



## ARCE - NY Newsletter

# Winter 2025

Volume 2, Issue 1



Ducks and Herons among Papyrus Plants- Tomb of Ankhtifi, El-Mo'alla

(Photo Credit: Anh Nguyen)

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# Letter from the Editor

Dear ARCE-NY Members,

Happy New Year and we hope you all had a wonderful winter holiday.

With the spring semester in full swing, ARCE-NY has a number of fun talks coming up! There are a number of events being held in association with the Salmagundi Club, which invites ARCE members to continue discussions over dinner and drinks after the lectures.

In this third newsletter, we explore an object highlight by John Freed and a Egyptology news highlights submitted by our members.

The 2025 ARCE Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. This year's conference will only be offered in-person and will take place in San Francisco. I'm looking forward to the presentations, seeing friends and colleagues, and of course, all the sourdough bread! Hope to see you there!

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

# 2025 ARCE Annual Meeting



[Registration](#) is now open for the 2025 ARCE Annual Meeting!

The meeting will take place from Friday April 25th through Sunday April 27th at the [Westin St. Francis San Francisco](#) on Union Square.

In addition to presentations, lectures, panels, and workshops, there are a number of special ticketed events.

On Friday, April 25th, there is a Dessert Reception at the Legion of Honor Museum from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Tickets include round-trip busses from the hotel to the museum.

On Saturday, April 26th, the Chapters Council is hosting a **Graduate Student Prize Fundraiser**. This year's fundraiser is a *Carve Your Own Cylinder Seal Workshop*. Join for a short lecture on cylinder seals and create your own one-of-a-kind soapstone seal in this hands-on workshop. The ticket price includes all supplies and tools. Proceeds from the fundraiser goes towards funding the Graduate Student Best Paper and Best Poster prizes, awarded at the Members and Awards Dinner. If you are unable to attend the workshop, you also have the option of purchasing a ticket, which could be donated for a student to attend.



Photo Courtesy of ARCE-MO

# Upcoming Events

February 11th, 2025 at 7 pm ([Zoom Lecture](#))

David Pepper - Ancient Egyptian Artifacts at the Colorado History Museum

## Abstract:

David Pepper has researched Egyptian objects in the Colorado History Museum and was able to find out when and where most were excavated, who owned many of them, and how they came to Denver. It's a detective story enhanced with information from dig diaries, excavation registration cards, and on-site photographs. All backed up with the words of the excavators from their more-than-100-year-old reports. Archeologists Flinders Petrie, Eric Peet, and Leonard Woolley carefully documented these finds, making it possible today to recover long-lost information about the objects in the Colorado History Museum collection. This lecture tells the story of re-uniting these artifacts with their provenance, information that was lost for over 100 years.

## About the Speaker:

David Pepper is a retired aerospace engineer with a lifelong interest in Ancient Egypt. He was one of the founders of the Egyptian Study Society (Denver), and was formerly an editor of its publications, *The Ostrakon*, and *Scribe's Palette*. Over the past 40 years, David has presented many lectures and classes about Ancient Egypt around the Denver-Boulder area. A number of his past lectures are available on the [Egyptian Study Society's YouTube Channel](#). He was a volunteer docent at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science between 1985 and 2005 and is currently vice-president on the Board of Trustees of [The Amarna Research Foundation](#), a fund-raising organization that supports excavations and conservation projects in Egypt, and is editor of their publication, *The Akhetaten Sun*.

David has published two books: *Akhenaten's Royal Court: The city at Amarna and its Officials*, and *After Akhenaten: What happened to his Royal Court?* (both are available at Amazon). David and his wife, Jill, have visited Egypt many times, and have been study leaders on several trips to Egypt.

## Registration:

Pre-registration is NOT required for this event. The Zoom link is [here](#); the meeting ID is: 898 6240 6354 and the meeting passcode is: 609884.



