

A Reunion of a Different Kind

Mark Trumpour, Emma Griffiths and Emy Kim

The SSEA Newsletter has periodically published stories related to three fragmentary ancient Egyptian coffins, being studied and conserved in the Art Conservation Program at Queen's University, Kingston. The three coffins had been on display in the Leland J. Stanford Museum, now the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, from about 1888 up to 1906. The fragmented

condition is due to the famous San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, which caused the collapse of the entire Egyptian wing of the Museum. Fragments of the coffins were salvaged from the wreckage and placed in storage, until such time as attention could be given to them. That time was long in coming.



The initial reconstruction of Coffin AA2190A Photo courtesy of the Queen's University Art Conservation Program

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In 1993, the fragments were deaccessioned, in the aftermath of another earthquake and the ensuing reorganization and stock-taking. One group of fragments was sent to the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) in Ottawa, while another group was sent to the Phoebe Hearst Museum in Berkeley.

The fragments in the CCI sat in storage until 2014, at which time a group of 10 was sent to the Queen's University program, where they were studied. Two fragments were featured in a local exhibition in the summer of 2015. That December, the remaining pieces held at the CCI were sent to Queen's.

Emy Kim, Assistant Professor of Artifacts Conservation at Queen's University, contacted the Phoebe Hearst Museum, the museum returned the fragments in their care to Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center. In consideration of the active research program under way and to facilitate further work, the Cantor Center then donated them to Queen's University. Kim and her graduate students are still in the process of cataloguing and reassociating all the pieces. At this time, the new fragments appear to include new areas of polychromy and structural joins. While they unfortunately do not provide substantial fragments of additional text, nevertheless all the fragments are at last reunited with the other Stanford fragments.

Masters student Emma Griffiths plans to investigate them further, working under Artifacts Professor, Emy Kim, and Conservation Science Professor, Alison Murray. Griffiths is focusing on one of the three identified coffins, AA2190.A, dated to the 25th dynasty, which is the rarer example; it has been the subject of several research projects completed by past graduates.

Many of the pigments and the binding media have been identified, the layering structure and construction methods investigated, and the condition extensively documented. However, the coffin remains in multiple fragments, many of which are dissociated among fragments of the other two coffins in the collection, which have been identified as "yellow" coffins from the 21st dynasty. The image above shows the coffin roughly pieced together.

While the surface decoration makes it possible determine which coffin many of the fragments belong to, there are multiple fragments that cannot be interpreted. It had been hoped that the new Phoebe Hearst fragments would contain added text to assist further in identifying the coffin's owner and confirm who had originally acquired it for the Stanford collection, but in this we were disappointed. The goal of the current stage of the research project is to determine if there are analytical methods for correctly identifying which coffin the unassociated fragments belong to. To achieve this, non-invasive and non-destructive/macro destructive analytical techniques will be used, including polarised light microscopy (PLM), portable handheld x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (pXRF), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), scanning electron microscopy with energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDS), and reflectance transformation imaging (RTI).

Future reports will outline the results of this work, and the complete translation of the surviving texts.

Meet our new Board member

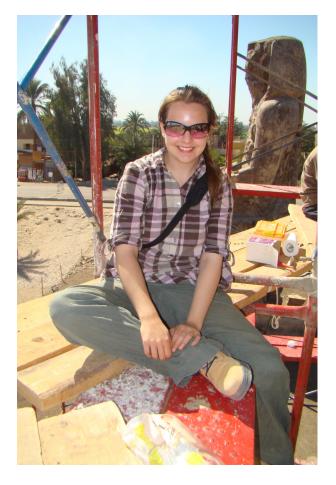
At the November 2021 AGM, our Board of Trustees was joined by Dr Casey Kirkpatrick of the University of Western Canada, Ontario. So that Casey could introduce herself to our members, she has given us some background to how she got involved with Egyptology and some brief details of what she has been doing in Egypt over the past few years.

Congratulations on becoming the newest Trustee on the Board of the SSEA/SÉÉA. Our members are interested in getting to know a little bit more about you. Please tell us a little about yourself.

