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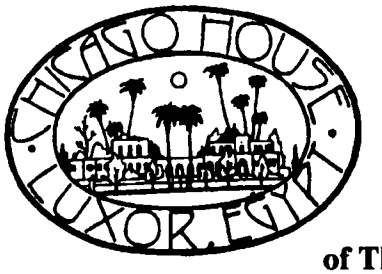

CHICAGO HOUSE BULLETIN

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THE 1992-1993 SEASON AT CHICAGO HOUSE

By Peter Dorman, Field Director

The sixty-ninth season of the Epigraphic Survey opened on October 6, 1992, coinciding precisely with the beginning of the University of Chicago's second century: the inaugural inspection of Luxor Temple and the adjoining fragment blockyards took place at 1:30 AM, Chicago time, in the first twenty-four hours of the University's next hundred years. With the successful conclusion of work on the Opet reliefs, the chief goal of the 1992-93 season was the completion of epigraphy on all remaining areas of the Colonnade Hall, as well as the commencement of epigraphic work on the small temple of Amun at Medinet Habu.

The earthquake that rocked Cairo on October 12th had little effect on Upper Egypt, but we felt a light tremor even as far south as Luxor: the three hanging overhead lights in the library were set eerily moving in slow, concentric circles. Fortunately, there was no apparent damage to monuments in the Theban area.

The growing tensions caused by sporadic acts of terrorism in Egypt this year were reflected in the gradual decrease of tourists evident in Luxor as the season wore on. The central provinces of Minya and Asyut in middle Egypt were declared off limits to Americans, but Aswan and Luxor remained on the approved tourist itinerary. Despite these uncertainties, we were visited by over a thousand guests during the season, and at least 67 library tours were given to tour groups and individuals stopping by. The only real danger to our own property was caused by two police guards stationed outside our gate who, in laying small fires to warm themselves at night, inadvertently set fire to one of the nearby ficus trees, which luckily collapsed onto the corniche rather than onto our sleeping gateman.

At Luxor Temple, the primary challenge was documenting the great facade and northeastern corner of the Colonnade Hall, which are among the best preserved architectural features. The facade of the Hall was apparently not decorated until after Tutankhamun's death, when his successor, Ay, added three large-scale registers of offering scenes carved in light raised relief; subsequently, Horemhab usurped Ay's cartouches. The facade was radically altered when Ramesses II added a porticoed court directly in front of the Colonnade Hall. Because the decorative registration of the new court did not match that of the Colonnade facade, Ramesses simply erased the scenes of Ay located below the portico roof and recarved new offering scenes in sunk relief, featuring the three gods of Karnak: Amun, Mut, and Khonsu. The epigraphers and artists worked over this crucial area for several months: the original Ay reliefs on the doorjamb of the northern portal and above the portico roof (accessible only by tall ladders), as well as the scenes below the roof, recut by Ramesses II. The main task was to verify the traces of the earlier scenes of Ay and match them to the extant relief above the portico roof.

The facade shows evidence of considerable reuse even after the addition of the court of Ramesses II. Merneptah added a horizontal band of dedicatory inscription below his father's reliefs, but this was subsequently erased. The lower facade was to become a favored location for other kinds of votive inscriptions after the end of the New Kingdom.

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THE CHALLENGES OF HOME SCHOOLING IN UPPER EGYPT

By Kathy Dorman, House Manager

When Paul Bartko became the administrator at Chicago House he brought with him a unique talent: he has a way of managing the housekeeping that doesn't damage his sense of humor. It seems he finds it a challenge more than a burden, which suits me nicely. Now I only do kitchen orders on weekends and have more time for school.

More time for school has become necessary. Margaret just finished sixth grade, and the demands of her teachers back in Chicago required that we spend more time at our library table working on her assignments and projects. Emily was a fourth grader, but she, too, had a considerable amount of schoolwork.

