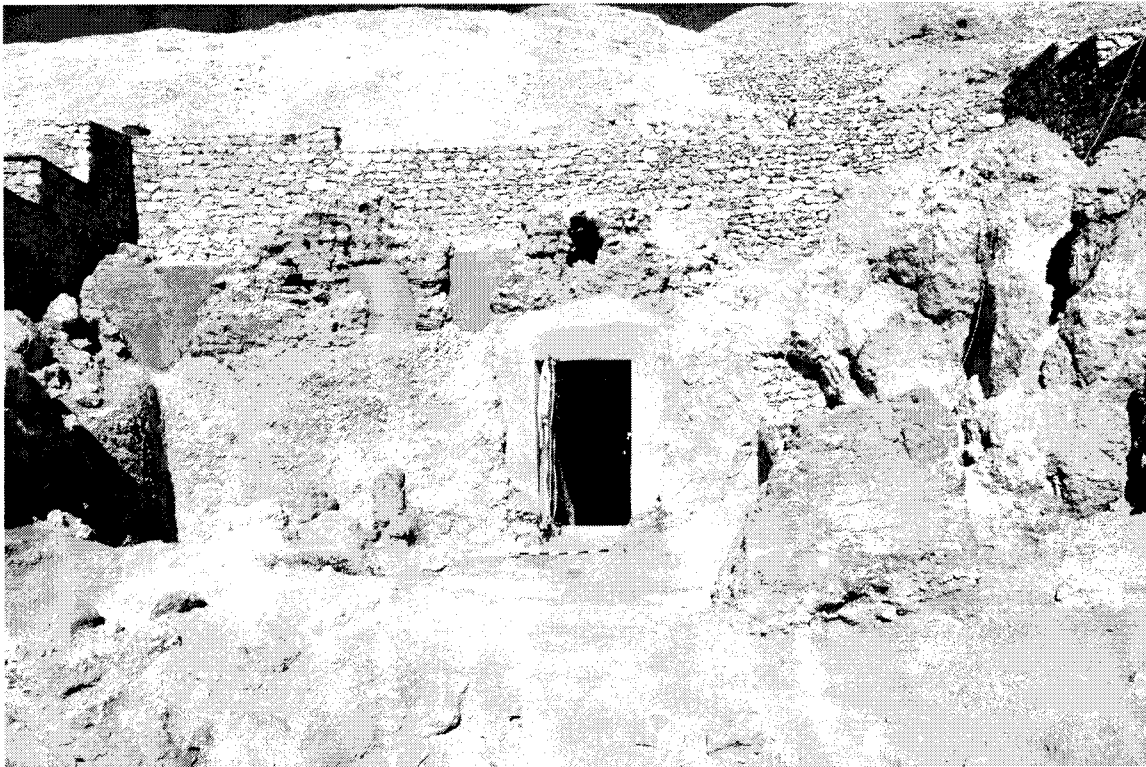


The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology

NEWSLETTER NO. 94

October 2005



MACQUARIE THEBAN TOMBS PROJECT – DRA ABU EL-NAGA^c

Macquarie University's Theban Tombs Project conducted a very successful season at Dra Abu el-Naga^c in the period November 2004 to January 2005. Work was concentrated in the complex of TT 147 – on the conservation and restoration of the walls of the chapel, as well as the courtyard façade; on completing the excavation of the courtyard and its burial shaft, and on locating and excavating the tomb's main burial complex.

In the chapel the work of reconstructing the mud-plaster walls that had been damaged in antiquity through repeated flooding of the tomb was continued. Large areas of the lower walls of the chapel as well as the doorframes and thicknesses were reconstructed using the same materials as those utilised by the ancient tomb builders: mud plaster reinforced with chaff and limestone chips for the thicker areas that had to be reconstructed and *bibe* plaster reinforced with chaff for the final finer layer that gives the wall surface a smooth finish. For the countless smaller holes and breaks a finer mixture of *bibe* plaster reinforced with primer was used. By the end of the season most of the Long Hall had been completed.

