

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES

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Papyri from the Fayum in the University of Toronto

Chana Algarvio

Lying on the stacks of the University of Toronto Libraries' rare book collections are hundreds of papyrus fragments from the Fayum region. Many were reused to create cartonnage, a composite material made of layers of linen and/or papyrus (with or without text) covered with plaster which was then painted on and used in funerary practices to place on top the mummy during burial. Most of the fragments that still contain pigments are as vibrant today as when they were created more than 2000 years ago.

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is the primary home of the papyri found on campus, but you can also find a straggler at the John W. Graham Library in Trinity College. Fragments that have a known provenance are all from the Bernard P. Grenfell and Arthur S. Hunt excavations in the Fayum during the early 20th-century, sponsored by the Egypt Exploration Fund (nowadays the Egypt Exploration Society). Of particular importance are two collections held on long-term deposit at the Fisher Library: the Victoria College Library Papyrus Collection and the Classics Department Papyrus Collection.

The Victoria College papyri form a smaller collection which arrived at the Victoria College Library in 1904 and 1906 from the Egyptian Exploration Fund (EEF). The subscription ("donation") was secured in part by Charles T. Currelly, an alumnus of the college who would go on to be the first director of the Royal Ontario Museum. The EEF also sent 4 papyri to the University of Toronto Libraries directly a few years earlier in 1901, and these became housed with the Victoria College papyri.

This collection is made up of thirty five papyrus fragments in Greek and come from Bacchias (Kom el-Atl), Theadelphia (Batn el-Harit), Philoteris (Wadfa), Euhemeria (Qasr el-Banat), Ancyronpolis (el-Hibeh), and Oxyrhynchus (el-Bahnasa). Most date to the Roman period, with only a few dating to the Ptolemaic period, and the texts encompass a variety of genres: Classical works (Homer's *Iliad*, Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Demosthenes' *Third Philippic*), legal documents (marriage contracts, land transfers, tax receipts, wills), miscellaneous accounts and receipts, and personal letters.

The Classics Department papyri form a larger collection which was assembled in parts by Alan E.

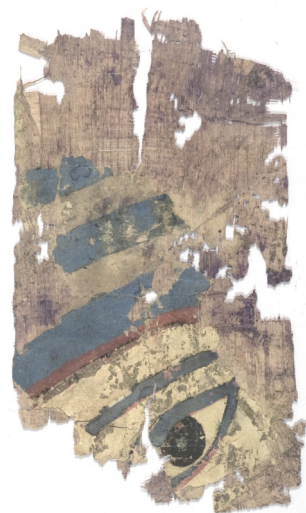
Samuel after he arrived as a professor in the Department of Classics in 1966. It consists of three inventory types - the Paper Towel Inventory, the Oxford University Gazette Inventory and the Rostovtzeff - Welles Inventory. It is made up of over 500 papyrus fragments, mostly in Greek, but with some Demotic, from el-Hibeh. Most date to the Ptolemaic period, though the collection spans all the way to early Islamic times, possibly up to the Fatimid period as they are also some unprovenanced Coptic and Arabic papyri and a couple of Coptic parchment and Greek paper fragments mixed in.

The texts encompass the same genres as found with the Victoria College papyri, but unlike that collection, most of these Greek and Demotic papyri were reused for cartonnage production, as noted by the amount of paint and/or gesso still evident on the fragments. Not only can pigments of blue, red, yellow, orange, green, pink or white be found intact, but also illustrations and text as geometric designs, divine iconography, and hieroglyphic inscriptions are, for the most part, seen preserved.

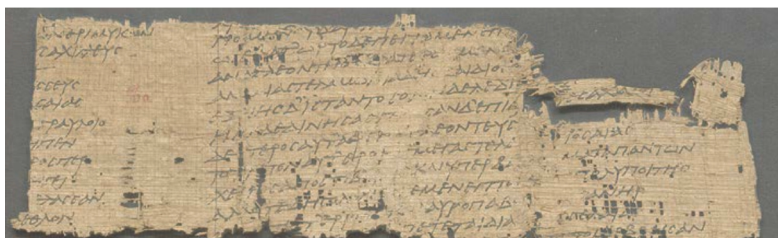
Common iconographic elements include: facial features surrounded by extreme amounts of blue colouring, or an alternation of blue and yellow vertical bands, for the

