



## ARCE - NY Newsletter



Bull's Head Ceiling Design from TT 359 - Tomb of Inherkhau (Photo Credit: Anh Nguyen)

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# Summer 2024

## Volume 1, Issue 2





## Letter from the Editor

Dear ARCE-NY Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. With August and the school year around the corner, we are starting up our lecture programs! Don't miss next week's talk with Dr. Sohair Ahmed, who will be discussing food and drink in Ancient Egypt. There are also two other lectures lined up in September, so don't forget to mark your calendars!

In this second newsletter, we explore the app "Hieroglyph Pro," an iPhone/iPad app based hieroglyphic dictionary. There is also a review of ARCE-NY member José María Barrera's new book and an object highlight by John Freed.

Are you interested in submitting an article or short book review for a future issue? If you have any news or events that you would like for us to highlight in future issues, please let us know!

Get in touch: [anh.y.nguyen@gmail.com](mailto:anh.y.nguyen@gmail.com)



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

## Book Review

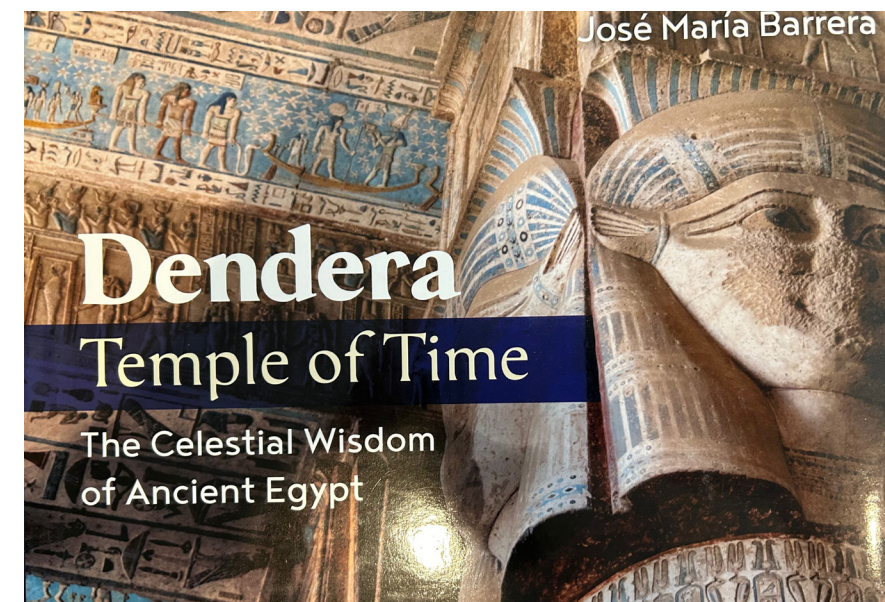
### *Dendera, Temple of Time: The Celestial Wisdom of Ancient Egypt*

Author José María Barrera has written a fascinating description of the astronomical ceiling of the first chamber (the "pronaos") of the Dendera Temple in Egypt and filled it with beautiful photos of every square inch of the ceiling.

Dendera is possibly the best-preserved temple in Egypt and the ceiling of the pronaos contains a huge number of representations of the gods and goddesses of this ancient culture with beautifully preserved, and original, colors covering them. The author shows a photo of each of the scenes and explains what each of them tells us about ancient Egyptian religious beliefs. All the gods and goddesses depicted are identified in the text and a brief description of them is given. Even some obscure deities such as Tanenet and Iunit receive attention they rarely get in other books.

The author devotes a great deal of space to the Egyptian's concepts of time cycles. He explains how the Eastern most panel of the ceiling shows each hour of the day as the boats of the gods sail through the sky while the Westernmost panel of the ceiling shows each hour of the night as the sun sails through the underworld until it rises once more in the East the next day. Other panels show the transition between the day, the month and the year. Each of these scenes are shown in beautifully detailed pictures.

This [book](#) is obviously a true labor of love by the author; it is beautiful and informative and comes highly recommended.



This book review is written by [John Freed](#), ARCE-NY's Chapter President.



