



CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN



Volume XXVII

Privately Circulated

September 2016



THE 2015–2016 FIELD SEASON





Chicago House 2015–2016 professional staff. Photo by Sue Lezon

Back Row (left to right): Brett McClain, Jen Kimpton, Keli Alberts, Hilary McDonald, Owen Murray

Third Row: Hany Diab, Al-Azab Ahmed, Krisztián Vértés, Tina di Cerbo, Marie Bryan, Frank Helmholz, Anait Helmholz, Gina Salama, Johannes Weninger

Second Row: Nehad Badry, Skina Oraby, Safaa Nuby, Samwell Maher, Jay Heidel, Ray Johnson, Samir el-Guindy, Essam el-Sayed, Anhar Hassan, Fatma Ahmed, Neema Ahmed

Front Row: Lotfi Hassan, Nahed Samir Azziz, Sue Osgood, Ellie Smith, Sue Lezon, Yarko Kobylecky

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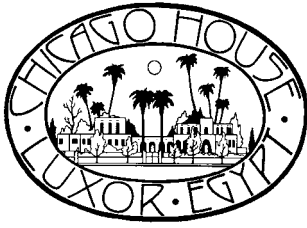
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The Chicago House Field Season October 2015 to April 2016: A Season Diary

By W. Raymond Johnson, Field Director

OCTOBER 2015

When the Chicago House team arrived in Luxor for the Epigraphic Survey's 2015–2016 archaeological field season on October 15, the temperatures were hot, hot, hot — still in the low 100s °F — quite a change from the cold autumn weather we left behind in Chicago. But we adjusted quickly as we settled back into our season routine, and by the end of the month the temps had dropped to the “cool” low 80s °F, which was blissful. Despite the heat, Tina and our workmen had the compound clean and shining, and it was like we had never left for the summer. The work involved in the closing and opening of the house is laborious beyond description, and we owe an enormous debt to Tina and our guys who accomplish this Herculean task every year.

Finishing the paperwork for the season was delayed a few days by Egypt's long-awaited parliamentary elections, but on October 20 Brett and I signed the contract for the season at the Ministry of Antiquities in Cairo with Foreign Missions director Mr. Hany Abu el-Azm and ARCE's Mary Sadek. Afterward we met with Antiquities Minister Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty to discuss our season program and took some time to go out to Maadi to pay a call on our USAID friends, including mission director Sherry Carlin and project manager Sylvia Atalla. On our return to Luxor, Brett and I delivered the signed contract to Luxor Antiquities directors Sultan Eid and Dr. Mustafa Waziri at the Luxor Taftish office, and then to Gurna director Dr. Talat Abdel Azziz. Once all the paperwork was submitted, on October 26 the Chicago House documentation, conservation, and restoration teams resumed their work at Medinet Habu. I am very pleased to announce that after

a summer of intense grant-proposal writing and development networking, Chicago House has been awarded two much-needed grants for the continuation of our preservation work at Medinet Habu. One is from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation (RBF) for the continuation of the Ramesses III southern well restoration project and covers the conservation work for this entire season. The other is a four-year grant from USAID Egypt that covers the documentation, conservation, restoration, and development of the western sector of Medinet Habu, including the fragmentary western High Gate, as an open-air museum and new tourist site. We are enormously grateful to both the RBF and USAID Egypt, whose current assistance allows us to continue — and expand — our critical programs at Medinet Habu without interruption. These grants allow us to help our Egyptian antiquities friends in their time



Johannes, Anait, Lotfi, and Nahed on opening day. Medinet Habu. October 26, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Opening, checking the Domitian Gate. Medinet Habu.
Photo by Ray Johnson



Equipment arriving. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Strategy-planning session for new grant work — Jen, Brett, Anait,
Lotfi, Frank, and Nahed. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

of need and to employ many local Egyptian conservators and workers in the process. Thank you!

Security in Luxor is excellent, and tourism is still low but steady; we had visitors almost immediately, with more and more as time went by. The Chicago House Library reopened on October 23, and we immediately had a roomful of patrons, including Egyptian graduate students and foreign colleagues; many missions were already at work. On October 27 we hosted a library briefing, courtyard



Setting up scaffolding in the small Amun temple. Medinet Habu.
Photo by Ray Johnson



Keli and Halloween jack-o'-lantern. Chicago House.
Photo by Ray Johnson



Ramesses III southern well work from north. Medinet Habu. November 8, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Well consolidation work. Medinet Habu. November 8, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Conservators consolidating the Ramesses III southern well head. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Frank and workmen creating a track for transporting materials. Medinet Habu. November 9, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson

reception, and site visit at Luxor Temple for a group of ten Egyptian and ten mostly American fellows from the Shafik Gabr Foundation initiative “East-West: The Art of Dialogue.” Shafik is one of Chicago House’s earliest “Friends” and sponsors, and it was a pleasure to meet and talk with this talented group of young thinkers and entrepreneurs that his foundation has annually sponsored since 2013. This was just the first of many groups scheduled for November and the rest of the season. On October 29 Chicago House hosted its annual Halloween party in the residence courtyard, the opening party of the season, with over eighty attendees from a variety of archaeological missions: the Spanish mission to Vizier Amenhotep Huy’s tomb, two Polish missions working at Deir el-Bahri, the Franco-Egyptian Center at Karnak, the Spanish mission from the mortuary temple of Thutmose III, the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), and numerous Egyptian and foreign friends and colleagues. University of Chicago faculty member Nadine Moeller, Gregory Marouard, and their Edfu crew, mostly University of Chicago graduate students took a break from their



Completed wooden track for transporting materials. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

excavations in the settlement site west of the great temple of Horus to join us as well. It was excellent to catch up with everyone, and a great way to launch the new archaeological field season.