Thank you so much! I'm very happy to join the Board of Trustees for the SSEA/SÉÉA! To tell you a bit about myself, I'm an Archaeologist and Bioarchaeologist with a focus on Egypt. I'm the Head of Osteology for the BYU Egypt Excavation Project and I am currently studying the history of pathogens through ancient DNA as a Post-doctoral Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. I'm also a Cofounder of the Paleo-oncology Research Organization, which is focused on investigating the history of cancers and other neoplastic diseases.

When did you first become interested in Ancient Egypt?

When I was a child, I read a story about Howard Carter's discovery of King Tutankhamun that captured my imagination. Sometime thereafter, my parents gave me a hieroglyph stamp kit and I was hooked. Over the years, my interest stayed strong and after completing an undergraduate degree in Anthropology I decided to give



it a shot by enrolling in a Masters degree in Ancient Egyptian Culture. I haven't looked back since!

Is there a period of Ancient Egyptian history that interests you the most? Why?

I find all periods interesting but I suppose that I find the history of the New Kingdom and the Greco-Roman Periods most fascinating and for very different reasons. The New Kingdom featured some really interesting pharaohs like the powerful female Pharaoh Hatshepsut, Ramesses the Great, King Tutankhamun, and the socalled heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten. The period is filled with royal scandals, conflicts, and even a harem conspiracy to kill King Ramesses III. It's hard to deny the intrigue! The New Kingdom is also the period when ancient Egypt was most powerful and prosperous, so there were many beautiful monuments, temples and tombs built during this time that we can now explore.

My interest in the Greco-Roman Period is more focused on the cultural changes that occurred with the end of pharaonic Egypt and the effects of these changes on nonelite people. Rulership of Egypt had been usurped by multiple foreign powers prior to the Greco-Roman Period but none changed the cultural landscape to the same degree, as you can see plainly through the drastic changes in art, religion, and language. My interest lies in the experiences of the Egyptian population during this period of transition and foreign rule.

What fieldwork have you been involved in?

In addition to doing some fieldwork in Canada and Jordan, I have been lucky enough to have worked at three sites in Egypt. For two seasons, I worked as a Documentalist and Pottery Manager with the Colossi of Memnon and Amenhotep III Temple Conservation Project under the directorship of Dr. Hourig Sourouzian. I later spent part of a season doing a preliminary study of human teeth at the Ramesside tomb of Panehsy (TT16) under the directorship of Dr. Suzanne Onstine. Since 2014 I have also been fortunate enough to serve as the Head of Osteology for the BYU Egypt Excavation Project under the directorship of Dr. Kerry Muhlestein. This project is based in Seila, Fayoum and there I study the human remains from the very large Fag El-Gamous Cemetery that spans the Roman to the early Byzantine Period as well as from the adjacent Middle Kingdom rock cut tombs. Through these studies, we aim to learn more about the lives and deaths of these ancient people.

We know that you have worked at the site of the Amenhotep III Mortuary Temple in Luxor. Tell us about that experience.

Working at Amenhotep III's mortuary temple was an incredible honour. I still remember almost screaming in joy in the middle of a university library when I received the email inviting me to work there. The temple is fascinating as it was the largest mortuary temple from that time and it was built on a natural mound within a floodplain so, during the annual Nile floods, the temple would appear as an island. This is very symbolic of the mound that arose from the primordial waters in ancient Egyptian creation mvths. excavation. The reconstruction, and conservation work that is being done at this site is also a marvel in itself. I learned an incredible amount from working there and often felt a deep sense of gratitude and disbelief that I was able to work in such a magnificent setting. I was tasked with documenting new finds and monumental reconstructions in the Peristyle through sketches, photos, and written descriptions. For my first season I was also responsible for organising the site's pottery and I shadowed Dr. Pascale Ballet when she came to study it. It was hard work but it was very satisfying and I remain very proud for having contributed to the Colossi of Memnon and Amenhotep III Temple Conservation Project.

Are there any special moments that you remember from your fieldwork?

