



# 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.



## - In Remembrance -

This issue of Sedjem is dedicated to former ARCE OC founding Board Member Rob Masters who passed away in New Hampshire July 18, 2007 after a long battle with pancreatic disease. Our prayers and best wishes go out to his family, and his wife Pat during this difficult time.

## A BIG SUMMER FOR ARCE OC CHAPTER

June was an exciting month for the Orange County ARCE chapter as one hundred eager egyptophiles gathered two weeks in a row to meet and hear Dr. Otto Schaden's update on KV 63, and Mansour Boraik's report on the many exciting developments on the East and West banks of Luxor.

A complete schedule of upcoming lectures can now be found at the end of each newsletter. Upcoming talks include Cryptic Hieroglyphs by our own J. Brett McClain, and then ARCE Librarian Chuck Van Sclen on Karnak. He is followed by a chance to welcome a brand new Egyptologist to Southern California, Elizabeth Waraksa. Our chapter is the first to hear her presentation on female ritual figurines at the Temple of Mut. Then it's off to Abydos for some cutting edge news. The air fare gods have interfered with our speaker from the British Museum and a search is underway for a replacement. December is still vacant, but January brings a team presentation on Karnak. As you know, our lecture program somewhat goes with the flow of availability of Egyptologists, and this year seems to be our chance to finally figure out that most elusive of temples, Karnak, once and for all. But never fear, there are some cool and surprising topics in the works as this goes to press, so if Karnak is not your favorite topic, we won't be indentured there all year long.



**Left to right: Mansour Boraik, Robin Young, Acting OC Librarian Helen Fried.**

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.



## ***EGYPTOLOGY NEWS***

### ***Tomb 99 in the Valley of the Kings***

CAIRO (AFP) - Archaeologists have discovered the 3,000-year-old mummy of a high priest to the god Amun in the southern city of Luxor, antiquities supremo Zahi Hawass told the official MENA news agency on Saturday. The 18th Dynasty mummy of Sennefer was unearthed in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings -- one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world -- by a team from Britain's Cambridge University. "The mummy was found in tomb 99 in the Valley of the Kings on the west bank of Luxor," Hawass said. A high priest was considered to be the most important man after the king, performing duties, religious rituals and offerings on his behalf. Other mummies were found during the excavation, including one with a brain tumour, a foetus, a female mummy wrapped in plaster and others which appeared to have suffered from arthritis, Hawass said.

### ***Egypt's Lost Queen: First Identification Of A Pharaoh Found In The Valley Of The Kings Since King Tut***

Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities Dr. Zahi Hawass announced and unveiled June 27, in an international press conference at Cairo's Egyptian Museum, a 3,500-year-old mummy now positively identified as Hatshepsut, one of history's few female pharaohs. Using computed tomography (CT) scanning and ongoing DNA testing, Dr. Hawass solved the mystery of what happened to one of ancient Egypt's most powerful and successful rulers. Dr. Hawass's odyssey of archeological and scientific adventure has been documented in Discovery Channel's SECRETS OF EGYPT'S LOST QUEEN. The investigative journey of Dr. Hawass and his team leads them through the massive crypts beneath Egypt and into the depths of the Egyptian Museum. Using knowledge of royal Egyptian mummification and clues from two known tombs linked to Hatshepsut, the team narrows their search for Hatshepsut to just four mummies from thousands of unidentified corpses. CT scanning allows the scientists to link distinct physical traits of the four mummies to those of Hatshepsut's known relatives. The search further narrows to two possibilities—both from the tomb of Hatshepsut's wet nurse—but the final clue lies within a canopic box inscribed with the female pharaoh's name. A scan of the box finds a tooth that, when measured, perfectly matches a missing upper molar in one of the two mummies. ...” ▲ <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/06/070628091740.htm> [Science Daily, 27 June 2007]

