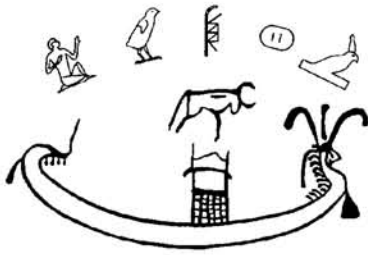


# NEKHEN NEWS

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## The First Mummies?

The Hierakonpolis Expedition returned for its second season of renewed field work under the direction of Dr. Renée Friedman (University of California, Berkeley) on January 20, 1997 and a wonderful surprise was waiting. The raised canal threatening the Predynastic cemetery at HK43, although fully and heartbreakingly functional in November, had been demolished! Thanks is due to the Supreme Council of Antiquities for making this dream a reality. We are also pleased to report that the boundaries of the site have now been placed on the government maps and officially declared protected antiquities land. The maintenance and protection of a site as large and multi-faceted as Hierakonpolis are difficult tasks, which the Supreme Council of Antiquities has always undertaken with determination and care. We offer our gratitude for all their efforts undertaken on behalf of the site and the Expedition.

Despite the disturbance of the surface, our productive 10-week season in the HK43 cemetery resulted in the discovery of nearly 70 burials, many intact and untouched in modern times. Preservation of organic materials such as matting, linen, jar contents, body tissue, hair and bone, was both unexpected and remarkable. Most intriguing was evidence to suggest that, already in the mid-Predynastic period (c. 3500 BC), experiments with artificial mummification using resins and linen wrappings were taking place. Pending further study, it is possible that this cemetery may in fact contain Egypt's first mummies! But it is still a race against time. The water seepage from new canals now legally being built on the eastern and southern edges of the cemetery will imperil the preservation of these generally intact graves and the astounding evidence for mummification they may contain.

In addition to excavation, a team of physical anthropologists from the Universities of South Carolina and Toronto studied the osteological remains, gathering new information on the demography and general health of the Predynastic inhabitants of Hierakonpolis. They revealed a generally healthy and well-nourished population and it is hoped that study of the well-preserved soft tissue may further illuminate health and mortality in the near future.

With the generous support of The Bioanthropology Foundation, the decorated Dynastic tombs at Hierakonpolis were fitted with iron security doors in 1996. Their security allows us to initiate the second phase of our long-term commitment to the conservation and protection of all the decorated tombs and, in fact, the site as a whole. We concentrated our efforts on the tomb of Hormose this year, the most elaborate of the handful of tombs still retaining their decoration. Hormose was the Chief Prophet of Horus at the very end of the New Kingdom, a time about which we know very little, making the conservation of this tomb even more important. Conservation and recording in the tomb of Djehuty and the unpublished tomb of Hormeni were also begun. Both are rare examples of tombs dating to the reign of Thutmose I and are of great importance both art historically and linguistically.

1997 was an exciting and productive season and we are grateful to Raymond and Beverly Sackler, Tom and Linda Heagy, the LaSalle National Bank, The Bioanthropology Foundation and all of our many Friends of Nekhen for making it all possible. To all our Friends we offer our most sincere thanks for helping us to understand this complex and always fascinating site—and for helping us to save it.

*Uncovering a grave at the Predynastic cemetery HK43.*





# Excavations in the Predynastic Cemetery at HK43

—by Renée Friedman

In light of the widespread plundering that first drew attention to the site of Hierakonpolis almost a century ago, the existence of a well preserved Predynastic cemetery to supplement the wealth of data from recent settlement excavations was considered most unlikely. This supposition proved to be incorrect when the threat of land reclamation prompted us to begin salvage excavations in 1996 along the southeastern edge of the concession at a locality called HK43.

Despite the disturbance of the surface by modern machinery, in 1997 we uncovered nearly 70 burials, many wrapped in matting, and all remarkably untouched in modern times. They were not undisturbed, however, plundering having occurred in Predynastic times not long after burial.

In all, about 300 square meters of this vast cemetery were explored. The presence of a burial was signaled by a gray discoloration of the white sand into which the burials had been dug. In some cases, this gray soil definition did not mark the exact location of the burial below, but rather the spill of dirt by the ancient plunderers. Careful excavation of this discolored soil revealed the pattern and practices of the grave robbers and showed that even badly plundered burials could be reconstructed.

It became obvious that the robbers knew exactly who was buried where. They also knew that what they wanted was located at the neck, apparent from several burials with widespread disturbance of the head area while the remainder of the body remained completely unaffected. In some cases, the robbers tunneled down with such accuracy that only a small slit in the matting at the neck is evidence of their work. Clearly something around the necks of these otherwise poorly endowed individuals must have been of some value. French archeologists excavating graves of similar age at Adaima (about 30 km to the north) believe the deceased wore copper necklaces, as evidenced by minute traces of oxidized copper in the neck region.

Of all the graves excavated this season, only three burials were found intact. None of them had anything around their necks. Twelve burials were complete except for the above mentioned plundering of the head and neck area; 19 were still articulated in the lower half of the body while the upper part was generally present but disturbed; 31 burials were badly plundered with no body part still *in situ*, but even half of these were reconstructible to near completion.

All burials were originally in a crouched position, often with hands before the face. The great majority were placed on their left side, with head pointing upstream in accordance with the canonical position documented in most Predynastic cemeteries. As the Nile does not run truly north-south at Hierakonpolis, the Predynastic inhabitants had to make a choice in burial orientation: to orient the body in line with the river, with the face toward the immediate high plateau of the desert, or to orient the face toward true west with a view across the settlement, a difference of approximately 24 degrees. Based on a sample comprising a little over half of the excavated burials (n=35), the choice is almost evenly split, with a few more bodies oriented toward true west than toward the desert. No statistical distinction by sex or

age is apparent in this choice of orientation to date, although small children seem to face the desert more often than adults. Nevertheless, the decision to face true west appears to indicate a clear knowledge of the cardinal directions that can only have been gleaned from a study of the circumpolar stars, neither the river nor the sun being accurate indicators. Those bodies that do face true west display an extremely small divergence from exact orientation. This discovery provides exciting new information concerning the scientific acumen of the Predynastic people, suggesting a long history for the Egyptians' interest in the stars.

The hot, dry sand that was responsible for preserving these graves also preserved a great deal of human tissue. Skin, brain, lung, intestinal contents, fingernails and hair were found in large quantities. Analysis of these remains promises to provide a great deal of new information on health, nutrition, disease and even fashion.

These finds more than made up for the lack of grave goods, which were conspicuous by their absence. Beads were found in only three graves and were few in number. In three cases, remnants of baskets containing foodstuffs were recovered. Pottery was the most common grave good still remaining but the range of type and shape was remarkably restricted, providing a date of about 3400BC. The majority of vessels were of coarse straw tempered (Rough) ware, and were primarily bottles and round based conical jars. Red polished bowls and Black-topped beakers were found more rarely. Burials usually contained only one (a bottle) or two straw tempered pots (a bottle and a jar set).



The work of the ancient robbers: a small slit at the neck.

Three burials were completely intact. Two were of children, wrapped in matting and poorly endowed, one with no grave goods and the other, an infant, with a single pot. The third intact burial was of an adult male, aged 20-35, who was covered in matting and buried with seven pots. Six vessels were placed around his head above the matting while the other was beneath the matting and behind his head. Particularly fascinating about this burial was the fact that the upper body was wrapped in linen. This was especially clear around the face and the arms where clumps of cloth had been used to pad the body parts before they were wrapped in narrow strips of linen (*photos p. 8*).

A similar practice was observed on a more heavily plundered burial; a woman whose long hair was extremely well preserved





The range of pottery found in the graves.

beneath the linen wrappings (*photos p. 4*). In addition to the padding of the body with cloth bundles over 10cm thick, she was further protected for eternity with a casing of matting composed of three layers, each of a different type. In addition to this padding and wrapping of the body, the surprising discovery of what may be resin on the skin and linen in these and other burials at HK43 suggests that methods of artificial mummification were being experimented with already in Predynastic times. In other words, it appears that this threatened cemetery contains some of Egypt's first mummies!

