



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 17

SEPTEMBER 1985



Part of a wall scene in the tomb of Hem-Min
(see *The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish* Vol.V)

EXCAVATION REPORT

The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish Vol.V is now available (\$20, members \$18; postage \$2 per copy). It includes reports on a number of tombs, two of which are the largest on the mountain and one in particular, that of Hem-Min, is the largest rock tomb so far discovered in Egypt. The report also includes a number of beautifully decorated wooden coffins, now in the stores of the Cairo Museum. These coffins had been removed from the mountain by tomb robbers in the last century, then confiscated by the Department of Antiquities and remained unidentified in the stores of the Museum until our excavations of the mountain threw light on the identity of their owners and the tombs from which they had been removed.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held at the North Sydney Leagues Club on Wednesday, 22 May. It was attended by the Egyptian Consul-General and Mrs Kamel and the Egyptian Consul and Mrs El-Khouli and 110 members and friends of the Rundle Foundation. An illustrated talk by Dr Colin Hope, 'What did the Ancient Egyptians really look like?' was greatly appreciated by everyone present.

COURSES COMPLETED

'An Advanced Hieroglyphs Course' was attended by 25 members of the Foundation who had completed an Introduction Course. The eight weeks were spent reading Egyptian texts and aroused so much interest that the members are continuing their studies and meeting once a fortnight in W6A.420.

'Life and Death in Ancient Egypt'. The course was held on Saturday, 25 and Sunday 26 May. As a result of restrictions imposed by the size of the lecture theatre, only 150 places were available and unfortunately many applications had to be refused.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Documentary Film is now completed and was released at short notice at the Valhalla Theatre, Glebe. However, we expect it to be screened on T.V. in the near future.

VISIT OF DR GEOFFREY MARTIN

The visit of Dr Geoffrey Martin to Australia was the highlight of our 1985 activities. At the Macquarie Theatre on 23 July, Dr Martin gave a Public Lecture on '*The Tomb of Horemheb, commander-in-chief of Tutankhamun*', to an audience of over 400, mainly members of the Rundle Foundation and the Australian Museum Society. The lecture was preceded by guided tours of the Macquarie University Teaching Collection and light refreshments.

A full-day Conference on Saturday, 27 July was attended by over 150 participants and was chaired by Dr Martin. Lectures on Near-Eastern archaeology were given by scholars from various Universities in Australia and New Zealand and, of course, Dr Martin of the United Kingdom. On the same night at Price Theatre, Dr Martin gave a Public Lecture, '*The Tomb of Akhenaten, and the Royal Necropolis at El-Amarna*'. All of Dr Martin's lectures were first-hand reports on his personal excavations in Egypt and were clearly illustrated by magnificent slides. His visit was greatly appreciated by all those who heard his lectures and talked with him.

VISIT OF PROFESSOR JEAN LECLANT

Professor Jean Leclant is a leading French Egyptologist and occupies the two most distinguished positions, Professor at the Collège de France and Permanent Secretary of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

At short notice, the Foundation was informed of Professor Leclant's visit to Sydney to attend the Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions held at the University of Sydney, and of his willingness to address members of the Foundation. A lecture was announced (and fully booked) during the Conference on 27 July.

Professor Leclant's lecture was held in the Price Theatre on 21 August. He spoke on his work in the Saqqara necropolis, mainly on the excavation and reconstruction of the Pyramid of King Pepy I (Dynasty VI). Special attention was given to the pyramid texts.

The lecture made it clear that this is one of the major projects currently being undertaken in Egypt. Reconstructing the burial chamber of Pepy I with the huge inscribed blocks restored to their original locations was a difficult task and has occupied the last 22 years of Professor Leclant's research career.

EGYPTIAN GRAMMAR....SIR A. GARDINER

Members of the Foundation who are participating in the hieroglyphs courses are anxious to obtain second-hand copies of Gardiner's *Egyptian Grammar*. If you have a copy available for sale, please contact Joan Beck (88.9355).

COURSES FOR 1986

We hope that members have found the courses held in 1985 both enjoyable and beneficial and wish to draw attention to some of next year's activities:

'Introduction to Hieroglyphs'
 'Introduction to Ancient Egypt'
 &
 'Life & Death in Ancient Egypt'

will all be repeated.

An invitation has been forwarded to a Visiting Fellow for 1986 and we are awaiting a reply.

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This being the last Newsletter for 1985, we would like to thank all members for their valued support and enthusiasm. 1985 has been a successful year for the Foundation during which membership has passed 300. It is a great pleasure to welcome new members and it is particularly gratifying to have members from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia joining the Foundation. In planning future activities we are considering ways in which some of these could be extended to other centres.

As from 1986 we intend to enlarge the Newsletter to include a short article of general interest to our members. The theme for 1986 will be '*Personalities from Ancient Egypt*'.



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