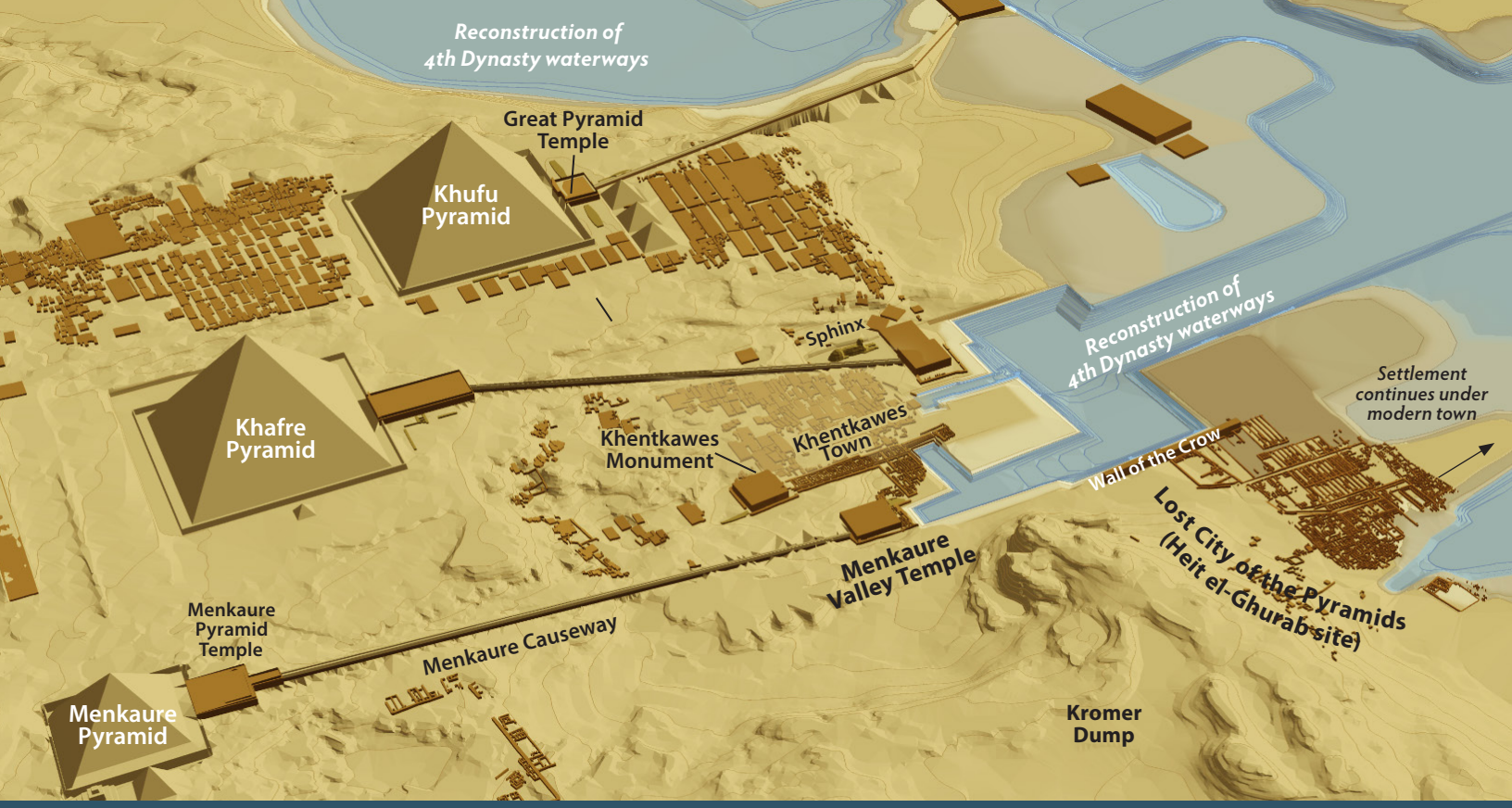
Finding Foundations, Building for the Future

Annual Report 2023–2024

ANCIENT EGYPT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

AERA



AERA: WHO WE ARE

For 32 years Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA) has brought together archaeologists and specialists from around the world to address questions regarding the origin, nature, and development of the Egyptian state—one of the earliest states of the ancient world.

We seek our answers on the Giza Plateau, at our flagship site, "Lost City of the Pyramids" (also called Heit el-Ghurab, HeG), and the Kromer Dump site, where debris from HeG was deposited, as well as the Great Pyramid, Sphinx, and communities associated with the tombs of Pharaoh Menkaure and Queen Khentkawes. After more than three decades of field and laboratory work, we have constructed a nuanced interpretation of how the Egyptians supplied and transported raw goods and materials to build the pyramids and maintain the HeG settlement, a large urban center dating to the reigns of Menkaure, Khafre, and probably Khufu, builders of the third, second, and first Giza pyramids, respectively.

Excavation, analysis, publication, and educational outreach stand as pillars of our mission in Egypt. Through multidisciplinary analysis, rigorous archaeological fieldwork, and laboratory science we open windows on the everyday lives of Egyptians who built and administered the Giza Pyramids and Sphinx during the 4th and 5th Dynasties (ca. 2543–2306 BC) of the Old Kingdom. In 2005, with the sponsorship of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), we began an archaeological training program for Inspectors in Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities. After completing more than 20 field schools and graduating more than 300 inspectors, AERA continues to embed this important outreach within our core mission and research program.