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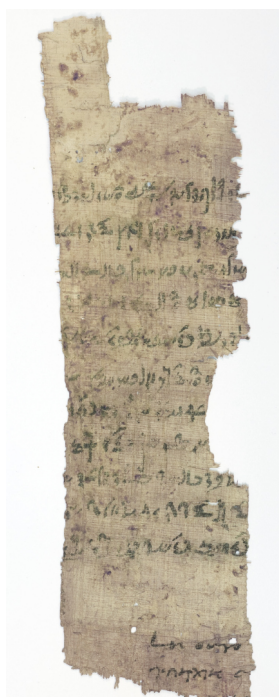
RW Inv 9
Cartonnage fragment from mummy mask



Oxy. 560 Book XXIII of Homer's Iliad



Above: RW Inv 43
Cartonnage fragment of the sons of Horus



tripartite wig of the mask; depictions of concentric geometric and floral designs curving to form a U-shape to represent the *usekh*-collar; a kneeling winged goddess, often holding the feathers of *maat*; and mummiform figures representing the four sons of Horus.

Left: RW Inv 77
Demotic text with Greek below

You can find most of the material digitized in the online repositories at:

- <https://papyri.info/search?COLLECTION=toronto> (The Victoria College Library Papyrus Collection,)
- <https://collections.library.utoronto.ca/view/fisher22:root> (the Classics Department Papyrus Collection, University of Toronto)

You can also access the digitization of the papyrus fragment in the Graham Library (https://www.flickr.com/photos/grahamlibrary_trinityarchives/14720395337/)

Meet the New Board Member: Tisha Polocko

When did you first become interested in Ancient Egypt?

My fascination, or some may say obsession, with Ancient Egypt began in 1979 when I visited the Treasures of Tutankhamun exhibit at the AGO. I just had to learn more about this extraordinary civilization. My mother purchased the accompanying publication, 'Tutankhamun, his tomb and its treasures,' for me, and I still have this beautiful book in my collection.

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

Of course, I adore everything related to Ancient Egypt, but if I had to pick a specific period(s) and interest, it would have to start in the Late Old Kingdom into the Middle Kingdom and New Kingdom. Religious beliefs and funerary practices were evolving, with items produced explicitly for burial purposes, and this aspect really captivates me. I am particularly fascinated by shabtis and their development over time, from the initial wax figures, the stick shabtis and their model shabti coffins with their Osirian connections to the exquisite abundance of faience and limestone servant shabtis found with New Kingdom burials.

What fieldwork have you been involved in?

Before I set off to work in Egypt, my initial fieldwork experience took place locally at a nineteenth-century shipyard along the twelve-mile creek in St. Catharines, Ontario. This shipyard was part of the first and second Welland Canals. I put that archaeological fieldwork knowledge to good use this past summer when I went to Egypt to volunteer with the South Asasif Conservation Project. This Egyptian-American mission is directed by Dr. Elena Pischikova and was founded in 2006 with the undertaking of clearing, restoring, and reconstructing three Kushite tombs in the Theban South Asasif necropolis: Karabasken (TT 391), Karakhamun (TT 223) and Irtieru (TT 390). I was part of the field team that was tasked with clearing the area in front of the twenty-fifth Dynasty tomb of Karakhamun. It was recently announced that a Middle Kingdom tomb was found with numerous intact burials containing large amounts of jewellery and other offering items south of the Karabasken superstructure. Many more treasures are waiting to be uncovered in this vast

necropolis, and I am pleased to be returning for the 2025 season.

Are there any special moments from your fieldwork that stand out for you?

I have enjoyed all aspects of my fieldwork, but I guess the biggest thrill is unearthing that very first object, no matter how small it may be, knowing that it is part of history and there is a story behind every piece found.

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

I have always been intrigued by the women who have ventured into Egyptology, so I must mention Margaret Benson, the first woman to be given a concession in Egypt in 1895 and the countless partners and wives of famous Egyptologists such as Emma Andrews, Hilda Petrie, and Winifred Newberry to name a few who worked tirelessly alongside their partners without receiving the credit they deserved for their efforts. These historic heroines paved the way for the current female Egyptologists and those to come.

What are your future goals?

I would certainly like to continue to do fieldwork in Egypt and at historical archaeological sites closer to home as long as I can.



Report of the Symposium 2024 'ASWAN: SOURCE OF WONDERS: The SSEA'S 48th Annual Symposium'

The Symposium on November 2, 2024, took place at the Koffler Auditorium, University of Toronto and was part of the Symposium Weekend which included two days of Scholar's Colloquium presentations. Presented in hybrid format, it was a pleasure to welcome an enthusiastic live audience who in addition to the speaker presentations, enjoyed the time to network, browse at the marketplace and load up on books for amazing prices.

