



# SEDJEM

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



**SEDJEM** is the modern translation of the ancient Egyptian *sdm*, a verb meaning “to hear” or to “hearken to” according to *EGYPTIAN GRAMMAR* by Sir Alan Gardiner. We have therefore adopted SEDJEM as an appropriate title of our local ARCE/OC newsletter.

## A Message from Robin Young, the President of OC ARCE

Planning for the 2008 lecture series is well underway; the speakers through March are listed in this newsletter. Later on, we will be hosting Dr. Renee Friedman of Hierakonpolis fame, and for a mini seminar, the very dynamic team running the huge Colossi of Memnon site on the West Bank of Luxor, Drs. Hourig Sourouzian and Rainer Stadelman. Dr. Kara Cooney will be taking time off from her TV show to talk to us, and Dr. Jacco Dieleman will also be driving down from UCLA to let us in on some great research he is doing on the collection in Vienna, Austria. I am talking with Kent Weeks about coming west next summer, and we hope to offer a 1 day seminar in Ancient Egyptian Medicine. Michael Jones from ARCE in Cairo will be joining us just before the ARCE conference in April.

The initials ARCE are mentioned a lot, and I'll bet some of the 1000 folks on our mailing list don't know what it means. The American Research Center in Cairo is a non profit organization that facilitates the work of American Egyptologists in Egypt. They provide a research library, and logistical support for field operations. They even have a small residence facility in Cairo where Egyptologists, who have come out of the field and into the capitol to get permits or supplies, can stay if they don't wish to pay \$135 on a hotel room. Perhaps their most important function is coordinating grant moneys from the US government for the exploration, and conservation of antiquities in Egypt.

Often this involves technological support. The creation of the database for the inventory of the Egyptian Museum was a project launched with an ARCE grant. They offer research fellowships, and those of you who attended Dr. Piccione's talk last February, about the creation of the GIS system for the West Bank, and the recording of tomb locations, may recall this was an ARCE fellowship.

In the new spirit of cooperation that has replaced the old era of competition, ARCE assists the work of other foreign missions by sharing advice and insight on such issues as dewatering sites which are flooding due to the rising water table in Egypt.

ARCE operates lean and mean. They own a modest headquarters building in Cairo, and have a small US office at Emory University in Atlanta. I've been to the Cairo office several times, and as a member for many years, can attest to the business like way the organization functions.

ARCE relies on the support of its members in the United States for some of its operations. In the OC chapter, the nation's largest, there are 175 members, including many Egyptologists. A portion of each member's dues is returned here to contribute to the speakers program. So the next time you see an ARCE member, thank them for bringing this great set of programs to Orange County so everyone who loves Ancient Egypt can benefit. Better yet, become a member yourself! Individual memberships start at \$55, family at \$80, students at \$25. This way, you too can support the work of Egyptologists working in Egypt. Pick up an application at a meeting, or go on line to [www.arce.org](http://www.arce.org) and print one out to mail in. Be sure and check the box for the OC chapter! Thanks to our wonderful partners, the Orange County Public Library system and the Bowers Museum, we offer 10 - 12 lectures a year.

One of the best things about membership is the annual conference. Every year, at the end of April, ARCE convenes Egyptologists from all over the world for a 2.5 day meeting, jam packed with lectures and the chance to buy books at a discount from specialty book sellers. The 2008 conference will be in Seattle, a short hop on Southwest airlines, the last weekend in April.

The OC ARCE board is looking for ways to make membership more meaningful locally, because the discount on Egypt Air does not help much if you are not flying there. We are open to suggestions from the members. Lunch with Dr. Steve Harvey on October 20 (rsvps required) is the first "members only" value added benefit we are offering, but more will happen throughout 2008. Please send your ideas to [robinyoung@earthlink.net](mailto:robinyoung@earthlink.net).

We are also in need of volunteers to help with things like taking photos at the lectures, and the website we are hoping to create in 2008. Want munchies and beverages at the meetings? A hospitality committee would be much appreciated. If you can help out the chapter in any way, please let us know.



### **“Ancient Pharaoh Temple Discovered Inside Egypt Mosque”**

“Parts of a temple dating to the reign of pharaoh Ramses II have been discovered inside a mosque in Luxor, Egypt, officials report. ... Experts restoring the historic mosque uncovered sections of columns, capitals, and elaborately inscribed reliefs from one of the ancient temple's courtyards built around 1250 B.C. The previously concealed architectural elements reveal well-preserved hieroglyphics and unique scenes depicting the powerful pharaoh. The discovery is likely to touch a nerve among religious leaders, because the newly exposed reliefs contain representations of humans and animals, which are forbidden inside mosques, the experts said. The discovery was made during repair work on the mosque after a fire damaged part of the structure in June. ‘To do this project of restoration, [workers] had to reclean and reopen many things, and this is when the scenes were found, and they are really unique,’ said Zahi Hawass, secretary general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. ...”

### **“New find in King Tut's tomb”**

Intact clay pots sealed with cartouches of King Tutankhamun and eight baskets have been discovered in his treasure room in the Valley of the Kings, the Egyptian Culture Minister said on Monday. Hawass' team reportedly found the provisions, intended to accompany Tutankhamun into the afterlife, in a treasure chamber next to the room where the king's elaborate, multilayered coffin was discovered. It remains unclear whether Carter saw the items, but they are not listed in his reports on the tomb. ‘The eight baskets contained large quantities of doum fruits, which have been well preserved,’ Hawass said in a statement. ... The sweet orange-red fruit, also known as the gingerbread fruit, comes from the Doum Palm, a native of southern Egypt, and was traditionally offered at funerals. Twenty pear-shaped containers, one metre ... in height and bearing Tutankhamun's official seal were also discovered. According to Hawass, the containers are probably full of provisions that were destined to travel with the pharaoh to the afterlife. They will be opened soon, he said.

