

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

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SCHOLARSHIP

After twelve years in the field, **Lanny Bell** returned to full-time teaching as Associate Professor of Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He even taught Ancient Egyptian Literature in Translation during the 1990 Summer Quarter to try to reach a broader academic audience; except for Arabic, this seems to be the first time any NELC class was ever taught over the summer, at least as far back as current records and memories go. In the fall, he served as first reader for graduate student Edward Castle's M.A. thesis on "The Dedication Formula *di.n.f m mnw.f*" (usually translated "he made it as his monument"). He spoke to his colleagues (in the Department's "brown-bag" luncheon series) on "Lexicography and Late Egyptian Orthography: The Problem of the 'Weak' Radicals"; he also served on the NELC Admissions and Aid Committee. In the graduate Egyptology students' Workshop on "The Society and Religion of Ancient Egypt", he talked on "The Tombs of the Ramesside High Priests of Amun at Thebes: Dira Abu el-Naga Excavations, 1967-74." He produced an article on "The Epigraphic Survey and the Rescue of the Monuments of Ancient Egypt" in *The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean*, the publication of the Centennial Symposium of the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, held at The Oriental Institute on March 31, when he also lectured on this subject. He delivered a lecture on "Some Secrets of Luxor Temple" during the national meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt on the Berkeley campus at the end of April. In conjunction with this professional gathering, he chaired a session on Analytical Archaeology; and, as a member of the Board of Governors, he also attended their annual business breakfast. For the National Geographic Society, he served as consultant for a forthcoming (April 1991) magazine article on Ramesses II. In preparing the text of his contribution for *The Shrine of Hatshepsut at Medinet Habu* (a book of six-color-separation plates of the decoration cleaned and consolidated under Lanny's direction, to be published for The Oriental Institute by Walter Tower of Nimrod Press), he found himself touching on such themes as primitive cultures, the meaning of the complicated concepts of *ma'at* and the *ka*, *shari'a* (Islamic law) and ancient Egyptian conservatism, sacral kingship and the nature of Christ, genetics and the transmission of the divine life force, renewal festivals and rites of transition, ritual drunkenness, cyclical eternity, androgyny, the Primaeval Ocean, the Primordial Event (the "Big Bang"), the Ogdoad, and the cosmogonic myth, henotheism, and the meaning of history. This year Lanny also collaborated with his

archaeologist wife Martha on her article entitled "An Armchair Excavation of KV 55," scheduled to appear in the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*, vol. 27 (1990); his special contribution to this work is in the reconstruction of the hieroglyphic inscriptions on the now largely destroyed gold shrine of Queen Tiy found in the "tomb of Akhenaten" in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes.

Bell's lecture skills were much in demand in various public education programs around the country. His first lecture of the summer, in July (barely a week after returning from Egypt), was on the topic "What the Temples Tell Us About Daily Life," presented for the Dallas County Community College District and the Dallas Museum of Natural History in The Ramses Lecture Series organized around the traveling Ramses the Great exhibition. He gave a version of this lecture at The Oriental Institute for The University of Chicago Humanities Open House in October, under the title "Popular and Profane Experiences with the Sublime: The Temple as Cultural Focus in Egyptian Society." For Henry and Marian Precht, good friends since their days at the United States Embassy in Cairo, Lanny participated in the orientation lecture the week before Christmas for the 1990 Egypt Tour of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, including his own summary of the basic tenets of ancient Egyptian culture. (Henry's efforts in 1984 had been decisive for the successful outcome of our two month struggle with the Luxor bureaucracy over the exercise of our legal rights to the Chicago House river landing.)

During the spring academic break, he served as Guest Lecturer (accompanied by co-lecturer Gene Garthwaite of Dartmouth) for the 56 members of the joint University of Chicago Alumni Association and Dartmouth College study trip to Egypt; current records indicate that this was the first ever Alumni Association Egyptian tour. For the Alumni Association, he also spoke on "Chicago House: Salvage Archaeology in Luxor, Egypt" for local clubs in Milwaukee (co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America and the Biblical Archaeology Society), Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia (co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects), and Pittsburgh. For The University of Pennsylvania's Alumni Association, he appeared as respondent to a lecture by David O'Connor on "The Origins and Construction of the Egyptian Pyramids," given at The University Museum as part of Penn's 250th Anniversary Celebration. For the Archaeological Institute of America, he also talked in Winnipeg on "The Tombs of the High Priests of Amun-Re of Karnak and the Viceroys of Kush in the Time of Ramesses II" and in Minneapolis on "Recent Discoveries in Luxor Temple." For The Oriental Institute, he spoke at the annual Docent Holiday Buffet in December on "The Divine Aspects of Conception and Birth in Ancient Egypt" and in May for the docent training course on "Egyptian Writing and Literature."

The establishment of a substantial endowment in Egyptian pounds and the continued success of the fund raising efforts at Luxor have alleviated the funding crisis faced by Lanny when he first took up his duties

as director at Chicago House. The Oriental Institute owes Lanny a debt of gratitude for his diligence in guiding the Epigraphic Survey through difficult times. He leaves the project in excellent condition that will allow his successors to focus on developing the necessary support to assure the long-term future of the Epigraphic Survey.