



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 9

MAY 1983



Macquarie University Concession at Saqqara

As reported in the last Newsletter, Macquarie University obtained a Concession to excavate a large area at Saqqara to the NW of the pyramid of King Teti founder of Dynasty VI (c. 2345 B.C.).

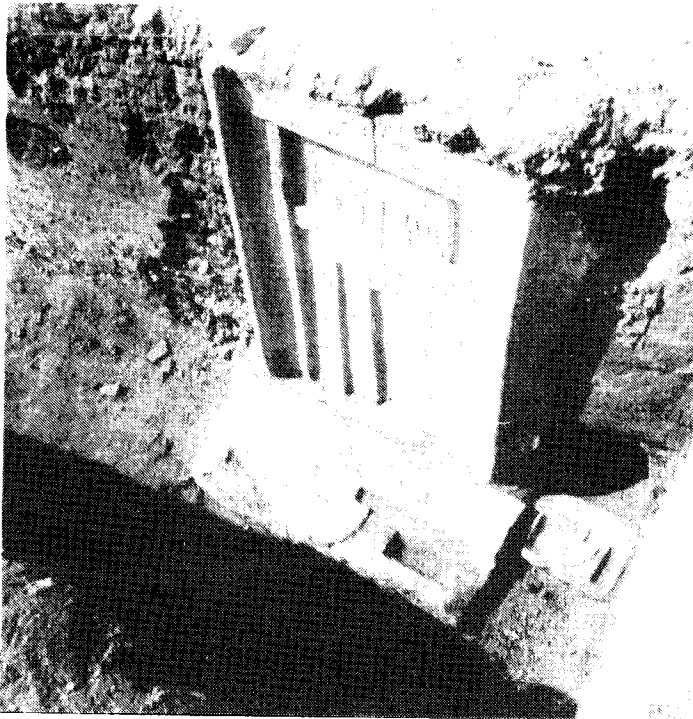
The topography of the area usually decided the type of tombs built in Ancient Egypt. The presence of ridges of mountains on both sides of the Nile valley made it possible for the ancient Egyptians to excavate their tombs into the rock in the provinces of Upper Egypt, as in the case of El-Hawawish.

The situation is completely different at Saqqara where the lack of mountains resulted in the tombs being constructed with stone or mud-brick. These are called 'mastabas'.

The picture on page 1 shows the nature of the area, with sand dunes completely covering the existing mastabas. The photograph also shows the preliminary excavations being carried out by the Macquarie team.

In a short period during late January and early February the team succeeded in discovering one of the best preserved, mud-brick mastabas so far found in Egypt. It is astonishing that the walls of the building still stand to their full height in some areas - approximately 5 metres.

Work will, hopefully, continue in mid-August to the end of September and again early in 1984 following a season at El-Hawawish.



In the course of the excavation this false door stela was uncovered in a small room of the mastaba. It is inscribed with the name and titles of the tomb owner as an indication to his soul of the place of his burial shaft. We therefore expect to find a deep shaft leading to the burial chamber immediately in front of or behind this door.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION

Members are reminded that tickets are now available for the Second Annual Dinner of the Rundle Foundation. The Dinner is to be held

at - "KAMERAIGAL RESTAURANT"
175 Morgans Road,
BELROSE

on MONDAY, 23rd May, at 7.00 p.m. Tickets - \$20 each

The speaker will be Dr. Rodriguez who combines his expertise in medicine with a special interest in gourmet food and Ancient Civilizations. He will speak on "FOOD IN ANCIENT EGYPT".

Enquiries -

Miss Joan Beck,
School of History,
Macquarie University,
NORTH RYDE, 2113 ('phone 88.9762)

Please make cheques payable to Macquarie University.

REPORT ON THE HIEROGLYPHS & WEEK-END COURSES

It is with great pleasure that we report on the success of the Hieroglyphs and the week-end "Introduction to Ancient Egypt" Courses. Both Courses were well attended and participants indicated that they would like follow-up Courses. Every effort will be made to organize such Courses in 1984.

VISITING LECTURERS

Visiting lecturers in 1983:

1. Dr. B. Ockinga of the University of Tübingen, West Germany, has accepted our invitation to give a lecture to the Foundation. A tentative date MONDAY 15TH AUGUST has been suggested and is to be confirmed. The topic of the lecture -

"THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND OLD TESTAMENTAL
IDEAS ON MAN BEING THE IMAGE OF THE GODS/GOD"

2. Negotiations are still under way with Dr. Leslie MacCoull, the Director of Studies for Coptic Archaeology in Cairo. We hope to announce the date of her visit in the near future.

11th

MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR DIG

An opportunity is now available to MEMBERS OF THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION ONLY, to spend ONE WEEK (between 1st December, 1983, and mid January, 1984) at the excavations of El-Hawawish and to experience the life of the expedition as well as to be instructed in the various aspects of the work. Accommodation, food and daily transport to the site and other sites in Akhmim, will be provided for a total cost of \$500 per person. Participants must meet all other expenses and arrange their own flight to Egypt and transport to Sohag, although we are happy to advise on these matters. The number will be very limited and as Egyptian permits are required, an immediate response from members is necessary. Applications must reach Dr. Kanawati before the end of May.

MACQUARIE ANCIENT HISTORY ASSOCIATION LECTURES

Members of the Rundle Foundation are invited to attend lectures conducted by the Macquarie Ancient History Association:

Wednesday 25 May 8.00 p.m. in W5C320 - "Portraits of Women from Oldest Egypt" - Gae Callender

Wednesday 1 June 8.00 p.m. in W5C320 - "Belief and Practice: Athenian Festivals" - Graham Joyner

Lectures are free to members of M.A.H.A. and the RUNDLE FOUNDATION non-members \$2.00.

RUNDLE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP 1983

We thank all those who have renewed their membership for 1983. A form is enclosed for those who have not yet renewed. We remind members that their support is needed and greatly appreciated. Please make cheques payable to Macquarie University and forward them with your name and address to:

Miss Joan Beck,
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('phone 88.9762)