Photo Credit: David Pepper



Photo Credit: David Pepper

# Upcoming Events

March 4th, 2025 at 6 pm (in association with the Salamagundi Club)

Dr. Ann Macy Roth - Switching Genders in Ancient Egyptian Myths: A Tale of Two Stories

## Abstract:

A productive way of looking at ancient Egyptian society's assumptions about the differences between men and women is to examine works of art and literature in which they play the same roles, and note the places where changes needed to be made. For example, one can compare the same chapter of the Book of the Dead when it belongs to a man and when it belongs to a woman. A similar comparison can be made when a man and a woman play the same roles in a literary narrative.



Page from papyrus d'Orbiney

In this lecture, Dr. Ann Macy Roth will argue for the underlying similarity of two well-known ancient Egyptian stories, "The Tale of Two Brothers" from the New Kingdom and "The Myth of Isis and Osiris" as recorded by Plutarch in Greek during the Graeco-Roman period but alluded to in earlier Egyptian texts. By examining what can stay the same in these stories and what must change when the gender of the character is changed, we can gain some insights into what the ancient Egyptians thought about the nature and roles of men and women.

## About the Speaker:

Ann Macy Roth grew up in Portland, Oregon and received both her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Egyptology at the University of Chicago. After several years at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, she served as a visiting instructor at the University of California, Berkeley. She was appointed to a faculty position at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1993, and since 2003 she has taught at New York University, where she is now a clinical professor.



Photo Credit: Ann Macy Roth

Prof. Roth's field research in Egypt has included directing nine seasons of epigraphic and archaeological fieldwork at Giza between 1989 and 2005, the first part of which was published as *A Cemetery of Palace Attendants* (Giza Mastabas 6); her second volume on the Western Cemetery is in preparation. Her principal writing project at the moment, however, is a study of the patterns of gender relations in ancient Egypt.

## Registration:

Please pre-register at this link: <https://salmagundi.org/2025-arce-ny-a-tale-of-two/>

# Upcoming Events

**April 1st, 2025** (in association with the Salamagundi Club)

Dr. Uroš Matic - Streets in Ancient Egypt: An Archaeology of In-Between Space

**Abstract:**  
Forthcoming

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For all ARCE events at the Salmagundi Club, ticketed attendees are invited to stay for drinks and dinner after the talk. Dining reservations can be made in advance via the [Reservations page](#) with the message “ARCE dinner”.

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](#)!

# Upcoming Events

**May 6th, 2025** (in association with the Salamagundi Club)

Dr. Aidan Dodson -The Libyan Pharaohs of Egypt and their Rediscovery

**Abstract:**

During the tenth through seventh centuries BC, Egypt was ruled by a series of pharaohs of Libyan ancestry. The Libyans had hitherto been enemies of the Egyptians, with conflicts going back into the third millennium BC. Yet early in the tenth century BC the first of a long series of pharaohs of Libyan descent ascended the Egyptian throne.

Although the earlier Libyan pharaohs seem to have maintained the tradition of a unitary Egyptian state, as time went by Libyan ideas of decentralised control became more prevalent. As a result, we find individuals holding both Libyan and Egyptian titles controlling distinct territories around Egypt, some of whom assumed the names and titles of a pharaoh. Conflict sometimes accompanied this process, with a long civil war fought for the control of southern Egypt and the great religious capital of Thebes. Some degree of central control was imposed with the advent of a further set of rulers from Nubia during the eighth century, but a single Egyptian state would not be restored until the middle of the seventh century.

This evening, we will explore some of the strands of history of this often-ignored era of Egyptian history, including the way in which the protagonists were rediscovered by modern historians and archaeologists.

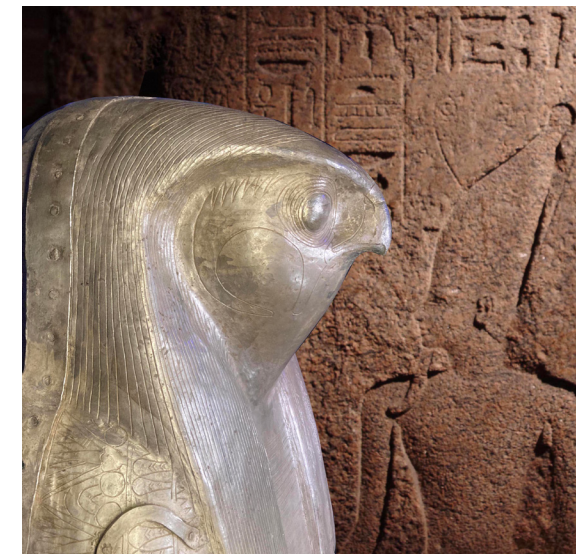


Photo Credit: Aidan Dodson

## Object Highlight



Photo by John Freed

### ***A Female Sphinx Head in Brooklyn***

[Brooklyn Museum 56.85](#)

