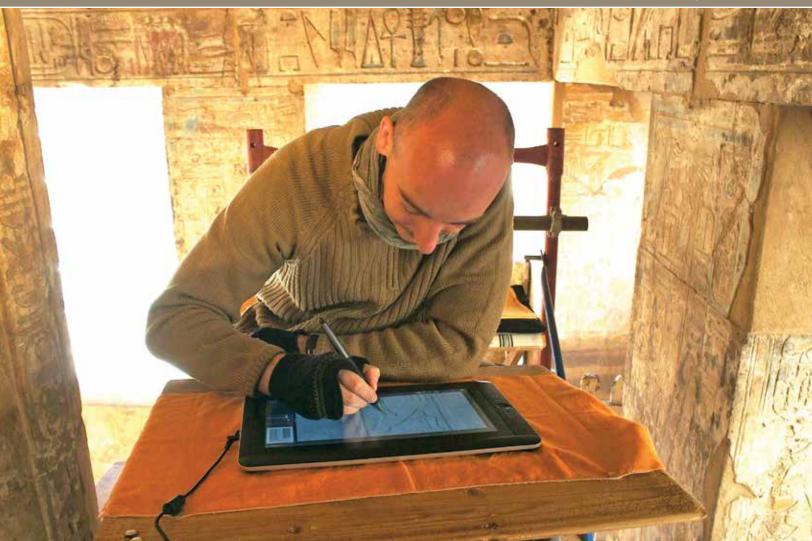


CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN



Volume XXV Privately Circulated July 2014



THE 2013-2014 FIELD SEASON









Chicago House professional staff, January 2014. Standing: Samwell Maher, Girgis Samwell, Samir Guindy, Richard Jasnow. Third row: Safaa Saad Mohamed, Sekina Mohamed Orabi, Hilary McNeill, Jen Kimpton, Brett McClain, Anait and Frank Helmholz, Marie Bryan, Tina di Cerbo, Hanni Mahmoud Hassa. Second row: Nehad Badri, Doaa Mohamed Hassan, Johannes Weninger, Essam el Sayed, Ray Johnson, Jay Heidel, Margaret De Jong. Front row: Lotfi Hassan, Nahed Azziz Samir, Keli Alberts, Sue Osgood, Ellie Smith, Sue Lezon, Yarko Kobylecky. Photo by Sue Lezon

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The Chicago House Field Season October 2013 to April 2014: A Season Diary

By W. Raymond Johnson, Field Director

OCTOBER

I'm happy to report that the Epigraphic Survey began its 2013–2014 archaeological field season quietly and safely on October 15. We enjoyed a long, slow opening, in part due to the Eid al-Adha holiday in mid-October, which delayed the completion of the paperwork by about a week, giving us some extra time to settle in. I traveled to Cairo on October 19 to sign the contract for the season at the Ministry of State for Antiquities and to meet with our MSA, ARCE, USAID, and US Embassy friends. We received our work permissions and all of our security clearances, and senior epigrapher Brett McClain and I delivered copies of the signed contract to the east and west bank

inspectorates the following week, and met new Luxor MSA director Abdel Hakim Karrar. (Our friend and former Luxor MSA director Mansour Boraik was promoted over the summer to be in charge of Middle Egypt antiquities sites; mabruk to Mansour!) We resumed our epigraphic, conservation, and restoration work at Medinet Habu on Monday, October 28.

Brett and I supervised the transfer of our equipment to the temple site, met our MSA inspectors, and with Medinet Habu conservator Lotfi Hassan and stone mason Frank Helmholz reopened the small Amun temple and Medinet Habu blockyard.

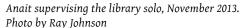
The Chicago House Library reopened the same day. Because librarian Marie Bryan was delayed in the United





Medinet Habu opening: (left) equipment transfer (October 28, 2013); and (right) Sami, at left, reconnecting the electricity in the small Amun temple with Lotfi and Frank. Photos by Ray Johnson







Chicago House workmen Gamal, Saber, and Tayyib refinishing the kitchen doors and windows. Photo by Tina Di Cerbo

States for a few weeks, assistant librarian Anait Helmholz supervised the opening and minded the store quite capably. Within a couple of days the library was very busy, and it was like we had never left!

Egypt is a very different place from when the team was last here in April, but we have been warmly welcomed back. There are modern, armored troop carriers everywhere, in front of churches and hotels, and security is visible everywhere. The mood is calm, even in Cairo. Luxor is quiet, but not entirely bereft of tourists. There were tour groups on my flights to Luxor, and the official word from the Luxor governor is that tourism is 12 percent now, up from 2 percent in September. We've seen a few tour boats on the Nile, and I saw a bus full of tourists the other day. It will take some time, but more and more countries are easing their travel restrictions, and we expect to see a steady increase as the weeks go by.

The days are warm, but the nights are unseasonably cool, even in Luxor (not a complaint!). The house and grounds are clean and beautiful, thanks to the efforts of our workmen and Tina Di Cerbo, who came a month early to supervise the opening and maintenance work. The kitchen plumbing (from 1930) failed at the end of last season and had to be completely replaced. Since the floor tiles had to be torn up, they were replaced as well,

the stove fan was also replaced, and all the woodwork was stripped and stained. The kitchen is now sparkling new and fully functional, again thanks to Tina and our intrepid, skilled workmen.

But there has been sadness. On October 16, on his way to work, Chicago House assistant cook Ibrahim Elias had a heart attack and died before the ambulance could get him to the hospital. A big, burly, gentle man, Ibrahim began work with us in 1995 and was one of the pillars of our staff. He always arrived around 5:00 AM each day to start the prep work in the kitchen and feed the early risers, and he was one of the most sweet-natured human beings I have ever known, always smiling, always with a good word for everyone. A number of us attended his fu-

neral at the new, huge St. Malak Church (near the train station) and his burial in the historic St. Pakhom Monastery (Deir El Shayeb) cemetery outside of Luxor. He leaves a real hole in our ranks, and we will miss him terribly.

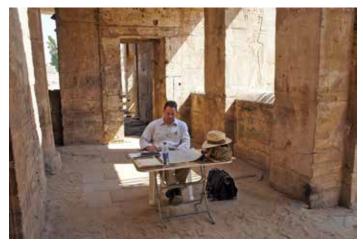


Chicago House cook Ibrahim Elias. Photo by Sue Lezon

NOVEMBER

The month of November has been quiet and peaceful in Luxor; the weather continues to be warm and balmy, cooler at night. The work is going smoothly, and it is very good to be back. Instead of our usual Halloween party, this year we had a quiet, in-house dinner for all the staff on October 31 to celebrate the beginning of the season. It was the first we had seen of Nahed's, Essam's, and Samir's families since April, and all of the children had grown several inches! Since we opened, library use has been steady; we have several Egyptian students working on master's theses, plus two working on their PhDs, in addition to the foreign missions and MSA inspectors who routinely use the library for checking references.

