



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

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November 1998



JOAN BECK WITH NAGUIB KANAWATI AT THE DINNER
IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE PORTRAIT AND THE BIRTHDAY CAKE

The Annual Dinner of the Australian Centre for Egyptology was held in the Banqueting and Conference Centre at Macquarie University on Friday, 11 September.

The evening was arranged by Naguib Kanawati to honour my 80th birthday and retirement as Honorary Secretary. It was magnificently organised by Leonie Donovan and is an evening I will always remember as the most wonderful party I have ever had. Among the 187 guests were the Deputy-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and members of the academic staff, as well as friends from every period of my life, from primary school through to friends from Macquarie, and from Willandra Retirement Village, which is now my home.

Mr Emile Chidiac opened the evening program with a lute interlude of four Arabic songs which set the mood for the evening. After a delicious dinner, Christiana Köhler gave a short illustrated talk on her dig at Helwan and Naguib produced slides of my work with the pottery at El-Hawawish.

I always knew that a University was a centre for research, but I never expected to be a subject myself, so I was stunned to hear how much the Vice-Chancellor, Di Yerbury, knew of my past activities.

I would like to thank both Di Yerbury and Naguib for their many kind words and I hope that I will be able to persuade them that my retirement will meet with their approval after all!

What a wonderful idea of Leonie's to present me with an album containing messages from everyone at the dinner. A permanent reminder of a splendid occasion, as well as the exquisite Egyptian brooch and the "Certificate of Appreciation" prepared by Juliette Bentley of the Activities Committee on behalf of the A.C.E. and the Rundle Foundation. I would also like to thank John Kanawati for his brilliant portrait of me which now hangs in pride of place in my unit. The birthday cake was another delightful surprise. The Egyptian decorations were so beautiful that it was a pity to cut the cake. However, the taste proved to be as delicious as the decorations were beautiful.

I will hand over to five efficient members who, I am sure, will bring new ideas to further the interests of Egyptology, and with the help of the Activities Committee, the courses, conferences, etc. will work smoothly and successfully. The staff will still enjoy their coffee from 9 am to 5 pm, students will still have the use of my books and journal articles for their study and members will still receive their Newsletters and Bulletins, so nothing much will change - except that I will be in the audience instead of in the kitchen!

Joan Beck

This is another opportunity for me, and I would not like to miss any, to thank Joan for years of dedicated services to Egyptology, for the long days and hard work she put into the promotion of the subject, for the care with which she organised our many activities and, above all, for her support and loyalty as a very good friend. Some people are not made for retirement and Joan is certainly one of them. I do hope that her 'retirement' will be more official than actual.

Naguib Kanawati

CONFERENCE REPORT

About 300 people attended the A.C.E. Conference at Macquarie University on October 17. Attendees enjoyed a varied and stimulating series of lectures by Australian Egyptologists. Reflecting excavation methods, reports were presented on current projects spanning millennia of history reading backwards in time from the early Christian period to the dawn of the dynastic era.

Colin Hope from Monash University presented a paper on excavations in the Dakhleh Oasis which detailed his discovery of a fourth century Christian church and the progress of work in the temple of Tutu.

A Czechoslovakian team in Abusir made the exciting discovery of the intact tomb of Iufaa, a nobleman of the Persian period. Gae Callender, a member of that team, spoke entertainingly of the difficulties of excavating the massive shaft. The audience was able to share the excitement associated with opening the sarcophagus to reveal the mummy and its protective reliefs and inscriptions.

Moving to New Kingdom times, Boyo Ockinga revealed secrets from the tomb of Sennedjem at Awlad Azzaz. He suggested that Sennedjem acted as tutor to Tutankhamun

and shared his tomb with another person, Senqed. Both fell from grace on Horemheb's accession to the throne. A magnificent stone coffin found at Saqqara, probably manufactured in the royal workshops, bears the name of Senqed. Ockinga postulates that this coffin may have been destined for the man from Akhmim but was never delivered due to the tomb owner's changed circumstances.

Naguib Kanawati described two Old Kingdom tombs in the Teti Cemetery. One belonged to Hesi, a man of moderate titles who was suddenly promoted to vizier, the second was owned by Seankhuptah, Chief Physician of Upper and Lower Egypt. The names and figures of both men had been chiselled from their tombs. That these men played a role in the possible conspiracy to murder Teti, has been suggested by Manetho.

The closing lecture by Christiana Köhler introduced her new project at Helwan. She summarised previous work by Zaki Saad in the 1940's and 50's before moving on to her own investigations of two sections. One revealed a rock tomb and the second tomb was constructed from large stone slabs. Her examinations indicated that the Fourth Dynasty pyramid builders had gained necessary knowledge from such predecessors in the early dynastic period.

TWO STUDY TOURS - JANUARY 1999

Two study tours of Egypt will leave Sydney in January 1999.

First tour - departs Saturday, 2nd, under the leadership of Dr Boyo Ockinga (22 people).

Second tour - departs Wednesday, 6th, under the leadership of Mr Michael Birrell (15 people).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 1999

A series of public lectures will be given throughout the year. Details will be given in the January Newsletter.

COURSES

THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS: AN OUTLINE OF EGYPTIAN HISTORY: Ms Rodna Siebels will conduct an 8-weeks course each WEDNESDAY, commencing 14 April, from 7-9 pm. Venue to be announced.

Cost: \$100. Please make cheque payable to **MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY** and forward with the enclosed form to:
The Australian Centre for Egyptology
School of History
Macquarie University 2109

CONFERENCE - *THE HOUSE OF ETERNITY: RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT*

VENUE: Theatre 1, Building X5B, Saturday, 8 May 1999, from 10am to 5pm.

Egyptologists will present fully illustrated lectures of recent excavations in Egypt.

Cost: \$40 (pensioners/students \$35). Please make cheques payable to **MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY** and forward with the enclosed form to the Australian Centre for Egyptology.

EVENTS HELD DURING 1998

THE "LEIDEN COLLECTION" AT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Two private viewings for Rundle members were given in July. Over 100 people took the opportunity to attend.

SEMINAR

A seminar was given by Dr J. Bourriau and Dr P. French on Saturday, 8 August, which was well attended.

LECTURES IN BRISBANE

Dr Ockinga and Dr Köhler each gave two lectures at the University of Queensland on 9 - 10 October.

Dr Ockinga spoke on the *Deities of Ancient Egypt* and *The European Discovery of Ancient Egypt*. Dr Köhler spoke on *The Formation of the Ancient Egyptian State* and *A New Insight into Pyramid Construction*.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The 1998 A.C.E. Coffee Mugs are now available. The cost is \$8 each or two for \$15. Postage: \$3.50 per mug.

Please make cheques payable to **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** and forward to the Australian Centre for Egyptology.

Please note: Some cheques must be made payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY and others to the ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE. It would be greatly appreciated if you would check to which account payment is to be made.

ALL ENQUIRIES: (02) 9850 8848

We are sure all members would like to wish Joan a happy and healthy retirement.