Founded in 1985, AERA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit research organization located in Boston and Giza, registered in Egypt as a foreign NGO. AERA-Egypt maintains the AERA-Egypt Center in Giza—a year-round base for our team, with library, archives, and meeting facilities. Our scientific and educational missions are supported by philanthropic individuals, foundations, and USAID government funding, as well as USAID in collaboration with the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

Photos in this report were taken by Mark Lehner, Dan Jones, and Sayed Salah Abd el-Hakim. Maps by Rebekah Miracle, AERA GIS. @ 2024, Ancient Egypt Research Associates.

Ancient Egypt Research Associates, Inc.
26 Lincoln Street, Suite 5
Boston, MA 02135-2608 USA

E-mail: info@aeraweb.org; Website: http://www.aeraweb.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

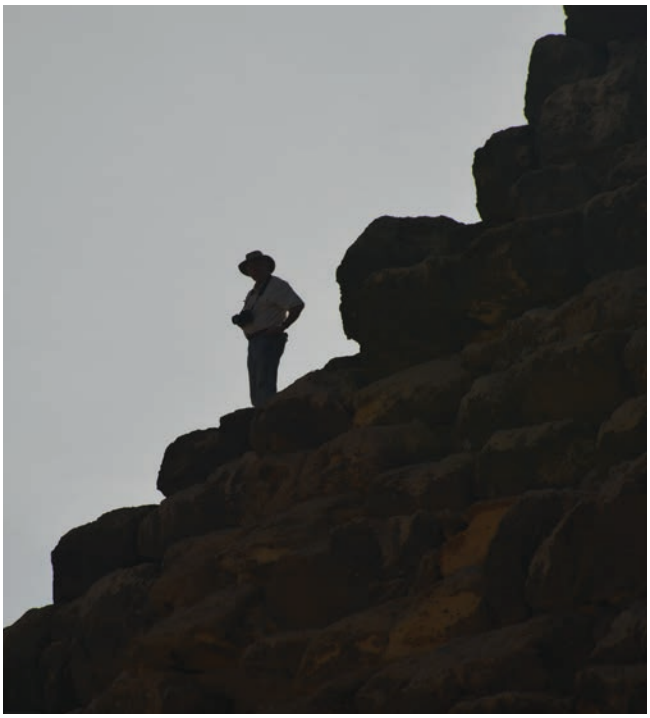
Foundations from the Past, Building for the Future

We returned in January to the Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT), attached by a long causeway to the Third Giza Pyramid on the high plateau. Reaching for the bottom of colossal limestone blocks that Menkaure's builders used to layout the temple, we dug deep up against the temple walls. We confirmed what we had begun to suspect from prior work. For over 300 years—a third longer than the time span between the presidencies of George Washington and Donald Trump—people who lived and worked in the temple struggled against powerful flash floods brought by torrential rains. Their mild, moist climate, so favorable for building gigantic pyramids, was changing to the hot, arid, Egypt that we know today. How ironic, that powerful floods should wipe out a desert temple.

Menkaure's builders did not complete the stone fortress he had intended. His successor ordered the temple be finished in plastered mudbrick. Twice, later generations rebuilt the temple following flash floods. Why did they continue to build in soft adobe, smack in the middle of a flood zone? Because they couldn't afford stone. Even in mudbrick, the valley temple of the divine king served as a gateway to their own rebirth and resurrection.

While we dug at MVT, another AERA team surveyed post holes and marks of Khufu's builders along the south side of the Great Pyramid. The removal of the Khufu Boat Museum and modern infrastructures for the extraction and conservation of Khufu's wooden ships made it possible for us to complete our 2015–2016 mapping of marks that builders left in the bedrock floor on the other three sides of the pyramid. (The ships were moved to the Grand Egyptian Museum).

We partnered with Dr. Søren Michael Sindbæk of Aarhus University in Denmark. His six-member team of professional archaeologists honed and tested 3D laser scanning for both macro and micro features. They captured postholes, lever sockets, and quarry channels. These marks offer clues for that ever-asked question: How did the Egyptians build the Pyramids?



In the AERA Field Lab, the Danes worked with Ali Witsell and AERA's sealings team to micro-scan more than 300 sealings. This takes AERA archaeology to the most minute scale. Sealings are those little dabs of clay that Egyptians used like our old-fashioned wax letter seals to seal string locks on bags, boxes, jars, and doors. Micro-scans of the backs of sealings show the warp and woof of fine linen fabric. For casseroles they used carinated bowls, like we do for our casseroles. They covered delicious concoctions with cloth tied by string or ribbon around the carination, crisscross over the top, and sealed with clay before serving. They did the same with jars. From builders' marks to sealings, AERA takes archaeology to the nth degree, to get at the ancient Egyptians, and to see and feel the fabric of their lives.

Our collaboration with the Danish team is one way that AERA has begun to partner with universities, museums, and other organizations to build a foundation for the future—a foundation of mutual value and growth. As I write, four young AERA team members are working up different parts of AERA's vast archive for doctoral degrees at the universities of Warsaw, Edinburgh, and Harvard. We can add this to seven Ph.D.'s already obtained on the basis of AERA's work from Yale University; University of Chicago; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Warsaw; and Nagoya University, Japan. Producing eleven Ph.D.'s is admirable output for any university department. This network of

President's Message continued from page 3

scholars now collaborates to secure AERA's unique position within Egypt to create opportunities for their students, and for future generations.