On November 5 I traveled to cold, wet England to give the Amelia Edwards Memorial Lecture at the University of Bristol on November 7 about Chicago House's current work in Thebes. On my return to sunny Luxor we were pleased to host friends and colleagues Geoffrey Martin, Mohsen Kamel, and Piers Litherland, in town for their west bank survey project, at Chicago House for a few meals and stimulating discussion. We look forward to their return in the spring. There are numerous other friends and colleagues working in the area: Myriam Seco and the Spanish team at the Mortuary Temple of Thutmose III, Christophe Thiers and the Franco-Egyptian team at Karnak, John Shearman and the American Research Center in western Thebes and Mut Temple, Francisco Martin Valentin and Teresa Bedman with another Spanish mission at the Theban tomb of Amenhotep III's vizier Amenhotep Huy (Assasif Tomb 28), Zbigniev Sfranski and the Polish-Egyptian mission at Deir El Bahri, Tamás Bacs and the Hungarian mission to the tomb of Imiseba, and so on. More are coming, and our community is growing.



Brett collating a drawing at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple, November 2013. Photo by Ray Johnson

A group from the US Embassy Cultural Affairs Office came by for tea and a quick library tour on November 11 after a trip south. We continue to observe a slow but steady increase in tourism as the weeks have gone by and as more countries relax their travel restrictions to Egypt.

Librarian Marie Bryan returned to Chicago House on November 15, the same day that we started a conservation-student training program at Medinet Habu under the direction of Medinet Habu conservator Lotfi Hassan, and funded by our current USAID Egypt grant. Six students who have never had field experience are now getting some excellent, hands-on experience under the watchful eye of Lotfi. The students are learning the skills needed to condition-survey and treat deteriorating stone, and they are assisting in the documentation, evaluation, and treatment of the sandstone blocks of the Domitian Gate, now dismantled and awaiting restoration. Later they will turn their attention to the shattered



Brett, Lotfi, John Shearman (ARCE), and Ray on the southern enclosure wall of Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Medinet Habu conservation training program begins, supervised by Lotfi. Photo by Ray Johnson



Inspector Fathi, Jay, Frank, and Rosario Pintaudi at Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

blocks of the dismantled southern well of Ramesses III, a small gate of Roman emperor Claudius that we will be dismantling and bringing inside the blockyard for treatment soon, and numerous miscellaneous fragments in the blockyard that require consolidation. There is much to keep them occupied!

On November 17 Chicago House celebrated its eightyninth birthday; it's amazing to think that we are now in our ninetieth year of operation, rapidly catching up to the Oriental Institute's Assyrian Dictionary Project for longevity! On November 18 Dr. Rosario Pintaudi, director of the Istituto Papirologico "G. Vitelli" of the University of Florence, Italy, and also director of the Sheikh Abada/Antinoupolis mission (where Jay Heidel works a few weeks each winter), took a break from building a new guard house at Sheikh Abada, traveled to Luxor with

MSA inspector Fathi Awad, and stayed with us at Chicago House for a few pleasant days.

That day I also took a group of about thirty members of the Luxor Syndicate of Guides through Medinet Habu to meet our team and to brief them on our work activities, new information (including the latest gory details about Ramesses III's assassination thanks to recent DNA and CT scanning work), and current issues. The local guides are a very important bridge between the scientific community and the public, and it is important to keep them well informed; they always have terrific, thoughtful questions.

At Luxor Temple architect/artist Jay Heidel has inaugurated a new data management initiative for the massive amounts of data in the Luxor Temple blockyard. Chicago House long ago started the systematic photography and drawing of the approximately 50,000 relief fragments and architectural material stored in the blockyard, category by category, as part of our Luxor Temple documentation and publication program. So far we have recorded over 3,000 blocks, mostly from the Luxor Temple Colonnade Hall (integrated into our two publications) and Amenhotep III court and temple sanctuary (for future volumes). We've also documented over a hundred blocks from the beautifully decorated Thecla Church outside the temple. But in order to continue that process, and to be prepared to add many, many more fragments that will undoubtedly be recovered in the future (the Corniche Boulevard is built atop hundreds of thousands of relief fragments, for instance), we realized that we needed to revamp our cataloging and data management system. Jay has agreed to take this on and, in consultation with Tina and Jen for access to all previous documentation, is updating the database, starting with the 3,000 core fragments already

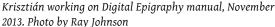


Tina explaining graffiti documentation to the Luxor Syndicate of Guides at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple northern Ptolemaic annex. Photo by Ray Johnson



Epigraphic Survey Luxor Temple blockyard and open-air museum. Photo by Ray Johnson







Andrea at work in the Chicago House Library. Photo by Ray Johnson

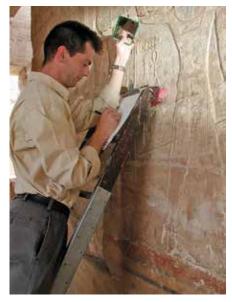
recorded. A major component of the project is to make all of the past — and future — data entries consistent. This takes hours and hours of entering and re-entering data, but will make all present and future work MUCH easier.

I am very pleased to report that Egyptologist/artist Krisztián Vértes has been assembling and composing an innovative "how-to" manual of the new digital inking and penciling methodologies that he has developed for the new digital tools we have incorporated into our documentation program. The Digital Epigraphy manual will serve two functions, as an internal Chicago House reference book for digital drawing techniques, and as a means to share this information with interested friends and colleagues. Therefore we are designing the manual in free, downloadable PDF and eBook formats for access by anyone who is interested. The manual will include detailed instructions for using the new digital tools, plus chapters on our inking conventions, the history of the Epigraphic Survey, and its goals. The eBook version will have lots of additional interactive features: multiple illustrations, scrolling sidebars, and even videos, and we hope to have it out in 2014. Both versions will be annually updated in later "editions" as we learn new tricks, develop new skills, and receive feedback from our colleagues. Sincerest thanks to Krisztián for taking the time (and making the effort) to create this extremely important "textbook" of our new digital drawing techniques.

The Chicago House Library was also a very busy place. Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Andrea Dudek arrived November 23 to assist Marie and Anait with the final stages of the Library of Congress classification conversion project. She ended up doing that and much, much more. PLUS she brought cranberries that she personally made into delicious cranberry sauce for our Thanksgiving feast — thank you, Andrea! We had a very good crowd and were about fifty total,

including Egyptian and foreign friends and colleagues, and lots of children. The turkey was the size of a small car, and it fed the whole crowd quite nicely. God bless our kitchen crew.

I should close with the news that most of you already know, the death of our friend and colleague Harold Hays in Leiden on November 20. He was only forty-eight. Harold was famous for his extraordinary energy, his keen intellect, and his intense love of life. He was one of THE authorities on ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts and, while writing his dissertation on that subject, worked for five seasons with us at Chicago House as epigrapher. The year he finished his PhD, he was appointed university lecturer in Egyptology at Leiden University. We will miss Harold's voice, and his spirit. Our hearts go out to his wife and daughter, Marga and Margui.