NOVEMBER 2015

At the beginning of November, the temperatures dropped from 100 degree Fahrenheit heat to decidedly more comfortable levels, which made everything easier, especially the temple work. During the first week of the month, the Medinet Habu conservation teams began work in two major areas of the precinct. One team, supported by our new Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) grant resumed work on the consolidation and restoration of the southern Ramesses III well. The other team focused its attention on the documentation, conservation, restoration, and development of the western sector of Medinet Habu that is covered by our new USAID Egypt grant. The area includes the House of Butehamun and destroyed western High Gate, but also a paved approach along both sides of the temple that originally led to the back, and that we have already begun to restore. Both teams of conservators, supervised by senior conservator Lotfi and assistant conservator Nahed, have been assembled from the students in our Medinet Habu conservation training programs of the last two years, and it is very satisfying to see all of the activity at the site. Finishing work on the Domitian Gate has also been ongoing by stone mason Johannes under



*Johannes placing restoration stone. Domitian Gate, Medinet Habu.
Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Area for restoration being cleaned. Medinet Habu. November 9, 2015.
Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Covered blockyard treatment area. Medinet Habu.
Photo by Ray Johnson*



*Keli digitally drawing western High Gate fragments in the blockyard.
Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson*



Lotfi and Sami making brick molds. Chicago House. Photo by Ray Johnson



The first bricks! Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brick making. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

the supervision of master mason Frank, including some restoration blocks that better communicate some of the missing upper cornices. Senior epigrapher Brett has coordinated the ongoing epigraphic work in the small Amun temple with senior artist Margaret and helped plan the epigraphic, conservation, and development programs for the whole precinct. Epigrapher Jen assisted by Anait have been continuing their preliminary cataloging of the shattered inscribed blocks of the destroyed western High Gate, and artist Keli has started drawing blocks of the monumental chariot scenes from the gate's destroyed façade.

Frank has coordinated the purchase of sandstone paving slabs for the restoration of the Ramesses III walkways (and drawn up plans for the arrangement of stones), and Lotfi is already supervising the making of mudbricks for the restoration of the walls that once bordered the paving, which will soon rise again.

Jay returned from Sheikh Abada/Antinoupolis at the beginning of the month and resumed his Luxor Temple blockyard fragment database work, numbering, documenting, and tracking all 50,000 inscribed wall and architectural fragments at Luxor Temple. This is a time-consuming, arduous task necessary for proper analysis, documentation, and eventual publication of the material. By the end of November, he had created 3,269 records in the Luxor Temple fragment database and entered 2,661 fragment records with photos. Of the 1,931 fragments with location data, he field-verified the locations of 1,129, while 802 more have location data awaiting field verification. In the last few weeks, he began affixing stamped aluminum tags to field verified fragments and has so far tagged 206. The goal is to eventually tag all fragments to facilitate the tracking of the material for future analysis, documentation, and



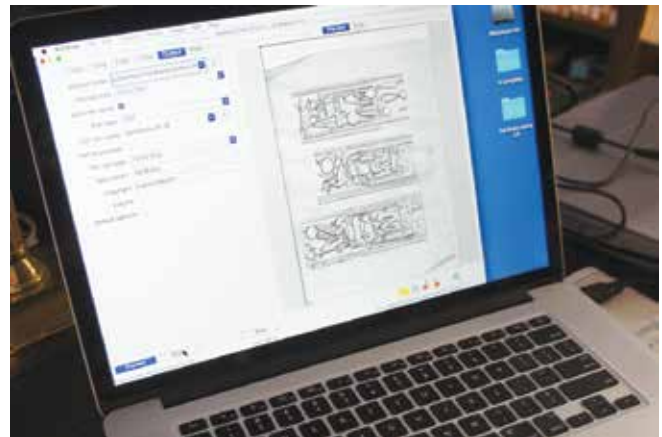
Jay affixing aluminum numbered tags to blocks in the blockyard. Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson



Labib Habachi archival materials and publications. Chicago House. Photo by Ray Johnson



Aluminum number tag. Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson



Tina's scans of Labib Habachi drawings. Chicago House. Photo by Ray Johnson

restoration work. This work establishes a firm foundation for all future analysis and conservation in the Luxor Temple blockyard.

Meanwhile, back at Chicago House, starting at the end of October and for several weeks during November, Tina systematically cataloged and scanned 340 one-to-one inked and penciled drawings from the Labib Habachi archives stored in the Tom and Linda Heagy Chicago House Photo Archives. When we received Labib's photographic archives after his death in 1984 for archiving, we also agreed to archive his drawings, most of which were published in his numerous articles and publications. We received the archives in a chaotic state; nothing was



Gina at work. Chicago House. Photo by Ray Johnson



Tina at the small Amun temple. Medinet Habu. November 30, 2015.
Photo by Ray Johnson

organized, and because Labib had an encyclopedic memory, not a single photograph was identified with any label! William Murnane and Lanny Bell spent years painstakingly sorting the photographs site by site, but until now nothing had been done with the drawings. Tina carefully unrolled each one, established the site, checked Labib's publications to see where it was published, and cataloged all of the data. Then she carefully scanned all of the drawings so that we now have a fairly complete scanned corpus of this material for our records. Once scanned, each drawing was archivally housed for storage. Tina also boxed up duplicate sets of the Habachi and Jacquet scanned photographic archives on CD, which I presented on November 23 to the new director of the Ministry of Antiquities Documentation Center, Dr. Hisham el-Leithy, for the Documentation Center Archives in Cairo. I am also very pleased to mention that Chicago House Library volunteer Gina Salama has joined the library team as a paid employee — welcome, Gina! Not only is she indispensable in the library, but she is proving to be invaluable in many other tasks, including the scanning of our 40,000 dictionary cards. So far she has scanned more than 1,500 cards and is well on the way to providing complete digital backup of that priceless resource.

