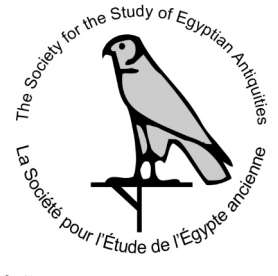


Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES



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Morning splendour at Deir el-Medina

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Summer 2023-24 #3

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As the sun rises over the East, overlooking the stunning site of Deir el-Medina, the hot air balloons start to take flight. The colourful array of balloons adds splendour to an already beautiful, vibrant blue sky each morning on the west bank.

My visit to Deir el-Medina, a unique and often overlooked treasure from a tourism perspective, was a truly personal experience. The settlement, located in the Theban Mountains, was initially properly excavated by Ernesto Schiaparelli between 1905 and 1909 and fully cleared by Bernard Bruyère and Jaroslav Černý between 1922 and 1951.

This site offers a varied vision of more than one timeline of ancient Egypt.

Most notable, of course, is the well-preserved settlement of the workman's village that bids an exceptional insight into the daily lives of the ancient Egyptians who tirelessly created the famous New Kingdom tombs in the Valleys of the Kings and Queens. The numerous documents and inscriptions found on papyri and *ostraca* at the site have provided



View of the walled workman's village at sunrise

Egyptologists with more knowledge of the inhabitants, who, for the most part, were literate individuals. The families formed a single community that evolved over time, with each house having its own exclusive layout designed to accommodate its residents.

The majestic tombs of the craftsmen, adorned with spectacular artistry, are second to none, showcasing their outstanding talents. I viewed the tombs of Amenhakht (TT218) and his sons Nebenmaat (TT219) and Khaemteri (TT220), who all held the title of "servant of the place of truth." These tombs are in the western cemetery overlooking the village. They were excavated by Bernard Bruyère in 1928 and date to the first half of the reign of Ramesses II.

An outer terraced courtyard and a chapel dug into the hillside lead to the tomb of Pashedu (TT3), considered one of the most beautiful of the Theban tombs, and is colourfully decorated with a bright yellow background.



Tomb of Khaemteri TT220



*Tomb of Amenhakht TT218.
The long text of the Book of the Dead*

Pashedu was a stonemason who was later promoted to foreman. He lived at Deir el-Medina during the reign of Seti I and Ramesses II with his wife and several children. He held the title “Servant in the Place of Truth on the West of Thebes”.

The area located to the north-west once housed a large temple complex and chapels for the villagers, the largest of which was begun by Amenophis III. However, few of these structures, such as the Temple of Amun, Mut, and Khonsu built by Ramesses II, remain.

The last stop on my visit to the Deir el-Medina site was to the Ptolemaic temple of Hathor, built by Ptolemy IV long after the inhabitants of Deir el-Medina had left. This structure consists of a columned hall with a narrow vestibule and three sanctuaries, with the main one dedicated to Hathor and the other two dedicated to Amun-Re-Osiris and to Amun-Sokar-Osiris.



*From the tomb of Nebenmaat TT219.
Thoth as a baboon with lunar disk*

The Deir el-Medina complex became a Coptic monastery, which gives it its present-day name, ‘Monastery of the Town’.

What made my visit truly memorable was the warm welcome that I received from the local guards and caretakers. Their willingness to share their knowledge and their tea made me feel like a part of their community, leaving me with a deeper appreciation for the history and culture of the many facets of the Deir el-Medina site.



Tomb of Pashedu TT3. The burial chamber

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Temple of Hathor, corridor leading to the rooftop (left)

Tisha Polocko is an SSEA member who has been excavating in Egypt with the South Asasif Conservation Project.

All Photos taken by T.A. Polocko

Membership Renewal Time

September 1 is the start of a new membership year for the SSEA/SÉÉA. If you haven't renewed for the 2024-25 year already, now is the time! You can get the form on the SSEA website, www.thessea.org.

If you are in North America, you can pay by E-transfer directly from your account. The name to enter for Recipient is SSEA. When prompted to input an email address associated with it, enter treasurer@thessea.org. In the message box, enter "Membership". Of course, all the old methods of payment – cheque, Paypal and credit card – are still available.

2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the SSEA/SÉÉA

As a registered Not-for-profit organisation in Ontario, the Society is required to hold an annual business meeting, the Annual General Meeting. This is where all members – Full, Associate and Student – have the opportunity to hear of the past year in review: our financial reports, reports from projects, Chapters and committees – and to hear plans for the coming year. The final business of the meeting is to elect our new Board of Trustees for 2024-25. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should send their name and contact information no less than one week prior to the Meeting to the Nominating Committee, by Mail to the SSEA office or by Email to sseainfo@gmail.com. No nominations are accepted from the floor.

