



THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY FUND NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

2017

Back to Ballas!

This year saw us returning to the site of Deir el-Ballas and beginning to wind down our part in the Joint Expedition to Malqata. From January 11th to 25th, 2017 we conducted a short initial season of survey and recording in order to figure out ways to protect and restore the important Palace-City of Kings Sekhenenre and Ahmose at Deir el-Ballas.

The site was originally excavated by the Phoebe A. Hearst Expedition of the University of California under the direction of George A. Reisner in the years 1900 to 1901.

Later we undertook four seasons of survey and clearance there in 1980, 1983, 1984 and 1986 under the sponsorship of the American Research Center and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. We were asked to come back to the site at the request of Mr. Mustafa Waziri and the Qena Inspectorate of Antiquities, because of their concern for the preservation and restoration of this important area.



Piet Collet surveying at the "South Palace", Deir el-Ballas.

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About the Fund

The Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund is a private nonprofit organization with a mission to support the research and conservation of Egyptian history and culture. It seeks to safeguard, record and publish sites and monuments at risk from agricultural and urban expansion, looting, vandalism and climate change.

The organization will also work to foster a greater awareness of the risks to Egypt's archaeological heritage and to promote education and training in site management and protection.

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We undertook to survey, photograph and map the remains to assess the condition of the site, the perimeter of the antiquities area, and possible ways to protect and restore the standing structures. The team consisted of Peter Lacovara as Director along with Piet Collet as surveyor and archaeologists Tom Hardwick and Victoria Jensen. All aspects of the work were greatly facilitated by Hassaan Mohamed Ali and our inspector Abdullah Mohamed Abdullah.

Drawing Deir el-Ballas

Our new fieldwork dovetails nicely with our grant from the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications to prepare Reisner's original excavations at Deir el-Ballas for publication. For this year's phase of that project I was joined by Bettina Bader and Christian Knoblauch of the Austrian Academy of Sciences project: Beyond Politics: Material Culture in Second Intermediate Period Egypt and Nubia, START-Projekt Y 754-G19 funded by the Austrian Science Foundation, and by Niv Allon of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In April we all journeyed to the West Coast to study and record the material from Reisner's work now housed in the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California in Berkeley.



Bettina Bader drawing a "fish dish", with Vicky Jensen and Christian Knoblauch.

We spent two weeks drawing and recording pottery and objects in storage at the Museum, and were most grateful to the collections staff of the Hearst Museum and in particular Director Benjamin Porter, Collections Manager Leslie Freund and Berkeley graduate student Vicky Jensen for making our visit so productive and enjoyable.

Over 250 pottery vessels were examined and drawn along with more than 300 small objects. Niv Allon studied the inscribed ostraca to complete his recording of the ostraca from the site in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston conducted last year. In the coming months we hope to complete the documentation and analysis of objects for eventual publication and will share updates of our progress.

The Oral History Project



David O'Connor on site

This year, as a pilot for a series on the oral history of American Egyptology, we have been able to record a video oral history interview with David O'Connor, who is one of the country's leading archaeologists and a born raconteur. He gave a wonderful overview of his more than sixty years of working in Egypt. This sort of documentation is a crucial part of our mission to help preserve the record of our finest colleagues' work and interpretation to be preserved for future generations. The interview will soon be posted on a YouTube channel for the Fund and made freely available.

A new Website!

Visit our new website and keep up to date with current projects, publications, news and make a donation online!



<http://www.ancientegyptarchaeologyfund.com>

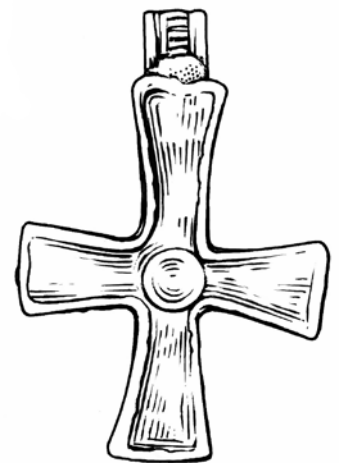
Nubian Treasures

Another aspect of the Fund's publication work this year was to help obtain images for a volume on the Gold of Nubia by Yvonne Markowitz and Peter Lacovara, to be printed by the American University in Cairo Press. An offshoot of this project is to help prepare some new labels for the X-Group material on display in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

Top right: Nubian X-Group crown (Egyptian Museum, Cairo)

Bottom left: New Kingdom gold and feldspar fish (Nubia Museum, Aswan)

Bottom right: Nubian X-group small gold cross (Egyptian Museum, Cairo)



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