



# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER No. 35

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A Scene in the Tomb of Inti  
as copied by Petrie in 1898

## DESHASHA: A Major New Concession to A.C.E.

At a time when the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation is restricting all concessions granted to foreign institutions, the Australian Centre for Egyptology has won a major new concession to excavate, record and restore the important site of Deshasha. The site is near the Fayum and the modern town of Beni Suef. It was partly investigated and published by Petrie in 1898, but holds great promise as an on-site examination of the 2 tombs recorded by Petrie clearly shows that his records are incomplete.

The site was granted to the Australian Centre on the strength of its previous work at various sites of a similar date (Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period). The work will require particular expertise in handling the very fragile scenes and inscriptions. Similar work was carried out by the Centre at El-Hawawish.

The site includes both rock tombs and stone built mastabas and a great deal of information will be gained by a fresh facsimile.

## Courses for 1991

Continuing Education Courses for 1991:

**Introduction to Hieroglyphs:** Professor Kanawati will conduct an 8-weeks Course each Friday from 7 - 9 p.m. commencing FRIDAY, 8 March, in W6B 345.  
Cost: \$70 (members \$60).

An 8-weeks Course for those who have done "Introduction to Hieroglyphs", either in 1991 or on previous occasions, will commence in May/June following the "Introduction" Course. This Course will examine the hieroglyphs, reliefs and art of the beautifully decorated XVIIIth Dynasty tomb of Neferhotep at Thebes. The information contained in this tomb provides us with many insights into Egyptian religion and funerary beliefs. Cost: \$70 (members \$60).

**Life on an Egyptian Dig:** The Australian Centre for Egyptology will hold a full day of lectures and discussions about the Macquarie digs in Egypt. The excavators (staff and students) will discuss the different aspects of the work - the art, architecture, palaeography, restoration etc. and talk about life on the digs.

Talks will also include the general conclusions drawn from the sites, the contributions our work has made to the study of Egyptian civilization and the future direction of Australian involvement in Egyptology.

The program will conclude with an informal forum and questions from the audience will be particularly welcome.

SATURDAY, 18 May, 1991 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in E7B Theatre I. Cost: \$20 (adults); \$10 (school students).

**Introduction to Colloquial Egyptian Arabic:** Mr Naguib Victor will conduct an 8-weeks Course each Monday, commencing MONDAY, 11 March, 1991 from 7 - 9 p.m.  
Cost: \$70 (members \$60)

**Egyptian Queens and Their Times:** Mrs Gae Callender will conduct an 8-weeks Course each Wednesday commencing WEDNESDAY, 20 March, 1991 from 7 - 9 p.m.  
Cost: \$70 (members \$60)

### Bridging Hieroglyphs Course

This Course is available only to those who have previously done the Introduction Course, and participants will study some of the literature of the Middle Kingdom. The lectures will be held in W6A 420 each FRIDAY from 7 - 9 p.m. commencing FRIDAY, 8 March 1991 and will be given by Dr Rene Grogard, enabling those who have previously attended Professor Kanawati's Course, to revise their hieroglyphs in preparation for the advanced course to take place in May/June. If you are interested, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Joan Beck, School of History, Macquarie University, 2109, by 22 February 1991.  
Cost: \$30

### Discussion Group

Due to the heavy program for 1991, the Discussion Group will meet only twice in the first Semester. FRIDAY, 22 February and FRIDAY, 1 March, in W6A 420 from 7 - 9 p.m. On Friday, 22, Joan Beck, Brian Burns and Dr Rene Grogard will discuss the measurements of the Great Pyramid of Cheops (Khufu) which Joan and Brian have undertaken to check on their tour of Egypt in January!

ALL ENQUIRIES: Joan Beck, 805-8848

### LETTER FROM EGYPT

The time we have spent in Egypt so far has been so eventful and productive that it is hard to believe we've only been here for 10 days.

The problems in the Gulf saw only about 50 people disembark in Cairo. Many of these were Egyptians returning to visit their families. Outside the airport rows of taxis stood idle, the same in front of the Nile Hilton and the Semiramis Intercontinental. The area in front of the Egyptian Museum, usually full of tourist coaches, was almost deserted. The Museum itself was a haven of peace and quiet, a startling contrast to the usual hordes of visitors following their guides who are themselves forced to compete with one another to be heard above the din.

