



# The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology Newsletter

August 2011

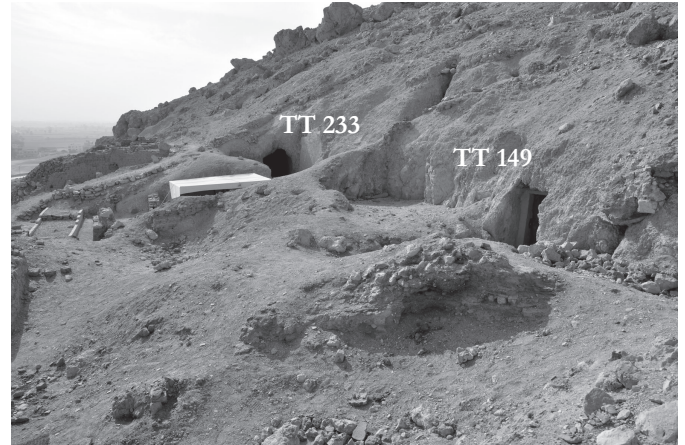
Issue 116

## THE THEBAN TOMBS PROJECT DECEMBER 2010–JANUARY 2011 SEASON

From 1st December 2010 to 13th January 2011 the Macquarie University Theban Tombs Project continued its work at Dra Abu el-Naga. The team consisted of Boyo Ockinga, Susanne Binder, Malcolm Choat and Leonie Donovan as well as two student members, Sally Xexenis and Alice McClymont; Mr Ayman Mohamed Ibrahim was our accompanying SCA inspector. We were very fortunate to have completed a most productive and enjoyable season before the unfolding of the dramatic events of the Egyptian revolution that broke out on January 25th.

The season involved a variety of tasks in two of the tombs that the mission has been working on for several years, TT147 (Neferenpet) and TT233 (Saroy and Amenhotep/Huy), as well as in TT149 (Amenmose), in which the mission began work for the first time.

We completed the photography for the final publication of the tomb of Neferenpet (TT147) and began the conservation of what remains of the mud-brick walls of the forecourt. In the tomb of Saroy and Amenhotep/Huy (TT233) work was continued, and completed, on the collation of the drawings of the wall decoration and wall fragments that had been made in previous seasons. The drawings of the reliefs and inscriptions on the roughly 170 fragments of the sandstone sarcophagus of Saroy were also checked and the fragments were first reassembled on paper to see how many of the actual blocks can be joined. We were able to piece together the tracings of the inscribed and decorated fragments of the two sides, as well as the foot- and the head-ends of the box of the sarcophagus; in all more than eighty per cent could be joined. Then the actual sandstone fragments of the sides and ends were reassembled and photographed. Fortunately enough could be pieced together to make it possible to establish the shape and all the dimensions of the box. Not nearly as many pieces of the lid were preserved so that it was impossible to reconstruct it in the same way, but the total height of the foot-end could be established. Conservation work was



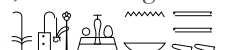
*Above:* THE LOCATION OF TT233 AND TT149  
*Below:* THE RECONSTRUCTED SARCOPHAGUS OF SAROY TT233  
(a) LEFT SIDE (b): RIGHT SIDE



also conducted on one of the mud-brick walls of the tomb's courtyard.

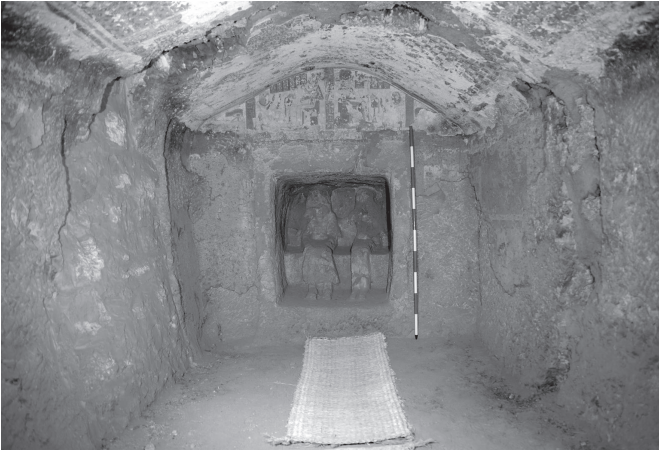
Investigations were also begun on the Ramesside Tomb of Amenmose (TT149) which abuts TT233 to the north. Our preliminary study involved making a photographic record of its architecture and the present state of its decoration, the production of hand copies of its surviving inscriptions along with a description of the decoration and its state of preservation, a survey of the courtyard and the production of a plan and profiles of the present surface levels, and finally a surface survey of the pottery sherds in the courtyard.

