

CIPEG Report
Department of Egyptian Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Recent and Upcoming Activities, 2015-2016
Diana Craig Patch

The Metropolitan Museum of Art continues to be a vibrant and essential institution: last year, we had a record attendance of 6.3 million visitors, keeping us at over 6 million for four years in a row. The Egyptian Art Department, always one of the most popular parts of the Museum, has had a busy year, and is looking forward to an active and productive 2016.

Exhibitions: From July 2014 to January 2015, a number of our masterpieces were in Tokyo and Kobe as part of our large loan show, *Ancient Egyptian Queens and Goddesses: Treasures from The Metropolitan Museum of Art*. This fall, we will open a major in-house exhibition: *Ancient Egypt Transformed: The Middle Kingdom*, which will run from, Oct 12, 2015 to Jan 24, 2016.

Galleries: We are currently renovating our two Ptolemaic galleries, with reopening scheduled for March 2016. As part of the reinstallation, we are producing two digital media presentations, one on the Book of the Dead of Imhotep, and the other on the CT-scan of the mummy of Nesmin. In our small facsimile gallery, we are now doing yearly thematic rotations.

Since 2013, we have highlighted facsimiles in small exhibitions: the first called *Vignettes from the Decorated Tomb-Chapel of the Vizier Rekhmire* and the second called *Transforming the Dead*, where scenes illuminated funerary religion. This fall, we will be offering a show *Romance along the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Love Poetry* and each facsimile will speak to a concept or image found in a poem.

Excavations: Our teams continue to excavate at Dahshur, in the pyramid complex of Senwosret III, and at Malqata, the festival city of Amenhotep III. Marsha Hill also participates in excavations at Amarna.

Publications: The first volume on *The Pyramid Complex of Amenemhet I at Lisht: The Architecture* by Dieter Arnold has just been published and will be followed shortly by Peter Jánosi's volume on the reliefs. In addition, we are actively working on several on-line publication projects that we hope will come to fruition over the next few years.

Acquisitions: We continue to acquire a few carefully selected objects each year. Most recently, we purchased a group of cosmetic vessels and jewelry elements from Haraga, preventing this important assemblage from going into private hands. We also acquired a Bes-image rattle.

Website: Enhancement of our Collections Online database is a major focus for us. This includes the cleanup of basic object information, the addition of new photography, and work on web labels. We have added several new online fields that go beyond our basic object descriptions: these are Curatorial Interpretation; Inscriptions; and Conservation and Scientific Analysis. We are signing these entries so they can be cited more easily by scholars.

Please note that the Museum now has an open access policy for images – all images on the website can be downloaded and used for publication without special permission. We would still appreciate copies of all publications that mention our art, and permission is still needed for any substantial publication of a Met piece.

We participated in many Museum-wide projects this year, including MetKids, a new online feature.