Harold Hays collating northern exterior bark sanctuary wall, small Amun temple, Medinet Habu, in 2005. Photo by Ray Johnson

DECEMBER

We expected this winter to be fairly quiet, but it has been anything but; the month of December was a full one. On December 2 I had a very cordial meeting with the current Governor of Luxor, Dr. Tarek Saad El-Din, who was appointed this past summer; later in the month he paid us a visit at Chicago House. From December 3 to 5 we were pleased to help host the visit of acting US ambassador, Chargé d'Affaires, David Satterfield on a review of USAID, ARCE, and Chicago House projects in Luxor. ARCE director Gerry Scott, ARCE Associate Director John Shearman, the Chicago House team and I had much to show him, and the conversations on site and at Chicago House were stimulating and lively.

On December 8 stonemason Johannes Weninger arrived to assist Frank Helmholz with the Domitian Gate reconstruction work at Medinet Habu. The first course is now complete, mostly newly quarried and shaped sandstone, and the second course is almost finished. Because more new stone is necessary for reconstruction than we originally realized, Johannes' expertise will help us achieve our goal to finish the re-erection of the sandstone gate by the end of next season, on schedule.

Senior epigrapher Brett McClain, epigrapher Jen Kimpton, and senior artist Sue Osgood worked with artists Keli Alberts and Krisztián Vértes on the final collations and reviews of the drawings for the next volume in the small Amun temple series, *Medinet Habu Volume X* (as well as some drawings for *Medinet Habu Volume XI*), for which I have done a number of director's checks on site. Richard Jasnow joined Tina at Medinet Habu at the end of December to continue work on the Demotic graffiti they have been recording — and preserving — throughout the complex. All of this work, including the epigraphic documentation, is generously supported by a grant from USAID Egypt.

December and now January have also been a time of lots of in-house work, including updating our various databases. Photo archivist Sue Lezon and registrar Ellie Smith arrived in mid-December to coordinate Chicago House's image management and have been upgrading the Filemaker-Pro Photo Archives database to Filemaker-Pro 12. The new Luxor Temple blockyard database would not have been possible without Filemaker-Pro guru Andrea Dudek, who created a wholly new database that has made Jay's task much easier; he is now filling it with data. Thank you, Andrea! Andrea also helped us achieve our goal of the conversion of our library holdings to the Library of Congress classification system, which was finished on December 12. Mabruk to Chicago House librarian Dr. Marie Bryan, assistant librarian Anait Helmholz,



Ray gives Chicago House library briefing for US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires David Satterfield and Elizabeth Fleming, December 3, 2013. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky



Medinet Habu visit by US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires David Satterfield, December 3, 2013. Stone mason Frank explaining restoration program. Photo by Ray Johnson



Johannes at work in the stone yard, December 19, 2013, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



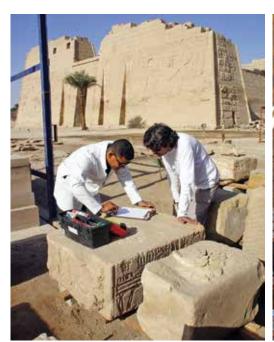
The Chicago House Library "gang" — Marie, Andrea, Jen, and Anait — celebrating the completion of the Library of Congress conversion. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky



Statue of Thoth/Khonsu as a baboon in the Khonsu Temple Hypostyle Hall. Photo by Ray Johnson

former librarian Jen, and Andrea for this momentous achievement. There's still some follow-up work to do, and the moving of the books to their final position, but the bulk of the work is now accomplished. I should also mention and acknowledge the generous and much appreciated assistance this winter of library volunteer Gina Gamil Nassim Salama.

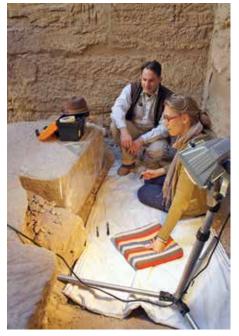
In the middle of the month, after the Mulid Al Nabi, the Prophet's Birthday, we resumed our work at Khonsu Temple, Karnak, recording inscribed, reused blocks in the flooring of the Khonsu Temple small Hypostyle Hall currently being cleaned for restoration by the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). The ARCE workmen will eventually fill the gaps in the flooring with new sandstone



Lotfi and conservation student Hanni checking a Domitian Gate block. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brett, Sue, and Margaret recording reliefs in the small Amun Temple, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brett and Keli discussing a reused block in the Khonsu Temple Hypostyle Hall. Photo by Ray Johnson

slabs, but before they do, the Chicago House epigraphic team (primarily epigrapher Jen — who now supervises the project — artist Keli, and I) will record whatever inscribed surfaces are exposed, and will integrate the new data with the hundreds of other inscribed blocks that we have already recorded in conjunction with ARCE's floor restoration program throughout the temple. The entire building is constructed of blocks from earlier monuments taken down and reused by Ramesses III for quick construction of his new temple to Khonsu, and this is the first time we have had access to the reused material in this particular area. One never knows what will turn up!

Our Christmas holiday was festive and warm. No blizzards here! (Although you might have heard that parts of Cairo and Sinai DID get snow in December — an extremely rare event.) While a number of staff traveled home (or simply traveled) over Christmas, there were enough of us



Library volunteer Gina, with engineer Girgis's son Mark and his family, Christmas. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky



Christmas dinner at Chicago House, including guests (left to right) Dr. Ali Asfar; Moamen, Shimaa and Dorra; Ibrahim Soleiman; ARCE conservator Kadija; and John Shearman. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

still here to enjoy a traditional holiday, with Christmas cookie decorating and distributing to our friends, Christmas tree decorating, and a lovely dinner on Christmas Day with about forty Egyptian, foreign, and American guests. Our friends former Egyptian Museum director Dr. Wafaa El-Saddik and husband Azmy El-Rabbat stayed with us over the holidays and brightened them considerably. Old friend Ali Asfar, former Gurna Inspectorate director and director general of Upper Egyptian monuments, was also in town and joined us for our Christmas feast.

It was a good and productive month, but there were more transitions. I must sadly acknowledge the passing of World Monuments Fund philanthropist Robert W. Wilson on December 23, 2013. The Epigraphic Survey was the lucky recipient of Robert W. Wilson's generosity through the WMF from 2001 until 2012 with a series of "Wilson Challenge to Conserve Our Heritage" grants. His support allowed us to properly store and protect roughly 50,000 inscribed sandstone wall and architectural fragments in the precinct; conserve more than a thousand of them; transform the Luxor Temple blockyard eastern storage areas into a secure, protected storage facility and open-air museum; and even re-erect and restore two major fragment groups back onto their original walls, one group in the great Colonnade Hall, and another group in the Amenhotep III court. The loss to the WMF, and the world, is profound; he was a good friend to us all, and his legacy is extraordinary. We in Luxor are very grateful and proud to have had his help over the years, and we honor his memory now.

