals in Ancient Egypt: Observation, Veneration, Use*

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and Abuse. She was followed by Prof. Betsy Bryan (John Hopkins University), giving us some thoughts on *Some thoughts on lion and lioness deities in the New Kingdom*; Dr. Rozenn Bailleul (*Birds in Ancient Egyptian Society: Observed, Exploited, Venerated*), and Dr. Steven B. Shubert of the Royal Ontario Museum (*What can we tell from a ROM gazelle*). The day also saw papers on the topics of: *In the Realm of the Great Cat: Temples, Tombs and "Treasures" in Bubastis, the City of Bastet* (Dr. Helmut Brandl, Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum, Hildesheim, Germany); *Serpents, Seraphs, and Souchos: Reptiles in Ancient Egypt* (Prof. John Gee, Brigham Young University); and *Wepwawet in Context: Jackals in the Abydos Landscape* by Prof. Mary Ann Wegner, University of Toronto.

The Colloquium, with its 20-minute scholarly presentations, resumed on Sunday at 1pm with *Middle Kingdom Military Intelligence* (Prof. John Gee, Brigham Young University), followed by *The Sahidic Coptic Text of Psalm 26* (Jordan Furutani, University of Toronto).

The final session of the weekend included more excellent papers: *News from Nesmut* (Gayle Gibson, Royal Ontario Museum); David Ian Lightbody (of *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Architecture*) on *Digitizing the past: Opening access to Carnarvon 62 and the JAEA*; *Between Zagazig and Suez: Documenting and Researching Egyptian antiquities in the Ismailia Museum* by Dr. Helmut Brandl, Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum (Hildesheim, Germany); and *Curating the Wild: Rethinking the "Chaos and Order" Dichotomy in Tomb Imagery* by Dr. Jennifer Miyuki Babcock, FIT.

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.

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## Results of the October 4th, 2019 Election

The Annual General Meeting of The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne was held on October 4th, 2019 on the campus of the University of Toronto. The Trustees for 2019-20 are: Dr. Lyn Green (President), Prof. Kerry Muhlestein (Vice-President), Gayle Gibson (Vice-President and Toronto Chapter Representative), Arlette Londes (Treasurer), Mark Trumpour (Assistant Treasurer), Dr. Peter Sheldrick (Secretary of the Board), Paul English (Calgary Chapter Representative), Cloé Caron (Montreal Chapter Representative), Dr. Edmund S. Meltzer (JSSEA Co-Editor), Peter Robinson (SSEA Newsletter Editor), Dr. Jean-Frédéric Brunet (French-language editor of the SSEA Newsletter), Leslie Cowger, Elaine Crabtree, Prof. John Gee Prof. Jackie Jay, Prof. Jean Li, Dr. Nancy Lovell, and Dr. Caroline Rocheleau.

We would like to thank our outgoing Trustees, Rexine Hummel and Jean McGrady, for their long service to the Board.

### **Rexine Hummel**

Rexine Hummel has been a member of the SSEA for forty-five years and a Trustee on its national Board since 2006. In the past she has been a member of the Hospitality and Fundraising Committees and was a member of the Member and Volunteer Recognition Committee and the Fundraising Committee. As a member of the Fundraising Committee, she has helped organize the Suq held at the Annual General Meeting. She is also a regular contributor to the SSEA Newsletter, with her popular "Dig Diaries".

Rexine has been not only a tireless promoter of the Society since she joined in the mid-1970s, but a generous contributor to whatever committees she joined. We will miss her.

### **Jean McGrady**

Jean McGrady joined the SSEA/SEEA in 1996. She began her board involvement with the Society by joining the Executive of the Toronto Chapter. Jean was elected to the Executive of newly formed Toronto Chapter in 2007 and became the secretary for Toronto and Chapter representative. While on the Executive of Toronto Chapter, Jean has helped the Chapter by screening applications to teach courses for the Chapter, helping to run the raffles and other Chapter activities. As part of SSEA Toronto, she was involved in fundraising activities.

