

THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION
FOR
EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER
No.3

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Forthcoming Events

| | | |
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| Friday 7 August | 8.15 p.m. | Mansfield Room Cranbrook School Bellevue Hill |
| <p><i>Life in Ancient Egypt</i></p> <p>A 'son et lumière' documentary introduced by Dr Naguib Kanawati</p> | | |
| Saturday 8 August | 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. | Macquarie University W6A.337 |
| <p><i>The History Teaching Collection</i></p> <p>including Egyptian holdings, will be open to public inspection as part of the University's Information Day</p> | | |
| August/ September | Orange/Canowindra | ring Mrs T.Ashton (063) 441132 |
| | Young/Cootamundra Wallendbeen | ring Mrs A.Jacobs (069) 432551 |
| Late September | Mittagong/Bowral Frensham School | ring Mrs A.Jacobs (069) 432551 |
| <p><i>The Rock Tombs of El Hawawish</i></p> <p>An informal report on the Macquarie excavations in Egypt by Mrs Veronica Talbot-Windeyer</p> | | |
| Monday 28 September | 8.10 p.m. | Macquarie Theatre |
| <p><i>The Macquarie Akhmim Expedition :</i> <i>An Analysis of the Finds</i></p> <p>by Dr Naguib Kanawati</p> | | |

REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS

29 June Dr R.J. Mortley lectured on '*Alexandria : the Coming of the Greeks to Egypt*'.

The lecture focussed on the city of Alexandria and its writers as embodying the ideal of 'Hellenism'. In contrast with Socrates, Plato or Aristotle, Greek observers after Alexander (for example, Plutarch) envisaged Greek culture as something open to all, so that the term 'Hellenize', was devised, meaning 'to act like a Greek'. Alexandria became the city *par excellence* of Hellenism and there not only Egyptians, but Jews (Philo) and Christians (Clement) also came to think in the Greek manner. Aristotle, as a believer in books and, unlike Plato, in the importance of dogma, inspired the Ptolemies to build up the greatest library the world had seen, perhaps a million books. But it was the speculative tradition of Plato that lies behind the thriving heterodoxy of the city in Christian times.

Alexandria was the intellectual capital of the Hellenistic and Roman worlds and the second city of the Roman Empire, until the development of Constantinople. It was the largest Jewish city in the ancient world.

Dr Mortley discussed Greek intellectual connections with Egypt prior to Alexander the Great, and the question of his intention in founding Alexandria. Greeks did not regard Egyptians as inferior, and Alexander presented himself as their liberator from the Persians. But beneath the brilliance of Ptolemaic Alexandria as depicted in P.M. Fraser's recent work there was an indigenous reaction against the Greeks. This can be seen in the 'Potter's Oracle' directly preserved in papyrus copies. In the manner of Ezekiel's prophecy (6.14) against Tyre, it predicts that 'the city by the sea shall be a place where fishermen dry their nets'. The works of Lawrence Durrell and Cavafy, however, show how awareness of the hellenising function of the city has persisted from Ptolemaic to modern times.

8 July Miss Lisa Giddy spoke on her work at the oasis of Dakhla (which is 800 km. south-west of Cairo) and showed slides of it. This seminar in the School of History had been arranged on the initiative of the Foundation, and members present on 29 June were invited to attend. It is expected that Miss Giddy will lecture for the Foundation on a subsequent visit to Sydney.

Miss Giddy is a graduate of the University of Sydney, who now works as *chef des chantiers* (site director) with the French Institute of Archaeology and Oriental Studies. Her task is to excavate a series of occupations dated to the Old Kingdom at the site Ayn Asīl near modern Balat. The site covers an area of some 20 hectares and was first revealed in the 1940's by a violent sandstorm; excavation by the French started in 1978.

The extent of ancient settlement in the great depression had not been known earlier, and the city promises stratigraphic sequences on a scale not available at Nile valley sites for this period. Of particular interest is the discovery of a number of clay tablets incised in cursive hieroglyphic/hieratic script, otherwise unknown from the Pharaonic civilisation.

