

## Robert K. Ritner

The past year saw the release of the paperback edition of **Robert K. Ritner's** sold-out 2011 volume, *The Joseph Smith Egyptian Papyri: A Complete Edition* (Signature Books). His joint study with Nadine Moeller of "The Ahmose 'Tempest Stela,' Thera and Comparative Chronology" appeared in the April 2014 edition of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (vol. 73/1). For a forthcoming festschrift, he completed an article on the transformation of Egyptian religion in a Roman context: "Osiris-Canopus and Bes at Herculaneum." In contrast, he examined early Egyptian and Aegean connections in the illustrated article "Egyptian Examples of the 'Koine' Art Style of the Second Millennium BC" for the publication of the previous year's Chrosteres/Paint-Brushes Conference in Santorini.

Ritner's lectures during the academic year ranged among topics on medicine, the limitations of family terminology, and Third Intermediate Period coffin design and reuse. On October 18, he spoke on "Drug Therapy in Ancient Egypt" for the symposium on Ancient Drugs sponsored by the Center for Ancient Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. On April 5, he discussed "Distinctive Features on a Third Intermediate Period Coffin of Neskhonsu" at the sixty-fifth convention of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Portland, Oregon. On May 2, he presented "The Inner Body in Motion: Mobile Organs in Egyptian Anatomical Speculation" for the Oriental Institute symposium on The Body and Metaphor in Ancient Medicine. For the third Oriental Institute Connections Seminar, he gave a presentation and led the discussion of "The Notion of Family and Kinship in the Ancient Near East" (May 28). Ritner served as Egyptological reviewer for the University of Pennsylvania Press and the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. He also made contributions to more popular media. Ritner served as an interviewed consultant for *Time Magazine's* online review of the Cleopatra-themed *Dark Horse* video by Katy Perry. For the H. P. Lovecraft Society, he reviewed the script for a radio play adaptation (to be released on CD) of Lovecraft's ghost-written tale for Harry Houdini: *Under the Pyramids* (also titled *Imprisoned with the Pharaohs*). For the same project, Ritner translated dialogue into Egyptian and composed and recorded a hymn to the god

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Tutu, the composite sphinx patron of disease demons whose image may well have inspired the Lovecraft/Houdini story.

In addition to writing, lecturing, and reviewing, Ritner taught five courses on Egyptian grammar, hieroglyphic texts, Egyptian history, Demotic grammar, and Demotic texts.

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