All members are encouraged to attend the AGM at **7 pm on Friday, Nov. 1**. You can do this In Person, at our usual venue, the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, 4 Bancroft Ave., 2nd floor, Toronto; or via Zoom.

The Zoom link this year is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85675872790?pwd=lyj2XBHyRqfcZeYx0XhDGWV5s0hoIr.1>

If you cannot attend either of these ways, you can also attend by Proxy. To do this, use the form that will be sent to you along with the official Notice of Meeting. The form will also be available on our website, www.thessea.org.

Schedule for the 2024 AGM Weekend

Note: Times for the Colloquium days are provisional

This year we are holding our major event from Friday November 1 to Sunday Nov. 3. The event will be both In Person and Online.

Friday Nov. 1:	9:00 to 5 PM	Scholars' Colloquium, Day 1
Friday Nov. 1:	7 PM	Annual General Meeting (AGM), followed by Members' Reception
Saturday Nov. 2:	9:30 AM to 5 PM	Aswan: Source of Wonders. 48th Annual Symposium of the SSEA
Sunday Nov. 3:	10:30 AM to 4 PM	Scholars' Colloquium, Day 2

Registration is now open at Eventbrite – three days of stimulating talks by researchers and experts in Egyptology:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/aswan-source-of-wonders-tickets-1000810279487>

Don't miss this wonderful weekend event!

Aswan: Source of Wonders: The SSEA's 48th Annual Symposium

This year's title evokes the idea that Aswan has always provided wondrous natural resources – granite, amethyst, gold - and at the same time alludes to the amazing discoveries that archaeologists continue to make. In one Egyptian myth, the wonder of the Nile inundation was said to emerge from caverns beneath Elephantine Island.

The south of Egypt is a favourite with many travellers, with a history spanning from Predynastic to the present, and numerous fascinating sites – Philae Temple, the last functioning pagan temple in the ancient world and home to the last hieroglyphic inscription; Elephantine Island's rich archaeological heritage including temples, a Nilometer, a temple to Yahweh; the famous granite quarries; the tombs of Qubbet el-Hawa perched high above the River Nile; and much more.

Gayle Gibson will introduce Aswan, situating the site not only geographically but also mentioning its beauty and discussing its cultural significance through Egyptian history. Oren Siegel will examine Aswan in the context of pharaonic boundary-making practice. Cornélius von Pilgrim will focus on Elephantine Island as the core of Aswan society, exploring how people occupied and developed the island over time. Alejandro Jimenez-Serrano will then present Qubbet el-Hawa, describing the rock-cut tombs and funerary culture overlooking the island. Then Kate Liszka will speak about the role of Aswan as a source of valuable natural resources and how royal expeditions to mines and quarries were carried out. Concluding the day, Jitse Dijkstra will describe the changes and continuity in Ptolemaic and Roman phases of the site, especially as regards the famous Philae Temple complex.



For more details on our speakers and the descriptions of their talk, go to the SSEA website at: www.thessea.org

The Scholars' Colloquium

The Symposium is flanked by two days of scholarly presentations. These are shorter, 20-minute presentations delivered by doctoral level graduate students and senior scholars, whose proposed presentations are reviewed by the Colloquium Committee before being accepted.

The papers include Egyptology, Anthropology, Classics, Fine Arts, Archaeology, Nubian Studies and related fields on ANY topic connected with pre-dynastic, pharaonic, Hellenistic, Roman or Coptic Egypt, as long as they represent an original contribution to the field. Every year we are fortunate to have presentations

from all over the world. Last year they came from as far away as Japan and New Zealand, but wherever the presenter lives or works, you can expect to hear fascinating new insights in the field.

Note: The same ticket gives you all three days of talks!

Assemblée Générale Annuelle (AGA) de la SSEA/SÉÉA 2024

En tant qu'organisme sans but lucratif enregistré en Ontario, la Société est tenue de tenir une réunion d'affaires annuelle, l'assemblée générale annuelle. C'est là que tous les membres - individuels, associés et étudiants - ont l'occasion de prendre connaissance du bilan de l'année écoulée : les rapports financiers, les rapports de projets, des chapitres et des comités - et de prendre connaissance des projets pour l'année à venir. Le dernier point de la réunion est l'élection de notre nouveau Conseil d'administration pour 2024-2025. Toute personne souhaitant siéger au conseil d'administration doit envoyer son nom et ses coordonnées au moins une semaine avant la réunion au comité de nomination, par la poste au bureau de la SSEA ou par courriel à sseainfo@gmail.com. Aucune nomination ne sera acceptée lors de la réunion.

