



# THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY FUND NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

2016

## The Work of the Fund in the 2016 Season

This year the Fund again participated with the Department of Egyptian Art of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Joint Expedition to Malqata (JEM), which began work on January 9th and finished on February 3rd. Dr. Diana Craig Patch, Curator in Charge in the Department of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Dr. Peter Lacovara of the Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund were co-directors. The Fund's involvement is concentrated on the conservation and stabilization of the Palace of the King and continuing the work of previous seasons and earlier expeditions.



*The continuing restoration of the Palace of Amenhotep III at Malqata.*



## 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.



## Malqata: Repainting the Palace

Thanks to a generous contribution by William Suddaby we began this season to undertake one of the most important aspects of the Palace restoration- the replication of some of the mural paintings that were part of the decoration of the structure. The Fund was able to engage Keli Alberts, a renowned archaeological artist, to produce a trial painting and to complete two full scale paintings, one a floor mural of ducks in a marsh and one of a leaping calf.

The floor mural was a border design around the great central court of the palace and fragments of it are now on display in the Cairo Museum. The leaping calf (shown opposite) originally decorated one of the supports for the shelves that ran around the perimeter of the *harim* suites in the palace. Next season the new paintings will be installed in the same position as the paintings removed to the museums in a first step to give visitors an idea of what the structure looked like in the reign of Amenhotep III.



*Keli Alberts working on the test painting. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky.*

*Right: The test painting. This was subjected to the extremes of outdoor weather in Upper Egypt and survived admirably. Photograph by Yarko Kobylecky.*



*Left: The original floor painting now in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo. Photographs courtesy of allposters.com.*



*The leaping calf now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Photograph courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.*



## Malqata: Site K



*A section at Site K*

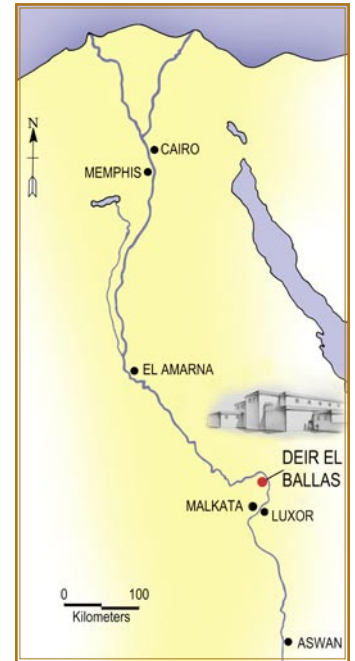
Thanks to a grant from the Institute for the Study of Aegean Prehistory, we were able to survey an interesting and enigmatic feature of Malqata, a strange outlier to the Birket Habu mounds. Called “Site K” by Barry Kemp, who excavated it in the early 1970’s, the place is a small, mysterious mound. When trenched, it appeared to be filled with material from the destruction of a palace decorated with murals on mud plaster. The contents of the mound were sampled and found to contain not only remains of painted decoration similar to that in the King’s Palace where we are working, but also fragments with much more clearly Aegeanizing motifs, such as the “rosette terrain” and wild plants in a rocky landscape, which bring to mind paintings like those found on Santorini and Crete. To get a better idea of Site K and how it relates to the rest of Malqata, several sections were drawn through Kemp’s old trenches, which are still visible. These trenches will also be tied into the work of Angus Graham of The Egypt Exploration Society Theban Harbours and Waterscapes Survey, who is making a study of the Birket and the other harbors in the Theban area.

# Deir el-Ballas

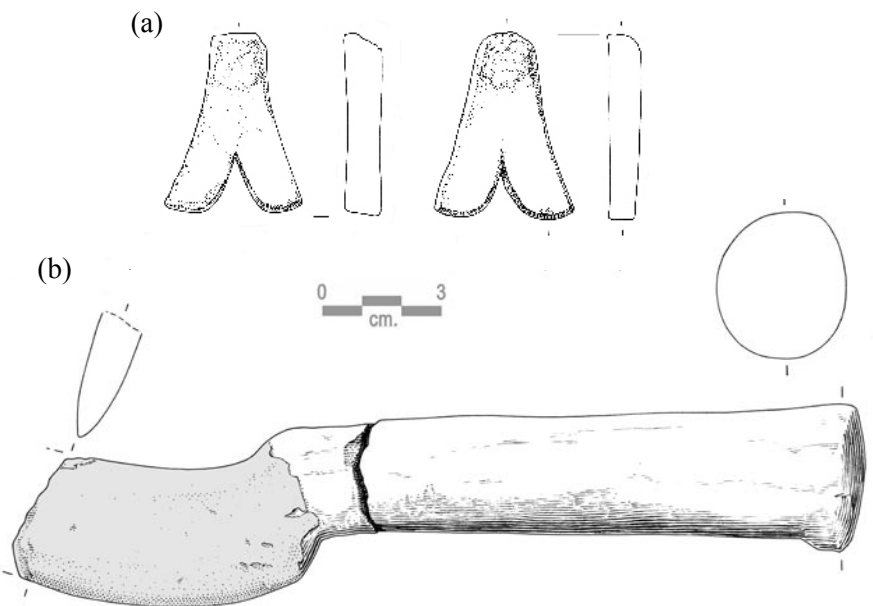
On January 11<sup>th</sup> we made a field trip to the site of Deir el-Ballas to assess the conditions of the site in preparation for working there in the 2017 season. We were concerned that not only has the modern village continued to encroach upon the ancient site, but that looters had continued digging around the South Palace, excavating down about 20 feet into one of the rubble-filled casemates.

It is hoped that a future season of survey and mapping, along with emergency conservation, can be the first step in developing a plan for the management and preservation of this important site.

In addition to future work at the site, we have also begun a project to publish the past work at Deir el-Ballas, thanks to the support of the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications. The grant will support three years of work to prepare for publication of the finds and results of Reisner's original expedition in 1900-1901. The material housed in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of the University of California in Berkley, will be studied, photographed and drawn. It is hoped that this project along with the proposed new fieldwork will underscore the importance of the site and its need for protection.



A robbed out casemate at the South Palace, Deir el-Ballas.



Small finds from Reisner's excavations at Deir el Ballas.  
Illustrations by A. Boyce.

- (a) pottery fly amulets, painted yellow to imitate gold.  
(b) model khepesh, wood handle with plaster covered blade.

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**The Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund**

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