In 1929, the Penn Museum appointed Alan Rowe field director for excavations at Meydum, Egypt. Rowe, an Englishman, had previously worked for the Museum at Beth Shean, Israel. The work at Meydum was short lived. Due to the Great Depression, the excavations were terminated in 1931.

Located 76 km (50 miles) south of Cairo, the Meydum pyramid is over 300 feet tall and believed to have been built ca. 2600 BCE during the reign of Egyptian Pharaoh Snefru. The pyramid was originally built as a step pyramid but later was modified into the more traditional Egyptian pyramid construction. The extension eventually collapsed, leaving behind a ruin of the original step pyramid. This image (UPM image #34654) is a view of the pyramid at Meydum from the west and was taken by Fadil N. Saba during the Museum’s excavations. 

—Eric W. Schnittke, Assistant Archivist