

Robert K. Ritner

Robert K. Ritner spent much of the year on topics of Libyan and Egyptian interactions. He proofread his in-press monograph, *The Libyan Anarchy: Documents from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period*, and his article "Libyan vs. Nubian as the Ideal Egyptian" was published in *Egypt and Beyond: Studies Presented to Leonard H. Lesko upon his Retirement from the Wilbour Chair of Egyptology at Brown University, June 2005*, edited by Stephen E. Thompson and Peter Der Manuelian. At Leiden University on October 25, 2007, he opened the first academic conference on The Libyan Period in Egypt with a lecture on "Fragmentation and Re-integration in the Third Intermediate Period." In Dallas, on January 19, 2008, he discussed "The Restless Western Front: Libyan Interactions with Ancient Egypt" for the North Texas Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt. On March 7 for the Oriental Institute symposium Nomads, Tribes, and the State in the Ancient Near East: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches, he detailed "Egypt and the Vanishing Libyan: Institutional Responses to a Nomadic People."

Three days later, he left for a month in Egypt to lead the Oriental Institute's Travel Program "Unseen Egypt," after which he conducted primary research in the Luxor blockyard to confirm his reconstruction of multiple wall fragments recording the story of "The Possession of Bentresh," otherwise known only from a damaged stela in the Louvre. The Luxor copy now completes this tale of magical healing by an Egyptian mission to Bactria, and the publication of Ritner's analysis and translation will ultimately be published in a new series by the Epigraphic Survey.

In keeping with Ritner's role as "ecumenical Egyptologist" examining Egyptian contacts with foreign peoples, he served in the summer as Egyptology consultant and staff member for the joint Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Mustafa Kemal University Excavations at Tell Atchana, in Antakya/Hatay, Turkey, and during the year he analyzed and translated for eventual publication a series of unexpected Egyptian sealings associated with tablets from the Persepolis Fortification Archive.

Ritner's additional publications include "Household and Family Religion in Ancient Egypt," in *Household and Family Religion in Mediterranean and West Asian Antiquity: Comparative Perspectives*, edited by J. Bodel and S. Olyan; "Oriental Institute Museum Notes 15: A Coptic Lintel from Qustul," in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 67; and seven entries commissioned for the *World Book Encyclopedia*: "Anubis," "Cleopatra," "Horus," "Osiris," "Serapis," "Seth," and "Thoth." Two online publications include "Some Problematic Bipartite Nominal Predicates in Demotic" (http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/bipartite_nominal_predicates.pdf) and "Ptolemy IX (Soter II) at Thebes" (http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/ptolemy_soter_II_at_thebes.pdf).

Beyond the lectures already noted, Ritner spoke on “Magic in Ancient Egypt” for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt in its first expansion lecture outside of Philadelphia (State College, May 3), and for a lunch sponsored by the Dean of the Humanities, he provided “An Introduction to Ancient Egyptian Magic and Medicine” (June 3). On June 7, he repeated in Santa Ana, California, his popular five-lecture, all-day seminar on Magic and Medicine in Theory and Practice in Ancient Egypt, Curses and Love Charms, How a Temple Works, The Great Deities of Mythology, and The Function of Egyptian Art, sponsored by the Orange County Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt, the Egypt Exploration Organization of Southern California, the Orange County Library, and the Bowers Museum.