On November 4, Luxor Day (the anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, KV 62), the minister of antiquities Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty opened three new tombs at Gurnet Murai, including, appropriately, the tomb of Tutankhamun's Viceroy to Nubia, Huy. The Getty Conservation Institute finished their work in Tutankhamun's tomb (KV 62) for this year at the beginning of the month (after installing new flooring, a ventilation system, and new lighting, and moving Tutankhamun's mummy in its sealed glass box into the annex). Shortly after Getty departed Luxor, we received the sad news of the passing of our colleague Otto Schaden. Otto was well known in the Valley of the Kings and the Western Valley for his excavation of the royal tomb of Tutankhamun's successor Ay (WV 23) in 1972, his later work in the Valley of the Kings



Jen briefing Gil and Liz on the western High Gate project. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

from 1992 clearing the tomb of King Amenmesse (KV 10), and in 2005 his discovery of a new shaft tomb (KV 63), the first tomb to be discovered in the King's Valley since Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. Otto received his master's degree in Egyptology at the University of Chicago and participated in the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition from 1962 to 1963 and the Sudan Expedition from 1963 to 1964. He received his PhD in 1977 from the University of Minnesota. In September, before we returned to Luxor, another friend and colleague of ours (and close associate of Otto's in the KV), Edwin (Ted) Brock, passed away unexpectedly in Cairo. Ted specialized in the analysis and reconstruction of the shattered granite sarcophagi in the royal burial chambers of the Valley of the Kings and left a rich legacy of physically reassembled and restored sarcophagi in the tombs of Merenptah (KV 8) and Ramesses VI (KV 9) on which he worked with his wife,



Gil, Liz, Nicole, Larry, and Margaret. Medinet Habu. November 14, 2015.
Photo by Ray Johnson



Ted Brock. 2010. Luxor Temple blockyard. Luxor Temple.
Photo by Ellie Smith



Otto Schaden. Photo courtesy the KV 63 Project



Gil, Mohamed, and Nadine, and Chicago House 92nd birthday cake. Chicago House. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

Lyla. Ted was also an accomplished photographer and worked with Chicago House at Luxor Temple documenting the rapidly changing landscape of Luxor in the years before the 2011 Revolution. Because Tina was in Luxor for maintenance work at Chicago House, she kindly supervised Ted's funeral arrangements. Both Otto and Ted were regular users of the Chicago House Library and frequent guests at our table. We will miss our friends.

Thanksgiving weekend continued on a Tutankhamun theme. Chicago House hosted its annual Thanksgiving feast, but noticeably absent were most of our antiquities ministry friends who were in the Valley of the Kings witnessing a very special event. On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, our colleague Nick Reeves, the Minister of Antiquities Dr. el-Damaty, many ministry friends, and a Group of Japanese radar technicians used ground penetrating radar equipment in KV 62, the tomb of Tutankhamun, to test Nick's suggestion that additional chambers — perhaps even another burial — were to be found



Thanksgiving turkey. Photo by Ray Johnson

behind the western and northern walls. On Saturday, November 28, the results were announced at a press conference hosted by the ministry at Howard Carter's residence on the west bank (Carter House), which I attended with many of our colleagues. As most of you know, the results were very encouraging. More analysis of the data is necessary and is ongoing in Japan, but there may be indications of at least two additional rooms off the painted burial



Dinner for Gil and OI friends. Chicago House. November 15, 2015. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

chamber, one beyond the west wall, and another beyond the north wall. Time will tell!

November saw many visitors and groups to Chicago House. The first week of November, Abbas and Mediha Helmy and the Friends of the Manial Palace Museum, Cairo, group saw our work at Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple and joined us at Chicago House for a reception and library briefing. Chicago House photographer Yarko arrived back on November 14, co-senior artist Sue arrived back at the end of the month, and geologist Jim Harrell stopped by Medinet Habu to examine some Middle Kingdom blocks at the small Amun temple on November 30. On November 13 Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein and his wife, Liz, and Oriental Institute Visiting Committee (VC) members Nicole Williams and Larry Becker arrived in town to see Nadine and Greg's Edfu and Dendera work, as well as Chicago House and its projects. Gil visited more than a decade before but had not seen our current work, so it was a particular pleasure to "catch him up." Their visit coincided with a Far Horizons tour led by Bob



Ray giving a library briefing about the work of the Epigraphic Survey to a Far Horizons group. Chicago House. November 15, 2015. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

(Mummy Man) Brier and wife Pat Remler, and everyone got to mingle with the Chicago House professional staff at a reception in the residence courtyard on November 15 followed by a library briefing. At dinner that evening, Gil and party and the Edfu team helped us celebrate Chicago House's 92nd birthday. We are racking up the years!

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

Things were so busy in Luxor during December and January that there was hardly a moment to write. The Mulid el-Nabi (the Prophet's birthday) and Christmas were only a couple of days apart this year, followed by New Year's Eve, so it was an opportune time for many of the staff to take some time to travel and see sites outside of Luxor. By the beginning of the new year, everyone was back at work and Chicago House quite full.



Greg explaining the new settlement archaeology project. Dendera Temple. December 7, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Margie in the Marjorie M. Fisher Chicago House Library. Photo by Ray Johnson

The first week of December saw the return of Margie Fisher to Luxor for a week accompanied by our friend and colleague Janet Richards (University of Michigan), followed by visits from Salima Ikram, and the OI's Emily Teeter and husband Joe Cain. On December 7 the entire Chicago House team visited Greg, Nadine, and their team at Dendera and were shown the new Oriental Institute/French Archaeological Institute (IFAO) settlement archaeology project there directed by Greg — a real treat. Their work is archaeology at its best, and this season marks a very exciting beginning to this long-term project.

From December 10 to 19 Jay, Margie, Janet, and I took a tour to Sudan organized by Peter Lacovara and Egitalloyd Travel, our first venture south of Abu Simbel. We flew to Khartoum and drove northward in a fleet of five, four-wheel-drive Toyota Land Cruisers as far as Tombos on the Third Cataract. The sites we visited included Meroe (pyramid necropolis and city), Nuri, Naga, Massawarat, Jebel Barkal, El Kurru, Dokki Gel, and Kerma. The red deserts were extraordinarily beautiful, very African in look with their scrubby trees, and very different from Egypt's deserts. The whole trip was revelatory and



Well-head consolidation work. Medinet Habu. December 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Sudan field trip. Meroe pyramids. Photo by Ray Johnson



Sue reviewing drawing collations at the small Amun temple. Medinet Habu. December 9, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Conservators working on the Ramesses III southern well head. Medinet Habu. December, 2015. Photo by Ray Johnson



Lotfi and Yarko discuss pre-restoration photography in the area that will receive paving, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Andrea at the Osiris Temple, Bigeh. Photo by Ray Johnson



Richard recording graffiti in the small Amun temple north annex with Tina. Medinet Habu. January 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson

filled some major gaps in our knowledge and experience of that great land to the south of Egypt.