There is a beautiful female head dating to the 12th Dynasty in the Brooklyn Museum. It must have come from a sphinx as the area behind the neck extends horizontally instead of downward. We know that this head represents a lady as the heavily striated wig only appears on female representations. This is unusual as most sphinxes are shown as male.

There is some damage around the eyes indicating that the head originally had inlaid eyes which have been pried out at some point in the past and the nose is also broken off. Some repairs to the head were done in the eighteenth century.

The head was found at Hadrian's villa which is near Rome. Hadrian had a fairly large number of Egyptian statues removed to his villa many of which were set up around a small body of water just outside of a temple dedicated to the Egyptian god Serapis. There was also a statue there of a man named Antinous who drowned in the Nile. This statue, which is now in the Vatican Museum, showed Antinous wearing a nemes headdress and a traditional Egyptian kilt. The villa must have been a relaxing place for the Emperor to briefly get away from the responsibilities of governing the Roman Empire.

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.*

## Egyptology News

### **New Find at al-Bahnasa**

A burial shaft found at al-Bahnasa contained three burial chambers filled with dozens of Ptolemaic mummies. Numerous gold objects were also found including a number of gold tongues, heart scarabs and amulets. For more on this find click [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Two Divers Steal Ancient Artifacts from the Sea Floor near Alexandria**

Two divers allegedly stole over 400 objects from the sea floor near Alexandria. The antiquities stolen include over 300 coins well as statues, bronze objects, and statue heads. For more information click [here](#).

### **Excavations at the Tomb of Shepseskaf**

A Polish and Egyptian team continues to excavate at the tomb of the Pharaoh Shepseskaf at Saqqara. The tomb has never been fully examined before. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Tomb of Egyptian Physician to the Kings Found**

The tomb of an ancient Egyptian physician has been found in Saqqara. The tomb dates to the reign of Pepi II in the sixth dynasty. The tomb is nicely decorated with painted carvings. The doctor's sarcophagus was also found. More information and some photos can be found [here](#).

