



bulletin

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The Visionaries Bring ARCE's Work to a Wider Audience

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Fig. 1—Visionaries executive producer Bill Mosher and director of photography Bruce Lundeen film ARCE's Michael Jones at the Red Monastery in May 2014. Photo courtesy of Visionaries.

While well known by the academic community and ARCE members who support our core activities, few outside our community know of the impact ARCE and its research supporting members have in Egypt thanks in large part to funding from the United States Agency for International Development. So when we were given the opportunity to produce a documentary about ARCE for PBS, we jumped in with both feet!

The Visionaries is a non-profit organization whose mission is to feature the good work of American non-profits. As storytellers rather than journalists, they feature organizations that may not be well known, but are having a huge impact and are seeking new streams of funding.

In May 2014, a crew of three traveled to Egypt for the start of a four-day

whirlwind filming schedule. With the Egyptian presidential elections just two weeks away, we organized our time to minimize travel delays that could curtail our ambitious plans to cover Historic Cairo, Sohag, and Luxor. We took it as a good omen that we awoke the first morning of filming to a sunny, cooler-than-usual, clear-sky day in Cairo.

DAY 1: The traffic was magically manageable as we moved around Cairo—from the American Embassy to talk with then-Chargé d'affaires Marc Sievers, to Zamalek to talk with then-Minister Mohammed Ibrahim at the Ministry of State for Antiquities, and on to Historic Cairo to showcase the Farag Ibn Barquq, a prayer hall and sabil representing the Mamluk architectural style where ARCE completed substantial conservation work. Then we were off to Luxor for an early start the next day.

DAY 2: Crossing the Nile by boat from the east bank to the west bank was the perfect backdrop for filming an introduction to ARCE's multi-faceted operations. Once on the west bank, we set up for the morning in Qurna where numerous interviews were conducted with the ARCE team working on the Qurna Site Improvement project during the last week planned for the season. Egyptian conservators and archaeologists all shared their thoughts on the impact of the work there. Inside TT 110, we filmed conservators cleaning inscriptions using an adapted cleaning technique to reveal the hieroglyphic inscriptions. Next we visited TT 69, known as the Tomb of Menna, the site of another ARCE conservation project led by Research Supporting Member Melinda Hartwig from Georgia State University, to see one of the best preserved of the small 18th

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ARCE Members,

As I write this, ARCE is beginning a new season of work in Egypt. Our Member Expeditions and Fellows are beginning to arrive here to start up their field seasons once again for another year or to embark on new avenues of scholarly research. Our own field season has also begun with ARCE's job creation projects in archaeology, training, and site improvement continuing primarily at TT 110, one of the Tombs of the Nobles on the West Bank at Luxor, created for an official named Djehuty who served Queen Hatshepsut in the early 18th Dynasty. This fall's season will not only provide jobs and income for more than 100 families in Luxor, an area that remains hard-hit by the economic downturn and loss of revenue in the wake of the Egyptian revolution, but also will add new skills and accomplishments for the Ministry of Antiquities field archaeologists, conservators, and photographers who work with us and whom we provide with valuable training and opportunities for personal advancement.

While the ARCE research year is just beginning, the calendar year is drawing toward a close. As the holidays approach, all of us at ARCE, Board and Staff, want to extend to each of you, our Members, our heart-felt thanks for your support of all of our activities, both in Egypt and in the United States, ranging from field training and conservation work in Egypt to our Annual Meeting in the States, and our publications projects—books, the *Journal*, the

Bulletin, and the *Conservation Newsletter*. Without you, and your contributions and support, these simply wouldn't happen.

This issue of the *Bulletin* highlights a selection of these activities leading off with the making of a documentary about ARCE and our work in Egypt produced by The Visionaries filmmakers, who will include our work in their series of programs featuring the activities of various non-profit organizations, like ARCE, that truly make a contribution to our world. It will air on PBS this coming spring. We also have a report on the important and fascinating work of Research Supporting Member Brown University; a Fellow's report on her work with material from the ancient village of Deir el-Medina in Luxor; two articles on the work that ARCE supports through our Antiquities Endowment Fund, one on the conservation of a 25th Dynasty Theban tomb and the other on an important publication that will share the results of field work carried out by the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute fifty years ago; and an update on ARCE's work in Historic Cairo supported by a grant from USAID. Finally, this issue contains ARCE's annual report for fiscal year 2012–2013.

As always, ARCE is grateful for your continued support. It is a privilege to share our many activities with you.

Gerry D. Scott, III
Director

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