# App Highlight

## A casual conversation in Cairo leads to Egyptology software tools.

In 2016, as part of a campaign to increase interest in Egypt and tourism there, my wife and I were invited with a small group to have lunch with Jihan Sadat (former First Lady of Egypt) at her home in Cairo. When my turn came to sit and chat with her, she asked what I could do for Egypt. After some back and forth about the serious medical brain drain due to physicians leaving Egypt for practice elsewhere, we settled on some ideas for mobile software to spark interest.

Three years later, I released the first version of a iPhone/iPad-based Ancient Egyptian dictionary. This product is called “Hieroglyph Pro.”

Hieroglyph Pro is unique in many aspects. First, all its data are internal, so no internet is needed; the App works perfectly deep in a shaft tomb or in the Met galleries where cell phones receive no signal.

Second, the dictionary is among the most complete available, with just over 100,000 words and phrases. MdC style transliterations are included. To support this dictionary, the custom font I created for the App has roughly 2800 glyphs.

Third, the dictionary is bidirectional - Egyptian to English, and English to Egyptian. The English word search feature includes an AI helper to automatically check for synonyms.

Perhaps most importantly, is the way the app allows you to enter Egyptian words. At the moment there are six different ways which can be used in any combination. These include:  
Graphic search for glyphs by Gardiner Category. I include an extra category for the 100 most commonly used glyphs in order of frequency of appearance. Still, it can be a chore to visually search through some of the larger Gardiner categories, so you can also search by description. Glyphs can also be found by their transliteration in either MdC or Edel (1954) format. There are 556 transliterations available, sorted in Egyptian lexicographical order. Finally, inscriptions can be entered via the keyboard using any combination of Gardiner codes and MdC transliteration.

Let's see how it works:

Let's say we see a cartouche and we already know some hieroglyphs. We can enter by typing the first few glyphs on the keyboard:

M17-mn-n-X1-G43

Note that you can freely mix Gardiner and MdC (but capitalization is important!)

Here is what the app finds:

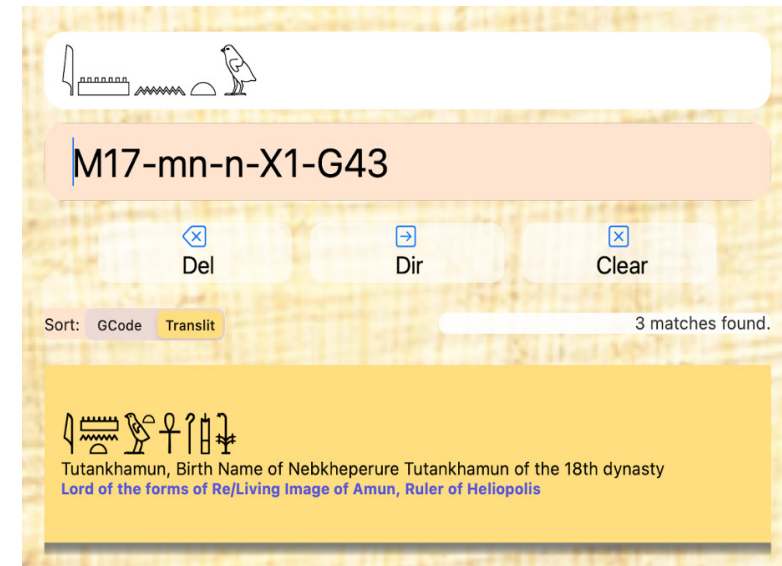


Photo credit: Ira Rampil

A more complete overview of the app, along with some video demonstrations can be found on the Apple AppStore. The price is \$4.99. To purchase the app in the AppStore, you can use this link:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/hieroglyph-pro/id1505115635>

Finally, in keeping with my promise to Mrs. Sadat, I have published several other Apps in the AppStore. I briefly list them here:

*Universal Hieroglyph Translator* - translate Egyptian into 60 modern languages

*Pharaohs of Egypt* - biographies of all attested Pharaohs

*Queens of Ancient Egypt* - annotated details of all attested Queens

*Hieroglyph Flash Cards* - 13 card decks - easy to challenging

*Hieratic Flash Cards* - several decks, including the evolution of ~200 glyphs

*Hieroglyph Sketch* - try drawing glyphs on screen and a custom AI will try to guess

