



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 86

October 2003



TT147 – THE BLIND HARPER

Theban Tomb 147 is a tomb that has been known for many years, however, little work had been done on it before the work of our expedition. The tomb has been no doubt neglected because of the state of preservation - it had been lived in at some time during the past and there was an accumulation of tar and soot from fires, obscuring the paintings: numerous wasp nests also covered the walls and ceilings and in three sections of the tomb the walls had also collapsed. The Macquarie Theban Tombs Project applied for the concession to work on this tomb in the hope that after cleaning and conserving the walls it would be possible to gain further information on the tomb, its decoration and in particular its owner.

This season the debris from the chapel was cleared, repairs were made to the collapsed sections of the walls, a start was made on cleaning and conserving the wall paintings and a beginning made to the epigraphic study of the decoration.

The cleaning that has been done so far has proven very successful and in large areas the original freshness and brightness of wall paintings that have been revealed are still preserved. The style and quality of the paintings is very similar to that of the well-known tombs of Nakht and Menna. Particularly attractive is the scene of the banquet with dancers and musicians, including a blind harper, on the north wall of the Long Hall.

A preliminary study of the inscriptions revealed that the tomb was in fact decorated for at least two different people. One had the title "Head elder of the portal [of Amun] in Karnak", the other was a "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun in Upper and Lower Egypt", but the names of both men have been systematically erased, as have the names of the men's wives. There seem to have been two lots of erasures. One was aimed at the names of the tomb owners and their wives: this

involved rubbing out their names, which had been painted with blue frit, without actually damaging the plaster. The other took place during the Amarna Period, when the name Amun and the word "gods" were systematically erased; in this phase of erasure the plaster on which the words appeared was also hacked out. The northern half of the tomb seems to have been decorated for the "Head elder of the portal" and the southern half for the "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun". The names of sons of the two men have survived; that of the former is Kenamun, who was an "Elder of the portal", that of the latter Amenemhet, who was a "wab-priest of Amun". Other names have been identified in the tomb. A scribe Senmes appears on the stele set into the west wall of the northern half of the Broad Hall; a woman, designated "daughter" (whose daughter she was is not clear) called Iuy appears in a scene on the west wall of the northern half of the Broad Hall, and a wife (husband unknown) called Tanethewet, appears on the east wall of the northern half of the Broad Hall.

It has not yet been possible to positively identify either of the two tomb owners. There is a possibility, however, that the "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun in Upper and Lower Egypt" may be identical with a "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun throughout the nomes of Upper and Lower Egypt" called Heby. He is attested on a funerary cone from Thebes and his tomb is very likely to have been located at Dra Abu El-Naga since in the course of our work we found another of his cones, a stray surface find from the bottom of the hill to the north of the ghaffirs' hut. On the cone the father and mother of Heby are mentioned, the latter being a "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun" by the name of Senmes. As mentioned above, a scribe Senmes also appears on a subsidiary stele on the west wall of the northern end of the Broad Hall of TT 147; whether his scribal title was also qualified by "who counts the cattle of Amun" can not be determined because there is a break in the plaster immediately below the word "Scribe". Unfortunately, we do not know whether his wife, like the wife of the Senmes of the cone, was called Ruia since the column of text where her name appears has been deliberately hacked out. If the "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun in Upper and Lower Egypt" of the tomb is identical with Heby, however, it would explain why there is a secondary stele for a scribe Senmes in the tomb. There are two other factors in favour of the identification: 1. The traces of the name of the "Scribe who counts the cattle of Amun in Upper and Lower Egypt" that survive in an inscription on the western end of the south wall of Long Hall suit the reading Heby; 2. The qualification "in Upper and Lower Egypt" of the tomb owner comes very close to the "throughout the nomes of Upper and Lower Egypt" found with Heby and both are otherwise unattested.

The northern end of the Broad Hall has not yet been systematically cleaned and it is possible that other names and their relationship to the owners of the tomb may be established once this has been completed. When the tomb and its burial apartments have been fully excavated, inscribed finds will hopefully also provide information on the tomb's owners.

Boyo G. Ockinga

JUNE ANDERSON MEMORIAL FUND

The response to the appeal for a memorial to June Anderson has been most generous. The sum raised to date is \$3,605, which is a wonderful tribute to June. The reference work, *Das Lexikon der Ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen* ("Lexicon of Egyptian gods and designations of gods"), has now been purchased. This work will be the standard reference for students of Egyptology at Macquarie University for many years.

