

## Afterword from Cairo January 2014

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This unconventional “Egyptological conference” with its difficult title *Forming Material Egypt* showed in a remarkable way that there is more to Egyptology than just tombs, temples and artifacts. The speakers presented interesting scientific results concerning virtually reuniting pieces of one object, or different parts of one discovery scattered in variant museums across the world (Miniaci, Stevenson, Bagh, Quirke, Abd el-Gawad), finding long forgotten details in archives (Naunton, Piacentini, Thornton, Garnett, Price, Moshenska), revealing interesting facts about ancient sites (Bussmann, Villing, Tassie / van Wetering, Zabrana, Jeffreys / Tavares), dangers and opportunities for sites, museums, objects, archives and libraries (Picchi, Lankester, Carruthers, Doyon, Del Vesco, Tawfik, Razanajao, Elnaggar, Eissa / Mahmoud).

Beside these, the conference also addressed current issues and problems of Egyptology like the need for more intense rescue archaeology, the standardization of formats, the tyranny of types, how to display find-groups, the problems of funding and of selective publication, that is to name only a few that came up. Also another important and different aspect of Egyptology which is only rarely touched surfaced in many discussions, namely the humans behind Egyptology, including Egyptologists both international and Egyptians, conservators, employees of the Egyptian Ministry of State of Antiquities (MSA), security forces protecting archaeological sites and preventing antiquities trade across Egyptian borders, etc. The attitudes of all these people become especially important at times of crises, turmoil und unrest.

Egypt is going through a difficult time of change in its history, starting with the revolution of the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 which eventually toppled the regime of President Hosni Mubarak, and since then there have been many ups and downs in Egypt’s struggle for democracy, stability and economical growth.