



# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 27

January 1989

## News from Egypt

Ten people from Macquarie University are involved in the archaeological field work in Egypt, they are led by Professor Kanawati and Dr Ockinga. Work is progressing at three sites.

**El-Hawawish:** The work is in its final stage and is concentrated on the restoration of previously excavated tombs. The Department of Antiquities is considering opening several of these tombs to tourists following the completion of our work. In early December, a film crew from the T.V. station, S.B.S. visited El-Hawawish. An interview with Professor Kanawati and a brief documentary on the work on site will be shown in February as part of a series on Australian involvement in Egypt.

**Hagarsa:** Some sounding work has been conducted with most promising results. For the first time, the expedition has discovered two undisturbed burial chambers in a perfect state of preservation.

The cemetery is extensive and spans the period from the Fifth Dynasty to the First Intermediate Period, when it appears that the site became particularly prominent. Many tombs are known to belong to military personnel.

On the twenty-first December, following the uncovering of the burial chambers, a long article with photographs appeared in Al-Ahram, the leading newspaper of Egypt and the Arab countries.

**The Tomb of Awlad Azzaz:** Dr Ockinga has begun his investigation of the large New Kingdom tomb at Awlad Azzaz to the north-west of Sohag. The tomb has been cleared and at present the area in front is being excavated. Evidence for five periods of occupation has been found, from the late Eighteenth Dynasty to the Coptic period. The tomb has been badly damaged, partly in antiquity to erase the memory of its original owner, but also in more recent times by gold-seekers attracted by a local legend that there is treasure buried there. The reliefs which have been preserved indicate that the tomb dates from the reign of Tutankhamun whose cartouches appear in it. The most interesting scene remaining is a chariot procession in which the young king is shown. Although it is suspected on circumstantial evidence that the original owner was Ay, the successor of Tutankhamun, the desecrators have been so thorough that no trace of his name has yet been found.

### The International Congress

Both Professor Kanawati and Dr Oekinga attended the International Congress of Egyptology held in Cairo from 28 October to 3 November, and delivered papers on their respective field-work in the area of Sohag. Macquarie University was well represented with Mrs Gae Callender and Mrs Juliette Bentley also being present. Mrs Bentley (Sydney University) is a regular lecturer for the Macquarie University Continuing Education Courses.

### Macquarie University and the Cairo Museum

On the occasion of the International Congress of Egyptology, the Cairo Museum put on display some of the most important finds made by various expeditions. It is pleasing that Macquarie University was prominently represented with artefacts from both El-Hawawish and Saqqara.

### A Long-Term Residence for the Expedition

One of the problems facing the Expedition each year has been to find suitable accommodation. This year the Expedition has been fortunate to sign a long-term lease for a newly-built, spacious flat, which will be available for use next season. It is hoped that this will be helpful in the establishment of a permanent centre in Egypt.

### Activities Committee

It is proposed to elect an "Activities Committee" of 10 members for the purpose of raising funds for the Foundation. Nominations are being called for and included in this issue of the Newsletter is a "Nomination" form. If you are interested and have the time to serve on such a committee please complete the form and return it to Joan Beck by 1 March, 1989. Ballot papers will be included in the April issue of the Newsletter.

### The Rundle Foundation Membership

Ordinary members' subscriptions to the Rundle Foundation date from 1st February each year and are paid annually. New members joining after September in any year receive membership cards for the following year. Subscribers may become LIFE MEMBERS or GOVERNORS at any time upon payment of the appropriate subscriptions.

### Discussion Group

The first meeting for 1989 will be held on FRIDAY 3 February, in W6A 420 at 7 p.m. Joan Beck will be conducting a tour of the Ancient History Teaching Collection and everyone is welcome. This will be followed by supper and a meeting to discuss the program for the following 4 weeks. These discussions are free.