Each speakers provided a different perspective on the wonders of Aswan from their own studies and explorations. Featured speakers were: *Keynote Speaker: Cornelius von Pilgrim*, Director of the Swiss Institute in Cairo, with other featured speakers: **Jitse Dijkstra**, University of Ottawa; **Gayle Gibson**, Royal Ontario Museum; **Kate Liska**, California State University San Bernardino; **Alejandro Jiménez-Serrano**, Jaén University – by zoom; **Oren Siegel**, University of Toronto.

SSEA President Mark Trumpour and Prof. Kei Yamamoto welcomed everyone to the symposium. The morning session was chaired by Kei Yamamoto.

Opening speaker Gayle Gibson gave an engaging talk entitled *Aswan: A Fine Place to Spend Eternity*. Oren Siegel's presentation about *Boundary-Making in the First Cataract Region 4th and 3rd Millenium BCE*, drew on his work with the *Borderscape Project*.

After a short break, keynote speaker Cornelius von Pilgrim discussed *Change and Continuity in the Town of Elephantine*, giving us a view of his work and findings excavating the complex site of Elephantine Island.

After a break to mix and mingle over lunch, Prof. Jean Revez introduced Alejandro Jimenez-Serrano, who went into the details of the tombs of this remarkable site in his talk *Understanding the Necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa: Beyond the Governors' Funerary Complex*. He joined us by Zoom from Spain.

Kate Liska followed with a lively presentation *Enriching Each Other: The Integral Relationship between Wadi el-Hudi and Aswan*. Her talk provided a fascinating look at one of the Aswan area's most important sources of wealth, the amethyst mines of Wadi el-Hudi. To close out the day, Jitse Dijkstra spoke about the evidence left by ancient visitors to the famous temple of Philae who answered *The Call of Isis: Visitors to Philae* in the Graeco-Roman Period.

For members who were not able to attend the Symposium, you can review abstracts for all the weekend presentations on the SSEA website at: <https://ssea2020.thessea.org/index.php/events/annual-scholars-colloquium-symposium-weekend-2024/symposium-2024-abstracts-of-papers>. The bios for our Symposium speakers can also be viewed there.

Report of the Scholars' Colloquium 2024

This year's Scholars' Colloquium featured 21 presentations spread over two days, including 3 Virtual Posters. President Mark Trumpour welcomed attendees to the first day in the Boardroom of Toronto's Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Department (NMC).

The first presenter was from NMC; Prof. Andreas Winkler proposed a new source for zodiac iconography in "Locks and Flails: an observation on transfer of astral knowledge". He was followed by Deborah Sweeney, zooming in from the University of Tel Aviv. She examined original sources to shed light on "Bukhanef, devotee of Hathor – an unusual woman from Deir el-Medîna". In her talk, "A Collection of Ancient Egyptian Wooden Funerary Figures from Qubbet-el-Hawa at the Bournemouth Natural Science Society", Sam Powell of Birmingham University described findings from her research into various aspects of a collection of charming wooden funerary figures.

Following a break, Reuben Hutchinson-Wong, also of Birmingham University, shed light on uses of archival data in "Old but not dead data: the use of archives in the study of the archaeology of tomb reuse at Qubbet al-Hawâ." The morning concluded with a presentation by Valentina Santini, (Birmingham University), this year's winner of the Sally L.D. Katary Travel Scholarship. She delved into the ways ancient Egyptians coped with death in "Sustaining Each Other: A Psychological and Anthropological Perspective on New Kingdom Iconography of Bereavement Scenes".

The first speaker after lunch presented online from Luxor, Egypt. Rowida Abobakr's talk "Ecclesiastical Charity for the Poor through Theban Coptic Documents" outlined the approach to charity based on surviving documents. Amira Hamdy, University of Lille, France, presented her study of "The Demotic Inscriptions from the Serapeum of Memphis's Gate in the Louvre Museum (N°420)", based on a large number of Demotic inscriptions on the gate.

Edmund Meltzer (Pacifica Graduate Institute) and Gonzalo Sanchez (Independent Researcher), treated us to a joint presentation of results of their new translation of a famous papyrus in "Snakes in the Brooklyn Medical Papyrus aka Snake or Snakebite Papyrus". Prior to the break, we were challenged by John Gee, (Brigham Young University) to reflect on the Egyptian title *Hm-nTr* and how it is most appropriately translated, in "Prophets in Ancient Egypt".

After our final break, Elisabeta Pana of Central Connecticut State University presented a theory on the alignments among a number of monuments in western Thebes from the time of Amenhotep III, "On the Path to Becoming a Deity". This stimulating day was concluded by Lyla Pinch-Brock, (Royal Ontario Museum) on the work of "Restoring the sarcophagus lid of Queen Takhat".

