At the international conference of the Valley of the Kings, held at the Earl of Carnarvon’s Highclere Castle in June, 1990, Edward F. Wente, in collaboration with Dr. James E. Harris, presented a joint paper, “Royal Mummies of the 18th Dynasty: a Biologic and Egyptological Approach.” As a result of recent research on the craniofacial morphology of the royal mummies in the Cairo Museum and the mummy of Tutankhamun, some commonly accepted identifications of these mummies are called into question. On the basis of a re-evaluation of the mummy dockets and the archaeological context surrounding the discovery of the royal mummies, this paper, which is to be published in the volume After Tutankhamun: Research and Excavations in the Royal Necropolis at Thebes, proposes historically viable identifications suggested by the biologic evidence.

Scheduled for publication in November, 1990, is Mr. Wente’s Letters from Ancient Egypt, one of the inaugural volumes of the Society of Biblical Literature’s series, Writings from the Ancient World. This book, which provides translations of most of the letters that have survived reasonably intact from the Old Kingdom to the end of the New Kingdom, includes a general discussion on epistolography and introductory sections providing background information regarding the historical and social settings of the documents.

Currently, Mr. Wente is preparing an essay, “The Scribes of Ancient Egypt,” for Scribners’ projected Civilizations of the Ancient Near East, and is engaged in writing an article on a cube statue of the post-Amarna period.