



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 88

April 2004

25 YEARS OF EGYPTOLOGY AT MACQUARIE

We promised extra activities to celebrate our anniversary. This is what we have planned.

Sunday April 18
Mini Conference

Friday May 21
Free Public Lecture

Saturday June 26
25th Anniversary
Dinner

Friday August 13
Conference Launch
and Reception

Saturday August 14
25th Anniversary
Conference

Thursday August 19
Free Public Lecture

September 13 until September 30
Egyptian Photographic Exhibition

The details of these activities appear later in this newsletter.

WHY RE-RECORD MERERUKA?

The mastaba of Mereruka is without doubt the most extensive funerary complex of a private individual or family from the Old Kingdom. The mastaba was cleared by De Morgan in 1893 and was first published by Daressy (*Le Mastaba de Mera*) in 1898, and again in 1938 in a more elaborate way by Duell, (*The Mastaba of Mereruka*). So why is a new record needed?

Positioned in the first row of tombs immediately in front of the pyramid of King Teti (approximately 2345 B.C.), whom Mereruka served as a vizier, this very large mastaba is almost entirely occupied by three chapels; one belonging to Mereruka himself, one for his wife, Waatetkethor Seshseshet, and a third for their son, Meryteti. Each chapel consists of a series of rooms, corridors, pillared halls and storerooms. The entire mastaba contains 32 rooms, all constructed with good quality limestone, as are the retaining walls of the mastaba itself. Sixteen rooms are decorated in painted relief, thus containing an unparalleled area of decorated wall surface representing a wealth of information about almost every aspect of life in the Old Kingdom. An accurate and complete record of such a vast source of information is of immeasurable value.

Daressy's publication is very incomplete and selective and while Duell's publication contains excellent photographs, the line drawings are limited to certain topics. Above all, his record is confined to Mereruka's own chapel and ignores those of his wife and son. Yet, Waatetkethor was

the eldest daughter of King Teti and Meryteti was the king's grandson, who was awarded the highest honour of being designated as 'king's eldest son of his body'. Records of the chapels of Waastekhethor and Meryteti are desperately needed and a complete record that also includes Mereruka's own chapel is highly desirable.



MEMBERS OF THE ACE SAQQARA EXPEDITION, JAN-FEB 2004

From left to right:(back row) Alex Woods, Raphael Gargour, Sameh Shafik, Naguib Kanawati, Naguib Victor and Effy Alexakis.

(front row) Beth Thompson, Kim McCorquodale and Katherine Winterfeldt.

However, this project of the Australian Centre for Egyptology goes far beyond the production of a new complete and reliable record into an in-depth study of the career of one of the most important men of the period. The project investigates his origin and background and how he was able to marry the daughter of the king. It studies his special relationship with his wife as it appears in the scenes in his tomb. The research will also include an examination of Mereruka's wealth, which is not evident in tombs of other viziers and officials, even those married to royal princesses. This tomb offers us new opportunities to examine Egyptian art and architecture in the Old Kingdom, and particularly the influence that such a magnificent monument had on later ones.

The human remains of Mereruka and his family have already been excavated and are, to our knowledge, kept in the School of Medicine at Cairo University. In our re-clearance of the shafts of the wife and son some pieces of bones overlooked by the first excavators were found. Anthropological and medical examinations of all human remains of members of this important family is planned.

This project is not a record of a tomb; it is a study of an era and will appear in multiple volumes. It is befitting that after 25 years of Egyptian archaeology, Macquarie is entrusted with such an important project.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

A special lecture will be given by Keeva Vozoff, Professor of Geophysics, on **Friday, 21st May 2004**. The title of the lecture will be *Beyond What the Eye Can See: Geophysics in the Service of Egyptology*. Professor Vozoff is a distinguished geophysicist who has participated in Macquarie fieldwork in Egypt. He will speak about how the use of geophysics can help Egyptologists identify future areas for excavation. The lecture will be held in **W5A T2** and will commence at **8.00pm**.

Another Public Lecture will be delivered by one of this year's Visiting Fellows on Thursday 19th August. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

There will be no charge for these lectures but a donation would be appreciated.

