

Gary A. Rendsburg

Egypt Tour January 2026

and

Upcoming Programs for Fall 2025

(1)

Egypt Tour January 2026

Biblical Archaeology Society

(2)

Upcoming Programs for Fall 2025

Monday, September 1, 2025

Dear Friends,

We trust this message finds you well, as we take the opportunity to announce a very special upcoming program: the **Egypt Tour 2026**, taking place **January 3 -12, 2026**, led by Gary and sponsored by the **Biblical Archaeology Society**.

In addition, see the list of upcoming programs scheduled for the months ahead, with the first of them to take place on Saturday, September 20, and with many others to follow in the months of October and November.

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

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Egypt 2026

📅 January 3 thru 12, 2026

📍 Cairo, Giza, Luxor and more with Gary Rendsburg, Rutgers University

Overview Itinerary Expert Details Price

Register Contact



More information coming soon.

Have questions about the program? [Click here](#) for our inquiry form, send an email to Peter Megginson (Travel Study Director) at travelstudy@bib-arch.org or call 800-221-4644, ext. 424 (Toll-free).

"Egypt Tour 2026"

Biblical Archaeology Society

January 3–12, 2006

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/travel-study/egypt-2026/>

Have questions about the program? Click [here](#) for the inquiry form; send an email to Peter Megginson (Travel Study Director) at travelstudy@bib-arch.org; or call 800-221-4644, ext. 424.

Tour highlights:

Giza, Cairo, Luxor, Karnak Temple, Valley of the Kings, Grand Egyptian Museum, Ben Ezra Synagogue (where the Cairo Geniza documents were found).

Though feel free to email Gary as well (grends@rutgers.edu) with any questions regarding the Egypt tour.

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Upcoming Fall 2025 Lecture Series



(1)

“An Armchair Tour of Oxford and Cambridge”

Smithsonian Associates (half-day program) (via Zoom)

Saturday, September 20, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

via Zoom

Registration here:

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/oxford-and-cambridge>

Description:

The two greatest academic centers of England—Oxford and Cambridge—are steeped in history that reaches back to the 12th and 13th centuries. The dozens of constituent colleges at both universities have their own stories, with many famous people having studied and taught at both institutions, such as Charles Darwin at Cambridge and J.R.R. Tolkien at Oxford—not to mention royals, prime ministers, and Nobel Prize winners.

The college libraries offer glimpses of the Middle Ages; the quads, chapels, and gardens remain places of serene beauty; the River Thames and the River Cam add natural beauty; and the significant amounts of preserved historical and cultural material, including great collections of medieval manuscripts, continue to attract scholars to the two cities.

Scholar and historian **Gary Rendsburg** has resided and conducted academic research in both cities. In a richly illustrated program, he brings the verve and culture of these great university towns to life, sharing history flavored with a pleasant dose of Anglophilia. Rendsburg is the Blanche and Irving Laurie professor of Jewish history in the department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University.

10–11:30 a.m. Oxford: City of Dreaming Spires

11:45 a.m.–1 p.m. Cambridge: Ancient Colleges, Milton and Newton, Darwin and DNA



Oxford (left), Cambridge (right)

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(2)

"Great Decipherments: Hieroglyphics, Cuneiform, and the Ancient Alphabet"

92Y / Roundtable (via Zoom)

3-part series

Tuesdays, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4, 2025

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

via Zoom

October 21: "Hieroglyphic Egyptian"

October 28: "Mesopotamian Cuneiform"

November 4: "The Ancient Alphabet"

Registration here:

<https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/great-decipherments-hieroglyphics-cuneiform-the-ancient-alphabet>

Join Jewish History professor Gary A. Rendsburg as he delves into the decipherments of Hieroglyphic Egyptian via the Rosetta Stone,

Mesopotamian cuneiform, the script used for the Gilgamesh Epic and other texts, and the ancient Phoenician and related alphabets.

