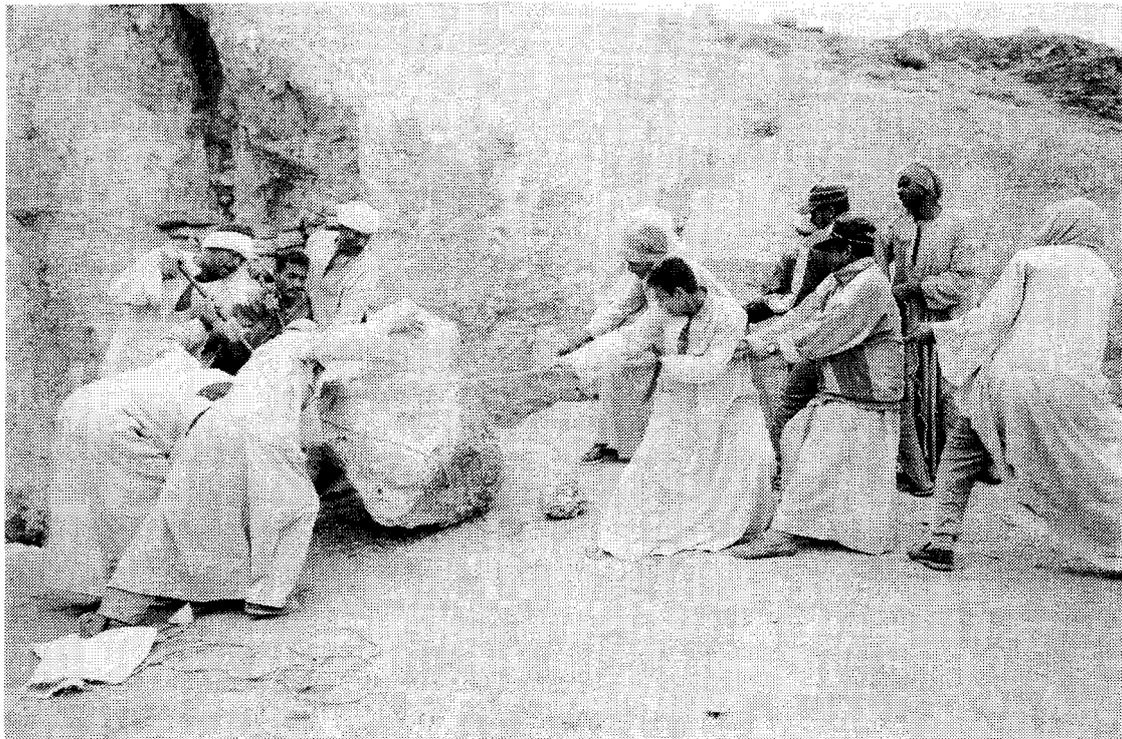




The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 72

April 2000



CLEARING THE COURTYARD OF TT233

Latest News from Thebes

The Macquarie University team working in Luxor was able to continue its project in Dra Abu el-Naga during January and February of this year. In TT 148, the tomb of Amenemope, the task of recording the very complex architecture of this major 20th Dynasty tomb was successfully finished, and final architectural plans have been completed. In the course of a detailed examination of the architecture of the courtyard in the 1998/1999 season, the opening of a rectangular shaft in the south-west corner of the courtyard was discovered. In this last season the excavation of the shaft was begun and although the bottom of the shaft has not yet been reached, it has already revealed things of great interest and holds promises of more. At a depth of 2.5 meters an opening to a burial chamber was reached in the south wall of the shaft. This proved to belong to an earlier

tomb, since the shaft cut into its north-west corner and its actual entrance was reached via another shaft that opens into the middle of the east wall. The superstructure of the tomb to which the chamber belonged is destroyed; as is the case with the great majority of Theban tombs, this burial chamber had been plundered and the remains of the Late New Kingdom burials found in it are probably secondary. Some large pieces of beautifully painted cartonnage that belonged to at least two coffins were found, as well as parts of a bead netting shroud and the amulets, Sons of Horus and winged scarab, that had been attached to it. The name of the owner of one of the coffins is preserved. He held an office connected with the cult of Amun, the god's name being the only part of his title preserved. His name is *Petanut*, and his father is called *Mose*. He is another case of the very many people of this period who did not built their own tombs but re-used earlier ones.

Three metres deeper in the east wall of the shaft an opening to another chamber was reached. The chamber was filled to within 50 cm of the ceiling with rubble. It has not been possible to complete the clearing of this yet, and our interpretation of its relationship to the shaft must remain preliminary. It does seem, however, that this opening was the work of tomb robbers, indicating once again that the chamber belonged to an earlier tomb. Opposite the opening, in the middle of the chamber's east wall, is the entrance to a passage, now filled to the ceiling with rubble and dust. It will eventually probably lead us to the superstructure of the tomb to which the burial chamber belongs.

