



EGYPT EXPLORATION ORGANIZATION
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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January 2017

Saturday, February 11, 2017, 5:00 P.M.

**“Merneptah and the Temple
of Ba’al at Ugarit”**

Dr. Ellen Morris
**Assistant Professor, Dept. of Classics & Ancient
Studies, Barnard College**



Ellen Morris

Professor Morris has published extensively on issues pertinent to ancient Egyptian imperialism. Her first book is entitled “The Architecture of Imperialism: Military Bases and the Evolution of Foreign Policy in Egypt’s New Kingdom” (Brill, 2005), and she is currently in the process of finishing a book entitled “Egyptian Imperialism.” Her ongoing research interests and other publications focus on the dynamics of political fragmentation, state formation, sexuality and sacred performance, retainer sacrifice, and divine kingship. She has excavated in the Nile Valley at Abydos and Mendes, and at the site of Amheida in the Dakhleh Oasis.

Ugarit was an ancient port city connecting trade with Egypt, the Hittites and others around the Mediterranean. After Ugarit’s destruction in the early 12th century BC, its location was forgotten until 1928, when a peasant accidentally opened an old tomb while ploughing a field.

A letter found in an archive among the ruins of Ugarit indicates the rather surprising fact that the statue of Ba’al in one of Ugarit’s main temples had been a gift from Egypt’s Pharaoh Merneptah. Moreover, the letter reveals that the king of Ugarit wished the pharaoh to commission another statue, this time of himself, that could also be erected in the Ba’al temple. To this request, Merneptah replied evasively, preferring to tell a fib rather than to acquiesce to his correspondent’s request.

Dr. Morris’ lecture examines four different aspects of statues that may have been taken into account in such negotiations. It is argued that Ugarit was considering shifting its primary loyalty from Hatti to Egypt during the reign of Merneptah, and that the provision of statues played an important part in these negotiations.

This 5:00 p.m. meeting will be held in the Wilshire Marquis Community Room near Westwood at 10535 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024. Free underground parking.

Ancient Egypt in the News



Photo Credit: Béatrix Midant-Reynes/Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale

Jan. 3, 2017 – Ancient Egyptian pot burials were not just for the poor – Interment in ceramic vessels may have symbolized a rebirth to afterlife. [Read full article](#)



Jan. 2, 2017 – The beauty secrets that once swept Ancient Egypt – An archeological expert told Al-Arabiya.net that at the time each woman would have her own box of facial makeup, kohl (eyeliner), hairpins and combs, and perfumes. [Read full article](#)



Fresh From an Expedition to Egypt, UCLA's Kara Cooney Offers First Impressions of New Coffin Reuse Research to EEO/SC

Dr. Cooney's January 2017 lecture drew from her recent, unprecedented access to royal coffins in the Cairo Museum and direct observations at royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings. Her talk gave EEO/SC meeting attendees a rare look into the work of cutting-edge Egyptology.



Through prolific photos and raw data, Dr. Cooney painted a picture of 18th through 21st Dynasty high priests resorting to coffin reuse to reconcile economic crisis and scarce resources with time-honored rituals for the afterlife of Egypt's kings.



After the lecture, Nefertiti oversees a conversation between Dr. Cooney and EEO/SC's John Stolz.



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Our Organization

The **Egypt Exploration Organization of Southern California** (EEO/SC) is a nonprofit organization that hosts Egyptologists from all over the world to give public lectures.

Requested donation for attending a lecture is **\$15 for EEO/SC members and \$20 for nonmembers**. Light snacks and beverages are served at the meetings.

For additional information about our organization or events, please visit our website at www.egyptexploration.org or contact one of the following:

Susan Spohr (213) 792-0832
Stephen Schimpf (310) 951-8128

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<http://www.egyptexploration.org>



At the January 2017 meeting in our Sherman Oaks location, UCLA Professor Kara Cooney answers questions as members look on.

Save These Dates!



March 11, 2017

Dr. Nadine Moeller, The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
“The Ahmose Tempest Stela: An Ancient Egyptian Account of a Natural Catastrophe”



April 2017

UCLA student presentations



May 13, 2017

Dr. Laurel Bestock, Brown University, will speak about the role of imagery of violence and power in the ideology of early Egypt.



September 9, 2017

Jessica Tompkins, Ph.D. candidate, Brown University, will speak about ancient Egyptian government



October 14, 2017

Dr. Josef Wegner, Associate Professor of Egyptian Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania, and Associate Curator, Penn Museum, will speak about his work in Abydos, Egypt.



November 11, 2017

Dr. Peter F. Dorman, Professor, Dept. of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, American University of Beirut, will speak about early development of the Book of the Dead.

