



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 61

July 1997



Mrs Rosalind Janssen from Petrie Museum, University of London, examining the textiles from TT148

The Macquarie Theban Tombs Project, led by Dr Boyo Ockinga, continued its work in the tomb of Amenemope (TT148) at Dra Abu el Naga in December 1996 and January 1997. In this season the recording of the small finds discovered in the previous seasons was completed. This work was carried out by S. Binder, J. Brophy, R. Luhrs and M. Underwood under the direction of K. Sowada. R. Janssen of the Petrie Museum, University of London, joined the team for a week to study the textiles found. Work also continued on the conservation and preservation of the tomb. As well as consolidating the decorated areas of the walls, a steel frame was installed to support an unstable section of the ceiling of the long hall.

Work was also begun on the neighbouring tomb of Saroy (TT233). This tomb was in an extremely precarious state and most of our efforts were concentrated on securing the tomb to make it safe to work in. To this end a steel frame was erected at the northern end of the broad hall to support the ceiling. The southern end of the east wall of the broad hall which had collapsed was rebuilt, closing off a gaping hole and so providing protection for the reliefs and inscriptions which had been exposed to the elements. This work was greatly facilitated by the cooperation of the Department of Antiquities in Gurna and especially by our accompanying inspector, Magdy el Badry.

Although efforts were concentrated on securing the structure of TT233, some preliminary recording, in the form of hand copies of the tomb's inscriptions, was also carried out. This produced some very interesting results which supplement and correct the information on the tomb published in the standard reference work *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs and Paintings*.

The tomb's inscriptions indicate that it was built not only for Saroy, but also for his assistant named Amenhotep, also called Hui, who, like Saroy, was 'Royal Scribe of the Offering Table of the Lord of the Two Lands'. In addition to this title, Saroy also held the titles 'Scribe of the king's repast', 'Royal Messenger to the Foreign Land(s)' and 'Companion of the Lord of the Two Lands' which, along with the designation 'Confidant of the King' indicate that he was a trusted official who stood close to the king. In a fragmentary autobiographical inscription carved on the northern reveal of the main door leading into the broad hall, he tells visitors to the tomb of his various royal appointments.

The upper register of the southern half of the west wall of the broad hall does not, as stated in the *Topographical Bibliography*, depict the tomb owner at the gates of the netherworld but gives a series of vignettes depicting Saroy worshipping various deities. In the middle register of this wall there is a panel depicting Saroy before Osiris accompanied by the text of a prayer, part of which is also to be found accompanying the Sokar Festival reliefs in the temple of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu.

Below the scenes representing the funeral procession and opening of the mouth in front of the tomb, found on the south wall of the broad hall, appears the text of chapter 1 of the Book of the Dead. On the southern half of the east wall of the broad hall is an unfinished version of chapter 125 of the Book of the Dead, the so-called 'Negative Confession', and the ceiling was inscribed with chapter 17 of the Book of the Dead.

VISIT BY PROFESSOR JAMES HOFFMEIER

The visit of Professor Hoffmeier from the Department of Archaeology at Wheaton University, USA on 12 March, was a great success. He gave two lectures and spoke to a packed theatre: *A Visit to Unvisited Pyramids* and *Recent Exploration in North Sinai: Some Implications for the Israelite Exodus*.

CONFERENCE - DIGGERS ON THE NILE

The Australian Centre for Egyptology will hold its annual Conference, entitled *Diggers on the Nile*, on SATURDAY, 19 July, from 10am to 5pm., in X5B Theatre 1. (Enter the University from Balaclava Road). The Australian Egyptologists will discuss their excavations in the important sites of Helwan (Early Dynastic); Abu Sir (Old Kingdom); The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara (Old and New Kingdoms) and Thebes (New Kingdom).
COST: \$35 (Students and Pensioners \$25).

The **Activities Committee** will be providing light refreshments at the Conference at a reasonable cost. They will also be offering another Egyptian mug with the design of a Protodynastic cylinder seal from Helwan. This unique design from a very early period in Egyptian History will be an important addition to the designs already produced of scenes from the Old and New Kingdoms in Egypt.

Cost of the mugs is \$8, and T-Shirts (\$20) and Windcheaters (\$17.50) will be available. The Co-Op Bookshop and Jennifer Jaeger will also have books and articles on sale.

As well as the above items, we will be selling individually designed jewellery inspired by that of the Ancient Egyptians. Necklaces made of the stones favoured by the ancient Egyptians, such as malachite, turquoise, amethyst, carnelian, lapis lazuli and silver, will be keenly priced from \$90 to \$149. Cash and cheques will be accepted. Sorry, no credit cards.

COURSES PLANNED FOR SECOND HALF OF YEAR

THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT: Mr Michael Birrell will hold a one-day Seminar on SATURDAY, 5 July, from 9.30am to 4pm in C4A 312.
Cost: \$90 (including lunch).

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY: Mr Ross Saunders, from the Society for the Study of Early Christianity, will give a lecture on TUESDAY, 15 July, at 7.30pm in W3A 501. Supper provided. Cost: \$7.
Enquiries: Mrs Pat Geidans - 9850 7512.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT EGYPT: Mr Michael Birrell will conduct a 10-weeks course each TUESDAY from 7-9 pm commencing 29 July in X5B 143. Cost: \$120.

A DAY IN ROMAN TURKEY: Mr Michael Newton will hold a one-day Seminar on SATURDAY, 2 August, from 10am to 4.30pm in W5C 210. Cost: \$85 (including lunch).

MIDDLE KINGDOM EGYPT: Dr. Gae Callender will conduct an 8-weeks course each TUESDAY from 7-9 pm commencing 5 August in X5B 132. Cost: \$100.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group meets every second FRIDAY in the Museum of Ancient Cultures, X5B from 7-9 pm. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. The next meetings will be held on FRIDAY July 11 (The Hittite/Egyptian Relationships); July 25 (The El-Amarna Period); August 8 (Ancient Egyptian Literature); August 22 (The Ptolemies); September 5 (The Sea Peoples); September 19 (The Pharos of Alexandria); October 10 (Nubia - Forts, Tombs & Temples); October 24 (The Exodus). The final meeting for the year will be held on Friday, 7 November.

PLANNED PUBLICATIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1997

A.C.E. Reports

Reports 9 - N. Kanawati & A. Hassan, *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara*
Vol. 2: *The Tomb of Ankhmahor*
Cost: \$45 (members \$40).

Reports 10 - B. Ockinga, *A Tomb of the Reign of Tutankhamun at Awlad Azzaz (Akhhim)*.
Cost: \$40 (members \$35).

A.C.E. Studies

Studies 4 - J. Walker, *Studies in Ancient Egyptian Medical Terminology*.
Studies 5 - F. Giles, *The Amarna Age: Western Asia*.
Cost: \$40 (members \$35) per volume.

Postage: \$5 within Australia and \$9 outside Australia, per volume.

Still available: Reports 1 - 8.

Studies 2 and 3.

(Study No. 1, *The Family in the XVIIIth Dynasty in Egypt* is out of print.)

Bulletin of the A.C.E., Vols. 1 - 7. Cost \$10, members \$8,
plus postage \$3 each within Australia, \$5 outside Australia.

ALL ENQUIRIES: JOAN BECK - (02) 9850 8848 (Mon. & Wed.8am-3pm)