

The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

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Professor N. Kanawati with the latest find from El-Hawawish

A Personal Chair for Professor Kanawati

Congratulations to Professor Kanawati who has been appointed to a Personal Chair at Macquarie University. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Di Yerbury, said that the appointment "constituted recognition for research leadership and achievement of the highest order".

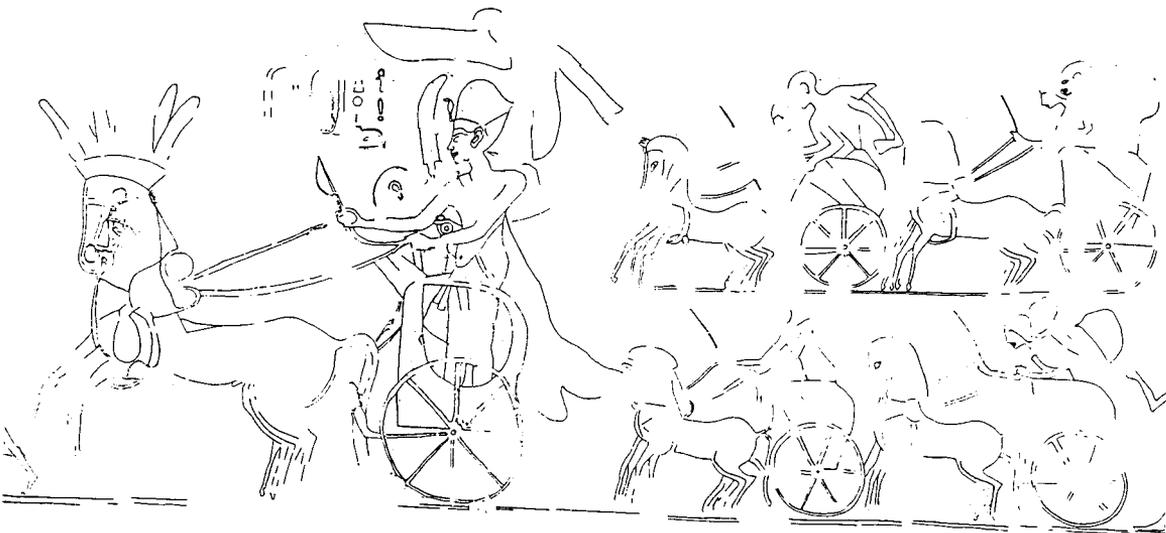
Professor Kanawati is the Director of the Australian Centre for Egyptology and the author of 16 books and 19 articles. The assessment panel for the Personal Chairs, formed of the leading international scholars in the field, said that "there must be few scholars of comparable dynamic energy allied to intellectual ability to match Dr Kanawati in contemporary Egyptology".

Excavation at Awlad Azzaz, led by Dr Boyo Ockinga

It was fortunate that the work at Awlad Azzaz, led by Dr Boyo Ockinga, was begun in the latter part of November and completed by the end of December 1990; thus was not affected by the war in the Gulf.

The work this season involved collation of material recorded during the previous season, conservation work on the reliefs and inscriptions, and further excavation on the escarpment in front of the tomb. The analysis of the material recovered from this once-magnificent tomb indicates that it belonged to a hitherto unknown personage of the Amarna period, called Sennedjem. His titles indicate that he was a very prominent official, comparable to the well-known God's Father and King, Ay. Sennedjem also held the title God's Father together with that of Overseer of Tutors, and since Tutankhamun appears and is briefly mentioned in the tomb, it is more than likely that Sennedjem was involved in the upbringing of the young prince. Particularly interesting is the fact that Sennedjem is shown riding in the king's chariot, as the work of this season was able to confirm - an honour which is unique, to our present knowledge.

In the light of the evidence from the tomb and considering the very close links which some members of the royal family of the period had with Akhmim (e.g. Queen Teye, Ay and his wife, Yuya the father of Nefertiti and, accordingly, Nefertiti herself), it is even likely that Tutankhamun may have grown up in the Akhmim region.



The Gulf war interrupts our work

The season in January-February, 1991 was a particularly promising one for the Australian Centre for Egyptology, with planned continuation of the restoration/preservation work at El-Hawawish and El-Hagarsa (Sohag) and the commencement of work at the site of Deshasha (Beni Suef).

As anticipated, work began on 2 January, 1991 and was progressing well despite the tense atmosphere in the Middle East because of the Gulf situation. Hoping that a peaceful solution would be reached, work continued until 13 January when the likelihood of hostilities became imminent. For safety reasons the whole team flew to Athens to monitor the situation before ending the season. On 16 January it became clear that a return to Egypt was inadvisable and the disappointed team returned to Australia. It is comforting, however, to see that the situation is settling down and the team is hopeful of resuming the normal field-work in December, 1991. All the students who took part in the previous expedition and were deprived of the opportunity of a full season of work, have been offered a place on the next dig.

The Visit of Professor Donald Redford

Professor Redford has recently written to us apologising for his inability to visit us in September as planned because of a new appointment which prevents his leaving Canada at that time. He has offered an alternative date for the visit in April 1992. Final arrangements will be announced in the next Newsletter.

"Life on an Egyptian Dig"

This Conference has been widely advertised by the Continuing Education Program of Macquarie University and is attracting a large number of participants. Members are advised to subscribe as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

The program will include talks by members of the teams of the Australian Centre for Egyptology working on various sites and will consider all aspects of field-work (i.e. excavating, recording, photography, finds, restoration and historical analysis), as well as every day life both on site and in Egyptian towns.

Date: **SATURDAY 18 May, 1991**, in E7B T1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (adults); \$10 (school students).

Lunch and refreshments will be available at a reasonable cost.

Coffee/Tea: \$1.

Courses under way

All courses have attracted large numbers. "Introduction to Hieroglyphs" and a "Bridging Hieroglyphs Course" are held each Friday night and are very well attended. All participants attending these courses will be able to take part in a course to be conducted by Dr Ockinga in June/July, "The Tomb of Neferhotep".

Courses Planned

Dr Boyo Ockinga will conduct an 8-weeks course in June/July, "The Tomb of Neferhotep", which will examine the inscriptions, art, architecture and finds of this tomb. Those who have completed the "Introduction to Hieroglyphs" or the "Bridging Hieroglyphs" Courses will be able to participate. A fee of \$70 (members \$60) will be charged.

Michael Birrell will conduct a 10-weeks course "Egyptian Burial Customs" each Wednesday commencing 31 July to 2 October, 1991. The cost is \$85 (members \$80).

The Annual Dinner

This will be the tenth Annual Dinner of your Foundation and it will be celebrated in a very special way. Details of the date (which will be in late September), venue and cost will be announced in the July Newsletter.

Publications

Two new publications became available at the end of 1990:

The Old Kingdom Tombs of El-Hammamiya, El-Khouli and Kanawati

Two Rameside Tombs of El-Mashayikh, Pt.2, Ockinga and Al-Masri

These, and all previous publications, are available from Joan Beck at \$35 (members \$30) per volume plus postage.

Membership Fees

We thank all those who have renewed their membership for 1991 and hope that those who have not done so will use the enclosed application form for renewal. We would appreciate your immediate attention to the matter as we need to know membership numbers in order to determine the size of the print run for this year's *Bulletin*.

ALL ENQUIRIES: JOAN BECK, 805 8848