

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

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KENT WEEKS' THEBAN MAPPING PROJECT LIBRARY IS MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS

A VISIT TO THE TMP LIBRARY, FEBRUARY 9/2022 WEST BANK EGYPT

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Karen Moran

Dr. Kent Weeks' new Theban Mapping Project (TMP) Library is perfectly situated in what seems like the most unlikely place. It is nestled between two thriving villages on the west bank of Luxor, down a dirt road past donkeys tied to fences and fields of fodder. A far cry from the former single-story building of unfired bricks with leakage issues. This new building, opened in 2020, is accessible to most of the ancient monuments. Its three storeys are mainly finished (really, is any building in Egypt ever finished?) and have been a long time in the works.

Why a new building? Well, aside from the water issues, the old building, about 850 sq. feet /79 sq. metres had a dingy tiny office with no space for computers and a compact (read really small) library, with no room inside to hold children's or adult's programs. In addition, there was no proper space for the TMP and no room for expansion of existing or future programs. Frankly, the old building had outlived its original purpose.

The new TMP Library, on the other hand, is a concrete building of about 3000 sq. ft/ 278 sq metres and has lots of room in which to grow. There is a large garden on the side of the building that can be used as a play area or an entertainment setting.

Outside the main door, on holidays and after school you'll see twenty or so pairs of children's shoes, kicked off as the youngsters head into the building. A room dedicated to teaching children is to the right as you enter. There, an Arabic language teacher supervises and engages group activities like colouring, assembling puzzles and watching National Geographic films primarily on ancient Egypt. It's well known that children learn best when they are active participants. Today, the class enthusiastically shows off some of their newly learned skills and with broad smiles lighting their faces, the children are rewarded with applause from the adults watching and their own sense of self satisfaction.

Kent Weeks says, "I am convinced that if we can teach these young residents on the West Bank how important it is to protect the monuments of Thebes we're going to wind up doing more in terms of site protection



than all the site management programs that have been devised that come to mind, even by us. We're talking maybe twenty years down the line. These children will be responsible for protecting the monuments in the future". The Library's children's program is especially important since the curriculum of local schools offers very little instruction in the history of ancient Egypt. The TMP Library attempts to fill that gap and in so doing encourages children to become stewards of the historic sites.

Across from the children's room is a spacious library with a broad collection of books on history, Egyptology, archeology, anatomy, and geology of the area in both English and Arabic. In a visit to the Library this past February, Dr. Kent Weeks, Emeritus Professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo and Founding Director of the Theban Mapping Project, explained the Library's two-fold goals:

1. to have a headquarters for the TMP where all the work and maps of the King's Valley, Queen's



Kent Weeks shows Rick Moran maps of the area (Photo Karen Moran)

- Valley and Thebes are available and
2. to provide a reference library with a focus on Thebes.

The library is open year-round to a variety of professionals and non-professionals: Egyptology colleagues, tour guides, and village people who live around the monuments and who directly or indirectly will be responsible for their protection. Books are selected that appeal to a wide range of people including students at the university and high school levels. The space provides a quiet, well-lit area for students to do their homework. “And maybe,” Kent adds with a grin, “we can throw in a little Egyptology conservation at the same time.”

This is truly where the TMP Library excels ... it is so much more than books.

In almost everything, from children to adults, there is an underlying theme of encouraging and promoting preservation of the ancient monuments through education and awareness. It is a multi-layered approach serving the needs of the community, while imparting a sense of how the history of the past, often temples and excavation sites walked by daily, has a place in the future. Strengthening one’s own feeling of cultural

identity is a step in the direction of protecting the antiquities of the region.

In the same vein, Kent hopes that medical and veterinary students with little access to medical books will make use of the library and perhaps, in the process, will end up working on mummified skeletal remains. Modest practices like this, grow into daily habits that can impact the future.

And it doesn’t stop there. The TMP Library is serving a vital need empowering local women.

At their own request, village women are taking computer lessons in the Library taught by other women. And not only that, more than a dozen women asked to learn how to read and write in Arabic. This is encouraging since over the past 10-15 years, Kent has seen a dramatic drop in literacy, especially among women, possibly due to economic reasons. For instance, if a family has limited resources when it comes time to start school, the family may decide to educate the boys and have the daughters stay at home where they are deemed more productive by taking on an additional share of the household responsibility until they marry, often early.



The Children's Room in the Centre (Photo Rick Moran)

In addition to empowerment, providing access to further education for these women has resulted in yet another positive outcome. Often, they come back to the Library, and, among other things, are reading books on conservation and Egyptology. It's a ripple effect of encouraging local people to care about and foster an active appreciation of their heritage.

