



# THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY FUND NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

2018

## Deir el-Ballas Expedition



*Photo of the North Palace showing the encroachment of the modern town*

Thanks to a grant from the American Research Center in Egypt's Antiquities Endowment Fund, a new season of conservation and recording will begin this coming December. Our initial season, conducted from January 11-25 2017, consisted of a theodolite survey, photography and planning. This was to assess the condition of the site and perimeter of the antiquities area, as well as to establish possible ways to protect and conserve the site.

For the December 2018 and January 2019 season we have proposed a number of activities. At the South Palace, looters digging holes at the base of the eastern façade of the stair platform have brought about the collapse of significant portions of the outer wall, which threatens the integrity of the entire structure. We intend to replace the tumbled brick with modern unbaked mud brick of the same size, stamped and bounded by geotextile to indicate the modern intervention. This will secure the façade and prevent further deterioration. We will also clean and cap the staircase leading to the top of the platform to protect it from trampling by visitors. The casemates will be filled in and the lower platform at the South Palace levelled out to restore its original appearance, which will discourage looting and prevent potential injury to those visiting the site.

*Continued on page 2*



### 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.

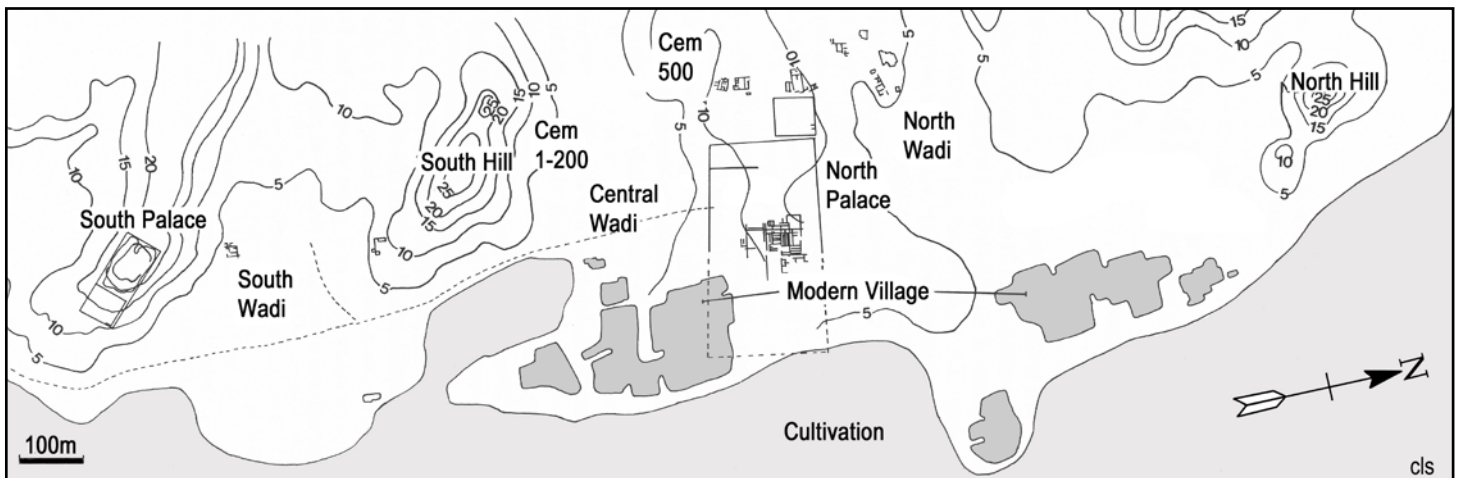
The organization will also work to foster a greater awareness of the risks to Egypt's archaeological heritage and to promote education and training in site management and protection.

Continued from page 1

At the North Palace our plan is to clean and re-fill with clean sand the casemate foundations emptied by Reisner’s original expedition. This will prevent collapse and the deposition of trash, and also address safety concerns. We will rebuild losses in the palace with modern unbaked mud brick of the same size, stamped to indicate modern intervention; this will secure the casemates and the surviving walls of the palace, preventing further deterioration. We will also seek to define and delimit the archaeological area with brick and/or fencing the North Palace to prevent further encroachment of the modern town and associated cemetery.

In the stretch between the North Palace and South Palace we will identify those archaeological remains, both excavated by Reisner and remaining un-excavated, and work with the Qena inspectorate on ways to protect and preserve them.

Lastly, we will add signage in Arabic and English to mark the major structures, and attempt to engage the local population in understanding the importance of the monuments and their preservation.