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(3)

"How the Bible Reached Us"

Princeton Adult School (PAS) (via Zoom)

3-part series

Tuesdays, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 4, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

via Zoom

October 21: "The Bible in Hebrew"

October 28: "The Bible in Greek"

November 4: "The Bible in Latin and in English"

Registration here:

<https://www.ssreg.com/princeton/classes/results.asp?string=rendsburg>

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(4)

"The Legacy of the Ancient World: The Texts that Tell the Stories"

Smithsonian Associates (all-day program) (via Zoom)

Saturday, October 25, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Registration here:

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/legacy-of-ancient-world-texts>

Description:

What is the source of contemporary knowledge about the ancient world? In many instances, it is the direct transmission of texts dating back two or three millennia: the works of Homer and the Bible, among others.

These and other ancient texts in Hebrew and in Greek were devotedly copied and recopied by generations of trained scribes across the centuries. Hundreds of ancient and medieval manuscripts are preserved in museums and libraries, offering a window into this painstaking work and the civilizations it documented. In other cases, knowledge of the

ancient world derives from the great archaeological discoveries of the 19th century in Egypt and in Mesopotamia, along with the attendant decryption of the hieroglyphic and cuneiform written systems.

Biblical scholar **Gary Rendsburg**, a specialist in ancient Israel and Egypt and medieval Hebrew manuscripts, explores the stories behind these sources, which retain their narrative power into the 21st century. He serves as the Blanche and Irving Laurie professor of Jewish history at Rutgers University.

10–11:15 a.m. Hands on the Bible

Examine how the Hebrew Bible was transmitted throughout the millennia, from the time of its composition on papyrus scrolls in ancient Israel through the lavish medieval codices on vellum. Rendsburg also discusses the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Torah scroll sheet dated to ca. 1000 that was acquired by the Library of Congress.

11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Homer, the New Testament, Other Greek Documents

Explore the influence of the Greeks, with special attention to the scraps of Greek papyri discovered in Egypt. Inspect the Codex Sinaiticus, the oldest complete Bible in any language, written ca. 350, preserved at St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Desert for nearly 1,500 years, and now housed in the British Library.

12:45–1:15 p.m. Break

1:15 –2:30 p.m. Ancient Egypt

Trace the story of the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphics, an accomplishment facilitated by the Rosetta Stone, a Greek–Egyptian bilingual inscription found near Alexandria in 1799. Tombs and temples, sphinxes and pyramids are also explored, demonstrating how much archaeology has revealed about the culture and religion of ancient Egypt.

2:45–4 p.m. Ancient Mesopotamia

Follow the footsteps of such intrepid Victorians as A.H. Layard, father of archaeology and excavator of Nineveh, and Henry Rawlinson, decipherer of Babylonian cuneiform. Learn how the Babylonian flood story was discovered—first read by George Smith, a banknote engraver turned cuneiform specialist—on a tablet in the British Museum in 1872.



A scene from the Egyptian *Book of the Dead*, ca. 1250 B.C.E.
(British Museum/Edna R.
Russmann)

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(5)

"The Origins of Ancient Israel"

Arizona State University (via Zoom)

3-part series

Wednesdays, Nov 5, 12, 19, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Arizona Time)

via Zoom

November 5: "In Search of Israelite Origins"

November 12: "In Search of David and Solomon"

November 19: "In Search of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah"

Registration here:

<https://jewishstudies.asu.edu/AncientIsrael>

Description:

About the series: Two centuries of archaeological exploration in the Near East has revolutionized our understanding of the world that produced ancient Israel and its abiding text, the Bible. These three

lectures – all amply illustrated via PowerPoint – proceed in chronological order, as Dr. Gary Rendsburg reveals the history of Israel from its earliest origins through the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E.

“In Search of Israelite Origins”

Wednesday, Nov. 5 | 7 - 8:30 PM AZ time | Zoom

About the lecture: Learn about the literary and archaeological evidence from both Egypt and Israel relate to ancient Israelites. Biblical accounts concerning the slavery, the exodus, the wandering and the settlement in Canaan are treated against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern evidence, with an attempt to dovetail Israel’s own narrative with the data emerging from two centuries of archaeological exploration in the Near East.

