



The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology Newsletter

May 2010

Issue 112

OUR FINAL SEASON AT SAQQARA

Saqqara is one of the richest archaeological sites in Egypt. Having worked in the Teti cemetery from 1983 to 1988 and again from 1994 to the present, Macquarie University has a long association with this site. During these years the Australian Centre for Egyptology has published many excavation reports and studies in conjunction with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and the University of Suez Canal. January to February of this year, however, was our last season at Saqqara, at least for the present time. With the Australian Centre for Egyptology completing the recording of the Old Kingdom tombs at Meir (Assiut) and intending to start work on the Middle Kingdom tombs on the same mountain, it was thought advisable to focus our work on this period by including the very important site of Beni Hassan, which contains the richest and best decorated tombs of the period. Members will receive regular reports on our work at this significant site.

Like any final season on site, this last season at Saqqara was extremely busy with many tasks needing completion. Excavations in the north-west of the cemetery had to be finalised and recorded. Soundings on the northern limits of the cemetery were conducted to make certain that no burials have been overlooked. In the same section A/Professor Boyo Ockinga and his team also completed their work of excavating and recording burials from the New Kingdom and later periods. In the Rue de Tombeaux Dr Alexandra Woods finalised her recording of the mastaba of Neferseshemtah, including the clearance of two large shafts, the main one of which was 21 metres deep. Our re-recording of two important mastabas from the fifth dynasty, those of Ptahhotep and Nefer and Ka-hay, was also concluded, while work on the re-recording of the significant tomb of Mehu, undertaken by Dr Sameh Shafik (Macquarie University Research Associate) was also concluded.

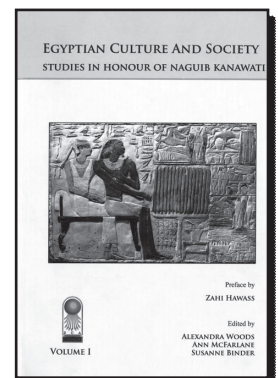
To say that the team was busy is an under-statement, but the season was most rewarding and the team returned with the greatest satisfaction that any archaeologist could dream of. The work was carried out in three different cemeteries: the Teti cemetery, West of the Step Pyramid and South of the Wenis Causeway. In addition to supervising the excavations and recording the architectural features of the tombs and the finds, much of the team's efforts went into the epigraphic recording of the scenes and inscriptions of the tomb of Nefer and Ka-hay. Members who have visited Saqqara will know this monument as one of the most colourful tombs of the Old Kingdom, although

previously published only in black and white photography and without drawings. The Australian Centre for Egyptology decided to republish the tomb in coloured photography and with line drawings. Our photographer, Effy Alexakis, was as usual responsible for the production of the photographic record and all members of the team worked very hard to produce a complete epigraphic record. Although relatively small, the tomb belongs to successive generations of a family that occupied the position of overseers of the palace singers. The family's access to palace artists and workshops may explain the fine quality of the decoration. The scenes represent a wide variety of themes from everyday life, sculptured and painted almost in miniature to accommodate as much as possible the great diversity of portrayed activities. When Wenis built the causeway of his pyramid at the end of the fifth dynasty, the tomb of Nefer and Ka-hay, still freshly painted, was buried by the causeway's construction. This was the main reason why its scenes and inscriptions have, fortunately, survived almost intact.

Naguib Kanawati

Festschrift in Honour of Naguib Kanawati

At an international gathering of Egyptologists on February 10, 2010, Prof. Dr. Zahi Hawass, Chairman of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), presented Professor Naguib Kanawati with a Festschrift to celebrate his contribution to the discipline of Egyptology over the past 35 years. The event was held in the Kamal Ahmed Pasha Hall at the SCA in Zamalek and was attended by over 120 of Prof. Kanawati's friends, colleagues as well as current and former students. Dr. Ramadan Hussein, Co-editor in Chief of the Publications unit of the SCA, chaired the event and I was asked to present an overview of Prof. Kanawati's extraordinary career and his role in establishing Egyptology in Australasia. A/Professor Boyo Ockinga spoke of their time together at both the University of Auckland and at Macquarie University. Mr. Naguib Victor recounted their many adventures in archaeology working at various sites in Egypt over the past 30 years. The main presentation of the evening was by Dr. Hawass who spoke of Prof. Kanawati's outstanding publication record, generosity in giving back to the country of his birth through the supervision of many talented Egyptian students, as well as the strong rapport he has forged with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. Dr. Hawass has initiated a series of Festschriften in celebration of the careers of many Egyptologists, such as Professors Ali Radwan, Tohfa Handoussa, David O'Connor, Kent Weeks and Edward Brovanski. The two volumes, entitled 'Egyptian Culture and Society: Studies in Honour of Naguib Kanawati' celebrate the fact that Prof. Kanawati is a distinguished and highly respected