Most important for AERA's legacy and long-term sustainability is our relaunch of the comprehensive field school program that AERA developed between 2005 and 2011. Here we empowered young Egyptian archaeologists who work for Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities and Tourism (MoTA). The program includes Beginners, Advanced, Salvage, and Analysis and Publication Field Schools. Colleagues in charge of human resources and training at the MoTA are now asking, and offering help, for a relaunch, because, as they tell us, they value AERA Field Schools over all other training programs. They feel an urgent need for a new wave of AERA-trained archaeologists with the skills to save information in rescue excavations in front of modern development and urban expansion all over Egypt.

Relaunching AERA Field Schools falls in line with our priority to establish the Heit el-Ghurab Archaeology Preserve (HeGAP). Because of high ground water, reeds and camel thorn thrive within weeks of backfilling our excavations. So, we cannot reconstruct to show the ancient barracks, bakeries, houses and workshops of the Lost City site. But when we cut down the pernicious plants, and after we un-fill and expand our excavations, the ancient city structures are still there. While we cannot reconstruct to show visitors, we can establish HeGAP for research and training long into the future.

For that future, and for the value AERA adds to Egyptian and world culture heritage, we seek to establish an endowment that will secure AERA on a firm foundation. We have started to lay stones for that foundation by securing our vast archive, preparing a major excavation season for 2025, and relaunching the AERA Field Schools.

Thank you, every one of you, who made possible AERA's achievements in 2024. With your help, AERA's emerging young leaders will continue to dig deep into the foundations of our shared, global past. Please stay with us on our adventure of discovery.

—Mark Lehner

SHARING OUR WORK

Publications

FLORENCE FRIEDMAN

"Evidence for More Statues of Menkaure," in *The Overseer of Works in Memphis and Thebes: Studies in Honour of Nigel Strudwick*, edited by M. Pitkin, Liverpool: Abercromby Press, 2023: pages 45–59.

MARK LEHNER

"Was Heqanakht Elite?," in *In The House of Heqanakht: Text and Context in Ancient Egypt, Studies in Honor of James P. Allen*, edited by M. V. Almansa-Villatoro, S. Štubňová Nigrelli, and M. Lehner, Leiden: Brill, 2023: pages 468–86.

"Combinatorial Evolution and Heterogeneous Cohabitation at the Giant Pyramids," *Comparing Urban Heterogeneity, Journal of Urban Studies* 8, edited by R. Raja and S. M. Sindbæk, Turnhout: Brepols, 2023: pages 21–46.

"Pyramid Harbors at Giza," in *Egyptian Riverine Harbours: Proceedings of the Symposium Held at IFAO, Cairo (15th–18th September 2019)*, edited by M. Yoyotte, I. Forstner-Müller, and H. Willems, Bibliothèque d'Étude 188, Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2024: pages 367–400.

RICHARD REDDING†

A View from the Herd: Cattle, Sheep, Goats, and Pigs in Pharaonic Egypt, A Primer for Egyptologists and Archaeologists. Archaeobiology 5. Bristol, CT: Lockwood Press.

Lectures and Presentations

MARK LEHNER

"Saving a Lost City of the Pyramids," November 17, 2023. De Warande Club (Brussels) Tour, AERA Giza Center.

"A Hippo Hip and an Olive Pit," April 18, 2024. Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Richard Redding Memorial Session—Breaking the Mold: A Consideration of the Impacts and Legacies of Richard W. Redding. New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Geoarchaeology at Giza: Unpacking the Sphinx," May 3, 2024 Augite Geology Club, Minot State University. Minot, North Dakota.

"Prairie to the Pyramids: Lost City of the Giza Pyramids," May 4, 2024. Archaeology Week, Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota.

AUDE GRÄZER OHARA and ALEXANDRA WITSELL

"Re-Excavation of an Ancient Dump at Giza and the Search for Khufu's Pyramid Town," Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, May 17, 2024. Online.

MARTIN ODLER

"Recent Developments in the Research of Ancient Egyptian Copper Metallurgy." October 11, 2023, Egyptian World Seminar Series at the Department of Archaeology of The University of Cambridge; October 19, 2023, Archaeology Seminars of the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology of the University of Edinburgh; October 27, 2023, Friends of the Petrie Museum in London; March 3, 2024, Ancient Technologies and Materials Seminar Series and the Liverpool Egyptology Seminar Series, University of Liverpool; May 22, 2024, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

"Why We Need to Understand Ancient Egyptian Copper," January 20, 2024, North East Ancient Egypt Society Lectures in the Oriental Museum, Durham University.

"Dispelling the Myths around Ancient Egyptian Copper," April 24, 2024, Friends of the Egypt Centre, Swansea.

MANAMI YAHATA

"Excavations on the Giza Plateau by AERA: Ancient Egyptian Diet Revealed by Analysis of Animal Bones with a Focus on the Pyramid Town—In memory of Dr. Richard Redding," August 4, 2023. Asahi Culture Center, Osaka, Japan. Online.

"The Pyramid Builders' 'Workers' Cemetery' at Giza: 'Petety's Curse Tomb' and Other Tombs," September 8, 2023. Asahi Culture Center, Osaka, Japan. Online.

"'Deir el-Medina'—A Village of Artisans Who Built the Pharaohs' Tombs in the Valley of the Kings: Comparison with the 'Pyramid Town' of the Pyramid Builders of Giza." November 24, 2023; also February 9, 2024. Asahi Culture Center, Osaka, Japan. Online.

Media Appearances

"Kemet, the Black Land: Agriculture in Ancient Egypt with Professor Claire Malleson," *Afterlives of Ancient Egypt with Kara Cooney Podcast*, Episode 78. February 26, 2024.

"How Many Ancient Egyptian Pyramids are There?" *Live Science*, Owen Jarus, February 29, 2024.

