



SEDJEM

The Newsletter of the Orange County Chapter of the American Research Center In Egypt



OC ARCE'S FIRST SEMINAR VERY SUCCESSFUL

On Saturday June 7, 110 OC ARCE members, guests and interested persons spent the day listening to the fascinating insights of Dr. Robert Ritner of the Oriental Institute, (OI) of the University of Chicago. He was so engaging a speaker that some folks are looking into joining one of his tours to Egypt, listed on the OI website. Most took advantage of the great shopping opportunities in the two souks run by EEO/SC and OCARCE. Plans are already underway for a 2009 seminar, speaker and topic to be determined.

ATTENTION ALL ARCE MEMBERS:

July 1 is dues renewal time. Please renew with the main office in San Antonio, at www.ARCE.org. Your dues pay our speakers, so don't forget to renew. OC ARCE is on the way to becoming the biggest U.S. chapter.

OC ARCE Student Member to Become an Egyptologist!



We are proud to announce that one of our student members, Damaris Vasquez, has been accepted into the Egyptology program at UCLA. She is going for a BA degree in Ancient Near Eastern Civilization and Cultures, with a minor in Anthropology and major in Egyptology. She plans to pursue her Masters and PhD in Egyptology. Damaris has been attending OCARCE lectures since 2003 and graduated from Fullerton College this year. You often see her helping out with raffles and sales at our ARCE monthly lectures.

She remembers reading Dr. Donald Ryan's book, *The Idiot's Guide to Ancient Egypt*, and understanding his statement, that with Egyptology you go all the way to a PhD and become a professional - or you don't. There is just no place for amateurs. For a while she wondered if she could sustain that level of commitment for so many

years, but, the Tut exhibit in 2005 rekindled her interest in Egyptology, so she decided to go for it.

Her interest in history was cultivated by her father, who would watch history documentaries on TV - especially World War II - and she watched with him. Drawn to Egypt by the age of 8 or 9 she already wanted to go there, but couldn't convince her parents. At age eighteen, in 2002, she tried again to go but her parents thought it was too unsafe at that time. She finally went to Egypt last summer, with Dr. Angelica Nemths, then of Cypress College, and 25 other dance students.

They had a magical time seeing all the sites, learning about the culture, past and present. The nightclubs gave her a unique insight into the culture of Egypt today. What's impressed her most about the Egyptians was their engineering accomplishments, and art. "No matter who came in and conquered them they always got their country back. . . Egyptians have influenced other cultures over millennium and even today Egyptian history still affects the world."

Damaris has wonderful new adventures waiting for her at UCLA and is really excited to go on her first trip back to Egypt to work in the field. Her final goal after her PhD is to teach. Let's all wish her the best and continue to support her quest!

The Economics of Operating an Archaeological Dig in Egypt

Who pays for exploration and conservation? Over the years, dozens of OC ARCE speakers have interpreted their findings of objects, tombs, temples, etc., excavated in Egypt. Most people assume because the expedition requires a license from the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) that the Egyptian government pays for the work. Nothing could be further from the truth.

You may recall that Howard Carter had a wealthy patron, Lord Carnarvon, an English aristocrat with a peerage in Wales. Carter telegraphed Carnarvon to come immediately and awaited his arrival before breaching the inner door to King Tutankhamun's intact tomb. Phoebe Randolph Hearst, of the Hearst newspaper empire family, funded operations in Egypt. Most university and museum expeditions of previous centuries were backed by wealthy industrialists. Today, Egyptologists are on their own for funding, attempting to raise money from a variety of donors through foundations they have established. For example, Chicago House, where our Vice President Brett McClain works, and the Oriental Institute are separately incorporated operations of the University of Chicago. They receive additional funding from the World Monument Fund and USAID, an arm of the United States government which funds international projects. Mark Lehner's operations at Giza are funded by AERA, Ancient Egypt Research Associates. The Cotsen Institute at UCLA funnels donations to Dr. Willeke Wendrich's operation in the Fayum.

The spectrum of expenses for mounting an expedition in the 21st Century is vast. First there are the airfares to transport the North American and European based team members to Egypt. There may be excess baggage charges, for each team brings in most of its own scientific and office supplies. The full time staff are paid the salaries designated in their contracts. More staff, seasonal people, are hired in Egypt. These range from consulting experts in preservation, human remains, flora and fauna, to drivers. The head of the Egyptian team of laborers is the reis, an experienced foreman, who selects workers from neighboring villages to do the digging, the carrying, the rigging of scaffolding, the hauling of timber and ropes. Younger workers, normally boys, but in some locales now, females, carry the baskets of sand away from the operational site, to dump in a designated spoils area. These basic laborers are paid \$5 per day. Yes, you read that right. The going pay rate in southern Egypt is \$5 per day, payable in cash each Friday.

So figure \$25 - 30 per worker each week, for a five or six day week. The Colossi of Memnon expedition employs 230 workers, so their weekly base payroll for laborers alone is about \$7000. Skilled workers, those who clean or match pottery shards, or assist with excavation of mud brick or statues are a bit higher. At certain digs, where workers are far from home, housing and food costs are added on. Graduate students may work for free, but require housing and food.

