



# CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN



Volume XXIV

*Privately Circulated*

July 2013



## THE 2012-2013 FIELD SEASON





Chicago House professional staff. Top row, left to right: Samir Guindy (administrator), Essam el Sayed (senior accountant), Samwell Maher (assistant administrator), Girgis Samwell (chief engineer). Second row from top, left to right: Melinda Hartwig (visiting scholar), Tina Di Cerbo (epigrapher/artist), Jen Kimpton (epigrapher), J. Brett McClain (senior epigrapher), Krisztián Vértés (Egyptologist/artist), Keli Alberts (artist). Second row from bottom, left to right: Marie Bryan (librarian), Anait Helmholz (librarian assistant), Frank Helmholz (stone mason), Margaret De Jong (senior artist), Ellie Smith (photo archives registrar). Bottom row, left to right: Lotfi Hassan (conservator), Joia Samir Andraos, Nahed Samir Andraos (conservator), Jay Heidel (architect/artist), Ray Johnson (director), Hiroko Kariya (conservator), Yarko Kobylecky (photographer) (photo by Sue Lezon)

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# CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN

Issued by The Epigraphic Survey  
The Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago



Volume XXIV

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## THE CHICAGO HOUSE FIELD SEASON OCTOBER 2012 TO APRIL 2013: A SEASON DIARY

By W. Raymond Johnson, Field Director

### OCTOBER 1, 2012

It's that time again, with the autumn equinox passed, summer officially over, and only a few weeks left before the Chicago House staff heads back to Luxor. The Epigraphic Survey received its work permissions for the 2012–2013 season from the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA), and we are all set for our 89th archaeological field season and work at Medinet Habu, Luxor Temple, Khonsu Temple, and the tomb of Neferssekheru (Theban Tomb 107) from October 15th until April 15th. Tina Di Cerbo is in the final weeks of cleaning and opening the facility, and she reports that all is well in Luxor and Chicago House, despite the heat — it's still 104 degrees ...!! Administrator Samir Guindy and the Chicago House workmen are all well, working hard with Tina to get the place ready, and looking forward to our return. Congratulations to senior accountant Essam el Sayed and his wife Nidaa, who embarked on the Hajj pilgrimage on October 13th. The kids are staying with Nidaa's family in Mansura while the parents are away. While we will miss the family, we are very happy that they have this wonderful opportunity. Mabruk!

### OCTOBER

Chicago House reopened its doors on October 15th, and the Epigraphic Survey's 2012–2013 field season got off to an excellent start. The paperwork in Cairo went smoothly and well; I signed the season contract at the MSA headquarters in Zamalek and had good visits with the Minister of State Antiquities, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, and our MSA, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) friends. Tina faced some major challenges in the opening and cleaning of the Chicago House facility this September before our arrival, with failed plumbing in the library

wing and other nasty maintenance surprises that required far more work than anyone anticipated. But she and our workmen prevailed, magnificently, and the place looks terrific and is running smoothly. Bless you, Tina!

We resumed our documentation, conservation, and restoration work at Medinet Habu last week, just before the start of the Eid Al Adha, the great Islamic festival of sacrifice. Luxor is actually quite busy with tourists, which is good to see; we've noticed an increase in numbers just since we arrived. During the Eid, we enjoyed a few days of quiet office work and were back on site this past Tuesday. At the moment, we are focusing mainly on Medinet Habu for the first part of the season in order to finish the drawings and photography for *Medinet Habu* Volume X, to be followed closely by *Medinet Habu* Volume XI. Progress! The Luxor Temple work resumed this week and will focus primarily on the blockyard, particularly the Thecla Church and Ptolemy I blocks. Our plan is to be back at TT 107, Neferssekheru's tomb, in December, and at Khonsu Temple in February.

Life is full here, as usual. Senior accountant Essam and his wife Nidaa are still on the Hajj; we spoke by phone a few days ago, and they are very well. We have seen a lot of the Tell Edfu crew this season; directors Nadine Moeller and Greg Marouard stayed with us over the Eid weekend, and the whole team joined us for our annual Halloween party. The Chicago House epigraphic team joined Nadine and Greg at Edfu the last week of October to consult on blockyard documentation strategies. That day, I had a very pleasant meeting with Luxor governor Dr. Ezzat Saad, former Egyptian ambassador to Russia, who has been reappointed for another term and has become a good friend. Emily Teeter and her tour, including some University of Chicago friends, were in town this week and have just departed for Cairo. We hosted site visits for the group at

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Chicago House plumbing maintenance work, Summer 2012  
(photos by Tina Di Cerbo)



Chicago House Halloween decorations, 2012

Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu, where we showed them our work, and a reception and library briefing at Chicago House on Wednesday evening. Our Halloween party was a great success, with about eighty foreign and Egyptian guests — always an excellent way to start the season!



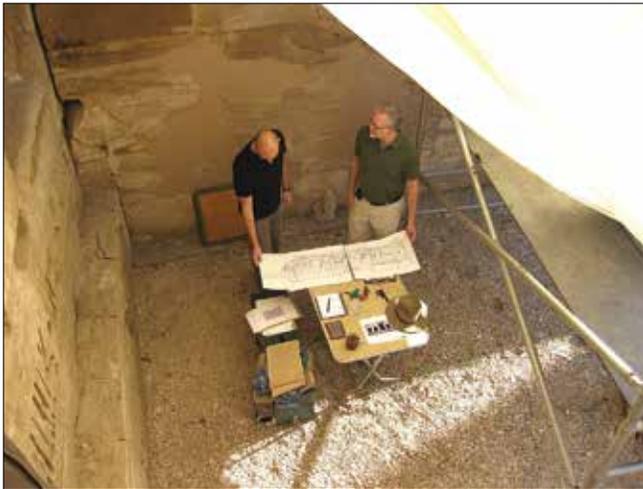
Medinet Habu opening, October 23, 2012. From left to right: inspectors Atito and Mohamed, Lotfi, Brett, and Tayib (and camel thorn) at the blockyard (photo by Ray Johnson)

**NOVEMBER**

I can honestly say that this past month — and the last two weeks, in particular — has been among the busiest in all my years with the Epigraphic Survey. Our archaeological work has gone very well, with the entire epigraphic team, supervised by senior epigrapher Brett McClain, working on the last drawings for *Medinet Habu* Volume X, the second volume in the small Amun temple series dedicated to the Eighteenth Dynasty Temple square-pillared ambulatory. Artist/Egyptologist Krisztián Vértés has been putting the finishing touches on his study of the multiple painting phases in the ambulatory, which will be included in the volume as a separate chapter. I have been reviewing final drawings at the wall with the artists, checking them off our list one by one. Lotfi Hassan and the conservation team have continued work in the blockyard with Julia Schmied, assembling and conserving architectural fragments from private houses excavated



*Juli Schmied and reassembled doorjamb, 2012 (photo by Ray Johnson)*



*Krisztián and Ray, November 21, 2012 (photo by Margaret De Jong)*



*Luxor Temple:  
(above)  
Jay Heidel  
collating  
Thecla Church  
arch blocks;  
(left) Jay with  
MSA Inspector  
Gamal.  
November 16,  
2012 (photos by  
Ray Johnson)*



*Detail of Krisztián's digital color study, Medinet Habu (photo by Ray Johnson)*



## THE 2012–2013 FIELD SEASON OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

long ago by Uvo Hölscher. Yarko photographed another twenty–four architectural fragments for Julia’s study, mainly broken doorframes, and has been kept busy in the darkroom preparing photographic-drawing enlargements for the art team. Lotfi, stone mason Frank Helmholz, and engineer Nashet paid a visit to the Gebel el-Silsileh sandstone quarries a few days ago to arrange for new stone to be specially quarried for the Domitian Gate restoration work. Frank has already started shaping new stones for the lower courses of the gate that were destroyed by groundwater salt; you will recall that the entire gate was dismantled last year. Architect Jay Heidel has been drawing and collating Thecla Church blocks in the Luxor Temple blockyard, focusing now on blocks of Arch 2.

