

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT
LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT: Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, November 18-21, 2009, New Orleans, LA, entitled "Female Figurines from the Mut Precinct, Karnak: Evidence of Ritual Use."

Time Period of Grant: November 18-21, 2009

Amount of Award Received: \$500.00

Original Abstract as Submitted:

[Excerpted from application letter]:

"With this letter, I wish to apply for a LAUC Presentation Grant in the amount of \$500.00.

If awarded, this grant would be used to defray the cost of presenting a scholarly paper at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), taking place in New Orleans, Louisiana, from November 18-21, 2009. This annual conference attracts scholars from around the world whose research focuses on the peoples and cultures of the Near East, including scholars in my own area of specialty, Egyptology. I have submitted to ASOR an abstract for a paper entitled, "Female Figurines from the Mut Precinct, Karnak: Evidence of Ritual Use." Please find this abstract attached. The abstract is currently under review by the chair of the session, "'Figuring Out' the Figurines of the Ancient Near East." This is a new session at the ASOR Annual Meeting, and one that fits perfectly with my ongoing research into the function of ancient Egyptian female figurines. If this paper is accepted, it will be my first appearance at the ASOR Annual Meeting, an opportunity that I especially look forward to in light of the upcoming publication of my book, *Female Figurines from the Mut Precinct: Context and Ritual Function.*"

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

On November 18, 2009, I presented a scholarly paper entitled "Female Figurines from the Mut Precinct, Karnak: Evidence of Ritual Use" at the ASOR Annual Meeting in a session devoted to figurine studies called "'Figuring Out' the Figurines of the Ancient Near East I." The session was chaired by Stephanie Langin-Hooper, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. My paper was one of five in this session; a second component of the session occurred on Saturday, November 21, 2009, and featured three additional papers. This figurine session, the first of its kind at an ASOR meeting, was so successful that another session has been proposed for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

My attendance at this conference and the presentation of my paper resulted in my making many new scholarly contacts from around the world, as the participants and the approximately 30 audience members in my session came from institutions throughout the US and abroad, including Israel and Jordan. My attendance at the

conference also resulted in fruitful discussions with colleagues who are also working on figurines from the ancient Near East. In particular, I enjoyed meeting a graduate student at Duke University, Ms. Erin Darby, who had read my dissertation and remarked on how useful it was for her own research. Finally, my attendance at the conference also enabled to participate in a face-to-face meeting of the Coroplastic Studies Interest Group (<http://www.coroplasticstudies.org/index.html>), of which I am a member. At this meeting, approximately 12 members discussed the issues facing scholars studying ancient figurines and proposed future roundtable discussions at other scholarly meetings. Altogether, the conference was an excellent networking opportunity, as well as an engaging scholarly experience.

All aspects of my proposed project were completed as proposed. I would do the exact same thing next time, and my advice to others applying for LAUC presentation grants would be to plan ahead which scholarly meetings you would like to attend and to send in abstracts as soon as possible, so that travel plans can be made before airfares or other costs rise.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes No

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Original budget

[Excerpted from application letter]:

Roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles to New Orleans: \$380

3 nights at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel (conference rate): 3x\$174=\$522

Registration (early rate before April 5): \$125

Meals: \$150

TOTAL: \$1177

The \$500 I received from the LAUC Presentation grant was used for airfare to and from New Orleans (\$419.20) and to partially cover hotel expenses. The remaining expenses were covered by my LAUC-LA professional development funds.

In my original estimate, my airfare was a bit less than anticipated and my meal budget was a bit high. All other expenses were explicitly laid out by the conference and thus easy to estimate.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

The session I presented in was featured on the website of the Coroplastic Studies Interest Group, of which I am a member: <http://www.coroplasticstudies.org/archive.html>. My attendance at the session was also instrumental in promoting my book, *Female Figurines from the Mut Precinct: Context and Ritual Function* (Fribourg: Academic Press; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht,

2009), which had just been published and was on sale at the Eisenbrauns vendor table at the ASOR conference. The book was also mentioned by Ms. Langin-Hooper when she introduced me.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.