Tous les membres sont encouragés à assister à l'AGA à **19 heures le vendredi 1er novembre**. Vous pouvez le faire en personne, à notre lieu habituel, le Département des Études du Proche et du Moyen-Orient, situé au 4 Bancroft Ave, Toronto, 2ème étage, ou via Zoom.

Cette année, le lien Zoom est le suivant :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85675872790?pwd=lyj2XBHyRqfcZeYx0XhDGWV5s0hoIr.1>

Si vous ne pouvez pas assister en présentiel ou en ligne, vous pouvez également le faire par procuration. Pour ce faire, utilisez le formulaire qui vous sera envoyé avec l'avis de convocation officiel. Le formulaire sera également disponible sur notre site web, www.thessea.org.

Horaire de la Fin de Semaine de l'Assemblée Générale 2024

Note: L'horaire des journées du Colloque est provisoire

Cette année, nous organisons notre événement majeur du vendredi 1er novembre au dimanche 3 novembre. Il se déroulera à la fois en personne et en ligne.

Vendredi 1er novembre : de 9h à 17h.	Jour 1 du Colloque des chercheurs et chercheuses.
Vendredi 1er novembre : 19h.	Assemblée générale annuelle (AGA), suivie d'une réception pour les membres.
Samedi 2 novembre : 9h30 à 17h.	Assouan : source de merveilles. 48ème Symposium annuel de la SEEA.
Dimanche 3 novembre : 10h30 à 16h.	Jour 2 du Colloque des chercheurs et chercheuses.

Les inscriptions sont désormais ouvertes sur Eventbrite - trois jours de conférences stimulantes.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/aswan-source-of-wonders-tickets-1000810279487>

Ne manquez pas ce merveilleux week-end!

Assouan: source de merveilles: 48ème Symposium annuel

Le titre de cette année évoque l'idée qu'Assouan a toujours fourni des ressources naturelles merveilleuses - granit, améthyste, or - tout en faisant allusion aux découvertes étonnantes que les archéologues continuent de faire. Un mythe égyptien relatait d'ailleurs la merveille que représentait l'inondation du Nil qui émergeait des cavernes situées sous l'île d'Éléphantine.

Le sud de l'Égypte est la région préférée de nombreux voyageurs, avec une histoire qui s'étend du prédynastique à nos jours, et de nombreux sites fascinants - le temple de Philae, le dernier temple païen en activité dans le monde antique et qui abrite la dernière inscription hiéroglyphique ; le riche patrimoine archéologique de l'île d'Éléphantine, qui

comprend des temples, un nilomètre, un temple de Yahvé ; les célèbres carrières de granit ; les tombes de Qubbet el-Hawa perchées au-dessus du Nil ; et bien d'autres choses encore.

Gayle Gibson présentera Assouan en situant le site non seulement géographiquement, mais aussi en mentionnant sa beauté et en discutant de son importance culturelle dans l'histoire égyptienne. Oren Siegel examinera Assouan dans le contexte des pratiques pharaoniques d'établissement des frontières. Cornelius von Pilgrim se concentrera sur l'île d'Éléphantine en tant que cœur de la société d'Assouan, en explorant la façon dont les gens ont occupé et développé l'île au fil du temps. Alejandro Jimenez-Serrano présentera ensuite Qubbet el-Hawa, décrivant les tombes taillées dans le roc et la culture funéraire surplombant l'île. Kate Liszka parlera ensuite du rôle d'Assouan en tant que source de ressources



naturelles précieuses et de la manière dont les expéditions royales vers les mines et les carrières étaient menées. Pour conclure la journée, Jitse Dijkstra décrira les changements et la continuité des phases ptolémaïque et romaine du site, en particulier en ce qui concerne le célèbre complexe du temple de Philae.

Pour plus de détails sur nos conférenciers et conférencières ainsi que les descriptions de leurs interventions, consultez le site internet de la SSEA à l'adresse suivante : www.thessea.org

Le Colloque des Chercheurs et Chercheuses

Le Symposium est précédé et suivi de deux jours de présentations scientifiques. Il s'agit d'exposés plus courts, d'une durée de 20 minutes, présentés par des doctorants et des chercheurs confirmés, dont les propositions de présentation sont examinées par le comité du colloque avant d'être acceptées.

Les communications portent sur l'égyptologie, l'anthropologie, les lettres classiques, les beaux-arts, l'archéologie, les études nubiennes et les domaines connexes, sur TOUT sujet lié à l'Égypte prédynastique, pharaonique, hellénistique, romaine ou copte, pour autant qu'elles représentent une contribution originale au domaine. Chaque année, nous avons la chance de recevoir des présentations du monde entier. L'année dernière, ils venaient d'aussi loin que le Japon et la Nouvelle-Zélande, mais quel que soit le lieu de résidence ou de travail du conférencier ou de la conférencière, vous pouvez vous attendre à de nouvelles idées fascinantes dans ce domaine.

