Abydos, Egypt. Ramesses II Temple—field recording and study.

Director: Dr. David Silverman (Egyptian Section, University Museum).

Sponsors: University Museum, Yale University.

The University Museum has maintained an excavation in the ancient city of Abydos in southern Egypt since 1967. Under the co-direction of Dr. David O'Connor of the University and Dr. William Kelso Simpson of Yale University, the expedition has excavated memorial chapels of the Middle Kingdom and a temple built by Ramesses II of the New Kingdom, and has surveyed the town site of the Old Kingdom. The 1984-85 season, under the direction of Dr. Silverman, was devoted to the copying of all the inscribed material excavated by Dr. O'Connor during his work at the temple of Ramesses II. This epigraphic expedition recorded scenes and inscriptions at the temple, as well as those on the over 2,000 blocks and fragments stored in the museum of Penn-Yale House.

The inscriptive material consists of real titulary, ritual texts, and formulaic prayers. Some of the small fragmentary pieces, containing only bits of text, are more difficult to categorize. A few of the blocks have proven to be re-used, and one can see both the original carving, as well as the later, which dates to Ramesses II. The iconography forms mainly on ritual scenes involving offering-scenes, the king and deities. Further work, study, and translation of the texts should aid in determining the function of this little known temple of Ramesses II.

Storage jar with floral motif from the later settlement at Boğaz (ca. 1400 B.C.).