The density and distribution of the graves within the areas excavated in 1997 confirms our initial estimate that over 2000 burials wait to be uncovered in this cemetery. The unexpectedly fine preservation of delicate organic material (matting, linen, body tissue, hair, etc.) that required great care to recover, when coupled with extremely windy conditions in February and March, limited our excavation to a smaller area than originally planned. The remarkable discoveries this season show that these burials, although extremely labor-intensive to uncover, are very much worth excavating. We thank all of our **Friends of Nekhen** for their help in making these excavations possible.



## No Bones About It, These People Were Working Hard

—by Dr. Ted A. Rathbun and Amy J. Maish

Between February 3 and March 6, 1997, physical anthropologists from the University of South Carolina (Ted and Babette Rathbun, Jacquiline Rice, Bradd Bunce, Sean Norris, Suzanne Coyle and Wolf Bueschgen) with the assistance of Amy Maish (University of Toronto) inventoried and analyzed the skeletal material from HK43. The primary goal was to gain a greater understanding of how these people lived by incorporating the information from the skeletal remains with that from the archaeological record. Because this was the first full excavation season, our research focused on basic osteological analysis of the human remains, such as information on age, sex, activity patterns, stature, disease, and other indicators of health. Below are some of our results.

Of 70 individuals analyzed, we found that 26 were male, 21 female, and 11 adults of indeterminate sex, the remaining 12 being children or subadults. Age and sex of an individual skel-

eton are determined primarily from the pelvic bones, skull, and teeth. There was little difference in longevity between the sexes at HK43; the majority of males (n=12) and females (n=10) died between ages 20 and 35. Of the men, 8 died between the ages of 35 and 55 while amongst the women 5 individuals lived to that age. Fifty percent of the children (n=6) were less than 3 years of age, which is not unexpected in this high risk period. Our demographic results did have one interesting twist, a higher than expected death prevalence in the upper teenage years (n=9). However, a larger sample of burials will be necessary before any of these demographic trends can be confirmed for the overall population.

The individuals interred at HK43 have surprisingly little evidence of disease or health stress. This was an unexpected result, especially from a cemetery apparently comprised mostly of the poor. Evidence of conditions such as anemia from dietary or parasitic causes was infrequent. There were only a few individuals with broken bones, often fingers and ribs or parry fractures on the lower forearms from fending off a blow or stopping a fall. The one and only remarkable case was a female, aged 43-48, whose two broken forearms had healed very badly, fusing the ulna and radius midshafts. She must have been without the use of her arms for some time and even thereafter in occasional pain. Most other pathologies were age-related, such as arthritis. These results may indicate that the population was quite a healthy one, or it may be a case where the individuals were dying before the immune system could stabilize the condition and leave an indication on the bone. This is called the "osteological paradox." Many of the burials are in close proximity and on a similar level, suggesting that several graves were dug in the loose sand at the same time. It is possible that in the small area of the cemetery excavated thus far, death could have been caused by a fast-acting disease or epidemic. Further investigation should help to solve this puzzle, especially given the excellent preservation of the tissue, skin, hair and nails.

The muscle attachments and robusticity of the bones indicate an active and muscular population. The hands show evidence of extensive muscle use and there were kneeling facets found on virtually all individuals, created from long hours of habitual squatting posture, where the toes are hyperflexed and the knees bent. Occasional evidence of herniated disks caused



Sean Norris inventories a skeleton in the "bone tent."





by the lifting of heavy objects also occurs. These skeletal markers were found in both sexes and are indicators of activity patterns that agree with the archaeological evidence. The muscular nature of the population combined with the paucity of grave goods suggest that HK43 was a cemetery for the farmers and working class citizens of ancient Hierakonpolis. Their robusticity is also indicated by their slightly taller than average stature. Males averaged 5'7" (170cm) and females about 5'3" (160cm) in height, though one young man stood over 6' tall, barely fitting onto his burial mat.

Analysis of the cemetery has just begun and yet we have much to be excited about. There is new information on mummification, burial ritual and health. The results in the coming season should be even more abundant and conclusive, given the fine preservation and the range of skills and new techniques which can be used to understand these ancient citizens. It is a unique chance to learn many new things about how the ancient Egyptians of this formative era died—and lived.



## Hair: Unraveling the Secrets of the Locks —by Joann Fletcher

With the discovery of an extensive Predynastic cemetery site at Hierakonpolis, the potential information contained in the wonderfully preserved hair of its residents is very exciting. Despite its generally underestimated value as a source of information, hair is, in fact, a remarkable indicator of a whole range of factors, and the perfectly preserved trichological remains at Hierakonpolis will form the subject of an in-depth study in the coming season.

To begin with the most obvious factor, hair can be looked at simply in terms of its style, which may indicate the way it had been dressed during the funerary process, or, alternatively, how an individual had chosen to wear it in life. However, it is most important to bear in mind that both men and women adopted a wide range of hair styles, ranging from a shaven head to long flowing locks. A fact that many an archaeologist has failed to realize, that gender cannot be determined on hair length alone, has resulted in some rather curious conclusions, comparable to the way in which an individual is automatically assumed to have held religious office simply on the grounds of having a shaven head!

In addition to its style, the color, texture, type, and general condition of the hair can also be examined. Hair color is a fascinating study in itself, and the wide range of shades portrayed in Egyptian art does, to a large extent, reflect the diverse range found in reality. The most common hair color then, as now, was a very dark brown, almost black color, although natural auburn and even (rather surprisingly) blonde hair are also to be found. With their great fondness for elaboration, the Egyptians' skillful use of dyes has produced yet further shades for us to study, analysis showing many to be various



Many of the bodies at HK43 still had full heads of hair.

forms of henna, which even an aged Ramesses II had used regularly to rejuvenate his white hair.

Hair is invaluable in the study of general day-to-day living conditions, as well as supplying information on diet and disease. A cursory examination of its surface structure can provide a certain amount of information on general health, while more detailed analysis of the elemental hair concentrations can help to establish dietary intake, revealing traces of any nutritional deficiencies and/or diseases.

Careful examination of the hair can also reveal traces of head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*). Although in most cases only the empty egg cases (nits) remain, since the lice themselves instinctively leave a dying host, patient searching with a hand lens or microscope can occasionally be rewarded with the discovery of an adult louse measuring several millimeters caught up in a lock of hair. Their presence can reveal many facts, among them that the hair was natural, rather than a wig (as almost all loose hair samples are described by overenthusiastic excavators and curators).

Contrary to popular belief, lice thrive in clean short hair where they have easy access to the host's blood supply, feeding several times a day. Unfortunately for the host, this repeated piercing of the scalp by an ever-increasing number of these creatures can result in anything from lethargy, depression and secondary skin infections to typhus and relapsing fever. It is a little known fact that the louse has actually been responsible for more human deaths than any other insect except the mosquito. And it is no respecter of class, being quite at home in the hair of pharaohs and farmers alike.

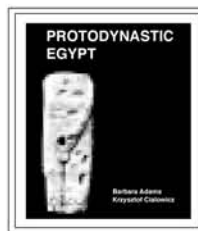


A lady's long hair preserved beneath linen wrappings and matting. From HK43.



## New for your Egyptological bookshelf —

*Protodynastic Egypt*, written by Barbara Adams and Krzysztof Cialowicz. This book synthesizes interpretations of the ceremonial treasures relating to the Protodynastic/Early Dynastic transition and the information derived from both new and old fieldwork, including that from Hierakonpolis, set in a chronological framework. The authors blend their complementary interests into a reappraisal of the exciting, remote and unresolved period of Egypt's unification and the activities of the early kings of the First Dynasty. Coming soon from Shire Publications (about 64 pages, 46 B/W pictures. No. 25 in the Shire Egyptology Series. ISBN 0 7478 0357 9).