Day two of the Colloquium was held in Koffler Auditorium. It began with three Virtual Poster presentations. First up was Kirsten Uyttersprot, (Ku Leuven, Belgium) who presented ideas on a group of mysterious figurines, asking "What is the Function of the Kneeling Woman Vessels from the 18th Dynasty?" The poster of Ana Belén Rumí Gutierrez traced the steps in Greek influence preceding the Ptolemies: "Hellenizing the Pharaohs: Greek settlements leading to Ptolemaic dynastic rulership." The final poster presented a joint project: Patricia Bou Pérez, Ana Díez-Flóres, Nerea López-Díaz and Clara Martínez-Moreno, (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) discussed "Social Media as an Academic Tool: The EGEPOA Project".

Following these presentations, Prof. Jean Revez, (U. de Québec à Montréal – UQAM) took us to Montreal, discussing a rarely seen collection in "Jules Ratzkowski and the Egyptian Collection at the Château de Ramezay Museum in Montreal".

After lunch, we stayed in Canada as Thomas Greiner and Stephen Ficalora, from the University of Toronto, gave some examples of "Ancient Egyptian Influences across Toronto's Architectural and Cultural Landscapes".

They were followed by Mona Akmal Nasr, studying at the Università di Pisa, who moved us back to the predynastic period with "Reconstructing the biography of the Predynastic fishtails". From the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas de Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo – ILC, Shi Wei Hsu took us inside the emotions of Taharqa with "The Despair of Taharqa: Some case studies on emotions in the royal inscriptions of Taharqa".

A break brought us to the final two presentations for the Colloquium. Megan Hanway, of the U of T presented her research into "The Material Sourcing and Production of Upper Egyptian 'Soul Houses' at the Royal Ontario Museum." The Colloquium wound up with a talk by SSEA President Mark Trumpour (Departmental Associate, ROM) who discussed some ideas on a monument in Rome that is not quite what it seems: "The Stela of Amun in Rome's Barberini Gardens".

We thank our session chairs for their excellent job of keeping the days on track, moderating the question sessions and problem-solving! Thank-you Jean Li, Ron Leprohon, Kei Yamamoto, Jean Revez and Gayle Gibson.

Stephen Ficalora did his usual fine job as master of Zoom for the weekend, with volunteer Eva Escandon running the show on Friday.

Through the weekend, the front-of-house was kept running smoothly by Elaine Crabtree and her crew of volunteers – Chana Algarvio, Amber Hutchinson, Ellen Matsui, Jill Walker Olah, and Tisha



Polocko.

And finally, particular thanks go to Karin Eaton and her planning committee, including Kei Yamamoto who was key to arranging the Symposium speakers.

Rapport du Symposium 2024

‘Le 48ème Symposium annuel de la SEEA : ASSOUAN: SOURCE DE MERVEILLES’

Le Symposium s'est tenu le 2 novembre 2024 à l'auditorium Koffler de l'Université de Toronto et complétait les deux jours du Colloque des chercheuses et chercheurs des 1er et 3 novembre. Présenté en format hybride, ce fut un plaisir d'accueillir un public enthousiaste qui, en plus des conférences, a apprécié les moments de réseautage, le temps du magasinage au marché et la possibilité d'acheter des livres à des prix incroyables.

Chaque conférencier et conférencière a présenté une perspective différente sur les merveilles d'Assouan à partir de ses propres études et explorations. Les conférenciers invités furent : **Cornelius von Pilgrim**, directeur de l'Institut suisse du Caire et orateur principal, **Jitse Dijkstra**, de l'Université d'Ottawa ; **Gayle Gibson**, du Musée royal de l'Ontario ; **Kate Liska**, de la California State University à San Bernardino ; **Alejandro Jiménez-Serrano**, de l'Université de Jaén - par zoom et **Oren Siegel**, de l'Université de Toronto.

Le président de la SEEA, Mark Trumpour et le professeur Kei Yamamoto ont souhaité la bienvenue à tous les participants et participantes au Symposium. La session du matin a été présidée par Kei Yamamoto, qui a également joué un rôle clé dans la coordination de la journée.

La conférence d'ouverture présentée par Gayle Gibson a livré un exposé captivant intitulé *Aswan: A Fine Place to Spend Eternity* (Assouan, un bel endroit pour passer l'éternité). S'appuyant sur le travail qu'il a réalisé dans le cadre du Borderscape Project, Oren Siegel nous a entretenu sur *Boundary-Making in the First Cataract Region 4th and 3rd Millennium BCE* (La création des frontières dans la région de la première cataracte au 4e et 3e millénaires avant notre ère).