Submitted by

Ira Rampil, MS, MD

Professor of Anesthesiology and Neurological Surgery (Retired)



# Upcoming Events

**August 6th, 2024** (in association with the Salmagundi Club)

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

## Abstract:

Food is very important to human life not only for eating, but also for healing. Food and drink typically reflect the culture of Egyptians in different periods. The staple food of the ancient Egyptians was bread and beer. They also ate many kinds of agriculture crops. In the post-Pharaonic period, Egyptians were mixed with different cultures, such as the cultures of the Greeks, Romans, and Arabs, which affected their food and drink. Christianity also influenced the diet of Egyptians in late antiquity (the third - eighth centuries AD). The Copts are the Egyptians who lived in this period and most of them were Christians. They left many documents and artifacts that tell us about their daily life, including food and drink.



Photo Credit: Sohair Ahmed

Therefore, this lecture will provide short information about types of food and drink, meal recipes, taboos, symbolism of food, industries depending on edible plants, and food in medicine. There is also a short reference to the animals that consumed kinds of food of people. The information of the lecture is gathered by [the speaker] from Coptic documents and monuments.”

## About the Speaker:

Sohair Ahmed is a Coptologist and Egyptologist born and living in Egypt; she obtained her BA from the Department of Archaeology (ASU) in 2002. She is an assistant professor in Coptic Papyrology, with very good knowledge of Coptic art and culture.



Photo Credit: Sohair Ahmed

She has published many Coptic documentary texts, such as letters, contracts, and tax receipts and she created the first series of booklets on ancient Coptic society with several dictionaries. She also has many international publications and is a candidate for international awards. Part of her doctoral thesis was conducted at Brown University (USA), and she received short term grants to the University of Münster (Germany), as well as at the universities of New York and Brown in the USA. She also received two American Fellowships.

## Registration:

Please pre-register at this link: <https://www.ticketsource.us/booking/select/cXL-josUGnCQH>

To get a free ticket, use the discount code “Egypt”

# Upcoming Events

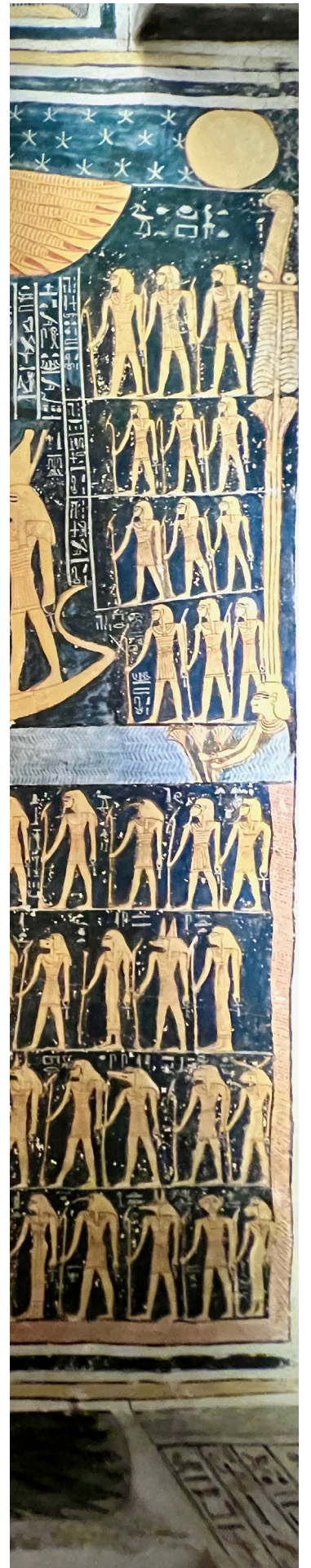
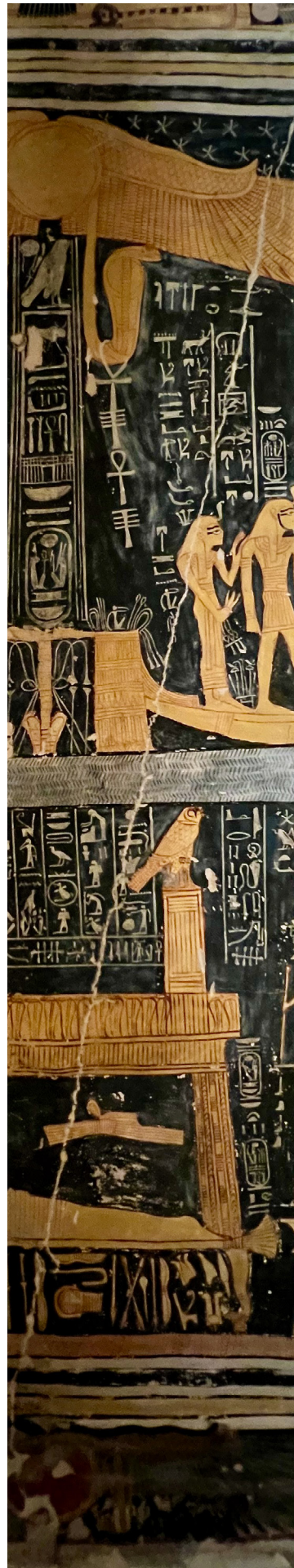
**September 12th, 2024** (in association with ISAW)

