

## Gregory Marouard

**Gregory Marouard** spent the entire summer of 2012 on the processing of field data from the Tell Edfu Project 2011 season in Egypt.

Between early October and late November Gregory joined the Tell Edfu 2012 season as co-director of the project together with Nadine Moeller (see Nadine's individual research). He was in charge of fieldwork in Zone 2, a new area focusing on the Old Kingdom settlement remains occupied between the end of the Fifth Dynasty and the early First Intermediate Period. He also resumed the study of the Old Kingdom enclosure walls located in the same sector (see *Tell Edfu* project report). Another objective of last season has been the conservation program in order to protect more than three hundred inscribed and decorated sandstone blocks that were deposited at the foot of the tell several years ago. Gregory assured the design of the new blockyard and oversaw the technical implementation in form of building several platforms specifically adapted to receive the various kinds of blocks. The inventory in the database and the analysis of the blocks has been assigned to Jonathan Winnerman and Janelle Wade, both graduate students in Egyptology at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

The excavation at Tell Edfu also included a short mission at the small provincial pyramid at el-Ghoneameya. Gregory supervised the end of the cleaning operation at the main monument and the construction of a protective low fence of 250 meters in length, financed with an award from the Antiquities Endowment Fund program of the American Research Center in Egypt. It was the penultimate intervention at this site where most of the protection program has been completed. It should also be noted that the short article published by Gregory and Hratch Papazian in the *Oriental Institute News & Notes* 213 (Spring 2012) has been republished in a Danish version in the December 2012 edition of the journal *Papyrus* ("Edfu-pyramid – projektet," *Papyrus* 32/2 [2012]: 24–37).

In early December, Gregory joined as associate director a survey mission at the small provincial pyramid of Sinki at Abydos (Upper Egypt), a project conducted by Hratch Papazian, visiting associate professor at the University of Copenhagen (see *Egyptian Archaeology* 42 [2013]: p. 27). In two weeks, he completed an extensive statistical survey of the surround-

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ing archaeological area of the step pyramid, which is seriously threatened by the fast growth of modern homes and trash dumps. A systematic localization and collection of the pottery sherds on the surface has confirmed the nearly total disappearance of the archaeological evidence of the Old Kingdom in this area and underlined the possible absence of any worship or administrative installation in relation to the pyramid. These results confirm some of the conclusions made after the cleaning operation at the contemporaneous small pyramid at el-Ghonameya/Edfu.



*Gregory at Wadi el-Jarf, Egypt*

For two weeks in early January 2013, Gregory participated in a new project at the site of the Dendara temple in Upper Egypt, which is a French Archaeological Institute (IFAO) mission conducted by Pierre Zignani (Centre national de la recherche scientifique [CNRS], architect at the French Center at the Karnak temple). After almost seven years without any mission at this site, the current goal is to rebuild a new collaborative research program on the external part of the Hathor temple. The Predynastic section of the necropolis and the geomorphological study of the ancient environment will be supported by Yann Tristant (Macquarie University, Sydney). Gregory will conduct the study of the enclosure walls and the settlement area, more specifically, the domestic area of the late Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period which is situated to the east of the Hathor temple. This fieldwork will provide an important parallel to the ongoing work of the Tell Edfu Project. This is also a unique opportunity for the Oriental Institute to start a new joint project with the IFAO on a major archaeological concession in Egypt and a “sister site” of Edfu.

Emily Teeter has provided significant elements for this project regarding the numerous objects from Dendera preserved in the Oriental Institute Museum collection. Gregory also made the necessary contacts with the Petrie Museum at University College in London and with the University of Pennsylvania museum, which hold the excavation records of the Old Kingdom and Late Old Kingdom cemetery (conducted by W. M. F. Petrie in 1898 and C. Fischer between 1915 and 1917), an area that should be also included in the new program of excavations.

Between March and April 2013, Gregory joined the French mission on the Red Sea coast and the excavation of the oldest Egyptian harbor at Wadi el-Jarf (Paris La Sorbonne University – IFAO). He was in charge of the excavations of the maritime part of the site, which have led to the discovery of a large storage building, 40 meters in length, located along the coast and dating from the beginning of the Fourth Dynasty (ca. 2600–2550 BC). In four of the parallel storage magazines, ninety-nine in situ ship anchors have been excavated. In the area of the storage galleries located three miles from the shore, the excavation uncovered several dozen large fragments of papyrus dating back to the beginning of the Fourth Dynasty. This is an exceptional set of reports and food accounts, and several documents mention King Khufu, builder of the Great Pyramid at Giza. Some of them contain a precise date: the twenty-sixth year of his reign (thirteenth cattle census). This is the largest corpus of papyri known for the entire Old Kingdom and the oldest inscribed papyrus ever discovered in Egypt (see “Pos-

sibly World's Oldest Sea Port Found in Egypt," *GMA News Online*, April 15, 2013, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/303946/scitech/science/possibly-world-s-oldest-sea-port-found-in-egypt> and <http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/69024.aspx>).

Two new articles concerning the excavation at this site are currently in press: (1) P. Tallet, G. Marouard, and D. Laisney, "Un port de la IVe Dynastie identifié au ouadi al-Jarf (mer Rouge)," *Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale* 112 [2012]; (2) G. Marouard, "Un nouvel atelier de potiers de la IVe Dynastie au ouadi al-Jarf (Mer Rouge)," in *Studies on Old Kingdom Pottery*, Volume 2, edited by T. Rzeuska and A. Wodzinska, 2013.

Finally, in June 2013, Gregory has completed his season of excavation with a one-month mission at the site of Buto in the western Nile delta. This is a joint project of the University of Poitiers (France) and the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo. He completed an extensive survey of the Kom A area, which had been started in 2012. He also took charge of three new areas of extensive cleaning, which cover a total surface of 1,400 square meters. It has been the aim to better understand the stratigraphic evolution of a large domestic area within the settlement dating from the Saite period (sixth century BC) to the beginning of the Hellenistic period (early third century AD).

In the course of this year, Gregory has also participated in several conferences. In December 2012 he participated in the international workshop *The Tower Houses in Egypt during the Late Period, the Ptolemaic and Roman Periods*, held at the Paris IV La Sorbonne, France, with a lecture on "Maisons-tours et organisation des quartiers domestiques dans les agglomérations du Delta: l'exemple de Bouto de la Basse Époque aux premiers lagides." In March he presented a paper on the "Recent Works on the Late Periods at Buto (2011–2012)" at the 2013 Egypt Exploration Society (EES) Delta Survey Workshop, held at the British Council in Cairo, Egypt. On April 17, 2013, he gave a joint brown-bag talk (with R. Ritner and B. Muhs) for the mini-series on Household Archaeology at the Oriental Institute. Finally, in April 2013, he presented a joint paper with N. Moeller at the sixty-fourth annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Cincinnati entitled: "The 3rd Millennium B.C. at Tell Edfu — New Discoveries of the 2012 Season."

Gregory is currently planning a new project for a pottery and geomagnetic survey on a large urban site of the Hellenistic and Roman period discovered by observations of recent satellite images. The site, probably a new Ptolemaic *ex-nihilo* foundation, is situated in a particularly isolated part in the Lake Menzaleh (eastern Nile delta) and has never been surveyed or even visited by any archaeologist since the end of the nineteenth century. This will be a joint project of the Oriental Institute and the Department of Classics at the University of Chicago, with the support of Gil Stein and Alain Bresson. If official authorizations permit and political as well as economic conditions remain stable in Egypt, the first mission will be conducted for a couple of weeks at the end of September 2013.

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