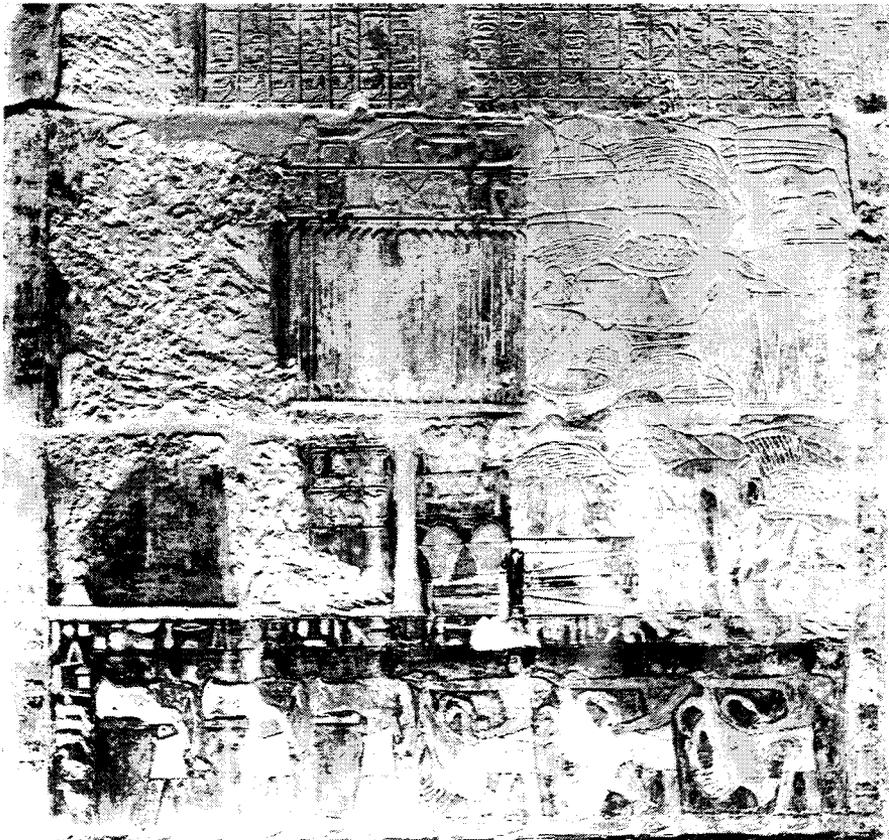




The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 65

July 1998



RELIEF FROM THE TOMB OF SEANKHUI-PTAH

A considerable section of the northern cemetery of King Teti was excavated in the early 1980's by Dr Abder-Raziq, then Director-General of Archaeology in the Antiquity Organisation and now Professor of the University of Suez Canal. The site of his excavation lies immediately to the north of the important mastabas of the viziers Kagemni and Mereruka. It has yielded some of the most fascinating tombs of the cemetery which, although smaller in size, equal the standard of art of those of the aforementioned viziers. In past years the discovered tombs have been preserved and restored but remain unpublished. The Australian Centre for Egyptology with its current interest in the excavation and complete study of the Teti Cemetery has reached agreement with Dr Abder-Raziq to jointly publish the tombs in his concession.

In the past season, November-December 1997, the Australian team working at Saqqara has made a complete record of a tomb belonging to a man named Seankhui-Ptah whose name and figure have been deliberately chiselled out from scenes and inscriptions. There is no evidence of vandalism, apart from the name and figure of the tomb owner the remainder of the scenes and inscriptions are in an excellent state of preservation. As such action would condemn the owner to oblivion, it is likely that it represented a punishment for a major crime. We do not know the reason for such a punishment but as Seankhui-Ptah was the chief physician of the palace, he was no doubt close to the person of the king and therefore in a position to cause harm if he so wished.

The Egyptian historian Manetho tells us that King Teti was assassinated by his bodyguards. Surely the bodyguards would have been under the direction of some higher officials, was Seankhui-Ptah one of them?

In the above relief we see the tomb owner seated at an offering table with offering bearers bringing food to him. His figure, however, has been chiselled out, although we can trace the outline. Small parts of hieroglyphic signs overlooked by the craftsman responsible for removing the figures and names enable us to read his name with certainty.