Work continued in earnest at Medinet Habu all December and great progress was made with the documentation of the small Amun temple, the RBF-funded Ramesses III southern well consolidation, and the USAID funded mudbrick restoration and paving project. Despite the absence of some of the staff on holiday, Christmas Day at Chicago House was warm and cheerful, and our Christmas dinner was attended by numerous colleagues and friends including the entire Macquarie University, Waseda University, and Brazilian archaeological missions. Tina and Richard arrived at the end of the month to resume their graffiti documentation work at Medinet Habu, and at the same time we were visited by Oriental Institute VC member Andrea Dudek for a few days before and after a very pleasant trip to Aswan and Upper Egypt over the New Year break.

Once the holidays were over and the new year 2016 well launched, many of our foreign colleagues returned to resume their archaeological work. Betsy Bryan was here with her Johns Hopkins team for a study season in the sanctuary and back areas of Mut Temple; Nozomu Kawai was in town with the Waseda team; Richard Fazzini and



Ray, Lisa and Curt Ferguson. Chicago House. January 5, 2016. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

Mary McKercher were back with Jaap van Dijk, Julia Harvey, and Dr. Ben Harer in the fore areas of Mut Temple; the Metropolitan Museum of Art Malqata Palace expedition headed by Diana Craig Patch worked most of January; Susan Onstine and her Memphis team enjoyed a successful six-week season; Hourig Sourouzian returned to the Amenhotep III mortuary temple reconstructing colossal shattered statuary; José Galán returned with his Spanish team at Theban Tomb 11 the tomb of Djehwty; Angus Graham and his Theban Waterways team were back conducting surveys around the Ay/Horemheb mortuary temple and Birket Habu areas — among many other colleagues and expeditions. On January 5 we were very pleased to host a dinner for Curt and Lisa Ferguson (Coca Cola Middle East and North Africa) and their family; Coca Cola Egypt has very kindly supported our work with the donation of water and beverages for many years, and we are enormously grateful to them. As for our own projects, our new mudbrick restoration program at Medinet Habu along the south side of the mortuary temple is well underway, and we will start sandstone pavement-laying next month, all supported by our new USAID Egypt grant. The



Johannes and the workmen prepare to hoist a replacement block into place on the Domitian Gate. January 8, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Boyo and Susanne cleaning Theban Tomb 107. Photo by Ray Johnson



Boyo and team examine the column base exposed during cleaning. Theban Tomb 107. Photo by Ray Johnson



Western High Gate team: Yarko, Hilary, Ellie, Owen, Brett, Jen, Anait, and Keli. Medinet Habu. January 8, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Cleaning team group shot (Boyo on left, Susanne on right). Theban Tomb 107. January 21, 2016



Brett holding flickstein in original position. Theban Tomb 107. January 29, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brett collating drawings. Theban Tomb 107. Photo by Ray Johnson

Domitian Gate is being finished off by Frank and Johannes, and the upper cornice blocks repositioned properly. New members of the team, photographers Hilary McDonald and Owen Murray, are helping Yarko with digital imaging

of the western High Gate and Butehamun House areas and are doing some very interesting 3D imaging of the terrain and shattered blocks before we start moving the material to protected storage platforms. The Ramesses III

southern well conservation work supported by our Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) grant is going smoothly; the crumbling well head is now three-quarters consolidated. Senior artists Sue and Margaret have been working on drawings in the small Amun temple for *Medinet Habu volumes 11 and 12* and with Keli have been consulting with Krisztián on new digital techniques. Work on Theban Tomb 107, the tomb of Nefsekheru, steward of Amenhotep III's Malqata Palace, was started on January 17 with cleaning in the portico supervised by Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder, after which Brett resumed first collation of Margaret and Sue's exquisite drawings, and I started the second collation. Boyo and Susanne's team uncovered the raised bases of the two central columns of the portico, as well as an inscribed *flickstein* or patchstone in the floor debris below the wall into which it was originally set. We suspected that there might be wall fragments in the debris and hope that they will find more fragments of this sort next season when we finish the cleaning. At Luxor Temple Jay is entering data on the Luxor Temple blockyard database and attaching aluminium number tags to hundreds of fragments; Hiroko arrived to resume her condition monitoring of the blockyard and to do spot conservation of a handful of needy architectural and wall fragments; and Krisztián is back doing facsimile drawing of the cleaned Roman frescos in the Imperial Cult Chamber. I am pleased to report that ARCE's multi-authored publication of the Roman frescoes is now out. *Art of Empire: The Roman Frescoes and Imperial Cult Chamber in Luxor Temple*, edited by Michael Jones and Susanna McFadden (ARCE and Yale University Press, 2015), includes a chapter on the Tetrarchic architectural renovations at Luxor Temple and their relationship to the Amun cult co-authored by Jay Heidel and me. The paintings were cleaned in a collaboration between ARCE and Chicago House between 2005 and 2008 by a team of ARCE-funded Italian conservators under the direction of our dear friend Luigi De Cesaris (who tragically died in 2011). The Epigraphic Survey will publish large-format facsimile drawings (being executed by Krisztián now) and Yarko's photographs of the frescoes in a future volume of our Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple (RILT) series.

