



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

The Rundle Foundation
for Egyptian Archaeology



Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter | Edition 4

1 November 2021

Welcome

Message from the ACE Director

Dear Member,

As we look to the future, I am excited by the continued levels of excellence demonstrated by our Egyptology students, higher degree candidates and early career researchers. Our 2021 lecture program featured a number of excellent presentations, with another lecture offered this month by Dr Nicolle Leary. We are also thrilled that Dr Susan Kelly will be joining the Egyptology staff team in 2022 as a full-time Macquarie University post-doctoral fellow. I offer our congratulations to Susan, and look forward to hearing about her research project in our lecture series next year.

Best wishes, Karin

Dr Karin Sowada
Australian Centre for Egyptology

In this issue

- Egypt and the Mediterranean during the Old Kingdom
- New member of Egyptology research staff
- Rundle Member News
- Lecture Series 2021 - Lecture 8 - register now
- Program for 2022 - thinking ahead
- Looking for a Christmas present?
- MALS - Macquarie Ancient Languages School - January 10-14, 2022
- Contact Us

Egypt and the Mediterranean during the Old Kingdom



Dr Karin Sowada at the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), recording an imported combed jar from Old Kingdom Giza.

The nature and impact of Egypt's relations with the Levant during the Old Kingdom has formed the basis of Dr [Karin Sowada](#)'s Australian Research Centre (ARC) Future Fellowship project for the last 4 years (2017-2021). Entitled Pyramids, Power and the Dynamics of States in Crisis (ARC Grant FT170100288), her research

involves international collaborations that includes scientific analysis on material discovered by [George Reisner](#) at Giza more than 100 years ago.

Over the years, much debate has surrounded the origins of imported pottery found by Reisner in tombs at Giza, now in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA). Imported ceramics were also found at the Giza pyramid workers' settlement by Dr Mark Lehner and his team. A large dataset of ceramics from these sources, mostly of 4th Dynasty date (c. 2613–2446 BCE), has now been assessed using thin-section petrography, revealing that the vessels come from a narrow strip of the Lebanese coast between Beirut and Tripoli. This area includes the city of Byblos.

The results were achieved through an international collaboration between the MFA, Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA), the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) and co-authors Dr Karin Sowada, Dr [Mary Ownby](#) (University of Arizona) and Dr [Anna Wodzińska](#) (Department of Archaeology of Egypt and Nubia, University of Warsaw).

Further ceramic data from Abusir tombs was recently published in a second paper, co-authored by Dr Sowada, Dr Ownby and Professor [Miroslav Bárta](#). Dated to the late 6th Dynasty (c. 2345–2181 BCE), samples from imported jars revealed identical origins for the imports, attesting to the centuries-long relationship between the two regions.

While the relationship between Egypt and Byblos has been known for decades, the results provide important new data about the nature of trade and exchange mechanisms during the third millennium BCE, and help us understand how and where the Egyptian state projected its power across the region. The research program is not yet over, with further results expected in coming months.

The Giza paper – read it [here](#):

"The petrography of imported Levantine combed vessels from early Old Kingdom Giza" in *Levant* 52 (2020), pp. 197-214.

The Abusir paper – read it [here](#) (abstract only)

"The Origin of imported jars from 6th Dynasty Abusir: New light on Early Bronze Age Egyptian-Levantine relations" in *BASOR* 386 (2021), pp. 221-236.