Dr. Toby Wilkinson - Cleopatra’s inheritance: Ptolemaic Egypt revisited

**September 24th, 2024** (in association with the Salmagundi Club)

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



Photos by John Freed

### Queen Ankhnesmeryre and Pepi II

Brooklyn Museum 39.119

One of the world-famous treasures of ancient Egyptian art in the Brooklyn Museum is the statuette of the Sixth Dynasty Queen Ankhnesmeryre and her son Pepi II (accession number 39.119).

Pepi II came to the throne as a young child and his mother served as regent until he was old enough to rule himself. According to Manetho, "...Phiops, began to reign at the age of six, and continued until his hundredth year...". If Manetho is correct, then Pepi II's reign of ninety-four years is the longest of any king anywhere in the world in all of recorded history. Recently though, some Egyptologists have questioned Manetho's numbers and feel Pepi reigned for "only" sixty-four years.

The statuette of Pepi and his mother is delicately carved in a soft stone called alabaster and has some interesting features. First of all, the stone between the queen's body and her right arm has been removed by the sculptor, which is unusual. Secondly the young King's feet rest on an extremely high foot stool. I cannot recall any other representation of a king using such a footstool. Lastly, the queen is shown in a much larger scale than the King. Normally the Pharaoh is shown larger than anyone else to emphasize his importance.

For more information, here's the [link](#) to the Brooklyn Museum's description.

*This issue's object highlight is written by [John Freed](#), ARCE-NY's Chapter President.*

## Save Ancient Studies Alliance



The [Save Ancient Studies Alliance \(SASA\)](#) was found in 2020 in reaction to the devaluation of the study of the ancient world in universities and high schools. A group of graduate students and early career scholars came together to expand exposure and access to the ancient world and re-envision how the ancient world is studied. SASA's founding Director, Dr. David Danzig, sought out those who shared this frustration and the commitment to make change.

SASA works to promote the study of the Ancient World and engagement with our human deeper pasts. Building a grassroots movement through outreach, collaboration, accessibility, and public scholarship, SASA works toward their goal of inspiring a wide, inclusive community of scholars, learners, and students.

In making Ancient Studies accessible to the public, SASA hosts a variety of programming throughout the year, including monthly book clubs, [Text-in-Translation Reading Groups and Master Classes](#), [Archaeogaming Education Modules for Teachers](#), and an annual [Virtual Conference](#).

SASA was recently awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the development of its Archaeogaming Education Program for undergraduate introductory courses!

There are a number of events coming up in August that you can sign up for:

[3-Week Reading Group - Horror in the Ancient World](#)

[SASA Master Class - Herotodus in Egypt: a Greek in a Land of Wonders](#)

[SASA Monthly Trivia - Mythical Creatures](#)

[SASA Book Club - "Daughters of Olympus" by Hannah Lynn](#)

[SASA Master Class - Uluburun: Secretas of a Bronze Age Shipwreck](#)

You can learn more about SASA's work and programming at:

<https://www.saveancientstudies.org/>

Interested in volunteering with SASA? Check out opportunities [here](#).