## GENERAL WEN-DJEBA-EN-DJED OF TANIS

Colin Hope

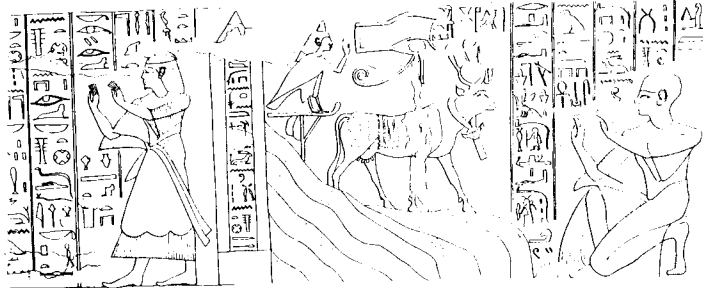
To mark Australia's bicentenary the Egyptian government has made it possible for the Gold of the Pharaohs exhibition to be displayed here in Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne, during 1988-89. The exhibition focuses upon the finds made within the Royal Tombs at Tanis dating to the XXIst-XXIIInd dynasties of the Third Intermediate Period (1069-664 B.C.). It seems appropriate, therefore, in the following pages to discuss what is known of the only non-royal person to have been buried within the Tanis tombs. This man, Wen-djeba-en-djed, is known only from the finds made within his burial chamber, despite the important role which he clearly played in the Egypt of his day.

It was after ten seasons of excavation at the large and important Delta site of Tanis (San el-Hagar), 130 kilometers north-east of Cairo, that the French archaeologist Pierre Montet discovered the Royal Tombs. Tanis, ancient Dja'net, had been the capital of Egypt during the XXIst and XXIIInd dynasties (1069-715 B.C.) and was an important centre until the Roman Period. The northern part of the site is dominated by the remains of once imposing temple complexes, much of the building material for which had been removed from the constructions of Ramesses II (1279-1213 B.C.) of the XIXth dynasty at his Delta capital of Per-Ramesses, located some twenty kilometres to the south. It was in this region that Montet concentrated his work, in temples dedicated to the Theban triad Amun, Mut and Khons. The worship of these gods was established at the site at the beginning of the XXIst dynasty and their temples were greatly enlarged under Psusennes I (1039-991 B.C.), who endeavoured to make Tanis the 'Thebes of the North'. For reasons of safety the rulers at Tanis chose to be buried in tombs located within the precinct of the temple of Amun.

In 1939, while investigating the south-west corner of the Amun temple enclosure, the first of the royal tombs was found. On February 27th Montet entered the elaborately decorated tomb of Osorkon II (874-850 B.C.) of the XXIIInd dynasty. This had been almost completely plundered; however, on March 17th he entered the adjacent tomb of Psusennes I, and here began "a journey of wonder befitting the One Thousand and One Nights". In the antechamber of the tomb lay the undisturbed burial of a king within a silver coffin with falcon head, flanked by two other decomposed royal burials. The king within this coffin was, at the time of discovery, unknown; he is now identified as a son and co-regent of Osorkon I (924-889 B.C.) of the XXIIInd dynasty who was probably buried in circa 890 B.C. The decomposed burials are now identified as those of the final rulers of the XXIst dynasty, Siamun (978-959 B.C.) and Psusennes II (959-945 B.C.). In 1940 Montet entered the principal burial chambers of this tomb to find the intact burials of Psusennes I himself and, in a chamber prepared for this king's wife, that of Psusennes' successor Amenemope (993-984 B.C.). A side chamber within the same tomb had been destined for the burial of Psusennes' son, prince Ankhefenmut, but was found empty and apparently it had not been used.

Between 1939 and 1940 Montet discovered six royal tombs (a seventh has been identified during recent work at the site), but only the tomb of Psusennes I had not been plundered. His work was interrupted by the hostilities of the Second World War, to be resumed in 1945. As though the

tomb of Psusennes had not yielded enough, another magnificent discovery was made therein in 1946. The architect, Alexandre Lezine, during the course of a detailed study of the tomb's architecture, suggested that the south-east corner should be investigated. On raising the roofing slabs another chamber was revealed and a fourth intact burial was revealed - not that of a king but of a senior courtier of Psusennes I named Wen-djeba-en-djed.



The walls of the burial chamber are decorated with funerary scenes. Wen-djeba-en-djed is introduced to Osiris by Anubis, accompanied by Isis and Nephthys; the djed pillar of Osiris is revered by the goddess of the West and a prayer is addressed to Osiris in the form of the standard of the Thinite nome, attended by Isis and Nephthys. Wen-djeba-en-djed is also depicted worshipping Hathor, Mistress of the West, in the form of a cow, and Ptah-Sokar-Osiris as a falcon. His decomposed body lay within the remains of a silver coffin, within a gilded wooden coffin, within a pink granite sarcophagus. The latter had originally belonged to the third prophet of Amun, Amunhotep and originated from Thebes. Such re-use was attested regularly in the Tanis tombs where almost every sarcophagus had seen a prior use; Psusennes I lay beneath a magnificent sarcophagus lid which had been made for Merenptah of the XIXth dynasty. While not as lavishly equipped as his ruler, Wen-djeba-en-djed's funerary equipment was of equal quality. A superb gold mask covered his face (one of four found in the tomb of Psusennes) and his fingers and toes were protected by gold stalls. He possessed an admirable array of jewellery, figurines of gods, amulets, walking sticks and weapons; the vessels of gold and silver from his burial rival any known from Egypt.

