



ARCE - NY Newsletter: Primordial Edition

**Spring
2024**

Volume 1, Issue 1



Sacred Lake at Karnak Temple (Photo Credit: Anh Nguyen)

ARCE Annual Meeting Recap

**Stephanie Denkowicz - ARCE National's Board of Director
Vice President!**

Winter/Spring Lectures

Upcoming Events

Object Highlight

Egyptology News You Can Use



Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the inaugural edition of ARCE-NY's Egyptology newsletter!

As Editor, I am thrilled to introduce this periodical dedicated to exploring chapter news and events, recent Egyptology news, and articles written by our members.

In future issues, we hope to include book reviews and member highlights.

We also welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions for future topics. This newsletter is a collaborative effort, and we want to ensure that it reflects the interests and curiosities of our readers.

Thank you for joining us on this adventure through the sands of time. I hope you find our newsletter both educational and inspiring and I hope to hear from you or see you at a future event!



Dr. Anh Nguyen
ARCE-NY Board Member
Webmaster and Newsletter Editor

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you interested in submitting an article or short book review for a future issue? Have a project or favorite object that you want to highlight?

Get in touch: anh.y.nguyen@gmail.com

ARCE Annual Meeting Recap

The 75th [Annual Meeting](#) took place on April 19th - 21st, 2024 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

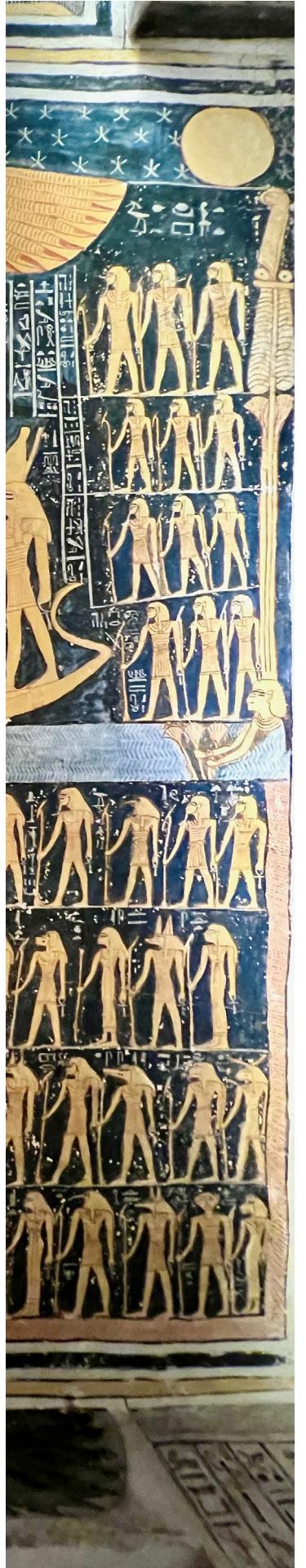
Events included a reception at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History with access to "[The Stories We Keep](#)" exhibit. Attendees mingled, explored the museum exhibits and chatted with conservators.



Conservation of artifacts in "The Stories We Keep" exhibit.
Photo credit: Anh Nguyen



Hands on activity of putting together a broken model pot.
Photo credit: Anh Nguyen



ARCE Annual Meeting Recap

The Chapter Council organized their first fundraiser since the pandemic. The proceeds from the fundraiser ticket sale goes to awards for the Best Student Paper & Poster Competition.

In light of ARCE's 75th anniversary, the Chapter Council organized a fundraiser. Dennis O'Connor gave a lecture titled "The Dawn of ARCE with Mr. & Mrs. Smith," which focused on the achievements and contributions of [Joseph Lindon Smith](#) and his wife, Corinna Smith to the founding of ARCE.

Joseph Lindon Smith was an avid painter, and 9 pieces of his paintings were on display at the fundraising event, courtesy of Dennis. In attendance were special guests Linden Gaspar (the Lindon Smiths' granddaughter) and her husband Jay Gaspar.



Rekheyet by Joseph Lindon Smith (c. 1946)
Photo credit: Dennis O'Connor



Chapter Fundraiser with Lindon Smith's paintings on display.
Left to right: Jay Gaspar, Linden Gaspar, and Dennis O'Connor.
Photo credit: Anh Nguyen

ARCE Annual Meeting Recap

ARCE-NY's Past President and current board member, [Stephanie Denkowicz](#), has been elected ARCE National's Board of Govenors Vice President!



