

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Janet E. Richards, associate professor of Egyptology, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and associate curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, is recommended for promotion to professor of Egyptology, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	University of Pennsylvania
B.A.	1981	Northwestern University

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Associate Curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
1998 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
1997 – 2004	Assistant Curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
1997 – 1998	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
1994 – 1995	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of Michigan
1995 – 1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
1994 – 1998	Visiting Assistant Curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan
1993 – 1994	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Holyoke College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Richards consistently uses the Kelsey Museum’s facilities and collections in her courses, both undergraduate and graduate. Advanced students also have the opportunity to participate in her ongoing excavation at Abydos, Egypt, where she directs the “Middle Cemetery Project.” This contact with Egyptian artifacts greatly enhances the students’ educational experience. Professor Richards has successfully taught large-enrollment courses with notable success. Students clearly appreciate the clarity of her presentation as well as her concern for their interests and needs. She has also trained graduate students in the Museum Studies Program and the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology.

Research – Professor Richards is an anthropological Egyptologist who uses interdisciplinary methodologies to analyze archaeological, textual, and visual data. She brings the perspectives of anthropology and makes full use of her deep knowledge of ancient Egyptian language and history. Since her promotion to associate professor, Professor Richards has completed The Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt and Writing Ancient Lives: Weni the Elder and Ancient

Egyptian Responses to Political Crisis, which is under contract with Cambridge University Press. She has published nine articles and book chapters and three museum catalogues. Professor Richards continues to explore new archaeological methods and techniques, and has made important breakthroughs in relating these data to a changing social landscape. Her current project on Egyptian “life writing” is highly original and innovative.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Spatial and verbal rhetorics of power: Constructing Late Old Kingdom history,” *Journal of Egyptian History*, 3, 2010, pp. 339-366.

“Kingship and legitimation,” in *Egyptian Archaeology*, W. Wendrich (ed.), Blackwell Studies in Archaeology, 2010, pp. 55-84.

The Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt: Essays in Honor of David B. O’Connor, two volumes co-edited with Z. Hawass, Supreme Council of Antiquities Press, 2007, 2nd edition revised and expanded, 2009.

Service – Professor Richards’ service has been strong and engaged. She has served on major committees in both units and has a very good track record in fundraising. She also served on committees in the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Outside of Michigan, Professor Richards has participated in grant reviews for important funding agencies here and abroad, and reviewed manuscripts for three presses and seven scholarly journals. She has been a member of the board of governors (2000-2007) for the American Research Center in Egypt and on other committees

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Prof. Richards is recognized not only as a capable and careful field archaeologist but also as a productive and insightful interpreter of Egyptian archaeological remains within the broad realm of ancient Egyptian society... ..she has consistently shown a commitment not only to publishing the data but also to interpreting its significance...”

Reviewer (B)

“For fifteen years Janet Richards has directed the Michigan Abydos project, which has made outstanding archaeological discoveries that have greatly enriched the understanding of the site. ...Richards is now one of the leading Egyptologists in the USA. She has a distinctive intellectual profile...”

Reviewer (C)

“...she has integrated different fields that often remain separated. Her research is superb, and she represents the kind of scholar who understands the importance of seeing her work in a broader context and landscape, using multiple lines of evidence.”

Reviewer (D)

“Her scholarly achievements in terms of publications, exhibitions, and excavations are of the highest standard and clearly demonstrate her intellectual abilities, breadth of interest, and clear thinking.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Richards has received quite a number of prestigious awards and grants, objective testimonials to her scholarship and engagement. ... As a Senior Fellow [in the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at NYU] she belongs to an exceedingly distinguished circle of scholars, really, the leading representatives of researchers in Ancient Studies... It is a fine testimonial to her standing in our field.”

Reviewer (F)

“Her work has literally forced us to, in effect, ‘rewrite the history books.’ ... Any book or article dealing with the social history of ancient Egypt should now include her work in the bibliography; to ignore her publications would simply constitute outdated research. ... It seemed as if every article I read presented a new theme, showing how much she has been actually thinking about her material, to get as much information as she can from it.”

Reviewer (G)

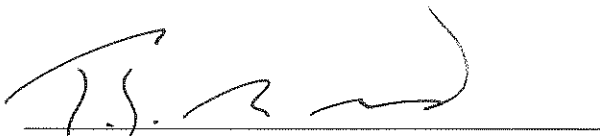
“Richards’s [sic] scholarly achievements are absolutely outstanding. Her ability to unite different methods of approach... gives her work an almost unparalleled place in our discipline. ... The papers in her dossier are elegantly written and are accessible for an inclusive range of audiences. Her manner of presentation is very effective both in interdisciplinary academic terms and in terms of broader outreach.”

Reviewer (H)

“...Janet Richards is a leading figure in Egyptian archaeology, a well respected scholar with an impressive record of publications, the field director of a highly important excavation, an important figure in the museum world... She is a credit to the University of Michigan.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Richards is considered to be at the top of her field. She has a very strong teaching record and is an outstanding citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Janet E. Richards be promoted to the rank of professor of Egyptology, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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