

Janet Richards

Professor of Egyptology
Department of Near Eastern Studies
The University of Michigan
4111 Thayer Academic Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1608
734-647-4672

Curator for Dynastic Egypt
The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
The University of Michigan
434 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1390
734-647-0444

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ancient northeast African culture, archaeology, and history; texts and archaeology; political landscapes; the archaeology of individuals; the politics of biography; complex societies (ideologies of power, strategies of materialization, social transformations, political crisis); archaeology of mortuary behavior; the disciplinary history of Egyptology; cultural heritage.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1992, University of Pennsylvania, Anthropology and Oriental Studies.
B.A. 1981, Northwestern University, Anthropology and French.
1979-80 Université de Paris-IV and l'École du Louvre, special student in
Egyptian art and archaeology (Sweetbriar College Junior Year Abroad).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CURRENT

Professor of Egyptology (2012-present), Department of Near Eastern Studies,
Curator for Dynastic Egypt, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
(2012-present), University of Michigan.
Associate Professor of Egyptology (2004-2012), Department of Near Eastern Studies,
Associate Curator for Dynastic Egypt, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
(2004-present), University of Michigan.
Director, University of Michigan Abydos Middle Cemetery Project, Abydos,
Egypt (1995-present). Full scale archaeological investigation of late Old Kingdom
provincial mortuary landscape.
Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania Museum, 1992-present.
Research Affiliate, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan (1996-present).

PREVIOUS

Assistant Professor of Egyptology (1998-2004), Department of Near Eastern Studies,
Assistant Curator for Dynastic Egypt, Kelsey Museum (1997-2004); Visiting Assistant
Professor, Department of History of Art (1994-1995); Visiting Assistant
Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies (1995-1996, 1997-1998); Visiting
Assistant Curator, Kelsey Museum (1994-1998), University of Michigan.
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount
Holyoke College (1993-1994).

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Writing Ancient Lives: Weni the Elder and Ancient Egyptian Responses to Political Crisis. In
preparation; under contract with Cambridge University Press.
The Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of David B. O'Connor. Co-editor with

Z. Hawass. 2 volumes. Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, 2007 (Second edition, revised and expanded, 2009).

Society and Death in Ancient Egypt: Mortuary Landscapes of the Middle Kingdom. Cambridge University Press, 2005 (Paperback edition, 2009).

Order, Legitimacy and Wealth in Ancient States. Co-editor with M. Van Buren. Cambridge University Press, New Directions in Archaeology series, 2000.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

The myths of Osiris and Kamberap in cross-cultural comparison. Co-author with S. Kirsch. In E. Frood, A. McDonald, and R. Parkinson (Eds.), *Decorum and Experience: Essays in Ancient Culture for John Baines*. Griffith Institute, Oxford. Forthcoming 2013.

Spatial and verbal rhetorics of power: constructing late Old Kingdom history. *Journal of Egyptian History* 3 (2): 339-366. 2010.

Conservation and documentation in the Middle Cemetery: activities funded by the Antiquities Endowment Grant. *Bulletin of the American Research Center in Egypt* 197: 9-16. 2010.

Honoring the ancestors: the Middle Kingdom in the Middle Cemetery. In Z. Hawass and J. Houser Wegner (Eds.), *Millions of Jubilees: Essays in Honor of David P. Silverman*, 603-632. Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, Cairo. 2010.

Kingship and legitimation. In W. Wendrich (Ed.), *Egyptian Archaeology*, 55-84. Blackwell Global Studies in Archaeology. Blackwell, Cambridge. 2010.

An archaeological biography. In Z. Hawass and J. Richards (Eds.), *The Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt: Essays in honor of David B. O'Connor*, xxi-xxvi. Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, Cairo, 2007. 2nd edition 2009.

The archaeology of excavations and the role of context. In Z. Hawass and J. Richards (Eds.), *The Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt: Essays in honor of David B. O'Connor*, 313-319. Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, Cairo. 2007.

The M50 group and the Abydos cemeteries during the Middle Kingdom. In K. Sowada and B. Ockinga (Eds.), *Egyptian Art in the Nicholson Museum*, 249-258. Mediterranean Archaeology Supplementary Volume, Sydney, Australia. 2006.

The loss and rediscovery of the Vizier Iuu at Abydos: magnetic survey in the Middle Cemetery Co-author with T. Herbich. In E. Czerny (Ed.), *Festschrift Manfred Bietak*, 141-149. Denkschriften der Gesamtkademie, Vienna. 2005.