Kent is brimming with future plans which include: completing a dedicated space for the TMP and colleagues on the 2nd floor; as well as, purchasing additional computers, academic and children's books, activities, films and posters and building more work

space and a small apartment on the roof for visiting scholars. These improvements cost money. Kent depends on the generosity of the public. You, too, can be a part of this vision. If you love Egypt and want to support the programs at the TMP Library, it's easy.

If you wish to donate in Canadian, U.S. dollars, Sterling or Euros, you should contact Dr. Kent Weeks at weekstmp@yahoo.com and add "My Donation for the TMP". We gave a donation; we'd love it if you could too. Every little bit goes a very long way.

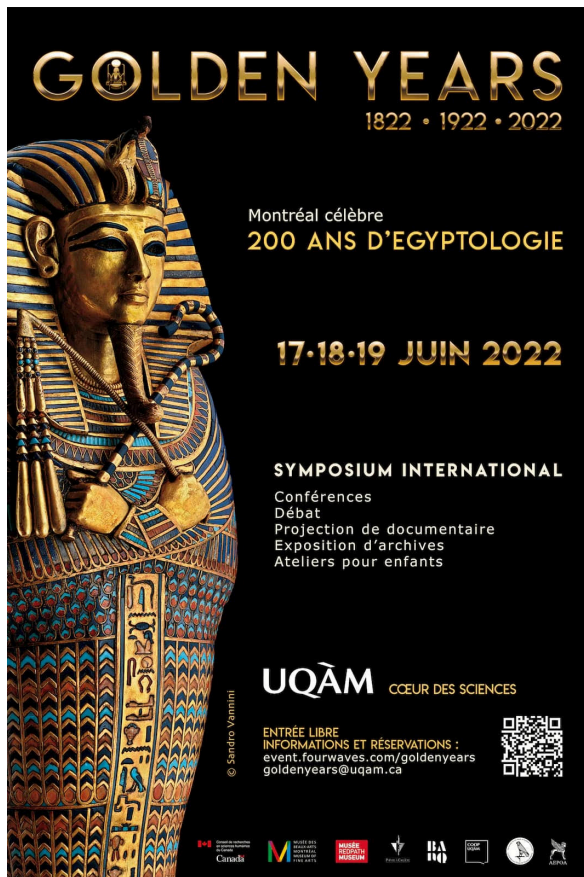
Montreal celebrates 200 years of Egyptology in June !

The University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) is pleased to announce its international symposium '**Golden Years (1822•1922•2022)**' — Montreal celebrates 200 years of Egyptology, which will be held at UQAM (Montreal) on **June 17-18-19, 2022**.

'**Golden Years**' is a hybrid event, which allows for both in-person and Zoom attendance. It gathers a panel of specialists around two major discoveries in Egyptology: the decipherment of the hieroglyphs by Jean-François Champollion in 1822, and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter in 1922.

To celebrate the bicentenary and centenary of these breakthroughs, scholars will present their latest researches on the topic, and the archives connected to these discoveries held in their institutions.

'**Golden Years**' is also a multi-format event, encompassing lectures, poster sessions, a panel discussion, a lecture-



tour of archives and a screening of a documentary. Lectures will be presented either in English or in French. All information relating to the program, schedule, speakers, lectures, UQAM courses, as well as registration procedures, can be found on the following website : <https://event.fourwaves.com/goldenyears/pages>

Please note that this Event is free to attend and that available spots are limited, both for in-person and Zoom attendance.

The Montreal Chapter is also happy to join the event in offering educative workshops where children will be introduced, in an entertaining manner, to hieroglyphs, mummification and myths and tales of Ancient Egypt. Prof. Marc Gabolde and Prof. Aidan Dodson have also kindly agreed to talk our Chapter respectively on June 16 and June 20. Please visit our website for all the details: <https://www.sseamtl.org/>

Montréal célèbre 200 ans d'égyptologie en juin !

L'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) est fière d'annoncer la tenue de son symposium 'Golden Years (1822•1922•2022)' – Montréal célèbre deux cents ans d'égyptologie qui se tiendra à l'UQAM (Montréal) les **17-18-19 juin 2022**.

'Golden Years' est un événement hybride permettant ainsi d'y assister en personne ou via la plateforme Zoom. Il rassemble un panel de spécialistes autour de deux découvertes majeures de l'égyptologie : le déchiffrement des hiéroglyphes par Jean-François Champollion en 1822 et la découverte de la tombe de

Toutankhamon par Howard Carter en 1922.