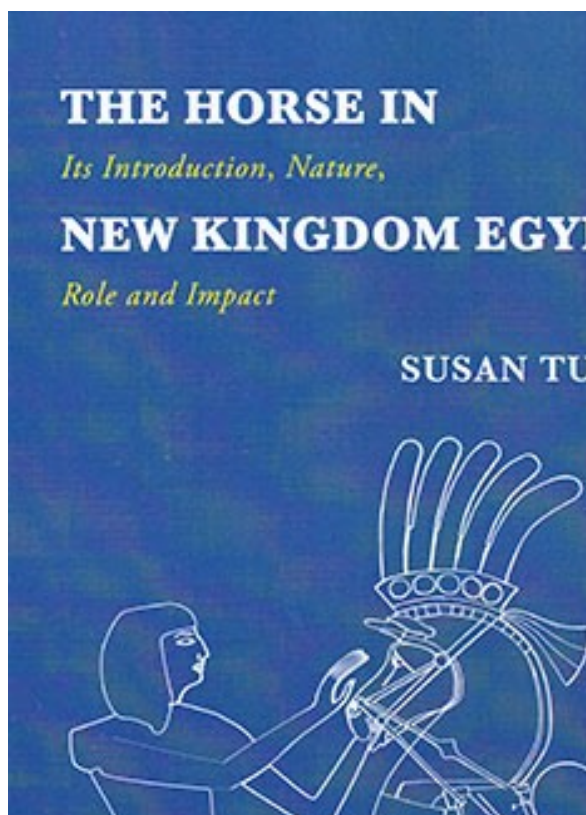
New member of Egyptology research staff

Congratulations to **Dr Susan Kelly** on the award of a one-year Macquarie University COVID Recovery Research Fellowship for the project **Lifting the veil: Female**

social power in Early Egypt (c. 3080-2180 BCE). Sue will join the Egyptology staff team in late November to work on the project which is associated with her recently-conferred PhD. She has been teaching the third year unit AHIS3251 'State Formation in Egypt and the Near East' in the Department of History and Archaeology this semester, and we look forward to her contribution during 2022.

Rundle Member News

We are pleased to announce and celebrate the publication of Sue Turner's book. It is testimony to her enthusiasm for ancient Egypt, her interest in academic research – and to her perseverance to see the project through to completion!



Dr Sue Turner writes: "Having always shared passions for ancient Egypt and horses, I was exceptionally fortunate to have Professor Kanawati encourage them both during his course on Egyptian wall scenes and then agree to my pursuing this interest further. Even more fortunate for me, Assoc. Professor Boyo Ockinga and Dr Susanne Binder agreed to be my supervisors and I owe a great deal of thanks to them for their endless patience, knowledge and professionalism.

1991 was the last time horses per se were partially included in a study on Egypt (Rommelaere, *Les chevaux du nouvel empire égyptien*).

The focus was on chariots and their construction at the expense of the most important factor: the driving force, the horses themselves! It was a little like going to a car show but not looking at the engines under the bonnets! My work began with seeking the origins of the Egyptian horses, which took me to the Ukraine, from where I then followed their progress until they reached Egypt. The horses were physiologically well suited to the environments of both the Delta and the Valley. The clever and aggressive early 18th Dynasty kings, such as Thutmose I and Thutmose III, quickly adopted the use of chariots in battle. Their tremendous success in creating an empire, was considerably due to the horses they exploited. Horses were prized possessions and they swiftly became treasured items in the "package" of the

New Kingdom's high officials. They not only contributed to Egypt's becoming an empire, but their integration totally changed the face of Egypt."

Sue Turner has been a member of the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology since 1996. Sue, you have mastered the challenge of writing a PhD while teaching ancient history at senior high-school. Heartfelt congratulations, Dr Susan Turner, on the publication of [The Horse in Ancient Egypt. Its Introduction, Nature, Role and Impact.](#)

Lecture Series 2021 - Lecture 8



Please join us for the upcoming event, via Zoom.

The Right Ox for the Job: Figural Proportions and the Roles of Cattle in Elite Tomb Imagery

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 6:30pm – 8:00pm AEST

Dr Nicolle Leary (Macquarie University)

[Register now](#)

Depictions of the natural world are an intrinsic feature of ancient Egyptian visual culture, with the vast array of imagery recording animals a testimony to the fundamental role they played in society. Dr Nicolle Leary will present key findings on her research into scene composition and figural proportions of animals, and explore the potential biological and contextual factors when illustrating cattle physique in Old and Middle Kingdom tomb imagery. By looking at what may have influenced how cattle were rendered, we can ask ourselves if practitioners picked the right ox for the job.

