Beginning in 2018, the newly joint Princeton-NYU North Abydos Expedition undertook a major new research initiative at the northern edge of the concession, excavating a cemetery site that was used from
the early Old Kingdom (c. 2600 BCE) through the New Kingdom. The first phase of the cemetery consists of mudbrick mastabas that represent the first evidence of building by the non-royal local community since Abydos had become the royal cemetery around 3000 BCE. The mastabas were built atop a brewery installation from the Early Dynastic period, most likely associated with the royal building activity elsewhere at the site. This new material represents rare examples from these time periods and will help to develop our understanding of the transition from the Early Dynastic period to the Old Kingdom in Abydos.

The Expedition is also continuing work on the preservation of the Shunet el-Zebib, the only standing royal enclosure from the Early Dynastic Period, and a new conservation project focused on the Ramses II portal temple has recently begun. These projects are a crucially important part of the Expedition’s work and will be considered within the long history of building, decay, and restoration over 5000 years at Abydos.

Advance registration is required. Click on the link below by Saturday, Nov. 14, to receive an email with instructions on how and when to join. That email will have the author line ARCE-NC <no-reply@zoom.us>, the title of the lecture and “Confirmation,” and it will contain the link that you will click on to join the meeting. Save that email: You’ll need the link to join the meeting. Please do not share the join link with anyone; it is unique to your email address.

Questions? Please email Glenn Meyer at arcencZoom@gmail.com.

About Dr. Deborah Vischak:

Deborah Vischak is an Assistant Professor of ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology in the Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University. Vischak works on a range of themes, mainly focusing on the 3rd millennium and questions of regional identities. She is the author of Community and Identity in Ancient Egypt: the Old Kingdom Cemetery at Qubbet el-Hawa. She teaches broadly on ancient Egyptian art history
From the President

Dear ARCE friends,

Once again in 2021, ARCE National will hold its annual meeting virtually thanks to COVID-19. It’s scheduled for April 23-25. If you are a scholar or graduate student who’d like to present, National asks that you submit your materials by January 8, 2021. Go to https://www.arce.org/annual-meeting for details.

Our chapter plans to host our speakers virtually through academic year 2020-21. Via Zoom, we are continuing other normal business including board elections and the awarding of our third annual ARCE Northern California Eugene Cruz-Uribe Memorial Student Grant. Details on both are below.

Many thanks to UC Berkeley doctoral candidate Kea Johnston, who has acted as chapter secretary for the past year and who plans in 2021 to take up her recently awarded ARCE Fellowship for research in Egypt. We’re diligently looking for a new secretary. If you’d like to serve, we’d be grateful.

Be well,
Barbara Wilcox
President, ARCE Northern California

Egyptology on the go from ARCE National: Tutankhamun podcast series

Our national HQ in Alexandria, Va., is keeping us diverted and informed with its series of podcasts, available free and on demand. The current series kicks off with Dr. Aidan Dodson's The Lineage of Tutankhamun (episode 1) and continues with Dr. Salima Ikram’s Inside the Tomb of Tutankhamun (episode 2); Dr. Nozumu Kawai’s Tutankhamun’s Court (episode 3); and Dr. Maggie Bryson’s Aftermath of Tutankhamun’s Reign (episode 4).

To listen, go to https://www.arce.org/podcast. They’re also on Spotify, SoundCloud, Apple and Google.

More virtual offerings from National

ARCE National is also offering its own live Zoom talks. Advance registration is required separately for each talk, just as it is for the chapter talks. To learn more, or to register in case the below links don’t work (I did test them), go to https://www.arce.org/calendar. Plans include a series on Sudan and Nubia featuring Profs. Solange Ashby, Denise Doxey, Jeremy Pope and Stuart Tyson Smith: more details soon.

Dr. Terry M. Moore
The Curse of the Black Eggplant: Reconstructing Occult Economies in Late Ottoman Egypt
October 31, 2020, 10 a.m. PDT
Occult objects and services were a central part of the economic marketplace in late Ottoman Egypt. Sudanese magicians read palms and told fortunes in open markets. Charms, talismans, and ingredients for magical recipes were available for purchase at the local ‘attar. Anxious women bribed the gatekeepers of Khedival gardens handsomely to access the black eggplant—a natural amulet that cured (or inflicted) infertility in any who traversed its fertile patches. Yet, these are not the actors we generally cast in histories of capitalism and political economy in the Middle East. In this talk, Moore uses the “amulet tale” of the black eggplant as a frame to reveal the occult economies that were a robust—if not integral—part of Egypt’s economic market in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Dr. Moore is a University of California Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in the History Department at UC Santa Barbara. Click here for more information and to register for her talk.

Special event for Lotus members and above:
Virtual Tour of “Sunken Cities” at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Nov. 28, 2020, 11 a.m. PST

Registration details TBD

ARCE is proud to partner with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to present the amazing treasures of the "Sunken Cities" exhibition. This virtual tour and discussion will be led by Dr. Peter Schertz, the Jack and Mary Ann Frable Curator of Ancient Art at the VFMA. Using installation photography and videos, Dr. Schertz will take us through the design process and highlight some of the remarkable finds.

