ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

There will be the usual three major activites this year, but please note the changes that we are making. The Mini Conference and the Annual Dinner will be much earlier in the year; and, this time the Annual Conference will also be held at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club and will be fully catered. As all three events will be at the Club, attendees will not incur parking fees.

Mini Conference

Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 1.30 pm sharp
The Auditorium
RYDE EASTWOOD LEAGUES CLUB
117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde

Members and friends are invited to attend to hear progress reports of the most recent ACE/Macquarie University excavations in Egypt.

We will hear A/Prof Ockinga talk about the New Kingdom work at Thebes; Dr Susanne Binder will discuss the New Kingdom excavations at Saqqara; Dr Alex Woods will report on some of Macquarie’s Old Kingdom excavations; Prof. Naguib Kanawati will discuss an Old Kingdom topic; Mrs Elizabeth Thompson will speak about her work at Tehna and Amanda Kiely will give us an update on the excavations at Helwan.

As there will be six lectures, the event will begin promptly at 1.30 pm and should conclude about 5.15 pm. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter and tickets will be available at the door between 12.30 pm and 1.15 pm. Should you also like to book for any other event at the same time just enclose a note to that effect.

Cost: $25 per head, including afternoon tea.

Annual Conference

Saturday, August 7, 2010 at 10am sharp
The Auditorium
RYDE EASTWOOD LEAGUES CLUB
117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde

Two scholars will be delivering papers at the ACE Annual Conference: Prof. Salima Ikram, American University in Cairo, Egypt and Dr Aiden Dodson, Bristol University UK. Details about the lectures and booking forms will be available in a later newsletter.

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 limited number will be reserved for sale at the door.

To cover costs the ticket prices have been increased by $10; however there is nothing to spend on food and you won’t have to pay $18 for parking.

Members $70   Non-Members $80
Students and Pensioners $50

NEW RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The egyptology department of Macquarie University is becoming well known for its research publications. We have three new volumes to greet the new year. Two are excavation reports but they describe widely differing tombs.

The Old Kingdom tomb of Remni in the Teti cemetery is quite tiny, even though the tomb owner married into the royal family. It is, however, a stunningly beautiful tomb. TT 148 is one of the few private tombs of the Twentieth Dynasty to have been decorated in relief work rather than painting.

On the following pages, we offer you a foretaste of the third of our new publications. This volume investigates the fascinating ways in which Egyptian artists of the Old Kingdom conveyed their knowledge of the world of nature. The author has included a generous array of illustrations to help the reader understand the techniques used by Egyptian artists to express the movements, aggression, fear, sexual nature and care for the young that they observed in the creatures of their environment. This publication reaches out beyond egyptology and will appeal to readers interested in animal behaviour.
Many animals vocalize when they are threatening others. Calling may be part of the display itself, whereby the production of sounds helps to draw attention to the exhibiting animal. Vocalizations can also be a product of the animal's aggressive state, a spontaneous expression of their anger and frustration. Animals will vocalize when they are assaulted. This is often due to pain (see Chapter 8), but it can also be motivated by fear if their attempts to flee the situation are thwarted.

Among the many depictions of cattle in wall scenes are images in which individual bulls are grasped or roped and thrown to the ground prior to slaughter. The animals resist vigorously these physical assaults, moving angrily as they attempt to dislodge the shackles and men that tie them down. They also frequently protrude their tongues prominently.

These reactions are consistent with those shown by bulls when restrained, especially those that have had little experience with being handled; when approached, they will attempt to escape, and if caught, they will struggle. In particular, in situations involving threat and conflict, bulls give a distinctive vocalization known as a ‘roar’ or screaming ‘bellow’. When uttering this particular sound, the mouth is held open and the tongue is frequently raised and protruded (see pl. 9P). I suggest that protesting bulls in wall scenes are thus depicted expressing this piercing sound of anger.