JANUARY

Chicago House rang in the New Year 2014 with a festive, in-house dinner, just the Chicago House team and our friends Dr. Wafaa and Azmy. While tourism is still low, Luxor saw a noticeable increase in visitors after Christmas for the New Year celebrations. At Medinet Habu shortly after the new year, I met and talked with two small American tour groups, among a number of other foreign and Egyptian groups, and everyone was having a great time. Progress is slow but steady.

At the beginning of the month, Jay worked with Dr. Wafaa on tweaking the Arabic of three new educational signs for Luxor Temple that describe and illustrate (1) Thebes/Waset, (2) the pylon of Ramesses II, and (3) the Ramesses II first court. (Thank you, Dr. Wafaa!) He was able to scan large sections of the signs on our new, large-format scanner, a generous gift to Chicago House from friends Professor and Mrs. John Shelton Reed and Mrs. Lisa Alther, whom we must profusely thank again here — it is now an



Jay printing educational signage proofs for Luxor Temple with our new, large-format printer. Photo by Ray Johnson

absolutely indispensable part of our documentation program. Jay also resumed his digital facsimile drawing documentation of the "Bentresh" and Ptolemy I blocks in the Luxor Temple blockyard, the first group of fragments that will be published in the Epigraphic Survey's Luxor Temple

blockyard publication series. The "Bentresh" group of text blocks was discovered years ago by former Epigraphic Survey director Lanny Bell and is now being worked on by Robert Ritner and Brett. Jay utilized an exciting new tool in his documentation of the blocks, the Wacom Companion, a brand-new, quite revolutionary, battery-operated digital drawing tablet designed for field work that now allows us to reproduce the first-stage penciling of our facsimile drawing documentation digitally. Thanks to a generous gift from Dr. Marjorie M. Fisher, we obtained the first two of these new digital drawing tablets in December. Tina and Krisztián have used them at Medinet Habu, testing them with great success — and enthusiasm. Subsequently — and thanks to Margie — we were able to order Companion tablets for the entire art team.

Krisztián has already been obliged to add an appendix to the *Digital Epigraphy* manual on the use of the tablet as an initial penciling / documentation tool, and this will grow over time. He was in Hungary over the holidays with Julia and little David, working on the manual, and returned to Luxor January 21 to resume his Roman wall painting facsimile drawing at Luxor Temple.



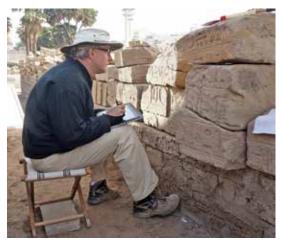
Krisztián, Sue, and Margaret prepare the Wacom Companion for fieldwork. Photo by Ray Johnson

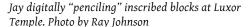


Krisztián briefing Ray and Brett on the Wacom Companion portable digital drawing tablet, Medinet Habu. Photo by Sue Osgood



Wacom Companion being used by Jay in the Luxor Temple blockyard. Photo by Ray Johnson







Keli drawing on a Wacom Companion. Photo by Margaret De Jong



Abdel Rahman, Bismalla, Karim, and Hani in the Chicago House garden. Photo by Ray Johnson

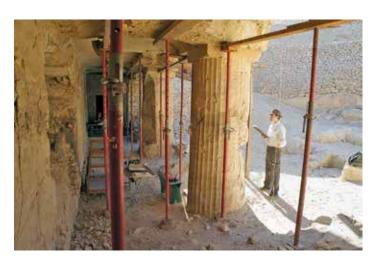
During the week of January 20, ARCE began a muchappreciated project at Medinet Habu, utilizing recycled mudbrick to raise the southern and western enclosure walls for enhanced security. Sincerest thanks to ARCE, and in particular to ARCE Luxor associate director John Shearman, for arranging and coordinating this important work with us and the MSA. We also had a number of visitors. Some of the staff of the US Embassy, Cairo, came through mid-month to see our preservation activities, and a few plucky American and foreign travelers also came by. Jaap van Dijk, Salima Ikram, and Jose Galan (working across the river) all passed through our doors. Lotfi's family, Dina and her sister Nora, plus their two boys Karim and Hani, came for a two-week visit, always a joy. Later, former Chicago House administrator Ahmed Harfoush, now a successful singer in Cairo, came by for a visit. At the end of the month, we hosted a group from the USAID Egypt office who gave us a procurement "fraud awareness" seminar. There is never a dull moment in Luxor!



Brett collating in TT 107. Photo by Ray Johnson

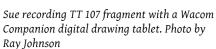
FEBRUARY

February shot by quickly, but most productively. From February 4 to 27 we resumed our documentation work at the tomb of Amenhotep III's Malgata palace steward Nefersekheru, TT 107. Senior artists Margaret De Jong and Sue Osgood finished up their drawings of the inscribed and decorated portico, and Sue drew the handful of small, inscribed limestone wall fragments that we have collected during the past couple of years, photographed by staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky, on one of our new Wacom Companion digital drawing tablets. In fact, she and senior epigrapher Brett found a join for one of them on the wall, the first of many to come, we hope. Sue's drawing will be digitally grafted onto the wall drawing. Brett initiated collation of the portico drawings starting with the inscribed column (drawn by Sue), which he finished at month's end. Work at the tomb will resume next season, and it is hoped that most of the façade will be collated then.



Brett collating pillar in TT 107. Photo by Ray Johnson







Sue "penciling" fragments at TT 107 with a Wacom Companion. Photo by Ray Johnson

On February 22, Peter Grossmann journeyed from Sheikh Abada Antinoupolis (where he and Jay Heidel worked part of the month with the Italian Mission from Florence under the direction of Rosario Pintaudi) to consult with Tina about the Christian-period graffiti in the north Ptolemaic annex and its function at that time. Stone masons Frank Helmholz and Johannes Weninger have been cutting and preparing newly quarried Gebel Silsileh sandstone blocks for the restoration of the Egyptian-style Domitian Gate, now up to its fourth course.



Small limestone fragment of TT 107 that joins the wall. Photo by Sue Osgood





Left: Saber and Johannes smoothing and finishing a block. Right: Domitian Gate block erecting. Photos by Ray Johnson



Nahed working on Domitian Gate blocks. Photo by Ray Johnson



Conservation students consolidating southern Ramesses III well blocks, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Conservation of Medinet Habu southern well blocks. Photo by Ray Johnson

Conservator Lotfi assisted by Nahed finished the condition surveying and treatment of the Domitian Gate blocks with our six Egyptian conservation students and transferred their operation to the southern well of Ramesses III. The area around the well, in the past notoriously low and wet, has - I am pleased to report - dried out considerably since the activation of the USAID-sponsored west bank dewatering program in 2011, allowing us to continue our consolidation and restoration program there. The students are now carefully consolidating and putting back together the shattered upper blocks of the partly collapsed and now stabilized well, and in some cases the broken halves of the blocks will be rejoined with fiberglass dowels. Next season we will remove the decayed foundation stones on the eastern side of the well for replacement with new, damp-coursed stone blocks.





