



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 52

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Foundations of the pylons in TT148

The Macquarie team working in the tomb of Amenemope (TT148) at Dra Abu el Naga, Thebes, began its last season on 31 December 1994, closing the site on Thursday, 9 February 1995. The season began rather inauspiciously with the discovery, on arrival in Gurna, that the house which we had been using for the past two seasons had been rather badly affected by the severe flooding which hit the area in November 1994. The house had been standing in a metre of water for three weeks and was no longer habitable, even if it did not suffer the fate of many of the mud brick houses

in the neighbourhood which had been totally destroyed and reduced to mounds of mud. After taking refuge for the first few nights at the well-known Sheikh Ali's, an hotel in Gurna founded by a descendant of the Abd el Rasoul family of tomb robbery fame, we were able to find very comfortable accommodation on the East Bank.

Fortunately the start of work at the site was only delayed a day and once started progressed smoothly. The major achievement of the season was the completion of the excavation of the tomb's courtyard. Although our expectation of uncovering a companion column base to the one found last season was not fulfilled, this was more than compensated for by the discovery of the foundations of the towers of the pylon that originally stood at the entrance to the courtyard. In view of the very close similarities between the tomb of Amenemope and that of his father Tjanefer, where the pylon is still largely preserved, we had reckoned with TT148 also having had one, but to have this definitely confirmed archaeologically was very pleasing. As in the last season, the work this year brought to light a large number of re-used blocks which had been used in the building of the pylon and the walls of the courtyard, one part of a lintel with part of a cartouche of either Amenophis I or II, another with part of a figure of Ramesses II, identified by his throne name. Two rather surprising finds were made in the core of the pylon: an 18th Dynasty canopic jar lid in the form of a human head, inscribed with the name of Neith, the goddess associated with the jackal-headed god Duamutef, and the base of a statue of an Overseer of the Storeroom of Amun at Karnak named Riya, whose tomb, TT198, is situated quite a distance away to the south of Khokha.

In addition to the excavations, work continued on the conservation of the tomb's walls and the recording of its scenes and inscriptions. Work has progressed to the stage that it is hoped that it will be possible to complete the project in one further season.

TOUR OF SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY

As advertised in the January, 1995 Newsletter, the 5-weeks tour of Southern Italy and Sicily will leave Sydney on WEDNESDAY 4 October and return on WEDNESDAY 8 November.

We are pleased to advise that sufficient numbers have joined the tour to make it viable, however, we have room for two more. If you are interested, please contact Joan Beck (850 8848).

The cost will be \$7,000 and a \$500 non-refundable deposit is required.

STUDY TOUR OF EGYPT

A Study Tour of Egypt will leave Sydney in January for a 3-weeks tour, and the group will be accompanied by a lecturer from Macquarie University. With the number of tourists still limited in Egypt, this is the right time to visit the country. The tour will include detailed visits of Cairo and its museums, Giza, Saqqara, Abusir, then Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel, with a luxury Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan and Abu Simbel.

Interested members should contact Joan Beck immediately (850 8848) for further particulars.

COURSES TO BE HELD

AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON OLD KINGDOM HISTORY AND SOCIETY: Dr Gae Callender will conduct an 8-weeks course, from 7-9 pm each TUESDAY, commencing 2 May.

A READING COURSE IN HIEROGLYPHS: Dr Boyo Ockinga will conduct an 8-weeks course, from 7-9 pm each FRIDAY, commencing 12 May. The course will focus on reading traditional inscriptions which the visitor to Egypt regularly encounters on monuments.

COST FOR EACH OF ABOVE COURSES: \$70 (members \$65).

THE ARCHITECTURE OF ANCIENT EGYPT: Mrs Gael Callaghan will conduct a 4-weeks course from 7-9 pm each THURSDAY, commencing 3 August. (Venue in next Newsletter). COST: \$35 (members \$30).

LECTURE: *LAW AND JUSTICE IN ANCIENT EGYPT*

Mr Greg Judd, A solicitor who is currently undertaking research in the Egyptian system of justice, will give a lecture on Egyptian justice on WEDNESDAY 16 August, in W5A T2 commencing at 8 pm.

This is a FREE lecture and all members and their friends are welcome.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group will resume meetings on FRIDAY 17 July, from 7-9 pm in W6A 420. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

The group has not been meeting during the Introduction to Hieroglyphs course and will not meet during the Old Kingdom History and Society course as members also wish to attend these courses.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR GEOFFREY MARTIN

On TUESDAY 19 September, Professor Geoffrey Martin, our Visiting Fellow for 1995, will speak on *Reflections on Egyptian Art of the New Kingdom*, in X5B Theatre (new building next to W6A), at 8 pm.
COST: \$8 (members \$5).

The lecture will be richly illustrated and will outline and discuss the main characteristics of Egyptian art in the New Kingdom. Examples used will include scenes from well-known monuments as well as some recently discovered by Professor Martin.

CONFERENCE: *SECRETS BENEATH THE SANDS OF EGYPT*

As members know, our Annual Conference will be held on SATURDAY, 23 September in Mason Theatre, E7B, Macquarie University from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

COST: \$30 (School Students \$20).

The speakers will be:

Mr Michael Birrell (Macquarie): Burial Customs at Ismant El-Kharab

Dr Colin Hope (Monash): Recent Excavations at Ismant El-Kharab in the Dakhleh Oasis.

Dr Boyo Ockinga (Macquarie): Results of Recent Work in the Tomb of Amenemope at Luxor.

Professor Naguib Kanawati (Macquarie): Recent Work in the Teti Pyramid Cemetery at Saqqara.

Professor Geoffrey Martin (London): 1) A Street of New Kingdom Tombs at Saqqara
2) The Tomb of Maya, Treasurer of Tutankhamun.

As this Conference is advertised through the Continuing Education Program, we advise our members and friends to book as soon as possible.

ALL ENQUIRIES: MISS JOAN BECK - (02) 850 8848