Jean was elected to the Board of Trustees of the SSEA/SEEA in 2008-2009. Jean continued her national involvement by working on fundraising and member and donor recognition. Since then, she has helped out in many areas in the Board, including helping to create job descriptions for Secretaries and becoming a member of the Fundraising Committee. In 2013-14, Jean became Chair of the "HR" Committee. Since taking over the Fundraising Committee, she and Rexine soon became a familiar sight at the AGM weekend, presiding over the suq tables, or book tables for long hours. SSEA @ ARCE 2020



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## SSEA / SÉÉA Will be attending ARCE in Toronto this April

This April 3-5 the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) will hold its annual meeting in Toronto at the Hilton Toronto (145 Richmond Street West). In three days of concurrent sessions over 100 lectures will be delivered by scholars and expedition leaders on all phases of ancient Egypt. For more than a year the SSEA and ARCE have been focusing on a closer partnership highlighting our shared goals and interests. As a result, ARCE has invited the SSEA to host a table during the

conference to help those with an interest in Egypt learn more about the SSEA. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise an interest in ancient Egypt in general, as well as awareness of the SSEA and increase our membership. Consider coming, and when you do, make sure you drop by the SSEA table. Take the opportunity to talk to those you meet about the great things that the SSEA is doing. Working together we can accomplish great things.

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### Call for JSSEA Articles Extended

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne invites article submissions dealing with any area of Egyptology and Nubian Studies for consideration. Comparative studies with the fields of Classics are also welcome. Contributions are accepted in English, French, and German.

Scholars who are interested in submitting articles to this volume should contact the Editors of the \*JSSEA\* at [journalofthessea@gmail.com](mailto:journalofthessea@gmail.com) for more information on deadlines and contributor guidelines. Please do not contact individual editors directly.

**The deadline has been extended to March 1, 2020 for contributions in volume 46.**

Dr. Sarah M. Schellinger and Dr. Edmund S. Meltzer, Editors of the *JSSEA* for the Editorial Committee of the *Journal of The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*  
email: [journalofthessea@gmail.com](mailto:journalofthessea@gmail.com) website: <http://www.thessea.org/publications.php>

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## The Founding of the SEEA

Robert Chadwick

It was in the Theology Department at l'Université de Montréal, that I first met Brigitte Ouellet who was then working on her Ph.D. in the late 1980s (if my memory serves me well). An expert on ancient Egypt, she was also a member of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. About the same time, I also met the very knowledgeable Egyptophile, Nicole Brisson. By the late 1990s the three of us agreed that Montreal needed its own chapter of a society specifically dedicated to Egyptology. I was on the Board of Directors of the SSEA and Brigitte was soon invited to become a member as well. It was at that time that we began making plans for the new Montreal Chapter. As I neared retirement from teaching at John Abbott College and moved on to other teaching posts the time was right for the establishment of a francophone arm of the SSEA. By this time the SSEA had expanded westward across Canada adding chapters in both Calgary, and Vancouver so Montreal was the next logical location for the SSEA (now in Quebec the SEEA) a pan-Canadian Egyptological organisation. The situation in Montreal was also different by the beginning of the new millennium. Setting up the Montreal Chapter of the SSEA was easier than it had been for the AEOPA<sup>1</sup> nearly 20 years earlier. Because we would be a local chapter we did not have to incur the expenses of incorporation or go through the legal process of obtaining letters of patent. Instead, everything could be done

internally and we would be part of a well-established organisation. Now, headquartered in the History Department at the University of Quebec in Montreal, and with Egyptologist Professor Jean Revez and his many students, there is a much greater interest in Egyptology across Quebec, in part stimulated and supported by the local SEEA chapter.

It is hard for me to believe that the SEEA is nearing its 20th anniversary. Back in the early 1980s that seemed to me to be very unlikely to ever happen. And yet here we are with the vibrant, Chapitre de Montréal, 20 years after its founding with many members and events happening every year. It is extremely gratifying for me, to see that after a combined history of nearly forty years the AEOPA and the SEEA are doing so well as living, learned societies where scholars and the interested lay public can share their interests in the ancient civilizations of the Nile and Tigris and Euphrates River valleys. My thanks to everyone who helped insure the success of these two learned societies both here in Quebec and across the country.

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<sup>1</sup> The « Association pour l'étude du Proche-Orient Ancien », another society I got heavily involved into, starting with its foundation.

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## News from the Storage Rooms

Gayle Gibson

**This past year has been an exciting one for the Egyptian section of World Cultures at the Royal Ontario Museum. Interesting artifacts continue to be found in old nooks and crannies, and some neglected mummies and coffins are getting the attention they deserve.**

Last summer Technician Cheryl Copson found some scraps of linen bunched up, possibly untouched in a hundred years. The Museum's founder, Charles Trick Currelly, brought home many odd bits and pieces from Egypt, intending to have them conserved some day. He had a good eye for interesting things, but over his long career had to put together a whole museum, and some of the little bits and pieces got left unattended. The linen Cheryl Copson found was the bottom half of a Ptolemaic burial shroud, a fairly rare item, but in bad shape. Simply unrolling the piece and taking an iron to it would have destroyed it forever, so it really had been safer, left alone. But Chris Paulocik, Senior Textile Conservator and Anne Marie Guchardi, Textile Conservator know all the best and most modern techniques for slowly straightening out cloth without destroying it. After consolidation and conservation, the piece was judged worthy of a trip to China with a travelling ROM exhibition. It has not yet been on display in Toronto.



