

Robert K. Ritner

Robert K. Ritner became full professor in the Oriental Institute at the beginning of the academic year and an affiliated member of the Department of Classics in the Program on the Ancient Mediterranean World. He completed his monograph on *The Libyan Anarchy: Documents from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period*, which is now in press for the series Writings from the Ancient World. His article on "A Selection of Demotic Ostraca in the Detroit Institute of Arts" was published in *Res Severa Verum Gaudium: Festschrift für Karl-Theodor Zauzich zum 65. Geburtstag am 8. Juni 2004* (Leuven, 2004).

Ritner's lecture schedule remained active, divided between Egyptological and cross-cultural programs. In conjunction with the exhibit "Ancient Egypt: The Quest for Immortality" at the Milwaukee Public Museum, he provided talks on "The Eldest Son of Creation: Magic in Ancient Egyptian Theology and Ritual" (July 21) and "The Magic of Egyptian Art" (July 22). For a joint program between the Oriental Institute and the Chicago Adler Planetarium, he delivered a lecture on "Stars of the Pharaohs" (August 14). For the Smithsonian Associates seminar "Ancient Egypt Unwrapped" in Washington, D.C., he spoke on "The Archaeology of Egyptian Magic" (September 18), repeating the program for the Oriental Institute at the end of the academic year (May 21).

Returning to the University of the Aegean in Rhodes, Greece, Ritner participated as senior panelist and speaker at the conference on "Foreign Relations and Diplomacy in the Ancient World: Egypt, Greece, Near East," where he lectured on "Cultural Exchanges between Egyptian and Greek Medicine" (December 5). At Brown University, he offered the primary Egyptological perspective on "Household and Family Religion in Ancient Egypt" for the symposium "Household and Family Religion in Mediterranean and West Asian Antiquity: Comparative Perspectives" (February 28). Both these interdisciplinary lectures are now prepared for publication.

Five days later, he departed for Egypt as leader and persistent lecturer for the Oriental Institute Travel Program. The Wonders of Ancient Egypt (March 3–19) brought many returning, as well as new, members to the incomparable sights of the Nile valley. Following the tour, he remained in Egypt for personal research, collaboration with Chicago House (bearing a gift of science fiction tapes), and a chance to rest vocal chords. After returning from Egypt, he was recorded as a commentator for the television film series, "Tale of the Tomb," a four part series for National Geographic Television, and he reprised his popular lecture on "Political Intrigue in Ptolemaic Egypt" for the Chicago Classical Society (May 7).

In addition to university, institute, and departmental committee duties, Ritner taught five courses on Egyptian language and religion and was privileged to oversee the graduation of two exceptional Ph.D. students in Egyptology.