"Khufu's/Cheops Palace," National Geographic - Lost Treasures of Egypt, Episode 1, Season 5. May 2, 2024.

"Uncovering Egypt's Past: ND Native, Egyptologist's Team Finds Storehouse of Pharaoh," *Minot Daily News,* May 11, 2024.

"Uncovering Egypt's Past: ND Native, Renowned Egyptologist Continues quest," *Minot Daily News,* May 18, 2024.

"Old Kingdom Technology (with Dr. Martin Odler)," *The History of Egypt Podcast*, June 20, 2024.

FIELDWORK 2023–2024

Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT)

We returned in January to the Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT; see map, page 2) after working there intermittently since 2008. The valley temple is connected by a long causeway to an upper temple and, from there, to the court that surrounds the pyramid. It originally served as the formal entrance to the Menkaure Pyramid complex.

From 1908–1910, American archaeologist George Reisner first excavated the MVT. He found evidence that a powerful flash flood had smashed through the west wall of the temple, surging through the sanctuary, washing out across the court, and cutting and dissolving the temple's mudbrick walls. The temple was then rebuilt in the same spot. Reisner called these the First and Second Temples.

This year we wanted to learn more about the foundations of the MVT. We carried out work in eight sondages around the perimeter of the temple. We dug deep up against the temple walls, reaching for the bottom of the colossal limestone blocks that Menkaure's builders used to layout the temple. We confirmed what we had begun to suspect from prior work. We found a core block foundation (which we call MVT0) and three major phases of building and occupation (MVT1–3). Where Reisner saw only a First and Second Temple, we see three temples.

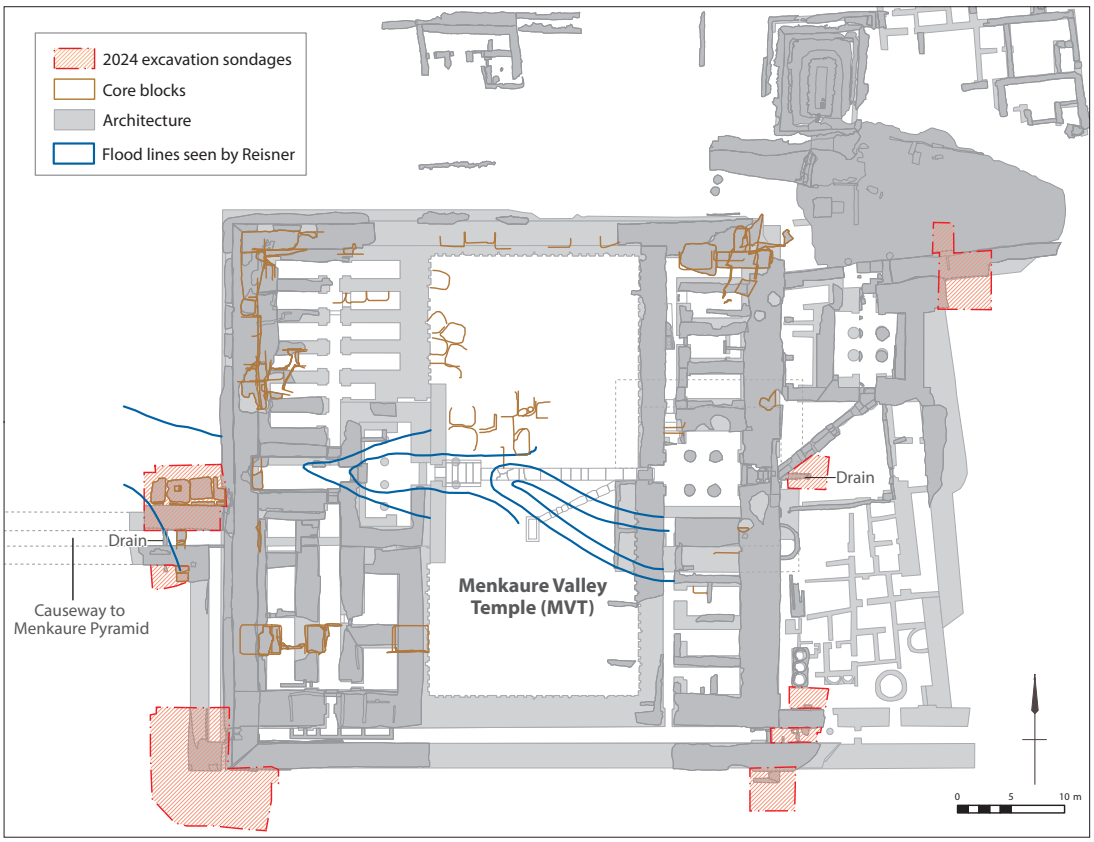
Two small ceramic votive vessels found this year in MVT; these would have functioned as representative offerings to the god-King.

One of the MVT's giant limestone foundation blocks with painted red grid patterns, probably to aid workers during quarrying or placement.

The original temple (MVT0) was meant to be a giant stone fortress, but Menkaure's builders left it unfinished—it survives only through its foundation blocks. The First Temple was, as Reisner saw, the finishing in mudbrick (MVT1) of the temple Menkaure had started with limestone core blocks. People or natural forces then truncated MVT1, but this truncation was not the flooding that Reisner saw. There was a middle temple (MVT2), which functioned for about thirty years before also being cut down and rebuilt. This middle temple is the phase that a flood damaged, before people rebuilt the MVT for a third time (MVT3).