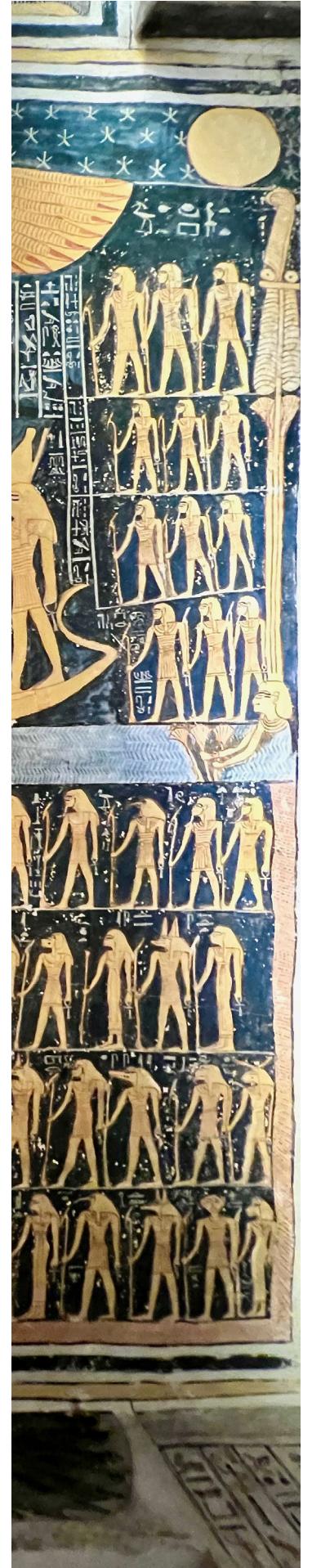
ARCE-NY's board member, [Dr. Anh Nguyen](#), is continuing her role as Chapter Council Board Secretary.

At the members' reception dinner, [Dr. James Allen](#) was presented with the professional achievement award for his contributions to the field of Egyptology.

Save the Date!

2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Meeting will take place in San Francisco on April 25th - 27th!



Events

This winter/spring, in partnership with the Salmagundi Club, ARCE-NY has hosted several lectures.

October 2023

[Dr. Stephen Harvey - The Earliest Images of Horse and Chariot Battle in Egypt: A Re-Evaluation](#)



Dr. Stephen Harvey
(Photo credit Stephen Harvey)

Abstract:

Since the discovery at Abydos in 1993 of fragments of a complex horse and chariot battle narrative in the remains of the pyramid temple of King Ahmose (ca 1550-1525 BCE), a number of previously unknown or lost fragments of similar battle scenes featuring equids have come to light. In particular, the recent publication of battle scenes from the temple of Thutmose I in Qurna, rediscovered in a tomb used as a storeroom, allows a more thorough re-evaluation of the Ahmose fragments in relation to these stylistically related decorative programs. The apparent influence of the innovative Ahmose scenes, the earliest yet known in Egyptian art, will be elucidated in an effort to sketch the development of the horse and chariot genre during the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty.



Photo Credit: Stephen Harvey

Events

December 2023

[John Freed - The Life and Troubled Times of Montuemhat, Mayor of Thebes](#)



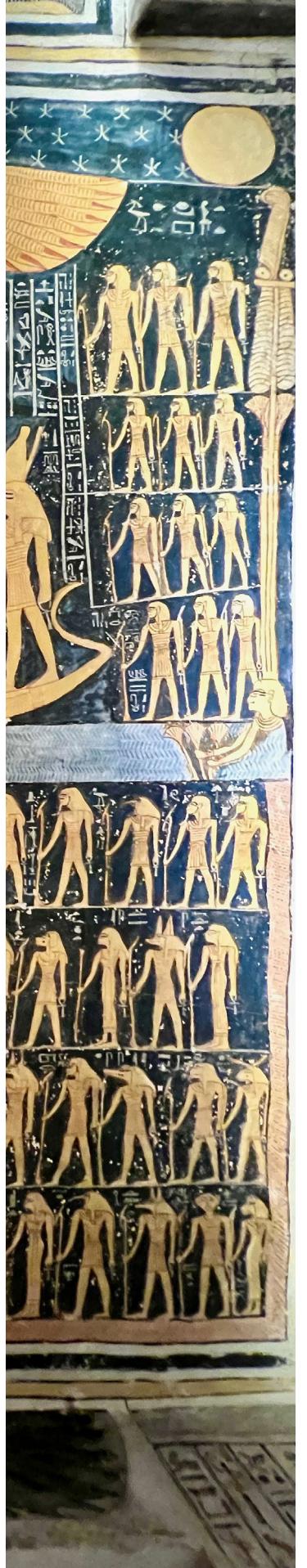
ARCE-NY President and Presenter John Freed
Photo Credit : John Freed