On our day off, we made a flying visit to Luxor where we also wanted to do some research in the library of Chicago House. In Luxor, too, the impressions we had gained in Cairo were confirmed. The Temple of Amun at Karnak had perhaps only two dozen tourists, and we were the only people in the great Hypostyle Hall, where the only sound to be heard was the twittering of birds.

One can stroll through the bazaars, and hailing a taxi or carriage has never been easier. The Egyptians can understand why visitors are staying away yet think such precautions are unfounded. The Gulf is a long way away, and even if hostilities were to break out, Egypt would not be directly affected. Sadam Hussein certainly has no friends here.

For Egypt's tourist industry the situation is disastrous, but for the visitors who come it offers an unsurpassed opportunity to see the country and its fabulous ancient cultural heritage in the most ideal of circumstances.

The 1991 Egyptian tour will enjoy a uniquely uncrowded and leisurely insight into the Egypt of yesterday and today. Our work here is off to a good start. The formalities in Cairo were completed expeditiously and we received a warm welcome from our friends in Sohag. Discussions with an American colleague at Chicago House in Luxor provided a new lead in the interpretation of some of the evidence from the tomb at Awlad Azzaz about which we will inform you at a later date!

Boyo Ockinga

### Visiting Fellow, 1991

Professor Donald Redford of the University of Toronto, Canada, will be the Visiting Fellow for 1991. Professor Redford is Director of the Akhenaten Temple Project at Karnak, which is one of the largest projects in Egypt. Professor Redford will be in Australia for the last two weeks of September and has been invited to lecture in Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne and Adelaide. The titles of his lectures will be "NEW LIGHT ON AKHENATEN FROM KARNAK" (Saturday Conference in Sydney); and lectures selected from "EGYPT AND THE EXODUS"; "THE EASTERN DELTA: THRESHOLD OF TWO CONTINENTS"; "THE REIGN OF THUTMOSE III: EMPIRE BUILDER"; "AMENOPHIS III: EGYPT'S SUN-KING".

### The Bulletin of the Australian Centre

The Bulletin has aroused great interest and extra copies of Vol. I are available from Joan Beck. \$10 (members \$8), postage \$3. Copies can be collected from Joan, W6A 429.

### Membership Fees

Renewal of membership for 1991 is now due. We wish to thank all those who have already renewed their membership for 1991. We hope that you will give the enclosed membership form to friends who may be interested in joining the Foundation.

### The Old Kingdom Tombs of El-Hammamiya

On the invitation of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, the Australian Centre for Egyptology took charge of recording and publishing the rock tombs of El-Hammamiya.

Two tombs were discovered and incompletely recorded by Petrie in 1929 but the tombs have since been re-buried by drifting sand. The Egyptian Antiquities Organisation re-cleared and restored them in preparation for a new and complete recording. Not only did the expedition of the Australian Centre for Egyptology achieve this task but it discovered 4 other tombs which have some scenes and inscriptions preserved and these were also recorded.

El-Hammamiya is an important site for the study of art, architecture and the administrative system in the Old Kingdom, for it is one of the earliest documented burials outside the capital. Up to the end of the IVth Dynasty, all officials were buried around the pyramid of the reigning king and it was at the beginning of the Vth Dynasty that a movement towards decentralisation started. The tombs at El-Hammamiya, some of which are extremely well preserved, shed a great deal of light on this important period of development in Egyptian civilisation.

In order to work on the site members of the team involved left the Centre's accommodation at Sohag every day at 6 a.m. for a journey of approximately 70km. arriving at the site at approximately 7.30 a.m. After breakfast, work was commenced at 8 a.m. and continued until 5 p.m. with an hour's break for lunch. As the site was close to a village it was possible to connect electricity to the dark tombs making the recording easier and more accurate. With longer hours and a very dedicated team, the recording of the whole site was completed in about one month, including week-ends.

The report of this important site has been published and is now available. THE OLD KINGDOM TOMBS OF EL-HAMMAMIYA, (El-Khouli and Kanawati), \$35 (members \$30) Postage \$5.

Enquiries: Joan Beck, School of History

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**

and forward to: Miss Joan Beck,  
School of History,  
Macquarie University, 2109