Highlights from this season include the uncovering of eight separate foundation blocks, including some that were painted with red grid patterns, likely quarry marks or builders' graffiti (see photo above). Similar marks were found in association with Menkaure's causeway. These blocks were set into large deposits of chipped limestone quarry debris, or *dabsch*. Another highlight was confirming that the causeway had an arched, vaulted roof. We uncovered evidence of an elaborate drainage system on both the interior and exterior of the temple—a sign that the ancient inhabitants of the MVT worked to staunch the flow of water and protect the building.

We have now been working at the MVT for 15 years, and have examined most of the eastern and western thirds of the building, its foundations, and its extramural context. We have yet to explore the central third—the inner court, where Reisner uncovered a crowded section of later mudbrick apartments with numerous storage bins and granaries. We now work on a publication that pulls together our MVT research to date on the into a narrative of life in the temple.



At left: Plan of the Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT) showing our eight 2024 sondages in orange. The massive limestone foundation blocks are shown in brown. The destructive flood lines observed by George Reisner are indicated in blue. Map generated by Rebekah Miracle from AERA GIS.

Below, left: Foundation blocks (Menkaure's first temple, MVT0) appear as we dig deep in the MVT. Three successive iterations (MVT1–MVT3) of the temple are visible in the background wall. ***Below, right:*** Daphne Myhrvold cleans her sondage in the MVT front courtyard after uncovering an elaborate drainage pipe with limestone cover stones.

FIELDWORK 2023–2024

The Great Pyramid Scanning Project

Søren Sindbæk oversees work on the southern front of the Great Pyramid.

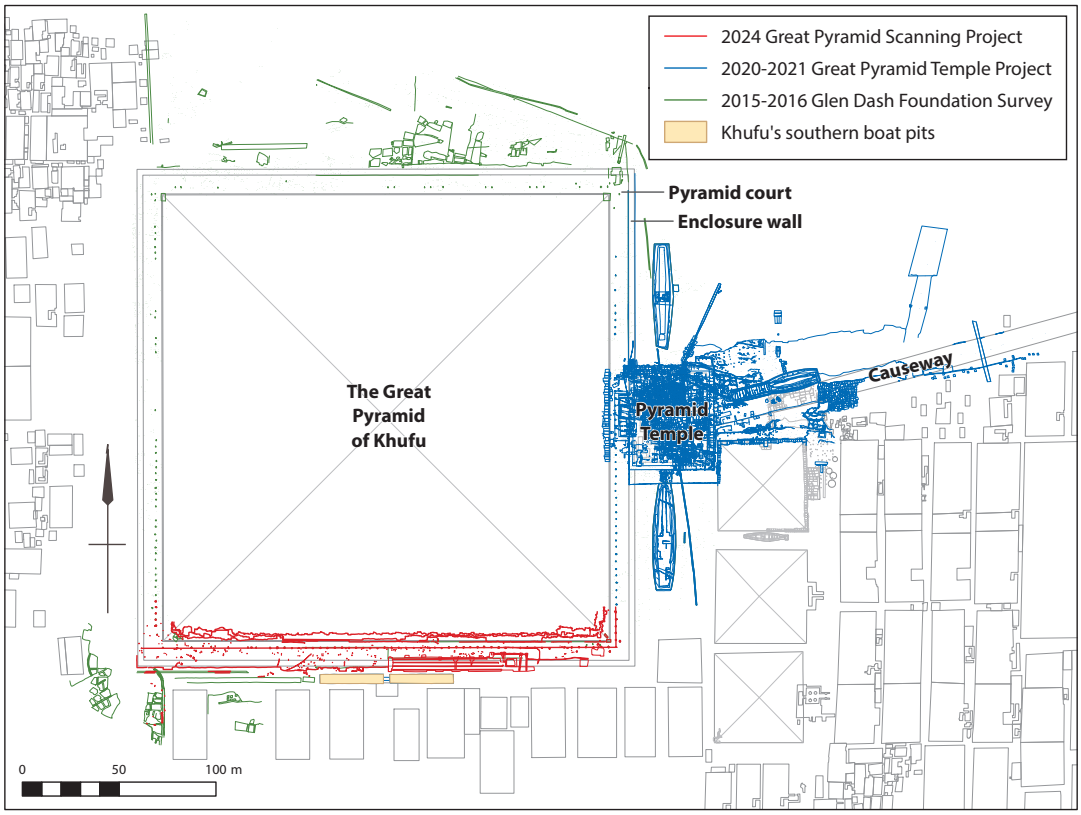
When Khufu's builders constructed his Pyramid, it was the first time they had worked in such hard bedrock. Earlier pyramids at Saqqara, Dahshur, and Meidum, were built on a soft clay-like bedrock. At Giza they instead had to sculpt into hard limestone bedrock using hammerstone pounders, wooden mallets, and copper chisels. They left behind evidence of this building process, but it was never meant to be seen. At the end of construction, they laid a thick limestone pavement over the bedrock floor, hiding postholes, lever sockets, and quarry channels. However, when robbers stripped the Pyramid of its outer casing, they also removed most of the enclosure wall and court pavement. This re-exposed the bedrock foundation with its builders' marks.

Mark Lehner has been intrigued by these marks since the 1970s. While they may not look like much, they offer unique insights into the construction process and "backstage operations" of Khufu's builders. In order to understand them, they first have to be systematically recorded and there are thousands of them spread over Khufu's funerary complex—the Pyramid court, enclosure wall, temple, causeway, and esplanades—over 70,000 m^2 in total. Recording them is a massive undertaking, but we believe they're crucial to understanding how the Pyramid was actually built.