But who was Wen-djeba-en-djed and why was he buried in such illustrious company within a royal tomb? Inscriptions upon objects from his burial and upon the walls of his chamber provide some information. Here we encounter an impressive list of titles. Upon objects the following are given in this sequence: Steward of Khons in Thebes, Prophet of Khons (variant: Prophet of Khons-Re, Lord of Thebes), General, Leader of the Archers of Pharaoh, Overseer of the Prophets of all of the Gods, Prophet of the House of Osiris, Lord of Djedet.

The west wall of the burial chamber provides the following list: Hereditary Prince and Count, God's father, Beloved of the God, Seal-bearer of the king of Lower Egypt, Sole Overseer of the Greatly Favoured Ones, General, Leader of the Archers of Pharaoh, Senior Steward of Khons of Thebes, Prophet of Khons-Re, Lord of Thebes, Overseer of the Prophets of all of the Gods, Prophet of the House of Osiris, Lord of Djedet. The slightly more elevated titles given upon this wall reflect the status finally achieved by Wen-djeba-en-djed before his death.

Clearly Wen-djeba-en-djed was an important official, if not the most

influential at the court, who held military, administrative and honorary positions and was in close contact with the king. As Leader of the Archers of Pharaoh he may have been responsible for the royal bodyguard, as Sole Overseer of the Greatly Favoured Ones he may have assisted the king in the ceremonies of reward, conducting the receivers into the royal presence, as Montet suggested. As Steward and then Chief Steward of Khons he would have been responsible for administering the temporal wealth of that god's priesthood, of which he was also a member. While it is the Theban cult of Khons which is referred to in Wen-djeba-en-djed's titles, it is more likely that he was concerned with the cult at Tanis. Senior positions in the Theban clergy during the XXIst dynasty were dominated by the family of the high priests of Amun. The title Overseer of the Prophets of all of the Gods is very exalted and more appropriate for the First Prophet of Amun, King of the Gods (at Tanis); the latter title was held by Psusennes I himself.

The title God's Father is of great interest, even though its interpretation is not always certain. It is often regarded as purely honorific, awarded to someone of seniority, though some authorities have suggested that it is to be understood as Father-in-law of the King. If the latter applies in our case then a daughter of Wen-djeba-en-djed may have been married to either Psusennes I or Amenemope. No wife of Amenemope is documented however, and the principal consort of Psusennes I was his sister Mutnodjmet; the latter may have had secondary wives. If Wen-djeba-en-djed was related in this manner to a king, and it is extremely uncertain, it might account in part for his being buried in the royal tomb.

Otherwise we know virtually nothing about Wen-djeba-en-djed's family. The text upon one of the bracelets from his burial mentions two ladies, Taroudit born of Hererit. While their relationship to Wen-djeba-en-djed is not specified, Montet has suggested that they were either his wife and her mother, or his mother and grandmother. This text invokes the 'Ram with Four Faces', referring to the god of the Delta town of Mendes. The ancient name of Mendes was Djedet, and the two ladies in question may have originated from this town. The last element in the name of Wen-djeba-en-djed is written in nearly all cases with a final t and followed by the hieroglyph for a city, and thus appears as a writing of the name of Mendes. This would provide us with evidence on the birth place of Wen-djeba-en-djed, whose name would translate 'there is profit for Mendes'. (Mendes was the home town of Smendes, founder of the XXIst dynasty.) Such a place of origin has been accepted by many scholars since it was proposed by Montet. However, based upon Wen-djeba-en-djed's use of the title 'Prophet of the House of Osiris, Lord of Djedet' it has also been suggested that he hailed from Busiris (Per-Osiris), the major cult centre of Osiris in the Delta. The ancient name for Busiris was Djedu; some confusion of the writing of the two place names might have occurred.

Montet estimated that Wen-djeba-en-djed died at the age of approximately fifty, based upon a study of his skeleton. A clear indication of his prominence at court by the time of his death can be seen in the style of his burial. This emulates that of the king he served and contained gifts from his royal master, some made especially for this purpose. Similarities can be seen in the use of a silver coffin, gold face mask, toe and finger stalls of gold; upon a pectoral the name of Wen-djeba-en-djed is carried aloft by the winged scarab (Kheperi), just as the cartouches of Psusennes I are on pectorals from

his burial. All of these features are royal and could surely only have been used with the king's consent. The original plan of Psusennes I's tomb itself was altered to provide chambers for the burial of Wen-djeba-en-djed and Prince Ankhefenmut. Whether Wen-djeba-en-djed died before or after Psusennes is uncertain.