Afin de célébrer le bicentenaire et le centenaire de ces percées majeures, des spécialistes présenteront leurs plus récentes recherches sur le sujet de même que les archives liées à ces découvertes qui sont conservées dans leurs institutions.

'Golden Years' est également un événement polyvalent qui inclut des conférences, une session de présentation par affiches, une table ronde, une visite guidée d'archives et la projection d'un documentaire. Les conférences seront présentées en français ou en anglais. Toutes les informations concernant le programme, l'horaire, les intervenants, les conférences, les cours offerts à l'UQAM de même que les procédures pour s'inscrire se trouvent sur le site internet de l'événement à l'adresse suivante : <https://event.fourwaves.com/fr/goldenyears/pages>

Notez également que l'événement est entièrement gratuit et que les places en personne et par Zoom sont limitées.

Le Chapitre de Montréal est également très heureux de se joindre à l'événement en offrant des ateliers éducatifs au cours desquels les enfants seront initiés, de manière ludique, aux hiéroglyphes, à la momification de même qu'aux mythes et légendes de l'Égypte ancienne. Prof. Marc Gabolde et Prof. Aidan Dodson ont également gentiment accepté d'offrir des conférences pour notre chapitre qui auront lieu respectivement le 16 et le 20 juin. Nous vous invitons à visiter notre site internet pour tous les détails : <https://www.sseamtl.org/>

Digging into Egyptology's Past and Present

The 46th Annual Symposium Weekend of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/ La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne (SSEA/SÉEA)

It gives great pleasure to announce the dates of the SSEA's 2022 Symposium Weekend, and this year's Symposium theme. This is our 46th Annual Symposium.

The themed Symposium day will be on **Saturday, November 5**, with two days of Scholars' Colloquium presentations on **Friday the 4th and Sunday the 6th**. This year, as Covid restrictions ease, we intend to be back in person, offering a hybrid event with the option of online viewing.

Confirmed speakers on November 5 include Andrew Bednarski, Peter Der Manuelian, Meira Gold and Mohammed Ismael Khaled. Further speaker details will be posted as they are confirmed.



The two Scholars' Colloquium days, Nov. 4 and 6, are open to presentations from students and academics who wish to present on their research. These presentations may be on any topic, and are based on submissions. The formal Call for Papers will be released shortly. The SSEA's Annual General Meeting will also be held that weekend, on Friday Nov. 4

As planning proceeds and more details of the weekend schedule become available, they will appear on our website, www.thessea.org.

In the meantime, HOLD the DATES!

Fouiller le passé et le présent de l'Égyptologie

Le 46^e Symposium annuel de la Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne (SSEA/SÉÉA)

Il nous fait grand plaisir de vous annoncer les dates de la fin de semaine du Symposium 2022 de la SSEA/SÉÉA ainsi que le thème que nous avons sélectionné cette année. Il s'agit de notre 46^e Symposium annuel.

La journée du **samedi 5 novembre** sera entièrement dédiée à ce sujet et, comme de coutume, le colloque académique lors duquel les chercheurs offriront des présentations sur des sujets variés aura lieu **vendredi le 4 novembre ainsi que dimanche le 6 novembre**. Cette année, dans la mesure où les restrictions liées à la Covid s'assouplissent, nous avons l'intention d'être de retour en personne ; l'événement serait dès lors présenté en mode hybride permettant d'y assister en personne ou en ligne.

Parmi les conférenciers ayant confirmé leur présence, se retrouvent Andrew Bednarski, Peter Der Manuelian, Meira Gold and Mohammed Ismael Khaled. Nous annoncerons autres conférenciers aussitôt que confirmés.

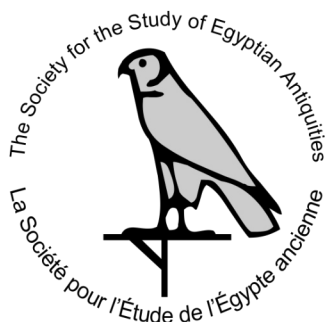
Les deux jours de colloque sont ouverts aux présentations d'étudiants et de membres de la communauté scientifique qui souhaitent présenter le fruit de leur recherche. Ces présentations peuvent porter sur tous sujets et feront l'objet d'une sélection par un comité. L'appel à communications officiel sera lancé sous peu. L'Assemblée générale de la Société aussi se tiendra le 4 novembre.

Les détails du programme de la fin de semaine seront diffusés sur notre site web au fur et à mesure de l'avancée de notre planification : www.thessea.org.

D'ici là, nous vous invitons à bien indiquer ces dates à vos agendas !



