



## VARTAVAN & ARMENIAN EGYPTOLOGY CENTRE (AEC) RESEARCH PROGRAM 2012-2013

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**M**y research program and that of our centre are so interwoven that it is impossible not to tackle both at the same time.

### FLORA OF ANCIENT EGYPT

As for 2012, my writing of the grand *Flora of Ancient Egypt* will continue. The book – which will become the worldwide reference in the field - will ultimately include around 500 plant notices and is therefore not expected to be finished before several years, possibly 2016 or 2017. The newly revised and definitive structure of the book has recently increased the speed at which the notices are written but the task is simply daunting. For bibliographical references and plant material collection I am assisted by AEC staff. Presently AEC staff concentrates itself on compiling the largest bibliography ever assembled on the plants of ancient Egypt and will convert it in a separate book entitled ‘*Bibliography on the plants world of ancient Egypt and related subjects*’ which is due to appear anytime. On the basis of what has already been gathered, it will include over 2500 references and probably far more. This bibliography will constitute the foundation base of the forthcoming and above mentioned *Flora of Ancient Egypt*. Many plants, like the unique find of *Strychnos nux-vomica* which may have come from India, will be intimately linked with trade and other interconnections. Several maps are included as for species such as cedar and other timber woods. It is possible that several separate chapters will deal with specific subjects, including trade as a whole.

### CODEx OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PLANT REMAINS

Despite the publication in December 2010 of the second revised and extended edition of the *Codex of Ancient Egyptian Plant Remains* (SAIS, London) – now the unrivalled worldwide reference in the field – the Codex data bank continues to be updated with plant data coming from excavations in Egypt and other reports. A third edition of the book is also planned in several years, possibly in 2017 on the occasion of the twenty years of the book. The development of the Codex databank is under

the direct responsibility of the director and of Mrs Arminee Arakelyan, Researcher and Codex Officer in AEC. Unlike the last edition which was just an update although albeit an important one with 20% more plant identification, the third one will aim like the first to be exhaustive. Here again many plants listed – those with a XX end coding number - are simply not part of the ancient or modern flora of Ancient Egypt and therefore point at exchanges of various kind.

### LINGUISTIC RESEARCH

In 2010 the director of the centre has started a heavy linguistic research program with hieroglyphics, which aside from the creation of a new program (Hierocheck) to learn hieroglyphs (presentation due in May 2012), immediately led to two major discoveries one of the utmost of importance. The first that the daily ritual as performed by the pharaoh or the First Prophet before the divinity is a chiasmic-within-chiasm highly complex structure which has never been seen. In 2012, the translation of chapter 36 should appear in the centre’s bulletin *Advances in Egyptology* (No. 2). In 2013, one or two more chapters will be translated and possibly also published in the same bulletin depending on work load. Secondly, following the extraordinary and unexpected discovery that part of the Ancient Egyptian vocabulary is shared with Indo-European languages, including Armenian, the research will be continued. The base vocabulary of the Old Kingdom will be isolated so as to at a later stage allow a comparison with about twenty Indo European languages – as was realised in the preliminary test studies published in 2011 in No. 2 of the centre’s bulletin. Where, last but not least, vocalisation of ancient Egyptian is concerned – a key pole of our linguistic research - many advances have been made, including the development of a vocalising methodology. As there is presently a mental barrier with many as to the possibility of such vocalisation, the albeit tedious and lengthy methodology is presently applied to several texts, and if satisfactorily, will require a step by step explanation of its fundamentals so that the obtained results may be regarded as safe and convincing.