This month has been a social whirlwind as well, with site visits and receptions at Chicago House. An Egypt Exploration Society tour led by EES director Chris Naunton was in town for a week and stopped by Medinet Habu; it was a pleasure to host Chris and colleague Kristin Thompson, who is working on Amarna sculpture fragments, to dinner one night. I took a few days during the second week of November to lecture in Denmark at the University of Copenhagen about the work of the Epigraphic Survey and some of our work that sheds new light on the reign of Tutankhamun. On November 14th, we hosted a dinner for the Chicago House workmen, who with Tina during the opening of the house in September were faced with daunting, unexpected maintenance challenges and yet still got the house open on schedule. They all deserved a good dinner, and much, much more. And on November 17th, we celebrated Chicago House’s 88th birthday!

Then things really picked up. On the 18th and 19th, we had a USAID review of our USAID–sponsored work at Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu. On November 22nd, the Government of Egypt sponsored a PR event in the Kings’ Valley to commemorate the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb, and to open the tomb of Merneptah, whose granite sarcophagi had recently been reassembled and restored by our colleagues Ted and Lyla Brock and their team. The Minister of State for Antiquities, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, and his entourage attended the event, plus US Ambassador Anne Patterson and her husband David, as well as the Minister of Tourism, the 8th Earl of Carnarvon and his wife Fiona (who a few years ago both joined us for dinner at Chicago House), the Governor of Luxor Dr. Ezzat Saad, the Russian Ambassador, and a host of MSA and other dignitaries. The KV opening was followed by speeches and a banquet on the grounds of Carter House, Howard Carter’s



*US Ambassador Anne Patterson (in pink jacket), David Patterson (far left), Minister of State for Antiquities Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim (in white jacket), and MSA director in Luxor Dr. Mansour Boraik, visit to Medinet Habu, November 23, 2012 (photo by Lotfi Hassan)*



*Chicago House visit of Ambassador Anne Patterson and David Patterson, November 23, 2012 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*

recently restored residence at the mouth of the Valley of the Kings (now “Carter’s Café”). The following morning, the Minister and Ambassador Patterson joined us at Medinet Habu for a review of our work and a walk through the temple complex, followed by a very pleasant luncheon at Chicago House attended by our library patrons and foreign and Egyptian colleagues, with whom the ambassador was able to chat informally, followed by a briefing in the Chicago House Library. The next day, we hosted another Medinet Habu review and luncheon for “Friend of Chicago

House” Aly Tahry, who had visited Chicago House during the annual FOCH Thanksgiving weekends in the early 1990s. It was good to have him back.

As our readers are aware, the Valley of the Kings PR event to bring tourists back to Egypt was somewhat undone by the actions of Egypt’s president the next day, when he gave himself temporary dictatorial powers. Egypt is still sorting this out. Long ago, I had agreed to speak about the work of Chicago House at the MSA lecture series in Zamalek, on November 26th. Demonstrators were gathering in Tahrir Square to protest the president’s actions, but I was able to keep to the schedule and presented the lecture to a light but enthusiastic audience. Despite the crowds, the streets all around Tahrir were fine, and open, and I had no trouble getting to the airport the following day for my return to Luxor, which is even more blissfully quiet and peaceful than ever.

So, all is well with us. The Valley of the Kings event and activities coincided with our Thanksgiving holiday, so we postponed our feast for a week and are preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving this evening with our friends and colleagues, including faculty member Nadine Moeller, who has just finished her archaeological field season at Edfu.

## DECEMBER

Many of our readers know that I was obliged to return to Chicago after experiencing what my doctors report was a “small” heart attack on December 1st in Luxor. On the afternoon of the 2nd, I was transferred to Cairo (in the capable company of Jay Heidel, Tina Di Cerbo, and Lotfi Hassan) and taken to the As-Salaam International Hospital in Maadi, where I had a successful angioplasty/stent operation early on the 3rd. Jay and I flew back to Chicago on December 8th for rest and observation. At the end of December, I started a cardiac rehabilitation and physical-therapy program at the University of Chicago hospital. Tests show that the stent corrected the problem area, and the rest of my heart is healthy. Christmas in Chicago was quiet and pleasant — and different. (My last winter in Chicago was in 1977!) But we felt very close to the team in Luxor via e-mail, telephone, and some pretty wonderful pictures.

In the meantime, the work at Chicago House continued without interruption, adroitly coordinated by senior epigrapher Brett McClain and the ever-intrepid Chicago House team. An exciting new digital epigraphy training program was inaugurated under the tutelage of Egyptologist/epigraphic artist Krisztián, who for the first three



Christmas message for Ray and Jay, Christmas 2012 (photo by Sue Lezon)

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*Epigraphic team digital training, December 1, 2012 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*



*Digital lesson on the Wacom drawing tablet, December 2012 (photo by Jen Kimpton)*

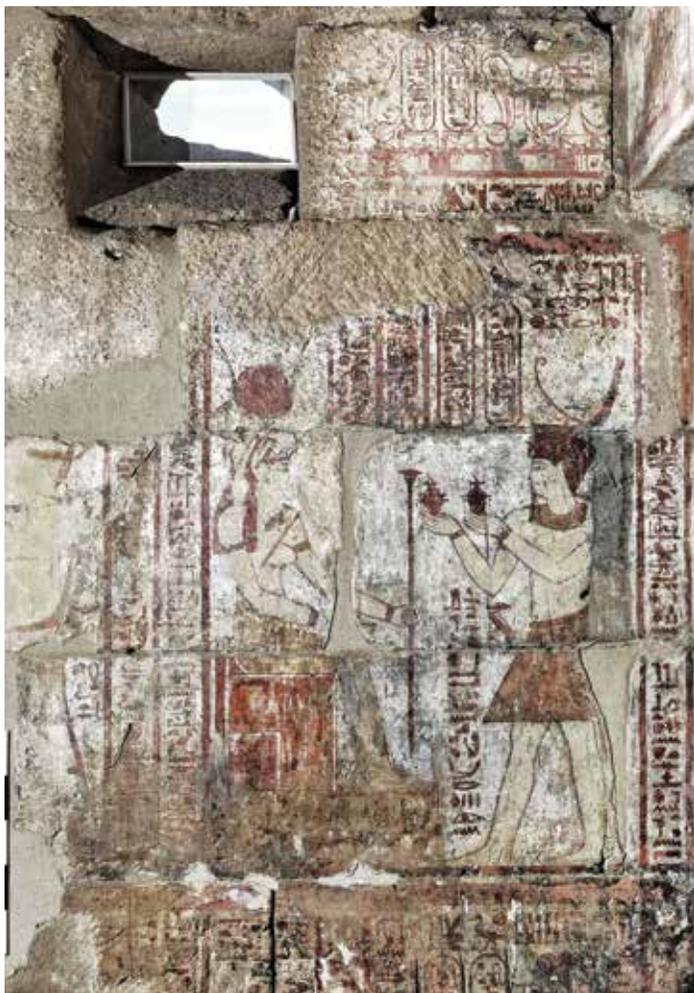
weeks of December inducted the entire epigraphic staff of artists and epigraphers into the mysteries of digital “inking” and collating utilizing Wacom drawing tablets, Photoshop software, and a whole host of tricks. Sincerest thanks to the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago and friend and colleague Margie Fisher for underwriting this historic new chapter in the Epigraphic Survey’s documentation program.