# Plant Macro-Remains from the Predynastic Cemetery at HK43: 1997 Season Report

—by Ahmed Gamal El-Din Fahmy  
Dept. of Botany, Cairo University at Beni Suef

On March 3, 1997, I joined the archaeological excavation at Hierakonpolis to study the plant macro-remains (seeds, grains, fruits and culm fragments) that had been retrieved from the Predynastic cemetery at HK43. This botanical material derived from the contents of straw-tempered pots, which had been placed with the bodies as well as from the matting that covered the human remains.

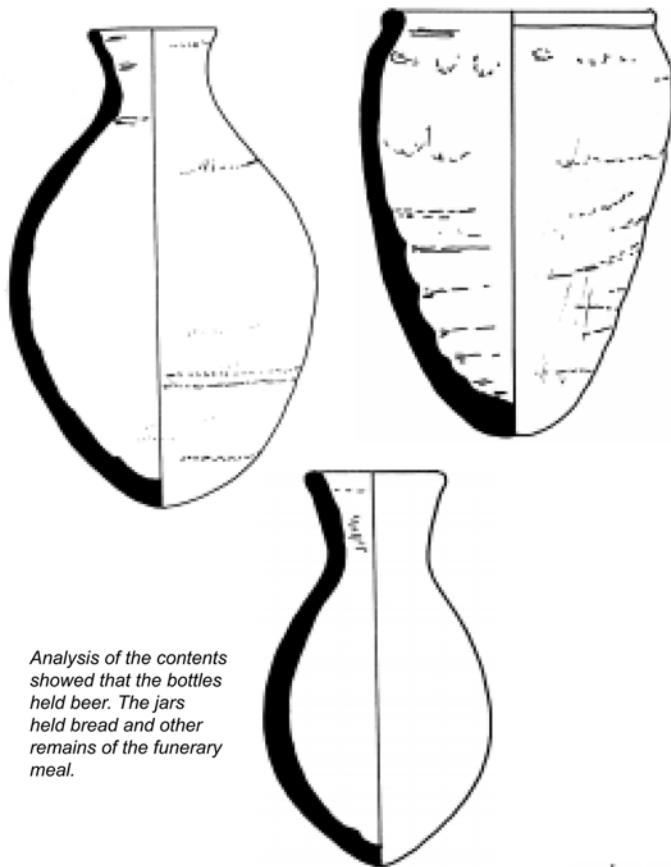
The contents of the pots (in most cases, fine sand) were emptied into plastic bags to prevent contamination and transported to the dig house for preliminary carpological investigation. Each sample was sieved through a 0.5mm mesh to reduce its size for precise morphological analysis, then subdivided into small quantities by a 10ml spatula. Assortment of the plant macro-remains was undertaken using a 10x lens. The fragments recovered so far were preserved because they were carbonized. Due to time constraints, only a small number of the pot contents could be analyzed, but these included intact bottles from the grave of a child (Burial 27).

Morphological investigation, as shown in Table 1, proves that emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccon* Shrank) is represented in almost all of the samples in the form of grains and glume bases. Previous palaeobotanical studies showed that 2-rowed (*Hordeum distichon* L.) and 6-rowed barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) as well as free threshed wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum*) were cultivated in Predynastic Hierakonpolis. (A. Fahmy, 1995. *Historical Flora of Egypt, A Preliminary Survey*. Ph.D. Thesis. Cairo University.)

Table 1. Number of plant remains separated from bottles' contents during preliminary investigation.

Sample	H860NE Pot 215	Test B Burial 27		
		Pot A	Pot B	Pot C
Examined quantity in ml	200	200	200	200
Crushed grain of a cereal	P	P	P	P
Emmer wheat (glume base)	2	2	4	4
Emmer wheat (grain)	0	0	1	0
Culm fragments of a grass	0	0	1	0
Phragmites (leaf fragments)	0	0	P	P

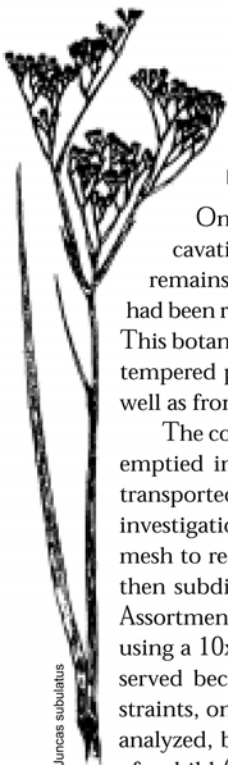
The relatively small amount of botanical remains within the bottles suggests that they were filled mainly by a drink that was prepared from emmer wheat; the sieving of the beverage at some point in the production process left only a small amount of identifiable botanical material. Emmer wheat is known to be the main constituent of the so-called "Nekhen beer," as identified in the large vats of the brewery at Locality HK24d, which was excavated by Jeremy Geller in 1988-9 (J. Geller, 1992 "From Pre-history to History: Beer in Egypt." In R. Friedman and B. Adams (eds.) *The Followers of Horus: Contributions in Memory of Dr. Michael Allen Hoffman*, Oxford:19-26.)



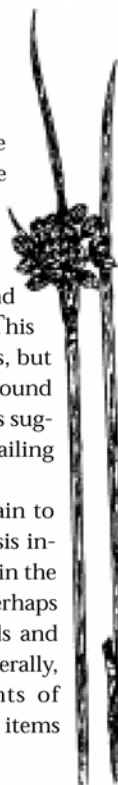
Analysis of the contents showed that the bottles held beer. The jars held bread and other remains of the funerary meal.

A good number of nearly intact burials were recovered during this season, the bodies wrapped in mats. Manufactured from a botanical material that was preserved by desiccation but still very fragile, the mats were treated with a paraloid solution *in situ* to consolidate them. Pieces were cut for examination in the dig house. Morphological study of the material ascertained that the mats were manufactured mainly from culms of a rush plant (*Juncas*); long culm fragments were bound together with a transverse cord of the same plant. This plant flourished in marshy places and along watersides, but at present it has disappeared completely from the area around the site. The archaeological find of these plant remains suggests that the current climate is drier than that prevailing during the Predynastic period occupation.

Further carpological and anatomical studies remain to be done on the botanical material. Preliminary analysis indicates that the conical jars, which were also common in the graves, contained bread and ashy material that are perhaps the remnants of the funerary feast. A variety of seeds and pods were also found that await full examination. Generally, the results show that the Predynastic inhabitants of Hierakonpolis were buried with their food and other items necessary for their eternal survival.



Juncas subulatus



Juncas subulatus



## Tombs Two

—by Edward Johnson

Hierakonpolis has a continuum of Dynastic tombs dating to the Old Kingdom, the Second Intermediate Period and the early and late New Kingdom. The 1997 season afforded the opportunity to continue conservation work in some of these tombs. The first step had been to secure the tombs by installation of custom-made iron doors set in concrete to prevent further acts of vandalism.

Most of the work this season was done on the late New Kingdom tomb of Hormose, the largest and most elaborate of the still decorated tombs at Hierakonpolis. Hormose's tomb has a long history of use and occupation. In addition to its original function around 1100BC, it served as a home for Coptic hermits in the early Christian era and was also used as living quarters for the British archaeological expedition of a century ago. Unfortunately, the tomb has suffered as a consequence. About half of the painted plaster in the main chamber has been destroyed; that which remains is extremely dirty, the paintings obscured by mud, soot, dung, and other such souvenirs left by the tomb's many occupants. Yet beneath this grime is well preserved painted decoration with still vivid colors and a plethora of important details and unstudied inscriptions.

Conservation is always a collaborative scheme that involves many people. The first step was to secure equipment such as ladders, tables, and various chemicals, and to bring them up to the top of the Burg El Hamman (Pigeon Hill), a task for which we were thankful to have the help of our local workmen.

In the tomb, the first priority was to ascertain and treat those areas with detached or loose plaster. These were reattached with modern acrylic adhesives, sometimes in combination with the mud backing upon which the plaster had originally been attached to the walls. As much of the original material had fallen onto the floor of the tomb, there was plenty available for this purpose.