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Our Final Season at Saqqara
Festschrift in Honour of Naguib Kanawati
- 2 Vale: Sheila Whale
- 3 Number Crunching Egyptian Style
- 4 Diary Dates; Upcoming Activities; Contact Us



THE PRESENTATION OF THE FESTSCHRIFT

member of the international community of Egyptologists, having produced over 45 monographs and 40 journal articles.

Prof. Kanawati migrated to Australia in 1968 with a Masters in Egyptology from Alexandria University, and became, in 1974, the first PhD graduate in Egyptology in the early years of Macquarie University in Sydney. After lecturing for six years at the University of Auckland where he taught 'promising' students such as Boyo Ockinga and Yvonne Harpur, he returned to Macquarie to initiate the first ever formal study of Egyptology in Australia. Thanks to the pioneering efforts and determination of Prof. Kanawati, Macquarie has gained an international reputation for thorough excavation and swift publication of the results of archaeological fieldwork in Egypt. The commitment to research excellence finds expression in the series of annual excavation reports, occasional studies and the Bulletin of the Australian Centre for Egyptology.

Vale: SHEILA WHALE

We are very sorry to report that on Monday, March 8 this year a long-standing supporter of the Foundation, Dr Sheila Whale, of Auckland, New Zealand, passed away after a long battle with illness. Sheila was born in Wales but as a young adult came out to New Zealand where she married John Whale, a mathematician at the University of Auckland.

In 1967, as a part-time mature-aged student, Sheila took up tertiary studies at Auckland University, reading English and Philosophy. In 1970 she discovered Ancient History, which was to become an abiding interest. She graduated BA in Ancient History and Philosophy in May 1974 and her academic achievements were recognised by the award of the Senior Scholarship in Ancient History. By this time Sheila had discovered her fascination with ancient Egypt and when she began MA studies in Ancient History she chose this area as her major. In May 1978 Sheila graduated MA in Ancient History with First Class Honours. Her thesis was "The Origins of the 25th Dynasty and their Inter-relationships with Egypt".

Sheila continued her academic pursuits and re-enrolled at Auckland University as a PhD candidate under the supervision of Prof. Naguib Kanawati, researching the family in New Kingdom Egypt. When Prof. Kanawati moved to Macquarie University in 1980, Prof. Anthony Spalinger became her doctoral supervisor. She successfully completed her dissertation, entitled "The Family in the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt", and in May 1987 graduated PhD in Ancient History (Egyptology).

In 1988 Dr Whale spent a semester at Macquarie as a visiting lecturer and taught in the unit AHST 224 "Ancient Egypt". During that time she made a valuable contribution in other areas of academic

Macquarie University now offers a full academic program of Egyptian history, philology and archaeology with an Egyptology major in the Bachelor of Arts degree, as well as a Masters in Egyptology, and currently 22 students are enrolled in a PhD program. There are several members of staff who now specialise in different periods of Egyptian history from the Pre-Dynastic Period through to Coptic Egypt, and all are active in research and fieldwork.

Prof. Kanawati was awarded a Personal Chair in Egyptology in 1990, was made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1997 and, in recognition of his services to education and scholarship in archaeology and Egyptology, the Australian Government presented him with the Australian Centenary Medal in 2001 and the Order of Australia in 2007. The two volume Festschrift contains 39 contributions dedicated to Prof. Kanawati by his colleagues and friends, as well as former and current students from all over the world. It acknowledges his strong commitment to research and teaching as well as his vision for Egyptology in Australasia, particularly at Macquarie University. The work was edited by three former PhD students, Drs. Ann McFarlane, Susanne Binder and myself, and we would like to express our sincerest thanks to the authors for participating in the project, to Dr. Hawass for initiating the endeavour and for organising such a successful launch of the Festschrift in Cairo, as well as to the many people in Egypt and Australia who enabled this project to reach a successful conclusion. Finally, we wish to congratulate Prof. Kanawati on all his significant achievements throughout his exemplary career and hope that the years to come will be just as prosperous, productive and rewarding.