Après une courte pause, l'orateur principal Cornelius von Pilgrim a parlé de *Change and Continuity in the Town of Elephantine* (Changement et Continuité dans la ville d'Éléphantine), nous donnant un aperçu de son travail et de ses découvertes lors des fouilles du site complexe de l'île d'Éléphantine.

Puis, faisant suite à la pause du lunch, prof. Jean Revez a présenté Alejandro Jimenez-Serrano, qui, rejoint en Espagne via la plateforme Zoom, nous a détaillé les tombes d'un site remarquable dans son exposé *Understanding the Necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa : Beyond the Governors' Funerary Complex* (Comprendre la nécropole de Qubbet el-Hawa : au-delà du complexe funéraire des gouverneurs).

Kate Liska a suivi avec une présentation vivante intitulée *Enriching Each Other: The Integral Relationship between Wadi el-Hudi and Aswan* (S'enrichir l'un l'autre : La relation intégrale entre Wadi el-Hudi et Assouan). Son exposé a jeté un regard fascinant sur l'une des plus importantes sources de richesse de la région d'Assouan, les mines d'améthyste de Wadi el-Hudi. Pour clore la journée, Jitse Dijkstra a parlé des traces laissées par les anciens visiteurs du célèbre temple de Philae qui ont répondu à *The Call of Isis: Visitors to Philae in the Graeco-Roman Period*. (L'appel d'Isis : Visiteurs de Philae à l'époque gréco-romaine).

Les membres qui n'ont pas pu assister au symposium peuvent consulter les résumés de toutes les présentations du week-end sur le site web de la SSEA/SEEA à l'adresse suivante :

<https://ssea2020.thessea.org/index.php/events/annual-scholars-colloquium-symposium-weekend-2024/symposium-2024-abstracts-of-papers>.

Les biographies des conférenciers et conférencières du Symposium peuvent également être consultées sur ce site.

Rapport du Colloque des chercheurs et chercheuses 2024

Le Colloque des chercheuses et chercheurs de cette année a offert 21 présentations réparties sur deux jours dont 3 affiches virtuelles. Le président Mark Trumpour a accueilli les participants le premier jour dans la salle de conférence du Département des civilisations du Proche et du Moyen-Orient de Toronto (NMC).

Andreas Winkler a proposé une nouvelle source pour l'iconographie du zodiaque dans « Locks and flails : an observation on transfer of astral knowledge » (Chevelure et fléaux : une observation sur le transfert de connaissances astrales). Il a été suivi par Deborah Sweeney, de l'Université de Tel Aviv. Elle a examiné des sources originales pour faire la lumière sur Bukhanef, devotee of Hathor – an unusual woman from Deir el-Medina (Boukhanef, dévote d'Hathor - une femme inhabituelle de Deir el-Medina)..

Dans sa présentation *A Collection of Ancient Egyptian Wooden Funerary Figures from Qubbet-el-Hawa at the Bournemouth Natural Science Society* (Une collection de figures funéraires en bois de l'Égypte ancienne provenant de Qubbet-el-Hawa à la Bournemouth Natural Science Society), Sam Powell, de l'Université de Birmingham, a décrit les résultats de ses recherches sur divers aspects d'une collection de charmantes figures funéraires en bois.

Après une pause, Reuben Hutchinson-Wong, également de l'Université de Birmingham, a fait la lumière sur l'utilisation des données d'archives dans *Old but not dead data : the use of archives in the study of the archaeology of*

tomb reuse at Qubbet al-Hawā » (Données anciennes mais pas mortes : l'utilisation des archives dans l'étude de l'archéologie des tombes réutilisées à Qubbet al-Hawā).

La matinée s'est achevée par une présentation de Valentina Santini (Université de Birmingham), lauréate de cette année de la bourse Sally L.D. Katary. Elle s'est penchée sur la façon dont les Égyptiens de l'Antiquité faisaient face à la mort dans *Sustaining Each Other : A Psychological and Anthropological Perspective on New Kingdom Iconography of Bereavement Scenes* (Se soutenir mutuellement : une perspective psychologique et anthropologique sur l'iconographie des scènes de deuil du Nouvel Empire).

Après la pause du midi, la conférencière Rowida Abobakr a présenté un exposé en ligne depuis Louxor en Égypte intitulé *Ecclesiastical Charity for the Poor through Theban Coptic Documents* (La charité ecclésiastique pour les pauvres à travers les documents coptes thébains), décrivant l'approche de la charité sur la base des documents qui ont survécu. Amira Hamdy, de l'Université de Lille (France) a présenté son étude sur *The Demotic Inscriptions from the Serapeum of Memphis's Gate in the Louvre Museum (N°420)* (Les inscriptions démotiques de la porte du Serapeum de Memphis au musée du Louvre (N°420)), basée sur un grand nombre d'inscriptions démotiques inscrites sur la porte.