“In Search of David and Solomon”

Wednesday, Nov. 12 | 7 - 8:30 PM AZ time | Zoom

About the lecture: The two great kings of ancient Israel are well known to readers of the Bible, but are they to be found in the archaeological record? Neither name appears in any contemporary document, so how can one determine whether or not the descriptions of their reigns in the Bible have any historical value? This lecture will survey the archaeological evidence from Jerusalem and elsewhere to answer these questions.

“In Search of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah”

Wednesday, Nov. 19 | 7 - 8:30 PM AZ time | Zoom

About the lecture: The death of Solomon resulted in the establishment of two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Both entities

are mentioned in contemporary documents from Aram, Moab, Assyria and Babylonia. In two texts the kingdom of Judah is called not “Judah,” but rather “the House of David”! Our tour of these artifacts will bring us to the world’s great museum collections: the Louvre, the British Museum, and the Israel Museum.

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(6)

Smithsonian in NYC program

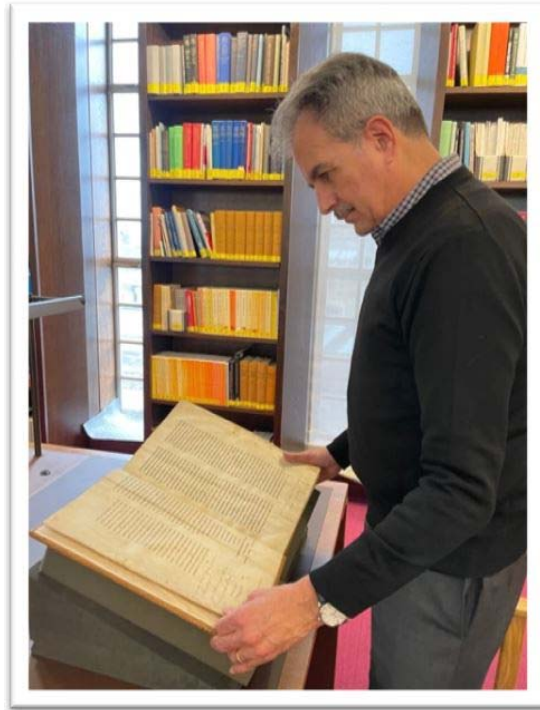
"Unearthing Egypt at The Met and the Brooklyn Museum"

Two-day tour in NYC, exploring ancient Egypt at the two great museums, the Brooklyn Museum and the Metropolitan Museum

Sunday-Monday, Nov 16–17, 2025

(with an overnight at a NYC hotel)