*Submitted by Anh Nguyen and David Danzig.*



# Egyptology News

**A Newly Rediscovered “Branch” of the Nile Aided in Building the Pyramids** It is being reported that, at the time the pyramids of Giza were being built, the Nile had another “branch” that ran several kilometers West of the current location of the Nile. This branch no longer exists but may have been used in the Fourth Dynasty to move workers and building materials to the construction sites at Giza. A full article on this can be found [here](#).

## Fragment of the Sarcophagus of Ramesses II Found

A sarcophagus piece found in a Coptic monastery at Abydos has been identified as coming from the sarcophagus of Ramesses II. The piece was found in 2009 by archaeologists Ayman Damarani and Kevin Cahail. The sarcophagus was reused by a XXI dynasty Menkheperre. A close examination of the large fragment found in the monastery showed that the original owner of the sarcophagus was Ramesses II. An article on this find can be read [here](#). Another article on this can be found [here](#).

## Face of King Seqenenre Tao Reconstructed

A team at Flinder's University in Australia have used CAT scans and x-rays of the 17th Dynasty Pharaoh's head to reconstruct what his face looked like in life. Seqenenre clearly died a violent death as his skull has multiple serious wounds in it. He may have died in battle against the Hyksos or been killed in a palace conspiracy. An article containing more information and pictures (some of which are a bit graphic) can be found [here](#).

## Dr. Barry Kemp Obituary

Dr. Kemp passed away on May 15. He is famous for his excavation work at Amarna. A full obituary can be found [here](#).

## Joint Egyptian and Chinese Team Excavating the Montu Temple at Luxor

A joint Egyptian and Chinese team has been excavating the Montu temple near Karnak since 2018. They have found six Osirian chapels and are also excavating at the juncture of the temples of Montu and Maat. A full article can be found [here](#).

## Zahi Hawass Foundation for Antiquities and Heritage

Dr. Zahi Hawass has started a foundation dedicated to preserve Egypt's heritage, fund excavations and enhance awareness of Egypt's heritage among young Egyptians.

## The Temple of Edfu

The temple of Horus at Edfu is one of the best preserved temples in Egypt due to it once having been almost completely covered in sand. For an interesting article (which includes some good photos) about the temple click [here](#).

# Egyptology News

## Graeco-Roman Tombs Found at Aswan

An Italian and Egyptian team has found 33 tombs near the Aga Khan Mausoleum. The find is helping us to understand the diseases the locals suffered from in the Graeco-Roman period. Here is a [link](#) to a full article on this find.

## Study Reveals Work-Related Injuries Among Ancient Egyptian Scribes

A recent study of the remains of scribes buried in the Abusir necropolis has revealed that these individuals showed signs of occupational injuries: degenerative joint changes, including osteoarthritis, and physical stress on the humerus and hip bones, which is consistent with the common postures seen in scribal statues and depictions. For more information, read this [article](#).

## “Sinai Sour” - 3,000 Year Old Beer

After three years of research and preparation, a homebrewer in Utah has brewed a sour beer inspired by recipes from the Ebers Papyrus using a strain of yeast dating to 850 B.C.E. that had been extracted from an amphora found in Israel. Here is a [link](#) to this article.

## Archaeological Field Research Grants

Two ARCE-NY members have received grants made by ARCE National from its Antiquities Endowment Fund. These grants will go toward their work in Egypt.

Peter Lacovara's Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund has received a grant for their rescue work at Deir el-Ballas.

Sameh Iskander of New York University / ISAW has received a grant toward the work being done on the temple of Ramesses II at Abydos.

## 100-Year Old Photo Exposes Coffin Theft

Boston's Museum of Fine Arts used a 100-year old photo of a child's coffin to flag a coffin in their collection as having been stolen years ago. The coffin has been returned to the museum of the University of Uppsala. For more information, check out this [article](#).

## Donald Redford Retires

Dr. Donald Redford has retired after six decades as an Egyptologist. He was at the University of Toronto for thirty-six years and then spent twenty-six years helping to build the Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies department at Penn State. Dr. Redford says that he will now devote his time to writing a history of Egypt.

*This issue's Egyptology news were contributed by ARCE-NY Board Members John Freed and Dana Ivey.*