### ***Egypt asks British Museum for Rosetta Stone***

The Egyptian government has made a formal request to borrow the Rosetta Stone from the British Museum (BM). A letter was sent last month by Dr Zahi Hawass, head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The Art Newspaper can reveal that the request is for a three-month loan in 2012, for the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum, which is being built near the Pyramids. Until now, the BM has been able to fend off questions about the return of the Rosetta Stone, since there had been no formal request. Whether the loan is eventually granted is expected to depend on three main factors. First, conservation, and whether the 1,680 pound stone could be at risk. Secondly, if the Rosetta Stone can be lent in view of its iconic importance. It is probably the single most-visited object in the BM's entire collection, attracting even more visitors than the Parthenon Marbles. The Rosetta Stone has been at the museum since 1802, and has only left the building twice—when it was evacuated during World War I and when it was lent to the Louvre for one month in 1972. Finally, there will concerns over whether it would be prudent to lend to Cairo, because of possible pressure in Egypt to retain the stone or request its permanent return. After receiving advice on these points, the request will be considered by the BM trustees. ...” ▲ <http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=668> [The Art Newspaper (UK), 21 June 2007]

## **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**

### **Nubian Gold - "Archaeologists Discover Gold Processing Center On The Nile"**

Archaeologists from the University of Chicago have discovered a gold processing center along the middle Nile, an installation that produced the precious metal sometime between 2000 and 1500 B.C. The center, along with a cemetery they discovered, documents extensive control by the first sub-Saharan kingdom, the kingdom of Kush. The team from the University's Oriental Institute found more than 55 grinding stones made of granite-like gneiss along the Nile at the site of Hosh el-Geruf, about 225 miles north of Khartoum, Sudan. The region was also known as Nubia in ancient times. ... 'This large number of grinding stones and other tools used to crush and grind ore shows that the site was a center for organized gold production,' said Geoff Emberling, Director of the Oriental Institute Museum and a co-leader of the expedition. ... The Oriental Institute excavations at Hosh el-Geruf will allow scholars to understand the rural sources of the riches of Kush.' ..." ▲ <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/06/070619083529.htm>  
[Science Daily, 22 June 2007]

### **Will Egypt Reclaim Domestication of Cats?**

An article in the New York Times on June 29, 2007 noted that DNA studies conducted by Dr. Carlos Driscoll of the National Cancer Institute had mapped the genes of remaining wildcat populations in Scotland, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Namibia and Mongolia, and compared it with the DNA of modern domesticated cats. "The DNA of all house cats and fancy cats falls with the Near Eastern wildcat cluster, making clear this subspecies is their ancestor. . . wheat, rye and barley had been domesticated in the Near East by 10,000 years ago, so it seems likely that the granaries of early Neolithic villages harbored mice and rats," which attracted cats to congregate nearby, and the settlers welcomed them. The fact that the cats domesticated themselves could account for their haughty independence. Cats have long been believed to have originally domesticated in Ancient Egypt, but in 2004, Archaeologist Jean-Denis Vigne discovered an 8 month old cat buried with its human owner in Cyprus, at a site that dates back 9,500 years. This seems to indicate that cat-human bonds had formed throughout the Neolithic Age Fertile Crescent, while Egyptian Civilization was still in its pre-historic era.



Upcoming Speakers:

**August 25, 2007 - Charles Van Siclen** - American Research Center in Cairo

Topic: "Excavations in the Court of the Ninth Pylon at Karnak"

Saturday 1:30 PM at the Norma Kershaw Auditorium at the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana

**September 16, 2007 - Dr. Elizabeth Waraksa** - UCLA

Topic: Female Figurines as Ritual Objects: New Finds from the Mut Precinct, Karnak

Sunday 1:30 PM at Heritage Park Library in Irvine

**October 20, 2007 - Stephen Harvey** - Pennsylvania-Yale-IFA NYU Expedition to Abydos

Topic: "Before the Valley of the Kings: Royal Monuments at the Birth of the New Kingdom."

Saturday 1:30 PM at the Norma Kershaw Auditorium at the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana

**November 16, 2007 - Dr. Elizabeth Wayland Barber** - Professor of Linguistics and Archaeology, Retired, Occidental College

Topic: Before Written History: What Myths Reveal About Ancient Egyptian Prehistory

Friday 7:30 PM at the Norma Kershaw Auditorium at the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana

**VISIT THE ARCE WEBSITE!**

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

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