We formally began our recording project in 2015 with the Glen Dash Foundation Survey. Its aim was to document the Pyramid's bedrock features (see map, page 9) and to "conserve through documentation," ensuring this information was available to future researchers. We couldn't complete the survey of the southern side though, because the infrastructure protecting Khufu's boats covered much of the area (see photo, page 9).

In 2020–2021, thanks to a grant from the American Research Center in Egypt, we were able to conserve what remained of Khufu's once magnificent temple. During this process, we added every archaeological feature within the temple and its surrounding area to our data archive. While working at the temple, we witnessed the removal of Khufu's boats to the new Grand Egyptian Museum. When the boats' infrastructure was removed, we saw first-hand the newly exposed southern bedrock surface, which had never been mapped in detail. This area was exposed

Danish team members with AERA Senior Archaeologist Dan Jones. From top down and left to right: Lene Lund, Søren Sindbæk, Kristine Haase, Sarah Croix, Dan Jones,and Sarah Qvistgaard.



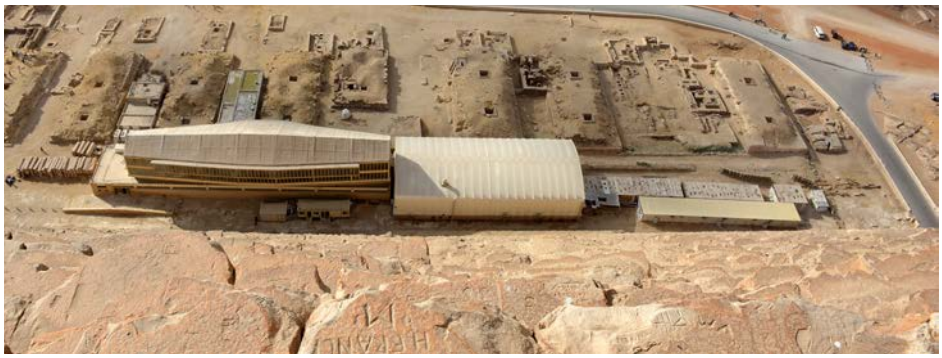
At left: Plot of the holes and other features cut into or built on the bedrock floor. This includes work done as part of the Glen Dash Foundation Survey (green), the Great Pyramid Temple Project (blue), and the Great Pyramid Scanning Project (red). Map generated by Rebekah Miracle from AERA GIS.

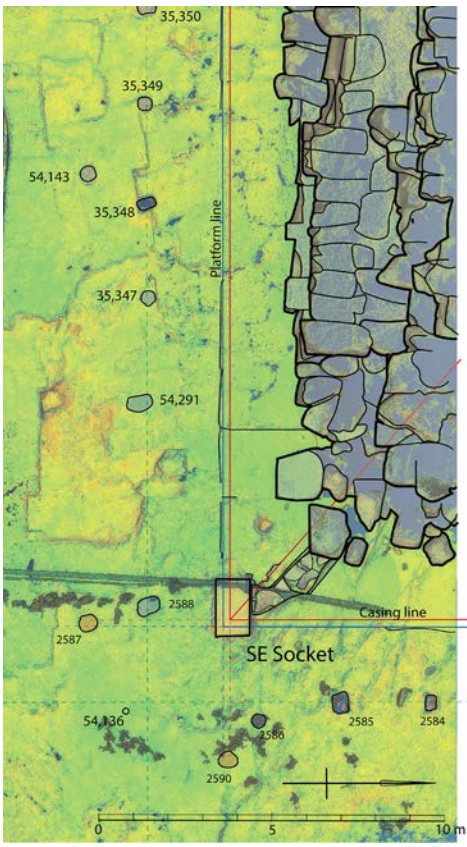
Below: View from the Great Pyramid down to its southern front, before the Khufu Boat Museum and associated buildings were removed. The area underneath these buildings was recorded this year by the Great Pyramid Scanning Project. ***Below, bottom:*** On left, a preliminary plot of the scan of the floor off the southeast corner of the Great Pyramid; on right, a plan of holes and corner socket off the southeast floor of the Great Pyramid traced from the scan. Imagery by Mark Lehner.

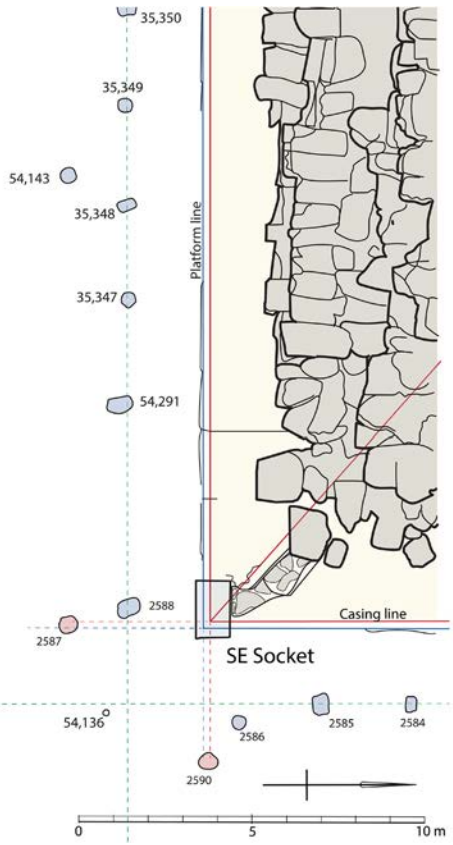
to minimal wear, and arguably comprised the best-preserved traces of the construction process.