To be honest, I am pretty consistently in a state of awe when working in the field as I find it incredible that I am able to interact with things that sometimes haven't been seen or touched in millennia. My most special memories are just moments in which I felt very connected to the past by interacting with ancient places and things. Certain personal things, like for example a fingerprint embedded into a ceramic vessel, have a particular way of putting your life into perspective. I also always feel very honoured and humbled when working with human remains. The ancient Egyptians believed that to speak their name was to keep them alive, and although we often do not have the names of the individuals we study, I feel that by telling the stories of these people, I am helping to keep their memory alive and giving their lives and deaths a new meaning. It's a responsibility that I take very seriously and it demands a great deal of respect for the deceased.

Of course, there have also been notable events along the way. For example, I was working at the mortuary temple

of Amenhotep III during the Arab Spring and at one point the police forces abandoned their posts and prisoners were set free. There was concern that the regional storage magazine for antiquities on Luxor's West Bank might be robbed and so many employees of the Ministry of Antiquities and other locals volunteered to guard the magazine day and night. It was an inspiring display of how much the community cares for their heritage and it's something I won't soon forget.

Are there any individuals who have inspired you to get into this field?

Absolutely. I actually started my undergraduate degree in Biology before I switched to Anthropology with a focus on Bioarchaeology and Archaeology. At the time, I had been taking elective classes with Dr. El Molto who had been doing bioarchaeological work in the Dakhleh Oasis. I found it all very fascinating and he was living proof that you could follow this kind of dream and end up with a job in the end. So, I decided to switch to Anthropology. It was because of the strong impact that Dr. Molto had on me that I later decided to take a chance by enrolling in a Masters degree in Ancient Egyptian Culture to see where it might take me. Near the end of the program, I was hired to work at the mortuary temple of Amenhotep III and this led to a position at the Cairo Museum working on ARCE's Egyptian Museum Database Project. After that, I decided to really commit and came full circle by doing a PhD under Dr. Molto's supervision, during

which I conducted research on the very remains from Dakhleh Oasis that helped inspire me to pursue this field.

Speaking generally, I aspire to make a significant contribution to our collective understanding of ancient Egyptian culture. I have also been working to improve methods for bioarchaeological analysis. However, my ultimate goal is to direct my own excavation in Egypt!

Thank you for taking the time to tell us about yourself. We are thrilled to have you on Board at the SSEA!



Report of the Scholars' Colloquium 2021

As with the Symposium, our Scholars' Colloquium this year was held online, via Zoom. Presenters from no fewer than 5 continents gave us a splendid range of talks -seventeen talks and three virtual poster presentations. Abstracts for all these talks are online on our website, <u>www.thessea.org</u>, under the "Symposium 2021" tab in the menu.

The Friday session opened with a joint presentation on an unpublished stela, "Akhenaten and Nefertiti's Morning Toilette in Karnak", by Prof. Arlette David (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Dr. Robert Verginieux (Université Bordeaux-Montaigne). Judith Jurjens (Leiden University) spoke on "A School Exercise from Ancient Egypt Featuring a New Didactic Method". She was followed by Anita Kriener (German Archaeological Institute, Cairo), "Mummy Masks from Sedment: A Study on the Earliest Cartonnages of the 20th Upper Egyptian Nome". Ariadna Guimerà Martínez (Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona and Institut Français d'Archeologie Orientale du Cairo) took us on a journey, "The Thebaid: From Temple to Church?" The last talk of the morning was from Eleuterio Abreu de Sousa (Macquarie University and the University of Winnipeg) on "Butchery, Flint Knives and Old Kingdom Cattle Offerings".

Edson Poiato Filho (Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier) opened the afternoon with "Abstract Markers: The Egyptian idiomatic expression of abstraction", followed by Sarah M. Schellinger (Ohio State University), "The King's Brother, Kariben: An examination of Stela AMUM 1981.1.42". Anais Montoto Soto (Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier) spoke on "The Ancient Egyptian Friendship Code: How to behave as a friend", and Yossra Ibrahim (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität) took "A Fresh Look at the Egyptian Celestial Diagrams". Joseph Cross, (University of Chicago) presented

his analysis of "Group Writing as Text-making Technique". The day ended with Gayle Gibson (Royal Ontario Museum) with a reappraisal of "Hatshepsut, Nubia and a Lost Prince".

