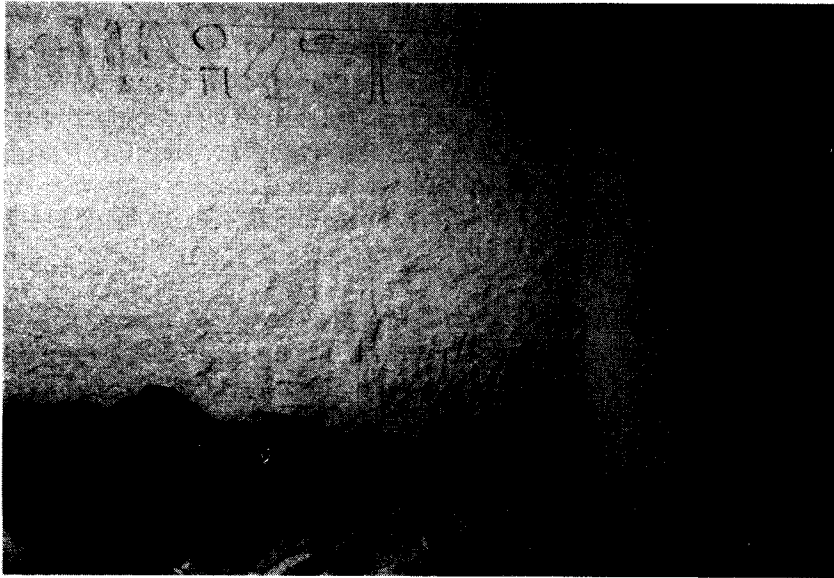




# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 51

January 1995



INSIDE THE SARCOPHAGUS OF NEDJET-EM-PET

## NEW DISCOVERIES AT SAQQARA (NOV./DEC. 1994)

Professor Kanawati and a small team consisting of Mrs Gael Callaghan, Dr Ann McFarlane and Mrs Beth Thompson, worked at Saqqara from 1 November to 15 December 1994.

Members will recall from previous reports that in the last season two important tombs were discovered, one belonging to Ka-aper, an Overseer of all the Works of the King and the other belonging to Nedjet-em-pet, priestess of the goddesses Hathor and Neith, and mother of Mereruka, vizier of Teti.

In the present season work concentrated on clearing the remaining parts of their large mastabas, including the rest of the chapels as well as clearing all the shafts and burial chambers. The clearance is now completed and architectural plans drawn.

The main shafts proved to be particularly large, approximately 2.50m. x 2.50m. and more than 15.0m. deep. Each led to a large burial chamber containing a huge limestone sarcophagus with a large lid. Both sarcophagi had been broken into, possibly in antiquity, and there are reasons to believe that the one of Ka-aper had been emptied in more recent times as it contained only a few human remains, some pottery and miniature stone jars. The shaft of Nedjet-em-pet, on the other hand, was blocked by an undisturbed poor burial from Dynasty 18 and, accordingly, could not have been reached after that time. Although no jewellery was found (the first thing to be removed by ancient tomb robbers), all the pottery and stone jars buried with the deceased were found in the tomb. The analysis of the now dried contents of these jars will be very useful. It was particularly fortunate to find the body of Nedjet-em-pet in the sarcophagus. Mummification was extremely poor at the beginning of the Sixth Dynasty but the skeletal remains are well preserved. Full medical examination will no doubt yield a wealth of information.

The Australian Centre for Egyptology also took an active role in the nearby excavation led by Dr Zahi Hawass, Director-General of the Giza and Saqqara Area. The two teams worked on the clearance and study of the tomb of Teti-anekh, who held the title of 'Eldest Son of the King, of his body' presumably referring to King Teti himself. The chapel contained beautiful reliefs of the tomb owner and his family and, like the tomb of Nedjet-em-pet, the burial chamber was disturbed only in antiquity. The body of the prince, still intact, was in its broken sarcophagus and the burial chamber contained a number of funerary objects reflecting a particularly refined standard of art.

The Teti cemetery proved to hold a great deal of information about this reign and will require further excavations, analysis and studies.

## EXCAVATIONS AT LUXOR

Dr Boyo Ockinga and his team consisting of Mrs Judith Brophy, Ms Robyn Luhrs and Mrs Susanne Ockinga from Macquarie University, commenced their January/February season at Dru Abu el-Naga. It is expected that the recording and restoration of the tomb of Amenemope will be completed.

A full report will follow in the next Newsletter.

### COURSES FOR 1995

*Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs:* An 8-weeks course will be conducted by Professor Naguib Kanawati each WEDNESDAY from 7-9 pm, commencing on 8 March.

*An Introductory Course on Old Kingdom History & Society:* An 8-weeks course will be conducted by Dr Gae Callender each TUESDAY from 7-9 pm, commencing 2 May.

Cost for each course: \$70 (members \$65).

A form is enclosed for completion and return to Miss Joan Beck.

### DISCUSSION GROUP, 1995

The Discussion Group will resume meetings on FRIDAY, 10 February in W6A 420 from 7-9 pm. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. On Friday 10 February the Speaker will be Mr Ted Davidson and the topic of his talk *Mostly David Roberts* will be illustrated with David Robert's Egyptian paintings.

On FRIDAY 17 February, Mr Ian Farquhar-Smith will give an illustrated talk on *The Sea Peoples of the reign of Ramesses III*.

Enquiries: Joan Beck - 850 8848

### VISITING FELLOW FOR 1995 - PROF. GEOFFREY MARTIN

We remind members of the visit of Professor Geoffrey Martin in September, 1995. Professor Martin is currently Director of the Egypt Exploration Society/Leiden Expedition to the New Kingdom Necropolis at Saqqara and he will be speaking about his recent finds, in public lectures in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide. He is also hoping to speak in Perth and Hobart. Professor Martin will speak twice at the Conference in Sydney on Saturday, 23 September. More information will be available in the April and July Newsletters.

### CONFERENCE: *SECRETS BENEATH THE SANDS OF EGYPT*

The Conference will be held on SATURDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER in E7B Mason Theatre, from 9.30 am to 5 pm. Professor Geoffrey Martin, our Visiting Fellow for 1995 will be one of the speakers. Dr Colin Hope, Professor Naguib Kanawati and Dr Boyo Ockinga will also report on their latest discoveries.

## **TOUR OF SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY, 1995**

The 36-day tour will depart Sydney on Wednesday, 4 October and return on Wednesday, 8 November. The tour will include visits to ancient Ostia, Pompeii, Stabiae and Herculanium in Italy before crossing to Sicily for a 19-day tour of the ancient Greek sites. On returning to Italy, 4 days will be spent visiting the Etruscan sites to the north of Rome. There will be free time in Rome to visit local areas before returning to Sydney.

For further information and cost please contact Joan Beck after 31 January, 1995.

## **STUDY TOUR OF EGYPT - JANUARY, 1996**

A three weeks Study Tour, which will include visits to the archaeological sites of Macquarie University, is planned for January 1996.

For the tour to be finalised, interested members and friends are urged to complete the enclosed form and forward it to Miss Joan Beck no later than the end of February 1995.

Estimated cost: \$5,500.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1995**

Subscriptions for 1995 are now due. We hope you will be renewing your membership and thank you for your continued interest and support of our work. A renewal form is enclosed. Please complete and return it together with your cheque (made payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY) to:

Miss Joan Beck  
School of History  
Macquarie University  
North Ryde 2109

**ALL ENQUIRIES: JOAN BECK - 850 8848**