The Abydos cemeteries in the late Old Kingdom. In Z. Hawass (Ed.), *Egyptology at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century: Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of Egyptologists, Cairo*, 400-407. American University in Cairo Press, Cairo. 2003.

Text and context in late Old Kingdom Egypt: the archaeology and historiography of Weni the Elder. *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 39: 75-102. 2002.

Time and memory in ancient Egyptian cemeteries: the dynamic history of ancient sites. *Expedition: Magazine of the University of Pennsylvania Museum* 44 (3): 16-24. 2002.

Introduction: ideology, wealth, and the comparative study of "civilizations." Co-author with M. Van Buren. In J. Richards and M. Van Buren (Eds.), *Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient States*, 3-12. Cambridge University Press, New Directions in Archaeology series. 2000.

Modified order, responsive legitimacy, redistributed wealth: Egypt, 2260-2040 BC. In J. Richards and M. Van Buren (Eds.), *Order, Legitimacy, and Wealth in Ancient States*, 36-45. Cambridge University Press, New Directions in Archaeology series. 2000.

Conceptual landscapes in the Egyptian Nile Valley. In W. Ashmore and B. Knapp (Eds.), *Archaeologies of Landscape: Contemporary Perspectives*, 83-100. London, Blackwell. 1999.

Ancient Egyptian mortuary practice and the study of socio-economic differentiation. In J. Lustig (Ed.),

Anthropology and Egyptology: A Developing Dialogue, 33-42. Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology, Sheffield Press. 1998.

Preserving Eternity: Modern Goals, Ancient Intentions. Egyptian Funerary Artifacts at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Co-editor with T. G. Wilfong. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. 1995.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

Director, University of Michigan Middle Cemetery Project, Abydos, Egypt, late Old Kingdom provincial mortuary and political landscape. 1995-present.

Topographic survey and architectural/ceramic analysis, November-December 1995, October 1996.

Full-scale excavation, September-December 1999, January-March 2001, January-February 2007, January-February 2009, January-February 2011, April 2012, March-April 2013, April-May 2014.

Magnetic survey and study seasons November-December 2002, June 2004, 2011.

Supreme Council of Antiquities Inspectors' Seminars March 2005, February 2009.

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey/fieldwork/currentfieldwork>

<http://iabydos.wordpress.com/excavations/>

Field Director, North Cemetery Project, Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition to Abydos, Egypt.

Surface survey and collection and selective excavation of Middle Kingdom cemetery zone, January-June 1988.

Excavation Supervisor, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Expedition to Deir el Ballas, Egypt, 1986.

Excavation Supervisor, Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition Early Dynastic Project, Abydos, Egypt, 1986.

Excavation Supervisor, University of Toronto Expedition to East Karnak, Luxor, Egypt, 1985.

Excavation Supervisor, British Mission to Tel el-Amarna, Egypt, 1985.

Epigrapher, Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition to Abydos, Egypt, 1985.

Student, Northwestern Archaeological Field School, Kampsville, Illinois, 1983.

EXHIBITIONS

Scheduled exhibitions in planning:

“Unearthing Dendera: life and death in the ancient Egyptian provinces.” Date TBD (As part of Mellon Foundation Collection Sharing Project initiated through University of Pennsylvania Museum (consortium includes Michael C. Carlos Museum/Emory University, Barnes Foundation, Dumbarton Oaks, Princeton Art Museum, Winterthur, Kelsey Museum). Spring 2011-present.

“Discovery: excavating the ancient world.” Meader Special Exhibition Gallery, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology; Curator. August-November 2013.

“Life and death in the Pyramid Age: the Emory Old Kingdom mummy.” Michael C.

Carlos Museum, Emory University. Consultant. September-December 2011.

Participant in podcast: “The Emory Old Kingdom mummy,” <http://carlos.emory.edu/podcasts>

Sohag Regional Museum of Archaeology, Sohag Province, Egypt. Consultant. Ongoing.

Participant in Kelsey Museum Upjohn Exhibition Wing planning process 2004-2009. Curator, reinstallation of permanent Dynastic Egyptian gallery. Opened November 1, 2009.

“Mary Upjohn Meader: pioneering adventures over Africa.” Meader Special Exhibition Gallery, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Co-curated with L. Talalay. November 2009-June 2010.

