

---

Much of **Lanny Bell's** teaching and heavy lecturing schedules this year revolved around his various ongoing research projects, giving him the opportunity to try out new ideas and formulations before different kinds of audiences, to assist him in refining and strengthening his arguments before publication. His most recent publications include "The Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey and the Rescue of the Monuments of Ancient Egypt" in *KMT, A Modern Journal of Egyptology*, vol. 1.3 (1990), pp. 38-41; in addition, he was a consultant for *The National Geographic Magazine's* "Nile Map Supplement" (forthcoming). Among his other professional activities was service on the local planning committee of the Archaeological Institute of America for its Annual Meeting, to be held in Chicago in late December of 1991. During the regular academic year, besides his usual teaching load, he served as first reader for History major Margaret Fitzgerald's B.A. paper on "Thutmose III's Annals: A View of Egyptian History." Then he taught an "Introduction to Egyptian Civilization" in the College 1991 Summer Session, for a class of eight undergraduates, four majoring in Anthropology, the others in Ancient History, English, Economics, and Environmental Studies. At the same time he acted as Mentor for senior John Aden of Wabash College (Crawfordsville, Indiana), a participant in the Summer Research Opportunities Program co-sponsored by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation at the University of Chicago, designed in part to encourage qualified minority enrollment in advanced degree programs. Aden's particular project involved comparing the methodology and fundamental assumptions of modern Afrocentric scholars with those of traditional Egyptologists, in evaluating the accuracy and completeness of the data Martin Bernal uses in his highly controversial *Black Athena* and assessing the reliability of his conclusions regarding the origins of Egyptian culture and its impact on the Western world. With the help

of several colleagues, both on and off campus, Bell was also able to help Aden investigate the real possibilities of determining the ethnicity of the ancient Egyptian population through the scientific examination of their physical remains (i.e., human mummies and skeletons). The result was a most enjoyable collaboration and a very rewarding learning experience for both Aden and Bell.

Along with fellow Oriental Institute Egyptologists, Archivist John Larson and Ph.D. student Frank Yurco, Bell was a lecturer for the University of Chicago Alumni Association's First Winter Weekend, "Egyptology and the Work of The Oriental Institute," organized in conjunction with the University of Chicago's Centennial Celebration. These three appeared together again in a wide-ranging discussion of matters Egyptological on "Extension 720," the Milton Rosenberg evening talk show on WGN radio in Chicago. Bell delivered "The Salvage of the Monuments of Ancient Egypt" to the Chicago area Alpha Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority (presented in the Oriental Institute); and he gave versions of this talk to the Discoveries Club of Tulsa, Oklahoma (also in the Oriental Institute) and the Columbus, Ohio, Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. At the Oriental Institute he also spoke on "An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Epigraphy" for the Egyptology students' Workshop on the Society and Religion of Ancient Egypt and "An Introduction to Egyptian Language, Writing, and Literature" for the Docent Training Course. His other lectures included: "In the Tombs of the High Priests of Amun-Re of Karnak and the Viceroys of Kush in the Time of Ramesses II" for the Ohio Valley Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (in Parkersburg, West Virginia); "Recent Discoveries in Luxor Temple" for the Springfield, Ohio, Society of the Archaeological Institute of America; and "Ancient Egyptian Art: Theory and Practice" at Central College, in Pella, Iowa—where a feature writer for *Aramco Magazine* who was in the audience came up afterwards to arrange an interview over the summer of 1991 on Chicago House and the Epigraphic Survey. "The Role of the New Kingdom Temple as a Cultural Focus" was the topic of Bell's talk for the American Research Center in Egypt's Annual Lecture in New York in December, with a repeat the next day for Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His more specialized or technical lectures were "Mythology and Iconography of Divine Kingship in Ancient Egypt" for the Madison, Wisconsin, Society of the Archaeological Institute of America; "Divine Aspects of Conception and Birth: Why did the Ancient Egyptians Believe their Kings were Gods?" at the American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting in Boston—where an editor for *Archaeology* invited him to prepare an article on this subject for publication in the magazine; and "Alexander the Great as an Egyptian God-King" in the symposium "Life in a Multi-Cultural Society: Egypt from Cambyses to Constantine (and Beyond)," in conjunction with the Fourth International Congress of Demotists, held at the Oriental Institute in September; a version of this, entitled "Legends of Alexander the Great," was later heard by the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Bell's pioneering efforts in the explication of the rituals celebrated during the great annual national Opet ("Luxor") Festival and the interpretation of the significance of Luxor Temple itself, reported extensively in the Oriental Institute

*Annual Report* for 1982-83, *News and Notes* no. 90 (1983), and published as "Luxor Temple and the Cult of the Royal Ka" in the University of Chicago's *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 44 (1985), pp. 251-94—with French versions in *Dossiers Histoire et Archéologie*, vol. 101 (1986)—have been extremely influential in the Egyptological world, appearing in summary form, for instance, in Barry Kemp's 1989 *Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization*, and making quite a stir even in the larger academic world, being featured prominently in political scientist Patricia Springborg's 1990 *Royal Persons: Patriarchal Monarchy and the Feminine Principle*; the *JNES* article is also required reading in many Egyptology classes around the world. Because of his focus on Theban temples, his continuing investigation of the theme of sacral kingship, and other observations which he has made as a result of his many years' experience in Luxor, Bell was invited to speak in October at the symposium "Tempel am Nil— Struktur und Funktion," organized by Humboldt University, in Berlin. One of seventeen speakers at this four-day meeting—and one of only four non-native-German-speakers (the other three being Swiss, Polish, and Russian scholars)—he described "The *nh*-bouquet, the *mdw-špsy*, and the Transmission of the Divine Life Force: Communication between the Sanctuary and the 'Profane' World"; he also chaired the session on the Temple in the Archaic Period and Old Kingdom. A time of high excitement—just days after the reunification of Germany—the participants stayed at the newly opened conference center where the sessions were being conducted; located in Gosen ('Goshen') in the former East Berlin on the outskirts of the city, this had been designed and built for an entirely different purpose: as a Stasi (*Staatssicherheitsdienst*, the Communist secret state security police!) training camp. Having visited both halves of the city several times before, while pursuing Egyptological research, Bell enjoyed being able to explore the united city for the first time in his life, crossing freely through the now largely dismantled Wall without concern for restrictive passport formalities, fortified check points, and armed patrols. Out of this international gathering developed a concentrated three-day speaking tour in June, when he was asked to present "The Ka of Amenhotep III: The Decoration, Cult, and Significance of Luxor Temple" before the Seminar für Ägyptologie, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität (in Mainz); the Institut für Ägyptologie, Universität Würzburg; and the Ägyptologisches Institut, Universität Heidelberg. At Mainz, where host Prof. Dr. Rolf Gundlach was teaching an intensive seminar on the Southern Harim or "Hidden Apartments" of the god Amenemopet, the special local form of Amun resident at Luxor Temple, Bell made a two and a half hour slide presentation before 35-40 students and colleagues, most of whom returned after the lunch break to participate in a stimulating two and a half hour follow-up discussion! Audiences of 30-35 in Würzburg and 40-45 in Heidelberg responded enthusiastically to the one-hour abridged version of the lecture, and also contributed to lively discussions. From these professional audiences, especially, Bell received very valuable commentary and feedback on some of his latest work.