Many visitors to Chicago House are curious to find out how two growing girls manage to keep up with their classmates back home during the winter term. Actually, I was a middle school teacher in a previous life, but my humanities background doesn't qualify me in all fields. Lacking the specialized faculty at Lab School to help, I've had to improvise with the diverse staff at Chicago House, who have graciously shared their time with Margaret and Emily.

I wonder if the girls or I would ever have learned to count if Dr. Henri hadn't helped us make an Arabic version of Snakes and Ladders. It certainly helped me learn how to say my numbers in Arabic. In more recent years Dr. Henri has often played dominos with the girls. They play in English, but I can rationalize any amount of dominos for its math value. Anyway, they really enjoy it.

Margaret had to do a unit on genetics last winter. Having successfully avoided biology myself I turned her over to Paul and my niece Betsy for odd sessions with genes and diagrams. Margaret was managing tolerably well with all the terms and definitions, but it was also clear she that wasn't going to rival Darwin before spring term began. Never being one to ignore the value of fiction, I gave her a copy of *Jurassic Park* to read.

Emily had a project to complete for her math class in Chicago. She had to build a bridge—soup to nuts—including managing a huge (fictitious) budget full of checks, receipts and running balances. She had to design the structure, meeting strict specifications, and build it out of girders, cable and welding material, (tooth picks, string and glue) over a cardboard river imported from Chicago. She could only get advice from adults if she paid the going consultation fee of $5000. Paul got so interested that he built part of a bridge himself. Both Paul and John got consultant fees, as I did when I used my superior sewing skills to tie a shortish cable to one of the towers. Students aim for the strongest bridge so the projects terminate by crushing the bridges with weights to determine their strength. We smashed Emily's at morning coffee with much fanfare and ten kilos of *National Geographics*. She'll never look at a bridge the same way again.

One of the most memorable lessons the girls have received was the result of killing time after lunch. John and Debbie Darnell helped the girls transform the generic fort they'd built in the garden into General Gordon's headquarters in the Sudan. There were several noisy raids involving pith helmets, khaki trousers and dirt balls, as well as a hoop earring and feather headdress, not worn by anyone under 20. There was

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1992-1993 Season *(continued from p. 1)*

One of the more elaborate graffiti, which approximates the scale and quality of a formal relief, is central to discussions of the end of the Ramesside era. Here the High Priest of Amun Pinudjem is shown, grandson of the infamous High Priest Herihor who claimed pharaonic titles in his reliefs at Khonsu Temple at Karnak. The Survey is making first definitive record of the figures and text. Higher up the wall, an inscription made by the High Priest of Amun Sheshonk, son of Osorkon I, has been recorded; he was later to become coregent with his father as Sheshonk II of Dynasty 22. A sizable graffito depicting the divine child Khonsu, tucked in between the much larger figures of Amun and Mut, can be dated to the Ptolemaic period, to judge from name of the dedicator, Khonsu-Iy. Other miscellaneous additions, clustered around the base of the wall, include later graffiti of Amun-Kamutef and Mut, small kingly faces, and a text naming a person called Miw-sheri, "little cat."

The northern portal, leading into the Colonnade, also exhibits a variety of reuse. The recessed thicknesses of the doorway, originally decorated by Ramesses II, were entirely filled in with slim ashlar blocks, which were then adorned with identical reliefs in the name of Sety II. In examining a loose block fragment containing a cartouche frieze of Sety II, John Darnell happened to notice that the back of the block was covered with a thick layer of plaster that still bore the imprint of the original Ramesses II relief. The combination of the front and rear decoration will enable the Survey to reconstruct the location of this block within a few centimeters of its original position in the door thickness. Sety II also modified the northern portal by adding smaller door jambs, of which two blocks are still extant; this was in turn replaced by a similar structure erected by the Macedonian ruler Philip Arrhidaeus.