In late 2021, we sent out an appeal to our colleagues and supporters to help us survey this previously inaccessible area. Dr. Søren Sindbæk, Professor Of Archaeology at Aarhus University, answered our call. He brought with him a team of six Danish archaeologists who took time off from their own intensive excavations of Viking sites. Using a Trimble SX10 Scanning Total Station, they produced a digital facsimile of the surface allowing us to record 432 archaeological features spread over nearly 6,000 m² of bedrock floor (see image at right).

What we now have is better than a map, it is an exact reproduction of the Great Pyramid builders' marks. The results were so spectacular that we realized we need to scan the other three sides of the Pyramid to complete the record for posterity and for anyone who asks: "How did the Egyptians build the Great Pyramid?" If archaeologists map each and every posthole in ancient settlements, surely they should map the postholes that some of the world's first surveyors might have used to lay out the Great Pyramid. Stay tuned for more scanning in 2025!







FIELD LAB Old and New

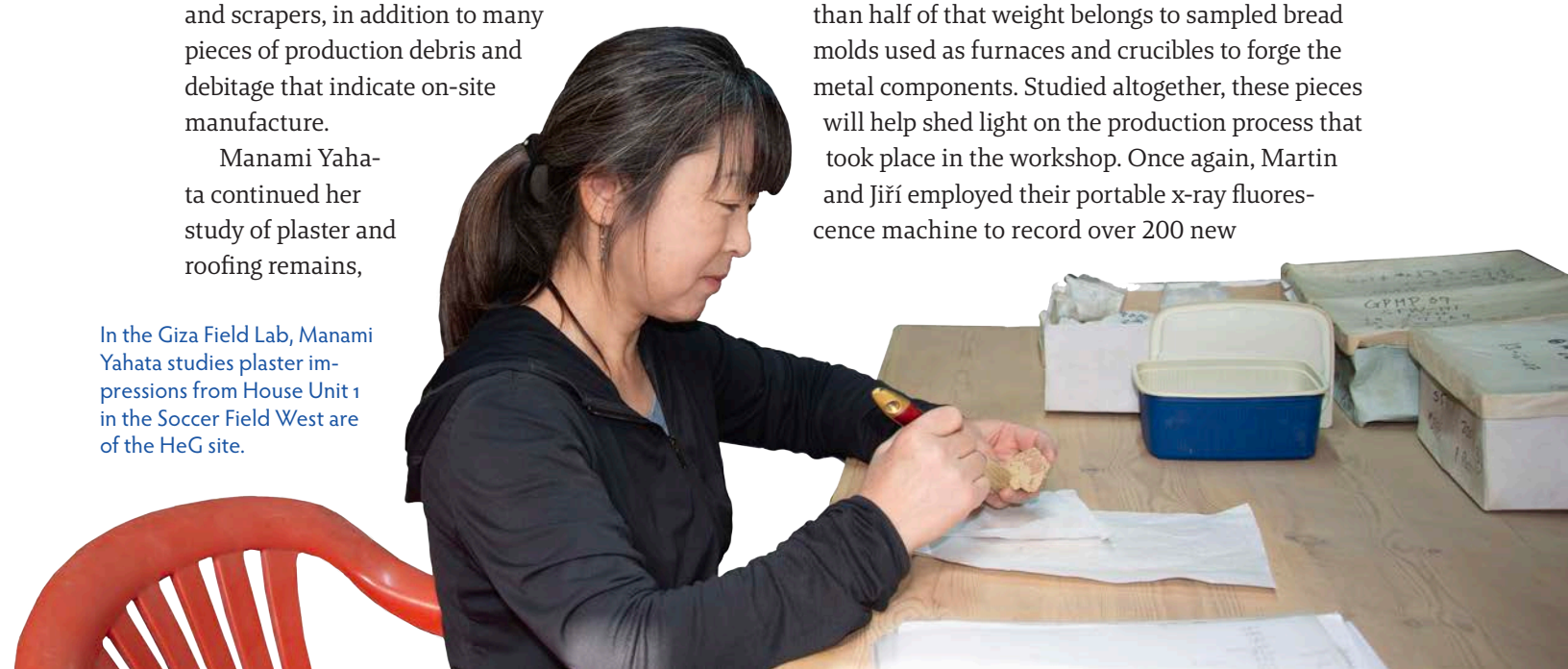
This year, our artifact specialists in the AERA Field Lab (officially a Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities [MoTA] magazine) continued to work on fleshing out the daily lives of the ancient inhabitants who lived and worked at the HeG and MVT sites. Our work in 2024 focused on small objects, lithics, metals analysis, plaster and roofing material, and clay sealings. AERA's specialists often employ a two-pronged approach to their time in the lab: trying to study or at least survey new material found since they were last in the lab, as well as continue to chip away at ongoing research from older excavation seasons. This "old and new" approach ensures the excavation team receives feedback on new finds, but also that our specialists have time to delve into the "big data" that decades of excavation at a site like HeG inevitably produces, things like production and usage patterning over space and time.

Lithics specialist Samar Mahmoud (see photo, page 11) worked on assemblages from both MVT-E and Khentkawes Town (KKT), registering and analyzing over 400 previously unstudied artifacts. She focused on determining the tool types present, how they functioned and were used, what step in the production process they represent, and what raw materials used. For both sites, the main artifact types included sickle blades, knives, drill bits, and scrapers, in addition to many pieces of production debris and debitage that indicate on-site manufacture.

Manami Yahata continued her study of plaster and roofing remains, this year working to finish her analysis of white- and red-painted plaster fragments found in the early 2000s in House Unit 1 of Soccer Field West at HeG—a large, well-appointed house for a scribe. Once her study is complete, we hope to be able to reconstruct the interior decoration of the house.