Additionally, and at the request of our MSA friends, staff photographer Yarko Kobylecky took digital reference photographs for the MSA of the newly cleaned reliefs and paintings of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II in the small temple of Qasr el-Aguz immediately to the south and east of Medinet Habu. Recent epigraphic and archaeological work there by the University of Strasburg and the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA) and the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) indicates that the focus of the three



*Qasr el-Aguz temple: (left) the temple; (above) Yarko Kobylecky and Ellie Smith photographing in the temple, March 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)*





*Qasr el-Aguz, antechamber, north upper right, December 7, 2012  
(photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*

chapels was Amun of Djeme (resident at the Medinet Habu small Amun temple) and the god Thoth. The cleaning of the well-preserved paintings was recently finished by MSA conservators with excellent results. Our own small Amun temple bark sanctuary was completely recarved by Ptolemy VIII, but very little of the paint survives, so the painted walls here give us some excellent corresponding data. Sue Lezon arrived in mid-December with Ellie and worked in the Photo Archives until mid-January.

Stone mason Frank Helmholz, conservator Lotfi Hassan, and the epigraphic team also did a condition study and preliminary cleaning of a partially preserved, small sandstone gate of the Roman emperor Claudius located outside of the Medinet Habu precinct, east side, south end. This gate, in precarious condition for years, has recently had its foundations further weakened by groundwater salt decay. Chicago House asked for and received permission to add it to its conservation and restoration program this season, as a logical complement to our work with the Gate of Domitian inside the Medinet Habu



*Claudius Gate cleanup, December 3, 2012 (photo by Frank Helmholz)*



*Medinet Habu sacred lake, cleaned! (photo by Lotfi Hassan)*

temple complex. Additionally, Lotfi, Frank, and their teams cleaned the Medinet Habu sacred lake, which tends to get filled with windblown debris and rubbish. It looks really good now!

### **JANUARY, 2013**

Luxor remains peaceful despite the recent unrest to the north, and the work is going well. The Chicago House staff celebrated a quiet New Year's Eve and has been working steadily at Medinet Habu, TT 107, and Luxor Temple throughout the month. Our colleague Melinda Hartwig from Georgia State University joined us and will use Chicago House as her base of operations for her Theban tomb project until April. Although Julia Schmied is now back in Hungary awaiting the birth of her and Krisztián's first child, she has been working long distance with Lotfi and Krisztián on the documentation and reassembly of sandstone doorjamb fragments in the Medinet Habu blockyard. These are from late Ramesside and Third Intermediate Period houses built within the

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Medinet Habu precinct, excavated by archaeologist Uvo Hölscher and the University of Chicago in the 1920s. The mudbrick houses of officials who worked in the precinct often had stone doorframes inscribed with their names. These houses were later dismantled and recycled in the medieval city that grew within Ramesses III's enclosure walls, where they were recovered when the temple precinct was excavated and cleared. The reconstruction of the doorways — on paper and physically in the blockyard — is yet another groundbreaking addition to our Medinet Habu documentation and restoration programs. Photographer Yarko and assistant Ellie Smith have been photographing the material, and we are studying ways to integrate the restored doorways into our open-air museum display for public view. Stone mason Frank and his team received several shipments of freshly quarried sandstone from the Gebel el-Silsileh quarries during the month for the ever-growing restoration work in the complex. Frank continued shaping replacement blocks for the decayed lower courses of the Domitian Gate for restoration later in the season.

The epigraphic team under the direction of Brett continued to work on Volumes X and XI in our small Amun temple series at Medinet Habu. But January also saw the beginning of an exciting new epigraphic documentation program at Luxor temple in the King's Chamber/Imperial Cult Chamber. Egyptologist/artist Krisztián Vértés inaugurated the facsimile drawing of the late third-century AD Roman frescos in the Imperial Cult Chamber recently cleaned and consolidated in a collaboration between the American Research Center in Egypt and Chicago House. The frescos and Amenhotep III reliefs that they partially cover will be presented in future volumes of the Epigraphic Survey's *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple* series. Krisztián, our digital-inking pioneer, started the penciling of the first section of frescos and will be inking both frescos and reliefs digitally utilizing the innovative new methodology he has devised. Mabruk on an excellent start, Krisztián!

Conservator Hiroko Kariya is now back with us, splitting her time between the Luxor Temple blockyard conservation program and Abydos, where she helps



*Medinet Habu blockyard open-air museum in progress, 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)*



*New stone block shipment arrives at Medinet Habu, December 21, 2012 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*

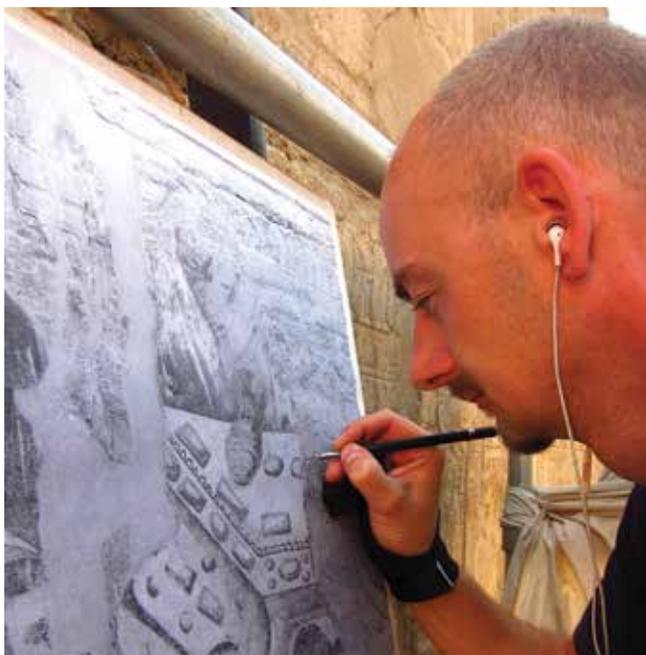


*Mahmoud cutting stone, January 2013 (photo by Frank Helmholz)*



*Frank shaping stone blocks for the Domitian Gate, assisted by Mahmoud (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*

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*Krisztián Vértés penciling Roman frescos, Imperial Cult Chamber, Luxor Temple, January 2013 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*

coordinate the conservation work there for the NYU/Institute of Fine Arts mission directed by Matt Adams. The Metropolitan Museum of Art/Emory University Joint Expedition to Malqata (JEM) team arrived in Luxor this month to resume their excavation and restoration work in Amenhotep III's Malqata palace, south of Medinet Habu. The team is now too big to be accommodated at Chicago House, but we are still assisting them with the loan of one of our Land Rovers. It's great to have them back in Luxor. On January 30th, we allowed the Egypt Exploration Society's Theban Harbours and Waterscapes Survey, directed by our friend Angus Graham, to set up a GPS station on the roof of Chicago House to help facilitate their important surveying work.



