



**MACQUARIE**  
University  
SYDNEY • AUSTRALIA

The Rundle Foundation  
for Egyptian Archaeology



Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter | Edition 6

9 February 2022

## Welcome

### Message from the ACE Director

Dear Member,

Welcome to 2022! I look forward to seeing you in person this year, covid rules permitting. A terrific program is planned, with the 6th Australasian Egyptology Conference slated for mid-June. As part of global efforts to celebrate the centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, a special Rundle Members day of presentations will form part of the Conference program. Stay tuned for registration details. In the meantime, we look forward to hearing from Dr Sue Kelly on 16 February for our first z-lecture of the year.

Best wishes, Karin

Dr Karin Sowada  
The Australian Centre for Egyptology

### In this issue

- ARC Discovery Project Success for Professor Bommas and Professor Kanawati
- Research from the Australian Museum: an Egyptian funerary boat model
- PUBLISHED: New light shed on the enduring relationship between Egypt & Byblos
- NEW BOOK: 100 Treasures 100 Emotions
- ACE/Rundle Events and Lecture Series
- Call for Papers: Australasian Egyptology Conference
- Students of Egyptology: MRes Projects 2022
- Vale John Dean
- Contact Us

## ARC Discovery Project Success for Professor Bommas and Professor Kanawati



The Upper Terrace and Lower Necropolis of Beni Hassan, looking east. Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology

Congratulations to [Professor Martin Bommas](#) and [Professor Naguib Kanawati](#) on their successful Australian Research Council (ARC) 2022 Discovery Project. Read more about this exciting new project below...

by Martin Bommas and Naguib Kanawati

On 24 December 2021, the Australian government announced the funding of two research projects located within the Faculty of Arts for the duration 2022 – 2024, one of which is ***Crisis as Opportunity: Social Change in Early Middle Kingdom Egypt***. The project will be delivered by a competitive team consisting of Martin Bommas, Naguib Kanawati and Craig O'Neill. They combine 70 active years of fieldwork in Egypt and a total of 383 publications in their respective fields. The current study is Professor Kanawati's ninth project funded by the ARC between 1981 and 2022.

Whereas traditional studies of funerary archaeology often address monuments in isolation and without integrating research on necropolis infrastructure, cross-site analysis, or social stratification, *Crisis as Opportunity* applies methods of micro-history to determine the personal experiences of three individuals/social groups in two different sites: Qubbet el-Hawa and Beni Hassan.

The study aims at determining how individuals during the early Middle Kingdom in Egypt responded to a period of crisis caused by the collapse of the Old Kingdom and the ensuing societal and cultural change of the First Intermediate Period. Traditional methods will be used as well as relatively new, or even unknown so far, approaches in the field of Egyptology: these include ceramological studies and residue analysis, as well as, remote sensing and the assessment of satellite radar and multispectral data, as tested at Qubbet el-Hawa, to update the maps of Beni Hassan from 1904. Assisted by the design of a database of finds from both sites, the team will be able to assess social change through 'archaeological biographies' and situate individuals/social groups that occupied both sites within their social and historical context.

COVID-19 regulations permitting, fieldwork is expected to re-commence in late 2022 after a hiatus of three years.



The lower necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa. Photo: Qubbet el-Hawa Research Project.

## Research from the Australian Museum: an Egyptian funerary boat model



Funerary boat model (E60381). Photo: Stuart Humphreys (Australian Museum, Sydney).

From a team of researchers, including Egyptologist [Dr Jana Jones](#), this new research examines the unprovenanced and stylistically unusual wooden boat model (AM E60381) from the Australian Museum collection.

Stylistically, resembling a divine (sun) barque, the model has no parallels among comparable representations.

Through the combined analysis of iconographic motifs, construction methods and radiocarbon dates, the model can be attributed to the period spanning the late Old Kingdom and the early Middle Kingdom.

### READ MORE

Florek, S., Bleechmore, H., **Jones, J.**, McGregor, C., Pogson, R.E., Specht, J. 'Egyptian funerary boat model in the Australian Museum: dating and analysis', *Records of the Australian Museum* (2021) vol. 73(2), pp. 67–85.

The article is available as a [free download here](#).