Next, various solvents and chemicals had to be tested to see if these materials would remove the dirt affixed to the walls without damaging the delicate paintings underneath. While chemical cleaning of wall paintings is not always desirable, the lack of electricity at the site dictated this approach. After testing various materials, we arrived upon a formula that worked well for removal of the black soot, revealing the heretofore obscured details of the remaining wall paintings. A poultice of carboxymethylcellulose with



ammonium carbonate and EDTA was applied as a cotton ball compress, thus removing the soot while reducing the loss of pigment through abrasion. Although time-consuming, it became the treatment of choice.

Because some areas were damaged, care had to be taken not to overclean or disturb the remains of the painting under the dirt. Here, the sharp eye of the expedition artist, Will Schenk, a trained Egyptologist with long experience in the field, was invaluable. He was able to see and predict details of the decorative scheme that enabled the conservators to clean more carefully and appropriately to avoid possible damage to the remaining painting. Work of this type is exacting and time consuming, requiring patience and care. Because the tomb is relatively small, only a limited number of people can work at a time. We were fortunate in having the help of expedition member Art Muir during part of his stay at the site, when he was not assisting in the excavations at HK43, the Predynastic cemetery.

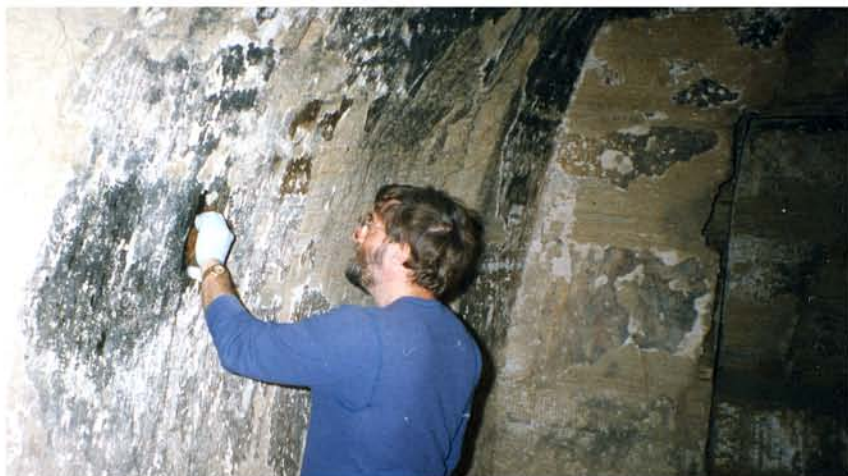
We are very pleased with the progress made in this tomb, but there are several more seasons of work ahead before our job is complete. Already, however, we have been able to elucidate many previously unknown or obscure scenes in the tomb. Of particular interest are the unique scenes commemorating the renewal of the Temple of Horus of Nekhen by the New Kingdom's last king, Ramesses XI. It would seem that this Ramesses, a weak and obscure king, may have been attempting to bolster his status through an association with Hierakonpolis, the early home of Egyptian kingship. These newly cleaned scenes testify to the high quality of workmanship of the artisans crafting the tomb, which, in turn, confirms the high position of the owner, the First Prophet of Horus, Hormose.

Although Hormose absorbed most of our efforts, we did not ignore other conservation needs at the site. Work was begun on reconstructing the shattered biographical inscription in the tomb of Djehuty (early 18th Dynasty) damaged by thieves some years ago. Clearing the tomb bit by bit we have recovered numerous pieces of the inscription. Preliminary refitting of these pieces indicates that, remarkably, we have most of them. We hope to continue the clearance of that tomb and ultimately replace the shattered fragments *in situ*, perhaps during the next campaign.

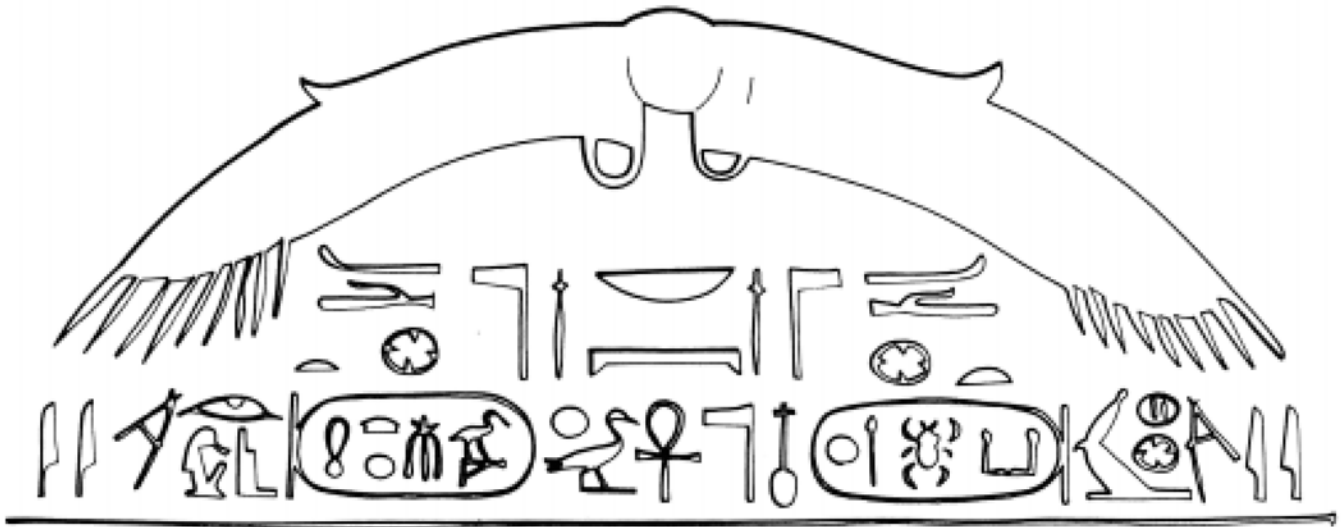
Minor consolidation also was done in the tomb of Horemkhawef (Second Intermediate Period) where some of the remaining plaster on the walls and ceiling looked rather precarious. We will give this tomb more attention after the conclusion of the work on Hormose.



The Power of the Poultice: dress fringe reappears.



Ed Johnson cleans the tomb of Hormose.



The beginning of the biographical inscription of Djehuty.

## Recording the Dynastic Tombs

—by Renée Friedman

The early New Kingdom tomb of Djehuty is heavily carved, as befits the tomb of an Overseer of Stone Masons. Carved inscriptions adorn its facade, jambs and side walls, while fugitive paint decoration is also apparent on some plastered walls. The tomb is best known for its lengthy and beautifully carved biographical inscription in classic Middle Egyptian. The inscription relates how Djehuty was led by his god to choose the Burg el Hammam hill as a place for his tomb, thus beginning a local tradition that was to continue throughout the New Kingdom. The inscription has been used for language instruction in universities all over the world, yet it had never been facsimile recorded and all the various hand copies that have been published contain substantial errors.

Unfortunately, this inscription was attacked by crowbar wielding thieves in 1988, but the horizontal bedding of the sandstone caused the fragments to shatter rather than scale off into salable artifacts. It is thanks to the loyalty and assiduous nature of the local guards that the culprits (from Esna) were apprehended before further damage was done. The majority of the shattered fragments were collected in 1996. Further clearance of the tomb this season recovered more fragments and all were reassembled and conserved for replacement in the tomb. Both to facilitate this reassembly and to rectify the lacunae in the scholarly record, a facsimile copy of the biographical inscription of Djehuty was begun by our artist, Will Schenck.

Facsimile copies also were made of the remnants of decoration within the adjacent tomb of Hormeni, which, like Djehuty's tomb, dates to the reign of King Thutmose I. This tomb is unpublished and has escaped notice mainly because its decoration survives only as fugitive paint traces. Due to some still unexplained chemical reaction, the painted decoration burned into the white plaster although the color has faded away almost completely, leaving behind the

ghost impression of the paint. Though faint, these impressions are clear enough that the inscriptions, including a cartouche of Thutmose I and a once-beautiful scene of the tomb owner offering to the falcon-headed Horus of Nekhen seated on a throne behind whom stands Isis with a scorpion crown on her head, could be fully recorded.

