

SCHOLARSHIP



Other Research Activities of the Oriental Institute Faculty, Staff and Students

LANNY BELL'S research in Egypt this season took him once more to the Eastern Desert north and south of the Wadi Hammamat road to the Red Sea. One of these expeditions, led by Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb, discovered a series of unknown pharaonic rock inscriptions, which will be presented in a joint article prepared by these three explorers for publication in the centennial volume of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

In Luxor, Lanny's attention was focused on a coffin which he had first noticed in an Egyptian Antiquities Organization storeroom in the spring of 1982. The coffin was part of a cache discovered at Deir el-Bahari in 1932-33, but inexplicably it was not published with the rest of the find. It belongs to the great-grandson of the Theban Viceroy Pimiu of Dynasty XXII (ca. 865 B.C.), and on it the title of Viceroy of Kush is attributed to Pimiu. Modern scholars have believed that this title had fallen into disuse more than a century earlier. Pimiu is also given the title of Prophet of the goddess Nekhbet of Elkab, the northern limit of the domain of the Viceroy of Kush in the New Kingdom. Susan Lezon photographed the texts of this coffin during the season, and Labib Habachi located the inner coffin of the same set in the storerooms of the Luxor Museum. The survival of this title indicates clearly that the Egyptians did not cease to be interested in Nubia with the loss of that province at the end of Dynasty XX. Rather they were probably keeping a concerned watch over the area of the Fourth Cataract and the developments which were taking place there. For it was here in the Sudan at the end of the tenth or beginning of the ninth century B.C. that the Kingdom of Napata was emerging, whose descendants would sweep across Egypt as the rulers of the Twenty-fifth ("Ethiopian," i.e., Sudanese) Dynasty.

On June 1, just two days after his return from Cairo, Lanny presented the members of the Oriental Institute a report fresh from

the field in an illustrated lecture entitled “Chicago House and the Rescue of the Ancient Theban Monuments.”