Alexandra Woods



SHEILA AND JOHN WHALE WITH JOAN BECK IN 1988

activity at Macquarie as well; she was the Rundle Foundation Visiting Fellow, gave a Continuing Education course on women in Ancient Egypt and contributed to the Ancient History Teachers' Conference. If this was not enough, she also worked on her thesis, preparing it for publication. It was to become the first volume in the ACE Studies series and was published in 1989 under the title *The Family in the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt*. The book was very well received and is regularly quoted in works dealing with matters of the family in Ancient Egypt.

Sheila and John made many friends during their stay in Sydney and in the following years they regularly came across to Sydney to attend the Annual Conference until Sheila's health situation made that impossible. However, the contacts and friendships were maintained via correspondence.

Sheila will be remembered not just as an academic who made a valuable contribution to her subject but to those who knew her, as a very unassuming, gentle, kind and considerate person and a good friend.

Boyo Ockinga

Number Crunching Egyptian Style

Egyptian kings and their royal servants inscribed enormous numbers of livestock in their temples and tombs. The Fifth Dynasty pharaoh, Sahure, for example proclaimed that he captured 123,440 cattle, 223,400 donkeys, 232,413 goats, and 243,688 sheep on his Libyan campaign. Sixth Dynasty administrators of provinces also made great claims for the size of their herds:

OFFICIAL	LOCATION	LIVESTOCK	NUMBERS
<i>Ibi</i>	Deir el-Gebrawi	oxen and goats	32,400
<i>Pepi-ankh-Herj-ib</i>	Meir	oxen	760,000
		cows?	7000
		bulls	700
		oxen	77
		Total	767,777
<i>Djaw</i>	Deir el-Gebrawi	oxen	24(?)00
<i>Ka-Hep/Djeti-iker</i>	El Hawawish	gazelle	1023
		oryx	1000
		oxen	3014
		oxen	212
<i>Kheni/Shepsi-pu-Minu</i>	El Hawawish	oxen (lyre-shaped horns)	10,000
		oxen (crescent horns)	10,000
		oxen (lyre-shaped horns)	10,000

To be fair to Pepi-ankh-Herj-ib the enormous number of cattle that he records refers to a count of all the herds in the two or three provinces he governed; but the other figures appear to be the size of herds these officials claimed to own. Were they wild, boastful exaggerations or accurate figures? Would it have been possible to bring nearly a million livestock back from Libya to Egypt and could provincial estates have supported such large herds?

Tomb scenes and inscriptions appear to show a seasonal pattern of cattle management in pharaonic Egypt:

- Cattle fed on winter pasturage after the inundation.
- When pasturage dried off and was eaten out in summer, herds were driven down to the marshland to feed on nutritious papyrus which grew extensively in pharaonic times.
- In late summer/autumn the herds were led back to high ground before the inundation.

Yet herds would have to be kept on high ground and somehow fed during the flooding of the land (perhaps six weeks) and for a further period of time while new pasturage grew. As there is no evidence to show how enormous herds would have been maintained during this period, our acceptance of the figures cited in tombs as accurate depends on two judgements:

Firstly, how large a herd could be moved and contained in marshy land with its thickets of papyrus? This would have needed large numbers of herders as there is no evidence that Egyptians used cattle dogs and there were no horses in Egypt in the Old Kingdom. Secondly, could Old Kingdom Egypt have provided enough fodder to feed these enormous herds year-round?

Much more of the cereal crop would have been needed as cattle fodder, when neither pasturage nor papyrus were available. Could this could be achieved? The grain harvest was vital to the survival of the population, as bread and beer (both made with cereals) were the staple food and drink of ordinary people. Scenes from tombs show that the grain harvest was handled and supervised with utmost care. In addition, if one accepts the figures as accurate, the need to feed throughout the year large herds of wild desert ungulates, that had to be kept in enclosures and could not be driven down to the marshland, and the maintenance of the cited numbers of livestock, does appear to be beyond the bounds of possibility.