### **Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East Exhibit**

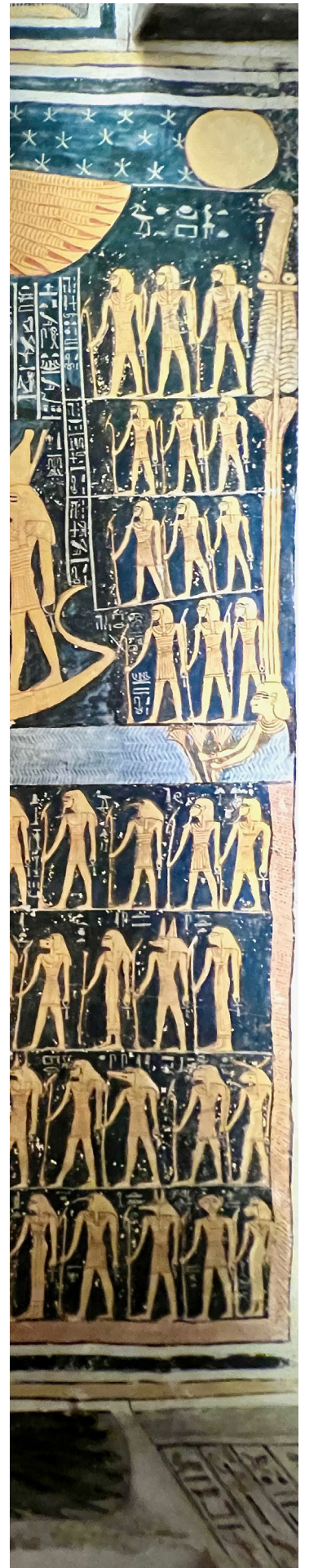
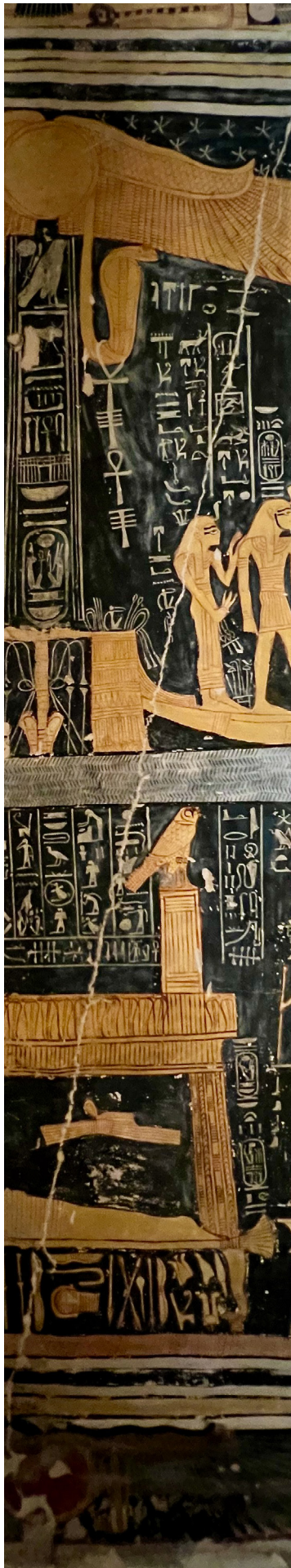
The museum has opened a special exhibit dedicated to the tomb of Idu which dates to the sixth dynasty and other work done by the museum's founder Joseph Lindo Smith and his famous student George Reisner. The [museum's website](#) has a lot of information about the exhibit.

### **Is this the Skull of Cleopatra's Murdered Sister?**

A new study has settled the question "Is the skull found in an elaborate tomb at Ephesus the skull of Cleopatra's sister, who was murdered at the order of Mark Antony. Several tests were done on the skull and femur (upper leg bone) of the body and in each test a Y chromosome was found, which means the skull in question is that of a male.

### **The Grand Egyptian Museum set for its Opening**

The GEM will officially open on July 3, 2025. Plans are being made for special events that will be held for the opening. For more, click [here](#).



# Egyptology News

## Mummy of the “Screaming Lady”

Under the tomb of Senmut, another tomb was found which contained the burials of Senmut’s parents and several other persons probably of his family. One of the mummy’s is of a woman who is called the “screaming lady” as the mouth of her mummy is wide open as if she was screaming in pain when she died. It is possible that post-mortem mummification and / or decomposition may have caused this rather than any significant pain at death. You can find more information [here](#).

## Roman Necropolis Found

A necropolis from the Roman period has been found at Marsa Matrouh. More information can be found [here](#).

## Ancient Observatory Found in a Temple of Buto

Finds include a 26th Dynasty statue and a sun dial. More information is available [here](#).

## Military Barracks Found

The New Kingdom barracks were found at Tell El Abqain by a team led by Dr. Ahmed Saeed El-Kharadly. The site contains a number of mudbrick structures and finds included tools used at the site as well as a bronze sword with the name of Ramesses II on it. Look [here](#) for more information on the site and [here](#) for more information on the sword of Ramesses.

## Lion Mummy Found

A lion mummy has been found at Saqqara. Lion mummies are very rare and the first of them was found in 2004.

## Edfu Temple Restoration

The original colors of the paintings in this temple are being unveiled by a joint team of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and the University of Würzburg. Additionally, some never before seen inscriptions have been discovered in the temple. For more details click [here](#).

## Artifact Thefts at Khartoum’s National Museum

An official at the museum has stated that [thousands of objects have been looted](#) from the museum and sent to Sudan’s borders.