Images of bulls protruding their tongues while resisting were found in 16 tombs ranging from the mid-4th to the late 6th dynasty. In some scenes, the animals are set upon by groups of men who pull at their tails, horns, and legs to cause them to fall (AB140, AB150, AB154, and AB158; see fig. 9-27). This process is often assisted by the use of ropes (AB143, AB145, AB151, AB161 to AB163; see fig. 9-28). These may be used to bind the hind legs together to prevent escape or attach to a foreleg, which, upon lifting, causes the animal to topple. Ropes are also tied to their horns. In each of these examples, the bulls lift their heads away from their oppressors or lean well forward in a threatening manner (see Head display, above), while simultaneously protruding their tongues. In three late depictions, the animals elevate their tails, an action that is performed by bulls during fights and threatening, and also while running (AB161 to AB163; see fig. 9-30).

Some bulls with protruding tongues have been brought to the ground (AB153, AB155 to AB157, AB159, and AB160; see fig. 9-29). In slaughter scenes, the tongues of butchered animals are frequently depicted as their bodies are severed and dismembered (see Chapter 4). I suggest, however, that the fallen animals considered here are not yet dead, but instead fighting the attempts by men to rope their legs together or hold them down; their protruded tongues thus indicate that they are voicing their displeasure at this treatment. Unlike images of slaughtered animals, whose tongues invariably touch the substrate, the heads of these vocalizing animals are lifted up so that their tongues are free.

The remaining images show animals whose movements are also thwarted in some manner. Some are interrupted while turning their heads or grooming (AB142, AB144, and AB152; see fig. 6-5 in Chapter 6); others appear to be objecting to the behaviour of herdsmen who force them to move in a particular direction (AB141, AB146, AB148, and AB149). One animal vocalizes at a hunter who has lassoed it (AB147).

It is important to note that in each of these examples, the animal’s tongue fills its entire mouth cavity. The images are thus

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5. See Eggebrecht, Schlachtungsbräuche, 70.
not a veridical representation of the appearance of roaring bulls in which the organ is seen as an isolated shape within their gaping mouth, but instead match closely other depictions noted throughout this study in which calling animals effectively 'poke out' their tongues from between their lips. Consequently, although the scenes of protesting bulls may indeed reproduce their screaming bellow, I suggest that the artists responsible for them have nevertheless employed the same iconographic device - the protruding tongue - used elsewhere for conveying to the viewer the idea (and by extension, the sensation) of loud, abrasive animal sounds.

Linda Evans

Author's Notes and Acknowledgements:
AB = Aggressive Behaviour.
This code refers to material contained in the Appendix.
All line drawings were produced by Mary Hartley from the following sources:

Fig. 9-27 Hassan, S. (1932-1933) Excavations at Giza, Vol. iv. Cairo, Egyptian University, fig. 79
Fig. 9-29 Simpson, W.K. (1980) Mastabas of the Western Cemetery: Part I. Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, fig. 19
Fig. 9-30 Petrie, H.F. and Murray, M.A. (1952) Seven Memphite Tomb Chapels. London, British School of Egyptian Archaeology, pl. 7 [lower]
ACE PUBLICATIONS

New


Prices to Members of the Rundle Foundation:

Reports 27 $66, all other Reports $55
Studies 9 $77, all other Studies $55
Postage and handling charges extra

Non-Members can purchase publications from Oxbow Books, UK, Fax No: (01865) 794449 or at www.oxbowbooks.com

BACE Bulletin of the Australian Centre for Egyptology
Price: Members $12, Non-Members $15

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ACE Website www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

Diary Dates

Mini Conference
Sunday March 28 2010
Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club Auditorium
2.00 pm

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

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http://www.globalegyptianmuseum.org/
This online database cataloguing artefacts from Egyptian collections in museums worldwide is not what you would expect. Offering audio commentary and three-dimensional video for starters, there are also search by object, material, period, site and museum options. A very handy site!

GUBOR – HAREM PALACE PROJECT
http://www.gubor.org.uk/?page_id=21
If royal women’s quarters tickle your fancy then you will hit the jackpot with Ian Shaw’s website dedicated to the excavations at the New Kingdom site. As it features general information about the dig, past site reports, a harem history, gallery and bibliography, you are sure to have a few hours of fun here!

More next issue.

Erratum
Oops–the rock art site CC21 was incorrectly referred to as Shaw’s Cave in the article, ’The Rock Art of the Gilf Kebir’ (Newsletter No. 109, July 2009). The author takes full responsibility for this mistake.

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

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