In the Hall proper, work continued on the final reinking of the great offering scenes of the columns and on a new survey of the cartouches of various kings that adorn the shafts of the columns. These royal names and the great architrave inscriptions will be given final checks in the season to come.

At the small temple of Amun at Medinet Habu, epigraphic work got into higher gear. Our artists penciled 23 drawings for summer work, and the epigraphers undertook collations on five inked drawings. In fact, the first drawings from the the small temple will be ready for director's checks at the beginning of next season.

We enjoyed the presence of no less than three photographers this year, spaced several months apart due to scheduling constraints. Their combined efforts were prodigious, and rather typical for a busy season at Chicago House: 68 full drawing enlargements were made, as well as another 52 fragment enlargements; 74 drawings were bleached after inking; 40 were blueprinted for collation; and roughly 650 negatives were printed for file purposes. These purely routine chores were supplemented by several special projects. Sue Lezon duplicated another 222 deteriorating negatives and produced almost 770 images for the Survey's new series of photographic portfolios (see below). She also made over two hundred prints of block fragments that will appear in the plates of the Opet publication. Cecile Keefe undertook new photography in Luxor Temple, taking several detail views of the facade and of 164 additional Colonnade fragments in the blockyards behind the temple. Tom spent several days at Medinet Habu reshooting several of the peripteral pillars of the small temple, photographed all the finished drawings that were carried back to Chicago, and ensured that artists would have plenty of new work on hand for the beginning of next season.

Ellie Smith continued her exceptional volunteer work in the photo archives, keeping up with the seemingly endless tasks of filing, labeling, and sleeving new Chicago House negatives and newly-identified prints and negatives from the Labib Habachi archives. She also typed in a separate registry for our 1700 block fragments from the Colonnade, which will now provide a permanent reference for future work on the fragments.

The Survey was extremely fortunate to be able to draw on the talents of Jean and Helen Jacquet for another several weeks during the winter. Jean completed sketching elevations of the northern portal of the Colonnade Hall, which will be used in the second volume on Luxor Temple, and Helen again lent her unerring eye to the ongoing process of identifying sites, objects, and personalities in the photographs of the Labib Habachi archives.

In addition to her epigrapher's duties, Debbie Darnell oversaw the management of the library. Ellie and volunteer Nan Ray were both instrumental in helping to catalogue the 229 new books that were accessioned, bringing the library registry up to 16,315. Debbie also conducted a review of our important map collection, many of which are rare pieces. Chicago House continues to be a place that welcomes international research; visiting scholars to the library totaled 237 this season.

Paul Bartko again directed the administrative functions of the Survey with skill and panache and, with the assistance of

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The Friends of Chicago House Tour 1993
November 26 & 27, 1993

Dear Friends,

Help us celebrate our seventieth season in 1993-1994! The seventh annual FOCH tour, held for the benefit of the Epigraphic Survey, is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend this coming November. Plan on arriving in Luxor the evening of Thursday, November 25th, followed by a two-day program of touring selected archaeological sites in the area of ancient Thebes. The program will include:

- ***Visits to monuments not frequently seen by tourists, with lectures given by Chicago House staff***
- ***On-site demonstrations of epigraphic work in Luxor Temple and Medinet Habu***
- ***Tour of the renovated Chicago House Library, Artists' Studios, and Darkroom***
- ***The Annual Black-Tie Dinner and Dance in the courtyard of Chicago House***

The requested donation is $100 per person.

