



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 15

FEBRUARY 1985



The team working at El-Hawawish, 1984-85

THE SIXTH SEASON AT EL-HAWAWISH

Excavations were conducted at the mountain of El-Hawawish (Akhmim) during December 1984 and January 1985. The team was headed by Associate Professor Naguib Kanawati and consisted of Ann McFarlane (Research Assistant, Macquarie University), John Curro (Architect-Surveyor for H. Seidler, Sydney), Naguib Maksoud (Architect, Alexandria), Adel Abdel-Aziz (Field Supervisor, Alexandria), Nabil Charoubim (Draftsman, Cairo) and four student assistants, Sally Finlayson, Ted Ling, Helen Slarke and Beth Thompson (Macquarie University).

Five decorated and four undecorated tombs were cleared and completely recorded. Inscriptions and scenes of daily life found on the walls of these tombs represent a valuable addition to the study of the ancient Egyptian Civilization. One tomb in particular, that of Rehu, from the First Intermediate Period contains autobiographical inscriptions of great importance, describing the career of the tomb owner, and the difficult conditions the country was undergoing during this unsettled period. A number of pots and stone jars of particular beauty were recovered.

Restoration and preservation of wall scenes which started in the third season, received special attention this year with four full-time restorers employed by the expedition. Gaps in the plaster were filled in to prevent further deterioration, colours were strengthened and protected by chemical treatment and areas where the decorated plaster was weak were strengthened, and others where the scenes were affected by salt, were treated. A total of nine tombs were provided with metal doors to prevent any vandalism.

A NEW KINGDOM TOMB RECORDED BY DR B. OCKINGA

Dr Boyo Ockinga of Macquarie University was invited by Mr Yehya El-Masry (Chief Inspector of Akhmim, Department of Antiquities), to be co-investigator in recording a tomb at Naga el-Mashayekh (about 30km. south of El-Hawawish). The tomb dates to the reign of Horemheb (end of Dynasty XVIII) and contains long inscriptions of great historical and religious importance. During this season Dr Ockinga prepared a hand copy of all the texts, which will be studied in preparation for the final recording next season.

C O U R S E S

An Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs will be held again this year, commencing on WEDNESDAY 13 March, 1985 in W5C.220, from 7 - 9 p.m., and conducted by Dr Colin Hope and Professor Kanawati. The course will run for 8 weeks - \$50.

An Introduction to Arabic will be conducted by Professor Kanawati, commencing FRIDAY 15 March, 1985 in W6A.420 from 7 - 9 p.m. The course will run for 20 weeks - \$100.

As the colloquial Arabic language differs from one country to another, this course will NOT be based on any particular dialect but on the modern literary Arabic which is shared by all the Arab world. It is also the language used by all branches of the media.

As a certain number is required before the course can go ahead, your immediate response would be appreciated.

An Introduction to Ancient Egypt. This is a week-end course, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April, 1985 in W6A.420 from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. - \$25.

For further enquiries regarding these courses, please contact:

Miss Joan Beck, School of History, Macquarie University, North Ryde 2113

THIRD STUDY TOUR

New regulations issued by the Department of Antiquities prevent Study Tours from spending more than one day on any archaeological site under excavation. Accordingly, it is planned that the Third Study Tour will spend three days at Sohag with one day on the mountain of El-Hawawish and two days visiting other nearby sites and monasteries. It should be pointed out that on the Second Study Tour, only three days were actually spent on the mountain and three days on visits to local sites.

The length of the Tour will be approximately three weeks (during December, 1985) and will include a 4-day Nile Cruise and visits to a number of archaeological sites with a lecturer from Macquarie University. Cost will be in the vicinity of \$3,500 (including air fares).

A minimum number is required before the organization can proceed and your response, in the light of the new regulations and conditions would be appreciated NO LATER THAN THE END OF MARCH.

VISITING FELLOW 1985

*Dr Geoffrey Martin, Reader in Egyptian Archaeology,
University College, London*

Dr Geoffrey Martin will be visiting Sydney early in July and will be conducting Seminars, as well as giving public lectures at Macquarie University and possibly in Melbourne.

Dr Martin is considered as a world authority on the Amarna Period and the late XVIIIth Dynasty and we are fortunate in having the opportunity of a visit from such an outstanding scholar.

Members of the Foundation will be informed of the date of the visit as soon as it has been finalised.

ANCIENT HISTORY DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH CENTRE

Wednesday, 27 February at 8.30 p.m. - an Illustrated Public Lecture
by Professor Alexander Cambitoglou :

*The Archaeological Expedition to the Ancient City of Torone :
Recent Discoveries*

In the Stephen Roberts Theatre, University of Sydney. (Free)

Friday 15 & Saturday 16 March (7.15 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Friday and
9.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m. Saturday)

General Interest Seminar (Professor E.A. Judge & Staff) :

Women in the World of the New Testament

In Price Theatre, Macquarie University - \$20. (88.9762).

For enquiries regarding lectures, seminars, overseas conferences, please contact Mrs Pat Geidans on 88.9762.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE FOUNDATION

We remind our members that the subscriptions for 1985 are now due and we would like to thank you for your continuing support, without which the Foundation would be unable to achieve its goals.

Copies of the excavation reports are available to members at a reduced price : *The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish : the Cemetery of Akhmim*, Vols I - IV (each \$15); *Excavations at Saqqara*, Vol.I is priced at \$18.

Please contact Miss Joan Beck (at above address - Mon. Tues. Thurs.).



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