Consolidating and reassembling shattered and fractured blocks, Ramesses III well. Photos by Ray Johnson

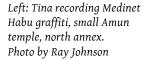


Consolidating a block from the Ramesses III well. Photo by Ray Johnson





Above: Sue and Margaret working on the Medinet Habu small Amun temple Pinudjem inscription using a Wacom Companion drawing tablet. Photo by Ray Johnson





Destroyed western High Gate area, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Jen explaining the western High Gate project to Sylvia Atalla, USAID Egypt, March 2014. Photo by Ray Johnson

At the small Amun temple, photographer Yarko took large-format photographs of the undersides of the bark sanctuary portals — embellished with protective sun disks and vultures with outspread wings — for drawing enlargements, while Margaret and Sue continued digital drawing of the Twenty-first Dynasty Pinudjem marginal inscription that wraps around the exterior of the Eighteenth Dynasty Temple.

Yarko is also taking large-format reference photos of the Claudius Gate outside the temple before we move the blocks inside for treatment and restoration of the gate starting next season. Epigrapher Jen continued to coordinate the cataloging and mapping of the destroyed western High Gate blocks and fragments at the back of the Medinet Habu complex, the beginning phase of a new site management program that includes moving, consolidation, and rejoining of the material in future seasons. Eventually we will present the material in the area in an

open-air museum and in the seasons ahead will be examining how best to do that. One possibility is to partly restore the gate itself if there is enough reconstructable material, an exciting prospect!

At Luxor Temple Krisztián Vértes completed a month of drawing another major section of the Roman frescos in the Imperial Cult Chamber, south wall eastern side, for digital inking over the summer. Krisztián's technique is to pencil the painted details directly on to a photographic enlargement, in our usual way, but the penciled enlargement is then scanned, and the inking is all done digitally on a large Wacom Cintiq desktop drawing tablet, with amazing results. Krisztián will be documenting both phases of the decoration of the Imperial Cult Chamber, the Roman frescos as well as Amenhotep III–period carved reliefs, starting with the frescos.

Jay continued his digital penciling of the Bentresh block material before being loaned to the Antinoupolis





Above: Krisztián penciling Roman frescos at Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson

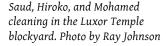
Left: Luxor Temple Roman fresco pencil drawing by Kristian, bleached. Photo by Krisztián Vértes

team in Middle Egypt on the 13th for two weeks. Brett accompanied him north for a few days and collated several blocks at the site inscribed with hieroglyphic texts that are probably contemporary with the Hadrianic city, and unique. Looting has continued at the site, despite the presence of some new guards, and cemetery encroachment has now breached the ancient city walls, so the presence of the team even for a few weeks is important. Hiroko Kariya started her annual condition review of the Luxor Temple blockyard and with Chicago House engineer Nashet and Tina has coordinated the replacement of the canvas siding of our aluminum, covered "hospital" mastaba/platforms. We found that a small pack of dogs had made one of them their home over the summer; the mother had obviously given birth there, and the grown dogs are now using it as their base. Nashet and Hiroko are preparing a humane mesh barrier, to keep them out of where they definitely do not belong! As part of her work this season, Hiroko is also designing a maintenance program with the Luxor Temple inspectors at the site that will allow for monitoring, cleanup, and maintenance of the blockyard open-air museum even when we are not there.



Hiroko and Saud install new canvas covering on the "hospital" fragment storage platform. Photo by Ray Johnson







Hiroko with "do not climb the ancient walls" sign she composed with the Luxor Temple inspectors, made by Chicago House for Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson

Finally, the Khonsu Temple work this month has gone extremely well, thanks to the floor-restoration efforts of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) and Antiquities Ministry in the small hypostyle hall. Interestingly, all of the major reused material we have documented in the flooring belongs to a monument of Amenhotep III. The scenes show the king in various scales offering to both ithyphallic and anthropomorphic Amuns, but no sign of Khonsu. And no sign of any of the other types of blocks we have documented in the sanctuaries beyond, or the court that approaches the hall. Nor are there any definitive indications of where the blocks originally came from. The material has turned out to be of enormous importance and interest, raising LOTS of questions, as we suspected would be the case.

Between February 18 and 20, ARCE and Chicago House hosted a group of USAID Egypt friends led by Sylvia Atalla on a review of the USAID-sponsored/funded work in Luxor. The Malgata team led by Metropolitan Museum of Art Egyptian department director Diana Craig Patch were in town all month for their field season — always a joy to have them here. Malgata co-director Peter Lacovara from the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University coordinated more, much-needed mudbrick restoration work in the main palace of the king. Betsy Bryan from Johns Hopkins University has been in town this week for work at Mut Temple and is heading home soon. It has been lovely having both groups here. Our friend and colleague Nozomu Kawai from Waseda University, Tokyo, has been staying with us this week as he conducted research at Karnak, a special treat.

MARCH

It's hard to believe that March is already past, and soon everyone at Chicago House will be heading back to their various homes after another successful and productive archaeological field season here in Luxor. Everyone, that is, except Tina, who will stay for another few weeks to supervise our workmen in the packing up and closing of the house, library, and entire Chicago House facility for its

five-month summer sleep. One room in Healey House - that has an air-conditioning unit will stay open for the administration and finance team, Essam, Samir, and Samwell, to use throughout the summer. Our annual audit will also take place there, for which I will return in late August. Tina and the workmen have already started cleaning out the food and kitchen magazines and are making sure that all foodstuffs are consumed before we leave. Unused dishes and cutlery are already being packed away. As is usual for this time of year, when the seasons start to change, khamsin winds prevail, and the temperatures have fluctuated up and down; last night a tremendous wind blew in cooler air, so we have a respite from the heat for a few



Medinet Habu, Ramesses III mortuary temple (background); Domitian Gate restoration (foreground). Photo by Ray Johnson

more days. But the temperatures are definitely climbing, and it's time to think about heading home.