Yet why were these enormous figures so consistently cited by the most powerful provincial officials in Dynasty 6? These men

would have known that literate visitors to their tombs would have had knowledge of the actual size of their herds.

Throughout history chroniclers have provided their readers with numbers that appear to be exaggerated. Herodotus gives the Persian, Xerxes, an army of two and a half million, while modern historians accept the figure of 75,000 to 100,000 men. Medieval chroniclers are well known for exaggerating the size of armies that went into battle. Contemporary accounts of the Battle of Hastings (1066 AD) give William of Normandy an army ranging from 60 000 to 150 000 men, although modern historians assess his invasion force between 5000 and 8000. Chroniclers of the Hundred Years War between England and France, who supported the English, assigned huge armies to the enemy of their kings.

One can accept these figures or dismiss them as deceptive exaggerations but there is a third approach. Exaggerated numbers can be seen as a literary device to make an important point. The size of an army or the casualty count of a battle may be enhanced to show the might of the king or to show that the king won against enormous odds, highlighting his strategic genius. Journalists still use the device of definite numbers. We may read of a demonstration of 30,000 or 50,000 people, when the reporter clearly had no means of making a count, but is recording in a dramatic fashion that the cause had strong public support.

So it is feasible that the inflated numbers of livestock may not be merely an empty boast and that officials give these figures to make an important point. If we combine the pictorial data and captions that tombs of these powerful Sixth Dynasty officials give us with evidence from their autobiographies, we can construct a hypothesis that explains the inflated numbers.

In early Dynasty 6 Henqu/Ii...f, administrator of Deir el-Gebrawi province, tells us: ... *I filled its river banks with cattle and its pastures with small cattle (sheep and goats)... I was beneficial to it with stables for cattle and establishments for trappers. I settled all its mounds with men, large cattle and small cattle, truly, and I do not tell lies therein.*

Henqu/Ii...f does not mention the king, but his position was a royal appointment so it may be accepted that he was carrying out the crown's policy in exploiting unused land.

In mid Dynasty 6, Qar tells us that the crown brought him to the capital, where he was educated. Then King Merenre sent him to govern the province of Edfu in the far south of the country. Again the underlying message in Qar's autobiography is that he successfully implemented crown policy in expanding the cattle herds in his province. He records: *I made the bulls of this nome (province) more numerous than the bulls that were in the cattle shed which was at the head of all Upper Egypt. It is certainly not a thing which I found achieved by the chief who was in this nome before me...*

Qar also tells us that the king brought a number of sons of provincial administrators to the capital for their education, which may have been a form of indoctrination as he uses the word 'shaped' to describe how they were taught. Among them were Ibi of Deir el-Gebrawi and Ka-hep/Tjeti of El Hawawish. Djaw of Deir el-Gebrawi, Ka-hep/Tjeti-iker and Kheni/Shepsi-pu-Minu of El Hawawish, and Pepi-ankh-heri-ib of Meir, who provide us with enormous herd numbers, were either contemporaries of Qar, Ibi and Ka-hep/Tjeti or their sons and grandsons, families trusted by the crown. There is no reason to reject the interpretation that when they record huge numbers of livestock, these men also are expressing success in carrying out royal policy.

Combining the data from the autobiographies with wall scenes and their inscriptions provides a significant body of evidence to support the following hypotheses:

(cont'd Page 4)

The policy of the crown in much of Dynasty 6 was to increase livestock holdings, especially of cattle, in the provinces of Upper Egypt. Dynasty 6 autobiographies and tomb scenes reflect that provincial administrators were proud of their successes in implementing this policy, which thus demonstrates their loyalty to the crown.

The second hypothesis runs counter to the view, generally held by earlier scholars, that the powerful provincial governors of Dynasty 6 were bent on setting themselves up as independent rulers and merely paid lip-service loyalty to the crown.

