

### Hratch Papazian

During late November and early December of 2012 **Hratch Papazian** carried out an initial season of fieldwork at the Old Kingdom step pyramid in South Abydos (also known as the Sinki pyramid) with Oriental Institute research associate Gregory Marouard; Kathryn Bandy, PhD candidate in Egyptology at the University of Chicago; and Ole Herslund of the University of Copenhagen. A systematic survey and mapping of the entire concession was conducted, supplemented by the collection and analysis of the ceramic material. This project retains parallels with Papazian's and Marouard's work at the Old Kingdom Edfu pyramid (itself part of this Institute's Tell Edfu Project, directed by Nadine Moeller), which is contemporaneous with the Abydos structure and shares multiple features with it. The next phase — and also the urgent focus — of the work at Abydos will consist of safeguarding the site from the ever-expanding agricultural zones that encircle the area and the various ad hoc paths that crisscross it; some fields had already encroached on the archaeological area even prior to this season's work.

Papazian contributed a chapter entitled "The Central Administration of the Resources in the Old Kingdom: Departments, Treasuries, Granaries and Work Centers" for the volume *Ancient Egyptian Administration*, edited by Jaun Carlos Moreno García (Handbuch der Orientalistik I/104. Leiden: Brill, 2013). An article on "The State of Egypt in the Eighth Dynasty" will be published later in the year in the *Journal of Egyptian History*. This study provides new historical perspectives regarding the end of the Old Kingdom and the status of Egyptian kingship in the early phases of the First Intermediate Period; the second installment of that research is forthcoming and will revolve nearly exclusively on the analysis of the inscriptional evidence from the Eighth Dynasty. Separately, he continues work on his next monograph, namely the publication of the Old Kingdom Gebelein papyri.

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