The second day featured a number of talks loosely related to medical and health issues, following from the Symposium theme. The Sunday began with a joint presentation by Dr Susanne Beck, (University of Tübingen) and Christian Komposch, (Institute of Animal Ecology and Landscape Planning), "Medical Aspects of Scorpion Incantations in Ancient Egypt". Sohair Ahmed (Ain Shams University, Cairo) spoke of "Asking Food and Drink to Heal Sick Persons: Brief evidence from Coptic ostraca".

Lunch was followed by three well-designed "virtual poster" presentations, by Noémie Fathy (Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier), Maria Belén Castro (National University of La Plata), and Augusto Gayubas (Universidad de Buenos Aires). You can see their subjects elsewhere in this issue. All three can be viewed in their entirety on our website.

Full presentations resumed with Noura Seada (Helwan University) on "Back to Roots: Iconography of Ancient Egyptian Animals' Dystocia in Relation to Modern Veterinary Practices"; Bianca Grier (University of Toronto) "A Prosopography of Medical Practitioners in Deir el-Medina"; Dr. Andrew Nelson (University of Western Ontario) "Arm and Leg Position in Egyptian Mummies: A large scale comparative approach"; and last but not least, W. Benson Harer Jr. (Independent Researcher), concluded the day with "Further Information on Tutankhamun's Embalming and Cause of Death".

We are grateful for the efforts of all involved in planning, vetting, and supporting the two days of fascinating talks, including Kerry Muhlestein (Committee chair), Gayle Gibson, John Gee, Jackie Jay, Ron Leprohon, Ed Meltzer, Jean Revez, Valerie Angenot, Simone Burger, Mark Trumpour, and our "Master of Zoom", Stephen Ficalora.

2021 Annual General Meeting of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/ Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte ancienne

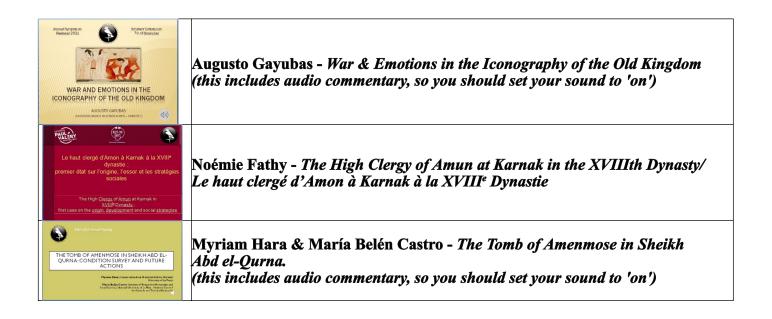
The Annual General Meeting of the SSEA/SÉÉA was held on Friday, November 5, 2021. Due to ongoing Covid 19 concerns, the meeting was held via ZOOM, chaired by Mark Trumpour. Total attendance was 25 members in person, 12 by Proxy.

A number of changes to the Bylaws were approved, including: Establishment of a standing Nominating Committee; provision for nominations to the Board prior to the AGM; and direct election of Officers.

The ensuing election determined the following as your new Board of Trustees and Officers for 2021-2022: Mark Trumpour (President), Gayle Gibson (Vice President), Prof. Kerry Muhlestein (Vice President), Arlette Londes (Treasurer), Peter Sheldrick (Acting) Secretary of the Board, Cloé Caron, Leslie Cowger, Elaine Crabtree, Paul English, Stephen Ficalora, Prof. John Gee, Prof. Jackie Jay, Dr. Casey Kirkpatrick, Dr. Edmund Meltzer, Rick Moran, Dr. Dawn Power, and Peter Robinson.