The SCA requires all foreigners working in Egypt to pay their site inspector, and this may include lodging and travel. They are also required to pay security personnel who guard the site and its workers from interference by tourists, locals, wandering donkeys, etc. Working on a Nile river site in a politically sensitive part of Middle Egypt, Carol Redmount's El Hibeh expedition has the privilege of compensating both the Army and the Navy.

Unlike centuries ago, when the proto-archaeologists and collectors ripped things open, took what they liked and left the debris behind, nowadays part of the mission of Egyptological expeditions is to clean, conserve, stabilize and secure. If this requires timber, stones, or iron gates, the expedition absorbs that cost. Cars, trucks, scaffolding, hoists, fuel costs, add on to this. Many expeditions rent lodging in very cheap hotels, or rent housing. In the off season, many rent storage space for their gear and computers, printers, machinery, etc.

It is a great honor to be chosen to train Egyptians in field work. Graduates in Egyptology from Egyptian universities have had classroom training, but no practical on site training. Many employees of the SCA therefore are being sent to field schools conducted by American archaeologists, including Willeke Wendrich, Mark Lehner and Ed Johnson, to learn the hands on stuff: excavation and conservation techniques, site management, recording and drawing. The Egyptologist singled out for this honor also gets to pay for the books, the paper, the conservation kits, and all other expenses, though the SCA pays for the students. The reports on the field schools at the ARCE Annual meeting in Seattle this past April were super interesting.

While Howard Carter might not have wanted donations from average folks for his quest to find King Tut, today's Egyptologists working in the field are pleased to accept all levels of donations from average people interested in supporting their work. If you can afford \$25, you can pay for a worker for a week, something that makes a huge difference on a smaller dig, where it can free the archaeologist up to do more skilled work. \$50 can pay for the lights, and the fuel for the generator, so that people working underground in a tomb have electric lighting. If you can afford \$100, you can help pay for the iron gate that secures the tomb against modern day robbers.

Most of you come to the lectures because you have a passion for Ancient Egypt. Now perhaps you understand that you can play an active role in supporting Egyptologists who have engaged your interest and imagination. If you are an ARCE member, your dues go towards grants that support many expeditions in Egypt, which is why as a chapter, we don't raise money for our speakers. As individuals however, never hesitate to ask someone after a lecture to whom you can write a check. Most have a non profit connection to enable you to obtain a US tax deduction.



OC Public Libraries Accomplishments Summary For Fiscal Year 2007-2008

- Provided 5,619 story times, and children's and teen programs that were attended by 164,113 of OC's youth.
- Helped 152,329 people answer their informational questions
- Loaned 5,060,803 books, dvds, cds e-audio books and other library material.
- Opened the Katie Wheeler Library in Irvine Ranch Historical Park.
- Provided 333 volunteers the opportunity to help 660 adults improve their reading.
- Issued 64,424 new library cards to OC residents.
- Installed self service check out stations in various branch libraries.
- Launched the Historical Images collection of photographs available on the Library website, www.ocpl.org .

UPCOMING ARCE LECTURES

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008 - 10:30 AM

Dr. J. Brett McClain

Vice President, OC ARCE Board of Directors, Assistant Director, Chicago House, Luxor

**Report on Conservation and Documentation Projects of the Oriental
Institute's Epigraphic Survey in Luxor"**

ADMISSION IS FREE

THE BOWERS MUSEUM
NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM
2002 N. MAIN, SANTA ANA, CA

Driving Directions: <http://www.bowers.org/visit/directions.jsp>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008 : 1:00—3:30 PM

Dr. Hourig Sourouzian & Dr. Rainer Stadelmann

**\$5.00 TO PUBLIC
(ADMISSION IS FREE TO ARCE MEMBERS)**

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The Orange County Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt presents 10 - 12 lectures annually on a variety of topics by Egyptologists working in various expeditions throughout Egypt. Our partners are the Orange County Public Library system and the Bowers Museum. While the lectures are free to the public, all speakers are paid honorariums and sometimes travel expenses to come to the OC. The sole source of revenues to fund these lectures comes from the dues of ARCE members. Everyone who attends is encouraged to join ARCE and support not only this lecture series, but ARCE's important work program of discovery and conservation of some two dozen ancient Egyptian monuments. To find out more, visit www.arce.org and click on expeditions. Click on membership to print a form to join for \$55 per year (\$45 seniors, \$25 students). That averages out to about \$5 a lecture and it's fully tax deductible.

Membership in ARCE entitles you to one-year subscriptions to the annual *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* and the Center's triennial *Bulletin*, discounted fares on EgyptAir between the United States and Cairo, special rates at selected hotels, access to ARCE's centrally located residence and its research library, and invitations to special ARCE-sponsored events both in Egypt and the US.

VISIT THE ARCE WEBSITE!

www.ocpl.org/lectures/egypt.htm

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