

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

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**TITLE OF PROJECT:** Travel to complete edits of a co-authored chapter on popular religion (“Volksreligion”) in Ancient Egypt

Time Period of Grant: **March 30, 2010-April 1, 2010**

Amount of Award Received: \$250.00

Original Abstract as Submitted:

[Excerpted from application letter]:

“With this letter, I wish to apply for a LAUC Mini-Grant in the amount of \$250.00. If awarded, this grant would be used to defray the cost of a two-day scholarly meeting...with my Egyptologist colleague and co-author, Professor John Baines of the University of Oxford, who is currently in residence as a member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Professor Baines and I are co-authoring a chapter on popular religion (“Volksreligion”) in ancient Egypt, to appear in the forthcoming *Handbuch “Altaegyptische Religion,”* edited by Jan Assmann and Hubert Roeder of the recently-founded *Ägyptologische Forschungsstätte für Kulturwissenschaft (ÄFKW)* at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. We expect to complete this chapter by the end of the calendar year. While electronic correspondence has proven useful during the research and writing process, we now feel that an in-person meeting is crucial for our timely completion of the chapter. Naturally, Professor Baines’ current stay in Princeton makes this is a convenient time for us to devote two days to in-person working meetings.”

**I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION**

During an intensive, two-day meeting, my co-author and I were able to sit together in the tranquil environment of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and read through an outline and a preliminary draft of our chapter on popular religion in ancient Egypt. We were then able to discuss how to proceed with the chapter in order to produce a succinct, comprehensive work that met all of the editors’ guidelines. We were able to confer on and adjust our bibliographic citations, to revise our draft in order to keep within the required word limit, to correspond by email with colleagues who are also contributing to the *Handbuch*, and, perhaps most importantly, to have an extended intellectual exchange regarding the larger topic at hand and the major points we wanted to make in the chapter.

This intensive and thoroughly enjoyable exchange was extremely useful in bringing the chapter to completion, which was achieved through email following our in-person meeting. Having the opportunity to converse in person no doubt saved many dozens – if not hundreds – of emails, and certainly quickened the pace of our writing. I am pleased to report that the chapter is now with the editors for final formatting and publication. We hope that it will appear in 2011.

Next time I would, if possible, pay for my own meals throughout such a meeting, although this is not always easy to accomplish at institutes that serve only members and their guests via a meal card system. I would also pay more attention to saving receipts for incidental costs such as snacks or other minor purchases, in the event that some of my budget estimates were high.

**II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED?** Yes  No

### **III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Original budget

[Excerpted from application letter]:

Amtrak train service from Washington Union Station to Princeton Junction (AAA rate):  
\$81.00  
New Jersey Transit train service from Princeton Junction to Princeton: \$2.25  
Meals: \$150  
Miscellaneous administrative costs (e.g. printing, scanning): \$16.75  
TOTAL: \$250.00

In my original estimate, my meal expenses were quite high. This is largely due to the fact that my co-author covered my daily meals (and his) through his Institute for Advanced Study meal plan. My administrative cost estimate was also a bit high. In the end, Professor Baines and I were able to solve more tasks online (i.e. uploading and sharing documents through YouSendIt) than had been anticipated prior to the meeting. Train travel expenses were explicitly laid out on Amtrak and NJ Transit websites and thus were easy to estimate.

The result of the above is that I was only able to utilize \$127.08 of my awarded funds.

### **IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS**

Our chapter on popular religion (“Volksreligion”) in ancient Egypt will appear in the forthcoming [\*Handbuch “Altaegyptische Religion,”\*](#) edited by Jan Assmann and Hubert Roeder, to be published by Brill.

### **V. NOTE**

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