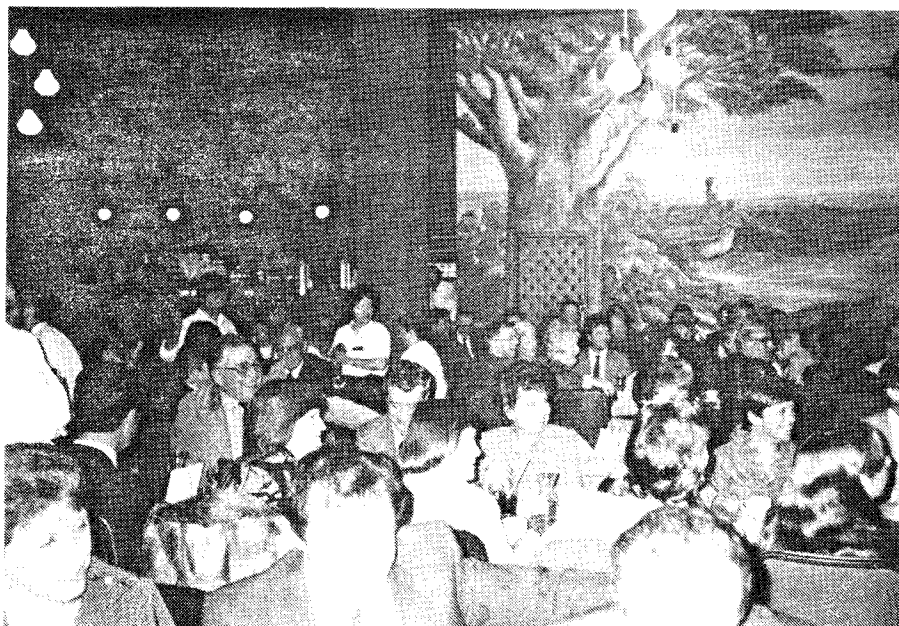




The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 20

September 1986



Some of the Guests at the Foundation Dinner

Fifth Annual Dinner of the Foundation

On 20 May, 135 members and friends attended the Fifth Annual Dinner of the Foundation at the North Sydney Leagues Club. The dinner was also attended by the Egyptian Consul-General, Consul and Vice-Consul and their wives who have been extremely supportive of the activities of the Foundation. The Documentary "Death and Destiny in Ancient Egypt", which was produced by 'Look Films' and includes scenes of the Macquarie Excavations at Saqqara, was shown after the dinner. During the evening a raffle was held from which members won a number of Egyptian-made gifts and other prizes.

"A Soiree of Antiquities and Music"

Mr. Peter Lane of the Lane Galleries, 46 Oxford St. Paddington, kindly opened his Gallery on Thursday 19 June for members of the Foundation to inspect his collection of antiquities while partaking of soup and sherry and listening to a chamber music trio led by Miss Bernadette Harvey.

Discussion Groups & Advanced Hieroglyphs

At the request of members who attended the Hieroglyphs Courses this year or in the past, we decided to hold meetings each Friday night to discuss aspects of the Ancient Egyptian Civilization and Hieroglyphic texts.

The first Discussion night was held on Friday 1 August in W6A 420, the topic "Egyptian Burials - in mastabas, pyramids and rock-cut tombs". The 22 members who attended entered into the discussions enthusiastically and it was decided to continue discussions each fortnight with all those who attended taking turns at leading the discussion. The topic for Friday 15 August "Crafts of the Ancient Egyptians"; for 29 August "The Amarna Period"; and for 12 September "Who were the 'Sea Peoples'?"

There is no charge for these sessions and members are welcome to attend. Enquiries Miss Joan Beck, 88 9091

Advanced Hieroglyphs will continue on alternate Fridays. 8 August, 22 August and 5 September.

