



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No.8

FEBRUARY 1983



Members of the 1982/83 Macquarie Team at work in Tomb M43
at El-Hawawish

EL-HAWAWISH 1982/83

1982/83 has been a most successful season with the dig concentrating on a new section of the mountain which proved to be the burial place of nobles and officials of the late Vth Dynasty (Djedkare) 2350-2345 B.C. Five tombs and fifty-six shafts were cleared and fully recorded. All provided interesting features which add to our knowledge of the development of Egyptian tomb art and architecture and everyday life.

Each of the five tombs has a large number of shafts leading to burial chambers reserved for different members of the tomb owner's family and, despite the fact that these chambers were robbed in antiquity, the Macquarie team was rewarded by a great number of important scenes both in painting and relief, pottery, statues etc. some of which will eventually become part of the University Teaching Collection.

MACQUARIE TO EXCAVATE AT SAQQARA

Saqaara, which is situated on the West bank of the Nile, was the cemetery of the capital, Memphis, during the Old Kingdom.

Excavations in this exclusive area have been traditionally reserved for certain European and American Universities, but the Egyptian Department of Antiquities has invited Macquarie University to excavate in the area due to the success of the work at El-Hawawish.

The site to be excavated lies a few metres from the pyramid of King Teti, founder of the VIth Dynasty.

Soundings have now been made at the site and proved to be very promising. It is hoped that Macquarie will take an active part in excavations in this area in the future. At present funds are required to proceed with this project and donations would be greatly appreciated.

AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN OTHER PROJECTS

The Department of Antiquities at Sohag is currently recording a tomb at Naga el-Mashayekh and the Australian Team from Macquarie was called upon to assist in the project. They spent some days tracing the many scenes and inscriptions found in the tomb.

THE MUMMY'S CURSE?

January 1st, 1983 at Sohag dawned with a dull, threatening sky and by the time the team had struggled up the mountain the wind was blowing with gale force, the lush river plain was blotted from our view by swirling sand and the temperature had dropped 11°.

Excitement ran high as the men worked to clear the shaft to an unopened tomb. Suddenly the wind rose in shrieking fury and a large section of the mountain began to move towards them with increasing speed. Three times the shaft was cleared and three times it was filled by landslides but at the fourth attempt the shaft was cleared and the sealed entrance to the burial chamber was seen. Aching muscles were forgotten as the large rocks were removed revealing a wooden coffin in near perfect condition.

The coffin was not inscribed and the mummy it contained gave no clue as to the name of the owner.

We don't believe in curses.....How about you?

HIEROGLYPHS COURSE

The Hieroglyphs Course of 8 lectures to be conducted by Dr Kanawati will be held each Tuesday evening commencing TUESDAY, 8 MARCH in W5C.220 from 7 to 8.30 p.m. The fee of \$50 includes all the necessary texts. As there is a limit of 40 persons for this course, anyone who is interested is asked to contact:-

Miss Joan Beck (88.9385)

as soon as possible.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION

The Annual Dinner will be held at 'KAMERAIGAL' Restaurant, Morgans Rd., BELROSE on MONDAY, 23 MAY at 7 p.m.

TICKETS \$20.00. The Restaurant has been highly recommended and we hope that members and their friends will take the opportunity of spending an enjoyable evening together. All enquiries : Miss Joan Beck (88.9385).

WEEK-END COURSE "INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT EGYPT"

SATURDAY 16th & SUNDAY 17th APRIL, 1983.

As we were unable to accommodate late applicants for the first week-end Course in 1982, the Course will be repeated on

SATURDAY 16th and SUNDAY 17th, APRIL, 1983

The cost is \$25, and as the numbers will again be limited, interested members of the Foundation and their friends are invited to apply for a place by contacting Miss Joan Beck (88.9385) as soon as possible.

The Course will include: Introduction to hieroglyphics
An outline of Egyptian History
Various aspects of the Egyptian culture such as art, literature etc.

VISITING LECTURER IN 1983

Macquarie students taking part in excavations in Egypt each year have been given the opportunity of visiting two of the oldest Coptic Monasteries in Egypt, the White and the Red Monasteries of Sohag. These visits aroused interest in Coptic Archaeology and it is hoped that Miss Leslie MacCoull, the Director of Studies for the Society for Coptic Archaeology in Cairo, will be able to accept the Foundation's invitation to become the Guest Lecturer for 1983.

MEMBERSHIP 1983

Subscriptions for 1983 are now due.

Life membership	\$250
Ordinary membership	\$15 per annum
Joint membership (husband/wife) ...	\$18 per annum
Country membership	(\$10 or \$12 per annum)
School membership	\$20 per annum
Student membership	\$5 per annum

Please make cheques payable to 'Macquarie University' and post to the Bursar, Macquarie University, North Ryde, N.S.W. 2113.

We appreciate your support, without which it would be impossible to continue the activities of the Foundation.