

## Nadine Moeller

Much of **Nadine Moeller**'s autumn was taken up by directing the fieldwork at the ancient town of Tell Edfu in Egypt, where two new excavation zones have been started, shifting the aim of this project to the exploration of settlement remains dating to the third millennium BC (see *Tell Edfu* report). After the excavation in December, she traveled to Rome for a conference entitled Reading Catastrophes, Methodological Approaches and Historical Interpretation: Earthquakes, Famines, Epidemics, Floods between Egypt and Palestine — 3rd–1st Millennium BC, which was held at the University “La Sapienza.” At this occasion she co-presented a paper with Robert Ritner on the “Ahmose Tempest Stela: An Ancient Egyptian Account of a Natural Catastrophe.” This lecture has been submitted for publication in form of a joint article to the conference organizers. It is an updated version of a manuscript entitled “The Ahmose ‘Tempest Stela,’ Thera and Comparative Chronology,” which has been submitted by Ritner and Moeller to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

After the conference in Rome, Moeller traveled to Berlin for the members' preview opening of the new Amarna exhibit at the Neues Museum, which celebrates the 100 years of discovery of the bust of Nefertiti.

In February 2013, Nadine finished her book project entitled *Urban Society in Ancient Egypt — An Archaeological Study of the Egyptian Towns and Cities*, Volume 1: *The Settlements from the Predynastic Period to the End of the Middle Kingdom (ca. 3500–1650 B.C.)*, which has been accepted for publication by Brill publishers. This volume, which brings together the latest archaeo-

logical data, presents an entirely new in-depth study setting the parameters for Egypt as an early urban society, an aspect that has frequently been clouded by the repeated comparisons to ancient Mesopotamian city-states. In comparison with settlement archaeology in the ancient Near East, the focus on towns and cities can be considered a relatively recent trend in Egyptian archaeology, a field that has concentrated much on the study of the rich mortuary culture but noticeably less on aspects of urban society. The submitted manuscript fills an important gap in dealing with Egyptian settlements and can be considered a first synthesis of this material.

Furthermore, Moeller gave a lecture at the Archaeological Institute of America Chapter in Toledo at the end of February about the discoveries of the 2012 season at Tell Edfu. In March she was one of the respondents at the international conference on Household Studies and Complex Societies held at the Oriental Institute, and which was organized by the postdoctoral scholar Miriam Müller. At the end of March, Moeller was invited as the guest speaker for the annual ANSHE lecture held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where she presented her new research on “The Role of Town Planning During the Middle Kingdom: A New Evaluation.” In April, Moeller participated at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) held in Cincinnati, where she presented the new results from the excavations of the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period settlement at Tell Edfu. For the remainder of the academic year she focused on preparing a major grant proposal to the National Science Foundation as well as several additional articles.

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