

From the Director

By the time you receive this newsletter the traveling exhibition "Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa" will be crated and on its way back to the University of Pennsylvania. The show proved to be a great success, attracting approximately 9,000 visitors, including 1,280 schoolchildren, during its two-and-a-half month installation at the Kelsey.

The gallery space now vacated by Nubia's departure will soon house two new exhibitions. "Death in Ancient Egypt," opening January 26, is a modified version of "Preserving Eternity," mounted by Assistant Curators Janet Richards and Terry Wilfong in conjunction with the University-wide theme semester, "Death, Extinction, and the Future of Humanity: Approaching the Millennium" (see page 2).

"Caught Looking: Exhibiting the Kelsey," on the other hand, is a new venture for us, having been largely organized and designed by graduate students. This interactive show, which opens in early February, will focus on objects previously exhibited at the Kelsey, challenging viewers to see these pieces in a variety of new lights (see page 2).

Although fall is not usually the time when Kelsey staff conduct field projects, this year is an exception. Assistant Curator Janet Richards is currently in Egypt at the site of Abydos. Under excavation by the Penn/Yale expedition since 1962, Abydos was one of the more enduring and important regional centers throughout most periods of Egyptian history (see page 2).

Various professional art, archaeological, and philological organizations will hold their annual meetings in the next few months. The Kelsey will be well



One of the most striking objects exhibited in "Death in Ancient Egypt" is this grain mummy of the god Osiris (right) in a wooden coffin with a falcon head (left), symbol of death and resurrection.

represented at these meetings, with approximately a dozen papers delivered by staff and IPCAA graduate students. Several staff members will also be overseas, delivering papers at conferences and symposia in Heidelberg, Oxford, Cambridge, and Siena.

As many of you know, the Kelsey offers overseas tours every other year. This year we are delighted to be working with the University Museum of Art. An unusual tour of Italy, which combines the best of ancient Rome, Renaissance Italy, modern hilltowns, and a week in a glorious villa outside of Florence, is scheduled from April 28 to May 13. Please call the Kelsey at 747-0441 or the

Museum of Art at 747-0518 for details.

Just as Kelsey affiliates travel to European and Mediterranean destinations, the Museum staff continues to explore the burgeoning possibilities of cyberspace. The Kelsey's World Wide Web homepage now displays five of our past exhibitions: "Wondrous Glass," "Dangerous Archaeology," "Portals to Eternity," "Byzantium," and "Preserving Eternity." In addition, it will soon be possible to view objects and photographs from our most recent exhibition, "Ancient Nubia." Visit our homepage at <http://www.umich.edu/~kelseydb>.

Over the years our pool of research associates—scholars whose work intersects with our collections—has increased. This year I am very pleased to welcome Professor Traianos Gagos as a Research Scientist to the Kelsey Museum. Dr. Gagos is Associate Archivist in Papyrology, Assistant Professor of Greek and Papyrology, and Director of the Modern Greek Language Program at the University of Michigan.

Finally, I would like to report that the Associates Board is

developing a long-range fundraising strategy. In addition to our ongoing renovations, the Kelsey has pressing needs in areas such as fieldwork, educational outreach, and conservation. With severe cuts in federal funding to the arts and humanities, we are turning more than ever to private individuals and corporations. Please watch your mail for updates on the Associates fundraisers!

The Kelsey staff and I wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and thank you for your continuing support of the Museum.

Lauren Talalay
Acting Director

The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology

Director

Elaine Gazda (on leave)

Acting Director

Lauren Talalay

Curators

Geoffrey Brown,

Conservation

Robin Meador-Woodruff,

Slides and Photos

Janet Richards,

Collections and Exhibitions

Margaret Cool Root (on leave)

Thelma Thomas,

Collections and Exhibitions

Terry Wilfong,

Fieldwork

Research Scientists

Susan Alcock

John Cherry

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Michelle Biggs, *Associates Secretary*

Museum Hours

Monday–Friday 9:00–4:00

Saturday–Sunday 1:00–4:00

The Kelsey Museum is free
and open to the public.

Regents

Deane Baker

Laurence B. Deitch

Andrea Fischer Newman

Daniel D. Horning

James J. Duderstadt, *ex-officio*

Shirley M. McFee

Rebecca McGowan

Philip H. Power

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Graduate Students Plan “Caught Looking”

“Caught Looking: Exhibiting the Kelsey,” which opens in early February, is an experimental exhibition curated by four graduate students: Carla Goodnoh and Jennifer Trimble of IPCAA, Mariana Giovino of History of Art, and Kristina Milnor of Classical Studies.

