

## François Gaudard

Since the original plan of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) (see separate report), which he has worked on for eighteen years, has been completed, **François Gaudard** decided to step down from his position as the associate editor of this project at the end of June 2014, in order to focus more fully on his own research. He began working on the CDD as a graduate student in 1996, and shortly after he received his PhD, in 2005, he was hired as a full-time research associate following an international search. Gaudard will remain affiliated with the Oriental Institute as a co-founder and co-editor of the Mummy Label Database (MLD)

(see separate report), and as a research associate. He would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chicago Demotic Dictionary team — Janet Johnson, Jonathan Winnerman, and Kate Lockhart — as well as all the scholars and students who worked on this project since its beginning in the seventies.

This year, among others things, Gaudard proofread the letter S (540 pages), the last letter file of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary, and checked and proofread the Days (47 pages), Months (61 pages), and Numbers (316 pages) files. After so many years working to get the Dictionary complete and online, it has been very rewarding and satisfying for him to see all the Dictionary files finally available on the Institute website for free download. Throughout the year, Gaudard also worked on the Mummy Label Database (MLD) (see separate report).

On August 19 and 26, 2013, Gaudard was invited to record two filmed presentations for the Oriental Institute course Hieroglyphs Online, taught by Brittany Hayden, respectively titled “Introducing the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD)” and “The Various Phases and Writing Systems of the Ancient Egyptian Language.” On January 16, 2014, at the request of the Honorable Graham Paul, Consul General of France in Chicago, Gaudard gave a tour of the Oriental Institute with a lecture on the Egyptian collection to the Chicago Consular Corps Ladies Club. In July 2014, he lectured on the evolution of the ancient Egyptian language and on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary for the University of Chicago Egyptology summer class Ancient Egyptian Language, Culture, and History, taught by Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer.

As in previous years, Gaudard served as an editorial consultant for Egyptology articles published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*. He has also been working on various articles, including the following ones, which have been published online, are in press, or are forthcoming:

- “Rosetta Stone.” In *Encyclopedia of Ancient Greek Language and Linguistics (EAGLL)*, edited by Georgios K. Giannakis. Leiden: Brill, 2013. [[http://www.encquran.brill.nl/entries/encyclopedia-of-ancient-greek-language-and-linguistics/rosetta-stone-EAGLLSIM\\_00000529](http://www.encquran.brill.nl/entries/encyclopedia-of-ancient-greek-language-and-linguistics/rosetta-stone-EAGLLSIM_00000529)] (online and in press).
- “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat.” In *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal. Bibliothèque d’Étude. Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 2014 (in press).
- “On a Disputed Aspect of the God Seth,” which will be published in the festschrift honoring a colleague (forthcoming).
- An article on a particularity of the camel, which will be published in the festschrift honoring a colleague (forthcoming).
- In addition, he continued to work on several of his long-term publication projects.

On a personal note, Gaudard was deeply saddened by the passing of his longtime friend and mentor Rodolphe Kasser, who served, among other things, as professor of Coptic studies at the University of Geneva from 1963 to 1998. One of the world’s leading Coptologists, he reformed the classification of Coptic dialects; he was also a dedicated and skilled archaeologist who directed excavations both in Egypt and in Switzerland. Rodolphe was not only an eminent scholar, but also a gentleman in the true sense of the word: his ethics and academic integrity served as a model which all young scholars could aspire to. He was committed and brilliant both professionally and personally, and as friend, his humor and kindness will be sorely missed.

Shortly after Rodolphe’s death, Gaudard was also grief-stricken and shocked by the loss of his good friend and colleague Harold Hays, whose excellent work on the Pyramid Texts

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gave everyone new insights into these difficult religious compositions. A lecturer in Egyptology at Leiden University, a former cadet at West Point, and an epigrapher for the Epigraphic Survey, Harold was a hard worker and he impressed everyone he met with his sharp intellect and his mastery of so many subjects. Beyond his skills as an Egyptologist, he was instantly recognizable for his unmistakable wit and his zest for life. Both Rodolphe and Harold were treasured friends who will be missed greatly, but their memory will live on in their work and in the hearts of those who loved them.

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