



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 11

NOVEMBER 1983



Present State of the work at Saqqara

PROGRESS OF THE WORK AT SAQQARA

An investigation at our concession at Saqqara was conducted in August-September 1983. This was in preparation for the actual excavation planned for the second half of January and all February 1984 in which a team from Macquarie University will participate. It now appears that our concession contains tombs of high officials who lived under the Teti and Pepi I of the VIth Dynasty and that the site was abandoned after the Old Kingdom and was covered by drifting sand and debris to a height of more than 5m. above the original tombs. The cemetery was then re-used in the New Kingdom - apparently in the XVIIIth Dynasty - by minor officials who were buried in small intrusive tombs. These poor burials, understandably, did not attract tomb robbers and, accordingly, preserved all their artefacts. A number of small, gold objects, alabaster, stone and pottery vases were recovered from these tombs.



One of the intrusive burials of XVIIIth Dynasty

A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON SAQQARA

Macquarie University is about to sign a contract with 'LOOK' Film Company to produce a complete documentary on our dig at Saqqara. A film crew will meet the Expedition in Cairo in January and spend the full season recording the day by day progress of the work, the methods used and the life of the team on the site. The documentary is to be shown on T.V. in Australia and overseas.

THE MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY SITE AT AKHMIM

We have received many enquiries from both Australia and overseas as to whether or not our involvement in Saqqara will mean the abandonment of the site at Akhmim. It was, and still is our firm intention to fully excavate and publish the important cemetery of Akhmim. An excavation there is planned from 1 December to mid-January, when we move to Saqqara.

The team is composed of: Dr Naguib Kanawati, Mrs Ann McFarlane, Miss Joan Beck, Mr Paul Collyer, Miss Deborah Galloway, Mr Mark Rawson, Miss Kim Wilson from Macquarie University and two other members will join the group from the University of Alexandria.

VISITING FELLOW, DR LESLIE MacCOULL

Dr Leslie MacCough, Director of the Society of Coptic Archaeology in Cairo, visited Macquarie University during October where she worked on the numerous Coptic papyri in the Teaching Collection. She also gave one Staff and Students Seminar and on Friday 14, she attended a full-day Seminar organised by the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre on 'Culture and Christianity in late Antique Egypt'. On the same evening she gave a Public Lecture on 'Egypt in Late Antiquity'. On Sunday 16, Mrs Rundle organised a luncheon at her home at which members of the Foundation were invited to meet Dr MacCough.

THE ROCK TOMBS OF EL-HAWAWISH VOL.IV

This excavation report is now available from Miss Joan Beck, School of History, Macquarie University. Despite the rising costs of printing and a larger size volume, the Foundation has maintained the last year's price for their Australian readers. The cost is \$18.00 (members \$15.00) plus \$2.00 postage.

HIEROGLYPHS COURSE

An Introductory Course of 8 lectures on Egyptian Hieroglyphs will be conducted by Dr Kanawati each WEDNESDAY commencing 14 March, 1984, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The fee is \$50.00 which includes the necessary texts and the numbers will be limited. The closing date for applications is MONDAY 27 February, 1984.

Please forward all enquiries to:

Miss Joan Beck,
School of History,
Macquarie University,
NORTH RYDE 2113 'Phone 88.9355

'AN INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT EGYPT'

A week-end course, arranged along similar lines to courses run by the Foundation in 1982 and 1983, is being planned for Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 APRIL, 1984, from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fee will be \$25.00. The course will include:

An introduction to hieroglyphs;
 An outline of Egyptian History;
 Various aspects of the Egyptian
 culture such as art, literature, etc.

Further enquiries:

Miss Joan Beck
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Follow-up Courses are planned for later in the year.

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1983 has been a very successful year for the Foundation and for Australian involvement in Egyptology. In this last Newsletter of 1983, the Foundation would like to thank its members for their support. Many have also donated generously to help our work, especially at Saqqara. Others have opened their homes for fund raising activities for the Foundation. It is a great pleasure to express our deep gratitude for their support.