

bulletin

of the American Research Center in Egypt

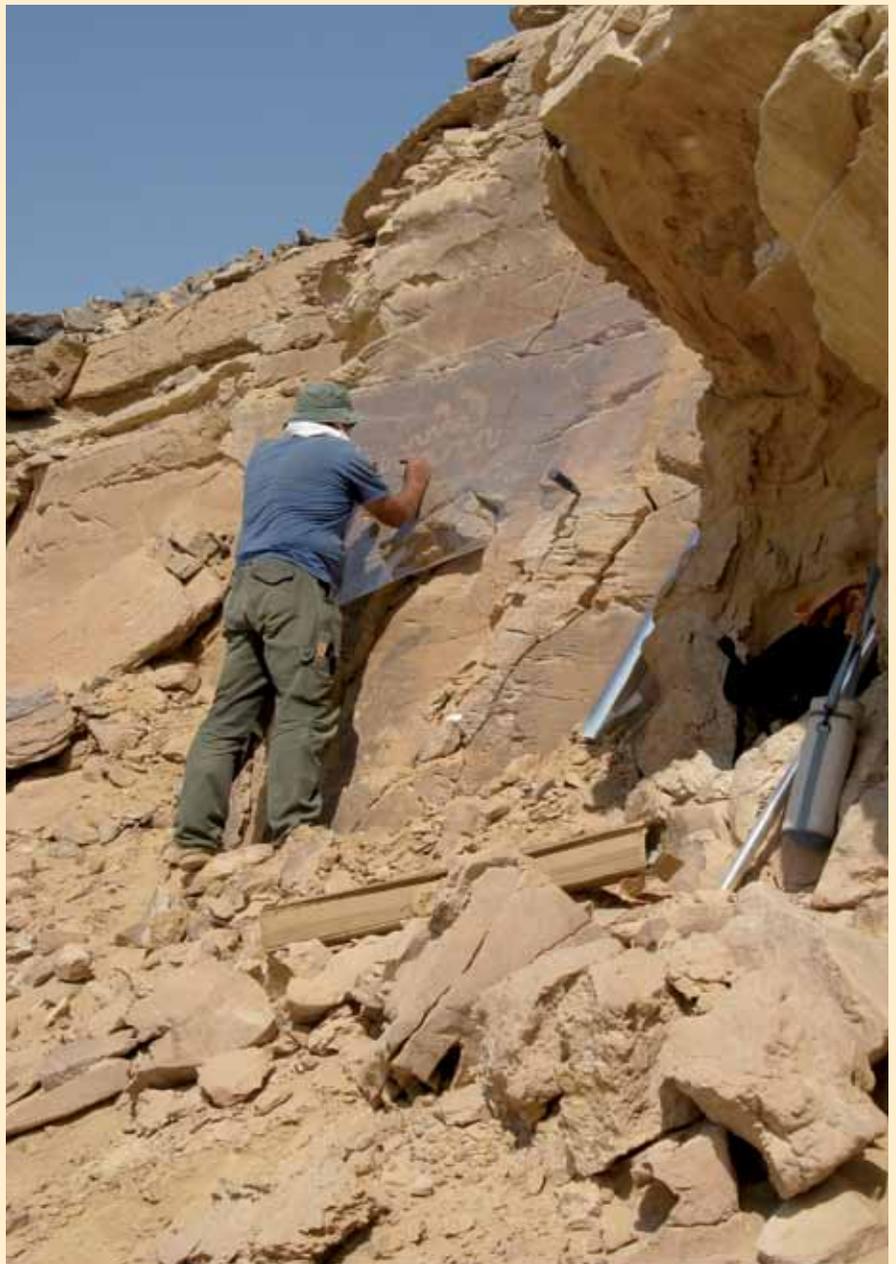
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Antiquities Endowment Fund (AEF): Working to Preserve Egypt's Past and Support ARCE Activities

Kathleen Scott

As we complete the first decade of the 21st century, and as we continue to celebrate ARCE's 60+ years of working in Egypt and the US, it is appropriate to examine one of the very successful programs implemented in recent years. Here is an overview of the AEF Grant program funded by an ARCE endowment begun in 2003 to provide continuing support for training, conservation, preservation, and publication. We begin with a brief history:

As most members know, since 1993 The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) has signed a series of agreements with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to administer large grants in support of work and programs that promote the



The North Kharga Oasis Project. Photo: Salima Ikram

preservation of Egyptian antiquities. As a result and in acknowledgement of the important work ARCE has done in the areas of conservation and training, the U.S. Congress, in 1996, allocated funds to establish modest general operating endowments for ARCE and Chicago House. The Congress also generously awarded to ARCE money for a permanent endowment to be used in support of continued conservation activities.

In 2003, the newly hired ARCE Director, Gerry Scott, made it one of his first priorities to turn this important endowment into an accessible tool for conservation and training work in

perpetuity. Since FY 2003/2004 ARCE has made use of this endowment by creating the Antiquities Endowment Fund (AEF), which offers grants to small and medium-sized projects in Egypt and in the US.

The grant application process was structured to be relatively simple and applications are available on line through ARCE's website. It is a competitive process and each year's submissions are reviewed and awards decided by a committee drawn from ARCE's board of governors. Support under the AEF Endowment is offered in the following four categories:

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from the director

Dear Members,

This issue of the ARCE *Bulletin* features a report on ARCE's Antiquities Endowment Fund (AEF), one of the most important permanent features of our organization, and an aspect that does extraordinary things — both in Egypt and in the United States — for our Members, for the scholarly community, for Egypt's cultural heritage, and for future professionals working in our related disciplines. The AEF Endowment was created by a grant to ARCE from the US Congress in recognition of the care, skill, and efficiency with which ARCE approached our first major antiquities conservation and training grant, the Egyptian Antiquities Project (EAP), awarded to ARCE by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Key to ARCE receiving this award were the efforts of several members of ARCE's Board and staff at the time (1990's), but long-time ARCE Board Member Dr. W. Benson Harer, Jr. and past ARCE Director Mark Easton deserve special mention for their leadership in helping ARCE achieve this milestone in our organizational history.

The AEF Endowment does much good for ARCE, for our Members, and for our outreach every year. It helps to underwrite such valuable programs as the Annual Meeting, the *Journal*, and the *Bulletin*. It also assists each of our regional ARCE Chapters with funding for their annual lecture programs.

But the Antiquities Endowment Fund does very much more. Since fiscal year 2003/2004, ARCE's Antiquities Endowment Fund Committee has awarded funds to support 55 grants to numerous scholars and institutions to carry out projects in the granting categories of Conservation, Preservation, and Presentation; Training of Egyptian Personnel; US Student Training; and Publication Subsidies. In addition,



ARCE's Board of Governors approved the use of proceeds from the Endowment Fund to support the salaries of two key administrative staff members, one in the US and one in Egypt. This last use ensures that, even in the event that ARCE would lose its current level of US Federal funding, essential ARCE functions and services would continue, both in the US and in Egypt.

As you read about all that ARCE's Endowment has done for you, our Members, for ARCE's fields of scholarship, and for the preservation of Egypt's cultural heritage for future generations, I hope that you will consider joining with ARCE's Board and Staff in contributing generously to our current Endowment Campaign.

Gerry D. Scott, III
Director

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