Until September 29th, contact:
The Epigraphic Survey
1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
tel. (312) 702-9524 fax (312) 702-9853

After October 1, contact us at:
Chicago House
Luxor, Egypt
tel. (20) (95) 372525 fax (20) (95) 381620

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Please make a note of our telephone number and **new fax number** *at Chicago House.*

Our telephone number remains: (20) (95) 372525
Our **new fax number** is: (20) (95) **381620**

1992-1993 Season *(continued from p. 2)*

Kathy Dorman during the winter months, he ran the household and kitchen as well. The *Chicago House Bulletin*, written by contributing members of the staff and formatted three times a year by Paul, is now finishing its fourth year and continues to be widely read by our friends all over the world. Kaylin Goldstein expertly managed the Survey office at the Oriental Institute in our absence, responded quickly to our pleas for assistance, mailed out our winter *Bulletin*, and served as a crucial liaison with the Institute. We were also able to assist several other expeditions in facilitating their work or various repair jobs: Carol Meyer's Bir Umm Fawakhir project and John and Debbie Darnell's Luxor-Farshût Desert Road Survey; the Amenmesse Royal Tomb project of Earl Ertman and Otto Schaden; the Polish-Egyptian Mission to Deir el-Bahri; the Belgian Mission to Elkab; Memphis State University's epigraphic study of the Hypostyle Hall, directed by William Murnane; and the work of the American University of Cairo in the Valley of the Kings, led by Kent Weeks.

Several major receptions punctuated the progress of the season. Approximately eighty members of the World Business Council received a library tour and courtyard reception, as did a group from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. An especially welcome event was the arrival of the Oriental Institute tour to Egypt, which marked Prof. Edward Wente's first visit to Chicago House for almost ten years. Toward the end of the season, Senator Patrick Leahy and several of his staff visited Chicago House for dinner and spent a day in Luxor touring the ancient monuments on both sides of the Nile. One especially memorable party was hosted by the Polish-Egyptian Mission to Deir el-Bahri, held at their dig house in the western Valley of the Kings and climaxed by a magnificent stroll by full moon through the deserted landscape to the foot of the Gurn, the central peak that dominates the ancient necropolis.

On January 28, the American Ambassador, His Excellency Robert J. Pelletreau, Jr., and Pamela Pelletreau hosted a grand evening reception in honor of Chicago House at their residence in Zamalek, which was the highlight of our Cairo season, attended by many of our donors, business friends, and professional colleagues. Forty-five Cairenes subsequently visited Luxor on February 13 for our annual Friends of Chicago House tour, abbreviated to just one day this year due to the interruptions of the continuing renovation on our facilities. Tours of our field research at Luxor and Medinet Habu were augmented by what has become a traditional black-tie gala dinner and dance at Chicago House, enlivened by old tangos and waltzes played from the original 1930s record collection (entirely 78 rpm) that still resides in the music room.

The last twelve months have seen significant progress in the publication of the reliefs of the Opet procession, which will comprise the subject matter of our first volume from Luxor Temple. *Reliefs and Inscriptions at Luxor Temple Volume I: The Processional Festival of Opet in the Colonnade Hall* will be the largest (and heaviest) volume ever produced by the Epigraphic Survey, due to the unprecedented number of fold-out plates demanded by the horizontal format of the reliefs. During the summer of 1992, the finished drawings were photographed at the reduced scales necessary for assembling each of the 130 folio plates. This summer artist Sue Osgood

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Home Schooling *(continued from p. 1)*

a lot of fencing too, and a cassette tape of epic movie music from the Sea Hawk by Erich Wolfgang Korngold. Periodically we would observe in the garden sporadic outbursts of violence enacted between the British, the French, the Fuzzy-Wuzzies, and the Mahdists.

Emily has been known to forgo what she'd normally find a pleasant outing in favor of water color painting with Sue Osgood. And although I may have let music lessons lapse, both girls enjoyed playing recorders and the piano with artist Margaret De Jong. Margaret even has enough patience to sing madrigals with Peter and me. And thanks to Ellie Smith, I can just tell the girls that the dining room needs flowers. After seeing her in action, the kids have a good idea of what can be done with various blooms from the garden.

Foreign languages are another subject I don't teach myself. Emily loved her regular German classes with Ansbach native Tina Di Cerbo. Her German teacher in Chicago was delighted with her progress. And Margaret has taken French for years from Michelle, a lovely Belgian lady who lives in Luxor.

