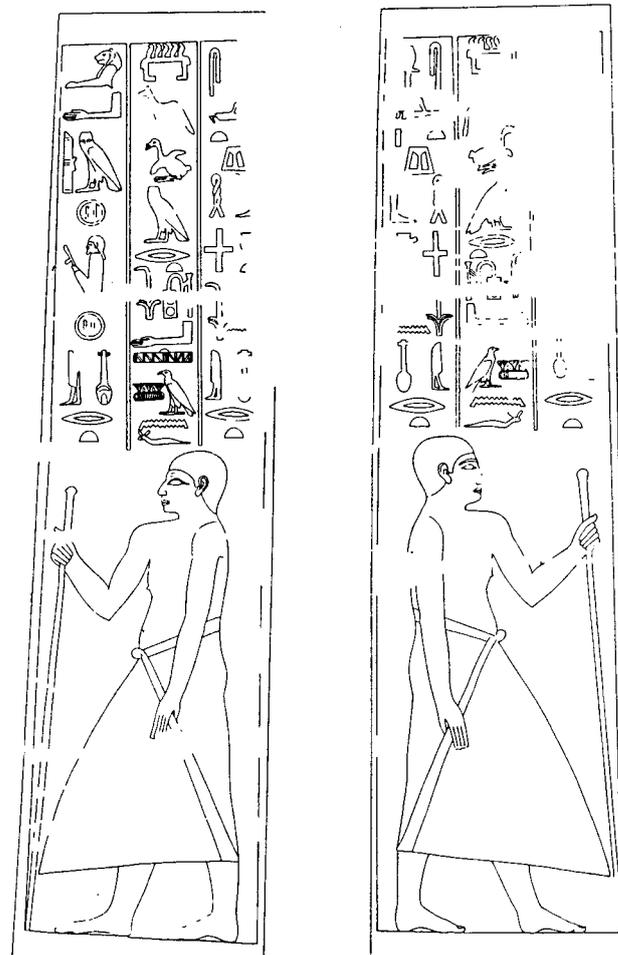




The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 71

January 2000



THE VIZIER IYNEFERT ON THE THICKNESS OF THE ENTRANCE
TO HIS TOMB IN THE UNAS CEMETERY AT SAQQARA

New Developments in the Saqqara Project

The Saqqara project began with the aim of investigating the cemetery to the north of Teti's pyramid where, behind the well known mastabas of the viziers Mereruka, Kagemni, Neferseshemre and Ankhmahor, most of his higher officials and those in the direct service of the palace were buried. As the excavation progressed it became clear that the same cemetery was also used during the reign of Pepy I. The tomb of the vizier Inumin was discovered by the expedition but it is also known that other viziers of Pepy I were buried in the vicinity. The vizier Meryteti, son of Mereruka, built his tomb as an annexe to that of his father and

Tjetju built his in the corner between the mastabas of Mereruka and Kagemni. Khentika, who probably held office in the transitional period between Teti and Pepy I, built an independant mastaba to the N-E of Teti's pyramid and Rewer built a much smaller one to the S-E of the pyramid.

The project was expanded to include the area originally excavated to the N-W of the pyramid by Dr M. Abder-Raziq initially of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation and now Professor of Egyptology at University of Suez Canal. With the inclusion of this section of the cemetery, the aim of the project was enlarged to survey, map, excavate and record the entire cemetery in preparation for a complete study of the reign of Teti and his immediate successors. It was also noticed that a large number of the tombs have one feature in common, namely, the erasure of the names and/or figures of their tomb owners. While this feature appears sporadically in the other cemeteries it is nowhere as prominent and systematic as it is in the Teti cemetery. It is tempting, but by no means certain, to link this feature to Manetho's claim that Teti was assassinated by his bodyguard and to see in it a punishment inflicted on the conspirators. A full investigation of this claim can only be undertaken when the excavations in the cemetery are completed allowing a study to be based on maximum evidence.

With the above in mind, the question of Teti's accession to the throne should also be investigated together with the problem of his choice of cemetery. The location of this cemetery is by no means ideal for it is confined to a relatively limited space between the Fifth Dynasty cemetery of Userkaf to the south and west and the early dynastic cemetery to the north. To investigate these two problems, the Australian Centre for Egyptology has applied for and obtained two concessions. The first is to record some of the most important tombs from the reign of King Unas, Teti's predecessor. The tombs belong to his vizier, Iynefert and the King's son Unasankh. It is hoped that a study of these tombs and others in this vicinity will shed new light on the important transitional period between Unas and Teti and accordingly between Dynasties 5 and 6. Secondly, the team has the task of the re-excavation and recording of two tombs belonging to Kaemheset and Kaemsenu which lie immediately to the west of Teti's pyramid. In addition to the important scenes and inscriptions recorded in these tombs, the excavation aims at establishing their precise date to determine whether they preceded or succeeded the construction of the pyramid itself. This question is particularly relevant to the understanding of Teti's policies and his association, or lack of it, with King Userkaf, founder of Dynasty 5. All of the abovementioned four tombs have been cleared previously, but despite their importance to the history and art of this interesting period they have never been adequately recorded or published. In a prolonged season from late November to mid-February members of the Saqqara expedition will be working on these two projects.

