



# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 12

March 1984



Professor Kanawati and members of the Rundle Foundation  
with students at El-Hawawish

## THE SECOND RUNDLE TOUR OF EGYPT

On New Year's Eve, 1983, our brave little group left Sydney arriving in Singapore and 1984 simultaneously and reaching Cairo 31½ hours after leaving home.

We settled into our hotel and soon found that it takes the heart of a lion and the agility of a gazelle to survive the crossing to the Cairo Museum!

Next day we travelled up the delta road to Alexandria and stayed the night at the luxurious Palestine Hotel in the grounds of ex-King Farouk's Summer Palace. We visited the various sites around the city before returning to Cairo along a road which passed through the marshes which are so vividly depicted on the walls of the ancient tombs. Once more back in the capital we visited the new Coptic Museum which is situated in a

magnificent palace in the Old City, and spent a day touring the ancient sites of Memphis, Giza and Saqqara. It was at Saqqara that we had our first glimpse of the Macquarie site and this was exciting although there was no activity going on at the time.

On our way to Sohag we stopped at the Temple of Hathor at Dendera and the Temple of Seti I at Abydos. Having done some study on hieroglyphs at Macquarie we felt confident that the inscriptions would reveal their messages to us...suffice to say, these messages are still a mystery!

In the early evening we arrived at Sohag and were greeted by Professor Kanawati and his team. We were accommodated in two flats about half a kilometre apart and settled down to a week full of surprises. We saw the Old Kingdom tombs of officials on the mountain of El-Hawawish after climbing the 300 metre track, and after about seven hours of clambering about the mountain and trying our hands at tracing and plastering, we were glad the 300 metres was downwards in the afternoons! But eleven Australians now have an appreciation of the painstaking work necessary to repair, preserve and record the deteriorating scenes of daily life and activities that occurred around 5000 years ago at this administrative centre of Akhmim. This had to be the highlight of the whole tour and the reason we had come to Egypt.

Professor Kanawati also arranged a most interesting tour of the Red and White Monasteries of Sohag and we were fortunate to see the new excavations being carried out at Athrebis.

One beautiful, clear morning we set out on a camel ride up a wadi which evidently is an ancient route from the Nile to the Red Sea (perhaps for tax avoidance purposes; nothing is new!). Our journey took 2½ hours and we travelled in box-frame contraptions tied across the hump of the camel. One could write a thousand words describing the rugged landscape of lofty, vertical cliffs and the geological strata; we were about 200 million years back in time. After lunch, Joan Beck the intrepid leader of our group, had a fall and fractured her right leg, tearing the ligaments around the knee (as we found out later). The only means of getting her out of the wadi was by camel and thank God for the seating contraption! Back in Sohag, her leg was set, but she was severely restricted for the rest of the tour.

Next day a visit was made to the old town and Ramesside Temple of Akhmim and the Greco-Roman site at El-Salamoni which is also being excavated by Professor Kanawati.

At the end of our unforgettable week at Sohag, we returned to Luxor, visiting the Temples of Luxor and Karnak and the Tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens and the Temples of Hatshepsut and Ramesses III, before setting off on our Nile Cruiser for Aswan and Abu Simbel. The Temples at Esna, Edfu and Kom Ombo gave us the opportunity of comparing Greco-Roman architecture with that of the New Kingdom.

The cruise over, we flew back to Cairo and spent several days sight-seeing but before flying home we spent some time at the Macquarie site at Saqqara where, once again, Professor Kanawati gave of his time and experience to make this another memorable event for us.

We would like to convey our thanks for the organisation of the tour, for dealing with the difficult officials and the generous time OUR Professor gave to us.

To sum it up - did we have a good time? Naguib, what are you doing in January '85?

Michael Pollett

DR KENNETH A. KITCHEN - VISITING FELLOW  
OF THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION FOR 1984

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It is with great pleasure that the Foundation announces the visit of Dr Kenneth A. Kitchen (School of Archaeology & Oriental Studies, University of Liverpool) as the Visiting Fellow of the Rundle Foundation for 1984.

Dr Kitchen will be in Australia from 21 May to 5 June and the Foundation has arranged for him to visit Queensland and Victoria as well as N.S.W.

This great scholar has devoted many years to the study of the inscriptions and history of the Ramesses Kings and the Third Intermediate period of Egyptian history - a time span stretching from about 1300 to 650 B.C. His interest also extends to Ancient Near Eastern and Old Testament studies and his lectures and seminars will deal with these subjects as well as Egyptian history.

In Sydney, Dr Kitchen will give public lectures, one all-day national research seminar and address the Schools Conference to be held at Macquarie on 2 and 3 June.

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PROGRAM

Wednesday, 23 May at 8 p.m. in W5A.T2 - Public Lecture (arranged by Macquarie Ancient History Association)

*THE HUMANITY OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS*

(illustrated)

Admission \$2.00 for non members

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Wednesday, 30 May - Public Lecture - Venue to be announced

*RAMESSIDE MEMPHIS & SAQQARA*

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Friday, 1 June

10 a.m. : All-day national research seminar in Macquarie Library  
Seminar Room 1A

Admission \$15 day, or day & evening

8 p.m. Rundle Foundation Public Lecture - Price Theatre

*RAMESSES THE GREAT, PHARAOH OF EGYPT*

Admission \$2.00  
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Saturday, 2 June & Sunday 3 June

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Week-End Course for H.S.C. Students on

New Kingdom, Egypt

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NAGUIB KANAWATI

Members of the Rundle Foundation will be delighted to hear of Dr Kanawati's promotion to Associate Professor of History at Macquarie University.      Congratulations Professor -

HIEROGLYPHS COURSE

Members are reminded of the Introductory Course of 8 lectures on Egyptian Hieroglyphs being conducted by Professor Kanawati each WEDNESDAY, commencing 14 March 1984, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in W5C.220. The fee is \$50, which includes the necessary texts - numbers will be limited.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT EGYPT

A week-end course, arranged along similar lines to courses run by the Foundation in 1982 and 1983, will be held on SATURDAY 14 and SUNDAY 15 April 1984, from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. The fee will be \$25. The course will include:

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

Enquiries for both of the above courses should be made to:

Miss Joan Beck,  
School of History,  
Macquarie University,  
NORTH RYDE 2113      Tel. 88.9355

RUNDLE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP 1984

We thank all those who have renewed their membership for 1984. 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 with your form to:

Miss Joan Beck  
(address as above)

ROCK TOMBS IV

Copies of *The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish : The Cemetery of Akhmim* Vol.IV are now available. \$18 (members \$15) plus \$2 postage.

SAQQARA DIG

Reports on the dig at Saqqara will appear in the next Newsletter.