

## Carol Meyer

**Carol Meyer** continued work on the final publications of the Byzantine/Coptic gold-mining site at Bir Umm Fawakhir in the central Eastern Desert of Egypt. The manuscript of *Bir Umm Fawakhir Survey Project 1996–1997* was accepted for the Oriental Institute Publications series, reviewed, revised, and returned to the Oriental Institute Publications Office. Work on the 1999 excavations and the 2001 study season is under way, starting with the basic top plans, stratigraphy, and pottery corpus. In late winter 2007 Meyer participated in the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition (OINE) at Al-Widay and Hosh el-Guruf in the Sudan. Over the past year she completed a report on her work with grinding and crushing stones at Hosh el-Guruf and the ancient gold mining there. In March 2008 Meyer, Dr. Robert Smither, and Dr. Douglas Robinson ran an experiment at the Advanced Photon Source<sup>1</sup> of Argonne National Laboratory to try to determine whether there was any gold in two samples of washed ore from the site. There was a trace amount in one sample, and the results were incorporated in Meyer's presentation on "Gold Ore from Hosh el-Guruf, Sudan" at the American Research Center in Egypt's Seattle Meeting in April 2008, and in her report, "Grinding Stones and Gold Mining at Hosh el-Guruf, Sudan." The latter will be included with the OINE 2007 article in Gdansk Archaeological Museum African Reports (GAMAR). In response to a request to organize a session on Medieval Islamic Mediterranean and Red Sea Trade for the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, England, in July 2007, Meyer presented a paper on "Alexandria after 'Amr." Contrary to almost all available histories, which ignore the entire period from the Islamic Conquest to the Napoleonic invasion, Alexandria remained a vital trading city throughout the Middle Ages. A revised and expanded version of the talk was presented to the Society of Woman Geographers in November 2007.

### Note

<sup>1</sup> Use of the Advanced Photon Source was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, under Contract No. W-31-109-Eng-38. Data were collected on the X-ray Operations and Research beamline 6-ID-B at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory.

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