Abstract:

The lecture discussed the life and times of Montuemhat, one of the best known and most important noblemen in Egyptian history. Montuemhat was the mayor of Thebes and a priest in the temple of Amun during the 25th (Nubian) and early 26th (Saitic) Dynasties. He restored the temple at Karnak after the Assyrians sacked it and built one of the largest non-royal tombs in Egyptian history. The reliefs from his tomb contain some fascinating examples of what is called “archaizing art” as well as some very clear examples of copying scenes almost directly from earlier tombs.



Relief from the Tomb of Montuemhat (TT34)
Photo credit: John Freed



Events

February 2024

Dr. Jennifer Miyuki Babcock - "When the cat's away, the mice will play:"
Divine Lessons and Humorous Imagery in Ancient Egypt



Dr. Jennifer Miyuki Babcock
Photo credit: Jennifer Babcock

Abstract:

An illustrated limestone flake in the Brooklyn Museum's collection (37.51E) is one of many limestone flakes, or ostraca, that are associated with the workmen's village of Deir el-Medina. With its humorous drawing of a cat serving an elite mouse dressed in fine linens and seated on a chair, the Brooklyn ostracon is part of a special group of "figured" or illustrated ostraca depicting anthropomorphized animals. Additionally, similar imagery is found in four papyri, now located in museums in Cairo, Basel, London, and Turin. While elite mice and subservient mice compose a significant portion of the imagery, there is a large menagerie of animals performing a variety of human acts, including jackals, hippos, and caprids. This lecture will reconstruct the environment in which the Brooklyn ostracon was created and explore the narrative possibilities embedded in these images, making them effective storytelling tools and offerings used to appease the "Distant Goddess" and maintain the status quo.



Cat and Mouse, ca. 1295–1075 B.C.E.

Brooklyn Museum, Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 37.51E.

Creative Commons-BY (Photo: Brooklyn Museum (Gavin Ashworth,er), 37.51E_Gavin_Ashworth_photograph.jpg)

Events

March 2024

[José María Barrera - The Celestial Harmonies at Dendera](#)



José María Barrera
Photo credit: José María Barrera

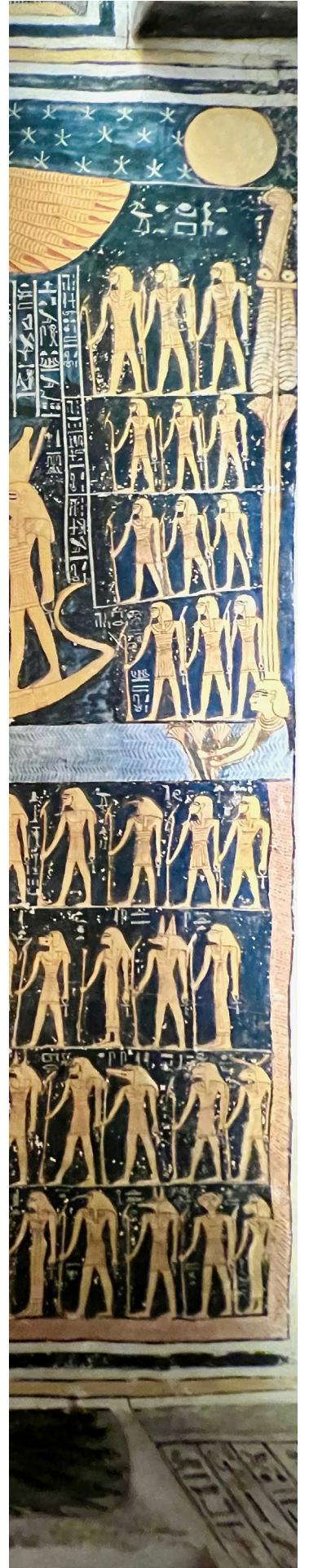
Abstract:

The temple of Hathor at Dendera is one of the best-preserved structures from Ancient Egypt. The ceiling of its pronaos consists of seven massive panels containing much of the astronomical knowledge of the ancient Egyptians, recently cleaned and stabilized to reveal beautiful original colors.