*Luxor Temple: (top) Hiroko Kariya condition-surveying the open-air museum blocks at Luxor Temple, January 30, 2013 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky); (bottom) shelving for storage of small blocks with Hiroko and Mohamed (photo by Ray Johnson)*

## FEBRUARY

As I write this, we are heading into the last month and a half of our six-month, 2012–2013 archaeological field season, and this past month has been a full one. Luxor has experienced a steady and dramatic rise in temperature, from frigid at the beginning of the month to over 90 degrees Fahrenheit this week, quite a contrast to the snowbound midwestern and northeastern USA our friends back home are experiencing at the moment. I want you all to know that it's just *too hot* here, but we are coping as best we can!

At the beginning of February, Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Andrea Dudek finished another month working with Chicago House librarian Marie Bryan and assistant librarian Anait Helmholz on the conversion of our library holdings (20,000 volumes) to the Library of Congress classification system, a project now in its final stages. Completed were all the "B"s and 75 "A"s with 437 titles and 552 volumes completed. Thank you, Andrea, for helping us get to the final stretch of this project! We're almost there ...



*Andrea, Ellie, and Ambassador Patterson, January 21, 2013 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)*

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Return to Chicago House, February 4, 2013 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)



Welcome dancing, February 4, 2013 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)

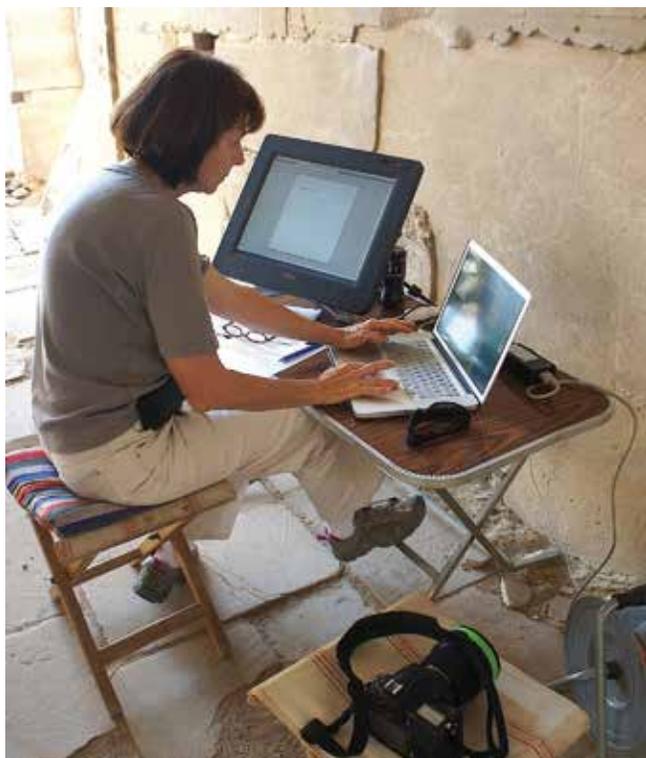


MHB 122 drawings: (left) Sue Osgood with historic inked and modern digital drawings; (top) close-up of the traced and digital drawings. February 22, 2013 (photos by Ray Johnson)

On January 28th, I officially finished my cardio-rehabilitation program at the University of Chicago hospital, and was cleared to return to Egypt. Jay Heidel and I returned to Luxor on February 4th and to a very warm welcome at Chicago House: the whole team met us with red carpets, local musicians, stick dancing, and lots of flowers. It was very sweet to be back after our two-month hiatus in the USA. I spent my first weeks back reviewing the considerable amount of work done while I was away and was fully briefed on the new digital-drawing techniques using Wacom drawing tablets in which the art staff has become amazingly proficient in a very short time. I did the final director's review of a particularly interesting drawing of Sue Osgood's at Medinet Habu, MHB 122, that is historic in several ways. First, it is the facsimile drawing of a facade

pillar of the small Amun temple that is three-quarters concealed behind a later Ptolemaic wall, therefore mostly invisible, yet the drawing shows the complete pillar face. Sue penciled and inked the exposed part of the pillar on a normal photographic drawing enlargement a while ago. Subsequent aluminum-foil rubbing of the inscribed areas in the small space between the two walls allowed Sue to document the obscured details, after which tracings of her rubbings were digitally photographed, reduced, digitally "inked" by her this season, and finally joined with a high-res scan of the original inked drawing. The finished, digitally printed drawing represents a historic fusion of the two drawing techniques, a seamless joining of India-inked and digitally "inked" drawings. It is absolutely impossible to see the difference between the two. Using

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Tina recording Christian graffiti digitally, Medinet Habu, March 2013  
(photo by Ray Johnson)



Theban Tomb 107, February 12, 2013: (top left) Margaret and Brett review drawings at TT 107; (top right) Sue Osgood finishing her drawing of one of the TT 107 pillar faces; (bottom) The TT 107 team: top row, left to right: Ali, Margaret, Brett, Sue O., inspector Fatma, ghaffir; bottom row, left to right: Sayid and Badaway (photos by Ray Johnson)



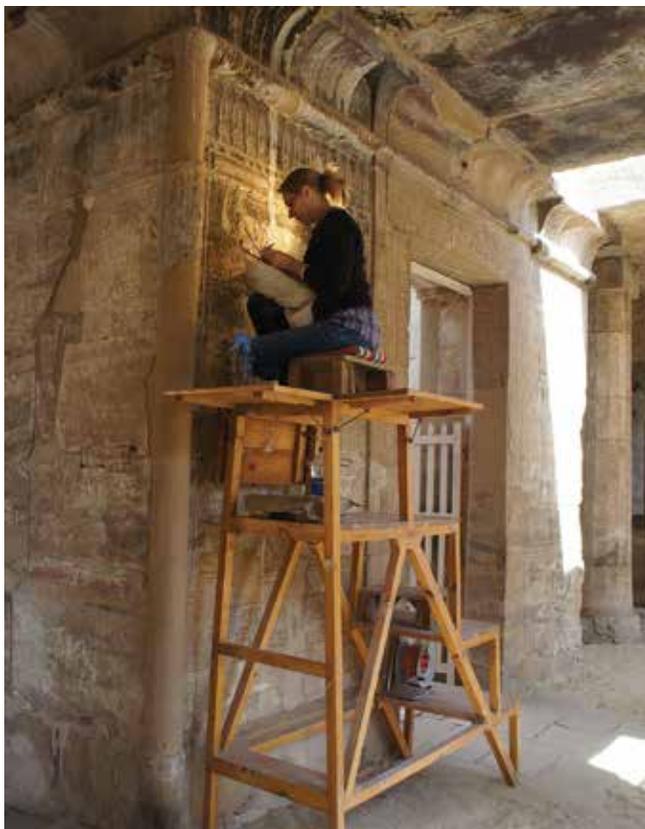
(Top) architectural joining of Ramesses III doorjamb blocks, Medinet Habu, March 2013, left to right: Brett, Nahed, and Lotfi; (bottom) Nahed and Lotfi with finished Domitian Gate lintel, March 27, 2013 (photos by Ray Johnson)

Photoshop and the new Wacom drawing tablets, the art team (Sue, Margaret De Jong, Krisztián Vértés, and Keli Alberts) showed me how they can now match the excellence of our normal inking conventions while improving on the accuracy and precision of the drawings, building on digital drawing techniques pioneered by Egyptologist Tina Di Cerbo a decade ago. Egyptologist/artist Krisztián has led the way in developing the new techniques now so expertly utilized by the whole crew, and my hat is off to them all. Thanks must go to Brett McClain and Sue Lezon for arranging the selection and procurement of the necessary equipment. And very special thanks must go to Professor and Mrs. John Shelton Reed, and Mrs. Lisa Alther, for the gift of a large-format scanner that already forms a crucial element of our field documentation program, and to Ambassador and David Patterson, and USAID Egypt director Mary Ott, for helping to get it to Luxor.