Edmund Meltzer (Pacifica Graduate Institute) et Gonzalo Sanchez (chercheur indépendant) nous ont offert une présentation conjointe des résultats de leur nouvelle traduction d'un papyrus célèbre dans *Snakes in the Brooklyn Medical Papyrus aka Snake or Snakebite Papyrus* (Les serpents dans le papyrus médical de Brooklyn, alias le papyrus du serpent ou de la morsure de serpent). Avant la pause, John Gee (Brigham Young University) nous a demandé de réfléchir au titre égyptien Hm-nTr et à sa traduction la plus appropriée dans *Prophets in Ancient Egypt* (Prophètes de l'Égypte ancienne).

Après la dernière pause, Elisabeta Pana, de la Central Connecticut State University, a offert une théorie sur les alignements d'un certain nombre de monuments de Thèbes Ouest à l'époque d'Amenhotep III, *On the Path to Becoming a Deity* (Sur le chemin pour devenir une divinité). Lyla Pinch-Brock (Musée royal de l'Ontario) a conclu cette journée stimulante en présentant le travail de restauration du couvercle du sarcophage de la reine Takhat.

La deuxième journée du colloque s'est déroulée dans l'auditorium Koffler. Elle a débuté par trois présentations d'affiches virtuelles. Tout d'abord, Kirsten Uyttersprot (Ku Leuven, Belgique) a présenté ses idées sur un groupe de figurines mystérieuses, en posant la question suivante : « Quelle est la fonction des vases de la femme agenouillée de la XVIIIe dynastie ? ». L'affiche d'Ana Belén Rumí Gutierrez a retracé les étapes de l'influence grecque précédant les Ptolémées : *Hellenizing the Pharaohs : Greek settlements leading to Ptolemaic dynastic rulership* (Les établissements grecs menant à la domination dynastique ptolémaïque). La dernière affiche présentait un projet commun de Patricia Bou Pérez, Ana Díez-Flóres, Nerea López-Díaz et Clara Martínez-Moreno, (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) intitulé *Social Media as an Academic Tool : The EGEPOA Project* (Les médias sociaux comme outil académique : le projet EGEPOA).

Après ces présentations, le professeur Jean Revez (U. du Québec à Montréal - UQAM) nous a emmené à Montréal où il a parlé d'une collection rarement vue *Jules Ratzkowski and the Egyptian Collection at the Château de Ramezay Museum in Montreal* (Jules Ratzkowski et la collection égyptienne du musée du Château Ramezay à Montréal).

Après la pause du midi, nous sommes restés au Canada puisque Thomas Greiner et Stephen Ficalora de l'Université de Toronto, ont donné quelques exemples des influences de l'Égypte ancienne dans les paysages architecturaux et culturels de Toronto (*Ancient Egyptian Influences across Toronto's Architectural and Cultural Landscapes*).

Ils ont été suivis par Mona Akmal Nasr, étudiante à l'Université de Pise qui nous a ramenés à la période prédynastique avec *Reconstructing the biography of the Predynastic fishtails* (Reconstruire la biographie des queues de poisson prédynastiques). Puis, de l'Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas de Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo - ILC, Shi Wei Hsu nous a fait pénétrer dans les émotions de Taharqa avec *The Despair of Taharqa : Some case studies on emotions in the royal inscriptions of Taharqa* (Le désespoir de Taharqa : quelques études de cas sur les émotions dans les inscriptions royales de Taharqa).

Après une pause, nous avons assisté à nos deux dernières présentations du Colloque. Megan Hanway, de l'Université de Toronto, a présenté ses recherches sur *The Material Sourcing and Production of Upper Egyptian "Soul Houses" at the Royal Ontario Museum* (L'approvisionnement en matériaux et la production des « maisons de l'âme » de Haute Égypte au Musée royal de l'Ontario). Le Colloque s'est terminé par un exposé du président de la SEEA, Mark Trumpour (associé départemental du ROM), qui a présenté quelques idées sur un monument à Rome qui n'est pas tout à fait ce qu'il semble être *The Stela of Amun in Rome's Barberini Gardens*: (La stèle d'Amon dans les jardins Barberini de Rome).

Nous remercions nos présidents et présidentes de session pour leur excellent travail, qui a permis de maintenir les journées sur la bonne voie, de modérer les séances de questions et de résoudre les problèmes ! Merci à Jean Li, Ron Leprohon, Kei Yamamoto, Jean Revez et Gayle Gibson.