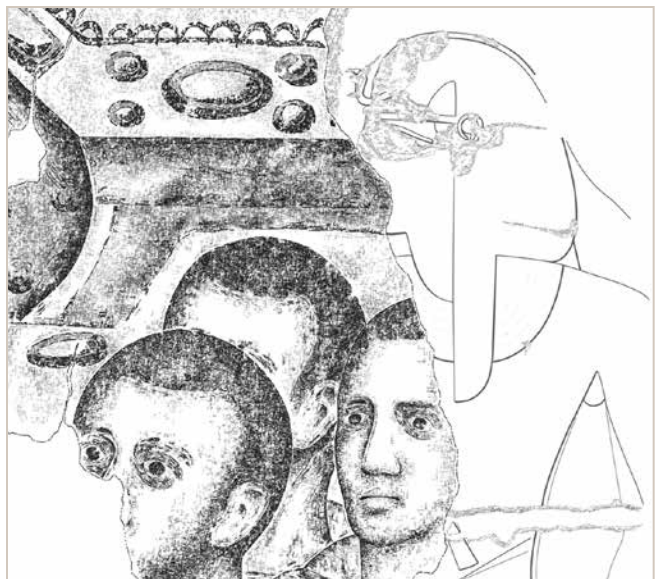
There have been pleasant distractions during the last two months. On January 21 Egyptian president El-Sisi entertained the Chinese president at Luxor Temple in suitably high fashion. In anticipation of the festivities, the Amenhotep III court received a Chinese "makeover" that was surreal but charming. Even I had to admit that the gigantic gold and red lanterns suspended between the papyrus-bundle columns were impressive. The musical and dancing events, combining Egyptian and Chinese musicians, singers, and dancers, were lovely (we watched



Sue, Keli, and Krisztián discussing new digital drawing techniques. Chicago House. January 16, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Krisztián at work drawing Roman frescoes in the Imperial Cult Chamber. Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson



Roman fresco detail, main group, south wall, with Amenhotep III relief. Drawing and photo by Krisztián Vértés



Chinese lanterns in the Amenhotep III solar court. Luxor Temple.
Photo by Ray Johnson



Jean and Helen Jacquet. Chicago House. 2008. Photo by Sue Lezon



Ambassador Beecroft reception. Frank, Keli, Hilary, Ambassador Beecroft, Owen, finance manager Essam el-Sayid. Chicago House.
Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

it on television). The dignitaries toured around Luxor the next day — the helicopters hovering overhead were nerve wracking, but everyone apparently had a very good time.

Revolution Day on January 25 passed quietly and without incident.

But there have been more passages. I am saddened to report that on January 7 our beloved Jean Jacquet passed away peacefully in Carouges, Switzerland, aged 95. From 1997 until 2008, Jean and Helen (who passed away in 2013) lived and consulted with us at Chicago House while they worked on the processing and publication of material they had previously excavated at the site of Thutmose I's Treasury in North Karnak. Jean was a superb architect and archaeologist, and they both were inspirations and mentors in every way. While we will miss them very much, they will always be a part of us. Jean's obituary, written by Chicago House archivists Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudies, can be found here:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/article/jean-jacquet-architect-and-archaeologist-passes-away-95>

FEBRUARY 2016

February was as busy as Februarys always are, filled with good work and many colleagues working in or passing through Luxor. The first week of February saw the visit of Amarna-sculpture guru Kristin Thompson, in town for a few days, but also the conclusion of the Malqata Palace excavation season conducted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art Egyptian Department under the direction of Diana Craig Patch. On February 6 Chicago House assistant stonemason Johannes departed as well for home, taking some of our sunshine with him.

On February 11 US ambassador to Egypt Stephen Beecroft, visiting Ambassador David Thorne (former ambassador to Italy, now senior advisor to Secretary of State John Kerry), and USAID director Sherry Carlin and their respective entourages had a terrific visit/review of our work at Medinet Habu, ARCE's and our work at Khonsu Temple Karnak, followed by a very pleasant dinner at Chicago House that night. Ambassador Beecroft took his position late in 2014, but because of pressing duties in Cairo was only now able to get to Luxor to review our cultural heritage preservation work. This trip was a review of USAID-funded projects including ours, and for many in the group the trip was revelatory. All three diplomats gave very complimentary speeches at dinner that night, reaffirming their commitment, support, and tremendous enthusiasm for what we are doing in Luxor.

On February 15 I participated in Karnak Scientific Committee meetings at the antiquities ministry in Cairo, where, after the presentations of the recent work, I gave an outside reviewer's critique (as I have done for a number of years now) of their excellent work at that enormous



Ambassador Beecroft and USAID mission director Sherry Carlin listening to Margaret explain the Chicago House documentation program in the small Amun temple. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky



Ambassador Beecroft, Ambassador Thorne, and Ray. Medinet Habu mortuary temple. February 11, 2016. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky



Ambassador's dinner. Assistant administrator Samwell, Mohamed, administrator Samir, Zakaria, and cook Tayib. February 11, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson

site. It was a good opportunity to reconnect with many of our French and Egyptian antiquities ministry colleagues and museum directors, past and present: Dr. Mohamed Saleh (former director of the Egyptian Museum), Dr. Tarek

Tawfik (Grand Egyptian Museum), and Dr. Khaled el-Enany (Egyptian Museum and National Museum of Egyptian Civilization), with whom I talked about Egyptian art, which was sweet. I visited the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir the next day and spent the afternoon photographing as much as I could. Yes! Photography in the museum (without flash) is now allowed again for a LE 50 ticket; the same for the Luxor Museum of Art as well.

February 20 stands out as a particularly memorable day in Luxor, filled with events. At 10:00 AM Hourig Sourouzian unveiled a magnificent, restored colossal quartzite Amenhotep III head at the Luxor Museum from the Amenhotep III mortuary temple (too fragile to remain outside; the restored eye was in a private collection for a while and was returned to Egypt last year). It faces its granite counterpart in the museum foyer and can even be seen from outside, through the glass door, and is most impressive. At 11:00 AM the *Luxor Times* and antiquities ministry sponsored an awards ceremony at the Mummification Museum auditorium at which Chicago House and I received an award for “Top Ongoing Achievement” (along with several others, including Hourig, our Polish colleagues at Deir el-Bahri, ARCE, and numerous other Egyptian and foreign colleagues and missions), and where I presented a brief, fifteen-minute PowerPoint briefing of our current work and activities. After the three-hour ceremony, speeches, and other presentations, I had a late lunch with our antiquities friends and Luxor governor at the Sheraton Hotel. I was seated near antiquities minister Dr. el-Damaty, with whom I talked about security and preservation issues and our upcoming Akhenaten Museum meeting in Cairo.