Information about the content and meaning is hard to find and has not been available in English until now. The speaker took more than 5000 photos of the ceiling and reconstructed it in one high-resolution image where every minute detail can be appreciated in amazing clarity. Barrera's presentation, coinciding with the publication of his new book featuring these stunning images, explores the wonderful celestial images depicted in the ceiling and examines their meaning.



Photo credit: José María Barrera



Events

April 2024

[Dr. Aidan Dodson - The Modern Resurrection of Thutmose III & Hatshepsut](#)



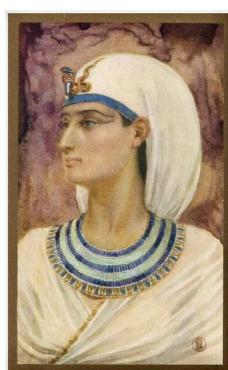
Dr. Aidan Dodson
Photo credit: Aidan Dodson

Abstract:

Hatshepsut – Wife of Pharaoh Thutmose II, became regent to his successor, her step-son Thutmose III. She seized the throne, becoming one of the few female rulers of Ancient Egypt from c. 1505-1482 BC. Her reign was typified by supreme artistic and cultural achievements. Her temple, opposite modern-day Luxor, is considered one of the masterpieces of world architecture.

Thutmose III – reigned for almost 54 years, until c. 1425 BC. For the first 22 years he was kept in the background by his step-mother Hatshepsut. As sole ruler, he embarked on a career of conquest, expanding the Egyptian Empire to its largest extant and ushering in a Golden Age. Having never lost a battle, he is nicknamed “The Napoleon of Egypt” and his military tactics are studied to this day. Late in his reign the memory of his predecessor Hatshepsut was expunged from historical records.

Ultimately, they were both forgotten to history and only rediscovered after the ability to read hieroglyphs was regained in the 19th Century. They remain subjects of intense interest and debate to this day.



Painting of Hatshepsut by Mary Evans
Photo by Aidan Dodson



Thutmose III (Luxor Museum)
Photo by Aidan Dodson

Events

May 2024 (in association with the National Arts Club)

[Dr. Benson Harer - How Napoleon Invented Egyptology](#)



Dr. Benson Harer

Abstract:

In collaboration with the American Research Center in Egypt's Washington Headquarters and New York Society, the NAC presents W. Benson Harer Jr., renowned lecturer in the field of Egyptology. Dr. Harer discusses Description de l'Égypte. In 1798 Napoleon Bonaparte sought to conquer Egypt, turning the nation into a French colony. To exploit the situation fully, he took a cadre of scholars and scientists numbering more than 150 to study every aspect of the country, both ancient and modern. His military campaign failed, but his savants published their findings in the massive, multi-volume Description de l'Égypte. The books' success launched Egyptology as an academic field.



Upcoming Events

All upcoming talks will take place at the Salmagundi Art Club.

June 11th, 2024

Dr. Victoria Almansa-Villatoro

[The Theodore N. Romanoff Prize Lecture:
Reading Images in Hieroglyphs: Rethinking Literacy in Ancient Egypt](#)



Dr. Victoria Almansa-Villatoro
Photo credit - Victoria Almansa-Villatoro

Abstract:

It is assumed that only 1% of ancient Egyptians were able to read texts and that full literacy in the ancient world was only achieved after the introduction of the alphabet. This lecture challenges these ideas by showing how hieroglyphs could have been understood as images by Egyptians with different levels of education in the Old Kingdom (ca. 2700–2300 BCE). The evidence collected comes from publicly displayed royal inscriptions that exempted temple communities from taxation and mandatory labor. It will be shown that the texts were composed using a range of visual and iconic strategies that made messages accessible to the broader population.