Only by recording all the tombs in the Teti Cemetery and collating the evidence can a complete study of the turbulent events of the period be made.

A detailed report on this tomb will be given at the Conference on 17 October.

COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO COLLOQUIAL EGYPTIAN ARABIC: Prof. N. Kanawati will conduct a 15-weeks course each THURSDAY, commencing 9 July, from 7-9 pm, in the Seminar Room, Level 3, X5B. This course is for the complete beginner who would like to visit Egypt and be able to communicate at a basic level.

Cost: \$100. Please make cheque payable to: **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** and forward with the enclosed form to Joan Beck.

LEIDEN COLLECTION

Special viewings for Rundle members and their friends have been arranged on Tuesday, 21 July or Monday, 27 July from 6-8.30 pm, at The Australian Museum, Sydney (see enclosed notice).

Egyptian Art from the Museum of Antiquities at Leiden, The Netherlands.

Cost: \$26. This includes light refreshments, a short talk and viewing of the exhibition.

SEMINAR - Saturday, 8 August, 2-6pm.

Venue: The Seminar Room, Museum of Ancient Cultures, Level 3, X5B.

Dr Janine Bourriau will give two fully illustrated lectures:

1. *Beyond Avaris: The Second Intermediate Period in Upper Egypt*
2. *Pharaohs and Mortals: Egyptian Art during the Middle Kingdom*

Also, Dr Peter French will give a fully illustrated lecture entitled:

The Recent Discoveries at Qasr-Ibrim. The Southernmost Frontier of the Roman Empire

Cost: \$25 (including coffee, tea and biscuits. Please make cheques payable to the **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** and forward to Joan Beck with the enclosed form.

Please note numbers are limited to 50.

SPECIAL DINNER, HONOURING JOAN BECK

On Friday, 11 September, 1998 a SPECIAL DINNER will be held in the Function Room, Macquarie University Union at 7 pm for 7.30 pm, to celebrate Joan's 80th Birthday and to pay tribute for her long and efficient service to Egyptology.

Joan has served as Hon. Sec. for the Australian Centre for Egyptology and the Rundle Foundation for 17 years. At the end of 1998, when she will celebrate her 80th Birthday, she has announced her wish to retire.

We hope you will be able to share this special occasion with us. A hot and cold Buffet Dinner will be served.

COST: \$40. Please complete the enclosed form and return it with your cheque made payable to the **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** to:

The Australian Centre for Egyptology
School of History
Macquarie University 2109

CONFERENCE - *UNEARTHING EGYPT'S PAST*

VENUE: Theatre 1, X5B, Saturday, 17 October 1998, from 10am to 5pm.

Egyptologists from Australia and overseas will present fully illustrated lectures of their work on Egyptian excavations.

Refreshments will be available at a reasonable cost. Books and individually designed jewellery inspired by that of the ancient Egyptians, will be on sale.

Cost: \$35 (pensioners and students \$25). Please make cheque payable to **MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY** and forward, with the enclosed form, to Joan Beck.

MAHA LECTURES

A Public Lecture entitled *Report on the Underwater Dig at Torone, 1997*, will be given by Dr Tom Hillard and students, on THURSDAY, 4 June, at 8.15pm, in Room 321, Level 3, X5B.

A Public Lecture entitled *The Pyramid of Neferefre (Dynasty V); the Final Excavation*, will be given by Dr Gae Callender, on TUESDAY, 16 June, at 8.15pm, in Room 321, Level 3, X5B.

Both these lectures are free.

Enquiries: Margaret Parker
School of History
Macquarie University 2109 Tel. 9850 9965

VISITING LECTURERS

During April and May, lectures were given by Professor Henry Bouillier of the Sorbonne, Paris, and Dr John Currid of Mississippi, USA, and both were very well attended.

Professor Bouillier spoke of his memories of Cairo in the 1950s and Dr Currid gave fascinating lectures on the Child Sacrificial Cemetery at Carthage and on the Egyptian Setting of the Plague Account.

Please note: Some cheques must be made payable to **Macquarie University** and others to **Activities Committee**. It would be greatly appreciated if you would check to which account payment is to be made.

**ALL ENQUIRIES: JOAN BECK - (02) 9850 8848
(Mon. & Wed. 8am to 1pm)**