

Foy Scalf

Foy Scalf and project co-founder Jackie Jay were pleased to officially launch the Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (OIDOO) project during the academic year of 2009–2010 (<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/oidoo/>). Now, full editions and Museum registry information for nearly 300 Demotic ostraca from the Oriental Institute collection are accessible through this online database, which provides researchers with exciting new methods for manipulating the data from these texts, including complex searching and sorting functions. Foy and Jackie will continue to edit new material and update the database periodically until the Oriental Institute’s collection of nearly 900 Demotic ostraca is completed.

In November, Foy arrived in Edfu for the final weeks of Nadine Moeller’s excavation in order to examine Demotic ostraca that Moeller’s team discovered during the season. These constitute a growing corpus of administrative material, which, combined with the Demotic ostraca excavated during previous seasons, offers interesting insights into the local administration of Edfu during the Ptolemaic period. Following the excavation, Foy assisted Moeller as she escorted an exceptional group of travelers with the Splendors of the Nile Tour on behalf of the Oriental Institute. In addition to reading Egyptian inscriptions in answering passengers’ questions, Foy edited a blog for the tour members to record their trip while sharing photos and memories (<http://oisplendorsofthenile.blogspot.com/>).

During the Winter Quarter, Foy taught an eight-week continuing-education class for the Oriental Institute, Temples of Greco-Roman Egypt. Several dedicated students from that class continued their introduction to Greco-Roman Egypt during the Spring Quarter in Foy’s course, History of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt. Proving surprisingly popular, the history course attracted a large class of eager students who left with a new understanding and appreciation of the “later” periods of Egyptian history.

Foy gave several lectures in the fall. On October 14, he spoke at Wheaton College on “The Mechanics of the Ptolemaic Economy in Egypt” as a part of a class on ancient Mediterranean economies, which included fellow Oriental Institute scholars Dennis Pardee, Matthew Stolper, and post-doctoral seminar alum Seth Sanders. On October 17, Foy presented “The Process of Creation according to the Ancient Egyptians” at the Oriental Institute as part of a mini-series on creation myths in the ancient Near East, complemented by the lectures of Andrea Seri, Theo van den Hout, and Margaret Mitchell.

Foy’s article “Magical Bricks in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago” appeared in *Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur* 38 (2009): 275–95, and “Is That a Rhetorical Question? Shipwrecked Sailor (pHermitage 1115), 150 Reconsidered” appeared in *Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 136/2 (2009): 155–59. Foy’s review of *Cleopatra Beyond the Myth*, by M. Chaveau, and review of *Cleopatra: A Sourcebook*, by Prudence Jones, appeared in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 69 (2010): 108–09.