Colloquial Egyptian Arabic

Professor Kanawati will be conducting an 8-weeks course in Colloquial Egyptian Arabic commencing Friday 19 September, 1986, from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. in W6A 420. The course has been introduced at short notice following the request of members who will be joining the Rundle Tour of Egypt in January, 1987. The course which aims to introduce the basic spoken language in Egypt, is however, open to any member who is interested in studying Colloquial Egyptian Arabic. The fee is \$55 which includes the text book. Enquiries: Miss Joan Beck 88 9091 (between 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

A Public Lecture

A Public Lecture, "Buried Cities of the Egyptian Sahara" will be given by Dr. Colin Hope on Tuesday 23 September in W5A T2, Macquarie University at 8 p.m.

Dr. Hope who is presently a Research Fellow at Macquarie University, will speak of the excavations in the Egyptian oases in which he personally participated.

Tickets \$3

members of the Foundation, M.A.H.A. and students \$2

Enquiries: Miss Joan Beck 88 9091

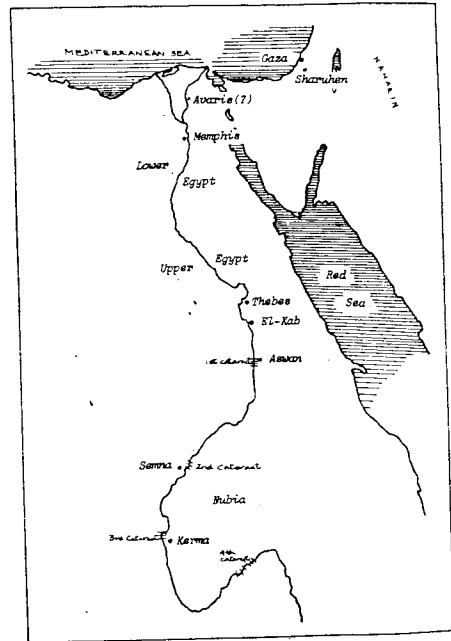
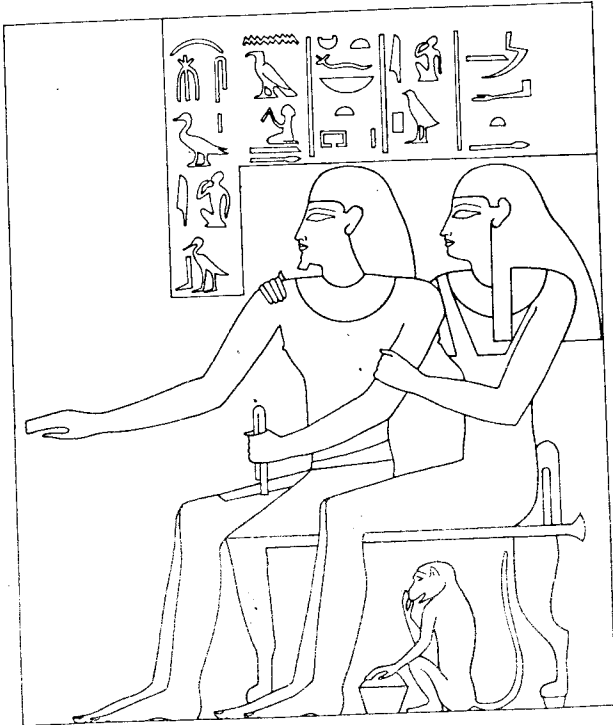
Dinner and Film

Members are invited to attend a dinner which will be held at the home of Miss Joan Beck, 1 Chelmsford Ave., Epping. Because of limited space, we are holding dinners on both Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October, 1986 at 7.30 p.m. On both evenings, Mr Max England will be showing the excellent film he made on a journey down the Nile. The occasion will be used to meet and farewell the members of the Foundation who are going on the tour of Egypt in January, 1987. Tickets \$15 are available from Miss Joan Beck (88 9091)

ENQUIRIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

AHMOSE, SON OF ABANA A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Beth Thompson



"The name of a brave man is in that which he has done: it will not perish...forever."

