



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 80

April 2002



PROFESSOR KANAWATI WITH REPORTER, JENNIFER BYRNE

"FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT" AT GIZA

A team from the ABC Foreign Correspondent programme, with the interviewer Jennifer Byrne and producer Alan Hogan, visited the Macquarie site at Giza in January 2002. The team spent almost a week on site filming the activities of the Macquarie Egyptologists

The excavations at Giza were originally conducted in the first half of the twentieth century when the site was mainly divided into three concessions: American, Egyptian, and German. The degree of completion of work in the three sections varied considerably. Because the American scholar, George Reisner, was mainly interested in architecture, his publications focussed on the architectural development of the mastaba-tombs on this site. His work, "A History of the Giza Necropolis", still remains a standard reference on Old Kingdom architecture. However, the scenes and inscriptions in the many tombs he excavated remained unpublished until very recently when a handful of tombs were

published by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The majority of the tombs remain unpublished and the problem needs immediate attention.

S. Hassan, who apparently did not pay attention to accurate recording, excavated the Egyptian concession and one wonders about his direct involvement and supervision of the fieldwork. His publication of the concession, "Excavations at Giza" (10 volumes) show a great many inaccuracies and should perhaps be corrected or, better still, the tombs re-recorded.

The German concession was excavated by H. Junker, whose publication "Giza" (12 Volumes), remains a model of archaeological reports from his time. However, close comparisons of some of his facsimile drawings with the actual wall scenes show some serious inconsistencies, which need to be addressed.

The Australian team have selected tombs from each of the three concessions with the purpose of producing fresh and accurate records of the scenes and inscriptions, as well as the architectural features of these tombs, and at the same time, highlighting the need to address the problem. It is hoped that many other institutions will devote more time and effort to rectifying the information we have from this most important site on which the history of the Old Kingdom largely depends. Dr Zahi Hawass, the director General at Giza, invited the Australian team to lead in this direction.

The Foreign Correspondent programme went to air on the 27th March.

Naguib Kanawati

TETI CEMETERY WEST

Work was completed on the important large family complex of the royal architect, Kaiemheset, for which all evidence points to a date in Dynasty 5. Recording was completed of all architectural features of the 47m long mud brick structure. The line drawings of wall scenes were checked as well as details of the three statues and wooden objects in Cairo museum. After photography, the tomb was backfilled with clean sand for protection and work began on the neighbouring mastaba of Kaiemsenu who held priesthoods of Fifth Dynasty kings. The outlines of the walls were revealed by the end of the season. Permission has been received from the Metropolitan Museum in New York to record and publish the relief decorated west wall on display in their Egyptian collection.

Ann McFarlane

HELWAN REPORT

The hard work of Macquarie University's Egyptology students and research associates has again paid off, especially after last summer's season of excavations at Helwan. It was most successful as 29 new Early Dynastic graves have been discovered and fully recorded. While many of them are the burials of the poorer inhabitants of early Memphis, others were richly endowed with sumptuous, often very well preserved grave goods, such as a complete funerary repast in the tomb of a wealthy lady. Another tomb contained three most precious Early Dynastic funerary stelae with hieroglyphic inscriptions and beautiful art representations. As a result, the Helwan Project and Macquarie University received widespread international media coverage in Egypt, Australia, Europe and North America during January and February this year.

Christiana Köhler

THE TETI CEMETERY, SAQQARA

The team working at Saqqara was rewarded with the discovery of a new tomb in the NW corner of the Teti cemetery. This section was believed to contain only shafts of minor officials but instead proved to house a mud brick mastaba with a brilliantly decorated chapel. Scenes and inscriptions were painted on mud plaster and were well preserved. The tomb belonged to an overseer of the guards of King Teti, an official who was also responsible for all the repasts of the king.

Naguib Kanawati

ANNUAL DINNER 15TH JUNE 2002

The Annual Dinner, a delicious Buffet, will again be held at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club. A guest speaker will be the highlight of the night and our traditional raffle will be drawn with a chance to win authentic Egyptian necklaces and other prizes. Raffle Tickets can be pre-purchased through the office at a cost of \$1.00 per ticket, or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Please forward your ticket order and money to this office.

\$40 for members
\$50 for non-members
(Drinks not included)
(All prices include GST)

6.30 for 7pm
Heritage Function Centre
Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club
117 Ryedale Road
West Ryde (Opposite station)

RSVP 15th May 2002

CONFERENCE 2002 SATURDAY 17th AUGUST 2002

Home and Away: Intrigues, Crime and Diplomacy in the Ramesside Period

Visiting speakers for this conference are Dr Steven Snape and Dr Joyce Tyldesley from the University of Liverpool. Each will present two talks on aspects of the Ramesside Period encompassing Foreign Trade, Conspiracies, Crime and Punishment in Deir el Medina and a fortress in the Delta

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

Venue: Building X5B Theatre 1, Macquarie University

NB – Registration papers will be forwarded with the next Newsletter.

COURSE WITH DR MICHAEL BIRRELL *A Thousand Miles Up the Nile* Eight Weeks Course

This course follows in the footsteps of Amelia Edwards, the famous traveller of the 19th Century, and studies temples and tombs along the Nile. The tour begins in Cairo with the Pyramids at Giza, Saqqara and Dashur. To the south, the temples of Dendera, Edfu and the Valley of the Kings will be studied. We also examine the temples and tombs at Aswan, the temple of Isis on Philae Island and the beautiful temple of Abu Simbel.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES – SEMESTER TWO

As previously announced both undergraduate and post-graduate units in Egyptology are now open to members of the Foundation as Continuing Education Courses. The response

to Semester One courses has been very encouraging and many members are presently attending lectures. We would like to bring members' attention to the following units available in Semester Two:

POSTGRADUATE UNITS (all 6-9pm)

AHPG865 Ancient Egyptian Ceramics (Friday)

AHPG877 Documents of the Hyksos Period (Monday) *Pre-requisite AHST 260*

UNDERGRADUATE UNITS

AHST360 Egyptian Hieroglyphs II *Pre-requisite AHST260*

AHST361 Ancient Egyptian Religion

AHST362 Methods and Techniques of Egyptian Archaeology

AHST363 Egypt in the Old Kingdom. *Pre-requisite AHST260*

TOUR 2003

Expressions of interest are invited from people who might be interested in joining a Macquarie University tour of Egypt, led by Dr Ockinga, in January 2003. It is anticipated that the party will visit areas in Egypt and the Sinai.

A detailed itinerary is *not* yet available and it is anticipated that the cost will be in the region of \$6,750. Interested parties are requested to contact the office to be placed on a mailing list for further details. Please note that numbers will be strictly limited and that being placed on a mailing list will not necessarily guarantee a place on the tour.

PUBLICATIONS

Report No 16 – N. Kanawati, *Tombs at Giza, Volume I: Kaiemankh (G 45610) and Seshemnefer (G4940)*.

Report No 17 – N. Kanawati and M. Abder-Raziq, *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara, Volume VII: The Tombs of Shepsiptah, Mereri (Merinebti), Hefi and Others*.

Study No 6 – F. Giles, *The Amarna Age: Egypt*.

All reports and studies - \$44 (Incl. GST)

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 the 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

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Enquiries

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