MINI CONFERENCE 2004

Following the success of last year's inaugural Mini Conference wherein Macquarie Egyptologists discussed their most recent fieldwork, a similar one will be held this year.

Naguib Kanawati will talk about *The Vizier Mereruka and His Place in History*; Boyo Ockinga will discuss *TT147 New Revelations*, and Christiana Köhler will speak about *The Seventh Season of Excavations at Helwan – and How to Deal with Tomb Raiders*.

Date and Time: Sunday 18th April 2004 at 1.30pm for 2.00 pm start
 Venue: Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium
 Cost: \$25.00 per person, including afternoon tea

A booking form for the Mini Conference is enclosed with this newsletter. N.B: Please return your booking by **12th April**. As we cannot guarantee that you will receive your tickets in time, no bookings will be taken after this date; if any tickets do remain they will be available for purchase at the door on a first come, first served basis.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Annual Dinner this year will be a celebration of 25 years of Egyptology at Macquarie. The guest speakers will be Emeritus Professor Edwin Judge and Professor Naguib Kanawati. Professor Judge was the Founding Chair of Ancient History at Macquarie and was responsible for the creation and planning of the Ancient History Department including Egyptology. Professor Kanawati, the first Egyptologist at Macquarie, will speak on *Cinematography in Old Kingdom Art*.

Date and Time: Saturday 26th June 2004 at 6.30 for 7.00 start
 Venue: Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Function Centre
 Cost: \$45.00 for members and \$55.00 for non-members

A booking form for the Annual Dinner is enclosed. As we are required to advise the club of the numbers attending, it will be necessary to **reply by 21st May 2004**

25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

To commemorate both the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Egyptology and the Fortieth Anniversary of Macquarie University, a reception and conference launch will be held on Friday 13th August at 7.00 pm for everyone attending the conference. Our visiting fellow, Dr. Jean-Yves Empereur, will be delivering a lecture at this function. The main Conference will be on Saturday 14th August. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

EGYPTIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The A.C.E. will hold a photographic exhibition in the State Parliament House showing the Australian archaeological work in Egypt and life on the digs. It will be displayed in the Parliament House Foyer, Macquarie Street, Sydney from 13th September until 30th September.

EGYPTIAN ARABIC CLASS

A course in Egyptian Arabic is being planned for the second semester. It is anticipated the course will run for 12 weeks, one session of two hours per week commencing Friday, 6th August from 7.00 – 9.00 pm. The teacher will be Mr. Ezzat Refaei, a post-graduate student of Macquarie and a former Inspector of Antiquities at Giza. The fee will be \$150.00. **It is essential for anyone interested to contact our office immediately to ensure the viability of the course.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES 2004

The following courses are available during the 2nd Semester. **Cost** is \$150 per course. Time 6.00pm. For further information please contact Anne Irish on (02) 9850 8833.

AHST360 Egyptian Hieroglyphs B Dr. B. Ockinga Monday, 6-9pm
This unit builds upon AHST260 *Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs*, providing further study of Middle Egyptian Grammar, as well as the study and interpretation of Middle Kingdom Texts.

AHST361 Ancient Egyptian Religion Dr B. Ockinga Tuesday, 6-9pm
A study of the religious thought and its development in Ancient Egypt. This unit will deal with such topics as the concept of God, creation accounts, cosmology, divine kingship, polytheism and monotheism, myths, temple cult, oracles and personal religion.

AHST362 Methods & Techniques of Egyptian Archaeology Dr C. Köhler Thursday, 6-9pm
An introduction to major sites in Egypt, to the material culture of life and death and to methods of archaeological fieldwork with practical guidance.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

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

Member's Price: \$44.00(GST incl.) plus postage \$9.90(GST incl.)

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

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

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 practices. Member's price for each of these two volumes is \$55.00 (GST incl.) plus postage of \$9.90 (GST incl.).

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

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.**

A.C.E. OFFICE

The office is staffed between 9.30am and 3pm all days **except** Fridays for anyone wishing to make enquiries, purchasing publications or booking for Mini Conference, Dinner, etc.

Cheques should be payable to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY and forwarded to this office. All prices include G.S.T. **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

The Australian Centre for Egyptology

Division of Humanities

Macquarie University 2109

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9.30am – 3 pm, Monday - Thursday

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