Stephen Ficalora, quant à lui, a fait un excellent travail selon son habitude en tant que maître de la technologie Zoom durant le week-end, assisté d'une bénévole, Eva Escandon, à la barre de direction le vendredi.

Tout au long du week-end, Elaine Crabtree et son équipe de bénévoles - Chana Algarvio, Amber Hutchinson, Ellen Matsui, Jill Walker Olah et Tisha Polocko - ont assuré le bon fonctionnement de l'accueil.

Enfin, des remerciements particuliers sont adressés à Karin Eaton et à son comité de planification, notamment à Kei Yamamoto, qui a joué un rôle clé dans l'organisation des conférenciers du Symposium.

The SSEA Annual General Meeting, Friday November 2

The Society held its Annual General Meeting once again in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, 4 Bancroft Ave., Toronto. The hybrid meeting had good attendance with 20 members attending in person, another 11 online and 14 via Proxy.

President Mark Trumpour outlined a number of highlights of the past year, among them:

- The review of our Articles and Bylaws, made necessary by the Province of Ontario, was completed, ratified by Members at a special meeting on June 1, and is filed with the Government.
- The Montreal Chapter was congratulated and presented with a Certificate for its 25 years as a Chapter.
- Toronto Chapter received a sizeable inheritance from the late Steven Shubert. Most of this has been invested and the growth will be used to fund projects.
- Kei Yamamoto arranged for Dr. Abbas, the CEO of the Museum of Civilization in Cairo, as our Sally Katary lecturer. He gave a very popular talk on the GEM.
- The Sally Katary scholarship was awarded to Valentina Santini, who traveled from Birmingham to present at the Colloquium.
- In Toronto, NMC has filled vacancies, welcoming new professors, Oren Siegel and Andreas Winkler. Prof. Mary-Anne Wegner has returned to the active teaching staff.

The Society's Financial Reports and Budgets were presented and accepted. The full financial documents are available on request (sseainfo@gmail.com).

This year, Trustee Elaine Crabtree decided to step down from the Board, and was thanked for her years of service. Deirdre Keleher has also stepped down as Toronto Chapter Rep, but remains on the Toronto Executive.

The ensuing election determined the following as your new Board of Trustees and Officers for 2024-2025:

Mark Trumpour (*President*), Prof. **Kei Yamamoto** (*Vice President*), **Arlette Londes** (*Treasurer*), Dr. **Peter Sheldrick** (*Secretary of the Board*), **Gayle Gibson**, Dr. **Cloé Caron**, **Karin Eaton**, **Paul English**, **Stephen Ficalora**, Prof. **Jackie Jay**, Dr. **Casey Kirkpatrick**, Prof. **Jean Li**, Dr. **Edmund Meltzer**, **Tisha Polocko**, Dr. **Simone Burger Robin** and **Peter Robinson**.

The traditional Members' Reception that followed was enjoyed by all, with refreshments arranged by Arlette Londes and Elaine Crabtree, with the assistance of Alain Londes, Ellen Matsui and Tisha Polocko.

Assemblée générale annuelle de la SSEA/SEEA, vendredi 2 novembre

La Société a tenu encore cette année son assemblée générale annuelle au Département des civilisations du Proche et du Moyen-Orient (NMC), situé au 4, avenue Bancroft, à Toronto. Cette réunion hybride a attiré un bon nombre de participants : 20 membres étaient présents en personne, 11 en ligne et 14 par procuration.

Le président Mark Trumpour a souligné plusieurs faits marquants de l'année écoulée, parmi lesquels :

- La révision de nos statuts et règlements, rendue nécessaire à la demande de la province de l'Ontario, a été achevée, ratifiée par les membres lors d'une réunion spéciale tenue le 1er juin et déposée auprès du gouvernement.
- Le Chapitre de Montréal a été félicité et a reçu un certificat pour célébrer ses 25 ans d'existence.
- Le Chapitre de Toronto a reçu un héritage considérable de feu Steven Shubert. La majeure partie de cet héritage a été investie et les fruits de cet investissement seront utilisés pour financer de futurs projets.
- Kei Yamamoto a fait en sorte que le Dr Abbas, directeur général du Musée des civilisations du Caire, soit notre invité conférencier du Fonds Sally Katary. Il a donné une conférence très appréciée sur le GEM.
- La bourse Sally Katary a été attribuée à Valentina Santini qui a fait le voyage de Birmingham vers Toronto pour participer au colloque.
- À Toronto, le NMC a comblé des postes vacants en accueillant les nouveaux professeurs Oren Siegel et Andreas Winkler. Le professeur Mary-Anne Wegner a réintégré le corps enseignant.