On February 23 I was pleased to represent Chicago House at a US Embassy reception in Cairo hosted by Ambassador Beecroft in recognition of ARCE's numerous accomplishments throughout Egypt. I then attended meetings at the ministry on February 24 and 25 to plan the completion of the Minya Akhenaten Museum dedicated to the Amarna period. I have been appointed to the steering committee of the museum, along with the minister; the head of the ministry's museum sector, Dr. Elham el-Din; Minya Museum director Ahmed Hemida, MA; Egyptian Museum and National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) director Dr. Khaled el-Enany; Documentation Center and Publications director Dr. Hisham el-Leithy; Museum Documentation director Dr. Yasmin el-Shazly; Berlin Egyptian Museum director Dr. Friederike Seyfried; and Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum Hildesheim director Dr. Regine Schulz. The latter two both worked in Luxor as graduate students when I began my work at Chicago House, so it was a pleasant and productive reunion, and our discussions on the resumption of the work on the



Southwestern pavement scheduled for restoration, before work began. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brick-making drying area. Medinet Habu. February. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brick stamp



Lotfi and Nahed stamping bricks, February. Photo by Ray Johnson



Expanded brick-making operation. Medinet Habu. February 11, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brick-wall restoration going up. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

Minya Museum — a collaboration between Germany and Egypt interrupted by the 2011 Revolution — were fruitful. The pyramid-shaped museum is built, but not yet finished out, and the meetings focused on what is necessary to complete the construction, the interiors, and the design



Mohamed and brother Mahmoud shaping sandstone slabs for the viewing area and walkway. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Johannes cutting stone restoration blocks outside the small Amun temple. Medinet Habu. February 3, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Frank explaining joining of slabs for viewing area. Photo by Ray Johnson



Capped brick walls and viewing platform underway. Medinet Habu. February 19. Photo by Ray Johnson



Greg and Reis Yasser. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson

of the galleries and exhibits within. I have been assigned the task of helping to design the Amarna *talatat* reconstruction displays for the ministry, a great honor, and a very practical application for the Amarna Talatat Project joined block groups that I have been researching and reassembling during the last few years.

The restoration work at Medinet Habu continued apace. The brick-making area was expanded, and more bricks were made, stamped with the University of Chicago initials, and set out in the sun to dry. Dried bricks were positioned over the ancient walls, capping and protecting them, and demarcating the viewing area and paved road leading to the western precinct. Paving stones arrived for the viewing area and walkways and the shaping began by brothers Mahmoud and Mohamed under the supervision of Frank. On February 26 Gregory Marouard returned to Luxor from Chicago to conduct a condition survey and cleaning of the House of Butehamun foundations and casemate platform at Medinet Habu for Chicago House. While it appears from the few surviving records that Uvo Hölscher excavated the entire structure to its foundations in the early 1930s for the Oriental Institute, including the fill, we want to make absolutely sure before we do any more conservation and restoration of the standing remains. Gregory, who with wife Nadine worked at Tel Edfu and Dendera this past fall and is back in Egypt for IFAO work at Wadi al-Jarf (Khufu's harbor on the Red Sea), generously returned a few weeks early to conduct this important work and follow in Hölscher's footsteps. He is one of the best archaeologists working in Egypt these days, and we are lucky that one of his specialties happens to be late-period mudbrick domestic architecture.

Owen and Hilary continued their exciting experiments with 3D imaging applications for our recording work at Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple. With a digital camera lashed to an extendable, twenty-foot 1920s tripod, Owen combined new and old technologies to produce thousands of digital images of the western precinct that were later stitched together using Agisoft Photoscan software into a 3D plan of the western High Gate and Butehamun house sites. Such a map was suggested by Greg and Nadine when we discussed the beginnings of this project last year, and it was wonderful to be able to present Greg with a prototype image, the first in the history of Chicago House. This 3D map will be a permanent reference to the condition of the western precinct at this point in time, and will be augmented by other 3D maps as we clean, restore, and develop the area. Jay continued his Luxor Temple blockyard database entries, 3,424 to date, and patiently tagged 1,182 blocks with stamped, numbered aluminum tags. In a very exciting development, Hilary explored 3D imaging applications with Jay in the



Greg and Butehamun House. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Owen doing tripod photography, western High Gate. Medinet Habu. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky



Owen (right) showing Sylvia and Lotfi the new 3D map of the western High Gate area. Medinet Habu. February 10, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Krisztián, Jen (back), Jay, Hilary, Keli, and Owen reviewing 3D imaging applications for Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple. February 9, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



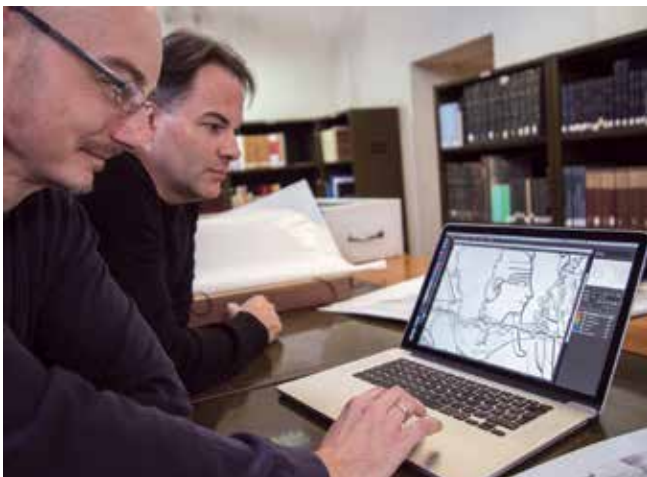
Jay recording block location data with iPad. Luxor Temple. February 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Hilary demonstrating 3D applications for the Luxor Temple blockyard recording and database work. Photo by Ray Johnson



Hiroko and Jay compiling data in the blockyard. Luxor Temple. February 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Krisztián and Brett 2016. Photo by Sue Lezon

blockyard and worked out how the Agisoft Photoscan software could be utilized in the mapping, tracking, and photography of the 50,000 blocks in the blockyard without having to dismantle all the rows. This would save enormous amounts of time, since the raw images could be generated there and then processed off site, anywhere. Truly, this technology is already transforming our operations on both sides of the river, and we have only just begun exploring the possibilities.