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Jen at the wall in the Medinet Habu small Amun temple, February 22, 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)



Keli penciling in the Medinet Habu small Amun temple, February 13, 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)

Conservator Lotfi Hassan was also busy while I was away, conserving and consolidating numerous architectural fragments in the Medinet Habu blockyard. He and his team matched and joined more than a dozen Ramesses III-period sandstone doorway elements — beautifully inscribed jambs and lintels — and tested the joins of whole doorways for the blockyard open-air museum. Most of this material was excavated in the 1920s by Uvo Hölscher for the University of Chicago, who found the blocks reused throughout the medieval city, but the material originally comes from the mudbrick administrative areas and magazines around Ramesses III's mortuary temple. Conservator Nahed Samir Andraos consolidated a four-ton, two-and-a-half-meter-long lintel block originally from the top of the Domitian Gate, found at Medinet Habu after the gate was re-erected by Georges Daressy in the late nineteenth century. Nahed successfully treated the decayed areas and reinforced the crumbling top of the block with strong but breathable lime mortar. It will eventually be one of the last, crowning blocks to be restored to the gate. Stone mason Frank Helmholz has been shaping new stone blocks freshly quarried from Gebel el-Silsileh to replace the decayed lowest course of the gate. He and his team started moving them into place onto the new, damp-coursed, reinforced-concrete foundation platform this month. Domitian's Gate is rising again!

Artists Sue and Margaret finished the penciling of the exquisitely carved but very fragile TT 107 reliefs of Amenhotep III's Malqata palace steward Nefersekeru on February 12th. They will finish inking the drawings over the summer, with collation by the epigraphic team scheduled to begin next season. I would like to extend special thanks to our friend Peppy Bath for helping to fund this important tomb documentation. The epigraphic team then returned to Medinet Habu to continue work on *Medinet Habu* Volumes X and XI.

Among the many visitors to Chicago House this month were Oriental Institute Visiting Committee member Aimee Rossi and her husband Peter, Bill Petty, former Oriental Institute Museum chief curator Geoff Emberling (fresh from his first season excavating in El Kurru in North Sudan), geophysicist Kris Strutt, conservators Alberto Succato and Emiliano Abrusca of the ARCE Red Monastery conservation project, Peter Lacovara of the Emory University Malqata team, Matt Adams and Michelle Marlar working at Abydos, and Bob and Pat Brier and their Far Horizons group. Kris and Jay will be returning next week from Antinoupolis, where they have been working with the team from the Istituto Papirologico "G. Vitelli" of the University of Florence, Italy, under the direction of Dr. Rosario Pintaudi, doing magnetometry surveying and testing of the threatened parts of the Roman city, with wonderful results.

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Tomorrow, March 1st, marks the beginning of my seventeenth year as Epigraphic Survey director. The last sixteen years certainly have passed quickly! It is a great pleasure and privilege to be working with our Egyptian and foreign colleagues in common bond toward the preservation of Egypt's precious cultural heritage through our documentation, conservation, and restoration efforts. There is nothing more satisfying — or challenging — and I am very, very grateful to all of you out there whose friendship and support have helped and continue to help make it happen. Thank you!

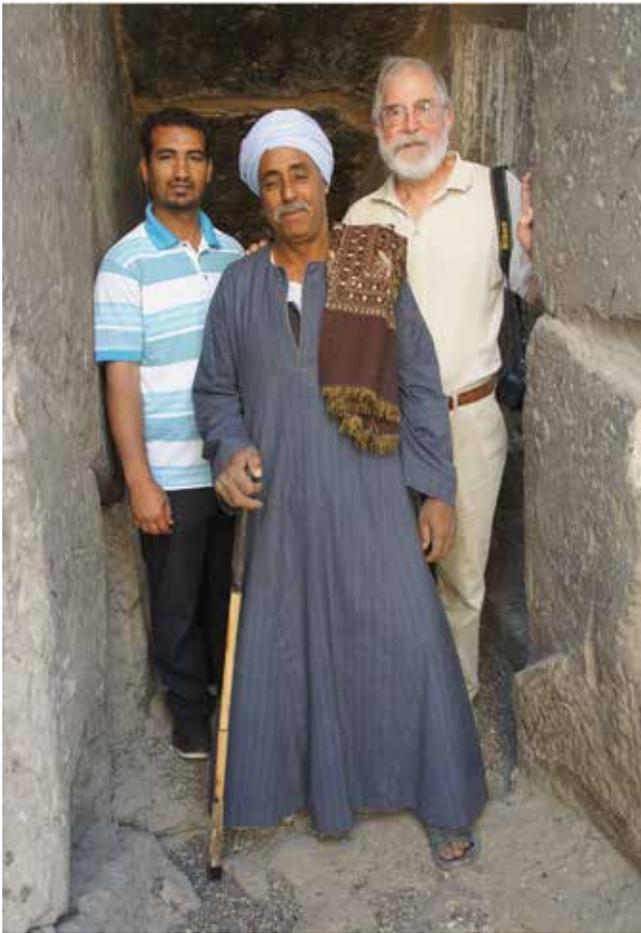
### MARCH AND APRIL

In March the temperatures in Luxor skyrocketed into the one-hundreds Fahrenheit ...! It must be spring. Our documentation, conservation, and restoration work continued at Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple, and documentation resumed at Khonsu Temple Karnak this month, with good progress made at each site. Jay Heidel is collating his drawings of the beautifully carved Arch 2 blocks from the Thecla Church at Luxor Temple. Coached by Krisztián

Vértes in the mysteries of the Wacom drawing tablet, he has also started the digital inking of the inscribed Thutmosis III granite pilaster that was cut in half and reused in the church to support Arch 2, and he is enjoying these new tools that make the inking process go faster with



Jay digitally inking an inscribed granite block from Luxor Temple, March 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)