Les rapports financiers et les budgets de la Société ont été présentés et entérinés par l'assemblée. Les documents financiers complets sont disponibles sur demande (sseainfo@gmail.com).

Cette année, l'administratrice Elaine Crabtree a décidé de se retirer du conseil d'administration et a été remerciée pour ses années de service. Deirdre Keleher a également démissionné de son poste de représentante du Chapitre de Toronto mais demeure au sein de l'exécutif.

L'élection qui a suivi a désigné les personnes suivantes en tant qu'officiers au Conseil d'administration pour 2024-2025:

Mark Trumpour (*président*), **Kei Yamamoto** (*vice-président*), **Arlette Londes** (*trésorière*), Dr. **Peter Sheldrick** (*secrétaire du conseil*), **Gayle Gibson**, Dre **Cloé Caron**, **Karin Eaton**, **Paul English**, **Stephen Ficalora**, Prof. **Jackie Jay**, Dre **Casey Kirkpatrick**, Prof. **Jean Li**, Dr. **Edmund Meltzer**, **Tisha Polocko**, Dre **Simone Burger Robin** et **Peter Robinson**.

La traditionnelle réception des membres qui a suivi fut appréciée de tous et a été organisée par Arlette Londes et Elaine Crabtree avec l'aide d'Alain Londes, Ellen Matsui et Tisha Polocko.

Chapter News

Exploring the Great Pyramid... in Calgary!

The exhibit 'Horizon of Khufu – Journey in Ancient Egypt' is currently on in Calgary and was recently extended until early March. This is a virtual reality (VR) presentation which provides a virtual tour of the pyramid of Khufu and the surrounding Giza Plateau.

I am not a gamer, and my previous experience of VR is limited to geologic modelling and seismic interpretation, so I was not sure what to expect! Having been on the plateau and inside the actual pyramid several times, and as recently as last April, I was very impressed with the realism of the experience, helped no doubt by the fact that Egyptologist Peter der Manuelian, who directs the Giza Project at Harvard, collaborated on this exhibit.

As part of the 45-minute tour, you get to enter the pyramid, climb up through the Grand Gallery and enter the King's Chamber. You also get to stand on top of the pyramid and see the graffiti there, not something many of us will experience in real life, and enjoy the view over the plateau, both modern day and how it may have looked in ancient times.

It is of course no substitute for a real visit, though I did not miss the heat, crowds and smells! I can certainly recommend the experience both for neophytes keen to learn more about ancient Egypt as well as those wanting to be reminded of past visits.

Having already played in London (UK) and Montreal, tickets are currently available for several other cities, so look out for a location close to you. It is not inexpensive, but there are discounts for seniors and children, and discounted pre-sale tickets. And if you are visiting the exhibit in Calgary at Chinook Mall, make sure you also check out the Egyptianizing architecture of the adjacent cinema.

Paul English

Upcoming news from Calgary

The Museo Egizio celebrated its 200th anniversary last year, and whether or not this great museum is on your bucket list, you might want to check out an upcoming documentary on this Turin landmark.

'The Immortals. The Wonders of the Museo Egizio' is a 95-minute English language documentary playing at many Cineplex cinemas across Canada on February 8th & 9th.

Welcome to our new members

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

Rika Akasaki, Marie-Rose Bascaron, Diane Boisvert, Julie Desjardins, Xavier Ramirez-Drolet, Christelle Dubois, Lior Gautier, Olivier Giroud-Fliegner, Amira Hamdy, Daniel-Jean Primeau, Valentina Santini, Aynharan Sinnarajah, Lianna Sternklar, and Andreas Winkler.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the members of the SSEA/SÉÉA who passed this year:

Maurice Bierbrier - longtime member of the SSEA, well-known Egyptologist, author, **Benoit Carrier** - member of our Montreal Chapter, **Gerald Kadish** - one of the SSEA's original members and a past Trustee, **Donald Redford** - a founding member, former Trustee and past president and a renowned Egyptologist.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends.

A Call for Memories

This year's volume of the JSSEA (volume 51) is in honour of our late member, Steven Shubert. If any member would like to include a brief remembrance, tribute or memory of him in 200 words or so, please email your intention to do so now. Your text should be completed and emailed to the JSSEA before May 15 to: journalofthessea@gmail.com

And finally...

Volunteers needed: Are you active with social media, esp. Instagram? We need your help! Contact us at sseainfo@gmail.com

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.