

The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 90

October 2004



TT 147: COURTYARD AFTER EXCAVATION

THE SECOND SEASON IN TT 147 (LUXOR)

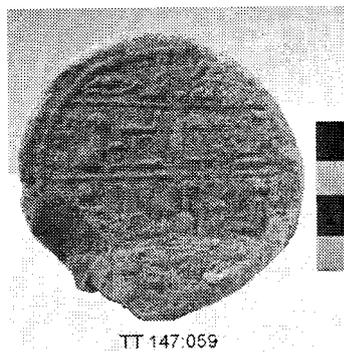
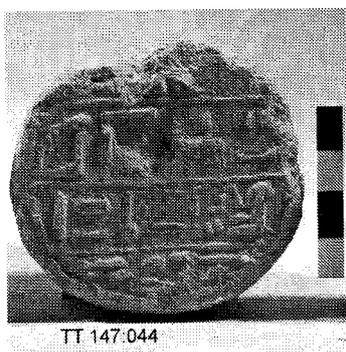
In January – February 2004 the second field season was conducted in TT 147 by the Theban Tombs Project, directed by Dr. B. Ockinga. A good start had been made the previous season with the cleaning of the wall paintings and the conservation of the walls of the chapel. This work was continued and with the cleaning of the walls of the northern end of the Broad Hall, along with the ceiling of the whole chapel, the task of cleaning and recovering the wall paintings has been successfully completed. The task of rebuilding the lower sections of the plastered walls, which had been destroyed by floodwater, will be continued in the coming campaign.

In the previous season, preliminary study of the inscriptions, before the cleaning of the walls had been completed, had given the impression that the northern half of the tomb was systematically decorated for the "Head elder of the portal" and the southern half for the "Scribe and counter of the cattle of Amun". After the cleaning of the northern end of the Broad Hall the picture is clearer and it has been revealed that the "Scribe and counter of the cattle of Amun" also appears prominently in the northern half of the Broad Hall, in particular to the north of the doorway on the east wall where, as in the parallel position on the wall to the south of the door, he appears, along with his wife, as a large-scale figure presenting offerings to Amun at the Beautiful Festival of the Valley. He is thus the senior and dominant of the two tomb owners.

In the report on our activities in the previous season (November – December 2002) the hope was expressed that future excavations would produce inscribed finds that may

provide information on the tomb's owners. In this season, in the course of the excavation of the courtyard, one type of artefact was recovered that does enable us to plausibly identify the main tomb-owner, namely the person who held the title "Scribe and counter of the cattle of Amun". A number of 18th Dynasty funerary cones were found, the majority of which belong to an individual called Neferrenpet. There were two types of cones, one inscribed for the "Wab-priest of Amun and Counter of the Cattle of Amun, Neferrenpet", the other for the "Keeper of the Storeroom(s) of Amun and Wab-priest of Khons, Neferrenpet".

As evidence, funerary cones that are no longer still in their original position, namely embedded in the façade of a tomb, need to be considered with caution since they are often found in locations far removed from the tomb to which they originally belonged. However, the cones in question were found in various archaeological contexts in the courtyard,



TT 147: FUNERARY CONES OF NEFER-RENPET

including in levels very close to the original floor level and near the tomb's façade, which makes it unlikely that they are stray finds and makes it almost certain that they belong to the tomb. We can therefore conclude with a fair degree of certainty that the primary owner of TT 147 was a man called Neferrenpet. Hopefully, future work on the tomb, in particular the excavation of the funerary apartments, will

confirm the above conclusion and also provide evidence for the identity of the "Head elder of the portal".

A start was made on the excavation of the courtyard. A complex stratigraphy was revealed, showing evidence of activity over a long period of time. Apart from fragmentary pottery, only a small number of objects were recovered that can safely be dated to the 18th Dynasty among them the above-mentioned funerary cones, a small fragment of a stele and a very small fragment of the top of a blue glass kohl jar, decorated with vertical yellow lines. One of the most interesting discoveries dating to this period was a deposit of pottery jars, several containing blue and red pigment, found under a large slab of limestone that had formed part of the northern wall of the courtyard; this was part of the equipment abandoned by the artisans who had originally painted the scenes of the tomb. The abandonment of this material may be connected with the unfinished state of the decoration of the tomb, as seen in the empty text registers accompanying the figures on the walls.

On the south side of the courtyard, against the east wall, the remains of a mud brick structure was found that probably served as a cult emplacement. This conclusion was underpinned by the discovery of the opening of a shaft situated directly in front of it. The shaft was located only at the end of the season, which meant that it could not be excavated, a task that will have to be left over for the coming season.

Hopefully, future work on the tomb, in particular the excavation of the funerary apartments, will provide evidence for the identity of Neferrenpet's wife, as well as the identity of the second owner of the tomb, the "Head elder of the portal", and his wife.

Dr. Boyo Ockinga

REPORT ON THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The exhibition, *On Site Insight: An Australian Archaeological Excavation in Egypt*, was displayed at the Fountain Court, Parliament House, Sydney, from 14th September until 1st October, 2004. The exhibition was curated and photographed by Effy Alexakis. The opening event was launched by the Hon Dr Meredith Burgman MLC in the presence of about 300 people.