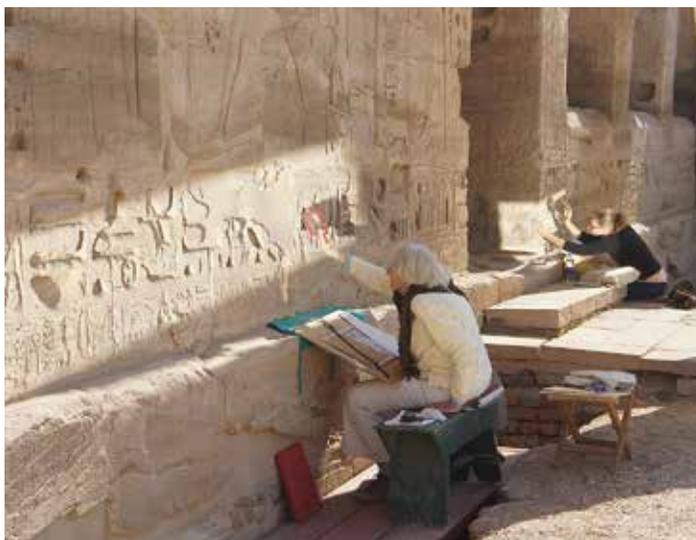


Inspector Ashraf, chief ghaffir, and Conor Power reviewing the condition of the Luxor Temple pylon of Ramesses II, March 31, 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)



Jay working on Luxor Temple signage, April 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)

## THE 2012–2013 FIELD SEASON OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY



*Margaret and Keli penciling the Twenty-first Dynasty marginal inscription, small Amun temple, February 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)*

even more accuracy. Jay also worked on the templates for the next Luxor Temple educational signs with Ray and Brett that we plan to produce and set up next season. On April 1st, we erected the second orientation panel for the Luxor Temple precinct designed by Jay, featuring a ground plan of the entire precinct and labels and descriptions in English and Arabic. Structural engineer Conor Power has been here this week doing his annual structural survey of the sites in our concessions, and he reports that all is stable, thanks in large part to the USAID-funded dewatering programs on both sides of the river. Conservator Hiroko Kariya finished her condition-surveying and block-yard open-air museum maintenance for this season and departed on March 20th. At Medinet Habu, artists Margaret and Keli resumed work on the Pinudjem inscription that wraps around the outside of the small Amun temple, while Tina continued her digital recording of graffiti, much of it from the Christian period, inside the northern Ptolemaic annex. Stone mason Frank and his team have been cutting and shaping new lower-course sandstone blocks for the re-erection of the gate of Domitian with beautiful results; the entire lowest course is now finished and in place, and it looks sensational. Conservators Lotfi,



*Medinet Habu, Domitian Gate, March 2013: (Clockwise from top left) Mahmoud at work in the Medinet Habu stone yard; Domitian Gate block transporting; Domitian Gate block laying; Domitian Gate first course of blocks (photos by Frank Helmholz)*



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Nahed, and their team have finished a large stone lintel block for topping off the Domitian Gate. They have also been sorting through doorjamb and lintel fragments of Ramesses III for material for the open-air museum displays, and treating miscellaneous gate and architectural fragments that require conservation. Lotfi also had to do some minor repair work in the King's Chamber of the

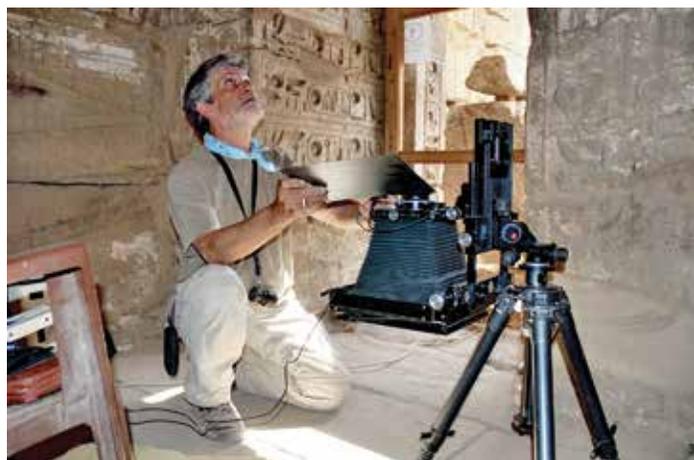
small Amun temple. At Khonsu Temple, photographer Yarko took large-format shots of a number of reused blocks in the walls and ceiling areas of the back shrines. These blocks relate to reused block material in the flooring and foundations that we have been recording the last few years, quite a bit of it from an earlier Eighteenth and Nineteenth Dynasty Khonsu Temple. Epigraphers Brett



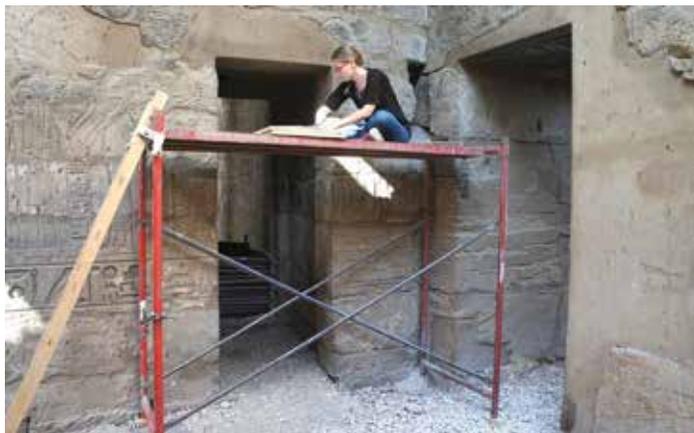
(Top) Medinet Habu conservation and stone team, February 13, 2013, left to right, Nahed, Hamada, Frank, Lotfi, Mustafa, Ahmed, and Mohamed (photo by Ray Johnson); (middle) Lotfi consolidating King's Chamber, March 23, 2013 (photo by Nahed Samir Andraos)



Keli and Jen collating at Khonsu Temple, April 1, 2013 (photo by Yarko Kobylecky)



Yarko photographing ceiling block at Khonsu Temple, March 25, 2013 (photo by Pia Kobylecky)



Khonsu Temple, April 2013: (top) Keli drawing reused blocks; (bottom) Keli, MSA Inspector Salwa, and Jen (photos by Ray Johnson)

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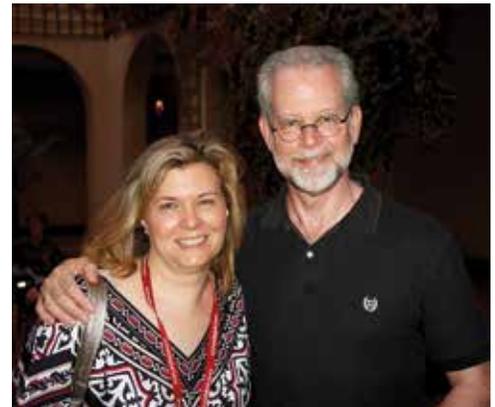
*Chicago House Photo Archives, Emmanuelle and Alain Arnaudies at work, March 26, 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)*

and Jen and artist Keli have been tracing and collating additional reused material in the walls that will be incorporated into our study of these exciting remnants of the earlier temple to the moon god. I was able to do director's reviews of most of what they accomplished this month. Special thanks must go to the American Research Center in Egypt and Luxor director John Shearman for allowing us to use some of their scaffolding for this work.

