

## Hratch Papazian

**Hratch Papazian** continues work toward completing his next monograph, which centers on the study of the Old Kingdom Gebelein papyri. The monograph will offer a translation of the documents, accompanied by a palaeographical and socio-historical commentary of these important texts from Upper Egypt. Later this year his article dealing with a historical and chronological reassessment of the transitional phase between the Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period will appear in the newly established *Harvard Egyptological Studies*; the second installment of that study, which focuses on the primary sources pertaining to the history of the Eighth Dynasty, will be submitted for publication later this year. With respect to his field project, Papazian continues work at the Old Kingdom step pyramid in South Abydos. This fall's project will consist of implementing a site preservation initiative in order to halt the encroachment of nearby agricultural fields onto the antiquities zone; such illicit activities have become a widespread problem in many parts of Egypt and are threatening several sites at an increasingly alarming rate. Once this important stage is completed a conservation plan will be put in place to ensure the long-term physical stability of the monument, which has been destabilized on several sides due to attempts to dig under it over the last several decades.

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