These proud words of an old soldier stand at the beginning of a long autobiographical text found in his rock tomb at El-Kab, some 80 km south of Luxor. It tells of his exploits and his rewards, giving a rare glimpse into the life of a military man in a crucial period of Egyptian history. The autobiography of AHMOSE, son of ABANA, is especially valuable as it is the only contemporary source of information on the final expulsion from Egypt of the "foreign rulers", the Hyksos, and of the destruction of their stronghold at Avaris.

The Hyksos kings, whose names indicate that they were probably of Semitic origin, had taken control of Egypt in the disrupted conditions at the end of the Middle Kingdom, about 1700 B.C. They made their capital at Avaris in the eastern Delta region, and dominated Egypt for more than a century. However, during this period descendants of the great Middle Kingdom pharaohs strove to maintain Egyptian traditions and authority from Thebes (present-day Luxor) in southern Egypt. As they became stronger they clashed with the Hyksos until Egyptian forces under Kamose (Dynasty XVII) compelled them to relinquish their power throughout much of the country. In the inscriptions on the two great stelae set up in the temple at Karnak to celebrate his achievements, Kamose describes how he successfully attacked Hyksos-held territory as he travelled north from Thebes to the Delta. Here he swept down on the city of Avaris "like a hawk", coming close enough to the palace to see the fearful women there "peeping out of the loop-holes". Although he pillaged the surrounding area Kamose returned to Thebes without besieging the city; and it was his son, Ahmose I who later completed the defeat and expulsion of the "foreign rulers". Royal inscriptions recording this have been lost, however, and it is from an ordinary soldier that we gain information about this important event as well as about other military campaigns of early Dynasty XVIII.

The long text of 31 columns of hieroglyphs carved into the walls of the tomb of Ahmose, son of Abana tells us that he grew up in the town of Nekheb (present-day El-Kab), that his father was Baba son of Reonet, and his mother was Abana. Baba was a soldier-marine who was serving under Seqenenre Tao II of Dynasty XVII when Ahmose was a child. No further information is given in the inscription about Ahmose's family, but the names of his parents and grandmother are unusual and it has been suggested that they were Hurrian (or Syrian) names.

While he was still young, Ahmose followed his father into the same profession, taking his father's place on the ship, the "Wild Bull". Later he joined another ship, the "Northern" serving as an infantryman in the entourage of King Ahmose I, and was on this ship when the king began to besiege the Hyksos capital. The length of time of this siege and the expulsion of the Hyksos from the Delta is unknown, but Ahmose indicates that there were several stages, or difficult battles, before the city was eventually sacked. It is not known where the first engagement took place, but Ahmose acquitted himself well and was promoted to another ship, the "Rising-in-Memphis". He took part in fighting on one of the canals near the city, killing an enemy soldier and "carrying off a hand" (the removal of a hand from a slain foe was the usual method of reckoning the numbers killed in any engagement). For this Ahmose received a reward, the "gold of valour". The fighting continued with Abana killing a second man and again receiving gold. The battle then moved to the south of Avaris, and after this Ahmose was rewarded with gold for a third time. Finally, the city fell and Ahmose took as his spoil in the subsequent pillaging, a man and three women who were given to him

as slaves.

After the fall of Avaris, the king pushed into southern Palestine besieging the town of Sharūhen (south of Gaza) for three years. Ahmose received more gold and slaves when the city was sacked. It is possible that the king continued northward at this point and invaded Syria. Although Ahmose makes no mention of this in his inscription it is mentioned very briefly in the tomb of another soldier, also from El-Kab, Ahmose-Pennekheb.

Ahmose's inscription continues by describing how he then accompanied the king on a campaign into Nubia. From the earliest dynasties, Egyptian kings had pushed their southern frontier further into this region, and by the time of Sesostris III (Dynasty XII) the border had been extended to Semna above the second cataract on the Nile. However, by Dynasty XVII the land south of Aswan had been lost again and was under the control of the Prince of Kush whose capital was Kerma, near the third cataract. In the Nubian campaign of King Ahmose I described in the autobiography, Egyptian control was possibly established as far as the second cataract if not Semna, with the king making a "great slaughter" among the Nubians. For his part in this expedition Ahmose was again rewarded with gold and slaves.