One satisfying result of this work so far is the determination that the owner of the much-discussed stela in Florence of a certain Hormeni (#2549) is the same person as the owner of this tomb, and in fact it is likely that the stela originated from it. Commensurate with the quality of his tomb, the stela shows that Hormeni was a person of some importance, as it states: *I passed many years as mayor of Nekhen. I brought in its tribute to the Lord of the Two lands; I was praised, and on no occasion was anything found against me. I attained old age in Wawat (Nubia), being a favorite of my lord. I went north with its tribute for the king each year; I came forth thence justified; there was not found a balance against me.*

Although the date of this stela has been a question for some time, the similarity in the distinctive style of its hieroglyphs to those of the inscription of Djehuty leaves little doubt that they are contemporaneous. In fact, the damaged text on the facade of Hormeni's tomb suggests that the two men were partners in forging this new tradition in burial place. Given the similarities in style and the curious burned-in fugitive paint in both, it is possible that the two tombs, the earliest on the Burg el Hammam, were carved and painted by the same workmen.

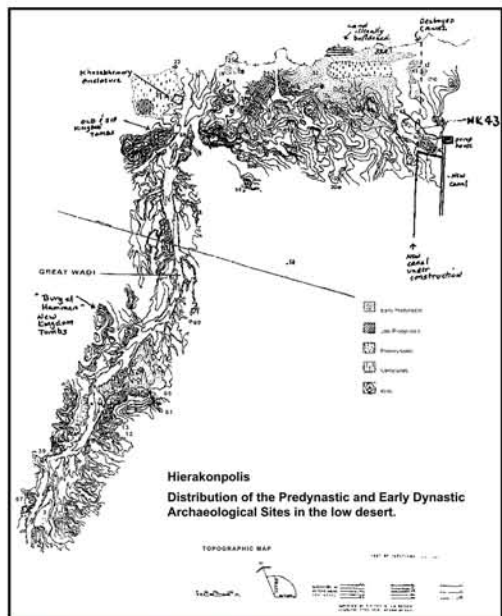
Tombs dating to the reign of Thutmose I are generally rare and Hierakonpolis is blessed to have two examples. Thus, in addition to the biographical inscription of Djehuty itself, the study and preservation of this tomb and that of Hormeni is of great scholarly interest and importance. The Hierakonpolis Expedition will continue to conserve, record and publish these tombs in the coming seasons.



The stela of Hormeni in Florence.



# HK43: The best finds will always be made on the last day (Murphy's Law #2)



1. The burial as found, covered with matting and surrounded by 6 pots.
2. Removal of the mat revealed a man in a crouched position, covered with a linen shroud.
3. His head and hands were wrapped with strips of linen.
4. The pot behind his head still contained round loaves of bread.



②

①

③

④







**"Recording  
Dynastic  
Tombs"  
page 7**



Artist Will Schenck records the decoration in the Dynastic tombs.

**Camera... Action!**

You'll be seeing Hierakonpolis on your TV this coming spring! A camera crew filmed at Hierakonpolis this past March for a documentary series on new discoveries in Egypt. Interviews with Renée were filmed at the Predynastic temple at HK29A and within the Burnt House of the Predynastic potter at HK29. The whole crew got in the picture when filming commenced at the cemetery and great footage of the Predynastic burials being uncovered was put "in the can."



Hierakonpolis, including an animated computer reconstruction of the temple at HK29A, will be featured in the first of the series' five hour-long programs. Entitled *Chaos and Kings*, this first program focuses on the development of early Egypt and our new understanding of it based on recent discoveries throughout the country. Sharing the limelight with us is Fred Wendorf and his crew at Nabta Playa in the Sahara Desert, where the earliest calendar circle in the world has been discovered (c.5000BC); Gunter Dreyer at Abydos and the amazing new discoveries from Dynasty 0; Dina Faltings at Predynastic Buto; and David Jeffreys, as he searches for Archaic Memphis.

The series is a co-production between S4C (Channel 4 Wales), the Discovery Channel (which will broadcast the series in the U.S.) and La Cinquième in France. A lavishly illustrated book accompanying the series is, incidentally, being written by Vivian Davies, head of Egyptology for the British Museum, and our own Renée Friedman, so you can be sure that Hierakonpolis will be well represented.



**The Two Ladies of Hierakonpolis:  
A Continuing Tale**



Barbara Adams

1997 was a busy year for the Twentieth Century's Two Ladies of Hierakonpolis, Directors Renée Friedman and Barbara Adams. Although Barbara couldn't take part in the excavations this season, she kept a busy schedule of lectures on the site in England while also completing *Protodynastic Egypt*, the sequel to her *Predynastic Egypt* (Shire Egyptology Series, 1988). (See details on page 4.) Significant progress on the comprehensive report on the excavations in the elite cemetery at Locality 6 was also made. Barbara will return to the field in November.

Renée ran the excavations at HK43 and coordinated the conservation efforts in the Dynastic tombs. She hosted several visitors at the site, among whom was famous fictional archaeologist Amelia Peabody AKA author Elizabeth Peters AKA author Barbara Michaels AKA real-life Egyptologist Barbara Mertz, who has joined the **Friends of Nekhen** in all her guises. Work in the cemetery and the tombs will resume this January and continue through April.



Renée Friedman

Come and visit!



**RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
THE FRIENDS OF NEKHEN  
SEE PAGE 15**





# When is a Potsherd not a Potsherd?

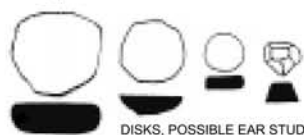
—by Renée Friedman

Hierakonpolis has more fragments of broken Predynastic pottery than any other site in Egypt. It is covered with a carpet of pottery so thick that the modern name of the site, Kom el Ahmar, the Red Mound, is derived from it. And this beauty isn't just skin deep. The excavations at HK29, the site of the burnt house, resulted in 357,866 potsherds weighing in at over 5970 kilograms. This was, of course, the home of a potter; nevertheless, the temple site at HK29A produced a respectable 285,764 sherds. Among them are fragments that are more than just the remnants of broken pots. They have been transformed into something else. Some sherds have clearly been worked into tools for a variety of purposes. Fragments of fine red polished or black-topped red vessels were especially favored. Ground to disk shapes of varying sizes, they served as jar stoppers and bottle caps. Tiny disks may even have been ear studs. A hole drilled in the center turned them into spindle whorls, weights mounted on a stick for spinning thread. Fragments of the coarser straw tempered jars were shaped into ovals, perhaps for use in pottery making, while their rims provided the perfect finger holds for specially ground scraping tools for a purpose still uncertain

More intriguing are those sherds with scratched decoration. The practice of placing an incised symbol on a pot was fairly common in the Predynastic period. Such potmarks, made after the pot was fired, are generally considered to be marks of ownership, but may indicate contents or capacity; frankly, we don't know. When such a pot breaks, the resulting sherds usually contain only a fraction of incised design. We considered ourselves very lucky to have found in excavation and surface collection a number of fragments on which the complete sign was preserved. But when we looked closer at these examples, we realized that it was not the pot that had been incised, it had been the sherd! This fact was particularly clear on the sherd found on the surface at HK49, the edges of which had been specially ground down to form a square with the composition of a gazelle transfixed by arrows and a fish centrally placed and carefully incised. Clinching the identification as an ostrakon or ceramic notepad is the decoration on the flip side: another, slightly different gazelle. These are not idle doodlings but what they mean is far from clear. Mike Hoffman suggested that it was an attempt to convey a message about success in hunting and fishing. However, other ostraca, also inscribed on both sides, portray less obvious symbols: concentric circles, crosshatching and figure-eights. In all cases, the two sides are similar but not identical in design or technique; it is tempting to view them instead as delivery receipts or contracts, the record of some transaction signed by two parties. These documents seem to represent an early communication system, but one so cryptic that it might only be obvious to the parties involved. New discoveries indicate that as society and administration became more complex, such a symbolic notation system simply was not enough. The labels and seal impressions recently found at Abydos suggest that to alleviate this problem, the early Egyptian state sat down and invented the hieroglyphic script, a fully developed and functional writing system. Not only that, they did it about 100 years earlier than ever imagined. The possible contribution to the development of writing in Egypt, in concept if not in form, of the messages on these even earlier ceramic notepads should not be ignored. Many more piles of potsherds yet to be sorted may add future data for our interpretation.