*Part of the mummy shroud and one of its images*

It's still stained and the images are not easy to see, but they include the charming canine-headed snake above, and a skeleton who appears to be dancing. The shroud had been inscribed along the edges that would originally have closed the sheet at the back of the mummy, with a basic offering formula and another prayer. Unfortunately, the name of the deceased, if ever present, is no longer there. It's clear, however, from the grammar, that the shroud had been made for a male, and from the size, it seems for a little boy. It's a fascinating piece and a great addition to the world corpus of Ptolemaic shrouds.

The ROM's long-time artifact photographer, Brian Boyle, retired in the summer of 2019, but before he left, managed to make splendid digital images of several of the coffins. At the time the coffins went into the galleries in the 1990s, a few pictures for identification were all that could be managed, but now digital photography permits a myriad of images to be taken so that the coffins and their decoration can be studied and compared to other examples in Egypt and in museums around

the world. As a part of this project, Conservator Jean Dendy has been cleaning and consolidating coffins so that many surprising details have emerged. The coffins are being studied now and should be published in fairly short order.

And finally, a misplaced mummy has been getting some attention. Thanks to ROM Curator Dr. Krzysztof Grzymiski, some resources have been dedicated to the study of the mummified human and animal remains. For example, the ROM displays a late 18th Dynasty coffin of a Lady of the House,



*Technician Cheryl Copson and Egyptologist Zoe McQuinn examine 910.9.3, "Djutmose."*

Takhat, who lived in Thebes around the time of King Tut. It's a fine 'black coffin' that once had extensive decoration in gold on the front. Over forty years ago the coffin was opened by our late Curator, Dr. Nicholas Millet and Technician Alan Hollet. The body inside was male. The intruder was wrapped carefully and put on a shelf for future study. Decades went by, but his time has finally come. The young man, known familiarly as "Djutmose" was mummified in the best 20th Dynasty style, with linen in his eye sockets and stones standing in as irises. His body was painted, at least in part, with red ochre, and his eyes outlined gracefully with kohl. He has lovely teeth. His skin shows interesting lesions, very like those on the bodies of Ramesses V and Thutmosis IV. There is still controversy and dispute among mummy experts as to the nature of these lesions, but we hope that our young man can add to the evidence. His DNA is being studied as well. Some silly romantic Egyptologists, like the writer, are hoping he'll turn out to be closely related to a known king, such as Ramesses III. But even if we can't identify his family members, it's been good to get to know him and learn a bit more about the life of an upper-class man of three thousand years ago.

Studies continue of the many animal mummies brought back from Egypt in the last century, and interns and graduate students are working with World Cultures and Conservation. The next decade should provide many discoveries that will deepen our appreciation for the ROM collections and our ancient friends.





## EGYPTIAN MUMMIES: EXPLORING ANCIENT LIVES

Exhibition extended until March 29, 2020

**Montreal, November 25, 2019 – By popular demand, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) is extending the run of the exhibition *Egyptian Mummies: Exploring Ancient Lives* until March 29, 2020.**

Already seen by over 100,000 visitors, this major exhibition offers a completely new picture of everyday life of six individuals who lived along the Nile between 900 B.C.E. and 180 C.E. using an innovative approach that combines the arts and science.

Making its North American premiere at the MMFA, ***Egyptian Mummies: Exploring Ancient Lives*** presents six mummies together with 240 artifacts from ancient Egypt from the collection of the British Museum. Non-invasive

medical imaging techniques such as CT scanning have made it possible to shed new light on different aspects of the life – and death – of these six ancient Egyptians. The exhibition reveals fascinating discoveries about genetics, diet, diseases, burial practices and embalming techniques. The combination of physical anthropology, Egyptology, scientific research and conservation has brought our understanding of these men, women and a child into vivid focus.



*Above and left: Images of within the exhibition (Pictures courtesy of Montreal Museum of Fine Arts)*

### Credits and curatorial team

The presentation of this exhibition is a collaboration between the British Museum, London, and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

It is curated by **Marie Vandenbeusch**, Project Curator, and **Daniel Antoine**, Assistant Keeper and Curator of Bioarchaeology, in the Department of Egypt and Sudan, British Museum. **Laura Vigo**, Curator of Archaeology and Asian Art, MMFA, curated the Montreal presentation. The exhibition design was developed by **Sandra Gagné**, Head of Exhibitions Production, MMFA, in collaboration with **Principal Studio** and **Graphics eMotion**.

