

Foy Scalf

For the first time in perhaps a decade, an in-class course on the grammar of Middle Egyptian was taught for the Oriental Institute Museum over the winter and fall quarters of 2011. **Foy Scalf** led a dedicated class through eight weeks of an Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs (January 11–March 3), during which the students covered the first eight lessons in James Hoch’s *Middle Egyptian Grammar*. Hoch’s final eight lessons were completed by a few dedicated souls during Intermediate Egyptian Hieroglyphs (April 14–June 2), thereby giving them a solid foundation in the ancient Egyptian language. The class was a success and Foy continues to meet with a small group of these students to further read Egyptian texts in order to solidify their understanding of Egyptian grammar and expand their cultural knowledge of ancient Egypt.

On July 7, 2010, Foy presented a lecture on “Roman Egypt” for Ancient Egyptian Language, Culture, and History, the Egyptian summer school taught by Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer at the Oriental Institute. In April, 2011, Chicago hosted the 62nd Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt at which he presented a paper entitled “Innovation and Tradition: The Placement of Funerary Papyri in Greco-Roman Egypt,” describing insights from his dissertation research. In this paper, he argued that distinct changes in how funerary papyri were prepared for burial had ancient parallels among the iconography associated with preparation of the burial equipment.

In addition to ensuring that the Research Archives is well stocked, Foy made strides on several publication projects. He is currently preparing a manuscript for a Festschrift volume on a collection of unpublished Demotic texts on large jar fragments in the Oriental Institute entitled “A Collection of Demotic Votive Texts from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.” Although heretofore unidentified, the Demotic texts that adorn these large jars indicate that they were probably once used as sacred ibis votive offerings to Thoth. Another Demotic text from a jar in the Oriental Institute is the subject of his manuscript “An Embalmer’s Bowl with Demotic Inscription (OIM 9115).”

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Reviews of several volumes have finally appeared over the last year, including Susanne Bickel and Bernard Mathieu (eds.), *D'un monde à l'autre: textes des pyramides et textes des sarcophages*, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 71 (2011); J. Assmann, *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 70 (2011): 124–26; I. Guermeur, *Les cultes d'Amon hors de Thèbes: recherches de géographie religieuse*, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 70 (2011): 126–27.
