



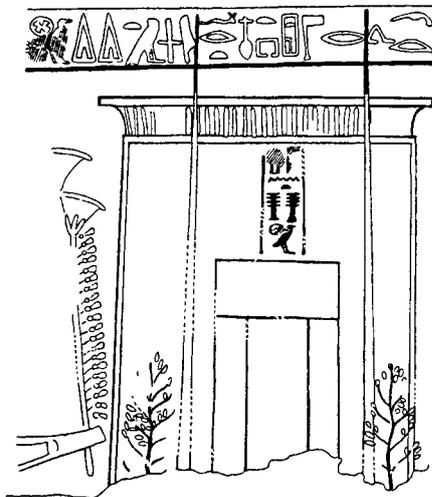
The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 82

October 2002

IN SEARCH OF A LOST IDENTITY

The Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo has granted Dr Boyo Ockinga the concession to work on Theban Tomb 147. This tomb is situated in Dra^c Abu el Naga^c, a little further south of tombs 233 and 148, an area in which the Macquarie Theban Tombs Project has been working since 1991. Very little work has been done in TT 147 and the identity of its owner is not known. The only published material from the tomb is the drawing below of the representation of the entrance to the temple of Osiris at Busiris that appears at the west end of the south wall of the tomb's Long Hall (published in a 1955 article by Nina de Garis Davies: "Two Pictures of Temples", *JEA* 41 (1955), 80-82 fig. 1).



**TT147 Long Hall S wall:
temple of Osiris at Busiris**

The tomb has the usual T-shaped chapel and, as in most of the tombs in the area, its scenes and inscriptions are painted on plaster because of the poor quality of the rock out of which the tombs are excavated. The *Topographical Bibliography* tentatively suggests a date of Tuthmosis IV for the tomb, but from a preliminary investigation in January 2002, the reign of Amenhotep III is also a distinct possibility. Like many other tombs, in Late Antiquity it was used as a dwelling and the fires lit inside it have covered the upper parts of the walls and the ceilings with a layer of soot. It is no doubt this situation that has discouraged earlier epigraphists from attempting to record the tomb. With the development of new methods for cleaning tomb paintings that have proven very successful, we have decided to take on the task. The paintings on those parts of the walls that have not been affected by soot witness to the very high quality of the workmanship, which is not surprising since the tomb dates to a period when the art of Theban tomb painting reached its zenith. The tomb also belonged to an official of some standing. Contrary to the information provided by the *Topographical Bibliography*, he was not "Head of the Masters of Ceremonies of Amun" but "Scribe who counts the Cattle of Amun in the North and the South", i.e he was the head of the administration that dealt with the herds of cattle belonging to the estates of Amun, a very responsible position in the administration of the temple estates. One important question that remains to be answered is the identity of the man. In the Amarna Period the name of Amun was erased wherever it appears in the tomb, including in the title of the tomb's owner; because the name following the title is also erased it is quite likely that it was a name that included the name of the god. Hopefully, a careful study of the tomb will reveal its owner's identity, either in an inscription on a wall that was overlooked by Akhenaten's

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agents or on a piece of funerary equipment that the excavation of the tomb may bring to light.

BOYO OCKINGA

CONFESSIONS OF A RESEARCHAHOLIC

Prudence and caution deserted me when I gave up work and the responsibilities attached thereto. On the spur of the moment I embarked on a diploma in Egyptology, enjoyed it, turned it into an MA, and when that finished, with even less forethought "took up research". The origins of Osiris were clouded, I noted, impulsively deciding that my MA Honours thesis would track the god's emergence on to the historical record. This landed me in a power struggle with Satan's invention, the personal computer. "Gotcha!" I thought as I sorted out database from spreadsheet, file from folder and application from document. Despite this victory over technology, I reaped the harvest of my improvidence. All the help from a patient supervisor and sympathy of a long-suffering husband did not save me from a hard truth; my enormous, painstakingly acquired database on Osiris could not provide the evidence I needed because there was no secure chronology for the earliest records. "You can't infer historical dynamic from evidence that is not convincingly dated," I wailed, ignoring the fact that I should have already considered this.

In such a way I stumbled into my next goal, a chronology for the tombs of the Old Kingdom. I studied Baer, whose diagrams made me nervous, and Cherpion, whose certainties were awe-inspiring. My dating system would have to be more modest. It certainly was; it took twenty minutes to think up the basic idea. "That's it!" I decided, "A spot of work on the old tomb reports and I'll have it knocked over by Christmas". Three years later I had a 68-page spreadsheet of dating criteria and a computer cluttered with rejected drafts of text. My supervisor returned each draft with extensive but gentle criticism. If his criticism had been more scathing I might have come out fighting in defence of my prose. As it was, his clemency and support left me no option. I had to learn to get it right.

As the time approached to put my system to the test, the dread words "reliability" and "validity" began to haunt me. The first test was on the tomb of Ti, which has enough old and new features to give any dating system an honest workout. Grimly I plotted the chart for Ti, sat back to look at it and breathed again. The chart dated the tomb precisely to the time when the old and new features would have overlapped. "Are you smiling?" asked my husband in disbelief.