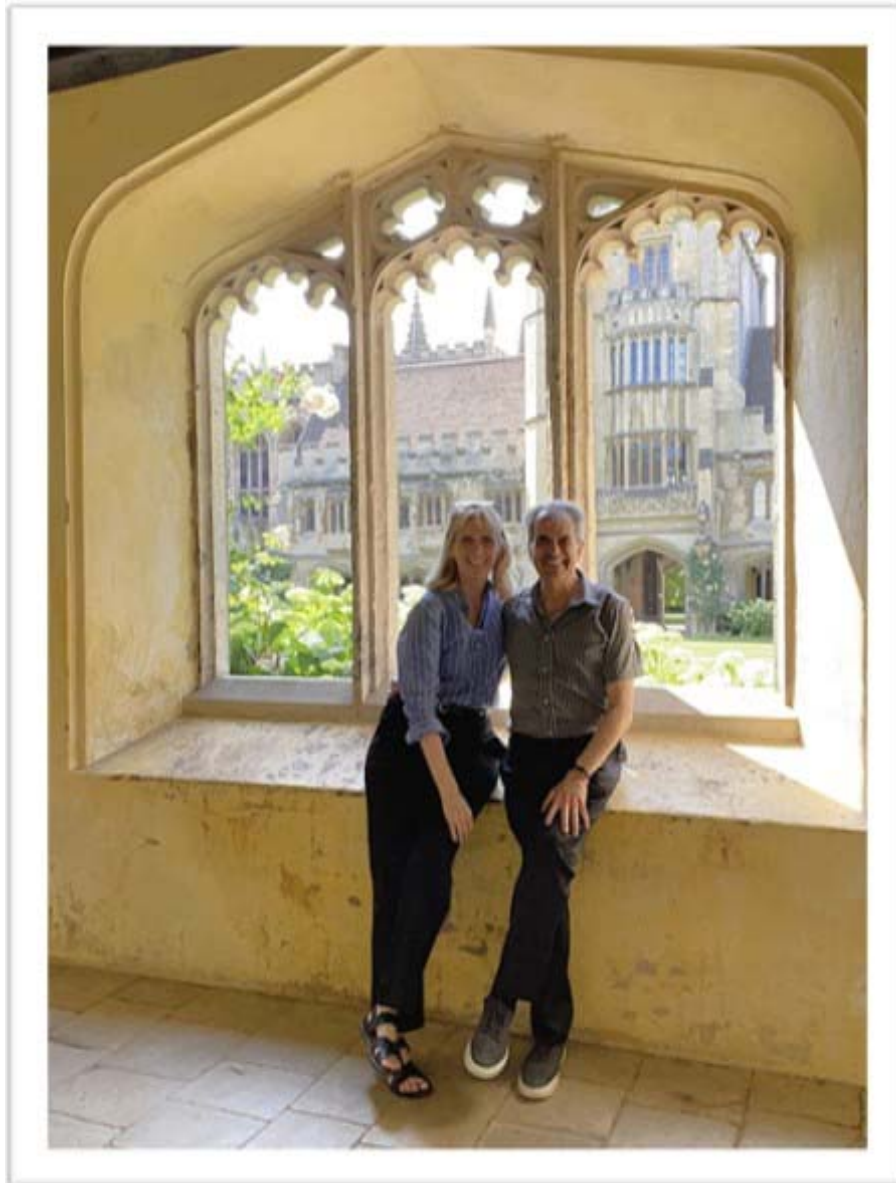
<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/unearthing-egypt>



GARY'S CORNER



Once again, we enjoyed a summer of exploration in Europe, with four weeks in Oxford and then two weeks in Sweden (Uppsala and Stockholm).



Melissa and Gary at Magdalen College Cloisters, Oxford

One of the highlights was our visit to the Swedish Royal Library to inspect Codex Gigas, the largest codex ever produced, weighing c. 75 kg (c. 165 lbs.) – not a typo, that's right, the volume weighs more than I do!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_Gigas

This massive volume contains the entire Vulgate (the Bible in Latin), with several additional compositions, including, somewhat surprisingly, the two major works of Josephus, *The Jewish War* and *The Antiquities of the Jews* (in their Latin translations).



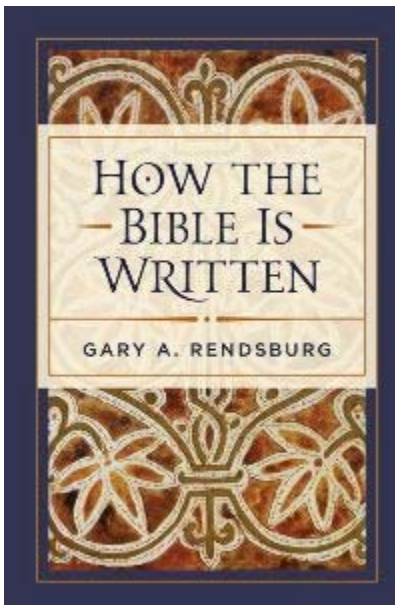
Gary with Codex Gigas at the Royal Swedish Library

[image © Melissa A. Rendsburg]

In the meantime, I now am busy preparing for the new academic year, which begins this coming week. The travels, the research, and the exploration are always wonderful, but above all I am energized by the engagement with my superb and enthusiastic Rutgers University students. I look forward to reuniting with them and to meeting new students.

[Click here to contact Gary A. Rendsburg](#)

[Click here to contact Melissa A. Rendsburg, Managing Director](#)



How the Bible Is Written

April 2019

Hendrickson

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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Department of Jewish Studies – Rutgers University

<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsborg>

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