

## Robert K. Ritner

During the past academic year **Robert K. Ritner** continued his research on the link between the eruption of the Thera volcano on Santorini and the description of unparalleled climactic events detailed in the “Tempest Stela” of Ahmose, founder of Egypt’s Eighteenth Dynasty. In the fall, in conjunction with Nadine Moeller, he submitted to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* a manuscript entitled “The Ahmose ‘Tempest Stela,’ Thera and Comparative Chronology.” On December 3, he and Moeller further discussed their results in the lecture “The Ahmose Tempest Stela and the Thera/Santorini Eruption” presented at the international conference Reading Catastrophes: Earthquakes, Famines, Epidemics, Floods, between Egypt and Palestine, 3rd–1st Millennium B.C., sponsored by Rome University “La Sapienza.” That report is now in press in Rome as “The Ahmose Tempest Stela: An Egyptian account of a natural catastrophe.”

Furthering the theme of chronology, Ritner completed “Egyptian New Kingdom Evidence for the Chronology of Alalakh,” to be published in *Alalakh Excavations 2006–2010: The LB II Levels*, edited by K. Aslihan Yener, Murat Akar, and Mara T. Horowitz (Alalakh Excavations 2. Istanbul: Koç University Press). In association with this work in Turkey, he co-authored with Hasan Peker a catalog, “Hatay Arkeolgi Muzesi —Unprovenienced Seals from the Amuq.”

In addition to these studies, Ritner produced a number of publications on Egyptian religion and magic. He completed the proofreading of the new paperback edition of his sold-out volume *The Joseph Smith Egyptian Papyri: A Complete Edition* (Salt Lake City: The Smith Pettit Foundation, 2012). For a forthcoming Festschrift, he produced a study on “The Origin of Evil in Egyptian Theological Speculation.” In *Göttinger Miszellen* (236 [2013]: 5–6) he published “Some Errors in a Publication of the Petrie Collection,” and “Heka among the Phoenicians” (237 [2013]: 93–95). For the Institute’s publication *Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond*, edited by Natalie Naomi May (Oriental Institute Seminars 8. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012), he published “Killing the Image, Killing the Essence: The Destruction of Text and Figures in Ancient Egyptian Thought, Ritual and ‘Ritualized History’” (pp. 395–405). For the Institute’s catalog *Between Heaven & Earth: Birds in Ancient Egypt*, edited by Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer (Oriental Institute Museum Publications 35. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012) he wrote four entries: “Apotropaic Knife,” “Thoth Rebus Amulet,” “Thoth and Maat Amulet,” and “Thoth and Feather Amulet” (pp. 143–46). On a historical, rather than purely religious topic, he wrote “The Statue of Liberty and Its Ties to Egypt,” published in the *Oriental Institute News & Notes* (no. 216 [2013]: 13) and online ([http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/statue\\_of\\_liberty\\_and\\_its\\_ties\\_to\\_egypt.pdf](http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/statue_of_liberty_and_its_ties_to_egypt.pdf)).

Beyond the talk in Rome noted above, Ritner gave multiple lectures throughout the year. At Akrotiri on the island of Santorini, he provided a keynote address on “Egyptian Examples of the ‘Koine’ Art Style of the Second Millennium B.C.” for the Chrosteres/Paint-Brushes Conference (May 24). For the California Museum of Ancient Art in Los Angeles, he began the annual lecture series with “Magic at the Creation: The Theory and Practice of Egyptian Religious Ritual,” followed by a book signing of *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice* (April 22). In Chicago, he spoke on “Coptic Magical Texts” for the Summer Papyrological Institute (July 25). He opened the Oriental Institute Mini-Series Medicine and Magic in the Ancient Near East: A Search for the Cure with a lecture on “The Theory and Practice of Medicine and Magic in Ancient Egypt” (October 10). For the Chicago conference Ancient Amulets: Words, Images and Social Contexts, he discussed “‘Aggressive Therapy’ in Egyptian Amuletic Treatment: Two Case Studies” (February 16). He closed The Oriental Institute Mem-

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ber's Lecture Series with the talk "Awake in Peace!': Interpreting, Seeking and Combating Dreams in Ancient Egypt" (June 5).

When not writing or lecturing, Ritner taught courses on Middle Egyptian literature, Coptic texts, Demotic texts, and Third Intermediate Period history.

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