



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 68

April 1999



PARTICIPANTS AT ABU SIMBEL

STUDY TOURS OF EGYPT 1999

Two study tours left for Egypt in January 1999, the first being led by Dr Ockinga and the second by Mr Birrell. We received the following report from a member of the first group.

The study tour led by Dr Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder suffered an inauspicious start with our flight delayed to January 3 which caused extra work for Boyo and Susanne in re-structuring the itinerary. However, the wonderful quality of the tour more than made up for the delayed start.

There were many highlights, the most significant being the tours of the various Macquarie excavation sites. Dr Christiana Kohler introduced us to Helwan whilst Professor Kanawati, Dr Ann McFarlane and Mrs Elizabeth Thompson conducted tours around Saqqara and Dr Ockinga described his own site in Luxor. We are all grateful for these wonderful experiences. We received film star treatment with police escorts for tours covering the Giza Pyramids and associated tombs, the Djoser complex and other Saqqara sites, museums, Deir el Bahri, the Ramesseum and the Karnak and Luxor temples. Indeed security was noticeable with police on camels, motor bikes and in cars at all main sites. The West bank was exciting and rewarding, particularly the walk over the cliffs above Deir el Medina and Deir el Bahri, whilst the Valley of the Kings now has a "Disneyland" type small train to transport visitors from the entrance cafe into the actual valley.

The Nile cruise visited Edfu and Kom Ombo, the wonderful Kubbet el Hawa tombs, Philae, Elephantine (Boyo in seventh heaven) and Sehel at Aswan. The excellent and more relaxing Lake Nasser cruise which visited Kalabasha, Beit el Wali, Sebua, Dakka, Maharakka, Amada, and Qasr Ibrim (now partially waterlogged) culminated in the fantastic approach to unforgettable Abu Simbel. The concluding days of the tour were spent at Alexandria and the interesting Wadi Natrun monastery.

All members of the tour were compatible and good natured in the face of minor tummy upsets and colds and even presented brave faces against the ever persistent vendors of a multitude of goods. Most importantly, the tour was fun and between us we can now open a Nubian bead shop. Our heartfelt thanks go to Boyo and Susanne for a superb tour, we certainly arrived home much fitter.

June Anderson

THE MACQUARIE THEBAN TOMB PROJECT

This project, led by Dr Ockinga, continued its works at Dra abu el-Naga in the tombs of Amenope (TT148) and Saroy (TT233) during November and December 1998. In TT148 the work of conservation and consolidation of the tomb's walls was continued, also conducted were an architectural study by Judith Brophy and one on the human remains by Dr Spigelman assisted by Wendy Robinson.

Susanne Binder supervised excavations in the courtyard and Broad Hall of TT233. Robyn Luhres undertook the consolidation of the wall decorations and the cleaning and conservation of the small finds recovered before they were registered and photographed by Leonie Donovan.

TT233 has suffered severe damage including the collapse of the northern and southern ends of the Broad Hall due to rock falls and erosion. These areas have now been reconstructed as has the doorway. Two to three metres of rubble have been cleared to reveal the tomb's facade.

These works have revealed some interesting new information about the tomb and its owner. Inscriptions show that the tomb was actually prepared for two men. The principle owner was "The Royal Scribe of the King's table" Saroy, but he shared his tomb with his assistant Amenhotep called Huy of the same title. Other previously unknown titles of Saroy are: "Companion of the Lord of the Two Lands (the King)", "Royal Scribe of the King's Report" and "Royal Commissioner to he Hill Country". These titles, along with a very interesting "Address to the Living" on the northern door thickness, indicate that Saroy was a trusted official of the King. Although no royal name has yet come to light in the tomb inscriptions, a statue found in the Karnak cachette probably also belonged to the owner of TT233 and suggests he served Ramesses II. Hopefully next season's excavations of the tomb's two offering chapels, the remainder of the courtyard and the location of the main burial shaft and chamber will reveal more information of the tomb's owners.

Dr B. Ockinga

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE HOUSE OF ETERNITY: RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT

The conference will be held on Saturday May 8, 1999 at Macquarie University in building X5B T1, when Australian Egyptologists, who are currently excavating in some of the most sensitive sites in Egypt, will present their recent fieldwork with fully illustrated talks.

COST: \$40 (Pensioners and students \$35)

PLEASE NOTE: An incorrect cost for the conference was printed in the Continuing Education brochure.

COURSE REMINDER

THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS: AN OUTLINE OF EGYPTIAN HISTORY begins 14 April from 7-9pm in X5B 136

COST: \$100

Enquiries: 9850 8848

EVENING LECTURES

Mr Paul Bentley will give a lecture entitled: "TALES FROM THE TETI CEMETERY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE SKELETAL REMAINS"

COST: \$10

DATE: Monday 7 June at 7PM

VENUE: Seminar room of the Museum of Ancient Cultures, X5B Level 3.
A light supper will be served.

Details of further evening meetings will be given in the July newsletter.

For any of these events please complete the enclosed forms and return together with a cheque made payable to **Macquarie University to:**

The Australian Centre for Egyptology,
Macquarie University
North Ryde 2109

MUGS

A new design of mug will be available for sale at our conference in May. Previous designs can be ordered through the Activities Committee.

COST: \$8 per mug or two for \$15 plus postage of \$3.50 per mug. All cheques to be made payable to the **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** at the address below.

EDUCATIONAL SLIDE KITS FOR SALE

For the first time, slide sets on topics from previous Macquarie digs will be available covering:

Early Dynastic Times
The Old Kingdom
The New Kingdom

Kits will include 10 slides with a brief commentary on each highlighting important results. These kits will provide useful and interesting information for the general public and helpful teaching material. It is anticipated that these kits will be available for sale at our conference in May but can also be ordered by mail at an additional cost of \$3 per kit to cover postage and packing.

COST: \$25 / kit

NOTE: Please ensure that **separate cheques** are written for mugs or functions sponsored by the Activities Committee. These payments are made to a different account from Rundle Foundation or A.C.E. monies.

All mail should be addressed to:

The Australian Centre for Egyptology
School of History
Macquarie University 2109

Telephone: (02) 9850 8848 9am - 3pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday