



Norman Goldstein MD, FACP
Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal

EGYPT-HAWAII CONNECTIONS

Despite the fact that Egypt is halfway around the world from Hawaii, we have notable connections to one of the oldest civilizations.

Long before the days of modern communication and travel (the period between 3rd century BC and 3rd century AD) 10,000 mummies were buried near the Bahariya oasis, 260 miles southwest of Cairo. Robert Littman, Professor of Classics in the Department of Languages and Literature at the University of Hawaii and his fellow Egypt researcher, DeWolfe Miller, Professor of Epidemiology, noted that these mummies are unlike the residents of royal tombs in the famed pyramids. The Bahariya mummies come from all strata of society - rich, poor, and middle class - giving researchers an unprecedented opportunity to systematically examine a substantial cross section of society.¹

To conduct this research, our two erudite U. H. professors assembled a team including Egyptologists, paleopathologists, epidemiologists, bio-archeologists, radiologists and physicians to work with Zabi Hawass, Chair of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities who discovered the Bahariya mummies in 1996.

Littman received his BA and PhD at Columbia University and his M.Litt at University of Oxford, and lectures on the Egyptian Language, as well as Hebrew, Greek and Latin. In 2004, he was awarded the University of Hawaii Chancellor's Citation for Meritorious Teaching. So when Stanley B. Snodgrass told me of his memoir, *Bugchasers of Egypt*, who better could I ask to do a Book Review for the Hawaii Medical Journal? Littman actually took the book on a recent flight to Egypt. The book is about Stanley's service between 1946-1948 for the USNAMRU 3 (NAval Medical Research Unit). At the time, his unit was battling epidemics of relapsing fever and cholera, and used the first cholera vaccine.

Upon reading Stan's book, Gerry Michael, Emeritus Dean and Professor of Public Health at the University of Hawaii, wrote:

"Dear Colleague:

You are to be congratulated in having committed to writing a most useful and important segment of the long history of the contribution to Global Health by the United States Navy and its dedicated service personnel."

A copy of *The Bugchasers of Egypt* can be obtained by calling the author at 808-396-7407.

Mahalo to our Hawaiian Egyptologists, Stan Snodgrass, DeWolfe Miller, and Robert Littman.

Reference

1. *Mālamalama* 28:1, p 11, Jan '03



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