*Ostrakon from HK49, front and back*



DISKS, POSSIBLE EAR STUD



OVALS



SCRAPERS



SPINDLE WHORL



## Whoops! Some Unplanned Excavation...

### or, How Many Ambassadors Does It Take To Dig Out A Bus?

In February, Renée led a site tour for a distinguished group assembled by the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), an appreciative and knowledgeable crowd. As is the case with most visitors to Hierakonpolis, they were delighted with the tour and didn't want to leave...

...in their case, they couldn't, as their tour bus was stuck in the soft desert sand. Anxious for an opportunity to excavate, now was their chance! They succeeded in digging it out four hours later but left a huge trench, which the Dutch Ambassador kindly offered to fill with tulip bulbs.





# THE HIERAKONPOLIS HOME PAGE

Bit by bit we are turning our onsite dig house, Beit Hoffman (Hoffman House), into a comfortable home. This year, The Bioanthropology Foundation made it possible for us to purchase a bone processing laboratory. Although future plans call for something more permanent, the current "lab" takes the form of a large tent, which, through the kindness of Fred Wendorf and Bahay Issawy, we were able to have custom-made in record time. A generous contribution by Art Muir allowed us to purchase more beds. His surprise gift of a 'dikka,' a traditional couch that was painted a beautiful lapis blue by Sidain, our long-time guardian and facilitator, has lent a splash of color to our surroundings. Even with these welcome additions, creature comforts are still few and far between; hot showers come out of a black plastic bag, and light is provided by a few gas lanterns, personal flashlights, and the moon.

Helping to offset these hardships is our luck in securing the services of a wonderful cook. Ali, who comes from the nearby village, hones his culinary skills as a hotel chef in Alexandria during the summer months. During the excavation season he prepares hearty and wholesome traditional meals for us. It's all good, but his babaganough (eggplant dip) is, by unanimous consensus, absolutely outstanding. Ali has agreed to let us share his secret recipe...

## Horus to Light Hoffman House? He can...with your help.



—by Art Muir

Hoffman House has provided marvelous accommodations for the Hierakonpolis Expedition, particularly when compared to those of the early English excavators who lived in the New Kingdom tombs on the site. However, it is badly in need of a couple of modern conveniences, the most important of which is electricity—primarily for light but also for computer equipment. When the sun goes down, team members light up with candles, flashlights and gas lamps, or stumble around in the dark.

Wiring, light sockets, plugs and switches were provided in the house construction, but there is no electricity at the compound to energize them. Since there are a number of reasons why connecting to the Egyptian power grid is neither practical nor desirable, the obvious solution to this problem is to use solar energy, which, fortunately, is abundant in Upper Egypt. Indeed, the ancient Egyptians' worship of the life-giving power of the sun as Horus was not without appropriate importance.

A preliminary design for a solar energy system has been developed. During the day, photovoltaic solar panels (similar to those used in the space program) placed in the large open garden area of the walled compound will convert solar energy to direct current (DC) electric energy that will be stored in a large bank of batteries. The DC battery power will pass through an inverter at night, which will convert it to 220 volt, 50 cycle AC power that will be fed to Hoffman House's wiring system. The design allows for increased capacity in the future by adding additional solar panels, batteries and other components. Appropriately, we have dubbed this effort the Horus Project, which should make him (and us) happy when he appears each morning in his horizon.

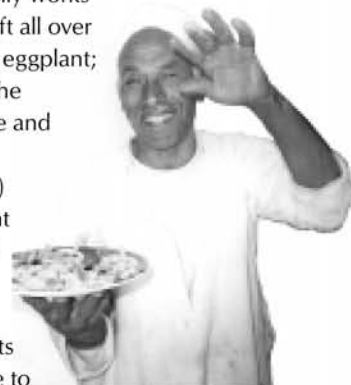
Horus Project leaders have been working with ASET (Arabian Solar Energy Technology) in Cairo to establish a detailed system design with cost options. ASET is a major Egyptian solar energy equipment supplier and is an agent for the highly regarded Siemens solar photovoltaic panels.

It will not be a surprise that the main stumbling block to carrying out the Horus Project is the lack of funds. According to ASET, the initial phase of the project will cost approximately \$15,000 (US). We presently have \$5,000 that can be allocated to this project, but we need to raise another \$10,000 before we can proceed (and avoid continuing to stumble around in the dark). Friends of Nekhen can make a big difference in letting there be light! Your contribution in any amount, earmarked "Horus Project" on your check, will help us reach our goal and will be greatly appreciated.

Contribution information can be found on page 15.

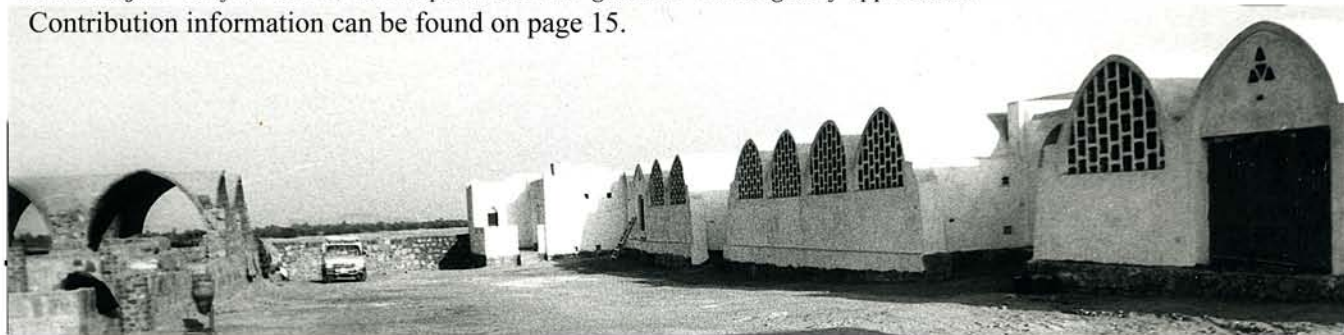
## Ali's Babaganough

Take two medium to large purple eggplants (aubergine) and bake at 350° for 30 minutes, or toast them in a small frying pan (or on a tin coffee can lid, which actually works better) over medium-high heat until soft all over and the skin is slightly singed. Peel the eggplant; the skins should fall away easily from the softened pulp. Place the pulp in a plate and mash lightly with a fork or use a food processor. Squeeze 3 small (or 1 large) lemons and mix juice with the eggplant pulp. Add plain liquid tehina (available from any Middle East store); a small amount will do. Mix in increasing amounts of tehina until the mixture gets stiff, adding water or more lemon juice to thin and soften the mixture to the desired consistency. Add a pinch of ground cumin to taste and then add anywhere between 2 and 10 crushed cloves of garlic, depending on your taste (we like it hot!). Top with parsley. Serve with pita bread, raw vegetables, salad, fefafel or kofta (meat balls).