I would like to end by asking members with experience of cattle management to give me their opinion on whether such large herds could have been maintained in the context of the Nile Valley.

joyswinton@optusnet.com.au

Joyce Swinton

Important New Publication

Köhler, E. Christiana and Jones, Jana, *Helwan II. The Early Dynastic and Old Kingdom funerary relief slabs*, SAGA 25 (Rahden, 2009).

This volume presents the archaeological and epigraphic documentation of 41 Early Dynastic and early Old Kingdom funerary relief slabs from Helwan, a necropolis for middle-ranked elites from Memphis, the ancient capital. The main corpus of the slabs was 'lost' in the basement of the Egyptian Museum, Cairo after excavation in the 1940s-50s until located by A/Prof. Köhler and Museum staff in 1999. Subsequently another ten slabs have been excavated by the A.C.E. mission. The monograph aims to correct the lack of complete publication and comprehensive information necessary for the systematic study, chronological order, and interpretation of this corpus of outstanding importance, and makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the art, archaeology, language, funerary beliefs and society of early Egypt.

Series: Studien zur Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens

ISBN-13: 978-3-8657-971-1 and ISBN-10: 3-8657-971-7

Content: 220 pages, 72 illustrations, 20 tables, 45 plates.

The volume has been ordered by the Macquarie Coop Bookshop, and will not be available at the Rundle office.

Special Event

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 7 pm

The Heritage Function Centre

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

The German Consulate is generously organising a lecture tour for two internationally renowned Egyptologists who will each present a lecture for members and guests in October. Prof. Dr Dietrich Wildung, the former Director of the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrus-Sammlung, Berlin, will talk about "Amarna – an accident of history" and Dr Sylvia Schoske, Director of the Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst, Munich, will discuss "Queenship – Hatshepsut and Nefertiti."

Cost \$25 includes a light supper

2010 Celebratory Dinner

Saturday May 22, 2010 at 6.30 for 7 pm

The Heritage Function Centre, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde

This year's dinner will celebrate the presentation of the Festschrift to Naguib Kanawati in honour of his life's work in Egyptology.

Naguib will be the after dinner speaker and will talk about his most recent work at Meir.

Cost: \$55 per person.

Diary Dates

Annual Dinner

Saturday May 22 2010

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Function Centre

6.30 for 7 pm

Annual Conference

Saturday August 7 2010

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium

10 am sharp

Lectures by Prof. Wildung and Dr Schoske

Wednesday October 6 2010

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Function Centre

7 pm

Rundle Foundation Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due for renewal on June 30, 2010. A Renewal Form will be included with the next Newsletter or may be downloaded from the ACE website.

2010 Annual Conference

DEATH, TOMBS AND MUMMIES

Saturday August 7, 2010

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium

9.30 for 10 am sharp

Guest speakers: **Salima Ikram**, Professor of Egyptology
The American University in Cairo, Egypt
Aiden Dodson, Senior Research Fellow
Bristol University, UK

Prof. Ikram is a leading expert on animal mummies. As founder and co-director of the Animal Mummy project at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, she has become one of the leading scholars in Egyptian funerary archaeology.

Dr Dodson's research interests include Egyptian funerary archaeology; dynastic history; and the history of Egyptology and royal funerary archaeology of Europe. Current work covers a variety of areas within Egyptian archaeology, but centres on the development of funerary equipment and architecture, history and chronology from Second to Third Intermediate Periods, and the history of Egyptology and Egyptian collections, particularly in the south west of England.

Our visiting scholars have co-authored two wellknown and widely used books: *The Mummy in Ancient Egypt: Equipping the Dead for Eternity* and *Death and Burial in Ancient Egypt*.

This year the conference price will include morning tea, a light lunch and afternoon tea. As this is a catered function, tickets will be pre-sold and only a very limited number will be reserved for sale at the door. Please phone the office on Friday morning to check availability.

Cost: Members \$70, Non-Members \$80

Students and Pensioners \$50

School Groups with a minimum of 5 students \$40 per student,

Teacher with 5 students FREE

ACE Website

www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

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

Address mail and enquiries to:

The Australian Centre for Egyptology

Faculty of Arts

Macquarie University NSW 2109

Phone: (02) 9850 8848

10 am – 3 pm, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

email: egypt@mq.edu.au