

THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION  
FOR  
EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER  
No.4



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Forthcoming Events

Monday 29 March	7.00 p.m.	Macquarie University Union Function Rooms 3 & 4
<p><i>An Egyptian Dinner on the Anniversary of the Foundation</i></p> <p>Informal reports (illustrated) on the 1981/82 season at El Hawawish, and on the Foundation's first study-tour. \$12.00 per head. Reservations required by 22 March on accompanying form</p>		
Thursday 15 April	8.10 p.m.	Macquarie University W5A.T2
<p><i>The Archaeology of an Egyptian Oasis</i> An illustrated public lecture by Dr COLIN A. HOPE</p>		
Wednesday 12 May	8.10 p.m.	Macquarie Theatre
<p><i>Family Life in Ancient Egypt</i> An illustrated public lecture by Mr T.G.H. JAMES, F.B.A. Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum \$2.00 admission to non-members</p>		
Thursday 13 May	8.00 p.m.	The Australian Museum
<p><i>The Tomb Robbers of Ancient Egypt</i> by Mr T.G.H. JAMES, F.B.A. Members \$2, others \$4 with illustrations</p>		
Friday 14 May	8.00 p.m.	Mansfield Room Cranbrook School
<p><i>Wine, Women &amp; Song in Ancient Egypt</i> by Mr T.G.H. JAMES, F.B.A. Members only with illustrations</p>		

NOTES ON LECTURERS

15 April. Dr Colin Hope is a graduate in Egyptology from both Liverpool and London Universities. From 1976 to 1981 he was G.A. Wainwright Research Fellow at Oxford, and is now Research Associate in the Department of Museum Studies, Victoria College, Prahran, where he is engaged in cataloguing and identifying the collection of Egyptian antiquities in the National Gallery of Victoria. He has excavated in Jordan and Syria, and in Egypt at Luxor. His current field work is as co-investigator responsible for ceramics and kiln-sites with the (Canadian) Dakhleh Oasis project. The Foundation is bringing him to Sydney especially for this occasion, when he will also advise on the Egyptian ceramics in the History Teaching Collection at Macquarie.

12 May. Mr T.G.H. James, one of the world's leading Egyptologists, is Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum. He has been editor of the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, and his own works include *Hieroglyphic Texts in the British Museum* (1961,1970); *Egyptian Sculptures* (1966); *Myths and Legends of Ancient Egypt* (1969); and *Archaeology of Ancient Egypt* (1972). He has been brought to Sydney by the Foundation to contribute to the Congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science at Macquarie through the three-day seminar on 'The Family in the Ancient Near East', to be held under the auspices of the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre. The Rundle Foundation lecture marks the culmination of the seminar. Mr James will meet members of the Foundation on the other occasions listed, and will visit Melbourne on his way back to London.

MACQUARIE ANCIENT HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Thursday 18 March, 8.10 p.m. Price Theatre	JAMES BARR (Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford) <i>Did Iranian Religion really Influence Judaism and Early Christianity?</i>
Tuesday 6 April, 8.10 p.m. WSA.T2	VIRGINIA HUNTER (Professor of History, York University, Toronto) <i>Greek History Writing : A View from the Twentieth Century.</i>
Wednesday 14 April, 8.10 p.m. WSA.T2	P.G. WALSH (Professor of Humanity, University of Glasgow) <i>Livy and Moral Decline</i>
Monday 3 May, 8.10 p.m. WSA.T2	P.R. BEDFORD & G.J. COWLING (Macquarie University) <i>The Past in Mesopotamia and Israel</i>
Monday 31 May, 8.10 p.m. WSA.T2	N. KANAWATI & OTHERS (Macquarie University) <i>The Past in Ancient Egypt</i>

REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS

In the latter part of 1981 successful public meetings of the Foundation were held at Cranbrook School, Bellevue Hill, at Frensham School, Mittagong, and at Orange. Shortly before leaving for the third season at El Hawawish (see report below) Dr Naguib Kanawati lectured for the Foundation on the significance of the first two seasons' finds. The published report of the second season (1980/81) was available on that occasion (28 September).

#### EGYPTIAN FORTNIGHT AT MACQUARIE CENTRE

Commencing on Tuesday, 1 June, the new Macquarie Shopping Centre will hold an 'Egyptian Fortnight', as a contribution to the funds of the Foundation.