### Acknowledgments and sponsorship

The exhibition is presented by Raymond James  
In collaboration with: Hydro-Québec, Tourisme Montréal, Ubisoft, Graphics eMotion  
Official suppliers: Air Canada, Denalt Paints

Media Partners: Bell, *La Presse+*, *Montreal Gazette*

Public Partners: Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the Conseil des arts de Montréal



*Images of objects from the exhibition (Pictures courtesy of Montreal Museum of Fine Arts)*

### About the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

Drawing over 1 million visitors annually, the MMFA is one of the most visited museums in Canada and North America. Its highly original temporary exhibitions combine various artistic disciplines – fine arts, music, film, fashion and design – and are exported to the four corners of the world. Its rich encyclopedic collection, displayed in its five pavilions, includes international art, arts of One World, decorative arts and design, and Quebec and Canadian art. The Museum has seen exceptional growth in recent years with the addition of two new pavilions: the Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion, in 2011, and the Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion for Peace, in 2016. The MMFA complex also includes Bourgie Hall, a 460-seat concert hall, as well as an auditorium and a movie theatre. The MMFA is one of Canada's leading publishers of art books in French and English, which are distributed internationally. The Museum also houses the Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy, the largest educational complex in a North American art museum, enabling the MMFA to offer innovative educational, wellness and art therapy programmes.

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## Montreal Chapter Report

Since the beginning of the season, the Montreal chapter has organised three events. To celebrate our 20th anniversary, the season started with a cocktail held at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). It was the occasion to inaugurate our new office and library now located in the UQAM History Department. The event was a success; the former president Brigitte Ouellet and Cloé Caron presented the little story of the chapter. Afterward, there was a cocktail with Egyptian food and wine. It was the occasion to meet with old and current members of the chapter. We were glad to see some of the founding members including Robert Chadwick.

In collaboration with the Musée des Beaux-arts de Montréal and the exhibition Egyptian Mummies. Exploring Ancient Lives, a one day colloquium was organised in October. The morning session was dedicated to the young researchers. For the occasion, six master and PhD students presented their current research. The theme of the afternoon session was “Everyday life in the times of the Pharaohs” and lectures were presented by Valérie Angenot, Ronald Leprohon, Barbra Lawson and Jean Revez.

Finally, we had our annual fundraising dinner under the theme “La grande dévoreuse” in January. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we have raised \$400 which will be judiciously invested in our next activities.

### Lectures and other events to come

**Thursday, 13th February:** Lecture by Cynthia Parra (M.A. History, UQAM) « L’amulette du cœur sur corde dans les représentations de l’Égypte pharaonique : évolution et signification. », UQAM, room A-1720.

**Saturday, 7th March:** Seminar by Cloé Caron (PhD candidate, UQAM and U. Montpellier 3) « Les formules 241 et 486 des Textes des Pyramides – Traduction et commentaires. », UQAM, room to be determined.

**Wednesday, 1st April:** Lecture by Prof. Aidan Dodson “Shelters for Eternity: three millennia of Egyptian coffins”, UQAM, room to be determined.

**Friday, 17th April:** Lecture by Julie Desjardins (M.A. candidate, UQAM), Title and room to be determined.

We are glad to announce that our European guest of this season will be Dr. Annik Wüthrich, postdoctoral researcher from Austrian Academy of Sciences, Department Egypt, Nubia and the Levant. For the occasion, she will give two lectures and one seminar:

**Thursday, 21th May:** « Affaires de famille à la Troisième Période intermédiaire : expressions de la filiation et statut marital », UQAM, room to be determined.

**Friday, 22th May:** « Seshonq I : réexamen des inscriptions le concernant », UQAM, room to be determined.

**Saturday, 23th May:** « Le Livre des Morts dans tous ses états : introduction à l’étude d’un corpus funéraire. », UQAM, room to be determined.

Cloé Caron

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## Calgary Chapter Report – December 2019

The Calgary Chapter held two meetings before Christmas, with interesting, well-illustrated presentations by speakers both of whom were new to the chapter.

Firstly, on October 17th, Dr. Lincoln Blumell spoke on Oxyrhynchus, a Roman city in middle Egypt, and the discovery of a vast collection of papyri by Grenfell and Hunt at the end of the 19th century. The papyri include some of the earliest textual remains for Christianity from the second century CE through to the seventh century CE, and Dr. Blumell discussed their significance in understanding early Christianity.