Remarque : le même billet vous permet d'assister aux trois journées de conférences!

Chapter Reports

Rapport du Chapitre de Montréal

Après une session hiver-printemps 2024 bien remplie, avec des conférences aux sujets variés tels que l'émergence des hiéroglyphes, les interrogations judiciaires au NE, le culte d'Osiris à l'AE, le statut de la femme en Égypte pharaonique et la ville d'Akhmim, notre chapitre a clôturé sa saison 2023-2024 par son traditionnel pique-nique sous le thème « D'Alexandre à Cléopâtre ».

Sous un ciel radieux, les membres et ami•e•s de la SEEA furent nombreux à se rassembler dans le jardin de notre hôte, membre de notre comité exécutif, Michel Gervais.

Notre présidente aux talents multiples, Cloé Caron, nous a concocté pour l'occasion un délicieux brunch à la grecque assisté de notre fidèle membre et chef pâtissier, Pierre Cousineau.

Voyez par vous-même les résultats...

Cette dernière activité conviviale a su réjouir petits et grands. Un quiz amusant et sans prétention sur le règne des Ptolémées a suscité rires et étonnement, tout en permettant d'élargir nos connaissances. Le pique-nique donne aussi l'occasion de recueillir des fonds afin de continuer à offrir des conférences et activités de qualité à nos membres et ami•e•s. Un encan bénéfique est donc organisé chaque année au cours duquel livres et d'objets à connotation égyptienne suscite toujours un vif intérêt et un succès assuré grâce à la générosité de toutes et tous et au savoir-faire de notre encanteur dévoué, notre membre Daniel-Jean Primeau.

La saison 2024-2025 marquera le 25ème anniversaire de création de notre chapitre et nous comptons célébrer dignement cet heureux événement... à suivre.



Montreal Chapter Report

After a busy winter-spring 2024, with lectures on such varied topics as the emergence of hieroglyphs, judicial interrogations in the New Kingdom, the cult of Osiris in the Old Kingdom, the status of women in Pharaonic Egypt and the city of Akhmim, our chapter closed its 2023-2024 season with its traditional picnic under the theme "From Alexander to Cleopatra".

Under a radiant sky, SEEA members and friends gathered in the garden of our host, executive committee member Michel Gervais.

Our multi-talented President, Cloé Caron, concocted a delicious Greek-style brunch for the occasion, assisted by our loyal member and pastry chef, Pierre Cousineau.

See the results for yourself from the photos above...

This latest lively activity delighted young and old alike. An amusing, ingenious quiz on the reign of the Ptolemies brought laughter and amazement while broadening the knowledge of even our most erudite members. The picnic was also an opportunity to raise funds to continue offering quality conferences and activities to our members and friends. A benefit auction is organised every year, with books and objects pertaining to Egyptian history, and this year's was, as always, a great success, thanks to everyone's generosity and the expertise of our dedicated auctioneer, member Daniel-Jean Primeau.

The 2024-2025 season will mark the 25th anniversary of our chapter's founding, and we look forward to celebrating the occasion in style... stay tuned...

Toronto Chapter Annual Ancient Egyptian New Year Dinner



The Toronto Chapter held its annual celebration of the ancient Egyptian New Year on Saturday July 20th. Members gathered at Nile River Restaurant for a Middle Eastern feast, with a talk by Stephen Bouijikian. Stephen related the story of the great Nile River, and its role in the development and life of Egypt through the ages.

Chapter members feasting their minds and bodies at the Nile River!

Needed for the Symposium Souk and Book Tables

Members who may have items that are looking for a new home and could be sold at either the book table or the souk - things with an Egyptian theme - should contact Elaine, Elainearrone@gmail.com, and let her know.

About Our Members - In Memoriams and Congratulations

If you know of any of our SSEA members who have passed away this year, please send their names to elainearrone@gmail.com. We would like to honour their memory in our next Newsletter.

Or, if you know of a special accomplishment by one of our members this year, please send their name and accomplishment information to elainearrone@gmail.com so that we can share the good news amongst our members.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our trustee, Casey Kirkpatrick, on the occasion of being offered a tenure-track position at Simon Frasier University. We wish her well in her new role as Assistant Professor of Archeology.

Congratulations also to Donald Redford on his retirement after a long and remarkable career in Egyptology. Dr. Redford was a founding member of the SSEA and is a world-renowned Egyptologist.

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.