Nick Reeves arrived back in Luxor mid-month for work in the Carter House magazine recording objects he helped excavate in the Valley of the Kings during the Amarna Royal Tombs Project years ago. There is no news about additional scanning in KV 62, but the minister is expected to make an announcement in the weeks ahead. It's hard to be patient!



Yarko and Ellie photographing block fragments. Photo by Ray Johnson

MARCH 2016

The beginning of March saw the departure of friends Piers Litherland, Mohsen el-Kamel, and Geoffrey Martin after a successful season in the western wadis of the Theban Necropolis Survey Project. But it also saw the return of some old friends — including a few American tour groups — to Luxor. Temma Ecker and her Journeys of the Mind group enjoyed a reception and library briefing at Chicago House on March 1, as well as site visits to Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu. Rhoda Payton and her Society for the Study of Ancient Egypt group paid a visit to Medinet Habu followed by a Chicago House library briefing by Brett on March 3. That week we were also pleased to meet with friend and donor Jim Dulak and friends Bob and Pat back in Luxor on a Far Horizons tour. I should also mention that AHI Tours is back, sending American and Canadian groups to us every week for a Chicago House library briefing and a donation each time, a valuable and much-appreciated component of our Luxor development program. Cosmos Tours is also back, sending tours for site briefings at Medinet Habu every other week or so, a great way to support and be a part of our work in Luxor.

On March 5 Emmanuelle and Alain Arnaudies returned to Chicago House to continue their Tom and Linda Heagy Chicago House Photo Archive database project, and to discuss the integration of the Ted Brock photographic archive that Ted's wife Lyla Pinch Brock has donated to Chicago House in Ted's memory. Ellie and Tina have started the systematic sorting, archival housing, and scanning of the archive, and photo archivist Sue Lezon reports that preliminary assessment of the scope of the archive indicates that there are over 60,000 individual images of sites throughout Egypt as well as from museums worldwide.



Conservator Neema Ahmed consolidating well blocks. Medinet Habu. February 3, 2016. Photo by Ray Johnson



Viewing area slab laying from west. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Nahed at work in small Amun temple. Medinet Habu. 1999. Photo by Lotfi Hassan



Margaret checking collations in the small Amun temple bark sanctuary. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Adel and Nahed. 2001. Photo by Lotfi Hassan



Nahed and Lotfi working in the tomb of Ramesses VI. 2002. Photo by Ted Brock



Lotfi and Nahed consolidating a statue of Thutmose III. Luxor Museum of Art. 2003



Nahed teaching conservation students. Medinet Habu. 2014. Photo by Ray Johnson



Lotfi, Nahed, and Adel. 2006. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Yarko, Lotfi, Nahed, Brett, Frank. Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Nahed with conservation students, Frank, and Lotfi. 2015. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Nahed (center) farewell party. March 6, 2016. Photo by Yarko Kobylecky

The images consist of 35mm color slides and B&W negatives. Sites range from Abydos to Giza, Luxor, Aswan, Dhakla, Sinai, Memphis, Mendes, and Qantir, to name but a few. The images were shot over a span of thirty-five years (1980s–2015) and represent Ted's remarkable personal journey as an Egyptologist, scholar, and photographer. His work will live forever in our archive and is now accessible to everyone.

The month was filled with numerous comings and goings and project completions. On March 6 we gave Medinet Habu assistant conservator Nahed Samir a going-away party and celebration of her many years working with us. We deeply regret seeing her go, but she and son Jovani finally received their US visas and were able to join husband Adel Azziz (formerly Chicago House assistant conservator) and daughter Joia in Los Angeles on March 21. Nahed has been Lotfi's right hand at Medinet Habu, and a pillar of the work and conservation student training programs. We will miss her very much but wish her great joy with her family in the USA. Hiroko Kariya finished her conservation condition study in the Luxor Temple blockyard and departed for home on March 8. Brett and I finished our collation work in Theban Tomb 107 for the season and closed the tomb on March 9. Greg finished his archaeological study at the House of Butehamun and

departed for Cairo and the Red Sea on March 10. On March 17 Chicago House was pleased to host a welcome reception and library briefing to the Oriental Institute tour led by former Chicago House director Lanny Bell and Brittany Mullins, and on the 21st the group enjoyed site visits to Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple with Brett. Chicago House was also pleased to install four weather-proof educational panels mid-month, three at Luxor Temple, and one at Medinet Habu. We will see how the electrostatic paint on the aluminum signs weathers over the summer, but this may be what we have been striving for. On March 23 in a cabinet reshuffle, Egypt received a new antiquities minister, Dr. Khaled el-Enany, who up until then was director of both the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) and the Egyptian Museum on Tahrir. We wish him great success in his new job, and all the best to outgoing minister Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty. On the 28th Owen, Hilary, Alain, and Emmanuelle departed Luxor for home. On March 31 the Medinet Habu conservation teams finished their work for the season and enjoyed a celebratory lunch at Chicago House. They are all to be highly commended for truly excellent work this season, with much more to come in the seasons ahead.

APRIL 2016

The beginning of April saw temperatures starting to rise dramatically, which meant that the end of the season was near. It was also report-writing and evaluation time, when we compile the season's work and accomplishments. I am happy to report that there was much to show for our efforts. The RBF-funded conservation team made excellent progress in the consolidation of the Ramesses III southern well, a project that will take several more years to finish. This first year of our new USAID grant saw the groundwork laid for visitors to access a part of the Medinet Habu temple complex that is not possible now. Immediately west of the palace, a new sandstone-paved viewing area was finished by Lotfi and Frank's teams that will lead visitors to the restored sandstone path along the south side of the mortuary temple, out to the House of Butehamun and the western High Gate area. The stone path will be demarcated by low, mudbrick walls capping the ancient Ramesses III enclosure wall and will serve two purposes: to guide the visitor to the western sector, and to protect what remains of the original walls. We have created our own mudbricks for this purpose, kindly augmented by bricks made by ARCE Luxor associate director John Shearman's team from demolished buildings in old Dira Abu el-Naga village. Sincerest thanks to John and ARCE for this valuable help. Next season will see the continuation and expansion of that work. At the House of Butehamun, the conservation team documented and