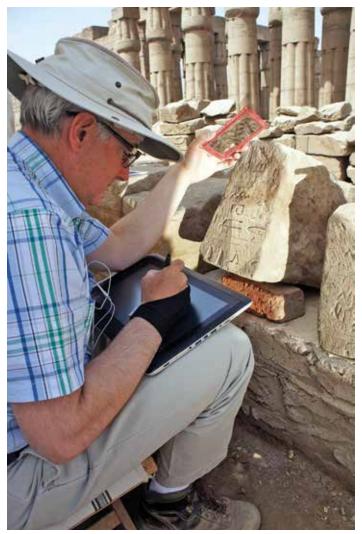
At the moment we are all generating reports that I will synthesize into a short preliminary report for the Ministry of Antiquities that I submit before we leave, basically an illustrated outline of our main activities and accomplishments since October based on the reports I receive from Brett (epigraphic documentation at Medinet Habu, Luxor Temple, TT 107, and Khonsu Temple), Lotfi (Medinet Habu conservation), Hiroko (Luxor Temple conservation), Frank



Margaret penciling in bark sanctuary, small Amun temple, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Tina recording graffiti, Medinet Habu small Amun temple. Photo by Ray Johnson





(Medinet Habu stone restoration), Jen (Medinet Habu west gate survey, also Khonsu), and Jay (Luxor Temple blockyard database and Thecla Church Project). I will generate a longer, more detailed final report for submission to the Antiquities Ministry by early July, when we submit our proposal for work next season, and security applications for each staff person (reviewed by the security police each year several months in advance of our arrival in October). On March 31 we completed the end of the Chicago House fiscal year, with all the accounting and administrative work that entails. So, the end of March/beginning of April is always a time of tying up administrative and financial loose ends, assessing our archaeological work, writing reports, and packing things up at our antiquities sites. Soon we will officially close our operations for the season at Medinet Habu, Luxor Temple, and Khonsu Temple. At that time all of our equipment — ladders, scaffolding, tables, chairs, carts, winches, tools, saws, lights, and so on — will be piled onto trucks for transportation back to Chicago



Jen collating in the Hypostyle Hall at Khonsu Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson



MSA Inspector Peter tracing wall relief, coached by Keli. Photo by Keli Alberts

House for cleaning (all the wooden ladders are oiled) and storage over the summer. This year, after the library closes on April 9 for the season, Tina and the workmen will also be shifting the remaining books that were converted to the Library of Congress classification system to their final shelf position in the Chicago House Library main stacks. It's a major milestone, but there is still some work ahead.

March was a busy month, with lots of colleagues and staff in and out. On March 15 we celebrated the conclusion of the Medinet Habu student conservator training program for this season with a formal presentation of certificates in the Chicago House Library, followed by a special luncheon; the students were justifiably proud and are now well launched. Mabruk to them and to Lotfi, who designed and coordinated the entire program, to Nahed for helping to teach and supervise, and to USAID Egypt who funded the training. During the latter part of the month, Yarko continued to photograph sculpture and relief fragments in the Medinet Habu blockyard for the blockyard



Medinet Habu Conservation Training Program graduation, March 15, 2014, in the Chicago House Library. Photo by Frank Helmholz



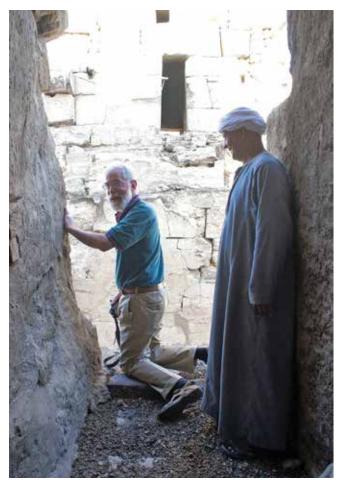
Yarko photographing fragments in the Medinet Habu blockyard. Photo by Ray Johnson

database. He and Ellie also did an enormous amount of digital copying of some of our older, more fragile books.

In mid-March structural engineer Conor Power left frigid Massachusetts and joined us for a few days to continue his annual assessment of the Luxor Temple structure and efficacy of the USAID-sponsored dewatering program(s). We both went up into the Luxor Temple Ramesses II pylon where we have installed a calibrated



Ellie and Yarko digitally copying fragile books. Photo by Ray Johnson



Conor and Mohamed checking calibrated telltale, Ramesses II pylon, March 2014. Photo by Ray Johnson

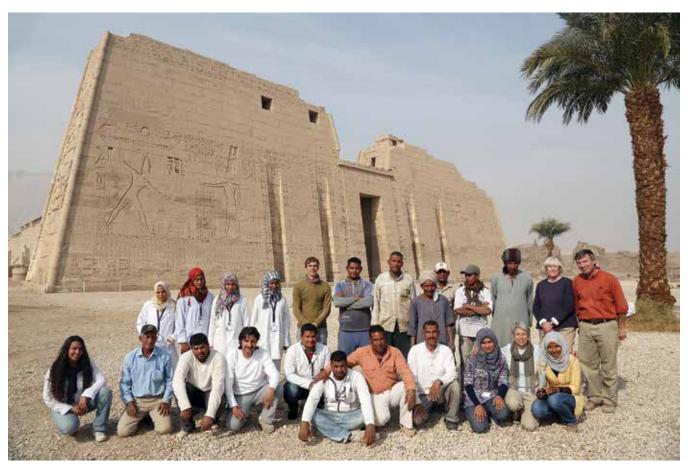
telltale measuring device that very simply records any movement during the course of the year; we also have three plumb-bob lines that were set up long ago over targets embedded in the ground. Conor noted no sign of movement of any kind, indicating that the dewatering program is doing its job and the foundations of the immense architectural elements of Luxor Temple, particularly the Ramesses II pylons and great Colonnade Hall of Amenhotep III and Tutankhamun, continue to be stable. Conor arrived on the last day of a three-day rainstorm in Luxor, a phenomenon that can do terrible damage to modern villages and local antiquities sites. This one was accompanied by hail and some amazing lightning displays in addition to the rain, but we were lucky this time; while there was some migration of salts to the surface of walls and fragments, all over Luxor, damage was fairly minimal. Despite the rain, Conor noted an overall, continued diminishing of salt efflorescence on the temple walls and foundations, another excellent sign that the dewatering program — inaugurated in 2006 — is working well. We are noting the same thing on the west bank where the

dewatering program was inaugurated considerably later, in 2011.

The big excitement in Luxor this month was the completion and inauguration on March 23 of two more quartzite colossi of Amenhotep III restored by our colleague Hourig Sourouzian (director of The Colossi of Memnon and Amenhotep III Temple Conservation Project) at the Amenhotep III mortuary temple (the "Memnon Temple") in western Thebes. These include a seated colossus from the second pylon, and a standing, striding colossus from the great north gate. Both statues will have companions in the coming years, since both were paired with similar colossal statues, now fallen and in pieces, and the plan is to restore and re-erect them, as well as several more. Hourig has also partially re-erected several granite standing colossi that lined the southern half of the great, stone peristyle court (made of southern granite), and a series of colossal quartzite standing statues on the north side of the court (made of northern quartzite). She is truly bringing that extraordinary complex back to life. This



Tina recording graffiti on the small Ptolemaic gate at Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Medinet Habu conservation, stone, and epigraphic teams, March, 2014. Photo by Frank Helmholz

year Hourig and her husband Rainer Stadelmann made another join that indirectly involved Chicago House. In our blockyard at Medinet Habu years ago, we noted a quartzite block inscribed with part of the first name (prenomen) of Amenhotep III, Nebmaatre, in large, very deepcut sunk-relief hieroglyphs, obviously from an inscribed, Amenhotep III colossal statue base. With the permission of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, we passed the block on to Hourig and her team along with a few other statue fragments in the Medinet Habu blockyard that also clearly came from the Amenhotep III mortuary temple. This year Hourig's team discovered where the block came from: the northern Memnon colossus, the famous "singing colossus" of classical antiquity, where our fragment directly joins the inscribed base on the north side and completes the cartouche! How it got to Medinet Habu will always be a bit of a mystery, but it has now been restored to the original, inscribed base of the northern colossus and is very sweet to see.