It is expected that a replica of one of the rock tombs of El Hawawish will be the centrepiece, complete with copies of the paintings.

Further details in the next Newsletter.

#### THE THIRD SEASON AT EL HAWAWISH

A team from Macquarie University has just completed the third season (1 December 1981 to 31 January 1982) at El Hawawish, during which time five decorated tombs were excavated, including that of Tjeti/Ka-hep who was certainly related to the similarly named governor published in Vol.I of *The Rock Tombs of El Hawawish*. Visits were made to temples at Abydos and Dendera and rock tombs at Naga ed-Dêr and Hagarsa, and trips to Luxor, Cairo and Alexandria enabled the team to visit the museums and sites there. These were study exercises forming part of the course requirements for the Macquarie students enrolled in HIST324 Archaeological Field Work.

The season concluded with a most enjoyable two days' visit by the Rundle Foundation Study Tour Group who were taken to see the new temple site at Akhmim and then entertained at dinner with the team. On their second day the group visited El Hawawish and after climbing the mountain on donkeys, they were given a guided tour of the site followed by lunch in one of the tombs -- that evening the site was officially sealed by the district inspector and will not be re-opened until the arrival of the next expedition from Macquarie.

J. Beck

#### THE FIRST STUDY TOUR OF EGYPT

The fifteen members of the first Rundle Foundation Study Tour of Egypt came mostly from Sydney, with one each from Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide.

We flew first to Bangkok; then, after a night in the famed Oriental Hotel, visits to shops for jewellery and silks, and a trip on the Chao Phraya River, we flew on to Cairo.

In the new Ramses Hilton hotel we had rooms with a view of the Nile River and of the heavy traffic on the roads and viaducts crossing each other nearby. The morning after our arrival we made our way through this traffic to visit the museum for the first time, and found it apparently being repaired. Our somewhat depressed spirits were raised by the friendliness of one of the guardians of the place, who left his post to point out to us (with pride),

the names and nature of the exhibits, his smile much bigger than his command of English.

After an introductory talk by Dr Kanawati in the afternoon, we braved the cold wind to see a 'son et lumière' performance at Giza, with a recitation of episodes from ancient Egyptian history.

The following day was devoted to a visit to the sites of Memphis, Sakkara and Giza, travelling in a beautiful air-conditioned bus and accompanied by a lovely guide, Nadia, who was never at a loss for any detail of ancient Egyptian history and art.

When we were ploughing through the sand to see the structures around Djoser's Step Pyramid, we were privileged to meet the French archaeologist who is making the restoration of this funerary complex his life's work. Unfortunately when we reached Giza in the afternoon, we found the place overcrowded and the light unfavourable for photographing the three great pyramids.

The day we flew south to Abu Simbel, we left at 3.30 a.m. in order to see the sun rise at Ramses II's famous temple. The work of reconstructing this enormous building on a new site above the waters of the High Dam was an extraordinary feat of modern times, but the mind boggles at the work required of the men who first built it.

At Aswan we boarded a Sheraton cruise ship for a few days' travel down the Nile, living in comfort and disembarking periodically to visit ancient temples. Our stay at Luxor, where we left the cruise ship, was memorable for the visits we made to the temples there and at Karnak, and to the New Kingdom tombs of pharaohs and nobles across the river in the western valley.

The highlight of our tour was our visit to Sohag, on our way to the mountain at El Hawawish where Dr Kanawati and the Macquarie team have been investigating the tombs of 6th-Dynasty nobles. We had to spend a night in a third-class hotel in Sohag, an experience not unlike a stay in a Railway Hotel in any western country town in N.S.W. fifty or so years ago.

A special treat at Sohag was viewing the monastery of Pachomius and a newly excavated temple site at Akhmim where was found something quite exceptional, a beautiful alabaster statue of Nefertari, Great Wife of Ramses II. The dirt had been cleared away to reveal a figure slightly more than life size, lying face down, the lovely features of the queen still showing the delicate colouring originally applied by the artist.

More could be said of shopping in bazaars and boutiques, the beautiful museum in Luxor, a fleeting visit to Alexandria and a longer one to Hong Kong on the way home; but especially the friendships made between members of the tour.

J.B. Williams

#### EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES FOR SALE

Photographs of a selection of high-quality pieces offered by Galerie Nefer, of Zurich, may be seen with Mrs Dawne Milne (88.9385).

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please return the enclosed form by 30 April, when 1982 membership cards will be issued.