As the King sailed north into Upper Egypt, "his heart rejoicing in valour and victory", news of a rebellion reached him. These rebels who were possibly Nubian, clashed with the Egyptian army at Tent-Tao (unidentified) and their leader Aata, and his followers were taken captive. A portion of land in his home town of El-Kab as well as five of the captives, were given to Ahmose as his reward. An additional grant of land and slaves followed the successful crushing of a second rebellion under an Egyptian Tetian.

The autobiography narrates no further information of its owner's military career under King Ahmose I. Since it is generally held that the Hyksos were expelled from Avaris in the first years of his reign and that the Nubian campaign followed soon afterwards, the subsequent period of the 22-25 years reign of Ahmose I must have been concerned with reorganising and strengthening the administration and economy of the country. Nothing is said of this period in Ahmose's tomb at El-Kab which continues with another campaign into Nubia under Egypt's next king, Amenophis I (1546-1526 B.C.).

As previously, this incursion into Nubia was to extend Egypt's border, possibly to the frontier established by Sesostris III in the Middle Kingdom. Ahmose distinguished himself once again, fighting in the forefront of the troops, killing two men and pursuing Nubians who were fleeing with their cattle. After he had personally escorted the king back into Egypt, Ahmose was made a "Warrior of the Ruler" and given gold and two female slaves.

Serving under his third king, Thutmosis I, he describes two further military expeditions in his autobiography. The first campaign pushed still deeper into Nubia to the region of the fourth cataract, with Ahmose's skill in negotiating the dangerous stretches of the Nile resulting in his promotion to "Crew Commander"; this was the post of officer in charge of one of the larger ships which were able to carry up to 200 marines. The second campaign went north-east to Naharin, close to the Euphrates river. Fighting again in the vanguard of the army in the battle at Naharin, Ahmose was able to capture the rare prize of a chariot which he presented to the king, receiving gold for the seventh time.

Ahmose's autobiography ends with this campaign. Justly proud of his exploits he lists the rewards which came to him. Firstly, the "gold of valour" on five occasions under Ahmost I and twice under the two successive kings. This award for bravery in Dynasty XVIII was usually in the form of jewellery - collars, bracelets and armlets - some of which Ahmose can be seen wearing in the relief carving of his figure on a wall in his tomb. His grants of land amounted to about seven acres under Ahmose I, but it seems from some damaged lines at the end of the autobiography that he may have been given much more by Thutmosis, possibly amounting to forty one acres. The captured prisoners given to him as slaves after the various campaigns consisted of nine men and ten women.

Ahmose must have been about sixty years old when he retired, the recompenses for his military service enabling him to live very comfortably. He and his family would have formed part of the new military class which was formed in Dynasty XVIII. This class was of great importance to the king both for its military service and for its loyal support after the completion of active duty, for soldiers such as Ahmose continued to serve the king in the capacity of personal retainers and as officials in administrative posts. Ahmose concludes his autobiography with the words that he was still "favoured as before and loved (by my lord)...". Although he does not mention specifically any position he held after retirement, his son, Itruri, and his grandson Paheri, were tutors to the king's sons and Paheri became mayor of the two towns of Nekheb and Iunyt, as well as being "scribe of the grain accounts" for an extensive area.

We too benefit from Ahmose's loyal service. His desire to "make his name live forever" which stemmed from a very understandable pride in his military achievements and the favours he received, has provided us with a valuable record of an important period in Egypt's history.

The Rundle Foundation Visiting Fellow, 1986

The fifth annual visiting Fellow of the Rundle Foundation will be Dr Revel Coles, of Oxford. He will visit Macquarie University in the second week of November, and will make short visits also to Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Dr. Coles is the curator of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri collection at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and is now working on documents that will appear in the 54th volume of the series.