Virtual Posters Now Available Online

This year's Scholars' Colloquium Poster sessions featured a new format. Because of the virtual nature of the conference, the Poster sessions consisted posters formatted as ten-slide, automated Powerpoint shows. These have been uploaded to our website, <u>www.thessea.org</u>, where they are available for anyone to down-load and view. Go to: <u>http://ssea2020.thessea.org/index.php/symposium-2021/symposium-2021-virtual-poster-session</u> Two of the three include an accompanying audio track. The three excellent presentations are:



2021 Assemblée générale annuelle de la Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/ Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte ancienne

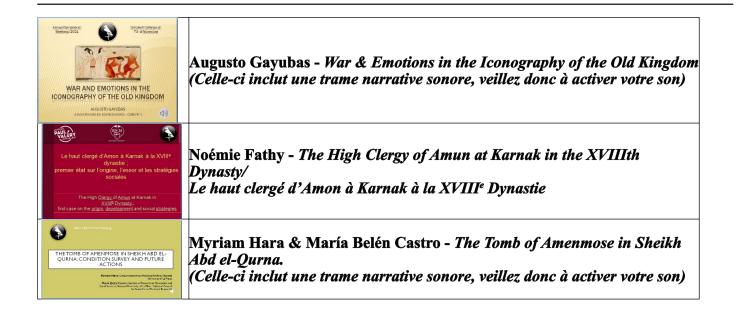
L'assemblée générale annuelle de la SSEA/SÉÉA s'est tenue le vendredi 5 novembre 2021. Étant donné la situation pandémique actuelle, la réunion s'est déroulée sur Zoom et fut présidée par Mark Trumpour. Au total, 25 membres étaient présents en personne et 12 par procuration.

Quelques changements à la charte ont été approuvés lors de cette assemblée incluant : l'établissement d'un Comité permanent de nomination; des dispositions pour les nominations des membres du comité avant l'AGM; et l'élection direct des officiers.

Lors de l'élection qui a suivi, les personnes suivantes ont été élues à titre de membres du comité et d'officiers pour l'année 2021-2022 : Mark Trumpour (Président), Gayle Gibson (Vice-Présidente), Prof. Kerry Muhlestein (Vice-Président), Arlette Londes (Trésorière), Peter Sheldrick (Secrétaire intérimaire), Cloé Caron, Leslie Cowger, Elaine Crabtree, Paul English, Stephen Ficalora, Prof. John Gee, Prof. Jackie Jay, Dr. Casey Kirkpatrick, Dr. Edmund Meltzer, Rick Moran, Dr. Dawn Power et Peter Robinson.

Affiches virtuelles accessibles en ligne

Lors de notre colloque annuel, la session de présentation par affiches fut offerte dans un nouveau format. Étant donné la nature virtuelle du colloque, chacune des affiches se constituait d'une dizaine de diapositives Powerpoint en mode diaporama automatisé. Celles-ci ont été téléversées sur notre site web, <u>www.thessea.org</u>, et peuvent être téléchargées par quiconque. Il suffit de se rendre à l'adresse suivante : <u>http://ssea2020.thessea.or-</u> <u>g/index.php/symposium-2021/symposium-2021-virtual-poster-session</u> Deux de ces trois affiches incluent une trame sonore. Les trois excellentes présentations sont :



Montreal Chapter report

During the first part of the current season, the Montreal chapter organised two events which were presented online due to the current situation. In collaboration with the Egyptian Cultural Office in Canada, we had the pleasure to welcome (live from Egypt) Dr Mounir Habachy, lecturer at the Helwan University, for a lecture on the titles of the Ptolemies. A second lecture was given by Vincent Labelle, a master student from UQAM, in which he presented his current research on old age in Ancient Egypt.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, during which the new Board of Trustees was elected as followed:

President, Cloé Caron Vice-president, Jean Revez Secretary-treasurer, Nicole Brisson Advisor, Michel Gervais Advisor, Jean-Frédéric Brunet Advisor, Brigitte Ouellet Advisor, Jessica Bouchard Advisor, Juliette Gagnon

The winter-spring season promise to be very interesting. We will offer 5 online lectures including two speakers live from Europe: Dr Annik Wüthrich from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Archaeological Institute and Dr Philippe Collombert, Professor at the University of Geneva and Director of the Franco-Swiss archeological mission to Saqqara. Please go to our Website for the details and more (<u>https://www.sseamtl.org/</u>). We hope that we will have soon the opportunity to meet again our members in person; meanwhile see you on Zoom!