In the 19th Dynasty tomb complex belonging to Saroy and Amenhotep/Huy (TT 233) work continued on the excavation of the courtyard. This has been completed and the foundations of the southern pylon of its main gateway have been found. Most of the corresponding northern part of the entrance structure lies under a bread oven of Coptic date (7th - 8th centuries AD). Among the finds made in the course of the excavations, the most notable is a large number of fragments of limestone statuettes. These seem to be of the 18th Dynasty and are very finely worked. They represent different statue types - a seated double statue of a man and woman, a stelophorus statue, and standing statue types. Unfortunately, the names of their owners are nowhere preserved. The broad hall of the 18th Dynasty tomb whose entrance was discovered in the south-west corner of the courtyard last season has also been excavated. Apart from some very small fragments of painted plaster, the wall decoration is totally destroyed, so that we are unable to identify its owner. Fragments of 18th Dynasty type shabtis were found inscribed for a *Scribe of the table of the Lord of the Two Lands*, called *Ky-Nefer*. Hopefully the excavation of the rest of the tomb, which is planned for the next season, will cast more light on the question of the tomb's owner.

Parallel to the work of excavation, the epigraphic recording of the scenes and inscriptions of TT 233 was continued. Tracings of the walls of the southern half of the broad hall and the north thickness of the main door have been made, where most of the material is preserved.

The team is looking forward to returning to Luxor and to a site that promises to reveal many more aspects of its fascinating past.

BOYO OCKINGA

**CONFERENCE - EGYPT IN TURMOIL - THE AMARNA AGE
SATURDAY 6 MAY - BUILDING X5B T1 - 10 AM to 5 PM**

There are still places available at this special conference, which is being held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Centre for Egyptology and the 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.

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

DR RODRIGUEZ

It is with great sadness that the Rundle Foundation announces the passing of Dr L.Rodriguez. Members will recall his fascinating talk on Ancient Egyptian food, which, together with faience, was a special interest of his. The Foundation will greatly miss his knowledge, support and sense of humour. We extend our sympathies and condolences to the family.

COURSES

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 will be of particular relevance to teachers and HSC students of Ancient History. 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**

INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTIAN ARABIC: Expressions of interest are invited for a course, led by Prof. Kanawati, to introduce students to Egyptian spoken Arabic and Arabic script, to enable them to read simple signs and express basic needs. If there is sufficient support it will run in the 2nd semester, on THURSDAY evenings from 7-9pm, beginning 27 July for 10 weeks. Please contact the ACE office. **Cost: \$80**

PUBLIC LECTURES

Two public lectures will be held in the second semester giving details of current excavations in Egypt.

EXCAVATIONS AT LUXOR: Dr Boyo Ockinga will speak about the latest discoveries in Luxor.

THURSDAY July 27th **Cost: \$10**

EXCAVATIONS AT SAQQARA: Details of the recent findings at this site will be given by Professor Naguib Kanawati.

THURSDAY October 12th **Cost: \$10**

SPECIAL EVENT

A special event will take place on the 12th of August 2000 with the team members of the Helwan project organising the opening of a photographic exhibition and a day of lectures on the archaeological discoveries made at Helwan. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

CHRISTIANA KOHLER

ADVANCE NOTICE - TOUR OF EGYPT JANUARY 2001

An itinerary is currently being prepared for a trip to Egypt in January 2001, led by Dr Boyo Okinga. Provisional dates are 1st to 22nd January; the flight will be with Singapore Airlines, and the tour will include Cairo, Luxor, Aswan and the Western Oases. The cost will be in the region of \$6,500. Expressions of interest are invited - please contact the ACE office or Susanne Binder on (02) 9850 8819

DAY TRIP SYDNEY TO CANBERRA - BOOK OF KELLS EXHIBITION SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2000

A day trip has been organised from Sydney to Canberra to view the Book of Kells exhibition at the National Gallery. Please see the enclosed information sheet for full details.

Cost: \$40 members; \$45 non-members

STALL AT THE ANCIENT HISTORY TEACHERS' CONFERENCE SATURDAY 8 APRIL

The Activities Committee will be having a stall at the Ancient History Teachers' Conference at Macquarie University on Saturday 8 April. If you are attending the conference, please come along to support them, and to look for bargains in books, mugs, slides and CD Roms.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP FOR THE G.S.T.

Unfortunately, full details of how the G.S.T. will affect ACE subscriptions and courses are not yet available. We will let you know as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As many members are aware, the office of ACE is staffed entirely by volunteers, and at present is only able to be open for two days each week. We urgently need more volunteers and are looking for people who can commit a regular day each week (for approximately 6 hours) for most weeks of the year. Duties include answering the phone, dealing with enquiries, maintaining the membership database, filing and other general office work. Typing and/or computer skills would be an advantage. If you would like to join our friendly team, and help promote your passion for Egyptology, please ring June Anderson on (02) 9486 3626 for more information.

WEB SITE

Please continue to check the web site for last minute information regarding our activities. Make sure you are looking at the current website, though - the address is:

www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

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