**PUBLISHED!**

## New light shed on the enduring relationship between Egypt and Byblos

Recently published research from an international team, including ACE Director [Dr Karin Sowada](#) and [Dr Alice McClymont](#), sheds new light on the relationship between the Egyptian state and the polity of Byblos on the Lebanese coast in the Early Bronze Age. The paper presents geochemical results of ceramic fragments of imported pottery found in 4th Dynasty Giza tombs (c. 2613–2494 BCE). Emission spectroscopy techniques were used on the fragments, with the outcomes compared against a large ceramic dataset from sites in Lebanon, including Byblos.

The results revealed the presence of standardised local ceramic production at Byblos that was specifically tailored to the needs of the Egyptian state.

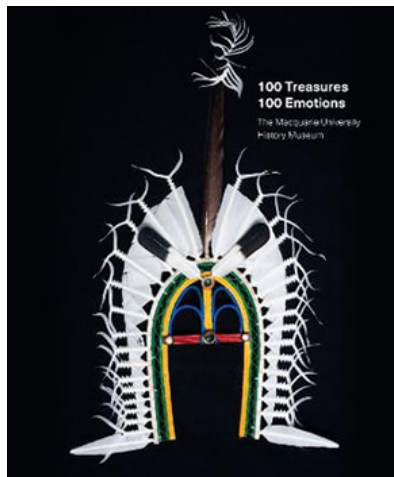
The work builds on a petrographic study of the [jars published in 2020](#) by developing the picture of Egypt's economic relationships in the eastern Mediterranean, and the role of regional intermediaries in exchange networks. The research program was supported by ARC Grant FT170100288, and grant funding from Durham University (UK).

### READ MORE

Badreshany, K., **Sowada, K.**, Ownby, M., Jean, M., De Vreeze, M., **McClymont, A.**, Philip, G. (2022). 'The characterisation of ceramic production from the central Levant and Egyptian trade in the Pyramid Age', *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*. Vol 41, pp. 1-16.

The article is available as a [free download here](#).

## NEW BOOK: 100 Treasures 100 Emotions



Edited by [Professor Martin Bommas](#), this new volume focuses on 100 works from a vast collection of 15,000 objects, to highlight the depth and history of the new [Macquarie University History Museum](#), and its focus on the story and the human condition beyond the borders of space and time. The authors are united in a bold move to investigate objects from a non-standard, emotional perspective, using modern research to reveal the value and meaning in objects beyond the facts.

The objects featured were chosen by 52 Macquarie scholars to achieve a

representative and rigorously researched survey of human experience and creativity over five millennia drawing on the depth and history of Macquarie's collections.

The work comprises, short essays on each of the 100 selected objects by a broad range of academic authors, complemented by entirely new photography of the objects commissioned from award-winning photographer Effy Alexakis.

Contributing to the work on Egyptological objects featured are Georgia Barker, Susanne Binder, Camilla Di Biase-Dyson, Linda Evans, Naguib Kanawati, Anna-Latifa Mourad, Boyo Ockinga, Karin Sowada, and Yann Tristant among others.

### READ MORE

Bommas, M. (2022) *100 Treasures 100 Emotions*. Giles. ISBN 978-1911282808 (paperback).

The book can be purchased through the [MQ giftshop](#). Rundle members can use the code **100TREASURES** at the checkout to receive a 15% discount.

Also available at the MQ giftshop is Macquarie University History Museum's exhibition catalogue [East Meets West: The Crusades and the Age of Decolonisation](#). The temporary exhibition is currently showing at the Macquarie University History Museum. Rundle members can use the code EASTWEST at the checkout to receive a 5% discount on the catalogue.

Bommas, M. (2021) *East Meets West: The Crusades and the Age of Decolonisation*. Giles. ISBN 978-1913875022 (paperback).

## ACE/Rundle Events and Lecture Series

The first lecture in the **2022 ACE/Rundle Lecture Series** will be held on **Wednesday 16 February, 6.30 pm (AEDT) on Zoom**. Our presenter [Dr Sue Kelly](#) will speak on *Lifting the veil: Female social power in Early Egypt (c. 3080–2180 BCE)*. [Register for Sue's talk here](#).