# Egyptology News

## CT Scan of a Seventeenth Dynasty Royal Mummy

Sequenre Tao’s mummy was recently examined by a CT scan. We reported on this in an earlier issue of this newsletter but some interesting information about his violent death has been found. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Ancient Scribes Got Ergonomic Injuries Too

This article talks about the examination of the mummies of scribes that found issues like osteoarthritis in the lower jaw, the right collarbone, the right shoulder and thumb, the right knee and the neck. The author of the study admitted that some of the skeletal changes could be issues of old age but that they also fit with artistic depictions of scribes showing them sitting cross-legged in their working position. The full article can be found [here](#), but you need an account with the NY Times to access it.

## Zahi Hawass Article on the Fifth Dynasty

Dr. Hawass has written an [article](#) describing the pyramids of the Fifth Dynasty with details about their construction. The article also includes some photographs of the buildings.

## The 2024 newsletter of the “Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund”

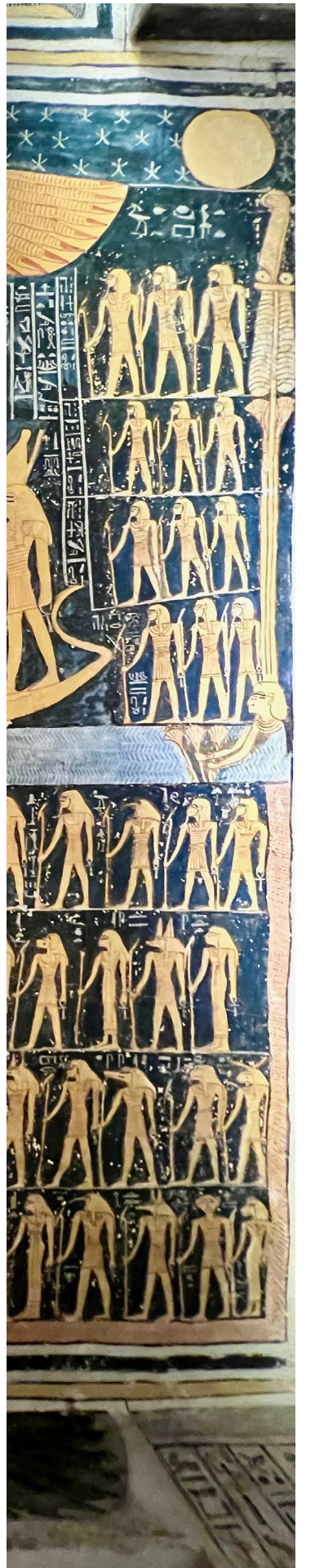
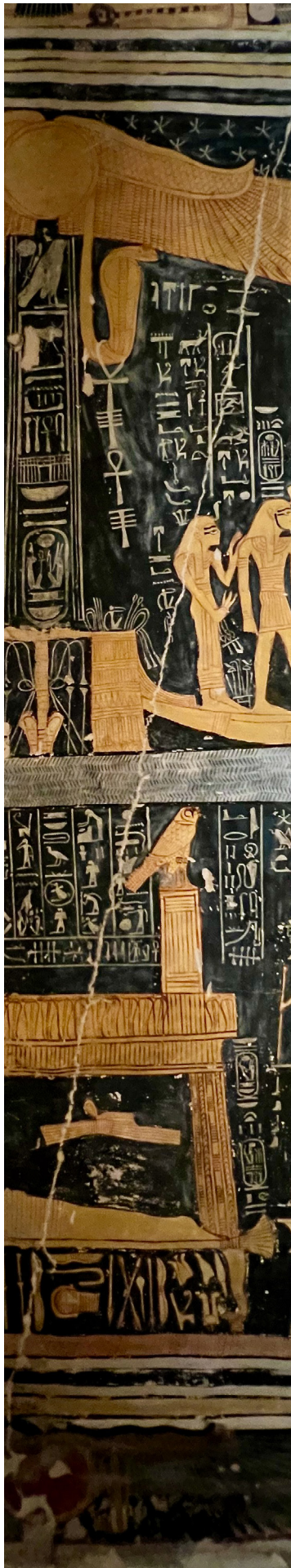
The newsletter provides updates on the fund’s work at Malqata (the palace of Amenhotep III), and Deir el-Ballas. A copy of the newsletter has been uploaded to academia.edu and can be found [here](#).