The ancient mud brick façade of the tomb had been largely destroyed as a result of numerous rockslides and flash floods. At the north end of the area in which the tomb has been built, a stratum of soft rock meets one of hard rock and over a long period of time water has worn out a

channel at the juncture of the two strata down which the floodwaters poured, emptying into the courtyard. Protective measures have been undertaken to prevent the recurrence of flooding; the lower part of the channel has been filled in with a dry stone construction to disperse any future water flow and divert it away from the tomb. A dry stone retaining wall has also been built around the three sides of the courtyard, set back ca. 50 cm from the remains of the ancient façade, to prevent further loose rubble from falling from the steep slope into the courtyard (see photo).

The excavation of the courtyard, begun in the previous season, was continued and largely completed. At the front of the courtyard, under a later mud-brick wall, an interesting deposit of broken red pots of 18th Dynasty date was found. These "funnel-neck" pots are known from New Kingdom tomb reliefs to have been used in the ritual of "smashing the red pots". The ceremony was conducted at the funeral, the red pots representing enemies, who are thereby ritually destroyed to prevent them from negatively affecting the deceased when they enter the uncertain world of the dead.

The shaft in the South West corner of the courtyard, discovered in the previous season, led to a low, roughly T-shaped set of burial apartments that had been crudely hewn out under the southern end of the East Wall of the Broad Hall. The chamber was filled almost to the ceiling with layers of firmly compacted rubble and *bibe*, its original contents scattered at various levels, all the result of a series of flash floods. The finds recovered, all badly damaged by water, are probably of Late New Kingdom date and, although some of the objects are well attested in the Ramesside Period, since the chamber is typical for those constructed for burials in the Third Intermediate Period, it is most likely that the burials also date from this time.

The entrance to the 18th Dynasty burial passage was finally located in the southwest corner of the Broad Hall. After excavating a passage 14 m in length, filled almost to the ceiling with rubble and silt, a shaft, filled with the same material that gives access to an irregularly shaped chamber was reached. Under a meter of rubble and *bibe* a 20 cm layer of *bibe* mixed with ash and small fragments of burnt bone and wood was reached. The burnt material explains both the layer of soot that covers the walls and ceiling of the burial passage and chamber, as well as the soot that covered the walls of the chapel – the contents of the chamber, which no doubt included resinous (mummified) material and oils, had been set alight, producing thick clouds of smoke that also filled the chapel. It is noteworthy that in the chapel the layer of soot was thickest and most difficult to remove at the southern end of the Broad Hall where the entrance to the burial passage is located; thus the blackening of the walls of the chapel is not, as elsewhere, the result of extended human occupation in Late Antiquity (for which there is also no archaeological evidence). Clearly only inflammable material survived in the underground complex, the most interesting being fragments of painted pottery that could be joined and proved to belong to vessels that are attested from the reign of Amenhotep III to the early 19th Dynasty.

The other important group of finds made this season were further funerary cones inscribed for the Counter of Cattle, Neferrhenpet. Twenty-six have now been recovered, a number from the interior of the tomb, from the bottom stratum of debris in the courtyard burial complex under the eastern wall of the Broad Hall, as well as the bottom stratum of the fill of the upper end of the passage of Burial Complex A. These cones must have been washed into the tomb by some of the flash floods that over time completely filled the burial complexes with silt and rubble. Since the cones were found on the floor level, in the lowest stratum, this must have occurred at an early stage, further backing our earlier conclusion that the cones belong to the tomb and provide evidence for its owner's identity.

At the end of the season we were in a similar situation to the one we had found ourselves in at the end of the previous one – in the western corner of the 18th Dynasty burial chamber that was

excavated this season, the top of a shaft that gives access to a second, lower, chamber was found, the clearance of which awaits our return. Boyo G. Ockinga

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

Following our very successful 2005 Conference (see report below) it has been decided to hold the next Conference on 19th August 2006. The theme for the Conference will be *Music, Drawing and Sexuality in Ancient Egypt*.