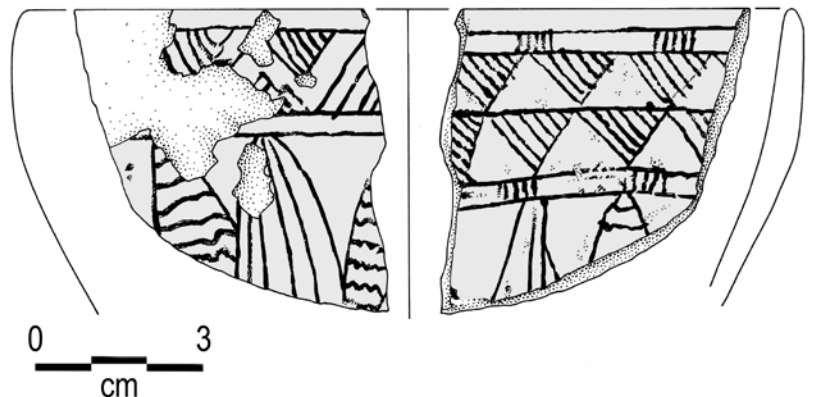
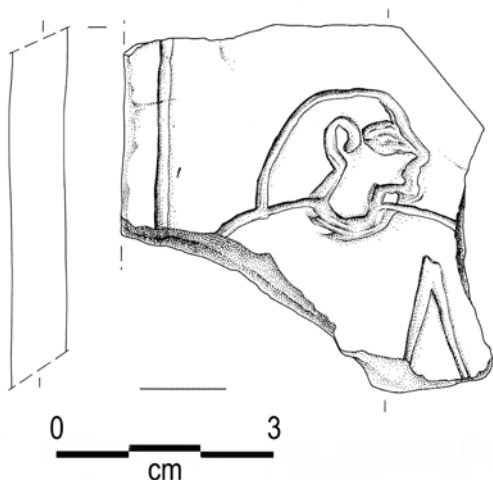
Map of Deir el-Ballas showing the main features of the site.  
 Drawn by Cynthia Shartzer

## Kerma Faience

We have also been preparing a study of the faience found during George Reisner’s work at Kerma in the Sudan. Analysis conducted by Pamela Vandiver of the University of Arizona and Julian Henderson of the University of Nottingham has revealed unique facets of the material culture of this Nubian kingdom.

SU 211

14-1-924



Illustrations of faience objects from Kerma in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.  
 Drawn by Andrew Boyce.

SU 211 Faience stela fragment from K I (the Lower Deffufa)

14-1-924 Faience lotus bowl from K XVIII A

## Deir el-Ballas Publication

Thanks to the renewal of our grant from the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publication we have continued preparing the material from Reisner's original fieldwork at the site. Two volumes will be prepared, the first on the cemeteries at the site and another on the ancient settlement.

*Selection of objects from Deir el-Ballas in the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of the University of California, Berkeley. Drawn by Andrew Boyce.*

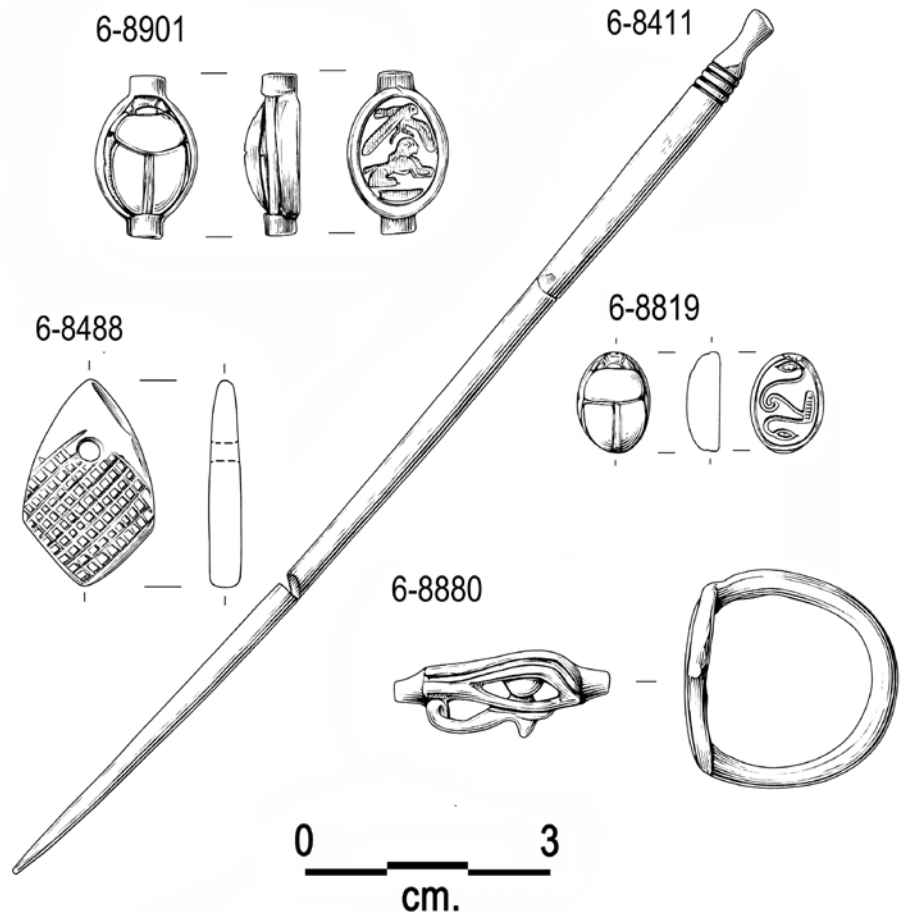
6-8901 Steatite scarab in gold setting from Tomb 221