Emmy Malak, Deputy Lab Manager and small finds analyst (see photo, page 11), worked on the much-needed sorting and registration of the large collection of groundstone tools from HeG. This comprised grinding tools, such as querns and handheld grinders; percussion tools like axes and pounders; and abrasion and whetting tools, including abraders, whetstones, and polishers. Working with lab assistant Sarah Hitchens, Emmy sorted and studied over 700 tools for traces of use-wear, manufacture, and re-purposing. Sarah and Emmy also looked for traces of any residues left behind, and photographed these with a digital microscope (see photo, page 11). Emmy regularly sees evidence of tools being reused for more than one purpose during and after the lifetime of the tool; this new analysis provided further evidence of the "re-use and recycle" mentality of the inhabitants of HeG. Emmy and Sarah were pleased to once again have Amel Eweida join us to photograph artifacts.

We were pleased to have Martin Odler and Jiří Kmošek join us again to study metalworking material and metal objects. They were able to both survey new material found in 2022 and 2023, and continue their in-depth analysis of the metal material from workshop 4.D17x at HeG, which was excavated 26 years ago. The metalworking material here is extensive, weighing almost 3 kilograms, but more than half of that weight belongs to sampled bread molds used as furnaces and crucibles to forge the metal components. Studied altogether, these pieces will help shed light on the production process that took place in the workshop. Once again, Martin and Jiří employed their portable x-ray fluorescence machine to record over 200 new



In the Giza Field Lab, Manami Yahata studies plaster impressions from House Unit 1 in the Soccer Field West are of the HeG site.

Top to bottom, at right: Emmy Malak, Deputy Lab Manager, catalogs stone tools; Lab Assistant Sarah Hitchens uses a digital microscope to document residue on stone tools; Martin Odler uses an x-ray flourescence machine to study metal composition; GIS Manager Rebekah Miracle (left) and Samar Mahmoud (right) discuss how GIS might help Samar visualize her data.

samples of the chemical composition of AERA's metals and metalworking material, including minerals, crucible and slag fragments, and pieces of finished metal objects. Of these spectra, they selected 37 samples for further study with specialized equipment at the French Institute in Cairo. With many thanks to MoTA for these permissions, this material was transferred in early December (2024) for study in Spring 2025. Martin and Jiří are hopeful these samples will provide the first ever documentation of speiss—a specific alloy of iron and arsenic—in Old Kingdom Egypt.

This season AERA's GIS Manager, Rebekah Miracle (see photo at right), also came to the lab to meet more closely with specialists and talk about how she can help them with database support or visualize their data with maps. This is especially important when it comes to "big data" that relies heavily on spatial patterning and a holistic knowledge of our stratigraphy. Rebekah serves as a bridge between specialists, the archive, and the excavation staff.

Lastly, in collaboration with Dr. Søren Sindbæk, AERA's clay sealings team embarked on an exciting new program of 3D scanning of the sealings found during our 2018 excavation season in the Kromer Dump (KRO). KRO was named for Karl Kromer, the original excavator of this deposit in the 1970s. At that time, Egypt allowed half of the KRO material to be taken by Kromer to his home institution. This collection now resides in Vienna, and Søren had the opportunity to "soft launch" the scanning technique for sealings there in 2023 on a portion of Kromer's sealings previously only partially available by drawings. The scanner captures the sealing data at a much higher resolution than traditional photography and creates imagery that can be turned and twisted on the screen—the next best thing to being there in person with an artifact. This spring in the lab, Søren and sealings assistant Ellie Westfall were able to scan over 300 of the 2018 KRO sealings. This work allows us to digitally reconnect these two portions of the original Kromer material, and allowed us to make matches between the 1970s and 2018 material to further reconstruct the seal compositions (and the seal owners behind them) that were in use at HeG during the time of Khufu and Khafre.

SCENES FROM THE FIELD 2023–2024

Top to bottom and left to right: Senior Archaeologist Dan Jones photographs an excavation square with a bird's-eye view atop a ladder; Shaima Abd el-Raouf and Manami Yahata during excavation in MVT; a canine dig companion watches the day's work from the trench edge; Mahmoud Abd el-Aleem and Søren Sindbæk consult a map of one of the ancient cemeteries near the Great Pyramid; Archaeologist Ben Bazely draws in his MVT sondage; Dan Jones provides a quick refresher course on how to use the Total Station for mapping; Leah Neiman holds a special find during excavation in her MVT sondage.

Top to bottom and left to right: Daphne Myhrvold and Ellie Westfall excavate in the Menkaure Valley Temple (MVT); Mark Lehner photographs a find from the bottom of a MVT trench; Members of the Danish scanning team working double duty as excavation staff in a MVT sondage after the completion of the pyramid scanning work; Archaeologist Chris Clark during a day's work at the MVT; Archaeologist Jonathan Buttery completes paperwork in his sondage of the MVT; Ellie Westfall micro-scans clay sealings in the AERA Field Lab; Foreman Sayed Salah Abd el-Hakim directs AERA's team of workmen during excavation.

OUR SUPPORTERS

The generous contributions of our benefactors and members make our work possible. Every tax-deductible donation supports AERA's archaeological excavations, publication of our findings, and educational programs aimed at advancing knowledge about our common human heritage. We are extremely grateful to the following foundations, businesses, and individuals who support our work. Donations through June 30, 2024 are included.

LEADERS' CIRCLE

$100,000 and up

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