### **“First textile museum in Egypt”**

“The first Egyptian textile museum will open early next year in Old Cairo. The museum, which cost some LE20 million, will display rare carpets, mates and clothes dating back to different epochs. ‘It will display up to 250 pieces of textile and 15 carpets dating back from the Pharaonic age to Ottoman ruler Mohammad Ali,’ Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni said. He said the museum will use state-of-the-art technology in displaying the masterpieces. ‘The showcased items will be accompanied by useful information about their place of origin and how they were made,’ the minister added.”

### **“UN objects to plans for Cairo's mediaeval citadel”**

“The United Nations has objected to plans to build a hotel and offices overlooking Cairo's historic citadel, and recommends the planners scale back by five or six floors, the Egyptian government said on Monday. UNESCO (the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) said in a report that the high buildings would damage the appearance of the citadel, the mediaeval fortress which for centuries was the seat of the government in Egypt.

### **“Egypt on the Big Screen: Reviving Nefertiti”**

“A new film project on the New Kingdom Queen, the Great Royal Wife of Akhenaten, will be produced by American John Heyman and shooting is expected to start in Egypt in February. ‘Some parts of the film will be shot in Morocco, and it's not settled yet whether they'll start in Egypt and then go to Morocco or vice versa,’ Youssef Sherif Rizqallah, the head of international cooperation at Egypt's Media Production City (EMPC), told the Daily Mail of London. The US\$130 million Nefertiti is based on the controversial bestselling Moses and Akhenaton, written by the Egyptian-born London-based writer Ahmed Osman. ‘It is not exactly based upon it. The film takes some of the main points from Osman's story, but the details are different,’ explained Rizqallah. Osman's tale is controversial, as historians say that it doesn't relate the real, historical story of Akhenaton and his wife Nefertiti. ... “Two other films will also be shot: one tells the story of Cleopatra and the other is a thriller. In November, EMPC will produce Young Cleopatra with a budget of US\$5 million. ... The third film, The Exodus Scrolls, is a thriller that tells the story of the chase to find a stolen papyrus.



**“Beneath Alexandria” Team finds evidence of a hidden city.**

“Alexander the Great founded Alexandria to immortalize his name amid his quest to conquer the world -- but his was apparently not the first city on the famed site on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. A Smithsonian team has uncovered underwater evidence pointing to an urban settlement at the site dating back seven centuries before Alexander showed up in 331 B.C. ... The discoveries, reported in the August issue of GSA Today, the journal of the Geological Society of America, came by accident when his team drilled underwater in Alexandria's harbor, Stanley said. ‘This often happens in science. We were not searching for an ancient city,’ said Stanley, who has been working in the Nile Delta for 20 years. ... When his team opened the cores they saw ceramic fragments that reflected human activity, but there was no immediate cause for excitement. Then, more rock fragments, ceramic shards from Middle and Upper Egypt, a lot of organic matter, plant matter and heavy minerals were found. Radiocarbon dating showed all the items to be from around 1,000 B.C. ... ‘This was proof that there was significant metallurgy and human activity going on back 1,000 years B.C.,’ Stanley said. ‘Alexandria did not just grow out from a barren desert, but was built atop an active town.’

**ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS**

The Orange County Public Library held its first author festival, ***Literary Orange - A Celebration of Authors*** on April 21, 2007. Participants had the opportunity to interact with a variety of authors at the all day literary event which took place at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove.

**Next year's Literary Orange author festival will be held on April 5, 2008.  
More details will be available soon!**

To see a slideshow of our 2007 event please visit  
<http://www.youtube.com/OCPublicLibrary>



**literary  
orange**

**Save the Date  
Literary Orange - April 5, 2008**

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](http://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.

## Upcoming Speakers:

**Dr. Elizabeth Wayland Barber**, Professor of Linguistics and Archaeology, Retired, Occidental College. Co-Author of When They Severed Earth From Sky, which proposes how ancient peoples passed on their history through oral traditions that we know as myths. ***Before Written History: What Myths Reveal About Ancient Egyptian Prehistory***  
Friday, November 16, 2007 7:30 PM Norma Kershaw Auditorium, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana. Free.

*December 2007, no events scheduled.*

**Dr. Willeke Wendrich**, Associate Professor. Egyptian Archaeology, Center for Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and Editor-in-chief UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology (UEE) and students, present ***The Karnak Temple Complex***.  
Saturday, January 29, 2008, 1:30 PM, Norma Kershaw Auditorium, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana. Free

**Dr. Peter Piccione**, Associate Professor of Near Eastern History, Department of History, University of Charleston, S.C. and co-director of the Online GIS System for the Theban Necropolis; ***Pharaoh at the Bat: Sports and Games in Ancient Egypt***.  
Saturday, February 23, 2008, 1:30 PM, Norma Kershaw Auditorium, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana. Free

**Dr. JJ Shirley**, Lecturer in Egyptology, Dept. of Classics, Ancient History & Egyptology  
The Centre for Egyptology and Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Wales, Swansea; ***Politics of Placement: The Development of the Theban Necropolis in the New Kingdom***  
Saturday, March 29, 2008 1:30 PM, Norma Kershaw Auditorium, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana. Free

## **VISIT THE ARCE WEBSITE!**

[www.ocpl.org/lectures/egypt.htm](http://www.ocpl.org/lectures/egypt.htm)

---

Orange County California Chapter  
American Research Center in Egypt  
1501 E. Saint Andrew Place  
Santa Ana, CA 92705