On Wednesday, 12 November, at 7.30 p.m., Dr Coles will give an illustrated lecture to members of the Foundation and of the Australian Museum Society at the Museum in College Street on 'Rare Books from Rubbish Dumps: Oxyrhynchus in Egypt'. On Thursday 13 members of the Foundation are invited to join papyrological specialists from Macquarie and elsewhere in an all-day seminar, 'Documentary Papyri and Late Antiquity'. Dr Coles will lecture at 11.30 a.m. on 'A half-century of municipal administration: the curator civitatis in Egypt. Documents entering the bureau of the curator', and at 8.00 p.m. on 'Documents issuing from the bureau of the curator'. Both will be illustrated.

Enquiries: Mrs. Pat Geidans 88 9762 (Tues/Wed/Thurs)

Advanced Hieroglyphs

Sixteen members attended and completed an Advanced Course in hieroglyphs following the Introductory Course. The Advanced Course concentrated on reading texts in hieroglyphs and discussing their historical significance.

A Lecture by Dr Lisa Giddy

On Wednesday 2 July, Dr Lisa Giddy gave a most interesting lecture "Memphis & Balat: Recent Settlement Archaeology in Egypt", to members of the Foundation and their friends. The lecture was very well attended in the Price Theatre and was followed by supper at which members were able to meet Dr Giddy.

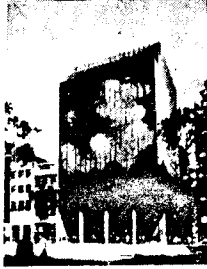
M.A.H.A. Dinner

150 people attended the Ancient History Dinner in the Union Function Rooms, in honour of Professor Bruce Harris who retired at the end of July. The Dinner was preceded by a public lecture given by Dr Elizabeth Craik, "The koinonia of marriage in classical Athens".

The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish

Volume VI of The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish will be available from Miss Joan Beck, from the beginning of September. The cost will be \$25 (members \$20). Postage for all volumes will be \$2.50 per copy.

131
 YORK STREET
 SYDNEY



THIS IS THE NEW ADDRESS FOR SYDNEY'S BEST HISTORY BOOKS

Direct lines:

Abbey's Bookshop 264 3111. Penguin Bookshop 264 3380
 Oxford & Cambridge Bookshop 264 3355

Some titles now in stock:

GARDINER: EGYPTIAN GRAMMAR 3rd edition (Reprinted at last)	\$68.75
GEORGE HART: DICTIONARY OF EGYPTIAN GODS & GODDESSES	\$21.95
N.J. KATAN: HIEROGLYPHS. The Writing of Ancient Egypt	\$11.95
D.L. CLARKE: ANALYTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY 2nd ed.	\$31.95
K.M. KENYON: THE BIBLE & RECENT ARCHAEOLOGY	\$14.95
STRUDWICK: THE ADMINISTRATION OF EGYPT IN THE OLD KINGDOM	\$128.75
EVA WILSON: ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DESIGNS (British Museum Pattern Book)	\$16.50
A. BEESTON: ARABIC HISTORICAL PHRASEOLOGY Supplement to Written Arabic	\$15.25
D. COWAN: MODERN LITERARY ARABIC	\$23.50
M. BADAWI: ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN ARABIC VERSE	\$15.00
S. HOPKINS: STUDIES IN THE GRAMMAR OR EARLY ARABIC	\$75.00
A.J. ARBERRY: MODERN ARABIC POETRY With English Verse Translations	\$29.50

One copy only at a special price :-

TEXTS FROM HELLENISTIC BABYLONIA IN THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
 by Gilbert J.P. McEwan (Clarendon Press) Only \$20.00

Quote your credit card for phone or mail orders.

Open till 6 p.m. every day except Thursday 8 p.m. and Saturday 4 p.m.

NOTE WE SHALL BE OPEN LATER SATURDAY NOW WE ARE IN OUR
 NEW SITE. Come and visit



Abbey's Bookshops