There were many colleagues, friends, and associates in Luxor this month. Among them Geoffrey Martin, Mohsen el-Kamel, Piers Litherland, Judith Bunbury, and their team were in town for their western wadi geological survey. Angus Graham, Kris Strutt, and their team are just

finishing their 2014 season for the Theban Harbours and Waterscapes Project. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudies were with us for two weeks' of work in the Photo Archives (that went all too quickly), and conservator Hiroko has already departed for home after a good two months in the Luxor Temple blockyard. Where has the time gone?



Domitian gate and small Amun temple, Medinet Habu, end of the 2013–2014 season. Photo by Ray Johnson

APRIL/MAY

On April 15, 2014, the Epigraphic Survey completed its 2013–2014 archaeological field season (its ninetieth!) in Luxor. All of the staff except for Tina departed at that time, and the closing commenced immediately. Actually the closing of the house started before we all left, to help maximize Tina's time. By the 15th all of the public rooms in the residence were closed, the furniture stacked in the middle of each room and covered with sheets, the carpets carried out for beating and washing, the shutters pulled down and secured over the windows, and the doors boarded up. Tina and our fabulous workmen have the closing process down to a real science, and they don't waste any time. Rule number one for the rest of us, even me, is don't get in the way!

The last few weeks went smoothly as we tied up and closed down our documentation, conservation, and restoration programs at Medinet Habu, Luxor Temple, and Khonsu Temple for the season. (Our TT 107 work was finished in February.) Before we left we wrote and compiled, and I distributed, preliminary reports of our season's activities to the local antiquities offices on both sides of the river and conveyed our good-byes to our Antiquities Ministry friends. I also distributed copies of the reports and to Mme. Amira at ARCE Cairo for official distribution to the main office of the Antiquities Ministry in Zamalek. At the same time I dropped off copies of the paperwork of the Chicago House staff, security form applications, photos, passport information, and so on for next season that Tina prepares and updates.

This time I also had the sad duty of submitting a report on a theft that took place in the Luxor Temple blockyard open-air museum on April 8, in the middle of the day, two days after we had finished our work at Luxor Temple. Two small limestone Coptic lion heads in our "animals and birds in Egyptian art" section were stolen from their mounts and are still missing. This season, because of the low numbers of tourists, the usually well-guarded





Luxor Temple Coptic lions #1 and #2. Photos by Hiroko Kariya

blockyard area often was deserted, and this was obviously noted and taken advantage of. Both objects were bolted to the platform with aluminum bands and in a part of the blockyard visible from all sides, so it's still pretty shocking that the theft occurred at all. We assisted the Luxor Temple antiquities inspectors with documentation and descriptions of the missing objects, and my report was distributed locally and to the ministry. The small Coptic lion (or cat) heads decorated the ends of architectural elements set into mudbrick walls that supported rafters or lamps. They were excavated in buildings from the medieval Luxor settlement tell to the north of Luxor Temple that was removed in the late 1950s to expose the sphinx road beneath.

And so it goes. As I write this, Tina is just a few days away from departing Luxor after a successful closing of the Chicago House facility. Before I left she and our workmen had already shifted the Chicago House Library books to their new positions in the stacks now that the Library of Congress conversion process is finished, so it is all ready for next season's use. Mabruk, Tina! Administrator Samir, assistant administrator Samwell, and finance manager Essam have already moved into their summer office in Healey House, where they will oversee our forty workmen over the summer months. This is where we will also hold our annual audit after Ramadan in late August, for which I will return to Luxor briefly as I always do. It is always bittersweet to be back in Luxor in the blazing hot summer, and to see Chicago House asleep and awaiting our return. By then the presidential elections will have been long over, and the country will be adjusting to its new president and administration. We have all our fingers crossed for the future.

In the meantime, there is much to do back here at the "mothership": the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. There are many more reports to be written, articles to edit, grant proposals to write, symposia to attend, facsimile publications to produce, and lectures to give. This summer we are particularly pleased to announce the publication of *Digital Epigraphy*, our new digital drawing and inking manual that by the time you receive this bulletin will available for free download from the Oriental Institute Publications website. Check it out!

Let me extend my sincerest thanks to the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and Heritage (formerly the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities/MSA) and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), present minister of antiquities and heritage Dr. Mahmoud el-Damaty and former minister of state for antiquities Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, and all of our friends and colleagues in Egypt for another productive collaboration this season. For those of you who continue to faithfully and generously support

our preservation work in Luxor, I cannot thank you enough; bless you! If you are planning a trip to Luxor and would like to stop by and see our work and the Chicago House facility, please contact us in advance to determine the best time for a meeting. Chicago House is open from October 15 until April 15 each year and is closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. To arrange a visit during the season, please contact the Oriental Institute Membership Office at (773) 834-9777, or contact me, Epigraphic Survey director Ray Johnson, directly at:

wr-johnson@uchicago.edu

Please see page 27 for our contact information in Egypt and Chicago. Best wishes, and thanks again, to you all.



Richard and Tina working on digital graffiti documentation, Chicago House Library. Photo by Ray Johnson



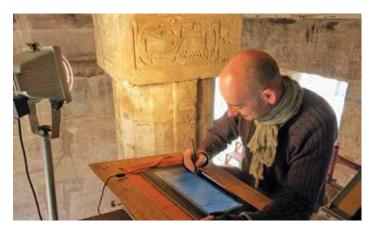
Johannes and the Medinet Habu stone gang. December 19, 2013. Photo by Ray Johnson



Sue penciling at Medinet Habu. December 19, 2013. Photo by Ray Johnson



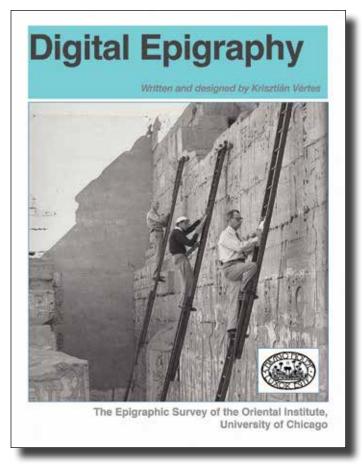
Khonsu team — Keli, inspector Ghada, inspector Asmaa, and Jen. Photo by Ray Johnson