Our logo gets a facelift!



You may have noticed that on recent newsletters our logo has looked a bit different. When we published the most recent *JSSEA* volume, a number of our members commented that the Horus logo had started to look a little run down and in need of some revitalisation after all these years of giving excellent service to the Society. So our Communications committee got together and gave the little chap a rub over and some refreshments and have given him a new lease of life. You should now see him appearing on all our publicity and communications, on the cover of forthcoming *JSSEA* volumes, on our website and of course at the top of our newsletters. He even went over to California to make an appearance at the Society's stand at the recent ARCE conference!

We hope you like his new image!

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES/ LA SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'ÉTUDE DE L'ÉGYPTE ANCIENNE

2022 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 on **NOVEMBER 4th and 6th, 2022** in Toronto. The deadline for submission is **August 31st, 2022**. Papers will be hybrid, delivered both In Person and Live via Zoom. Please indicate whether you will be present in person.

Proposals for Scholars' Colloquium papers will be accepted in the fields of Egyptology, Anthropology, Classics, Fine Arts, Archaeology, Nubian Studies and related fields on ANY topic connected with pre-dynastic, 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] will be considered. Abstracts must not exceed 350 words in length.

The SSEA/SÉÉA is also holding its 46th Annual Symposium on **NOVEMBER 5th**. The Colloquium is held in conjunction with the November 6 Symposium. The topic for this year's Symposium is Digging Into Egyptology's Past and Present. It will also be held in hybrid form, both In Person and live via Zoom. More information about the program for the weekend will be forthcoming.

We look forward to receiving abstracts from scholars from around the world, and invite your submission with eager anticipation. This will be a memorable colloquium. 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. All participants in the Scholars' Colloquium will be expected to pay the appropriate registration fee in advance.

This year the Sally L. D. Katary Travel Scholarship is available to Student Members of the SSEA. This award is available to aid scholars wishing to travel to Toronto to present at the 2022 SSEA Scholars' Colloquium. The intent of the award is to aid scholars who would not otherwise have funding to travel to the event. The selected individual will have their registration paid, along with \$300 to defray costs associated with traveling to Toronto to present. Please indicate your wish to be considered when submitting your Abstract.

CALL FOR "VIRTUAL" POSTERS SSEA/SÉÉA ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 4th - 6th, 2022

The Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities/Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne is now inviting proposals for "Virtual Poster" contributions for its Annual Meeting, to be held **NOVEMBER 4th - 6th, 2022** at Toronto, Canada.

Similar to last year, we are seeking "virtual poster" proposals for a Poster Session. Proposals 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. They must represent an original contribution to the field. Proposals will be posters re-imagined as a series of slides for Zoom, with an introductory slide and a final slide for footnotes, references and acknowledgements/thanks, to total no more than 10 slides. Either narration or music are suitable as accompaniment. Posters may address any aspect of ANY topic connected with pre-dynastic, 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. Poster slides may be uploaded in PDF form to the SSEA/SÉÉA website. There will also be a limited number of virtual 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, virtual 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.

The final deadline for receipt of proposals for virtual posters is **September 15th, 2022**.

COLLOQUE ANNUEL DE LA SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'ÉTUDE DE L'ÉGYPTE ANCIENNE/ THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES, ÉDITION 2022 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 2022 de son colloque annuel qui se tiendra du 4 et 6 NOVEMBRE 2022 à Toronto au Canada. Le colloque sera hybrid 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 2022.

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] au comité organisateur à l'adresse courriel suivante: scholarscolloquium@thessea.org ou sseacolloquium@gmail.com.

Veillez prendre note que la SSEA organise également la 46e édition de son symposium annuel le samedi 5 NOVEMBRE 2022, 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. Tous les participants au colloque des chercheurs seront tenus de payer les frais d'inscription appropriés à l'avance.

Parmi les membres étudiants de la SSEA qui en font la demande, certains bénéficieront d'une inscription sans frais, celle-ci étant défrayée par les fonds de la Bourse étudiante à la mémoire de Sally D. Katary. Si vous souhaitez que votre candidature soit considérée, veuillez svp nous en aviser en soumettant votre proposition de communication.

APPEL À PROPOSITIONS – AFFICHES “VIRTUELLES” SEEA/SÉÉA COLLOQUE ANNUEL DU 4 AU 6 NOVEMBRE 2022

La Société pour l'Étude de l'Égypte Ancienne/Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities vous invite à soumettre vos propositions d'affiche “virtuelle” pour sa rencontre annuelle qui se tiendra virtuellement du 4 au 6 novembre 2022 à Toronto (Canada).