Guest Speakers will be Professor Gay Robins from Emory University and Dr Lise Manniche from Copenhagen University. This will be a good opportunity to get any books you have by these two popular scholars signed. Further details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2005 REPORT

Abydos, Cult Centre of Osiris: Latest Archaeological Discoveries

This year's Annual Conference on the historic and religious centre of Abydos, held on Saturday, 17 September, was addressed by visiting scholars Dr. Janet Richards, University of Michigan and Dr. Steven Harvey, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago. Each presented unique perceptions of the space, people and time forming the landscape of Abydos in the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms. Dr. Harvey also spoke on various pyramidal forms found at that centre in later periods, and Dr. Richards entranced the audience with her talk on the Old Kingdom tomb of the famous Weni the Elder. Over 200 enthusiastic participants made the day a resounding success.

ANNUAL DINNER 2005 REPORT

This year's Dinner was a very enjoyable event, despite the fire alarms! Dr. Binder's talk on her recent thesis "The Gold of Honour in New Kingdom Egypt" was extremely interesting and certainly gave everyone an insight into how great the task of PhD candidates. Congratulations Susanne on the successful completion of your studies. A touch of sadness on the night when we farewelled the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Di Yerbury. Prof. Yerbury has been a wonderful advocate and supporter of Egyptology at Macquarie and we certainly hope she will continue to attend our Annual Dinners. We wish her well in her future endeavours. Leonie Donovan

FURTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Following are some dates to put in your 2006 Diary. Details will be available later.

Mini Conference	Sunday afternoon 9th April
Annual Dinner	Saturday 17th June.
Annual Conference	Saturday 19th August

PHD GRADUATES

The following members of the Rundle Foundation recently graduated with their PhDs. We would like to offer them our sincere congratulations.

Des Bright

Susanne Binder

Leslie Kinney

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES 2006

The following courses will be available for Continuing Education Students during 1st Semester 2006. Cost will be \$150 (GST inclusive) for each subject.

AHST 100 *Egyptian Archaeology: An Introduction* **Dr Köhler**

This unit will deal with developments in Ancient Egyptian society from the Prehistoric Period to the end of the New Kingdom as reflected in the archaeological record.

AHST 260 *Egyptian Hieroglyphs A* **Prof. Kanawati**

This unit is an introduction to the hieroglyphic system of writing and the classical ancient Egyptian language written in this script.

AHST 261*Egyptian Culture and Society***Dr Köhler**

This unit is 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. *Enrolment may be limited for this unit, which is offered subject to availability.*

AHST 364*Egypt in the 18th Dynasty***Dr Ockinga**

A study of central historical issues of the 18th 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).

M.A. students or graduates, who wish to take further Continuing Education Courses, may do so at a cost of \$400 per course.

For further information please contact Anne Irish on 9850 8833.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Reports 21:** N. Kanawati and M. Abder-Raziq (2004) *Mereruka and his Family, Part 1: The Tomb of Merytetj*, Oxford
- Reports 22:** B. Ockinga et al (1980) *Amenemone the Chief Goldsmith. A New Kingdom Tomb in the Teti Cemetery at Saqqara*, Oxford
- Reports 23:** N. Kanawati (2005) *Deir El-Gebrani, Volume 1. The Northern Cliff*, Oxford

PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

- K. Sowada, T. Callaghan, P. Bentley (1999) *The Teti Cemetery at Saqqara Vol. IV*, ACE Report 12.
This publication has again become available for purchase. Cost \$44 each (incl. GST).
- N. Kanawati (1980) *The Rock Tombs of El-Hawanish, The Cemetery of Akhmim, Volume 1*,
A strictly limited number of copies of this publication are again available for purchase.
Cost \$30 (incl GST). For those who have Volumes 2-10 this is the last opportunity to complete the series.

A.C.E. PUBLICATIONS

Lists of the contents of BACE (1990–2004) and of ACE current publications are available on request.

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

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS – RUNDLE FOUNDATION

Please note that a membership form has been included with this Newsletter for all those members who have not paid their 2005-2006 memberships. It would be appreciated if payments could be forwarded by Monday, 21st November 2005.

The Bulletin of the Australian Centre for Egyptology, Volume 16 2005 will be forwarded with the January 2006 Newsletter.

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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