Compte-rendu des activités du Chapitre de Montréal

Au cours de la première partie de la présente saison, le Chapitre de Montréal a organisé deux événements qui, étant donné la situation actuelle, furent présentés en ligne. En collaboration avec le Bureau des Affaires culturelles et de l'Éducation du Consulat général d'Égypte au Canada, nous avons eu le plaisir de recevoir (en direct d'Égypte) Dr Mounir Habachy, maître de conférences à l'Université de Hélouan qui nous a offert une conférence sur la titulature des Ptolémée. Une seconde conférence a été offerte par Vincent Labelle, étudiant à la maîtrise en histoire à l'UQAM, au cours de laquelle il nous a présenté ses recherches en cours sur la vieillesse en Égypte ancienne.

Notre assemblée générale annuelle s'est tenue mercredi le 13 octobre 2021. Au cours de celle-ci, le comité exécutif 2021-2022 a été mis en place. Le comité se compose de la façon suivante :

Présidente, Cloé Caron
Vice-président, Jean Revez
Secrétaire-trésorière, Nicole Brisson
Conseillère, Brigitte Ouellet

Conseiller, Jean-Frédéric Brunet Conseiller, Michel Gervais Conseillère, Jessica Bouchard Conseillère, Juliette Gagnon La portion hiver-printemps de notre saison s'annonce des plus captivantes. Nous offrirons cinq conférences en ligne parmi lesquelles deux seront présentées par des conférenciers européens : Dre Annik Wüthrich, chercheuse postdoctorale attachée à l'Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Archaeological Institute et Dr Philipe Collombert, professeur à l'Université de Genève et directeur de la Mission archéologique franco-suisse de Saqqâra. Nous vous invitons à consulter régulièrement notre site internet pour connaître tous les détails de la saison en cours (<u>https://www.sseamt-l.org/</u>). Nous espérons que nous serons bientôt en mesure de retrouver nos membres en chair et en os; en attendant, nous avons bien hâte de vous revoir sur Zoom!

Toronto Chapter report

The SSEA Toronto Chapter Annual Meeting of Members (AMOM) was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2021. Due to COVID restrictions the meeting was held virtually. We had 12 members in attendance via Zoom and 4 proxies. We appointed a new Secretary for the 2021-2022 year, Stephen Ficalora, as our existing Secretary, Gayle Gibson stepped down from the role.

The financial statements were presented to the members in attendance and the budget for 2021-2022 was approved. A recap of the year's lectures was given, as well as a glance at the coming lectures for 2022. We are hopeful that we can return to in-person/hybrid lectures in the coming months, as well as a return of our social events throughout the year.

The 2021-2022 Officers and Members-at-Large were chosen at the meeting as follows:

Dr. Dawn Power (President); Stephen Ficalora (Vice President and Secretary); Les O'Connor (Vice President); Arlette Londes (Vice President); Leslie Cowger (Vice President); Erin Kerr (Treasurer); Gayle Gibson (Member-at-Large); Deidre Keleher (Member-at-Large); Sami Akhnoukh (Member-at-Large).

Congratulations!

Our warmest congratulations go out to ...

Trustee Dr. Cloe Caron, for having been awarded her PhD in History from UQAM. and

Trustee Dr. Jackie Jay, upon the publication of her book,"Archive of Thothsutmis, Son of Panouphis", co-authored by Foy Scalf and Brian Muhs and published by the Oriental Institute of Chicago.

Welcome New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members this year. Welcome to the SSEA/SEEA!

Stephanie LindeburgChris CunningtonCaroline LovelaceSimone Burger Robin

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of the following members of the SSEA/SEEA. We extend
nour heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends.
Ron FotheringhamRokaya Mahgoub
Kulli Milles
John H. Morris

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, and Toronto, Ontario. 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.