## Burial Chamber of 12th Dynasty “High Society” Woman

A joint Egyptian and German team has found the burial chamber of a 12th Dynasty woman at Assuit. Her father was the governor of the region during the reign of Senusert I and the discovery of her burial chamber was made while the team was working on her father’s tomb. For more on this click [here](#).

## ARCE Helps Restore Two Tombs at Dra’ Abu el-Naga

There is an article in the latest issue of Ancient Egypt (#144, September – October 2024) detailing some nobles tombs that have recently been opened for visitors. Two of the tombs (TT159 and TT286) were restored by a joint project between ARCE and MOTA with funding from the United States Agency for International Aid. On page 57 there is a photo from TT159 (the middle photo on the page) of some female mourners. The scene has an interesting “quirk” in it as the leftmost mourner is shown with her head in profile, her body is facing the viewer and her feet are in profile. The other mourners are shown entirely in profile.



# Egyptology News

## The Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square Special Exhibit

The museum has a special exhibit that will be showing all the wooden panels from the mastaba of Hesy-Re. This is the first time that ALL the panels have been exhibited and more information on this exhibit can be found [here](#).

## The Passing of Donald Redford

Sadly we must mention the passing of Dr. Donald Redford. Dr. Redford spent many years teaching in Toronto and then moved to Penn State where he taught until his retirement in June of this year. His long list of important articles and books mark him as one of the great Egyptologists of our time.

## First Middle Kingdom Tomb in the Asasif Found

The tomb contains the burials of eleven separate men, women and children as well as jewellery and other artifacts. The burials seem to date to late Dynasty Twelve and early Dynasty Thirteen. For more details, click [here](#). Another article can be found [here](#). A third article can be found [here](#).

## The Field Museum Does CT Scans on Twenty-Six Mummies

The Field Museum has put twenty-six mummies, some enclosed in cartonnages, through a mobile CT scanner. The museum has published information [here](#).

## A Hidden Staircase at a Temple in Athribis

An archaeological team from the University of Tübingen has found an interesting second door on a temple pylon at Athribis. The door leads to a hidden staircase that once had at least four flights of stairs which led to an upper floor that has been destroyed. For more information click [here](#).

## New discoveries at Taposiris

The Egyptian Dominican archaeological mission, led by Archaeologist Kathleen Martinez of the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña (UNPHU), has made a number of interesting discoveries at the temple complex of Taposiris Magna, west of Alexandria. One of the finds is a collection of coins some of which portray Cleopatra VII. Click [here](#) for an article giving more details on the finds.

## Ancient Egyptian ritual potion included hallucinogens and bodily fluids

Researchers studying the residual of Bes ceramic drinking vessels believe the mugs may contain ritualistic ingredients including hallucinogenic plant and bodily fluids. For more, click [here](#).

# Egyptology News

## Blocks from the 18th Dynasty temple of Queen Hatshepsut

Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered more than 1,000 decorated block from intact portions of Hatshepsut's valley temple. For more, click [here](#).

**ARCE is Looking for Website Content Writers** - Graduate-level students, academics, and experts are invited to write articles to be published on the American Research in Egypt's website <<https://arce.org/>>.

The acceptable word count is 500-900 words maximum, and the article will need to be accompanied by a bibliography. Authors will receive a certificate of completion and will be credited when the article is published on ARCE's website, newsletter and social media pages.

Take part in this opportunity by sending an email, with your resume and a sample of your writing, to [sabdelaziz@arce.org](mailto:sabdelaziz@arce.org) or [info@arce.org](mailto:info@arce.org).

## Downloadable Books on the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period

Golden House Publications has a number of books on their website that can be freely downloaded without cost. The books include studies on the Middle Kingdom, Middle Kingdom art, Second intermediate Period chronology and royal statuary, Queen Ahhotep's burial equipment, Pan Grave Pottery, etc. [Here is the link to download these books.](#)

*This issue's Egyptology news were contributed by John Freed, Dana Ivey, Steven Mezick, and Anh Nguyen.*

