

[View](#) this email in your browser



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

The Rundle Foundation
for Egyptian Archaeology



Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter | Edition 10

1 June 2022

Welcome

Message from the ACE Director

Dear Member,

The Egyptology Conference is almost upon us! Interest is strong, especially for the Tutankhamun Day on Sunday 12 June – with limited in-person tickets left, **please register now** to secure your place. We are also looking forward to welcoming our international visitors from near and far, so join us for a feast of Egyptology from 9–12 June. I look forward to seeing you all.

Dr Karin Sowada
The Australian Centre for Egyptology

In this issue

- Registrations: final call for the Rundle Foundation Annual Conference

- Exciting announcement: new Lecturer in Egyptology
- Commemorative coin to mark centenary of Tutankhamun discovery
- Call for donations: student bursaries for fieldwork
- Get to know: Elizabeth Brice, PhD candidate
- Rundle Foundation supports bringing Egypt to schools
- Save these dates
- Contact Us

Registrations Open: Rundle Foundation Annual Conference 12 June 2022



Registrations close 1 June

**6th Australasian Egyptology
Conference &
*Life & Times of Tutankhamun Day***

Sydney 9–12 June 2022

 **MACQUARIE
University**

Image: Wiki Commons, Public Domain

Register here!

Everyone is welcome to attend the 6th Australasian Egyptology Conference, online or in-person at Macquarie University from 9-12 June. The Conference is an international event and a great opportunity to see the latest research conducted by

scholars in Australia, NZ and globally. Online registration means you can attend the event virtually.

Click [here](#) for the full program of events, abstracts, and registration information

The conference features special lectures from [Dr Anna Stevens](#) (Monash University), and international speakers, [Dr Simon Connor](#) (formerly Université de Liège), [Emeritus Professor Anthony Spalinger](#) (University of Auckland), and [Dr Dimitri Laboury](#) (Université de Liège).

The visit of Dr Anna Stevens, Dr Simon Connor, Professor Anthony Spalinger, and Dr Dimitri Laboury is supported by the Gale Visiting Fellowship, made possible by the generosity of Dr Janet Gale.

Exciting Announcement: New Lecturer in Egyptology, Dr Julia Hamilton



Image: Twitter

It is our pleasure to announce that [Dr Julia Hamilton](#) will be joining the Department of History and Archaeology, Macquarie University as Lecturer in Egyptology.

Julia joins us from The Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) where she is currently a postdoctoral fellow. Completing her BA and MA in Ancient History at our neighbouring University of Auckland, Julia completed her DPhil as a Clarendon Scholar at the University of Oxford (2015–20).

Julia's research project at NINO (2020–22), 'Writing the self into history: Graffiti from Old Kingdom Saqqara', analyses added inscriptions found in non-royal tombs at Saqqara, Egypt, dating to the 3rd Millennium BCE, as material expressions of self and religious belief in writing. This project will broaden the scope of our current understanding of 'writing users' in Old Kingdom Egypt.

We are so looking forward to Julia joining the Department later this year and learning more about her research.

READ SOME OF JULIA'S RESEARCH [HERE](#)

Commemorative Coin to Mark Centenary of Tutankhamun Discovery



Image: The commemorative coin from Perth Mint. The Perth Mint.

To mark 100 years since the rediscovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and the worldwide fascination in Ancient Egypt that ensued, the Perth Mint has released a [commemorative coin](#) featuring the famed death mask of Tutankhamun. The Perth Mint worked with [Associate Professor Boyo Ockinga](#) to ensure the accuracy of the design.

From the Perth Mint

Struck from 2oz of 99.99% pure silver, the 2022 commemorative coin portrays the young pharaoh's golden death mask. Gilded in 24-carat gold, the image also features applications of colour representing the famous artefact's glass paste inlays. The Perth Mint will release no more than 2,000 of these extraordinary collectables.

Congratulations to Boyo on this work – Tutankhamun would surely be very pleased with the continued commemoration of his name and reign!

Note that the coin is not yet available for purchase and a purchase limit of 2 per household is applied.