Sue Lezon was back with us from March 7th through the 21st, working with Ellie and Tina in the Photo Archives primarily on the Helen and Jean Jacquet archives

slides. From March 16th to 30th, Alain and Emmanuelle Arnaudies joined us to work on our master database, continue to enter data from Medinet Habu and Luxor Temple, and record missing negatives that may be duplicated back home. There have been many visitors passing through this month, including the Oriental Institute tour led by former Epigraphic Survey director Lanny Bell and accompanied by Oriental Institute development director Tracy Tajbl. They enjoyed a reception and library briefing with us on the 14th, and site visits during the next few days. We also had the pleasure of hosting two groups of USAID Egypt friends from Cairo for a review of our work, including the new mission director of USAID Egypt Mary Ott. We are greatly indebted to USAID Egypt for the recent extension of a grant that will help support our preservation work on both sides of the river into 2015. I should also mention that Krisztián finished up his work for the season a bit early this year and headed home to Budapest to await the birth of his and Juli's first child, due in April.

Luxor remains peaceful and is doing a brisk tourist trade, but other parts of Egypt aren't faring so well, and the lack of attention is resulting in some real damage to a number of out-of-the-way cultural heritage sites. On March 6th, I traveled to Cairo, where I joined Dr. Rosario Pintaudi of the Italian Mission to Sheikh Abada/Antinopolis and inspector Fathy Awad Reyad in a gesture of solidarity for a meeting with the Minister of State for Antiquities, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim. The ancient Roman city of Antinopolis, located just north of Amarna, in Middle Egypt, like many other sites throughout Egypt (Dashur, El Hiba, Al Bordan in the delta, even Amarna), has been subjected to accelerating looting and destruction as the Egyptian police presence continues to remain sparse.



*Oriental Institute tour reception, March 19, 2013: (left) Samir, Samwell, Lanny, Sue L., and Frank; (right) Tracy and Ray (photos by Yarko Kobylecky)*

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Antinoupolis in particular is threatened on all sides by agricultural, settlement, and cemetery expansion. And now, like in Dashur, the locals have brought in heavy equipment. Between October 2012 and February 2013, the northern half of the great hippodrome — the only ancient horse-race track that survives in Egypt, almost as large as the Circus Maximus in Rome — was bulldozed flat to expand the adjacent cemetery. It is a terrible, irrecoverable loss, and a real tragedy for cultural-heritage preservation. Thanks to the quick response of the minister, a presidential decree has been issued adding to the protected antiquities land of the site, and proclaiming that any development of the area is in violation of the law. It is an important first step. The next is to get armed guards on the site, which is also in the works. During this interim time it is crucial to protect Egypt's archaeological sites, now. Only by all of us working together can we do so, and Chicago House will do what it can to help.

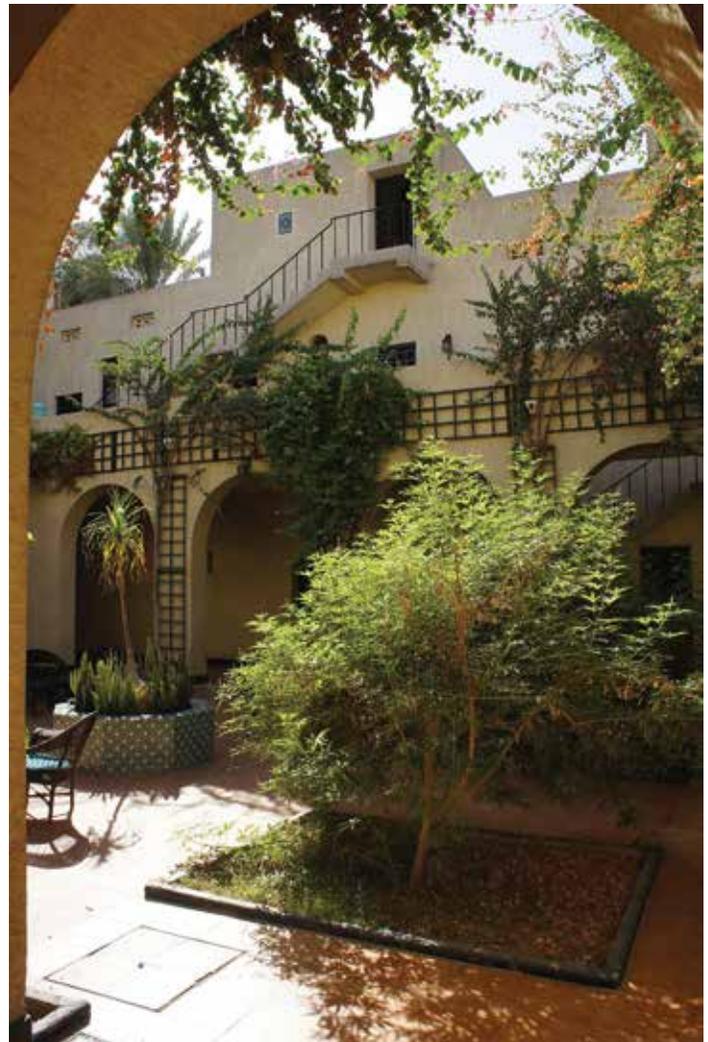
On April 15th we will close our doors and put the Chicago House facility to sleep for the summer. In the meantime, we have much to do to finish our work for the season, finishing up our operations at all of our temple sites, saying goodbye to our friends, and writing the necessary reports for the Egyptian government, Oriental Institute/University of Chicago, and our granting agencies. But it's also a time of looking forward to the season to come, as we make our plans and write our application for the rich season ahead.



Senior accountant Essam and wife Nidaa with their children, April 1, 2013 (photo by Ray Johnson)



(Above) Chicago House and Corniche; (left) Chicago House courtyard, April 10, 2013 (photos by Ray Johnson)



## POSTSCRIPT

As I prepare this “diary” for printing, I must add some news — some good, and some sad. The good news is that Julia Schmied gave birth to little David on April 9th, 2013. Both mother and child are healthy and doing well. While Juli and Krisztián aren’t getting much sleep anymore, they are deliriously happy. And David is one lucky little guy.

The sad news is that, after a month of failing health, our beloved friend and mentor Helen Jacquet-Gordon, 95, passed away on April 25th at her home in Carouge, Switzerland. Her husband Jean was with her. Our loss is heartfelt, but the loss to Egyptology is profound. Helen was a true Renaissance woman who specialized in ancient Egyptian ceramics but was proficient in the language, epigraphy, art, history, and archaeology of ancient Egypt and the Sudan, and was also an accomplished artist (and musician). I think that it is appropriate to say a few words here about the life of this extraordinary woman, a much-loved and key member of our archaeological “family.”

Born on February 7, 1918, in New York, Helen came to Egypt in 1955 for the purpose of completing her thesis for the *École des Hautes Études* at the Sorbonne. In 1956, Helen met her life partner, Jean Jacquet, on the excavations of the University of Pennsylvania at Mit Rahina, ancient Memphis. For the next fifty years, work and pleasure took them all over the Middle East, where they participated in a variety of historic archaeological expeditions: in Egypt and Nubia during the construction of the Aswan

High Dam (the “Nubian Salvage Campaign,” from 1957 to 1965), in Lebanon at Tyre (1964 to 1968), and at Tabo in the Dongola province of the northern Sudan (1967–1977). Their main project was in Upper Egypt at North-Karnak, an Eighteenth Dynasty site (the Treasury of Thutmosis I) situated just north of the great temple complex. There they conducted excavations from 1968 to 1977 and 1989 to 1992 under the auspices of the Institut français d’archéologie orientale du Caire (IFAO). While working at Karnak, they lived in Alexander Varille’s historic mudbrick house perched on top of the Karnak northern enclosure wall overlooking the temple of Ptah and all of western Thebes. Many of us remember with great pleasure having tea with them there at sunset, always breathtaking.