On-line version: <http://lw.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey/meader/>

“American contributions to Egyptian archaeology.” Exhibition at the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, Egypt. Produced panel and label copy for featured object: statuette of Weni excavated during the 1999 University of Michigan Abydos Middle Cemetery Project field season. 2007.

“Individual and society in ancient Egypt.” Kelsey Museum, with loans from the Metropolitan

- Museum of Art and the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Curator. March-August 2003.
“Egypt and the ancient Near East.” Permanent installation of the Kelsey Museum's ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Collections. Curator. February 1998-2004.
“Death in ancient Egypt.” Kelsey Museum. Co-curator with T. Wilfong. 1996-98.
“Latin funerary inscriptions.” Part of the permanent installation of the Greco-Roman Gallery of the Kelsey Museum. Co-curator with T. Wilfong. 1996-2004.
“Preserving eternity: modern goals, ancient intentions.” Kelsey Museum. Co-curator with T. Wilfong. 1995-96.

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

- Berlin Prize, Winter 2014; Ellen Maria Gorrissen Fellow of History, American Academy in Berlin. Senior Fellow, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University.
Elected to Scientific Club, University of Michigan, May 2009.
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, awarded December 2004 for AY 2005-06.
Michigan Humanities Award, awarded December 2004 for AY 2005-06.
American Philosophical Society Fellowship, awarded February 2005, accepted for AY 2006-07.
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, awarded February 2005 for AY 2005-06; declined.
Bioanthropology Foundation, \$25,000, Co-PI with M. Adams, NYU and B. Baker, ASU, for construction of bioarchaeology storage magazine at Abydos, Egypt. 2009-2010.
Fisher Fund of the Michigan Community Foundation, \$120,000 (2001-present); for Abydos Middle Cemetery Project research.
American Research Center in Egypt Antiquities Endowment Fund, \$21,952; for Abydos Middle Cemetery Project 2009.
National Geographic Society, \$20,000 for Abydos Middle Cemetery Project. 2001.

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND INVITED LECTURES

- “Life writing within landscapes of power and myth: Weni the Elder at Abydos.” Invited paper at international conference “Ancient Egyptian Biographies: Form, Contexts, Functions.” Basel, Switzerland 14-17 May 2014.
“Myth, politics, and biography in the ancient Egyptian Nile Valley.” Ellen Maria Gorrissen Lecture, American Academy in Berlin, April 2014.
“Die narrativen Strukturen des politischen Gedächtnisses im alten Ägypten.” Head to Head event with Prof. Gerald Moers, University of Vienna. Literaturhaus Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany, March 2014.
“Learning in Museums.” Joint lecture with Suzanne Davis, Kelsey Museum Conservator. Cultural Program of The Grand Egyptian Museum, Cairo. April 2012.
“Writing ancient lives: people, politics, and piety in the Egyptian Nile Valley.” Trinity College, February 2012.
“Abydos: l’archéologie d’un paysage politique.” Musée du Louvre, Paris, February 2010.
“After Amarna: Tutankhamen, Horemheb, and ancient Egyptian responses to political crisis.” DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, November 2009.
“The biography of people and places: constructing late Old Kingdom history.” Invited paper at workshop “In search of Egypt’s past: problems and perspectives of the historiography of ancient Egypt,” University of British Columbia, Vancouver, April 2008.
“Politics and provinces.” Brinkley Lecture on Ancient Greece and Egypt, College of William and Mary, October 2007.

Co-Organizer, Third German American Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, “The Making of

Memory: Space · Performance · Appropriation;” Co-chair, Egypt session: “Colonial Origins, Post-colonial Realities: the study of Egypt past and present.” Sponsored by the American Philosophical Society, U.S.A., and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany. Philadelphia, 12-15 October 2006.

Lecture Tour, Australian Centre for Egyptology, 5-21 September 2006:

Macquarie University, Sydney; Monash University, Melbourne; Western Australia Museum, Perth; Presbyterian Ladies College, Perth: “Society in Middle Kingdom art;” “A landscape of people, politics, and piety: Abydos in the Old and Middle Kingdoms;” “The lost tomb of Weni the Elder;” “Women archaeologists in the Middle East;” “Fieldwork in the Middle East: method, theory, and politics”

“Individuals, time and memory.” Invited lecture, Annual Sackler Conference of the British Museum, July 11-12, 2002.