Michelle works with Margaret, and Emily too, most days, but on Thursday Michelle is occupied. So rather than relegate Thursdays to a more-of-the-same school day we have turned Thursday into field trip day. With a little imagination and planning (although sometimes the planning doesn't help much) we have enjoyed some really wonderful trips.

Some Thursdays have been taken up going to Medinet Habu and making sketches to take back to our art teachers. These trips are extra popular if they include lunch with Chicago House staff at the tea house with the friendly cats.

Sometimes the process of getting somewhere is more interesting than the destination. For example, sorting out the drill to catch the local public taxi, and riding with the amiable mix of housewives, students, fishermen, and butagas tubes is at first a challenge but then quite pleasant. After one such trip we tried to get a tour of the sugar cane refinery at Armant. Somehow we didn't impress the management as sufficiently official to be allowed in. But the trip was fun and so was the stop on the way home to see how much the puppies at Medinet Habu had grown.

On the other hand there are some obvious, glamorous trips to make. For example, we've been to Dendera numerous times. Margaret writes, "My favorite place is the small room around a corner and up some stairs. It's kind of a shrine for Hathor, the Egyptian goddess of music and dancing. I like it because on the ceiling is a picture of Nut, the goddess of the night sky. Egyptians believed that she swallowed the sun in the evening and gave birth to it in the morning."

And one Thursday morning, Ted and Lyla Brock, from the Canadian Institute, invited us to see their progress copying the inscriptions of a shattered sarcophagus in the tomb of Ramesses VI. On other Thursdays we've gone to Karnak to watch Helen and Jean Jacquet work— but also to see their dogs and enjoy the view of Karnak Temple.

Don Conner, who is one of the Luxor balloon captains, and his wife, Debbie, have also joined us a few times on our Thursday field trips. Don, Debbie,and Chicago House staff members Margaret DeJong and Sue Osgood came on our last

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1992-1993 Season *(continued from p. 3)*

was able to undertake the complicated task of assembling the individual plates, some of which contain over three dozen reduced drawing prints. With the addition of the printed caption information, this painstaking task was virtually completed in the spring of 1993, and we expect the volume will go to press this fall. In April 1993, the Survey was extremely fortunate to receive a generous award from the Getty Grant Program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, which will entirely cover the costs of publishing the first two volumes from Luxor Temple and will help in offsetting the expenses of future folios as well.

As always, we will be very pleased to welcome members of the Oriental Institute and other friends to Chicago House from October 1 to April 1. Please write to us in advance, to let us know the dates of your visit, and note the change in our fax number: 381620 (direct dial from the United States: 011-20-95-381620). Our telephone number—at least for the time being—remains the same as last year: 011-20-95-372525.

END

Home Schooling *(continued from p. 3)*

trip. Emily writes, "We drove to Esna. Esna is a temple that was built so long ago that all the rubble around the temple has piled up about 50 feet. You have to walk down a very long staircase.

"After seeing the temple we went to see a lettuce seed press in the Esna suq. The lettuce seed press is a big wooden device that is in two sections. Each section is in a separate room. The first room had a press that was run by a camel. The press crushed all the sesame seeds or lettuce seeds so the oil would come out better. The crushed seeds were made into patties and were sent to the next room. The next second room had two ancient unfinished tree trunks with a pressing screw in between them. This press used man power, not a camel. The seed patties were stacked between woven disks and the pressing screw would come down and out would come the oil. Don bought a bottle of sesame oil. We all took pictures." The trip was fascinating, but I'm glad none of us was barefoot.

Friends and colleagues in America sometimes sympathize with us about missing winter term in Chicago. We don't feel sorry for ourselves at all.

END

ADDRESSES OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY:

October through March:
Chicago House
Luxor,
Arab Republic of EGYPT
tel. (20) (95) 372525; fax (20) (95) 381620

April through September:
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