Cook Ali and his babaganough

Next time: *Ali's guide to marvelous meat balls.*





# HIERAKONPOLIS CENTENARY

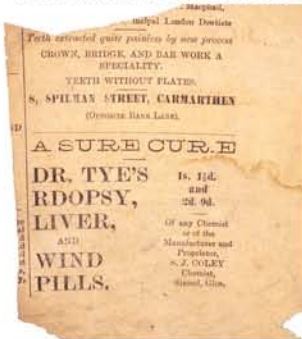
Early 1998 will mark the 100th anniversary of the discovery by James Quibell and Frederick Green of the Narmer Palette and the other famous finds from the Hierakonpolis "Main Deposit." Prompted by the mass of material appearing on the Luxor antiquities market, Petrie's newly formed Egyptian Research Account dispatched these young Egyptologists to salvage the site at the end of 1897. They made their home in the New Kingdom tomb of Hormose, as shown by the archival photograph of the future Mrs. Quibell seated in front of the tombs (next page). Ann Quibell, née Pirie, plainly stated her preferences:

Of all the different dwelling places, give me, for choice, if for not too long a time, a good tomb. It is sometimes objected to, by those unacquainted with the merits of a tomb as a place to live in, on the ground that, as one is sure to spend a great deal of time there eventually, it is a mistake to begin too soon. But it has so many recommendations that one gets over that point of view. It is warm in cold weather, fairly cool when it is hot; it is silent and still; the wind does not blow one's possessions about, it is generally pretty well lighted by a door and sometimes a window...I am not speaking of the funeral vault... but of the tomb chapel above. In Upper Egypt, these are generally hollowed out of the rock, like caves, and a long row of them together can accommodate quite a large household. The shafts, at the bottom of which the real burial is, sometimes still gape in the floor and one has to be careful not to fall in, but this is almost the only drawback. (A. Quibell, *A Wayfarer in Egypt*, London 1939: 118-9)

Further evidence of their occupation was revealed during the preparatory work for the installation of the security doors and conservation of the tomb. Home improvements included laying an even pavement over the irregularities of the terrace fronting the tomb. They used Nile mud laid on a bedding of English newspapers for this, one page advertising country apartments and secondhand typewriters. Amongst discarded domestic items was a curious newspaper clipping. It is hoped that its interest to the residents of a century ago lay in the typographical error rather than the need for the product being advertised!

But more than amusing were the archaeological materials left behind. It would seem that with so many unique objects

from the temple at Nekhen to pack up for transport, the more prosaic finds just couldn't be accommodated. Caches of objects, including two kits for making carnelian beads, were found carefully buried in the tomb terrace and covered with potsherds. Two parts of a sandstone sphinx depicting Horendotes, Horus-savior-of-his-father and inscribed for Ramesses the Great, were also spotted at the



Newspaper clipping found in tomb.

foot of the tomb cliff by the sharp eye of our artist Will Schenck. Now fragmentary, it is possible that this sphinx once sported the head of a falcon and we are still searching.

The legendary discovery of the Main Deposit and other finds at Nekhen may be well known to most people from the pages of the excavation reports. A less well known but much more en-

gaging account is to be found in the pages of Annie Quibell's delightful travelogue. To commemorate the centenary of these discoveries, we'd like to share some excerpts from this work (pages 181-4).

[At] Kom el Ahmar, more anciently, Hierakonpolis, or, more anciently still, Nekhen, there is nothing at all to be seen above ground, but in one lucky season it yielded an extraordinary treasure of archaic objects. A few huts were dotted about on a low mound, where my husband, who was in charge of the excavations, believed that the temple must have been. They were unpretending dwellings, for he was able to buy out the inhabitants, to their entire satisfaction, for ten shillings a hut. Underneath and round about, he found, when the huts had been cleared away, an astounding mass of relics of the earliest period of Egyptian history, thrown away anciently, it would seem as rubbish, but of priceless value as archaeological material...

The sight was remarkable. Two or three trenches were filled with a miscellaneous collection of objects, all small, and mostly in bad preservation. The greater part of the mass was composed of ivory; ivory in tusks and ivory carved into statuettes and all manner of implements...

But the condition of it was heartbreaking. For one thing it was six thousand years old, and though Kom el Ahmar is a dry spot, the damp had got into those pits and long stems of desert plants had crept through the ivories and softened them until, as one of the party aptly said, it was like working through potted salmon. ... Out of the mass of confusion we managed to rescue a quantity of figures and other small objects which held together sufficiently for it to be possible to photograph and draw them and in some cases to apply preservatives which have kept them fairly solid ...

In another part lay stone mace-heads, as thick as potatoes in a pit, to use another homely simile; these were in good enough condition, and there were also beads, stone vases, scorpions made of stone or glazed pottery, while at the bottom of the pit was found the splendid slate known as the "Hierakonpolis palette" now in Cairo Museum, and perhaps the most important monument of archaic Egypt...

But perhaps the most sensational discovery of all was in the pit which had been just underneath the altar of the temple, for in it there was found the old idol. This had been buried with care, not thrown down like the other things... [T]he idol was a hawk of copper, with a golden head. The body, unhappily, was made...of thin plates of metal, fixed on to wood, and the metal was so thin that it had completely corroded and fell to pieces as soon as the air from without reached it...

The pit where it was found was dug out by a man and a boy, and great was the rejoicing and the excitement when the top of the golden feather of the Horus crown appeared. "It is a window of gold," they exclaimed, as they rushed up to give the news. For such a find, a handsome reward had to be given, and after some deliberation, it was fixed at twenty pounds, in the proportion of thirteen to



Discovered again—  
The lower part of a sphinx left behind in 1898.



The future Mrs. Annie Quibell before her home in the Tomb of Hormose with several of the objects from the Main Deposit. They packed what they could, the rest they buried just below the location where the boxes are placed in this picture. (Petrie Museum of Archaeology, archival negative)



the man and seven to the boy. It was not without anxiety that my husband settled on the sum, for rumours of gold had spread about rapidly and rumours of gold are generally wildly exaggerated. Would it be enough to encourage honesty yet not to pauperize the family; above all, would public opinion consider it enough and not too much? Happily it was received with enthusiasm by both parties, the man forthwith proceeding to offer his daughter in marriage to the boy, who would pay the seven pounds as dowry for her and so unite the estates. The boy did not accept; he alleged that the bride was too young for him and that he preferred to buy a buffalo for his family. I never heard how they prospered after this...



## New discoveries at the Ashmolean

—by Helen Whitehouse, Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum



Of the many fragmentary objects of ivory from the Hierakonpolis Main Deposit, some 700—representing about 85 percent of the retrieved ivory—were given to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Found in 1898 as a tangled mass in a muddy trench, the ivories, including statuettes, decorated spoons, mace handles, and furniture fittings, were treated by the excavators to their best abilities under field conditions, and consolidated with gelatin, melted stearine or beeswax, often obscuring their form and decoration; further consolidation with wax was carried out when they arrived in London. Although the best were recleaned under laboratory conditions long ago, the laborious job of manually picking away the mud, salt and wax on the last of them has only recently been completed, thanks latterly to a grant that supported a dedicated conservator on the project. During this long process, we have been able to announce several new discoveries, including a mace handle decorated with animals and maces (H. Whitehouse, 1992: “The Hierakonpolis Ivories in Oxford: A Progress Report” in R. Friedman and B. Adams (eds), *The Followers of Horus*, Oxford, 77-82); and an ivory cylinder bearing the only royal name ever found on these ivories, that of King Den of Dynasty I (H. Whitehouse, “King Den in Oxford”, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 6, 1987: 257-267). The most recent discovery is in many ways one of the most exciting for the Hierakonpolis Expedition. From an unprepossessing waxy lump, the conservators at Oxford have disentangled a unique figurine and a new addition to the limited corpus of decorated knife handles; the only one so far known from a non-funerary context. On one side, the ivory knife handle shows five bound captives watched over by four guards. The other side, although badly abraded, clearly depicts an Upper Egyptian shrine called by the Egyptians the Per Wer, or Great House. A vaulted structure composed of posts and latticework shaped in the silhouette of a crouching animal complete with tail and horns, it is perhaps the very shrine the Expedition uncovered at HK29A in 1986! The original home of the Per Wer has long been thought to be at Hierakonpolis but until now the corroborating evidence has been elusive. Perhaps this is another example of Murphy’s Law of Archaeology: the evidence is always in the last place you look. But it is great when this perseverance pays off.



