

Dear Friends of the TMP,

The death of Susan Howe Weeks on 12th December 2009 was a devastating loss for me. Susan had been my wife for 43 years, and we shared everything, including work on our many archaeological projects in Nubia, at Hierakonpolis, Giza, Saqqara, Chicago House, AUC, and Luxor--especially Luxor.



Susan often said the happiest days of her life were spent in Luxor, chatting with village women, learning bread-making and jewelry and arts and crafts, shopping in the weekly markets, and of course, working on our various projects. We lived in Luxor off and on since 1971 and worked together on the Theban Mapping Project since 1978. Susan was the TMP's chief artist, ceramics expert, registrar, headquarters supervisor, and project archivist. She will be greatly missed; I have lost my wife and best friend, and our project has lost one of its most important staff members. But she will still be close by: Susan often said that "when the time comes," she wanted to be buried in the place she loved most, Luxor. Sadly, the time came much sooner than any of us had expected, and her remains now lie in the Christian Cemetery east of town.

We have received hundreds of cards and letters of condolence since Susan's death, many asking how they might honor her memory. The following will answer that question.

Dear Friends,

Susan Weeks, who died last December 12th, will be remembered as an outstanding artist, ceramist and student of Egyptian folk arts and crafts. Her many contributions are among the most respected in these fields.

To honor Susan's memory and work, her family, friends and colleagues have established the Susan Howe Weeks Memorial Fund at the American University in Cairo. The fund will be used to further work in areas of Susan's particular interests:

- to establish in AUC's Rare Books and Special Collections Library an archive of Susan's extensive collections of notes, journals, manuscripts, and drawings in the fields of ancient Egyptian art, Egyptian and Bedouin folk arts and crafts, ethnoarchaeology, ancient and modern ceramic studies, natural history, and techniques of scientific illustration, and to fund acquisition of works in these fields;

· to support seminars and short courses in these subjects at AUC, and to support public lectures by recognized authorities from around the world. All will be freely available to students and scholars of all nationalities.

We believe that this program will serve as a fitting tribute to this very talented lady, and will recognize her long-term commitment to Egypt and to the education of future generations who will continue to study and document its culture.

We hope that you will consider joining us and make a contribution to Susan's Memorial Fund. All contributions are welcome, and all are US tax deductible. They may be sent to:

The Susan Howe Weeks Memorial Fund
American University in Cairo
420 Fifth Avenue (3rd floor)
New York, NY 10018.

Checks should be made payable to "The American University in Cairo," and marked "For Susan Weeks Memorial." You may also contribute by Visa or MasterCard: simply send your card number and expiration date and the amount to be charged. And you can contribute through PayPal (weekstmp@yahoo.com).

Thank you for remembering Susan and for helping to ensure that the example she set will continue to inspire and inform young Egyptologists and artists.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kent R. Weeks
Theban Mapping Project

s/ Catharine Roehrig
Metropolitan Museum
of Art

/s/ Salima Ikram
American University
in Cairo

Work in KV 5 We did not work in KV 5 this season because of Susan's death. We hope to resume clearing KV 5 this fall, and it promises to be an exciting season. The last two field seasons were spent removing blocks of bedrock that had fallen from the ceiling of Chamber 5. From the outset, we knew that this would be a difficult task: the ceiling of chamber 5, which had collapsed because, for two decades, tour buses had parked overhead with their motors running, had caused the fractured bedrock between the surface of the hillside and the tomb chamber's ceiling to fall in huge chunks onto the chamber floor. Some of the blocks weighed over 30 tons, and our workmen spent eight months breaking them up into manageable pieces and carting them away. Some of the ceiling blocks had traces of decoration and graffiti on them, many were precariously balanced atop others, and our workmen had to be on high alert and exercise caution as the back-breaking work progressed. Now, the fallen blocks have been removed, and beginning this November we will begin clearing the 1-2 meters of flood borne silt and sand that covers the chamber floor. Chamber 5 almost certainly was used as a burial chamber for one of the sons of Ramesses II. We believe this to be the case because of its size (it is the third largest chamber in KV 5), its plan (it is similar to the burial chambers in other Ramesside tombs in KV,

like that of Merenptah), and several architectural features (magical brick niches in the walls, a slight curvature to the center section of the ceiling, and a depressed floor level below). I am looking forward to clearing chamber 5: I think it will reveal clues to the history of this fascinating but frustratingly enigmatic tomb.

During the past year, work continued on several TMP projects.

1. If you turn to the Bibliography section of our website, you will note that the largest bibliography of works on the archaeology of the Theban West Bank has grown even larger. We have added another 500 or so references to the many thousands already there. Undoubtedly, we have still missed some articles, but the current listings are relatively up to date, at least through early 2009 (many Egyptological journals appear one or two years after their cover date).
2. Several of our TMP Cairo staff have been working under direction of Lori Lawson to prepare high-resolution copies of the thousands of tomb photographs taken by TWP photographers Francis Dzikowski and Matjaž Kačičnik. When all of them are up on the website, we will be able to provide easily accessible, comprehensive, full-color, Zoomifiable images of all decorated tomb walls in the Valley of the Kings. Thousands of these have recently been added to the already large archive; and more will be added in coming months. This is an arduous and time-consuming project, but the photo archive is an invaluable resource for those wanting to study wall paintings and texts in detail, and for those wanting simply to admire some of ancient Egypt's most beautiful and interesting wall paintings. They are an ideal accompaniment to the plans and descriptions of KV tombs also available on the website (and in our hard copy publications).
3. During the past several months, we have begun revising and updating the TMP's management plan of the Valley of the Kings. The cleaning of several KV tombs, changes in the tourist infrastructure, and alterations to ticketing and security procedures by the Supreme Council for Antiquities required a number of changes to our text and our conclusions. Those changes will be completed within the next month, undertaken by project director Kent Weeks and site management specialist Nigel Hetherington. We then will prepare an Arabic language translation of the plan, to be published by the TMP in December, 2010. We are excited about having an Arabic language version made available: not only will it be easier for the local SCA staff to consult, it will serve as a template for the preparation of other site management plans by antiquities personnel at other Egyptian archaeological sites and in other Arabic-speaking countries.

I hope to report back to you on the results of our winter season shortly after the new Year. With thanks for your continued interest in the Theban Mapping Project,

Kent R. Weeks
Director