READ MORE ABOUT THE COIN [HERE](#)

Call for Donations: Student Bursaries for Fieldwork in Egypt



Image: Students onsite at Dra Abu el-Naga. From left: Dr Karin Sowada, Jarvis Prestage, Gillian Smith, Helen Neale, Kate Gosford, Dr Susanne Binder, Ellen Ryan, Danielle Smith.

As international travel returns, Macquarie Egyptologists are eagerly preparing for their 2022/2023 seasons of fieldwork in Egypt.

For students, the opportunity to participate in fieldwork in Egypt is a valuable professional development experience enabling the advancement of technical skills and allowing students to contextualise their study through site visits and first-hand experiences. The opportunity to take part in fieldwork is undoubtedly an immeasurable learning event for researchers in the early stages of their careers.

Many Rundle Members will remember fondly their own experiences visiting or working at archaeological sites in Egypt and the profound influence this has had on their Egyptological journeys.

The Rundle Foundation endeavours to enrich student learning by providing financial support for students selected to participate in Macquarie University archaeological excavations.

As the end of financial year approaches, please consider a donation to support student bursaries for archaeological fieldwork opportunities. Donations to the Rundle Foundation are tax-deductible. [Click here to make your donation.](#)

Get to know: Elizabeth Brice, PhD Candidate

Along with wonderful staff, the Department of History and Archaeology boasts a large cohort of undergraduate and graduate Egyptologists. In this newsletter column we continue to get to know some of these students as they speak to Rundle Foundation member Rachel Nawar about their research interests.

This month we feature [Elizabeth Brice](#) who is currently completing her PhD.



RN: Tell us about yourself...what did you do before your postgraduate study?

EB: I have been a student at Macquarie since 2015 and I completed a Bachelor of Ancient History here with a focus on Egyptology. I always enjoyed ancient Egypt the most out of all the ancient cultures, though my Nonno (grandfather) always tried to sway me to the ancient Romans with his stories about Romulus and Remus when I was younger. I

decided somewhat on a whim to pursue studies in ancient history when I finished high school; it was what I enjoyed most during the HSC and I could not see myself doing anything else.

Thanks to the extensive unit offerings and expertise of past and present Egyptologists in the department, I was able to learn about specific periods of Egyptian history and different types of evidence during my undergraduate studies

and this helped me to find my current area of interest: material culture, Predynastic Egypt, and animals.

RN: Tell us about your research area...

EB: I am studying animal figurines excavated from Predynastic contexts (ca. 3800–3325 BCE), including settlements, burials, and cemeteries. There have been some isolated studies in the past few decades and some tentative interpretations of their function and significance, but no one has tried to comprehensively analyse the evidence. This is essentially what I am working towards for my PhD.

I am examining the evidence according to the types of animals represented, the material properties of the figurines, other contemporaneous types of figurines and representations/evidence for animals and combining this with information about the significance of the different animals, as well as those that are seemingly absent, from the corpus. Together, this will help me answer my big research question: what are the functions and significances of Predynastic zoomorphic figurines? The plural forms are deliberate here as I have found a considerable amount of variation that indicates to me that there is likely more than one use for all the evidence.

RN: How did you become interested in this area of research?

EB: I have always been interested in animals. I even wanted to be a vet when I was 4 years old! While that obviously did not eventuate, my interest in animals has never waned. I always enjoyed listening to A/Prof. Linda Evans speak about her research during my undergraduate, particularly the human-animal relations between the Egyptians and wild and domesticated animals.

My interest in the iconography and iconology of animals in ancient Egypt, particularly the early phases of ancient Egyptian culture, began during my third year at university. I completed the 'Advanced Reading Unit' for the BAncH with Dr Alex Woods as my advisor and my research was on the sphinx. I was very interested in how suddenly this potent image of the king mixed with an animal appeared so early in the Old Kingdom and wanted to look to earlier evidence and found that there was surprisingly little research on the sphinx and lions overall. I built upon this for my Capstone research in the following semester with some research on the iconography of power in Predynastic Egypt, with a particular focus on animals again, under the supervision of Prof. Yann Tristant, and this was supplemented by taking his unit on Early Egypt in the same semester. This was where my interest in Predynastic Egypt began.