The study of the tomb's inscriptions has contributed significantly to our knowledge of its owner and his wife, providing information that goes beyond what can be found in the standard reference works on the Theban tombs. In particular, our investigations have revealed that in addition to his titles



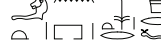



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TT149: THE CHAPEL WITH THE STATUE SHRINE

*sš nsw wdḥ.w n.y nb t3.wy* Royal Scribe of the Table of the Lord of the Two lands and  *im.y-r3 nw.w n(.w) pr.w Imn.w* Overseer of Huntsmen of the Estate of Amun, Amenmose also has the titles  *it ntr mri.y ntr* Father of the God, Beloved of the God as well as  *h3.t n.y pr.w nsw r dr=f* Head of the King's Estate to its limit. In an inscription above the statue shrine in the chapel he is designated  *sš nsw m3c mr(i.y)=f* 'True Royal Scribe, his 'beloved' (i.e. 'chosen one'). The last two titles are of particular interest

and point to the close association that Amenmose had with the king. The first title indicates that he was in charge of the royal household. The use of the verb *mri* in the second title is of interest; here it is used with its extended meaning of "to give preference to; choose, select". Thus Amenmose claims to have been especially chosen by the king; the adjective *m3c* "true" that follows *sš nsw* "royal scribe" should be understood to mean that he was actually in the service of the king himself and did not just hold the grade *sš nsw*. Thus Amenmose's relationship with the king bears some similarities to that of his neighbour Saroy, owner of TT233. Saroy served under Ramesses II and also held the titles *sš wdḥ.w n.y nb t3.wy* Royal Scribe of the Table of the Lord of the Two Lands and *im.y-r3 nw.w* Overseer of Hunters; his other titles, as well as the biographical inscription in his tomb, indicate that he too was in the personal service of the king.

The name of the wife of Amenmose can be corrected to  *B3k.t-Mw.t-Wr(t)* Basketmutwer(et), rather than Sitmut as was previously thought; the exact form is not attested in the standard work on personal names and it seems to be a conflation of *B3k.t-Mw.t* and *B3k.t-wr.t*.

We look forward to being able to return to TT149 and continue our work. This will also involve excavation of the large courtyard, which has traces of Coptic occupation, as well as the burial passages and apartments, and we are hopeful that it will provide further data on the tomb's occupants. **Boyo Ockinga**

## LIFE ON A THEBAN DIG WORKING ON THE MOUNTAIN

Six long weeks, 7.30am trips across the Nile, and hundreds of sandstone fragments to trace: for students of Egyptology, this is the stuff of dreams! From December 2010 to January 2011, Sally and I were given the opportunity to participate in the Macquarie Theban Tombs project, assisting with the recording of Theban Tombs 147, 149 and 233.

After making the most of our Fridays off, our working week would begin early on Saturday, with a quick breakfast and stroll to the riverside to meet our friendly inspector. Arriving on the west bank, we were driven through the village of Qurna, past the Colossi of Memnon and the temples of Amenhotep III, Merenpath and Ramses II, to name a few (what a way to start the day!) to the site of Dra Abu el Naga. Once there, we would race up the mountain to begin our daily work.

Though no excavation was to take place this season, there were a number of 'odd jobs' to be taken care of, which meant we had the opportunity to try our hand at a range of fieldwork activities. In TT233, our first task was attempting to piece together a sandstone sarcophagus, which had been broken into numerous small fragments – just like a giant jigsaw puzzle! The sections we were able to reassemble were then traced onto plastic and photographed in preparation for their publication, along with a large number of other stone and plaster fragments that had previously been excavated from the tomb. We were also given the chance to practice our skills of epigraphy by tracing some of the wall scenes and texts of TT233 – using up much of the supplies of cotton buds and acetone in the process – and were able to observe the final photography that was being carried out in TT147 by our team photographer Leonie Donovan.

For the second half of our season, our attention turned to the project's newest acquisition, TT149 of Amenmose, and it was



L-R: ALICE McClymont, Sally Xexenis, Hussein Ahmed Hussein and Dr Susanne Binder piecing together Saroy's sarcophagus

the students' task to conduct a preliminary survey of the scenes and texts of the tomb, ahead of its planned excavation at a later date. The hours spent analysing the decoration and reading the inscriptions, which have never yet been published, were perhaps the most fulfilling moments of our season, though it was difficult to resist the tantalising mound of rubble filling one half of the broad hall, from which several surface objects were accessioned. Our last activities of the season focused on the unexcavated courtyard of TT 149, with a surface survey of the pottery sherds,

each diagnostic piece being weighed, measured and described, and finally the mapping of the area with the use of a laser meter and an introductory lesson in triangulation.

Of course, it wasn't all work; we had our regular tea breaks to look forward to (five cups a day or more) and the occasional visit from international colleagues or members of the SCA. So, from tracing to triangulation, epigraphy to archaeology, we got to do it all and we would do it all again, down to the very last sherd.

**Alice McClymont**

## LIVING IN LUXOR-Y – EXPLORING THE EAST BANK

On December 1st 2010 Alice and I met Boyo and Susanne at Giza railway station for the overnight journey to Luxor which was to be our home for the next 6 weeks.

The first day in Luxor was dedicated to settling into our respective apartments on the two top floors on the block. Walking up those stairs for the first time with our luggage required a lot of endurance and the prospect of going up and down the stairs multiple times per day was daunting. However, once we were on the rooftop balcony, we looked out over the city at the magnificent view of the Nile and realised that it was a small price to pay for such a wonderful outlook to admire each day.

Our apartment consisted of two enormous bedrooms, two living areas, a kitchen and a bathroom/laundry. Double doors from the living room opened out onto the large balcony and stairs led to the rooftop which enabled us to get a bird's eye view of all the other rooftops in the area complete with makeshift shelters for shade and innumerable satellite dishes. We rose at the second call to prayer every morning and, after dressing and organising our day packs, we breakfasted on porridge, an assortment of local breads and tea in Boyo, Susanne and Leonie's apartment downstairs.

In the interests of good health and maintaining the budget, Susanne devised a cooking roster and by the end of the season we would all have cooked at least five times each. Although most of us would not rate grocery shopping as an experience one looks forward to, in Luxor we thoroughly enjoyed these outings and working out what to cook when it was our turn. We did eat out as a group once a week and sampled a few of the local restaurants but Alice and I discovered that the restaurant with the best view in Luxor was actually McDonald's; so whenever we felt a little bit jaded after a full day's sightseeing we would often end up there watching the sun setting over an uninterrupted view of Luxor Temple.

As Christmas drew near the reality that we were going to spend our first Christmas away from our families began to sink in. This day could have been filled with tears and sadness but the compassion and understanding shown by Susanne to all of us, as well as the diversionary tactics that included a good sized ration of chocolate brought from Germany for each of us kept our spirits up and made our Christmas a unique and memorable occasion that I know we will treasure for years to come.

On New Year's Eve we drove down to Sohag by taxi and spent two nights there. We visited Akhmim to see the enormous statue of Meryt-Amun, then the Red and White Monasteries. On the way back to Luxor we visited the temple of Seti I at Abydos and the Dendera temple complex which were magnificent.

Life in Luxor was an amazing experience for Alice and me, from negotiating the frenetic atmosphere of the Souq, to the quiet sanctuary of the Chicago House library. Along the way we met many local business people and while they may have started off



SALLY AND ALICE TRACING THE WALLS OF TT233

as felucca touts and overly enthusiastic souvenir merchants, after six weeks of seeing our familiar faces day after day, the vocal exchanges evolved from 'Hey, want a felucca?' to 'Hey, how was your work today?'.

**Sally Xexenis**

## Faces at the 2011 Annual Dinner



*Top:* EGYPTIOLOGY STUDENTS WITH A/PROF. BOYO OCKINGA AND DR SUSANNE BINDER

*Above Left:* MASTER OF CEREMONIES, A/PROF. TOM HILLARD

*Above Right:* TABLE DECORATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, JUDY DEAN

*Left:* AFTER DINNER SPEAKER AND NEW DAD, DR YANN TRISTANT

(PHOTOS: JOHN DEAN)

## 2011 Annual Conference

NEW VIEWS ON THE ANCIENT PAST  
POLISH AND HUNGARIAN EXCAVATIONS IN MEMPHIS  
AND THEBES

Saturday August 13, 2011

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium  
9.30 for 10 am sharp

For this year's conference we have invited two very well known scholars from Eastern Europe. There will be four very interesting lectures on topics that we haven't heard about before.

