

# The Aswan Obelisk Quarry, Aswan, Egypt

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A program of the Nittany Mineralogical Society

8:00 p.m. Wednesday

**October 21, 2009**

**Room 114 Earth & Engineering  
Sciences Building**

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.:	Social hour, refreshments in the lobby
7:30 to 8:00 p.m.:	announcements, questions, answers; Annual Meeting of the Corporation; door prize drawings
about 8:00 p.m.:	featured program

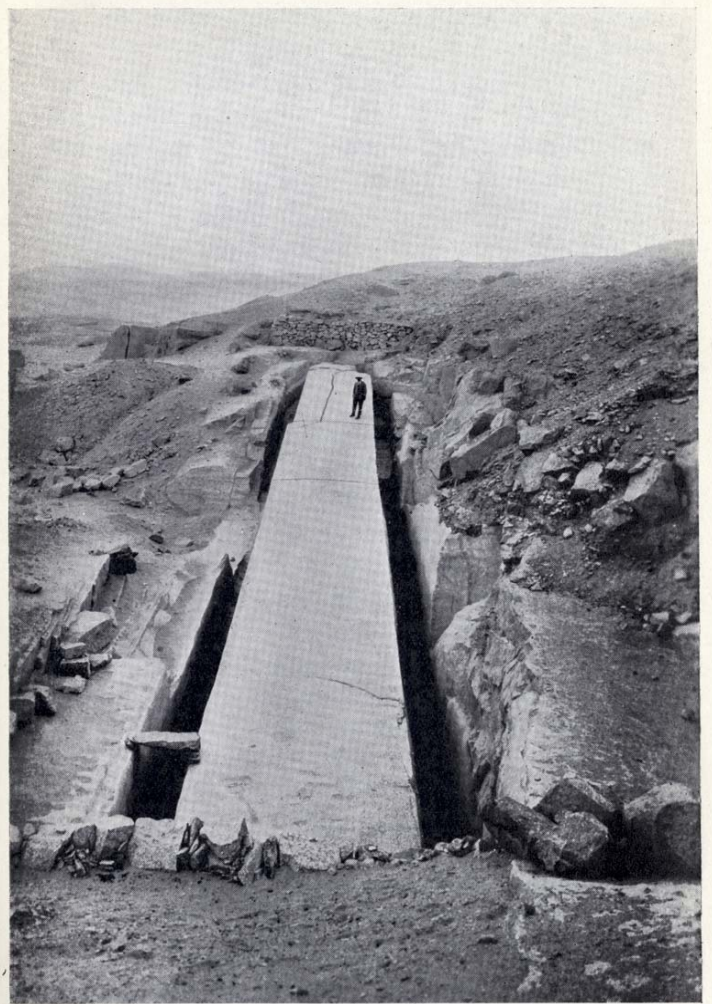


FIG. 4.—ASWAN OBELISK FROM THE WEST.  
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This presentation summarizes earlier investigations of the Aswan Obelisk Quarry in Aswan, Egypt as well as recent investigations conducted by a multidisciplinary team from Penn State (Alexander, Gold, Parizek, and Walters). This quarry was the only site in Egypt where the large obelisks found throughout Egypt were carved from a massive granite body and transported to various sites. The Unfinished Obelisk is a nearly-completed obelisk (41.8 meters long weighing approximately 1168 tons) still in place at the quarry. Excavations have provided important evidence dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC of how ancient Egyptians worked and extracted such hard monolithic stone from the site, including obelisks and colossal statues. Among the discoveries were dolerite “hammer” stones from dolerite dykes that were used to chisel out the large obelisks and statues. Ancient graffiti and inscriptions were found that are now exposed on granite work surfaces in the quarry; these are now threatened by moisture-induced weathering of the granite.

The findings of Penn State’s geologic, hydrogeologic and geophysical investigation of the site are also presented, including the confirmation of the location of the extension of a canal towards the Nile that is thought to be the mechanism for transporting the very large, monolithic obelisks to the Nile for river transport, a distance of over 1 kilometer.

***The event has free admission, free parking, free door prize drawings and free refreshments, and is open to all. Please join us!***

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