



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 77

July 2001



Dr. Christiana Köhler accepting the raffle prize on behalf of the winner, Pat Roche. Also shown are Mary Dimopolous (Singapore Airlines), Professor Di Yerbury (Vice-Chancellor) and Mr. Wafik Gobran from Twin Wings Travel.

2001 DINNER

The 2001 Dinner held at the Heritage Function Centre of the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club on Saturday 16th June was acknowledged by those who attended as a very successful and enjoyable night. In fact the dinner was sold out a few weeks before the event.

Three talks were given on the night. Dr. Christiana Köhler talked about her recent season at Helwan, Professor Naguib Kanawati spoke about his site at Saqqara and Dr. Boyo Ockinga related his latest finds at his site at Luxor.

Another highlight of the night was the drawing of the raffle for a return ticket to Egypt. The lucky winner was Ms. Pat Roche of Queensland.

The Activities Committee of the Rundle Foundation would sincerely like to thank the following businesses who donated Door prizes. *Egyptian Cat Sculpture - Eye of Horus* of Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre (02 9565 2622); *Tutankhamun figurine - Surprise! Surprise!* P.O. Box 119, Auburn (02 9649 4342); *Alabaster Pyramid Clock - Planet Egypt*, 629 Parramatta Road Leichhardt (02 9568 1222); 2 books –“*Women in Ancient Egypt*” and “*Proportion and Style in Ancient Egyptian Art*” both by Gay Robins - **Maat Books**, P.O. Box KL 706 Kings Langley (02 9674 2181).

EXCAVATIONS AT DRA ABU EL NAGA – 2000 SEASON

The Macquarie team working in the tombs of Saroy (TT233) and Amenemope (TT148) at Dra Abu el Naga, Thebes (on the west bank opposite Luxor) began its 2000 season on November 8 and closed on December 23. The team, under the directorship of Dr. Boyo Ockinga, accomplished a great deal this season. The work in TT148 was limited to photography, however, there was much activity in and around TT233. Dr. Judith Brophy painstakingly checked the tracings, made in the previous season, of the rather poorly preserved walls and began the architectural survey. Karin Sowada conducted a study of the ceramic material from both tombs, and, the team architect, Helen Wilkins, having completed the plans of TT148 last season, completed all the measurements in preparation for the drawings of TT233 and was able to draw a large number of small finds. Susanne Binder supervised all the excavations and I was the expedition photographer. Three students, Joy Wearne, Robin Woods and Kathy Fletcher, ably assisted the other team members and gained invaluable experience through the diversity of work undertaken.

The tomb of Saroy consists of a broad hall with two chambers – one immediately opposite the door to the tomb on the western wall, and the other at the southern end of the same wall. We excavated the first chamber and found that the only decoration was on the shrine itself; it was beautifully painted with a scene from the Opening of the Mouth ceremony. There was great excitement amongst the team when we excavated the second chamber and found that a skilfully cut staircase led to the, hitherto unknown, location of Saroy’s burial apartments. At the bottom of the staircase an antechamber led to a burial chamber and a shaft cut into the floor accessed the main burial chamber. It was thrilling to find Saroy’s sarcophagus, and although smashed, it was inscribed several times with his name and titles. Dr. Ockinga could not resist reassembling the pieces! Made of sandstone, it had been painted red, possibly to simulate granite, and was anthropoid in design. The vaulted lid was carved in the round with the recumbent body of the tomb owner, his arms crossed and one hand holding the *djed* pillar.

Further excavation of the courtyard revealed that it was once entered through a gateway between two mud brick pylons, in front of which was a forecourt. In this area a large Coptic oven provided evidence of later occupation of the site, as did the ceramic finds. On the southern boundary of the courtyard there was an opening, thought to be a cave or a large fissure, however this season we discovered that it was in fact, an unrecorded tomb. Unfortunately it is uninscribed except for a small text at the base of a door thickness, and all that remains of the tomb owner’s name is the common hieroglyphic determinative of a seated man. The only pictorial representation is at the entrance to the unexcavated burial passage. The tomb is somewhat enigmatic as far as the dating and construction is concerned. Its broad hall breaks into the southern end of Saroy’s broad hall and it is yet to be determined if we have a tomb complex or a later intrusive tomb.