Photo credit - Victoria Almansa-Villatoro

Upcoming Events

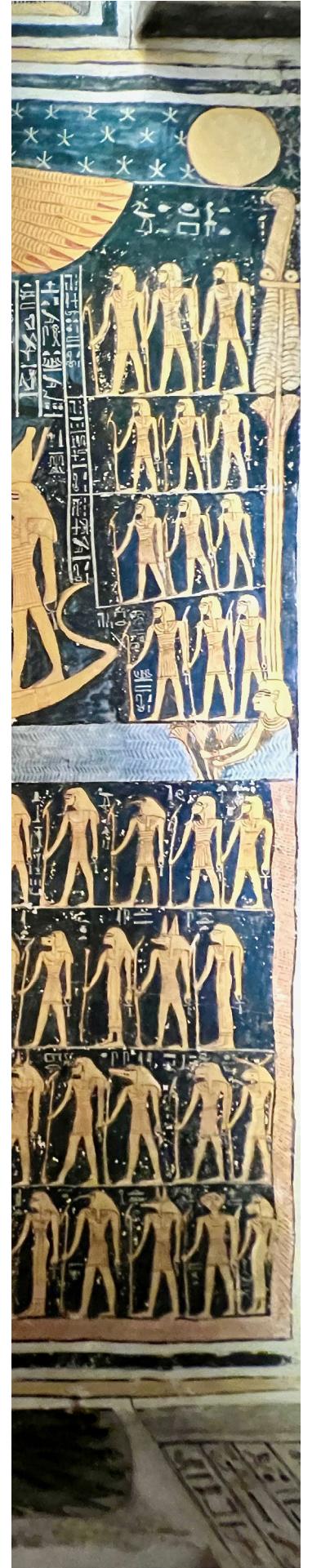
August 6th, 2024

Dr. Sohair Ahmed - Food and Drink in Late Antique Egypt (from Coptic sources)

September 24th, 2024

Dr. Christian Leitz

If you missed any of the talks or want to rewatch them, many of the talks are recorded and can be found on the [ARCE-NY YouTube Channel!](#)



Object Highlight



[Sphinx of Amenhotep III, possibly from a Model of a Temple](#)

Metropolitan Museum of Art 1972.125

Whenever I stop into the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Fifth Avenue, which is, happily, frequently, I try to make a pit stop in the Egyptian Wing to greet and admire one of my favorite objects/artifacts in the world.

It's an easy call to see this beautiful piece of faience represents Amenhotep III, The Sun King (as he's being called these days). Even if it were unidentified, the facial features are unmistakable. Apart from the undeniable beauty of the object - perfect proportions, exquisite craftsmanship, wonderful condition after more than 3000 years of life, there are associations with the object that, for me, elevate it to a level all its own.

We all know who Amenhotep III was - ruler of Egypt at its apogee, a Golden Age - vast wealth pouring in from territories, allies and enemies alike - a ruler sitting on an unshakeable throne, the equal of no one, without doubt the richest and most powerful individual alive on the planet Earth at that moment in time. Self-assured, omnipotent, worshipped as a god, and envied by everyone living. All this is manifest in this small object, not a colossus, not a columned building, not even made of a precious material. In fact, not much larger than a typical person's extended hand, yet positively colossal in its majesty and monumental presence.

And let's not ignore the elephant in this particular display case - that AMAZING, unforgettable color. A blue so beautiful, so powerful, so intense, it pops at you right across the room. Tucked into the corner of a display case, competing for attention with hundreds of other incredible artifacts, it wins hands down (or should I say "up"?) every time. Too bad we don't know who its original owner was (but we can guess) and from whence it comes.

For more information, here's the [link](#) to MMA's own blurb about my favorite object.

This issue's object highlight is written by [Anthony Bellov](#), ARCE-NY's Board Secretary.

Egyptology News

Discovery in the Sinai

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced on April 26th that an archaeological mission has found a royal rest house at Tell Hebwa in the North Sinai. Early indications are that it originated during the reign of Thutmose III.

The site was also used as a cemetery during the Third Intermediate Period with locally made amphorae containing child burials.

Egypt Celebrates World Heritage Day

World Heritage Day originally proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 and was later adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1983.

Egypt celebrated the day on April 18 by organizing special exhibitions and educational workshops at their many antiquities museums.

Stolen Ramesses II Head Returned to Egypt

A head of Ramesses II which was stolen from his temple at Abydos thirty years ago has been returned to Egypt. Officials at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities worked with authorities in Switzerland to have the object sent back to Egypt.

Zahi Hawass Calls Off Search for Cleopatra's Tomb

Dr. Zahi Hawass, along with Dr. Kathleen Martinez, has been searching for the tomb of Cleopatra for the past eleven years. Dr. Hawass says there has been no evidence found to point them to Cleopatra's tomb in the Taposiris Magna temple West of Alexandria.

KMT Journal Index now available

All 33 volumes of [KMT Journal](#) have been indexed. The index is available for [download](#) from the ARCE-NY website.

This issue's Egyptology news were contributed by [John Freed](#), ARCE-NY's Board President.