The exhibition takes up the ongoing debate in museum studies about the role of the museum in studying and presenting art, archaeology, and history. It thus explores various ways of viewing the Kelsey and some artifacts from its collection, partly by deconstructing the traditional relationships established among the visitor, the museum, and the objects on display. By this means the curators hope to question ways of seeing ancient artifacts and to probe how those ways of seeing affect our relationship with the past.

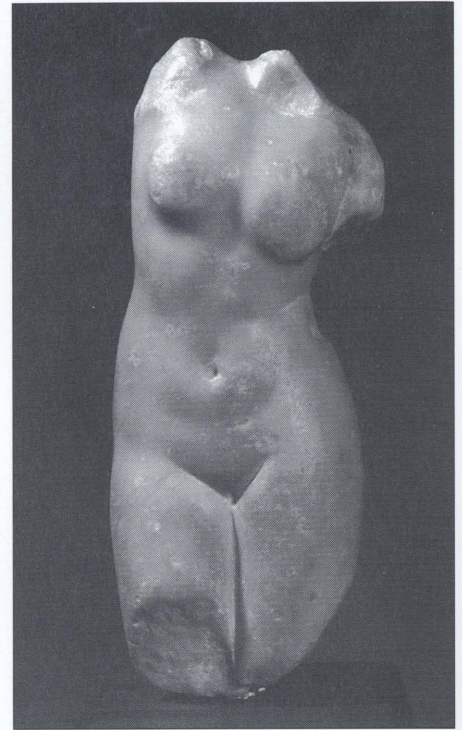
The exhibit presents selected objects in multiple contexts: original use, excavation, collection, and exhibition. For instance, part of the exhibit will examine the different ways that we interact with nude or semi-nude Aphrodite statuary from Karanis in Egypt. How do modern perceptions of the naked female body affect our understanding of her role in antiquity as a powerful goddess?

Other questions the exhibit explores include: How does the modern recovery of artifacts structure the institutions, like the Kelsey, through which we perceive them? What role did Francis Kelsey, as archaeologist, collector, and scholar, play in constructing the Museum’s collection? How might the modern museum treat the multiple lives—past, present, and future—of recovered objects?

Janet Richards in Abydos

As Field Director for the Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition to Abydos, Egypt, Assistant Curator Janet Richards is conducting an archaeological survey from November 20 to December 21 in the Middle Cemetery at Abydos, an ancient Egyptian political and religious center.

The Middle Cemetery was an important burial ground during the Old Kingdom (2750–2260 B.C.) and First Intermediate Period (2260–2040 B.C.). The graves of historically known personages such as Weni were located there. Having been excavated only superficially around the turn of this century, the area remains poorly understood. Dr. Richards plans an intensive restudy and excavation.



A nude Aphrodite from Karanis (KM 10726).

“Death in Ancient Egypt”

On January 26, the Museum will open a new exhibition entitled “Death in Ancient Egypt: Preserving Eternity,” a reworking of the popular “Preserving Eternity: Modern Goals, Ancient Intentions,” which closed in August. Curators Terry Wilfong and Janet Richards developed this “revision” of their earlier exhibition as one of the campuswide events for the Program on Studies in Religion’s theme semester for Winter 1996: “Death, Extinction, and the Future of Humanity: Approaching the Millennium.”

“Death in Ancient Egypt” will display the same objects that were in “Preserving Eternity” but will approach them from a different point of view: What were the ancient Egyptians’ attitudes toward death and their strategies for avoiding eternal extinction?

Drs. Richards and Wilfong have participated this term in the faculty seminar on the theme semester, where they gave a presentation on “Death in Ancient Egypt: Theoretical and Practical Strategies for Avoiding Eternal Extinction.” Moreover, death in Egyptian culture will be among the topics for Dr. Richards’s Winter Term course “Ancient Egypt and Its World,” offered through the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

Evelyn Murray's Seventy-Year Fascination with Archaeology

Asked about the origins of her fascination with archaeology, Evelyn M. Murray replies candidly that in 1925 or 1926, as a University of Michigan undergraduate, she asked another student standing in the registration line to recommend a "pipe" course, as easy courses were then called. She was told to sign up for archaeology, and a lifelong avocation was born. Now, seventy years after that initial spark, Ms. Murray has established a charitable remainder trust of \$100,000, which will eventually endow the Kelsey.