CONFERENCE - EGYPT IN TURMOIL - THE AMARNA AGE

SATURDAY, MAY 6 - BUILDING X5B T1 - 10 AM to 5 PM

A special conference will be held to celebrate the establishment of the Australian Centre for Egyptology, the Tenth Annual Conference and inauguration of the Janet Gale Fellowship.

Three distinguished scholars will present papers: Professor Geoffrey Martin, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at University College, London; Professor Trevor Bryce at present a visiting Professor at the University of Queensland, and Dr Rolf Krauss from the Egyptian Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

Non Members: \$40. Members: \$35. School & University Students and Pensioners: \$30.
School group discount: \$25 per person for groups of 5 or more.

COURSES FOR FIRST SEMESTER

A TOUR OF ANCIENT EGYPT: Dr Michael Birrell will conduct a 10-week course studying the Egyptian Monuments from Cairo to Nubia with the emphasis on recent excavations in Egypt, to be held on Level 3, building X5B each THURSDAY commencing 16 March, from 7-9pm. The course will include a visit to the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University.

Cost: \$120 (includes a light supper).

DAILY LIFE OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS: Ms Rodna Siebels will conduct an 8-week course detailing issues concerning housing, women, food and diet, health and legal issues. It is particularly relevant to the subject matter of the current HSC Ancient History syllabus and therefore of interest to teachers and senior students. The course will be held at the Museum of Ancient Cultures, Level 3, building X5B each MONDAY commencing 1 May, from 6-8pm.

Cost: \$100.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

K. Sowada, P. Bentley and T. Callaghan, *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara, Vol. 4: Minor Burials and other Materials.*

N. Kanawati and M. Abder-Raziq, *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara, Vol. 5: The Tomb of Hesi.*

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP FOR THE G.S.T.

Members should note that the Membership Renewal Form (enclosed with this Newsletter) applies to the **six month period only** from 1 January, 2000 to 30 June, 2000. The purpose of this change is to place the accounts of the Australian Centre for Egyptology onto a fiscal basis in preparation for the commencement of the G.S.T. from 1 July, 2000. The full implications of the effect of the G.S.T. on the Australian Centre for Egyptology are still being studied, but it is anticipated that these matters will be resolved within the next few months. Members will be notified in the April Newsletter of the effect these matters will have on their own membership in relation to subscriptions, lectures, conferences and other events.

Some members have already paid their subscription for the full 2000 year. The additional amount they have paid over the present half-yearly subscription will be offset against any future membership charges made after 1 July, 2000.

WEB SITE

Don't forget our new Web Site for updated information on courses offered as well as various activities in Egyptology.

The address is: www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

Our e-mail address is: egyptology@hmn.mq.edu.au

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1999 Mug - Cost: \$8 per mug or two for \$15, plus postage and packing \$3.50 per mug.

Slide Sets - Cost: \$25 plus \$3 postage per kit.
The sets cover topics from previous Macquarie Digs on Old and New Kingdom sites.

CD-Rom - Cost: \$20 plus \$3 postage.
This CD-Rom, prepared by Sue Angelo and Derek Janderko, covers in pictures and captions the various projects undertaken by the Centre over the past 10 years.

The Centre wishes to take this opportunity of thanking Sue and Derek for the time and effort they put into producing this CD-Rom.

Jewellery - Mrs Janet Gale will, as usual, be selling her stunning Egyptian-inspired jewellery at the Annual Conference in May. However, these items are on display for sale in the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University on level 3, building X5B.

MUSEUM OF ANCIENT CULTURES - BUILDING X5B

OPENING HOURS - Wednesdays from 1 - 4 pm, during the University semester.

**Plans for 2000 include expanding the Newsletter to an even more
informative format!**

As the A.C.E. begins another year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who have so capably managed the work in the Centre's office for all their help and support during 1999. To Mrs Carol Allen, Mrs Carmel Amos, Mrs Margaret Hordiewicz and Mr Greville Burrell - a big thank you to you all!

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