**Prof. Karol Myśliwiec**, University of Warsaw, Poland has had a long career as a field archaeologist on a wide range of sites in Egypt and is currently excavating in Saqqara, hence his interests overlap with those of Macquarie. Prof. Myśliwiec will discuss:

*A double necropolis in a quarry: Polish-Egyptian excavations in Saqqara*  
*Two posthumous neighbours (Mer-ef-neb-ef and Ny-ankh-Nefertem)*  
*from the Old Kingdom in Saqqara*

**Prof. Tamás Bács**, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest Hungary, and his team work in Thebes at Sheikh Abd el Gurna in a complex of tombs that has a wealth of material from the New Kingdom to the Coptic Period. TT65, in particular, has an interesting range of officials, periods, art, architecture and decoration programs and texts. Prof. Bács also has a personal connection with Australia which he will no doubt tell us about. He will talk about:

*Scribes and Secretaries, High Priests and Viceroys: Some mid Eighteenth Dynasty tomb-complexes on Sheikh Abd el-Qurna*

*An Intriguing Mind: The chief temple archivist Imiseba and his mortuary monument*

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 will not be held at the door unless they are already paid for**. Only if the event is not sold out, will there be tickets for sale at the door. Last year the conference was a sell out so book early and don't be disappointed!

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

For those who have not already received a booking form,  
one is included with this Newsletter

## Recent Publications for Sale

N. Kanawati et al (2010) *Mereruka and his Family, Part III: I. The Tomb of Mereruka*, ACE Reports 29

N. Kanawati et al (2011) *Mereruka and his Family, Part III: II. The Tomb of Mereruka*, ACE Reports 30

Price: \$66 each

## Rundle Foundation Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions were due for renewal on June 30, 2011. A Renewal Form is included with this Newsletter for members whose subscriptions are now due.

## Diary Dates

### Annual Conference

Saturday August 13 2011

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium  
10 am sharp

### Young Egyptology Forum No. 1

Sunday September 11 2011

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium  
1.00 pm sharp

## Young Egyptology Forum No. 1

Sunday, September 11 2011 at 12.45 for 1.00 pm sharp  
Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium

We are pleased to announce the presenters, their respective papers and the program for the Young Egyptology Forum. There will be three sessions on the day with a rest break after Session 1 and an afternoon tea will be served after Session 2. Each paper will be 20 minutes long. The Forum will commence promptly at 1 pm and will finish at 5 pm.

### Session 1: Archaeology and Funerary Art

1. Agie Oser, MA (Egyptology) candidate  
*The Mastaba/Rock-cut Tomb of Niankbbkbnun and Khnumbotep*
2. Emma Magro, BA, BA (Hons) candidate  
*The Panel in the False Door in the 5th and 6th Dynasties*
3. Bonnie Clark, BAncHist (Hons)  
*Unknown Man E (aka the Screaming Mummy from the royal cache at Deir el Bahri)*

BREAK (2.00 pm)

### Session 2: Language

4. Luis Siddal, PhD  
*The Amarna Letters from Tyre as a Source for Understanding Atenism and Imperial Administration*
5. Matthew George, BAncHist (Hons) candidate  
*From Regal to Rowdy: portrayal of divine characters in Egyptian texts*
6. Evan Jewell & Alice McClymont, BAncHist (Hons) candidates  
*"Say What?" – Exploring Bilingualism in Ptolemaic Egypt through the Triscriptural Decrees of Canopus and Memphis*
7. Alex Thompson, BAncHist (Hons), MA candidate  
*O.Macq. inv. 2152: An unpublished ostrakon illustrating the transportation of grain in the Coptic Period*

AFTERNOON TEA (3.30 pm)

### Session 3: Art

8. Sue Turner, PhD candidate  
*The Depiction of Ancient Egyptian Horses – Picasso or Da Vinci?"*
9. Samantha Dunncliff, BAncHist (Hons), PhD candidate  
*Boat Fighting in the Old Kingdom*
10. Claire Hailey, BAncHist (Hons) candidate  
*Ordered Chaos: Art Principles of Composition in the Battle Scenes of the New Kingdom*

Cost: \$25, Students \$15, including afternoon tea  
For those who have not already received a booking form,  
one is included with this Newsletter

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

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