Such is the little we know of his ancient dignity. That we know this much is remarkable.

Suggested further reading:

- C.A. Hope, Gold of the Pharaohs (Exhibition catalogue), Sydney 1988.  
 K.A. Kitchen, The Third Intermediate Period in Egypt (revised edition), Warminster 1986.  
 P. Montet, La Necropole Royale de Tanis II: Les Constructions et le Tombeau de Psousennes a Tanis, Paris 1951  
 J. Yoyotte et al., Tanis, l'Or des Pharaohs, Paris 1987.

### Gold of the Pharaohs Exhibition

The Rundle Foundation is sharing a viewing of this wonderful Exhibition with the Australian Museum Society on Thursday 19 January, 1989, from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Tickets \$20 (members \$18) including supper. Enquiries: Joan Beck 805 8848.

### "A Mountain Speaks"

Professor Kanawati and Mr Reece Scannell, author and photographer of "A Mountain Speaks", will be present at the launching of the book early in February, 1989. Members and their friends will be welcome and we feel sure all will be delighted at the quality and beauty of the pictures and the interest of the text. A limited number will be on sale to members. Enquiries: Joan Beck 805 8848 (between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.)

### Publications

The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish, Vol.VIII (N. Kanawati), 1988  
 \$25 (members \$20), postage \$2.50 per volume

Two Ramesside Tombs at El Mashayikh, Pt.I (B. Ockinga), 1988  
 \$30 (members \$25), postage \$2.50 per volume

Excavations at Saqqara, Vol.II (N. Kanawati), 1988  
 \$25 (members \$20), postage \$2.50 per volume

available from Joan Beck, W6A 429

The Rock Tombs of El-Hawawish, Vols.I-VII and Excavations at Saqqara, Vol.I  
 are also available from Joan Beck

The Tomb and its Significance in Ancient Egypt (N. Kanawati) \$20  
 a limited number are available

### The Sixth Egyptian Study Tour

Dr Ockinga will lead a three weeks study tour of Egypt in January. Every state, with the exception of Tasmania, will be represented among the travellers and we wish them an interesting and enjoyable tour.

### The El-Amarna Period

Mrs Juliette Bentley will be conducting an 8-weeks course "The El-Amarna Period", commencing WEDNESDAY 8 March, 1989, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Cost: \$60 (members \$55). If you are interested in attending these lectures, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Joan Beck, by the end of February.

### Introduction to Hieroglyphs

Professor Kanawati will conduct two 8-weeks courses on "Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs". Part I will commence on FRIDAY 10 March, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Cost: \$60 (members \$55). Part II will follow (date to be announced) Cost: \$60 (members \$55). Please complete the enclosed form for Part I, and return it to Joan Beck by the end of February.

### Egypt & Ancient Israel

Professor K.A. Kitchen of Liverpool University will be the Foundation's Visiting Fellow for 1989. A one-day Conference "EGYPT & ANCIENT ISRAEL" will be held on SATURDAY 13 May, 1989 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults: \$20, School students \$10.

Professor Kitchen will be giving a public lecture at Macquarie University on WEDNESDAY 17 May, at 8.15 p.m.

### Annual Dinner

The Eighth Annual Dinner of the Foundation will be held at North Sydney Leagues Club on FRIDAY 19 May. Professor Kitchen will be guest speaker. Tickets: \$25. Enquiries: Joan Beck 805 8848 (between 9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

### Ancient Egyptian Religion

Following the success of the course on Ancient Egyptian Religion by Dr Ockinga, the course will be repeated and additional material will be included. The course will be extended to 10 weeks and commence on WEDNESDAY 26 July. Cost: \$75 (members \$65). Enquiries: Joan Beck.

Further details on later lectures and courses will be given in the April Newsletter.

### Newcastle News

Mrs Esther Kilkelly will lead a group of 18 persons on a tour of Egypt in January. We look forward to hearing from them when they return.

On SATURDAY 20 May, Professor Kitchen will be visiting Newcastle and will participate in the Conference "Egypt and Ancient Israel" with several of those who will be presenting papers in the Conference at Macquarie.

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