

Janet H. Johnson

Janet H. Johnson traveled frequently during the past year, visiting Cairo, Copenhagen, New York, Atlanta, Berkeley, Washington, D.C., and Providence, Rhode Island, to present lectures, serve on review panels, or carry out business for the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), of which she is the president. Her visit to Cairo in November was timed to coincide with the grand opening of the new Cairo center for ARCE, a beautiful, large facility with a good library and a few hostel rooms available for short-term visiting students and faculty. The opening, attended by over three hundred Egyptians, Americans, and members of other scientific missions in Egypt, was a great success and the renewed and expanded

headquarters should make it possible for ARCE in Cairo to sponsor an even richer mélange of activities aimed at improving knowledge and appreciation of Egyptian history and culture. While in Cairo, she met, on behalf of ARCE, with the new American Ambassador to Egypt, with the head of USAID in Cairo (ARCE currently administers a \$15 million USAID grant for conservation and renovation of Egyptian monuments), with the Director of Antiquities, and with various other Egyptian and American officials in Cairo. The ARCE annual meeting, held in Atlanta this year, provided an opportunity for both scholars and the interested public to gather for formal lectures and informal exchanges. In January she made her regular trip to Copenhagen to participate in the annual meeting of the International Committee for the Publication of the Carlsberg [Demotic] Papyri. She was invited to give a lecture at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature on "Ethnicity and Community in Persian Period Egypt" as part of a larger panel discussion on "ethnicity and community" in the Near East during the Persian period. In June she went to Providence to present a two-part discussion of "The Legal Status of Women in Ancient Egypt" for the National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute on "Women in the Ancient Near East" held at Brown University. Her article "The Persians and the Continuity of Egyptian Culture" appeared in *Continuity and Change: Proceedings of the Last Achaemenid History Workshop, April 6–8, 1990, Ann Arbor, Michigan*, edited by Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg, Amélie Kuhrt, and Margaret Cool Root, pp. 149–159 (Achaemenid History VIII; Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 1994) and she prepared, with Carole Krucoff and Peter Piccione, a month-long program introducing the Oriental Institute and lecturing specifically about Egypt and Egyptian astronomy for Project Upward Bound for the University of Chicago's Office of Special Projects. For the work of the Demotic Dictionary Project, which she heads, see the separate report. She was appointed a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History and served as Acting Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago during the 1995 spring quarter.