From 1997 until 2007, Helen and Jean resided with us at Chicago House in Luxor, where they continued to work on publications and consult with the Epigraphic Survey. While she was with us, Helen finished and published her groundbreaking *The Graffiti on the Khonsu Temple Roof at Karnak: A Manifestation of Personal Piety*, Oriental Institute Publications 123 (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2003), the third volume in the Epigraphic Survey’s Khonsu Temple series. She and Jean consulted with the Chicago House team on many aspects of the Survey’s work at Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu, and it was a real joy to have them with us for that decade.

Their photographic archive contains more than 7,400 images (6×6 and 35mm), of which the greater part is devoted to the architecture, archaeology, and epigraphy of



(Left) Juli and David out for a stroll (photo by Krisztián Vértes); (right) Krisztián and David digitally inking Roman fresco drawings (photo by Julia Schmied)

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*Helen Jacquet-Gordon at Arminna West, March 1961 (photo no. JHJ 3070)*

Antiquities, former Minister of State for Antiquities Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, and present Minister, Dr. Ahmed Eissa, Luxor MSA Director Mansour Boraik, and all of our friends and colleagues in Egypt for another productive collaboration this season. Sincerest thanks as well to those of you who continue to faithfully and generously support our preservation work in Luxor; bless you all! If you are planning a trip to Luxor and would like to stop by and see our work and facility, please contact us in advance to determine the best time for a meeting. Chicago House is open from October 15th until April 15th each year and is closed Saturday afternoons and Sundays. To arrange a visit during the season, please contact the Oriental Institute Membership Office at (773) 834-9777, or contact me, Epigraphic Survey Director Ray Johnson, directly at:

wr-johnson@uchicago.edu

Please see the following page for our contact information in Egypt and Chicago. Best wishes, and thanks again, to you all.

the ancient Near East. In 2008, Helen and Jean donated these archives to the library of Chicago House, where they form the Jacquet Archive in the Chicago House Photographic Archives.

Helen was an inspiration to all who knew her, and she raised the bar high. She was 95 years old, and yet she published a major pottery double volume (*Karnak-Nord X*) just last year, and her book on the Nubian site of Tabo is in press now at the IFAO in Cairo. She truly was one of the greats of Egyptology — her bibliography is over 100 titles long! — and she will always inspire us. She and Jean both represent everything we will always aspire to be as scholars, Egyptologists, and human beings, living and working in Egypt, particularly in the way they shared their expertise and love of the material.

It is therefore with great joy and wonderful memories that we dedicate this issue of the Chicago House Bulletin to our friend and colleague Helen Jacquet-Gordon.

Once again, let me extend my sincerest thanks to the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities and the Supreme Council of



*Jean and Helen Jacquet, Carouge, Switzerland, 2010 (photo by Ray Johnson)*

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*Helen Jacquet in front of the stela of Seti I, Abu Simbel, February 1960 (photo by Jean Jacquet)*

ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

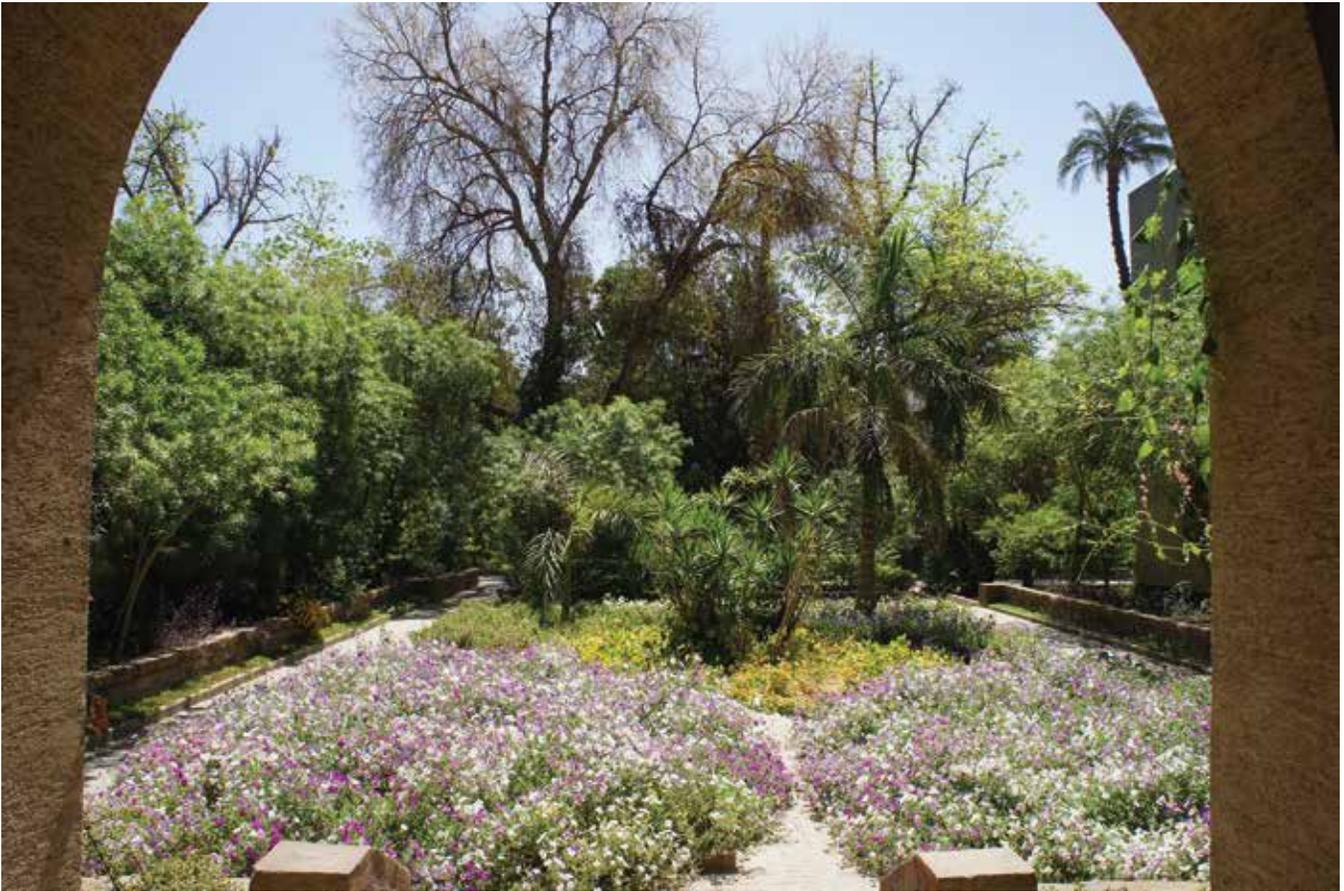
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The Epigraphic Survey home page is located at:  
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*Chicago House garden, April 14, 2013*

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***SUPPORT THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY AND CHICAGO HOUSE***

Partly funded by the University of Chicago, the Epigraphic Survey relies heavily on tax-deductible private and corporate contributions and grants to support its continued efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of ancient Egypt through documentation and conservation.

Contributions may now be made online! Go to:

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*Corniche in front of Chicago House today (photo by Ray Johnson)*