



# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

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NEWSLETTER NO. 43

January 1993

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*"Fairy Chimneys" of Cappadocia*

Sixteen members and friends accompanied Joan Beck on a fascinating tour of Northern Greece and Turkey in October. After visiting the Archaeological Museum at Athens the group travelled north to the monasteries of Meteora. It was well worth the effort of climbing hundreds of stairs to marvel at the dedication of those early hermits who, in about 1,000 A.D., built their monasteries on the summits of the awe-inspiring rocks.

Further north even the Macedonian temple-tombs of the time of Phillip II and his son Alexander the Great and the magnificent pebble mosaics of their capital, Pella, hardly prepared us for the breath-taking beauty of their treasures in the Thessaloniki Museum.

Several days later we crossed the border into Turkey where our first stop was at Lone Pine Cemetery and Anzac Cove. I think we all found this a very moving experience, one which will be long remembered.

At the confusing site of Troy it was not difficult to imagine the Trojan troops on the battlements overlooking the Greeks massed on the plain below

and, of course, it goes without saying that photographs were taken at "Schliemann's trench" before leaving the site.

Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, St Sophia, Chora Museum and a cruise on the Bosphorus, with a fish lunch at the entrance to the Black Sea, provided a wonderful variety of entertainment for our stay in Istanbul before flying to Ankara.

On a freezing cold day - the only cold day of the tour - we visited the Hittite capital of Hattusas (Boghazkoy) and Yazilikaya. The immensity of the site surprised us, and as we passed through the 75 metre corbel-vaulted tunnel we marvelled at the skill of the Hittite engineers.

The moon-like landscape of Cappadocia with rock-hewn churches of the Goreme and Zelve valleys fascinated us, as did our visit to the carpet factory where we were given a "lesson" in carpet weaving and all of us tied several knots in a carpet, (hopefully, they removed these works of art before completing their carpets!). We spent several days exploring the region before flying back to the coast to visit Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Bodrum (Halicarnassus). The castle at Bodrum contains a collection of artefacts recovered from ancient wrecks and includes a wonderful display of ancient glass.

Several days later we crossed to the beautiful island of Samos where we spent two days exploring the temple of Hera and the Efpalinos tunnel. The tunnel was cut in the 6th Century B.C. to carry water from a spring in the north of the island 1,000 metres through a mountain to the ancient town of Samos. Tunnelling was commenced at both ends at the same time and took thirteen years to complete. We were able to enter the tunnel and walk about 100 metres along it and inspect the water channel and the red chalk markings on the walls.

On returning to Athens we spent a day cruising to the islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra before flying back to Sydney.

## **TOUR OF CRETE, RHODES AND SOUTHERN TURKEY - 1993**

Following the successful tour of Northern Greece and Turkey, Joan Beck will be leading a tour of Crete, Rhodes and Southern Turkey in October, 1993.

A proposed Itinerary has been planned and is available to those who are interested. The 32 days tour is estimated to cost \$6,000, and a \$500 **non-refundable** deposit must be paid by the end of May, 1993.

## **AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR EGYPTOLOGY TO MOVE TO ASYUT**

During fourteen seasons of excavation in the region of Sohag in Upper Egypt, Macquarie University and the Australian Centre have completed excavating and recording of four important sites; El-Hawawish, El-Hagarsa, El-Mashayikh and Awlad Azzaz.

The city of Sohag is now on the tourist map and the Department of Antiquities and the Government are in the process of establishing all the facilities required to encourage tourism in the area. A local museum is to be built, also a 5-star hotel, restaurants, entertainment areas and sealed roads to the sites.

With the work of the A.C.E. winding down at its last site, El-Hagarsa, it is now planned to move the Centre to the province of Asyut, where a flat has already been secured. The new region is one of the richest archaeological sites and, because of the good quality of stone in the area, is well preserved.

One of the most important sites in the region is Deir El-Gebrawi with two main cemeteries containing many tombs. Previous work on the site was done by Davies in 1902, but a recent examination shows that his records of the excavated tombs are incomplete and there are many other important tombs to be cleared and recorded.

The site is of particular importance because of its richly decorated tombs which include long and well preserved biographies of the tomb owners as well as the traditional daily-life scenes. The tomb owners are related to the royal family of the 6th Dynasty. It is believed that the early governors of Deir El-Gebrawi were the in-laws of Pepy I and cousins of Pepy II.

### **THE MACQUARIE MUMMIES AND "60 MINUTES"**

At long last the medical reports have been received and, accordingly, the "60 Minutes" program on the Macquarie Mummy Project is completed and ready to go to air. However, the producers are so pleased with the documentary that they prefer to hold it until the beginning of the 1993 ratings and it is expected to go to air in February, 1993.

### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Discussion Group will resume on FRIDAY, 5 March, 1993, when a short talk will be followed by a get-together dinner. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. On 5 March, those attending are asked to bring a 'plate' (sandwiches - cakes - salads- etc.). The talks commence at 7 p.m.

each Friday and usually last 2 hours with a break for supper. W6A Room 420.

### **COURSES PLANNED FOR 1993**

*Introduction to Hieroglyphs:* 8-weeks course from 7-9pm each Wednesday, commencing 10 March (Prof. N. Kanawati).  
Cost: \$70 (members \$65).

*Farmer, Noble, Soldier, Scribe: Professional Life in Ancient Egypt:* 10-weeks course commencing in July (date to be advised). (Mr Michael Birrell). Cost: \$80 (members \$75).

*From Womb to Tomb: Life in Ancient Egypt:* 8-weeks course from 7-9pm each Wednesday, commencing 4 August, 1993. (Mrs Gael Callaghan).  
Cost: \$70 (members \$65).

*New Slants in New Kingdom Egyptian History:* 8-weeks course from 7-9pm each Tuesday, commencing 7 September. (Mrs Gae Callender). Cost: \$70 (members \$65).

### **A.C.E. STUDY TOUR OF SYRIA AND JORDAN - JANUARY 1994**

The Study Tour of Syria and Jordan will be led by Mrs Esther Kilkelly and the Lecturer will be Dr Alan Walmsley. Cost: \$5,800.

Dr Walmsley has led many tours to Syria and Jordan and has excavated sites in Jordan. He will also give an 8-weeks course on Syria and Jordan for the general public and for those people joining the tour and details for this will be given in the next Newsletter.

### **A.C.E. DETAILED STUDY TOUR OF CAIRO, LUXOR AND ASWAN - JANUARY 1994**

Dr Boyo Ockinga will be Lecturer on a detailed Study Tour of sites in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan in January, 1994.

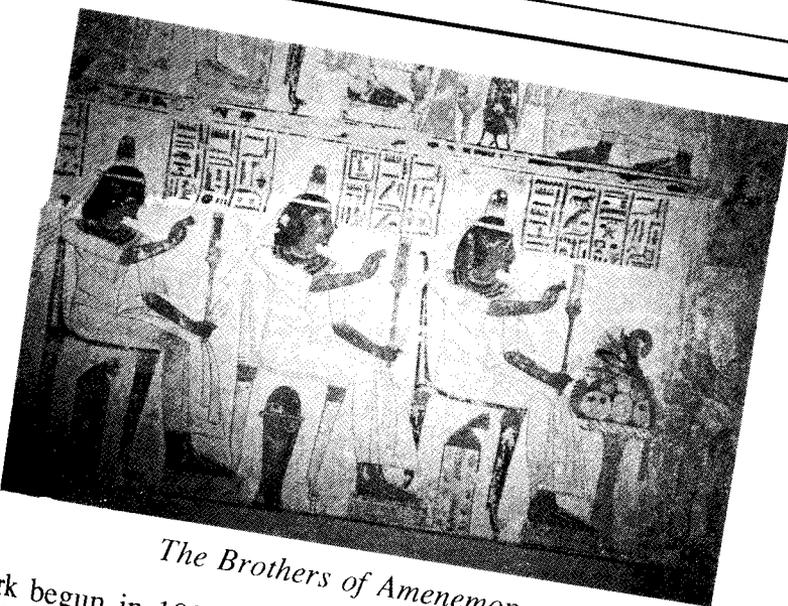
For the tour to proceed we require a minimum of 16 persons, with a firm indication of interest by the end of March, 1993 and a **non-refundable** deposit of \$500 by the end of June, 1993. Cost: \$6,000.

**ALL ENQUIRIES: JOAN BECK - 805 8848**

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NEWSLETTER NO. 44

April 1993



*The Brothers of Amenemope*

Work begun in 1991 on the Tomb of Amenemope at Thebes (see No. 41 of July 1992 for details of the tomb and its owner) was resumed from Dec. 1 to Jan. 13 by a team of six from Macquarie (Dr B. Brophy, Mrs J. Brophy, Mrs G. Callaghan, Miss R. Luhrs, Miss C. Harrison, Miss J. Harrison). The season was a very productive one; thanks to the proximity of living only a short walk away from the site, and to the assistance of our representative from the Egyptian Antiquities Service, Mr Magdy El-Badri, it was possible to extend the time spent at the site by two hours each day which meant that progress was

made on the conservation of the walls of the Broad Hall and reached the stage where it will be possible to begin recording the inscriptions next season.

Progress was made on the excavation of the burial passages and the main south passage and its six chambers have now been cleared. Work was made on the north passage.

It had been so thoroughly ransacked in the past that few objects of finds were recovered but the objects recovered both overseas