What Ms. Murray recalls most vividly about that first archaeology class was learning of matriarchal societies—an interest she traces to the influence of her suffragist mother and grandmother. Her concern for women's issues also propelled her during her senior year to serve as president of the Women's League. This important campus organization socialized incoming women students, coordinated women's extracurricular activities, and governed women's housing.

During Evelyn Murray's affiliation with the Women's League, its most consuming project was fundraising to build the Michigan League, designed as a center for women's activities since the Michigan Union catered only to men. In June 1927 she was proud to be one of three women who symbolically turned the first spade of earth in the groundbreaking for the new building.

After graduating from Michigan in 1927, Ms. Murray earned an M.A. in Vocational Guidance and Personnel from Teachers College, Columbia University—partly, she says, to get a chance to go to New York City, partly to enter the new profession of vocational guidance. Soon she was among a small group of young professionals selected to pioneer a Department of Labor program for youth employment counseling in New York. The program, eventually nationwide, was designed to help those high school students not bound for college to make better job choices based on their personal objectives, interests, and abil-



Evelyn Murray (top left) at age 16 in Venice on the grand tour; (top right) with Hillary Rodham Clinton at a recent White House reception for active members of the Women's National Democratic Club; (left) in 1969 at a Roman latrine in Dougga, Tunisia.

ities. She worked in this capacity for the State of New York from 1929 to 1949.

Then, from 1949 to 1975 Ms. Murray worked on youth employment issues for the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. She led and participated in workshops, training seminars, and conferences across the country, including the 1960 White House Conference on

America for more than forty years.

Because her early experience at Michigan allowed her to get "so much fun out of archaeology," Evelyn Murray hopes to help a later generation of students enjoy the fruits of archaeological fieldwork and exhibition through her very generous gift to the Kelsey.

Margaret Lourie

Should the Kelsey Be Part of Your Estate Plan?

A gift to Michigan, in the form of a charitable remainder trust or participation in the Donor Pooled Income Fund, can provide many benefits to you and your family:

- income for life for you and/or another beneficiary
- no capital gains tax on appreciated property
- a charitable deduction
- expert management with minimal or no fee

Ultimately, your gift helps ensure the continued excellence of the Kelsey Museum and will be used, at your instruction, for curatorial, student, or program support.

For more information on options for giving to benefit the Kelsey, please check the appropriate box on the clip form found on page 4 or call the University's Office of Trusts and Bequests at (313) 998-6085. For the most recent summary of the University's excellent record of fund management, you may check the box requesting the *Report of Investments*, issued annually by the Treasurer's Office.

Give Yourself a Holiday Gift—Join the Associates of the Kelsey Museum

The Associates of the Kelsey Museum sponsor outreach and development activities for the Museum and provide program support for fieldwork, conservation, and exhibitions. Benefits of membership include:

- invitations to exhibition openings and other special events
- notice of archaeological tours of Europe and the Mediterranean
- *Kelsey Museum Newsletter*
- discounts on mini-courses, workshops, films, benefits, publications
- *Bulletin of the Museums of Art and Archaeology* (on request for members contributing \$50 or more)
- opportunities to become active as a Kelsey Museum volunteer.

Membership in the Associates is considered a tax-deductible contribution. Simply fill out and return the form at right.

Name _____

Address _____

Please enroll me in the Kelsey Associates membership category checked below:

- ☐ Benefactor (\$1000) ☐ Contributor (\$100) ☐ Basic (\$35)
☐ Patron (\$500) ☐ Family (\$50) ☐ Student (\$10)
☐ Sponsor (\$250)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to the University of Michigan.

- ☐ I would like to receive a complimentary copy of the *Bulletin of the Museums of Art and Archaeology* (for members contributing \$50 or more).
☐ Please send me information about deferred giving options to benefit the Kelsey.
☐ Please send me the latest *Report of Investments* from the Treasurer's Office.

Thank you in advance for your donation to the Kelsey. Such contributions ensure the continued vitality of our programming.

Clip, fill out, and mail to address below. For more information call (313) 763-3559.

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