Destroyed by natural catastrophes in the 8th century CE, Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus were once mighty centers of trade, where Egyptian and Greek cultures merged in art, worship, and everyday life. Thonis-Heracleion was once Egypt’s premier center for trade with the Greek world, while the nearby city of Canopus drew pilgrims from across the Mediterranean, particularly for rites dedicated to Osiris.
In the centuries since their demise, these two cities were known only by scattered mentions in ancient writings. Today, maritime archaeologist Franck Goddio and his European Institute for Underwater Archaeology (IEASM) have given new life to these sunken cities. Presenting nearly 300 objects from IEASM’s discoveries from the Mediterranean waters of Aboukir Bay and some of Egypt’s most important museums, VMFA invites you to reconnect with these once-lost civilizations. IEASM’s ongoing underwater excavations have fundamentally changed our understanding of the cultures, faiths, and history of Egypt’s Mediterranean region. This exhibition features a staggering array of objects from these excavations, supplemented by treasures from museums across Egypt.

And more from the Univ. of Memphis’ Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology

Many thanks to Dr. Lorelei Corcoran and her colleagues for sharing links to this online talk. The fourth annual IEAA Alumni/Alumnae Lecture is now on YouTube. Dr. Kevin Johnson of Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, speaks on “Gathering the Pieces: An Iconographic Analysis and Virtual Reconstruction of a New Kingdom Non-Royal Sarcophagus.” The link is below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2lYvhDSU9M&feature=youtu.be

Help ARCE NorCal continue: Serve on our board

Our chapter is conducting its biennial board elections. We have three vacancies for our two-year board terms. If you would like to run, please let Barbara Wilcox know by Oct. 31. Here are the seats and the people who have offered to serve as voting members:

President: Barbara Wilcox (incumbent)
Vice President: Kathryn Chew
Secretary: Candidate needed
Treasurer: Doug Olsen (incumbent)
Membership: Gabrielle Essner (incumbent)
Publicity: Glenn Meyer (incumbent)
Programs: Nancy Corbin, Joan Knudsen (incumbents)
At-large (two seats): Kim Sanders (incumbent), Rita Lucarelli
Funds development: Vacant

The secretary takes minutes at board meetings and distributes them to the board via email. We especially need a secretary because, under federal and state law, we risk losing our nonprofit status if we don’t have one. (President, treasurer and secretary are the three officers required of 510(c)3 nonprofit organizations.) Our chapter is a separate nonprofit licensed by ARCE National to operate, and we further risk losing that license if we fail to comply with applicable laws.

Terms run from November-December 2020 through August 2022. We will meet several times a year via Zoom during COVID, and monthly or every other month thereafter on Sundays before our scheduled lecture.

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If there are no contested seats, we'll present the slate to the membership for acclamation and ratify it at our November or December board meeting. If one or more seats are contested, we'll hold an election via email. Candidates must be members of ARCE in good standing (e.g. paid-up). If you have questions about the board or the roles, do reach out to any board member. We would love to have you join us.

Call for Applications: $1,500 ARCE Northern California Eugene Cruz-Uribe Memorial Student Grant

The Board of Directors of the Northern California Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt is offering one grant of $1,500 to a qualified undergraduate or graduate student in the 2020-21 academic year. **Deadline for applications is Friday, Nov. 20, 2020.** The award will be made in December 2020.

Applicants must either be enrolled at a Northern California college or university (Monterey to the Oregon border) or come from a hometown within that area. They must be pursuing a degree that incorporates Egyptian anthropology, archaeology, art, history, museum studies or language, or Coptic or Arabic studies in any period. Proof of enrollment may be required.

The grant honors a beloved chapter member, the late Professor **Eugene Cruz-Uribe**, an Egyptologist specializing in the Greco-Roman period who died following a bicycle accident in 2018. A recently retired professor of history at Indiana University East at the time of his death, Prof. Cruz-Uribe taught at California State University, Monterey Bay from 2007 to 2013.

To apply, students must submit 1) a CV and 2) a brief proposal (250-500 words) of how they will use the grant. Possible uses include – but are not limited to – research, travel, or preparation of a student-led exhibition, course or media project. If the proposal involves use of archival or museum materials, permission to use those materials should be obtained before the grant is made. *(Although archives and collections may be closed temporarily due to COVID-19, we expect that applicants will have obtained permission to use the materials when access is again available. We realize there may be COVID-related delays in accessing materials.)* The grant will be awarded based on merit. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by a random drawing from the qualified applicants.

Applicants should email their materials to ARCENorCal@gmail.com by the November 20 deadline.
Cartouche
Director at Large: Kim Sanders
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Carol Redmount

CARTOUCHÉ is published monthly except for June and July. Material for submission should be sent no later than the 25th of the month preceding publication to Barbara Wilcox at babspmalone@yahoo.com. The Chapter’s email address is ARCENorCal@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All lectures below are Sunday at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

November 15, 2020
Dr. Deborah Vischak, Princeton University/NYU
North Abydos Expedition: 2018/2020 Seasons

December 13, 2020
The Power of Images in Ancient Egypt
Dr. Rune Nyord, Emory University