6-8411 Ivory hairpin, tomb unknown

6-8488 Shell pendant, tomb unknown

6-8819 Carnelian scarab from Tomb 171

6-8880 Faience wadjet-eye ring from Tomb 193



## Oral History Project

This year we have been able to add more interviews to our series on the oral history of American Egyptology and have recorded video oral histories with Christine Lilyquist, Kent Weeks and Lanny Bell.

The recordings will soon be posted on the Fund website and YouTube channel and made freely available to whoever would like to use them.

*Right: Kent Weeks examining a canopic jar in the Valley of the Kings.*



## Dows Dunham Exhibition

The Albany Institute of History and Art is to hold an exhibition on the career of noted archaeologist and Egyptologist Dows Dunham. He was born to a prominent New York family in 1890 at Irvington-on-the Hudson. While on the “grand tour” of Europe and the Middle East in 1908 Dunham was enthralled with the antiquities of ancient Egypt. Later as a student at Harvard he took classes with the legendary Egyptologist, George A. Reisner. The professor saw the qualities of an excellent excavator in Dunham and encouraged him to join him in his excavations at the Pyramids of Giza.

Dunham arrived in Egypt in 1914 and his skills as an artist and archaeologist were soon put to use both at Giza and then in the Sudan. Dunham was also appointed Assistant Curator at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. After Reisner’s death in 1947, Dunham became Curator of the Egyptian Department in Boston and to continue his mentor’s work in Egypt, he conceived of what would become the American Research Center in Egypt, which still sponsors excavations and scholarly work in Egypt. Dunham retired from his curatorial responsibilities in 1956 to devote himself full time to the publication of the Egyptian and Sudanese excavations.

Dows Dunham passed away at the age of 93 still working on Egyptological publications; he is remembered as one of the greats of American archaeology.

For the exhibition, the Fund is commissioning Peter Leue, a noted Albany sculptor and master craftsman in wood and mixed media, to re-create Dunham’s reproduction of a funeral bed from Kerma.

Following the Giza excavations, Dows Dunham worked on reconstructing the furniture of Queen Hetepheres, the mother of Khufu. He subsequently applied his skills to making a modern copy of one of the ritual beds found in the excavations of the great tumuli at Kerma in the Sudan.

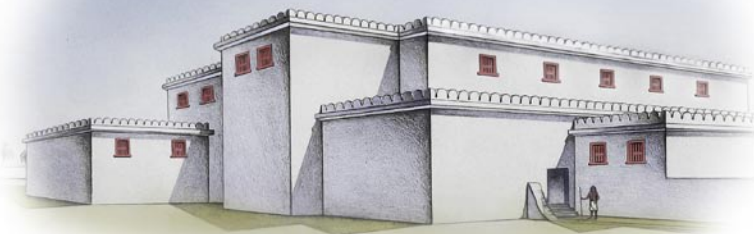
After the exhibition it is planned to donate the bed to the site museum at Kerma recently built by Charles Bonnet.



*Dows Dunham’s replica*

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**326 Hudson Avenue, Albany, NY 12210 U.S.A.**

*email: [lacovara.peter@gmail.com](mailto:lacovara.peter@gmail.com)*