

Foy Scalf

Foy Scalf directed a tremendous amount of time and energy during 2011–2012 to the compact storage installation and integrated database projects for the Research Archives. However, he was able to find additional time to present several lectures, write a few articles, and continue to meet with continuing-education students. Following the in-class Middle Egyptian grammar course taught for the Oriental Institute last year, Foy continued to meet monthly with a dedicated group of students in order to read further hieroglyphic texts and refine their understanding of the language.

On April 27, 2012, Foy presented a lecture on “Demotic Votive Texts from an Ibis Sanctuary” at the Sixty-third Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Providence, Rhode Island. These texts were first noticed during examination of Demotic ostraca in the Oriental Institute collection as part of the OIODO (Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online) project. Among this corpus, a group of jar fragments was identified that included fragments inscribed with Demotic texts dedicated to “Thoth, the ibis.” The jars would have originally held an ibis mummy and been deposited in a sanctuary sacred to Thoth. The article on which this lecture was based had been submitted in October 2011 to the Institut français d’archéologie orientale for publication in the *Ola el-Aguizy Festschrift*.

On June 11, 2012, he gave a lecture entitled “Monstrous Shapes of Every Species: The Iconography of the Egyptian Divine World” at the Oriental Institute for the benefit of volunteers and docent staff. The lecture focused on the diversity and meaning of Egyptian images used to convey the divine, using objects on display in the Egyptian gallery so that docents can employ new information in future tours. Although ancient Egyptian religious imagery is notoriously confusing, this lecture attempted to provide a foundation for further understanding the fundamental principles of Egyptian divine iconography.

Foy wrote catalog entries and an essay “The Role of Birds across the Religious Landscape of Ancient Egypt” for the upcoming special exhibit catalog *Between Heaven and Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*, organized by guest curator Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer. He is currently working on an article concerning passages in a text from Karnak in which Thutmose III is selected by Amun during an oracular procession.
