

Edward F. Wente

Because Harvard University Press requested **Edward F. Wente** to prepare the entry “Esotericism and Mysticism: Egypt” for the third part of the projected reference work, *Religions of the Ancient World: A Guide*, he has been collecting and evaluating relevant material from such religious literature as the Coffin Texts, Book of the Dead, and compositions from the New Kingdom royal tombs. The issue of mysticism in pharaonic Egypt remains a highly controversial one, involving such problems as the interrelationship of life and death, the Egyptian concept of cyclic time, and initiation. During spring 2000 Wente attended the meetings of the International Congress of Egyptologists held at the Mena House near the pyramids. Although he did not present a paper, he participated in several of the discussions and had the opportunity to meet with old acquaintances from many years back. This year Wente submitted two book reviews for publication, one of a volume of New Kingdom ostraca and the other of a book of essays on the reign of Amenhotep III, who has become so popular these days. Especially gratifying to Wente was the presentation of *Gold of Praise*, containing over forty articles written in his honor.