The exhibition focussed on the excavations, at Saqqara, of Professor Naguib Kanawati. It included images of the excavation site – specifically the tomb of Mereruka, the local workers, the Macquarie University team, the richly detailed tomb scenes and the picturesque local village.

The show featured approximately 70 framed and captioned photographs, mural size introduction panels and life size tomb wall scenes. A video presentation by Fabian Astore evocatively brought to life scenes from the site and was accompanied by ancient Egyptian music recreated by Michael Atherton. Numerous visitors commented on the effective use of the personal insights which accompanied the photographs. This was best expressed by various statements in a comment book at the venue “a colourful, informative exhibition showing friendship as well as achieving research”, “what a wonderful exhibition, beautiful photographs recording extraordinary work” and “outstanding....it brings the site diggings to life”.

The event celebrated 25 years of Egyptology at Macquarie University and coincided with the fortieth anniversary of the University. The exhibition was made possible through generous funding provided by The Australian Wheat Board and Macquarie University.

LATEST ACQUISITIONS IN THE MUSEUM OF ANCIENT CULTURES

The Museum of Ancient Cultures and the Department of Ancient History will hold a launch of the latest acquisitions of ancient artefacts in the museum’s collections. Members of the Department through illustrated presentations will introduce select pieces from Ancient Egypt, Palestine, Greece and Rome.

The launch will be held on Friday, November 5, 2004 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Wine and cheese will be served after the presentations. All welcome.

RSVP by November 1, 2004 on 9850 8833 or email: anne.irish@mq.edu.au

FORTHCOMING ANCIENT HISTORY LECTURES AND SEMINARS

26 October 2004	<i>Lamps from the Holy Land</i>	Dr Kate da Costa
27 October 2004	<i>The Mother as Martyr</i>	Brad Windon
10 November 2004	<i>Martyrdom in Shi'ite Islam</i>	Anthony Billingsly
12 November 2004	<i>Report on recent fieldtrip to Pompeii</i>	Melissa Mance
1 December 2004	<i>Constantine's Mother, the True Cross and Old King Cole</i> Dr Antonina Harbus and launch of Dr John Lee's book <i>Biblical Greek Language and Lexicography</i> followed by Champagne Supper	
12 December 2004	MAHA Annual General Meeting followed by <i>Cinematography in Old Kingdom Tomb Scenes</i>	Prof. Naguib Kanawati

For time, venue and charge (if any) please see the Ancient History website at www.anchist.mq.edu.au or ring 9850 8833

THANK YOU

At the recent Annual Conference a very successful raffle was held. Your support of our fund raising activities is very important as it contributes toward research and to the ACE work in Egypt; we thank you for your encouragement. The Activities Committee wishes also to sincerely express its appreciation to the donors of the prizes and to congratulate the winners thereof.

The First Prize of TWO ECONOMY CLASS AIRLINE TICKETS to any Australian Capital City donated by QANTAS was won by Ms Sandra Parker. Second Prize – 6 DVD Boxed Set of LORD OF THE RINGS, donated by Jason Rodgers, HMV Macquarie Centre, was won by Dr. Judith Brophy. Books donated by Caroline Riddell and Debbi Jandagi, wine by Wandin Valley Estate and place mats by Tom Lockley were won by John Bourke, Dr. Gae Callender, Tom Lockley and Dr. Karin Sowada.

CALICO BAGS

We have a limited number of calico bags left for sale at a cost of \$5.00 per bag. There is a choice of a black or red design. You may purchase these direct from the A.C.E. office or forward a cheque made payable to “Macquarie University” for \$6.45 per bag (includes postage).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Reports 21 - N. Kanawati and M. Abder-Raziq, *Mereruka and His Family, Part 1: The Tomb of Merytet* (Oxford 2004)

Reports 22 - B. Ockinga et al, *Amenemone the Chief Goldsmith. A New Kingdom Tomb in the Teti Cemetery at Saqqara* (Oxford 2004)

A.C.E. PUBLICATIONS

Lists of the contents of B.A.C.E. (1990 – 2004) and also the A.C.E. current publications are available on request to anyone interested in purchasing a publication.

The Bulletin of the Australian Centre for Egyptology Volume 15 will be forwarded with the January 2005 Newsletter. The price of the *Bulletin* has been increased to \$12 (incl. GST) for Members and \$15 (incl. GST) for Non-members. These new prices apply to all back issues.

The price of **Reports 1 to 18** is \$44 each (incl.GST) and **Reports 19 onward** is \$55 each (incl. GST).

MAAT BOOKS

Maat Books is offering Rundle Members a permanent **10% discount** off all books purchased. Please see website www.maatbooks.com.au or ring (02) 9639 9853 for a complete list of titles available. Don't forget to identify yourself as a Rundle Member to receive this discount.

REMINDER NOTICE FOR RUNDLE MEMBERSHIP

A membership renewal form has been included with this newsletter for members who have not renewed for 2004-2005. It would be appreciated if all memberships could be renewed by 15th December 2004 at which date non-financial members will be deleted from our list.

The Bulletin will be mailed to members in January 2005 along with the Newsletter.

NB: e-mails – we have had many returned e-mails due to incorrect addresses. If you would like to receive notifications on-line please ensure e-mail addresses are written clearly on your forms and notify us when they change.

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 cheques should be made to MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY and all prices quoted include GST

All mail and enquiries should be addressed to

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Division of Humanities
Macquarie University 2109

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