

SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE AT THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

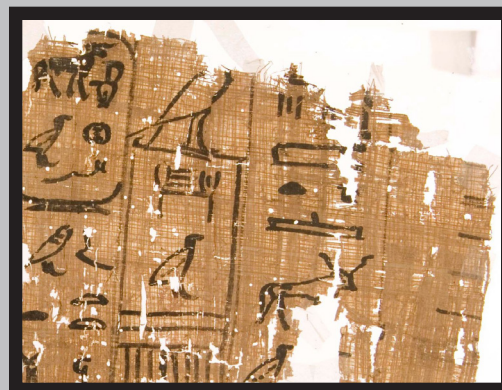
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

AT 2:00PM

(Free Tickets available at Info Desk, Bloch Building Lobby.
Identify yourself as part of the ARCE Conference)

DR. PIERRE TALLET

The Port, the Papyrus, and the Great Pyramid



The Wadi el-Jarf site, excavated since 2011 by a team of the Paris-Sorbonne University, is a harbor on the Red Sea shore that was used at the beginning of the IVth Dynasty to reach the copper and turquoise mines of the south-western part of the Sinai Peninsula. During the 2013 archaeological campaign, hundreds of fragments of papyrus from the end of Khufu's reign were collected at the entrance to one of the storage galleries that are one of the most remarkable features of the site. This is, at the moment, the oldest papyrus archive ever found in Egypt. It is related to a team of sailors, which were already well known for its work on the harbor, and mainly includes two categories of documents: accounts of commodities delivered to the workers, and logbooks recording their daily activities over several months. The most surprising is that those last documents, for what is preserved of them, do not report about the activity of this group on the Wadi el-Jarf site. They record previous missions led under the direction of the "inspector Merer" that are related to the transport of limestone blocks from the quarries of Tura to the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza, then under construction on the opposite bank of the Nile.