The completed thesis was presented to my supervisor for a final perusal when he returned from Egypt to spend Christmas with his family. At last, replete with footnotes whose numbers miraculously matched the text, the work was submitted. "You might like to try a spot of housework or gardening, perhaps even cooking," suggested my husband as we celebrated the outcome. "Not a hope," was my swift reply, "I'm about to start a Ph.D."

JOYCE SWINTON

COURSES and LECTURES

2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Next year's annual conference will be held on 9th August, 2003. Please note this in your diary now.

“Excavations at Helwan – A Study Day”

This study day will focus on the recent discoveries as well as on the results of five years of excavations at this important site. Fully illustrated lectures will be given by the project’s director, Dr. Christiana Köhler, as well as by members of the Helwan Project. The proceedings of this study day will contribute to the funding of the coming field season.

Date: Saturday, November 2nd, 2002. **Time:** 11 am – 4.30 pm. **Venue:** E7B T2
Cost: \$35 (excludes lunch). **A Booking form is included with this Newsletter.**

LECTURE

“New Discoveries in the Sacred Animal Necropolis at Saqqara”

Dr. Paul Nicholson from University of Wales College of Cardiff

Date: Friday, November 1st, 2002. **Time:** 7pm. **Venue:** W5A T2

Cost: Free, however a donation at the door would be appreciated

FREE SEMINAR

“Faience and Glass Production at Amarna”

Dr. Paul Nicholson from University of Wales College of Cardiff

Date: Wednesday, November 6th, 2002. **Time:** 3pm.

Venue: Seminar Room, Museum of Ancient Cultures, Level 3, X5B

Cost: Free but a donation at the door would be welcome

MINI CONFERENCE

An afternoon of illustrated talks regarding current Macquarie excavations in Egypt.

Date: Sunday, 13th April, 2003, **Time:** 2 pm

Venue: Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

Cost: \$25 (includes a specially catered afternoon tea).

EGYPTOLOGY DEBATE

“Were the Ancient Pyramids built with geopolymer stones?”

This is the topic of a spirited debate to be held between Dr Christiana Köhler of the Australian Centre for Egyptology and Prof. Joseph Davidovits of the Geopolymer Institute in France. Geopolymers, a recent technology breakthrough in concrete-like construction materials, exhibit a long lost chemistry according to Prof Davidovits, and reveal how the Pyramids were built. Not so, says Dr Köhler. This promises to be an entertaining evening moderated by media personality, Max Walker. Everyone welcome.

Geopolymer Dinner and Great Debate **Venue:** Hotel Sofitel, Melbourne

Date: Monday 28th October **Price:** \$125 each or \$115 each if a table of eight is booked.

Enquiries/Bookings: sallie@geopolymer2002.com or phone 03 9733 2236

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Report No. 16 - N. Kanawati, *Tombs at Giza, Kaiemankh (G45610) and Seshemnefer (G4940), Volume I.*

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.*

N.B. **Study No. 5**, – F. Giles, *The Amarna Age: Western Asia* will be reprinted and members will be advised when available.

All Reports and Studies - \$44 (incl. GST) plus Postage \$10 (within Australia).

2002 CONFERENCE REPORT

The 2002 Annual Conference was held on August 17, 2002, with over 280 people attending a full day of activities, including a series of 5 lectures by Dr. Joyce Tyldesley, Dr. Stephen Snape and Prof. Eliezer Oren. We appreciate the generosity of the Janet Gale Travelling Fellowship for giving us all the opportunity to hear, meet and talk to these excellent speakers and scholars.

The Activities Committee would sincerely like to thank all those members and businesses who generously donated prizes for the raffle. The winner of the Yemeni Silver necklace was Natalie Barlow, Marie McKervey was the lucky winner of two beautifully cross-stitched cushions hand worked and donated by Carol Allen, J Burke won a book donated by Robin Woods, Julie Ivery won the pen and stand donated by Planet Egypt and Sharon Bradley won the Wandin Valley Estate wine donated by James and Philippa Davern.

SHARED TRAVEL FOR LECTURES

A member of the Rundle Foundation, who lives in Normanhurst and would dearly love to continue coming to night lectures and activities, has contacted us to see if anyone else living in the Normanhurst/Hornsby area would like to share the travelling to some of these events. If anyone living around this area is planning on attending any lectures etc. and is happy to accompany this member, please contact this office.

A.C.E. OFFICE

Please note that the office is only staffed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9.30 am and 3 pm. Messages and emails are answered as soon as possible.

N.B.: If you did not receive a recent e-mail from us regarding coming lectures, either we did not have your current e-mail address or we were unable to read it correctly. If you did **not** receive the notice, please email us and this will verify your address.

THE BULLETIN VOLUME 13

Due to factors beyond our control, the Bulletin will now be mailed to members in January.

CHEQUES PAYABLE: Please make all cheques payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY and forward directly to this office.

LATE CHANGES TO ANY EVENTS OR FUNCTIONS: A recording will be left on our answering machine notifying any changes. Please ring after **5 pm in the week before any function or event.**

All mail and enquiries should be addressed to:

The Australian Centre for Egyptology
Division of Humanities
Macquarie University 2109

Phone: (02) 9850 8848
9 30am – 3 pm Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
e-mail: egyptology@hmn.mq.edu.au