### READ SUE'S ABSTRACT HERE



Despite an exponential increase in women and gender studies in Egyptology spanning three decades, women's engagement in the socio-political-economic structure of the early Egyptian State remains underrepresented in scholarship. Historically, the State has often been investigated via hierarchical models of the male elite's autobiographical material, with prominence given to the study of official titles that act as barometers for the status and rank of the personnel. The

predominance of males employed in centralised state administration, private sectors, and religious positions has overshadowed the concomitant female workforce, leading to a perception that women were excluded from these areas.

Mainstream studies have tended to relegate female participation in the private sector, primarily in the employ of other females. Categorisations such as these structurally marginalise women's service by implying that being in the employ of elite females or a queen constitutes an inferior position. This presentation delivers the results of my recent PhD that advanced a theoretical study of 1400 ancient biographical inscriptions belonging to women from a cross-section of society, from Dynasties 1 to 6 (c. 3080–2180 BCE). Please join me to hear new perspectives on women's access to social power and engagement in Egypt's political, economic, and ideological domains.

Image: Nsi-Skr, Pyramid Builders Cemetery, Giza. Photo: Sue Kelly

We are 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 1

Wed 16 February 2022  
Wed 9 March 2022  
Wed 13 April 2022  
Wed 11 May 2022

### Semester 2

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

## CALL FOR PAPERS



The Australian Centre for Egyptology, on behalf of Macquarie University, has the pleasure of announcing the [6th Australasian Egyptology Conference](#), taking place from 9–12 June 2022. Save the dates! Registration will open in March.

This hybrid conference will be held both in-person and online at the new Macquarie University Arts Precinct. We warmly welcome everyone interested in current Egyptological research and fieldwork. Local and international scholars and postgraduate candidates are invited to submit abstracts for:

- papers of 20 minutes duration
- papers of 10 minutes duration
- poster presentations

**Please submit your Abstract (up to 300 words) and title before 15 March 2022 to [AAEC22@mq.edu.au](mailto:AAEC22@mq.edu.au) for consideration by the Scientific Committee.**

## Students of Egyptology: MRes Projects 2022

In 2022 we welcome in a new cohort of Master of Research (MRes) Year 2 Egyptology students.

Over the next year, these students will work on preparing a research thesis of 20,000 words.

We wish them well as they embark on the next stage of their studies.

|                          |                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Eleonora Ferretti</b> | The Neolithic Badarian Culture of Egypt: A Social Network Approach                                                               |
| <b>Khyya Ryder</b>       | Composite Creatures in Dynastic Egypt: The Significance of Representation and Identity Construction                              |
| <b>Meredith Stewart</b>  | Painted by fire: an investigation of Predynastic black-topped pottery                                                            |
| <b>Michael Hitchens</b>  | To Bee or not to Bee: An Investigation in the <i>nsw bity</i> title and the Egyptian understanding of apiculture                 |
| <b>Michelle Kay</b>      | Tattoos and Identities in early Middle Kingdom Egypt: A Case Study of Three Tattooed Women Buried in the Temple of Mentuhotep II |
| <b>Sinead Kyril</b>      | Scavengers of the Desert: The cultural value of the Striped Hyena in Ancient Egypt                                               |

**Tanya Blake**

'It is really excellent, tried and tested a million times'.  
Efficacy in the medical and magical texts of Ancient  
Egypt

We also continue to extend our well wishes to those students who are currently in  
their final stages of completing their MRes theses from 2021.

## Vale John Dean

We are very saddened to hear of the illness and passing of John Dean, a dear friend  
and supporter of our Rundle community who over so many years (John and Judy  
Dean joined the Rundle Foundation in 1990) never missed an event we organised.  
We will miss John and our thoughts are with Judy and the family. Those of us who  
have travelled in Egypt together remember John with his camera in hand enjoying  
the colourful scenes in crowded streets, lanes and markets and always on the look  
out for the perfect picture to hold fast the essence of the place.

Boyo Ockinga and Susanne Binder

**Banner image** architrave from the mastaba of Mehi, Saqqara, Dyn. 6. Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology

Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter 6 was compiled by Gillian Smith, January 31, 2022. Many thanks to all who  
contributed to this edition.

## Support us

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