

## Foy Scalf

**Foy Scalf** spent the better part of 2013–2014 managing the Research Archives and taking over duties as head of the Integrated Database Project (IDB). Despite those commitments, he was able to produce several publications, present at a number of conferences, and reach an important personal milestone. On February 19, 2014, Foy defended his dissertation “Passports to Eternity: Formulaic Demotic Funerary Texts and the Final Phase of Egyptian Funerary Literature in Roman Egypt” in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago and received his PhD on March 21. To the delight of his advisors and colleagues, he was able to finish his degree while simultaneously juggling the responsibilities of the Research Archives, the IDB, and participating in a variety of other projects. In September 2013, Foy joined the Digital Skies project at the Adler Planetarium to serve on

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an interdisciplinary advisory board in developing digital tools for public education about astronomy throughout time and across cultures.

In collaboration with Friedhelm Hoffman, Franziska Naether, and Ghislaine Widmer, installment 33 of the *Demotistische Literaturübersicht* appeared in the journal *Enchoria* in winter 2013. It contains 434 entries providing summaries of all bibliographic items related to Demotic studies in 2010–2011. An article co-authored with Jackie Jay, “Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (O.I.D.O.O.): Merging Text Publication and Research Tools,” appeared in the *Acts of the Tenth International Congress of Demotic Studies* (*Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 231). The online article “Digging through Data at the Oriental Institute” and the *News & Notes* article “Fulfilling Breasted’s Vision: The Oriental Institute Integrated Database Project” co-authored with Jack Green and Scott Branting (no. 218: 9–13), highlighted the great progress made in making the Oriental Institute collections available to scholars and the public worldwide via an online collections search. He is currently working on an entry for “Magic” in the *Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity*, reviews of several important volumes of Demotic and hieratic studies, revising his dissertation for publication, and a handful of articles long languishing on the back burner.

Foy was able to fit in a number of presentations throughout the year. He presented a paper on January 4, 2014, about “Composing Demotic Funerary Texts: Textual Criticism, Orality, and Memory in the Demotic Funerary Papyri” at the 145th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in Chicago. This talk focused on conclusions reached in his dissertation research concerning clues in the transmission of Demotic texts that are suggestive of an ongoing oral tradition. On April 4, 2014, he presented a paper on “The Book of the Dead in Demotic: Scribal Strategies for Textual Transmission” at the 65th Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt in Portland. In it, he discussed some of the processes by which Egyptian texts were transmitted, focusing on methods outside of simple copying such as the transformation of a series of images into a series of textual descriptions. Foy also presented an overview of the Integrated Database Project to the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee on May 1, 2014.

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