



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 78

October 2001



PROFESSOR PETER DORMAN, PROFESSOR GAY ROBINS AND DR GAE CALLENDER WITH DR BOYO OCKINGA AT THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE 2001

This year's conference held on 11th August was, as usual, a resounding success. The speakers were Professor Peter Dorman, Professor Gay Robins and Dr Gae Callender. At the conclusion of the day there was a very stimulating and enjoyable question time in which all three speakers enthusiastically participated.

Following are a few reflections on this year's Conference by some of those who were in attendance or who helped organise the day.

This year's Conference was as successful as always. A bevy of volunteers, ably supervised by Leonie Donovan, worked behind the scenes to ensure its smooth running. But this year there were added bonuses – two International speakers instead of one (courtesy of the generosity of Mrs. Janet Gale) and soup to go with the gourmet sandwiches. But the highlight of the day was surely the question time, where three passionate experts 'sparked' off each other and conveyed a sense of the love of learning to both young and old. This was reflected in the faces of three young HSC students, sitting in the second row, who

leaned forward in their seats and nodded sagely in agreement and also in the comment from my 77 year old mother (who has just had her first trip to Egypt and is planning another) "I must buy a book by that woman!" It was a truly inspiring day.

Kim McCorquodale

For people on the Activities Committee, it is always a huge effort to prepare for the Conference, but on the day it is wonderful and very rewarding to meet up with so many people who share a love for Ancient Egypt. For those who have shared classes, courses or study tours, the Conference is a re-union. It is also a great occasion to make new contacts.

Activity Committee Member

A conference such as this can only be successful with the help of many people. I would like to say a personal thank you to those many members of the Rundle Foundation and the Activities Committee who so generously volunteer their time. A special thank you must go to Dr. Boyo Ockinga for organising the academic program (and the visiting scholars' itineraries) without which there would be no conference.

Leonie Donovan



THE AUDIENCE PARTICIPATING DURING QUESTION TIME

THANK YOU

Lorraine Millard was overwhelmed at the popularity of the raffle and we thank her for her generous donation of the first prize: a silver Bedouin bracelet – won by Dr. Judith Brophy.

Jim and Philippa Davern, from the Wandin Valley Estate, kindly donated several wine gift packs as prizes for the raffle. We sincerely thank them for their support of the Rundle Foundation. The following people each won one of these gift packs:-

Jim Bayliss

Rex Blake

Mrs Young

Maryanne Ball

JANET GALE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

For the second time, this grant has allowed the participation of international Egyptologists at our Conference. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Janet Gale for making this possible.

STUDY DAY AT THE MUSEUM OF ANCIENT CULTURES.

Special thanks are given to Tina Ashburner for the funds raised through a study day she held in July at the Museum of Ancient Cultures. We thank her for her ongoing enthusiasm for the study of Ancient Egypt and her generosity to the Rundle Foundation.

EXCAVATIONS AT HELWAN –AN UPDATE

Last season's fieldwork at Helwan, which was conducted during December 2000 and January 2001, proved to be very successful and rewarding. This work was made possible after last year's fund raising activities in the form of a photographic exhibition and a study day ("Egypt before the Pyramids – Australian Excavations at Helwan") organised by Macquarie University students and research associates. The monies raised during these activities enabled us to hire a large team of labourers and to acquire the necessary equipment that allowed for intensive salvage excavation to save the archaeological information threatened by increasing construction activity in the area.

During this fourth season of excavations at Helwan, work continued in the area of Operation 4 to the east of the earlier work. Here, six new archaeologically intact tombs were uncovered. One of these tombs was a small rounded pit subdivided by a brick wall. It contained the tightly contracted remains of two young men inside small wooden coffins. Although no grave offerings were found, one burial displayed a greyish white powdery substance directly on the bone surface, which may represent the remains of linen wrappings. Amongst the six new tombs, there was also that of a mature female who was buried in a large and deep tomb pit, inside a large wooden chest. To the north of her coffin were deposited numerous grave offerings such as several tall wine jars, beer jars, a complete 32cm long flint knife and dozens of stone platters, jars and cosmetic vessels, made of calcite, schist and dolomite. The richness and number of her grave goods suggest that the tomb owner was a wealthy matron of early Memphis. Another tomb discovered contained the well-preserved skeleton of a young female, aged between 16 and 18 years when she died. In the simple pit and wooden coffin her family, in the belief that she would want to be well groomed in the afterlife, had placed small calcite juglets, jars and bowls for scented oils and cosmetics, as well as an ivory spoon and a bone spatula. These two new tombs and three others are located around, or underneath, a much larger tomb with a mastaba superstructure of 10 by 17 metres in size, which was also found in the 2000/2001 season. Its full exploration awaits the next field season. The objects from these tombs were fully reconstructed and conserved, recorded and photographed.

Dr. Christiana Kohler

MACQUARIE ANCIENT LANGUAGES SUMMER SCHOOL

Of interest to students of Egyptology: The MALS Summer School will again be offering a beginners' course in Hieroglyphics, **weekday mornings from Wednesday 2nd to Tuesday 15th January**. Further information and application forms are obtainable from the Co-ordinator, **Dr Bruce Marshall** at the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre.
Phone: (02) 9850 7789 or 9850 7512.

PUBLIC LECTURE

A public lecture entitled *A Tale of Two Cities* will be given by Dr. Colin Hope of Monash University. Dr. Hope will discuss the long-term study of human settlement in the Dakhleh Oasis. The lecture will be approx. 1 hour in duration.

Date: Friday 12th October 2001 at 7 pm

Venue: Architecture (Wilkinson) Lecture Theatre 1 University of Sydney.

Cost: \$11 per person \$5.00 Students (Student members of NEAF – Free)

Enquiries: Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation Office (Sydney University) 9351 4151.

PUBLICATIONS

Reports:

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

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

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Reports 16. N. Kanawati, *Tombs at Giza*, Vol 1: *Kaiemankh (G4561) and Seshemnefer (G4940)*.

Reports 17. N. Kanawati & M. Abder-Raziq, *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara*, Vol VII: *The Tombs of Shepsiptah, Mereri (Merinebti), Hefi and Others*.

The Tomb & Beyond by N. Kanawati will be published by Aris & Phillips this year. Orders can be taken from Members of the Rundle Foundation. For further enquiries please contact this office.

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS – RUNDLE FOUNDATION

Please note that a membership form has been included with this Newsletter for all members who have not paid their 2001-2002 memberships. It would be appreciated if payments could be forwarded by 30th October 2001.

CHEQUES PAYABLE: Please make cheques payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

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, Thurs & Fri.
e-mail: egyptology@hmn.mq.edu.au

THE BULLETIN

Due to factors beyond our control, the Bulletin will be mailed to members in January. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.