

EMILY TEETER AND THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

During the course of a career filled with meaningful accomplishments, Emily Teeter has explored most aspects of Egyptology. In thinking of her many contributions to the field, I believe that three stand out particularly. The first of these is her commitment to museums and collections of ancient Egyptian art and archaeology (hence this very fitting CIPEG Festschrift); another is her passion for sharing her knowledge and interests with others, whether through museum exhibitions and catalogues, gallery talks and lectures, or guiding travellers; and then there is her dedicated service to the discipline. In this last category, while there are several organizations which have been much the better for Emily's support, surely a major beneficiary has been the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

I am quite sure that it was through ARCE that Emily and I first met and got to know each other during ARCE annual meetings when we were both ARCE Members and graduate students in Egyptology, she at the University of Chicago and I at Yale University, during the 1980s. Then, as now, ARCE serves as an important forum for students and new scholars to present their research and for Egyptologists to gather. Emily and I found that we had common ground in our love of museums and objects, and that we had both worked in regional art museums: in Emily's case, the Seattle Art Museum; in mine, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. In her work with the Seattle Art Museum, Emily reinstalled the museum's Egyptian collection, published some of its most important objects, and curated exhibitions, as well as serving as the Project Egyptologist during the Seattle venue for the historic *Treasures of Tutankhamun* travelling exhibition organized by the Egyptian Antiquities Organization.

During the mid-1980s, Emily was an ARCE Fellow, an important experience and an opportunity to conduct field research for her doctoral dissertation. While Emily benefitted from this experience, and continues to participate in the scholarly and collegial aspects of the organization, she has given much more back to ARCE over the years through her consistent service in a number of important roles. Emily was first elected to serve on the ARCE Board of Governors, ARCE's governing and oversight body, in 1998. She continued to serve in this capacity for the next eight years until she became ARCE's Vice President in 2009 and President in 2012. Typically, after having served as President, that officer continues on the Board for an additional year to help ensure a smooth transition and institutional continuity, but in Emily's case, because of her many gifts, including her natural tact, insightful logic,

and clear-sighted vision, she was asked to continue to serve on the ARCE Board into 2016. It is also important to note that, throughout this time, Emily continued to participate in and to support ARCE's Chicago Chapter, of which she served as President from 2005–7.

While this listing of her years of service, and the positions of institutional importance that she has held, well reflect Emily's dedication and voluntary service both to ARCE and to Egyptology, they do not give a full sense of her dedicated hard work, her true commitment, or all of the many exceptional personal qualities that she selflessly channelled to the Research Center's benefit. In this light, it must be borne in mind that Emily's term as President of ARCE coincided with the first years of the Egyptian Revolution, a volatile period for Egypt, the Egyptian/American relationship, and for ARCE and its many programs and projects in Egypt. As ARCE Director during this period, I can attest that the wise advice and steady encouragement offered by Emily were invaluable supports at a time when leadership was most needed. Nor does a bald listing of her service reflect Emily's eloquence, both as an advocate for ARCE and the larger field of Egyptology, during meetings with Ambassadors, funding agencies, government officials (both Egyptian and American), and numerous individuals. Her assured poise and obvious enthusiasm and support for ARCE's mission was always evident, and perfectly expressed. It also fails to capture her compassion for those who worked for the betterment of the organization, whether the day-to-day concerns of ARCE's Egyptian staff or our personal safety during those uncertain times.

I need also to record that Emily's leadership during ARCE's successful endowment campaign – undertaken during a world-wide downturn in both the national and international economies – was exceptional. And, it should be noted that here, as in everything else she brought to ARCE, Emily led by example, not just exhortation. I think it will come as no surprise to those who know her that Emily continues her service to ARCE, even in her retirement, as the editor of ARCE's *Journal*.

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to record my personal gratitude for all that Dr Emily Teeter has brought to ARCE, its members, employees, and associates over her many years of association with the organization. She is an exceptional scholar, a wise leader, a consummate museum professional, and a dear friend. 🙏

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