Dans la mesure où les présentations se tiendront en ligne cette année, nous souhaitons recevoir des propositions d'affiche virtuelle pour la séance de présentation par affiches. Les propositions peuvent être soumises par des représentants d'organisation, de projet, de mission, des étudiants de cycles supérieurs ou encore des chercheurs dans le domaine de l'égyptologie, de l'anthropologie, des études classiques, de l'histoire de l'art, de l'archéologie, des études nubiennes, des études coptes et de domaines reliés. Les propositions seront des affiches repensées, présentées en une série de diapositives sur Zoom, incluant une diapositive d'introduction et de conclusion comprenant les notes, les références et les remerciements, la présentation devant se limiter à 10 diapositives. Il est également possible d'ajouter une trame sonore ou une narration. Le thème de la présentation par affiche peut concerner tout sujet en lien avec l'Égypte prédynastique, pharaonique, hellénistique, romaine ou encore copte. Néanmoins, ce type de présentation convient mieux aux sujets qui se fondent sur un important contenu visuel plutôt que textuel. Les affiches peuvent être présentées en anglais ou en français (et, dans l'idéal, en version bilingue).

Les résumés des affiches seront publiés dans le programme du colloque. Les diapositives des affiches pourront être téléchargées en format PDF sur le site national de la SEEA/SÉÉA. Il y aura également un nombre limité d'affiches virtuelles destinées à faire connaître des projets académiques ou des organisations en égyptologie, études nubiennes, coptes, du Proche-Orient ancien ou de l'ancienne Méditerranée.

Dans la mesure où seul un nombre limité d'affiches pourra être présenté, les propositions seront soumises à un comité de sélection. Les chercheurs et chercheurs intéressé(e)s par cet appel doivent faire parvenir un titre et un court résumé de l'affiche qu'il propose aux organisateurs du colloque à l'adresse courriel suivante : scholarscolloquium@thessea.org ou sseacolloquium@gmail.com. Veuillez noter que seules les propositions envoyées par courriel seront retenues. Les propositions doivent contenir un maximum de 350 mots.

La date d'échéance pour soumettre les propositions d'affiche virtuelle a été fixée au **15 septembre 2022**.

The 2022 Sally L. D. Katary Scholarship Fundraising Lecture

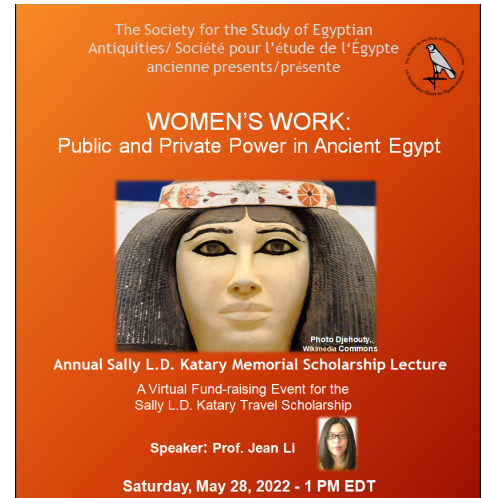
Prof. Jean Li of Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) gave this year's Sally L.D. Katary Scholarship fundraising lecture on May 28. Her talk, "Women's Work: Public and Private Power in Ancient Egypt", attracted 100 registrations and raised \$500 for the scholarship.

Prof. Li looked at the role of women in ancient Egypt from the perspectives of their influence in "public" - participation in governmental and professional institutional systems – as opposed to "private" – less formal – spheres of life. Her talk pointed out the the ambiguities and inconsistencies of their role.

While it is true that women had legal standing, and could acquire and dispose of their own property, women appeared to have limited visibility in the public governmental spheres. After discussing a number of instances where women clearly did hold significant positions in religion and in the ruling structure, she went on to their consider evidence for their less direct influence, which came from such positions as wetnurse, mother of the king, and the even less formal "wise woman", who often wielded great influence locally.

A number of questions were raised following the lecture, leading to interesting additional exchanges.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Scholarship can still do so by visiting the website, www.thessea.org. Just go to Contact Us.



Egyptian New Year's Returns

Save the Date: The SSEA Toronto Chapter hopes to bring back the annual Egyptian New Year's Dinner this year on July 21, 2022. The dinner would be at the Nile River Restaurant in Toronto. The cost will be around \$45/pp and there will be limited seating. Further information to follow, so stay tuned.

And finally...



SSEA President Mark Trumpour and Vice-President Gayle Gibson, cleaning and organizing the newly reopened Toronto SSEA office at the University of Toronto.

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.