

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Carol Meyer

Much of **Carol Meyer**'s time went into finishing a major article for *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*. It is a study of ancient gold mining, ore reduction, and refining at Bir Umm Fawakhir in the Eastern Desert, Egypt, and the eastern Mediterranean in the fifth to sixth century Byzantine period and the roots of the technologies as far back as the second millennium B.C. As a collaborative publication between an archaeologist (Meyer), a mining engineer (Bryan Earl, retired), a geologist (Mohamed Omar of the Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Authority), and a physicist (Robert Smither of Argonne National Laboratory), the paper required some translation between segments. Bryan Earl is now trying to achieve a micro-smelt with a crushed ore sample from the modern gold mines at Wadi el-Sid, about 5 km southwest of Bir Umm Fawakhir. The Wadi el-Sid mines are modern, but they were worked in antiquity as well, and Earl is trying to test and clarify Agatharcides' less-than-clear second century B.C. smelting instructions. In November, Meyer traveled to Phoenix, Tucson, and Berkeley to present a lecture on Bir Umm Fawakhir to the local chapters of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). She also got an ARCE/National Endowment for the Humanities grant to travel to Cairo in the winter of 2003/2004 to write parts of the final reports on the Bir Umm Fawakhir 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2001 seasons. Specifically, she plans to incorporate unpublished material in the Egyptian Geological Survey library and to field-check the final maps and plans. Finally, much of her "free" time in May was given over to re-vamping her 1977 files and computer records of stone artifacts in the Iraq National Museum. In all, records of about 400 items, about half unpublished and none on display, and 232 drawings of unpublished small finds were reformatted, updated, expanded, and/or scanned and stored on two CDs for Clemens Reichel's Iraq Museum database.