Mr Colin Hope, from Melbourne, a member of the Canadian team surveying the Dakhla oasis as a whole, was present at the seminar and reported on the large quantities of animal bones found dating from neolithic settlements as well as from the 15 Old Kingdom sites at Dakhla. Apart from the expected domestic animals these included fish, rhinoceros and a plesiosaurus (the first attested case in North Africa).

Members of the Rundle Foundation are invited to attend the following functions held under the auspices of the Macquarie Ancient History Association:-

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| Monday, 20 July, 8.10 p.m. | P.G. Price Theatre |
| An open forum led by Professor M.K. HOPKINS (Brunel) | |
| <i>Space and Time in the Roman Empire</i> | |
| Guest contributors : Professor R.W. CONNELL and Assoc. Professor J.J. NICHOLLS | |
| Wednesday, 29 July, 8.10 p.m. | P.G. Price Theatre |
| A public lecture by Professor J.A. CROOK (Cambridge) | |
| <i>Caesar, Antony, Young Octavius - and the Ides of September</i> | |
| Monday, 3 August, 8.10 p.m. | P.G. Price Theatre |
| A public lecture by Dr Michael WINTERBOTTOM (Oxford) | |
| <i>Sallust and Civil Discord : A View of the <u>Catiline</u></i> | |
| Wednesday, 16 September, 8.10 p.m. | W5C.220 |
| A report to members by students and staff returning from | |
| <i>The 1981 Tel Gerisa Excavation</i> | |
| This is the first season at this site, which replaces Tel Michal as the excavation where Macquarie students are trained in Archaeological Field Work by the Tel Aviv Uni- versity Institute of Archaeology, as part of its Coastal Plain Project | |

The Rock Tombs of El Hawawish, Volume II (1981)

The 1980/81 season of the Macquarie Akhmim expedition, led by Dr N. Kanawati, is fully reported in this volume, currently being prepared for the Press. The Foundation expects to share in the publication of it, and it is hoped that copies will be available by the time of Dr Kanawati's lecture on 28 September.

First Study-Tour of Egypt (1982)

The first tour of Egypt arranged for members of the Foundation will be held from 18 January to 11 February, 1982. Enquiries to Key Travel (Miss Jackie Pearson, 358.2311).

The 1981/82 Season at Akhmim

Four Macquarie students will join Dr Kanawati for the third season at the mountain of El Hawawish in December 1981 and January 1982. The Seni Committee of the Rundle Foundation has raised funds and a substantial contribution will be made towards the travel costs of one of the students.

New Egyptian Concession to Macquarie

The Egyptian government has notified Dr Kanawati that it will transfer to Macquarie University the concession to excavate El Salamuni, the mountain adjacent to El Hawawish. Surveys have already been carried out on El Salamuni by the German Archaeological Institute, and Dr Kanawati expects that there will be an extensive work to be tackled there by Macquarie in coming years, perhaps in collaboration with a German university.

Egyptian Exploration Society

Following the recent visit of Dr & Mrs Philip Rundle to London, the Foundation has taken out membership in the Egypt Exploration Society. This body, which this year celebrates its centenary, has promoted many important excavations, including those of Sir W.M. Flinders Petrie and of Grenfell and Hunt, and is currently supporting those of Smith at Saqqara and Martin at El Amarna. Members visiting London are invited to call at the Society's rooms, 3 Doughty Mews, London WC1 N2PG.

Purchase of Egyptian artefacts

The Foundation can offer members access to authenticated Egyptian artefacts which are offered for sale abroad. Members who would like to receive illustrated catalogues from time to time are invited to put their names on the list kept by Mrs Gwen Noble (88.9385).

Social Committee

Any ladies who would like to work on the social committee of the Foundation are invited to make contact with Mrs Tony Muston (36.2523), chairman of the Central Committee.