



# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 87

January 2004



VICE -CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR DI YERBURY SHAKING HANDS WITH HIS GRACE BISHOP DANIEL

## COPTIC STUDIES AT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, the Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, Professor Di Yerbury and the Coptic Bishop of Sydney and the Affiliated Areas, Bishop Daniel, have signed an agreement to introduce Coptic Studies at Macquarie University.

The signing ceremony followed a whole day Conference on Coptic Iconography organized by the Coptic community and held at Macquarie University in the Lecture Theatre X5B. The agreement, which is subject to approval of the programme by the Academic Senate, will result in the appointment of a specialist in Coptic Studies jointly funded by the Coptic Church and the University.

The University intends to introduce Coptic studies as an independent MA degree by course work. It will consist of 8 units covering the Coptic language, art, iconography, architecture, monasticism and the early Church history. It is worth noting that the Coptic community in Sydney is about 50,000 with 30,000 more in Melbourne.

As the degree will be taught both on campus and on-line, students could enrol in the degree externally – wherever they live.

Although some universities teach Coptic studies as the “tail end” of Egyptology or as a part of the Hellenistic History, this is the first time such a specialized degree is offered anywhere in the world.

Coptic Studies at Macquarie University will focus on the Coptic civilisation as an independent subject of study, although the influence of and the interaction with other cultures will be thoroughly examined. The course will consider the whole Coptic History, but will focus on the early period of Christianity in Egypt.

## **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF EGYPTOLOGY AT MACQUARIE**

2004 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the introduction of Egyptology at Macquarie University. Following his completion of a PhD at Macquarie University (with a local administrative supervisor Dr Geoff Cowling and an external supervisor, Professor Kenneth Kitchen of the University of Liverpool, England), Naguib Kanawati was appointed as a lecturer in Near Eastern Studies at the University of Auckland from 1974 to 1979. In 1980 he returned to Macquarie University to start the teaching of Egyptian language and civilisation.

With great interest in the subject, it grew very quickly, which necessitated further appointments in Egyptology – Dr Boyo Ockinga, who is a graduate of Auckland N.Z. and Tübingen in Germany and more recently Dr Christiana Köhler, a graduate of Heidelberg were appointed.

The subject is now taught at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels, with a full MA course-work program and a large number of PhD students.

In 1981, through the initiatives of Dr Val Rundle, the university established the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology to cater for the interest of the general public in Egyptology and to raise necessary funds through its Activities Committee for the support of research in Egyptology. In 1989 the university recognized the importance of the research and archaeological field work conducted by the members of staff at Macquarie, by establishing the Australian Centre for Egyptology, with the aim of promoting the Australian involvement in Egyptological research both in Australia and Egypt.

To celebrate the achievements over the last 25 years, a number of activities will be organised, including a special Conference which will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2004. Please see following item for details.

### **25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE 2004**

#### ***Alexandria Through the Ages***

The generous establishment of the “Visiting Scholars’ Programme in Egyptology” by Mrs Janet Gale, allowed the Australian Centre for Egyptology to invite overseas scholars to share with the Australian public the results of their most recent research in Egypt.

A very special Conference will be organized on Saturday, 14th August 2004, to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Egyptology at Macquarie University. The theme of the Conference will be the city of Alexandria, a choice influenced by the fact that in this city the Pharaonic, Greek, Roman and Coptic cultures meet.

Alexandria was established by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. and shortly after Ptolemy I took over and the Ptolemaic/Greek Period followed. Greek rule of Egypt continued for approximately 250 years before the country was occupied by the Romans. Alexandria played a very important role in the Hellenistic world in economic, cultural, artistic, architectural as well as military spheres.

It is interesting that our celebration of Alexandria comes shortly after the opening of the new Alexandria Library, built to commemorate the old and famous library of Alexandria. It is perhaps

particularly appropriate to choose Alexandria as a theme for the anniversary conference, because of its famous lighthouse. As one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Alexandria lighthouse inspired Francis Greenway to design the Macquarie Lighthouse, which is now used as the logo of Macquarie University.

In the first century St. Mark visited Alexandria and till today the St. Mark's Church in Alexandria is the seat of the Coptic Pope.

Three internationally renowned speakers will give illustrated talks in the conference. They are the French scholars – *Dr Jean-Yves Empereur* and *Dr Marie-Dominique Nenna*, whose underwater excavations in the Alexandria Harbour have received the world's attention in recent time. Also present will be *Dr Gawdat Gabra*, a leading scholar in Coptic studies with special interest in Coptic iconography and Coptic monasticism.

As we expect a strong interest in this Conference from the general public and particularly from the Coptic Community, we advise our members to book early. Please note this event in your calendar. Booking forms will be sent with the April newsletter.

### MINI CONFERENCE 2004

#### *Recent Excavations in Egypt by Macquarie University*

Following the success of last year's inaugural Mini Conference, a similar one will be held on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2004 at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club. The cost is \$25.00 per person including afternoon tea. A booking form is enclosed.

Egyptologists from Macquarie University will report on their most recent fieldwork in Egypt in richly illustrated talks.

### ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club. Cost to be advised. All further details will be on the Booking Form which will be included with the next newsletter.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

**Reports 18** - N. Kanawati, *Tombs at Giza, Volume II: Seshathetep/Heti (G5150), Nesutnefer (G4970) and Seshemnefer II (G5080)* (Warminster 2002)

**Reports 19** - N. Kanawati and M. Abder-Raziq, *The Unis Cemetery at Saqqara, Volume II: The Tombs of Iyefert and Ihy (reused by Idut)* (Warminster 2003)

**Reports 20** - Ann McFarlane, *Mastabas at Saqqara: Kaiemheset, Kaipunesut, Kaiemsenu, Sehetepu and Others* (Warminster 2003)

These last two publications (Reports 19 and 20), contain reports on important tombs with rich architectural and artistic details and constitute important additions to our knowledge of Old Kingdom funerary practises. Price for these two volumes will be \$50 per volume for members.

The illustrations in each of these volumes are printed in colour as well as black and white photographs and line drawings – many of which are in large folded plates.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES IN 2004

The following courses are available during the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester. Cost is \$150 per course. Time 6.00pm. For further information please contact Anne Irish on (02) 9850 8833.

**AHST260 Egyptian Hieroglyphs A**      **Professor N. Kanawati**      **Tuesday, 10am or 6-9pm**  
This unit is an introduction to the hieroglyphic system of writing and the classical ancient Egyptian language written in this script.

**AHST261 Egyptian Culture & Society**      **Dr C. Köhler**      **Thursday, 6-9pm**  
A study of Egyptian history and civilisation in the predynastic and Pharaonic periods. In addition to the historical problems, themes covered will include the development of the state, administration, imperialism, art, architecture, literature and society.

**AHST364 Egypt in the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty**      **Dr B. Ockinga**      **Tuesday, 6-9pm**  
A study of central historical issues of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty based on an interpretation of the archaeological record, art and architecture and the written sources in the original language. (Previous knowledge of hieroglyphs is essential)

## BULLETIN OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR EGYPTOLOGY (2003), VOLUME 14

Due to circumstances beyond our control the printing of the Bulletin has been delayed. It will now be sent with the April newsletter. We regret this inconvenience.

### 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.*

**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.

### A.C.E. OFFICE

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

*Cheques* should be payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY and forwarded to this 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*

The Australian Centre for Egyptology  
Division of Humanities  
Macquarie University 2109

Phone: (02) 9850 8848  
9.30am – 3 pm, Monday - Thursday  
e-mail: [egyptology@hmn.mq.edu.au](mailto:egyptology@hmn.mq.edu.au)