

Laure Pantalacci (born 1955 in Marseilles, France) studied Classics at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and univ. of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and passed the *agrégation* in classical grammar in 1978. After one year of Egyptological studies (Master course) at the Oriental Institute (Univ. of Chicago), she specialised in Egyptology and obtained her PhD from the Sorbonne, under the supervision of Pr. J. Leclant, with a thesis about the tradition of Osirian relics in the Late Period and hellenistic Egypt.

As a junior researcher of the French Institute for Oriental Archaeology in Cairo (IFAO) 1982-1985, she began to work in Balat (Dakhla oasis) and the Coptite area (el-Qal'a temple), and has been working on both sites every year ever since. In Balat, she is in charge of studying the seal impressions and the documentary texts, written in hieratic on clay tablets, dating back to the end of the Old Kingdom.

Assistant Professor in Egyptian archaeology at Paris-Sorbonne 1987-2000, she became full Professor at the University Lumière-Lyon 2 in 2000, after completing her *Habilitation à diriger les recherches* at the Sorbonne, on the archive from Balat.

In 2002, she founded the French archeological mission in Coptos and started to investigate the central city, where two new Ptolemaic temples were recently brought to light.

She directed the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Cairo from 2005 till 2010, and is Vice-president of the IAE since 2008.

### UFR TEMPS et TERRITOIRES

Géographie et Aménagement, Histoire, Histoire de l'Art et Archéologie, Tourisme, Urbanisme

School of "Environment and society. Study of the human past"

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## DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

The International Association of Egyptologists came into existence in 1976, and held its first International Congress in Cairo on the same year. Less than 4 decades later, obviously the whole world, Egypt and Egyptology changed drastically. They changed to such an extent that today many egyptologists wonder what is the use of the Association, apart from helping with the organisation of the International Congresses every 4 years or so. In the last 2 decades, smaller Egyptological conferences organised by and for specialised or localised groups of researchers have multiplied. Moreover, people from many disciplines work on the Egyptian ground now. At times, the very definition of egyptology seems called into question. So it appears to me that the role of an international association federating the scholars and interested public, and providing at regular intervals a general overview of our studies, is, more than ever, necessary.

Under the presidency of Jim Allen, elected in Rhodes in 2008, a very important step was taken: linking the Association with the Annual Egyptological Bibliography, which became O(nline) EB. I think this major move opened the way to what the Association should be: the reflection of a cohesive and involved community sharing scientific information, striving together to maintain or develop common projects.

Over 630 persons are currently listed on our web site as members of the Association, and the high number of participants in the Florence Congress indicates clearly that sharing information and meeting colleagues remains a major concern of our members.

This is why we urgently need to improve the communication of the IAE. This should take place first internally, inside and between the Association committees (presidium, Council) by holding (virtual) meetings on a regular basis, allowing more discussions and exchanges of views. And it is equally important that all the members be more involved in our functioning, and get regular information from the IAE. In my view, more interaction between us is essential to the survival of our Association, and is very easy to achieve using IT. Each Congress brought about changes in our statutes: this is a sign of vitality and readiness to adapt to an ever-changing environment. So I am very confident about the willingness of our members to help us maintain and strengthen the Association. If elected, I intend to organise soon an on-line consultation, to know precisely what our members are expecting from the IAE now.

The Website, which has been in use for many years, is our vital organ. It should be enriched and developed in tandem with the major Egyptological websites. A better visibility on Internet could also help reaching new members and increasing our income. New financial resources would in turn help to support collective projects or tools. To mention but one, the Topographical Bibliography, a centenarian tool which recently began its digital transformation, should be more actively supported by our community. It would be natural for the IAE to play a part in helping to develop it.

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After spending 5 years in Cairo at the head of the French Oriental Institute, another goal appears very important to me: to tighten the links between the IAE and Egypt. Thanks to their constant efforts, the number of Egyptian scholars recognized for their international expertise is now significant, as it will show in the Florence congress. Working in closer cooperation with the MSA and Egyptian academics will be one of my goals.

I hope this outline of my projects will meet or raise the expectations of our community and I look forward to benefitting from further suggestions of the presidium, Council and members, in order to keep our Association in life, prosperity and health.



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