Thank you to everyone who has already given money and we will welcome, and put to good use, any further tax-deductible contributions received.

The surplus money and any future donations will be invested and the interest will be preserved to establish a prize for the outstanding student in Egyptian Archaeology (AHST 100). The award will carry the name "The June Anderson Prize".



PROFESSOR ROSALIE DAVID, DR. MAARTEN RAVEN AND PROFESSOR. RENÉ VAN WALSEM

REPORTS ON PAST EVENTS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Annual Conference, which was held on 9th August 2003, was a resounding success. The guest speakers - Dr. Maarten Raven and Professor Dr. René van Walsem – captured everyone's attention with stimulating talks on their respective subjects. They conveyed the processes of excavating at Saqqara with great interest and clarity and shared with the audience their excitement over the results of their years of work.

There were many appreciative and enthusiastic comments after each lecture.

Dr. Raven and Professor Dr Van Walsem also gave seminars in their special fields, which were opened to students and members of the public.

Professor van Walsem spoke on "Methodological and theoretical aspects of the interpretation of the iconography of Old Kingdom elite tombs", while Dr Raven's subject was "The new exhibition of Egyptian Antiquities in the State Museum of Antiquities, Leiden". Both seminars were well attended and very much appreciated.

PUBLIC LECTURE BY PROFESSOR ROSALIE DAVID

A public lecture was given on 12th August by Professor Rosalie David from Manchester Museum. Professor David spoke on "Religion and Magic in Ancient Egypt" and her absorbing presentation was very well received by the large audience in attendance.

LECTURES BY DR. BOYO OCKINGA

Dr Ockinga gave a paper entitled "Use, Reuse and Abuse of Sacred Space - Observations from Dra Abu El-Naga" at the colloquium on Luxor "Sacred Spaces and their Function through Time" held at the British Museum, London, on the 15th and 16th September, 2003. He also gave a lecture at Monash University to the Egyptology Society of Victoria on 3rd October on Macquarie's recent work in TT 233 and TT 147.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee would like to thank all our generous sponsors and donors who have contributed toward the financial success of our functions this year: QANTAS Airways; J & P Books (Stall 491, Parklea Markets); David Crawley (Australian Beverage Distributors); The Co-Op Book Shop; Stephen Bridges, Maat Books (tel. 9639 9853); Ms Susan Murray, reflexologist (0407 283 715); James and Philippa Davern, Wandin Valley Estate; Andrew Smith, Wynlynx (9365 1296); Ms Susanne Binder; Mrs. Janet Gale; Mr. John Limbourn; Mr. Robert Parker; and Dr. Karin Sowada. Funds raised through sales and raffle tickets go towards the A.C.E. excavations in Egypt and the subsequent publications of our work there.

We would also like to congratulate the winners of the Mereruka Tomb Project raffle – Mrs Elizabeth Thompson won the Sumak rug and Dr. Christiana Köhler won the wine. Mrs. Pat Greatorex was the excited winner of the conference raffle of a QANTAS Domestic Network voucher for two return airline tickets. She is planning to fly to Darwin for a Northern Territory holiday later in the year.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Reports 18 - N. Kanawati, *Tombs at Giza, Volume II: Seshathetep/Heti (G5150), Nesutnefer (G4970) and Seshemnefer II (G5080)*.

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of Egyptology at Macquarie University. We have some new and exciting activities planned for next year. Don't forget to renew your membership and be part of the celebrations.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RUNDLE FOUNDATION

Life Membership for the Rundle Foundation is \$550.00 per person. We now have available a *Double Life Membership for \$650.00 per couple*.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003-2004

Members who have not renewed their membership for the current year will find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. If you do wish to renew, please forward your payment before 15th December, at which time those not financial will be taken off the membership.

If you have decided not to renew, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for previous support.

A.C.E. OFFICE

The office is staffed between 9.30am and 3pm all days **except** Fridays.

All cheques should be payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY and forwarded to this office.

PLEASE NOTE: to save on costs, all receipts will be forwarded with the next newsletter. If you particularly require your receipt earlier, please advise the A.C.E. office.

LATE CHANGES TO ANY EVENTS OR FUNCTIONS: A recording on our answering machine will notify members of any late changes to events or functions. Please ring after 5 pm in the week before any function or event.

All mail and enquiries should be addressed to
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