Dr. Blumell is an associate professor in the Department of Ancient Scripture at Brigham Young University and obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He has published extensively, particularly on Greek and Coptic texts as they relate to early Christianity, and two of his books deal specifically with documents from Oxyrhynchus.

The following month, on November 1st, Dr. Erik Johannesson presented on the mapping of recently rediscovered tombs in the Valley of the Kings and how it was possible to tie these in to the earlier work of the Theban Mapping Project. He also discussed mortuary practices during the New Kingdom and the funerary landscape of the Theban Necropolis.

Dr. Johannesson is currently a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology and has worked on tombs and mortuary remains from Mongolia to the Canadian Arctic. His work in Egypt was as part of Pacific Lutheran University’s Valley of the Kings project, directed by Dr. Don Ryan.

Plans are underway to have at least two talks in the first part of 2020 but nothing definite is scheduled yet, so please check the website for any updates. You can also contact the Calgary executive through the website ([calgary.thessea.org](http://calgary.thessea.org)).

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## Toronto Chapter Report

As the new Toronto Chapter President for the year 2019 -2020, replacing Gayle Gibson who was President last year, I am pleased to update the membership of National on events at the Chapter.

We had an election on October 1, 2019 and the new Board that resulted is now comprised of :

Les O'Connor, President	Tish Mancini, V-P
Gayle Gibson, Recording Secretary	Sami Akhnoukh, Member- at- Large ( MAL)
Erin Kerr, Treasurer	Maureen Britsch, MAL
Stephen Ficalora, V-P	Deirdre Keleher, MAL
Leslie Cowger, V-P	And soon to be MAL, Dawn Power, as of the February
Arlette Londes, V-P	26th , 2020 meeting.

So far this year we have been lucky to have a number of speakers in our 'Fall and Winter speakers' series such as :

Dr. Lyn Green spoke to us on December 5th about: Hathor, Sex and Monkeys;  
Dr. Meg Morden spoke to us on January 23rd on: Cyprus in the Shadow of Egypt;  
Dr. Campbell Price spoke to our Chapter members on February 13th on the topic of: Art, Sex and Death in Graeco-Roman Egypt.  
Further, we have several lectures scheduled for the remainder of the Winter and into Spring in that:  
Dr. Peter Sheldrick will speak to us on March 12th with the topic of: The Dakhleh Oasis Project: An overview and Update;  
Dr. Aidan Dodson will speak to us on April 3rd on: Egyptian Coffins and Mummies, in conjunction with the ROM's Exhibit of Mummies from the British Museum;

And finally, for the Winter / Spring series, Sherine El Sabaie, a Doctoral student at the University of Toronto, will speak to us on a Thursday in May that is TBA on: The Egyptian Museum in Cairo: A Labour of Passion.

On the occasion of his talk, Dr. Price indicated that there was currently an exhibit of a number of artifacts, including 8 mummies, masks, coffins, jewellery and sculpture, now being exhibited at the Buffalo Museum, from the Egyptian collection of the University of Manchester, one of the largest in England, which opened on February 8th and will run until a date in June , 2020. There has been some suggestion, and the Board will be considering this at its next meeting, whether we arrange a bus tour to attend in Buffalo to view the exhibit, so if you are interested in participating in such a trip please drop us an e-mail at the office e-mail address: [sseaToronto@gmail.com](mailto:sseaToronto@gmail.com) so that we can contact you if a bus trip for our members develops.

I would like to close this short report by thanking our immediate Past President Gayle Gibson for all of her efforts over the last year as President and wish her a speedy recovery from a recent bout of ill health. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their unselfish work to make the Chapter both interesting for and responsive to the needs and wishes of our Chapter membership. We are in service to our members.

Les O'Connor, President

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## How to Get in Touch with the SSEA

(outside the Province of Quebec)

Renewing your membership, contact the SSEA Secretaries: [info@thessea.org](mailto:info@thessea.org) or [sseainfo@gmail.com](mailto:sseainfo@gmail.com)

All questions concerning membership status, tax receipts, mailing of the journal and newsletter:

[info@thessea.org](mailto:info@thessea.org) or [sseainfo@gmail.com](mailto:sseainfo@gmail.com)

For all questions concerning the SSEA Symposium/Colloquium/Annual Meeting, email [info@thessea.org](mailto:info@thessea.org)

For all questions concerning local Chapter lecture series, contact your local Chapter:

Ontario: <https://sseatoronto.wordpress.com/> Alberta: <http://calgary.thessea.org/>

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