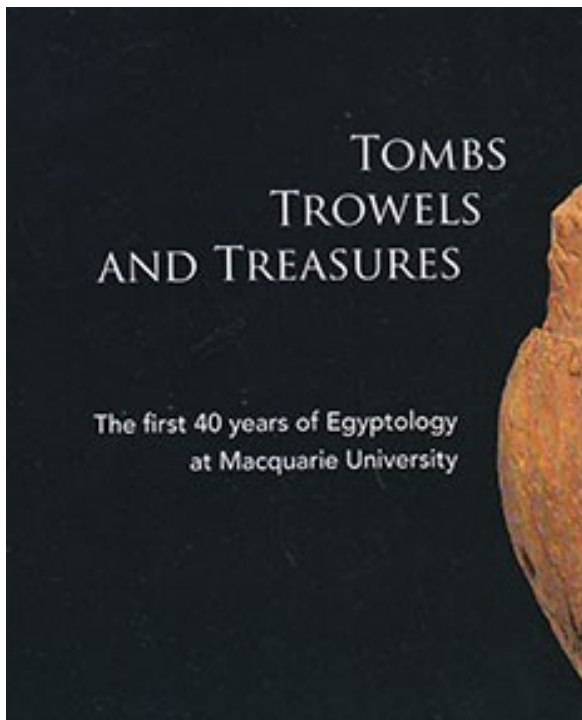


Nicolle is an Early Career Researcher who completed her PhD at Macquarie University in 2020. In ACE/Rundle e-Newsletter Edition 2 (September 2021), you will have read about her current work with the *Antiquity in the Archive* project. Prior to this, she was the Project Manager for the *Beni Hassan Research Group* where interdisciplinary staff and student researchers, collaborated to record the architectural features, inscriptions and imagery from the elite Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hassan. Nicolle is known to many as lecturer and tutor in Egyptological and art-historical studies at Macquarie since 2016. - In this Lecture, we are looking forward to Nicolle sharing some of the results from her PhD research

ACE/Rundle Lecture Series in 2022 ~ in preparation ~

Make sure to join us for events in 2022, which is **a jubilee year** for Egyptology worldwide: 200 years of Champollion's break-through in deciphering hieroglyphs and 100 years since the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Looking for a Christmas present? ---- here!



For yourself? For a fellow Egypt-enthusiast?

Find out more about the long tradition of Egyptology at Macquarie University – how it all began, the projects in Egypt, the research, the teaching, the students and the wonderful supporters of the Australian Centre for Egyptology and the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology.

Rundle members: A\$ 25 to collect (A\$40 incl. postage - overseas members, please contact us).

Get your copy >>> [here](#)

Interested in keeping up your hieroglyphs? Or learning some for the first time?



Do you know about the [Macquarie Ancient Languages School \(MALS\)](#)? Every year during the summer and the winter uni vacation, 1-week intensive language courses are offered – to students and the general public. Enthusiasts come together to delve into Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Hieroglyphic Egyptian and sometimes other ancient and wonderful languages – to advance their knowledge or to add a new language to their growing "collection". **Dates for January 2022: 10–14 January.** These courses are not for credit at uni, but they certainly boost your skills in a fun and motivating way. For Hieroglyphic Egyptian there are 4 levels:

**Hieroglyphic
Egyptian
Beginners**

Ideal for students **before** they formally enrol to learn hieroglyphs at uni. Get a head start on the fundamentals.

**Hieroglyphic
Egyptian
Experienced
Beginners**

Suitable as a **second step** after MALS-beginners, after uni-level Hiero A, or after a break. Get plenty of practice, refresh and consolidate your knowledge.

**Hieroglyphic
Egyptian
Intermediate**

Suitable if you have **completed 2 units** of Hieroglyphic Egyptian at uni or an equivalent. If you also wish to advance your understanding of grammar concepts and learn some Hieratic, then this is for you.

**Hieroglyphic
Egyptian
Advanced**

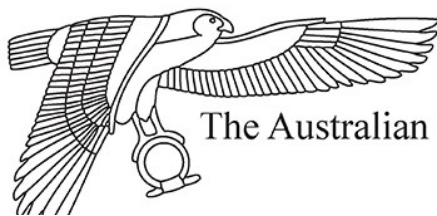
Suited for students with **3-4 units** of Hieroglyphic Egyptian at uni or an equivalent. Here you will find guided reading of Egyptian texts from various stages of the language. Our advanced readers repeat this level again and again!

Find out more >> [here](#) << and why not enrol?

Contact us

I'd like to join

Update my details



The Australian Centre for Egyptology

The Rundle

[The Australian Centre for Egyptology](#)

The Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology
25 Wally's Walk, Building B, Level 1
Macquarie University NSW 2109 – Australia

Email: egypt@mq.edu.au

Phone: +61 2 9850 8848

You are receiving this email as a Member of the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology. Our aim is to keep you informed about Egyptology at Macquarie University, of the fieldwork and research undertaken, of news, events and other activities.

YOU *to the power of us*



Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia

T: +61 2 9850 7111 | [Ask a question](#)

Disclaimer: Information given is correct at the time of distribution but is subject to change without notice. The University has the right to alter the content or impose terms and conditions at any time.

Macquarie University | ABN 90 952 801 237 | CRICOS Provider 00002J | ALL 1199 | [Unsubscribe](#)