A sketch of the golden hawk head made at the time of discovery

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Ivory figurine from Main Deposit.



# The Ancient Egyptian View of Hierakonpolis

—by Renée Friedman

Hierakonpolis is perhaps best known as the home of the Narmer Palette and the hundreds of other Early Dynastic objects that attest to its early importance. In recent years, the remarkable discoveries made by our late director, Michael Hoffman, within the vast and sophisticated Predynastic town have demonstrated the reality of its early prominence. The dramatic discoveries of a Predynastic temple, Egypt's first industrial breweries, and now, perhaps, its first mummies, confirm the significance of the site for our understanding of the birth of Dynastic Egyptian civilization. Certainly many of the practices and institutions that came to typify Egyptian society find their first manifestation here. However, it is the long overshadowed later, but no less significant components of the site that have the potential to tell us how the Egyptians themselves felt about Hierakonpolis and dealt with its hoary antiquity.

Some striking patterns emerge when one looks at the array of Dynastic features at the site. Ranging from the massive mudbrick enclosure of King Khasekhemwy of the Second Dynasty to the Second Intermediate Period and early New Kingdom tombs of local officials to the late Ramesside tomb of Hormose, these are monuments from periods of Egyptian history that are poorly understood and under-represented at other sites. Constructed during periods when Egypt was under stress, each of these relics has an interesting and human story to tell.

For example, the funerary enclosure of Khasekhemwy, the oldest standing brick built structure in the world, was probably built during a period of political (and religious?) turmoil when Khasekhem, as he was initially known, ruled independently of the rival king Peribsen. The standard explanation is that, given the number of fine statues and objects bearing his name, Hierakonpolis was Khasekhem's political base and that he initially planned to be buried there before he assumed control of all Egypt, changed his name to Khasekhemwy, and built a new enclosure and tomb at Abydos. Khasekhemwy's embellishments of the site can also be seen both as a request of and thanks to his patron deity Horus for help in defeating this enemy.

*The enclosure of King Khasekhemwy—the world's oldest standing mudbrick building.*

The same may be said of the situation a millennium later when the Chief Priest of Horus, Horemkhawef, was summoned to the capital by an unnamed king of the Thirteenth Dynasty who was being harassed by rival Hyksos kings to fetch a new cult statue of Horus of Nekhen and his mother, Isis. Hierakonpolis continued to play an important part in the politics of the Second Intermediate Period in conjunction with its powerful sister city, El Kab. The revival of the title Sab-ra-Nekhen (Speaker of Hierakonpolis) in this period seems to be an active attempt to link the embattled Theban princes with the glories of Egypt's first capital. Five hundred years after that, as the tomb of Hormose reveals, a king, desperate to keep Egypt from splitting into the factions that characterized the Third Intermediate Period, celebrated a renewal of the cult place in the home of Egyptian kingship.

Thus for almost 2000 years, when the going got tough, the tough and the not-so-tough went to Hierakonpolis. Whenever the kingdom was in danger, the kings looked to the patron deity of kingship, Horus of Nekhen. Sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't, but in all cases they took propitiating this local god seriously. Although the Predynastic heritage of Hierakonpolis may have been forgotten in the mists of time, the end result clearly never was. Thus Hierakonpolis has much to teach us, not only about Egypt's beginnings, but also about its trials and tribulations throughout its long and illustrious history.

While the kings of Egypt turned to Horus and Hierakonpolis in their times of need, it is now Hierakonpolis itself that is in need. Threatened on all sides by growing population pressures and new technology, its long-term survival is a looming question. The Hierakonpolis Expedition is committed to preserving, conserving, exploring and publishing all aspects of the site of Hierakonpolis. This is an ambitious and long-term project and you can help by joining or renewing your membership in the **Friends of Nekhen**. Gift memberships are available (Christmas is coming!)—membership information can be found on page 15.





# Help the Hierakonpolis Project: Join the Friends of Nekhen

Hierakonpolis is a site intimately associated with the birth of the Egyptian state at about 3000 BC. Its hoary antiquity and links with the first pharaohs were recognized by the ancient Egyptians, and nearly a century of archaeological research has confirmed this vast site's central role in the transition from prehistory to history and the rise of early Egyptian civilization. The largest Predynastic site still extant and accessible anywhere in Egypt, Hierakonpolis is continually providing exciting new glimpses into this formative and surprisingly sophisticated age.

The Hierakonpolis Expedition is a long established research project investigating the origins of Egyptian civilization. Since 1967, archaeologists and scientists have systematically explored the settlements, cemeteries, and temples of this rich site in an attempt to better understand the cultural and environmental processes that transformed a land of farming, herding and fishing villages into the world's first nation state.

The Hierakonpolis Expedition staff is drawn from colleges, universities, museums, and private walks of life throughout the United States, Britain, Egypt, and the world — professionals who have been working together in a cooperative scientific endeavor to produce over 30 years of exciting discoveries.

## Friends of Nekhen

Nekhen is the ancient Egyptian name for the modern site of Hierakonpolis. The **Friends of Nekhen** is a group of concerned organizations and individuals, scholars and lay persons alike, which is helping the Hierakonpolis Expedition to continue its work and achieve its goals. In return for their support, **Friends of Nekhen** will receive an attractive badge bearing the project's official insignia—a Predynastic boat petroglyph from Hierakonpolis with the logo, **Friends of Nekhen**, written in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and in English. The members' newsletter, **NEKHEN NEWS**, describes and illustrates the Expedition's latest discoveries and accomplishments. Membership in the **Friends of Nekhen** also entitles you to special travel arrangements with Expedition tours and reduced rates on Egyptian Studies Association publications. Your help is needed to achieve the project's goals of excavation, preservation and publication. Site report publication and resumed excavations are the current priorities. Your contribution (tax-deductible in the U.S.) will support important research that might not otherwise be possible.

## Discoveries by the Hierakonpolis Expedition:

- One of Egypt's oldest houses (c.3600 B.C.)
- Egypt's earliest brewery (c.3500 B.C.)
- Egypt's first temple (c.3400 B.C.)
- Predynastic royal cemetery (c.3200 B.C.)
- A Dynasty I royal palace (c.3100-2900 B.C.)
- Egypt's first mummies?! (c.3500 B.C.)



Special contribution for **The Horus Project** (see article page 11)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please enter your name in the space provided below.



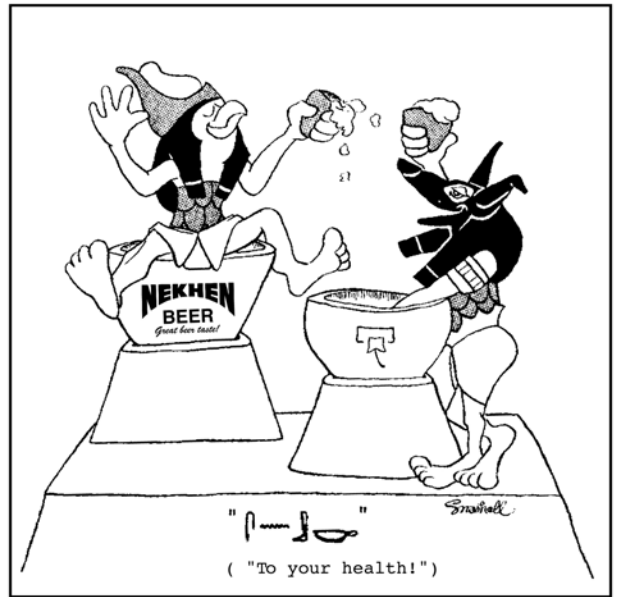
## Membership Application

I would like to help the Hierakonpolis Expedition by joining the Friends of Nekhen. In return for my tax deductible contribution, I understand that I will receive a badge, newsletter, and reduced rates on expedition publications. My membership will also entitle me to join expedition tours to Egypt visiting the site of Hierakonpolis.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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The membership category I prefer is:

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\*enclose copy of current student ID card

\_\_\_\_ This is a renewal for the 1997-98 season. (If you have already renewed, thank you!)

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