

Peter F. Dorman

This year **Peter F. Dorman**, together with colleague Betsy Bryan of Johns Hopkins, co-hosted the Theban Workshop in Chicago on October 14, 2006, on the general theme “Perspectives on Ptolemaic Thebes.” Seven speakers chose topics that addressed the history, economics, social structure, priesthood, religion, and art history of ancient Thebes during the suzerainty of the Ptolemaic dynasty. In connection with this annual symposium, Dorman and Bryan also edited the first volume of the series “Occasional Proceedings of the Theban Workshop,” consisting of the papers presented in 2003 at the British Museum in London, *Sacred Space and Sacred Function in Ancient Thebes* (SAOC 61), which the Oriental Institute published in Spring 2007.

Dorman wrote a chapter on “Epigraphy and Recording,” destined for a volume entitled *Egyptology: An Introduction*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. He also prepared a book review for the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* on *Das thebanische Grab Nr. TT 136 und der Beginn der Amarnazeit* (by co-authors A. Grimm and H. Schlögl) and another review for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* on the long-awaited publication of the temple of the deified form of Nebmaatre, built by Amenhotep III in Nubia, *Soleb III*, *Soleb IV*, and *Soleb V* (by M. Schiff Giorgini, edited by N. Beaux).

At the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Toledo in April 2007, Dorman gave a presentation entitled “The Funerary Papyri of Hatnofer: Last of a Cursive Breed?” In addition to describing the ongoing conservation of the Hatnofer papyri in the Cairo Museum, the paper examined the physical context of the earliest attestations of Books of the Dead as found on coffins, funerary masks, and linen shrouds and suggested that the direct precursors of the “classical” funerary papyri of the Eighteenth Dynasty (in the form of cursive hieroglyphs accompanied by vignettes) were the shrouds of the early New Kingdom, on which the transition from plain hieratic had been achieved. Textual idiosyncrasies in the Hatnofer papyri likewise seem to indicate that the practice of including inscribed shrouds in burials fell into decline with the first appearance of papyrus-roll books of the dead.

The concurrent Tutankhamun and Hatshepsut exhibits in the United States gave Dorman the opportunity to lecture to various audiences in Dallas, Chicago, and Fort Worth. As part of the training program for Oriental Institute docents, he also lectured on the history of Egypt down to the beginning of the New Kingdom.