Krisztián drawing with the Wacom Cintiq Companion. December 19, 2013. Medinet Habu, small Amun temple. Photo by Sue Osgood



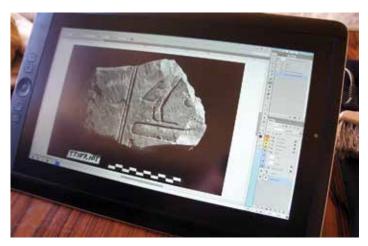
Lotfi using the Wacom Cintiq drawing tablet at Medinet Habu, January 2014. Photo by Sue Lezon



Cover of the forthcoming Digital Epigraphy manual, by Krisztián Vértes



Krisztián digitally "inking" with the Wacom. Photo by Ray Johnson



Wacom Companion displaying a TT 107 fragment for penciling. Photo by Ray Johnson

Dr. Barbara G. Mertz, 1927-2013: Colleague, Friend, and Icon

By Ray Johnson, Director, the Epigraphic Survey/Chicago House

Barbara and I met at Chicago House in 1993, and it was love at first sight. I unashamedly admit that I have belonged to the cult of Egyptologist groupies devoted to her and her writings ever since. While I love and thoroughly enjoy her carefully researched and lovingly written novels (particularly the Amelia Peabody series), my primary interaction with Barbara was with her Egyptological nonfiction. Like many of us, my first exposure to professional Egyptology as a young adult (in high school) was through her two introductory books on Egyptology,

Temples, Tombs, and Hieroglyphs, and Red Land, Black Land, both tremendously stimulating to this eager young mind. Long after Barbara and I had become friends, one of the greatest pleasures in my professional life was to be asked by her to take a look at some revisions she had made to both books. The revised editions are even stronger now and will continue to be a positive influence for future



Barbara at the Old Winter Palace, February 2007. Photo by Ray Johnson

generations of budding young Egyptologists. Later I was exposed to Barbara's Master's thesis, Forerunners of Amarna, and learned that with her groundbreaking PhD dissertation on Egyptian queenship, Certain Titles of the Egyptian Queens and Their Bearing on the Hereditary Right to the Throne, she was the second female PhD graduate in Egyptology at the University of Chicago, in 1952 (Caroline Ransom Williams beat her to first place in 1905).

Barbara will live forever through her writings, but I will miss her personally more than words can convey. Her

joy in life was infectious, and her visits to Luxor over two decades were always jolly, stimulating, and much anticipated. I will forever cherish the memories of the dinners she attended at Chicago House, the uproarious "soirees" in her suite at the Old Winter Palace, and participating in one of Margie Fisher's wonderful Nubian Sea cruises where Barbara and fellow mystery writer Joan Hess were



Barbara and Joel Cole at Gebel Silsileh, December 5, 2003. Photo by Ray Johnson



Barbara and dahabiyeh at Gebel Silsileh, December 5, 2003. Photo by Ray Johnson

the guest lecturers and held raucous court in the ship's lounge in a cloud of blue smoke. One of my fondest memories is the time in 2003 when I accompanied Barbara and our friends Dennis Forbes and Joel Cole on Bill and Nancy Petty's vintage, two-masted dahabiyeh from Luxor to Kom Ombo, with a memorable stop at the Gebel Silsileh sandstone quarries to see the Amenhotep III rock-cut stelae, unfinished sphinxes, and Amenhotep IV talatat quarries. I will miss my visits to Lorien Court, Barbara's beautiful country "manse" in Frederick, Maryland, where she lived — and wrote — with her beloved menagerie of cats and dogs, surrounded by her magnificent rose gardens. Those gardens were one of her greatest joys, filled with fragrant, multi-hued antique rose bushes and twisting paths through a magical sculpture-filled landscape. Taking a walk through these gardens, one might encounter an Osiris figure peering out of the shrubbery, or a regal Egyptian cat, or a life-size, marble copy of "the discobolus" in a columned pool-side sanctuary.

I will miss Barbara's insatiable curiosity and passion for all things ancient Egyptian; her fabulous, throaty laugh and razor-sharp wit (that was always tempered with kindness); and her keen, perceptive intellect. I cherish the memory of our regular phone conversations, where we talked for hours about burning Egyptological issues like co-regencies and royal succession, and who was doing what in the field. On matters Egyptological we did not always see eye to eye on every topic, but she always offered insights, some startlingly fresh (she was modest, but that mind was sharp). Barbara was larger than life, that is for sure. She was a radiant star, an icon, and a goddess to many of us, and she will forever be one of Chicago House's, and my, most beloved friends. She will also be one of the University of Chicago and Oriental Institute's most illustrious alumnae. Her absence leaves a terrible vacuum in our lives, but every time I think of her, I laugh out loud. Just the way she would have wanted it. We miss you, Barbara, but you are ever in our hearts.



Chicago House local and professional staff, 2013-14. Photo by Sue Lezon

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Partly funded by the University of Chicago, the Epigraphic Survey relies heavily on tax-deductible private and corporate contributions and grants to support its continued efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of ancient Egypt through documentation and conservation.

Contributions may now be made online! Go to:

https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/donate/

and check the "Epigraphic Survey" box, or any of the other Oriental Institute projects listed there.

For further information on contributions to the Epigraphic Survey and the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, please contact the Oriental Institute Development Office at (773) 702-5062 or visit oi-development@uchicago.edu

ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

October through March:

Chicago House Luxor Arab Republic of EGYPT TEL: (011) (20) (95) 237-2525

FAX: (011) (20) (95) 238-1620

April through September:

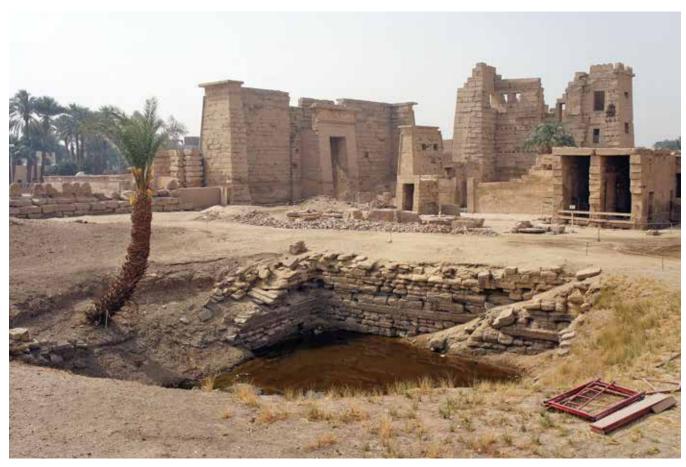
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The Epigraphic Survey home page is located at: http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/epigraphic-survey



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Medinet Habu sacred lake, March 2014. Photo by Ray Johnson