Over several years, I have combined this interest in the iconography of animals and how they are represented in visual mediums with deeper questions about how people thought about animals. I hope the answers to my research can be found somewhere along the intersection of these two.

RN: Tell us how your research adds to the current study within Egyptology...

EB: I definitely do not expect my research to revolutionise the whole sub-discipline of Predynastic Egyptian studies! However, I think that my research can improve the profile of animal figurines in the discipline. We have a rich and diverse corpus from the Predynastic period that outnumbers human figurines. My research will show how animal figurines may provide some interesting insights into Predynastic culture and how they thought about and used animals. This can supplement our growing understanding of Predynastic Egyptian visual culture, which has a wide-ranging visual repertoire of animals that are represented.

I would also like to change the current thinking about figurines that often boxes them into this monolithic idea of 'ritual'. Unfortunately, what this ritual may actually entail is mostly vague and adds little to our understanding of the evidence. There are certainly attestations of figurines used in ritualised contexts in the anthropological literature and archaeological record and there is a possibility that some figurines were linked to a system of beliefs. However, we also need to look beyond this to properly examine the evidence. During my PhD, I have found research that supports the use of figurines in non-ritual contexts and some of the Predynastic evidence may better align with this. I would like to bring these into the disciplinary discussion and demonstrate the plausibility of a range of interpretations for their use and significance.

Image Supplied by Elizabeth Brice.

Rundle Foundation supports bringing Egypt to schools: *Studying the Past*

For many of us, our love for Ancient History and Egypt began during school. Reading about Egypt and seeing images of pyramids and tombs in classroom books was our initial foray sparking interest and curiosity. Sharing their passion for Egypt and history and fostering the next generation of Egyptologists is the goal of the team at *Studying the Past*.

Studying the Past is the education and engagement program of the Department of History and Archaeology. So far in 2022, the program has engaged with over 1290 students and has reached schools throughout Greater Sydney as well as the Northern Territory, Queensland, and rural New South Wales.

The program allows Graduate Research students and Early Career Researchers from the Department, many also Rundle members, to pass along their enthusiasm for Egyptology and speak to budding Ancient Historians about the phenomenal research being conducted at MQ.

The Rundle Foundation has supported the purchase of replicas of ancient Egyptian artefacts for use in teaching. With Egyptology workshops being most popular with Year 7 students, the experiential and tactile workshops bring the first-hand experiences from Macquarie University archaeological research projects from the field into the classroom.

Know a school or teacher who might be interested? Pass along Studying the Past's details: arts.historyprograms@mq.edu.au

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM [HERE](#)



Studying the Past facilitates on-campus education programs, including workshops in the Macquarie University History Museum.



Students participate in dynamic and tactile learning activities from archaeology to Egyptian hieroglyphs. Images: Studying the Past.

Save these dates

In the second half of the year, we will be continuing to hold lectures on zoom and will move to a hybrid format as soon as suitable. Please reserve the following **Wednesdays 6.30–8.00 pm Sydney time (AEDT)** for the ACE/Rundle Lecture Series:

Semester 2

Wed 10 August 2022
Wed 14 September 2022
Wed 12 October 2022
Wed 9 November 2022

Banner image Jewellery making scene from the Tomb of Mereruka, Saqqara, Dyn. 6. Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology.

Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter 10 was compiled by Rachel Nawar and Gillian Smith, on May 25, 2022. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Support us

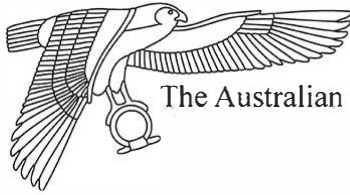
Like what we do? Please support the work of Egyptology at Macquarie with a tax-deductible donation to the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology. Thank you!

[I'd like to donate](#)

Contact us

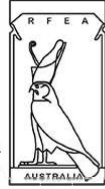
[I'd like to join](#)

[Update my details](#)



The Australian Centre for Egyptology

The Rundle Foundation
for Egyptian Archaeology



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 | EXT 1304 | [Unsubscribe](#)