New educational panel for the Luxor Temple pylon gateway set up; Workmen Mohamed, Saoud, and engineer Nashet. Luxor Temple. Photo by Ray Johnson



Brett showing the Oriental Institute Tour current projects. Medinet Habu. March 21, 2016. Photo by Lotfi Hassan



Conservators. Medinet Habu. March 30, 2016. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Conservation team. Chicago House. Photo by Frank Helmholz

consolidated the inscribed plaster faces of the slender columns of the house. Greg's cleaning and investigation indicated that the house had been thoroughly excavated by Uvo Hölscher in the 1930s, right down to the underpinning of the foundations, very good news. At the western High Gate, Jen and Anait recorded 948 separate inscribed architectural blocks and block fragments, while Owen and Hilary created detailed 3D maps of the area. Experiments were made in the creation of 3D images of separate blocks for reconstruction work, since many of the blocks and fragments in this area are reconstructible, with some very exciting results. For a rotatable preview of our 3D map of the western High Gate, check out this link: <https://sketchfab.com/chicagohouse>

In the meantime photographer Yarko has been systematically photographing all of the gate blocks in film as well as digitally, and they are now part of our permanent records. There is much yet to do, but we have made an excellent start in the Medinet Habu western sector, thanks to our USAID friends.

On April 5 Krisztián finished his drawing of the Roman frescos in the Luxor Temple Imperial Cult chamber, and we closed our operation at Luxor Temple for this year. On April 8 Brett talked to the last tour group of the season at Medinet Habu and supervised the packing up of ladders and equipment the next day, and on April 11 the small Amun temple was cleaned, inspected, locked, and sealed, and the equipment sent back to Chicago House, thereby ending our operation at Medinet Habu for this year. The Chicago House Library finished for the season on April 8, reports were delivered to the various antiquities inspectorates, goodbyes were made, and the staff started to depart, laden down with work for the summer. Chicago House officially closed its doors for the 2015–2016 season on April 15. Tina and the workmen immediately began to close up the house for its summer sleep. It didn't seem possible that those six months had passed so quickly.

SUMMER 2016

When I wrote last year's *Chicago House Bulletin 2015*, the Epigraphic Survey was facing a grim financial situation. Long-term grants were ending with no funding in sight for our increasingly complex and necessary documentation, conservation, and restoration work in Luxor. Last summer the whole team helped put together a number of grant proposals for submission to a number of different granting agencies, and as you have read in the pages of this current *Bulletin*, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) and USAID Egypt came through for us with

generous respective grants, for which we are enormously grateful. But this is a situation that we will face time and again, every four to five years. In response to our need to keep the work we are doing in Luxor at its current high level, Chicago House inaugurated a new endowment campaign last summer. Our goal is to raise \$14 million by our 100th anniversary in 2024, an endowment that would ease many of our financial needs and allow our preservation work to continue without interruption. Ambitious? Yes. But what we do, and the high standards of excellence



Frank unloading stone slabs. Medinet Habu. April 4, 2016. Photo by J. Brett McClain



Finishing viewing platform flooring. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Finished viewing platform looking toward the northeast. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Viewing platform and capped mudbrick walls, looking south. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



House of Butehamun cleaning, Medinet Habu. Photo by Ray Johnson



Western gate, cataloging team at work. Medinet Habu. Photo by Frank Helmholz



Frank and the completed Domitian Gate. Photo by Ray Johnson



3D map of the western High Gate, from above. Medinet Habu. Map by Owen Murray



3D map of the western High Gate, oblique view. Medinet Habu. Map by Owen Murray



Closing, equipment transfer. Medinet Habu. Photo by J. Brett McClain

that we stand for, are worth much, much more. Egypt's pharaonic sites are our common cultural heritage, and everything we do to help Egypt preserve, restore, and document them benefits everyone, east and west, and science itself. Egypt needs us. Spread the word and help us continue our good work. Bless you for your support.

The Epigraphic Survey professional staff this season, besides the director, W. Raymond Johnson, consisted of J. Brett McClain as senior epigrapher, Jen Kimpton and Christina Di Cerbo as epigraphers; Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder as archaeologist/epigraphers; Margaret De Jong and Susan Osgood as senior artists, Krisztián Vértés and Keli Alberts as artists; Julia Schmied as blockyard supervisor; Jay Heidel as architect/artist/data manager; Yarko Kobylecky as chief staff photographer; Owen Murray and Hilary McDonald as photographers; Susan Lezon as photo archivist and photographer; Elinor Smith as photo archives registrar and photography assistant; Carlotta Maher as assistant to the director; Essam

el-Sayed as finance manager; Samir Guindy as administrator; Samwell Maher as administrative assistant; Marie Bryan as librarian; Anait Helmholz as assistant librarian and Medinet Habu blockyard assistant; Gina Salama as librarian assistant; Frank Helmholz as master mason; Johannes Weninger as mason; Lotfi K. Hassan as Medinet Habu conservation supervisor; Nahed Samir as Medinet Habu conservation assistant supervisor; Hany Diab, Al Azab Ahmed, Nehad Badry, Skina Oraby, Safaa Nuby, Anhar Hassan, Fatma Ahmed, Neema Ahmed as Medinet Habu conservators; and Hiroko Kariya as Luxor Temple conservator. Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudès worked on the Chicago House Digital Archives database. Thanks must go to our forty year-round Egyptian workmen who form the core of the house and temple staff; without them we could do nothing, and we appreciate what they do more than words can express. Finally, very special thanks must go to Tom Urban of the OI Publications Office who designed and coordinated the production of this *Bulletin*.

Sincerest thanks to the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), Ministers of Antiquities Dr. Khaled el-Enany and Dr. Mamdouh el-Damaty, respectively, and all of our friends and colleagues in Egypt for another productive collaboration this season. For those of you who continue to generously support our preservation work in Luxor, I cannot thank you enough. 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 the facing page for our contact information in Egypt and Chicago.

Best and sincerest thanks to you all!

Ray Johnson, Director, Epigraphic Survey



Chicago House local and professional staff, 2015–16. Photo by Sue Lezon and Yarko Kobylecky

SUPPORT THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY AND CHICAGO HOUSE

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.

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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

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