We also experimented with digital photography. The results are instantaneous and, apart from keeping us entertained every night, we were able to re-shoot if necessary. We did not have to rely on photo labs or incur expensive processing costs. The benefits for study purposes are also greater than traditional photography. Away from the site the researcher is able to enlarge or manipulate the images at will in order to study more closely ceramic materials, inscriptions, reliefs, statuary and small finds.

It was a very enjoyable season and the team looks forward to more discoveries next year.

Leonie Donovan

CONFERENCE 2001

SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST
Her Majesty King Hatshepsut

Three distinguished scholars Prof. Gay Robins, Prof. Peter Dorman and Dr Gae Callender will present papers about the career of Hatshepsut.

Tickets: Members \$40 Pensioners, School or University Students \$30
Non-Members \$45 Groups of 5 or more school students \$25 each.
One teacher accompanying 5 students – FREE

All prices include GST

Venue: Building X5B Theatre 1, Macquarie University

Time: 9.30 for 10am (First paper will commence at 10am sharp and doors will not reopen until a suitable break)

NB: Please book promptly. Due to the popularity of the topic and the speakers we expect a sell-out conference. Numbers are restricted, therefore there will probably **NOT** be tickets available at the door.

JEWELLERY – JANET GALE

Janet will again be exhibiting her striking Egyptian style jewellery at the Conference and all items will be available for purchase.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR 2nd SEMESTER 2001

“Tombs, Mummies and the Afterlife. The Archaeology of Ancient Egyptian Funerary Beliefs”

Dr E. Christiana Köhler

TIME: 11am – 3.30 p.m. **DATE:** 3 Saturdays: 8th, 15th and 22nd September 2001

VENUE: Museum of Ancient Cultures, X5B 321

COST: \$110 (incl. G.S.T)

This course will investigate the archaeology of ancient Egyptian funerary beliefs and customs. It will study the architecture, decoration and equipment of ancient Egyptian tombs from the Prehistoric to the New Kingdom periods (c4000-1100 B.C.E.). Also, ancient funerary literature, such as the Pyramid Texts or the Book of the Dead will be consulted to illustrate and examine the religious beliefs behind such funerary customs as the mummification of the human body and the often splendid funerary offerings that accompanied many ancient Egyptians into the afterlife. This course makes use of the

ancient Egyptian collection in the University's Museum of Ancient Cultures and provides the opportunity for hands-on experience with original artefacts.

"Egyptian Gods and Temples"
Dr. Michael Birrell

TIME: 7 – 9pm. DATE: **6 Tuesday Nights** 7th, 14th 21st 28th Aug. and 4th and 11th Sept
VENUE: Museum of Ancient Cultures, Seminar Room
COST: \$132 (incl. G.S.T)

This course examines the religion of ancient Egypt. We will look at the Egyptian gods, how they were represented and how they were worshipped. The course includes an overview of temple architecture and the role of priests in ancient Egyptian society. Some artefacts in the Museum of Ancient Cultures will also be examined.

EGYPT BY TOUCH

A venue is being sought for this exhibition which eventually will be on permanent display at the University.

RUNDLE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Last year the Foundation carried the cost of the GST. Unfortunately it is now necessary to pass this cost onto the members. As a result the subscriptions will be increased by 10% from 1st July, 2001. PLEASE NOTE: **Membership Renewal Forms are enclosed with this newsletter and are now due.**

VOLUNTEERS FOR ACE OFFICE

There was a wonderful response to our plea for volunteers to help in the A.C.E. Office. Everyone concerned would like to express their appreciation to those who responded.

PUBLICATIONS

Reports:

No. 14 N. Kanawati & M. Abder-Raziq, *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara*, Vol. 6, *The Tomb of Nikauisesi*.

No. 15 A. McFarlane, *The Unis Cemetery at Saqqara*, Vol. 1 *The Tomb of Irukaptah*

CHANGES TO PROCEDURES

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE: All cheques should be made payable to "MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY" – **all** items can now be included on the one cheque - receipts will be forwarded with next newsletter.

LATE CHANGES TO ARRANGEMENTS: A recording will be left on our answering machine regarding any changes made to venues or times for lectures, etc. Please ring after **5 pm in the week before the function.**

All mail should be addressed to:
The Australian Centre for Egyptology
Division of Humanities
Macquarie University 2109

Enquiries
Phone: (02) 9850 8848
9 am – 3 pm Mon, Wed & Fri
e-mail: egyptology@hmn.mq.edu.au