

Volume 1 Number 1 September 1996

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A word from the President...

With this, the first edition of the "Akhetaten Sun", The Amarna Research Foundation presents to its members the initial report of the spring expedition by Barry Kemp, the Field Director of the Amarna Expedition of the Egypt Exploration Society of Great Britain. It is the plan of The Amarna Research Foundation (TARF) to publish the Akhetaten Sun semi-annually, featuring the reports of the spring and fall expeditions. In addition, we will also send you special "Amarna Flash" bulletins as events of special interest occur.

If you are not a member of TARF and are wondering why you received this publication, it is simply that you have been identified as one who is interested in the study of Ancient Egypt. We encourage you to join with us in providing the necessary resources so that study in and of the Amarna era can continue. Further in this

issue there is an application for membership. If you are not quite sure of what we do and how we operate, please contact us at the address on the application and we will answer all your questions.

It's good to have you with us! May the Aten (whatever that represents to you) shine down upon you. At the very least, you might get a good suntan!

Robert A. Hanawalt

UPCOMING EVENTS

An exciting event is coming our way. Barry J. Kemp, world's foremost authority on the city of Akhetaten, will present a slide lecture on *Tell el-Amarna: Past, Present and Future*, Monday, October 28, 1996 at 7 p.m., in the IMAX Theater at the Denver Museum of Natural History, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205.

Mr. Kemp has been the Expedition Leader for the

Egypt Exploration Society at Tell el-Amarna since 1979. He is the author of the well-known book entitled, Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization, and lecturer from the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

Reservations can be made by calling the DMNH at (303) 322-7009 (code TU-TEA). Ticket prices are \$5 for Egyptian Study Society members, \$6 for DMNH members and \$9 for non-members.

Amarna Research Foundation members and Egyptian Study Society members are invited to a reception, in honor of Mr. Kemp, on Sunday, October 27, 1996, from 3 to 5 p.m., at the home of Bob and Arnetta Hanawalt. Their address is 16082 East Loyola Place, Aurora, CO 80013. For directions and hotel information (for out-of-town TARF members), call Bob at (303) 693-7512. Don't miss this golden opportunity to meet Mr. Kemp and fellow TARF members!

FIELD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barry Kemp

August 1996

The two year curfew in Mallawi was lifted this spring, signifying an improving security situation in Middle Egypt. The Egypt Exploration Society agreed to a small group of us spending three weeks at the Amarna site to test the area's safety, and conduct some urgent work.

Dr. Paul Nicholson, archaeologist from Cardiff University and a specialist in ancient Egyptian technology, had located a glass and glazing workshop first recorded by Petrie in 1892. Petrie's account, characteristically brief but stated with great authority, has continued to stand as a prime source of information. Dr. Nicholson carried out a second season of excavation on large furnaces found in the workshop. He collected not only kiln samples but also waste products with hopes of reconstructing the whole manufacturing process. All such material is property of the Egyptian government, but he had a special permit, with a very small window of time, to export small samples to Cardiff for analyses.

Final preparations for the publication of a study on the ancient textile industry at Amarna were also time sensitive. I needed more photographs for the nearly completed book. In the 1980's, excavations at the Workmen's Village brought to light around 5,000 fabric fragments. At that time Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, textile expert, cleaned and cataloged the pieces, which

represent a unique sample of cloth in daily use by the ancient community.

Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood's monograph formed the core of a wider study concerning evidence for textile manufacture at Amarna. Other evidence includes spindle-whorls and actual loom pieces. Rooms in two main-city houses were cleared on the basis of old reports. One of these rooms, if the fittings are correctly interpreted, would have looked remarkably like the weaving scene from the Theban tomb of Official Djehuty-nefer.

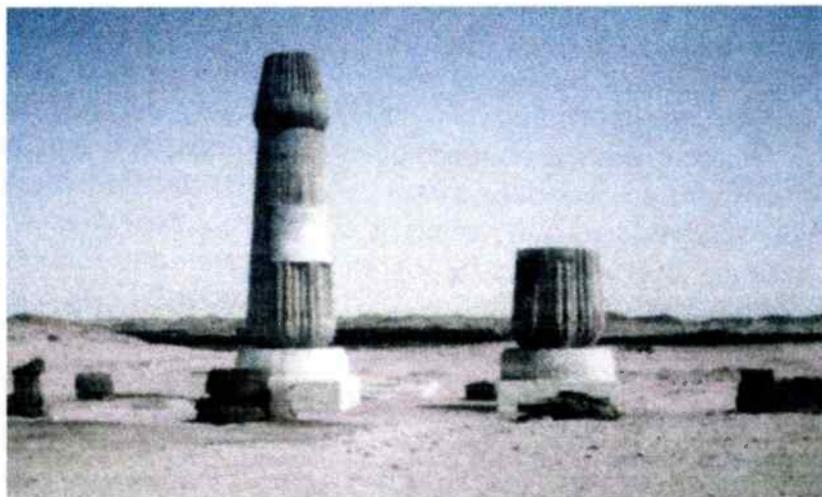
The New Kingdom saw the introduction of a vertical loom with more complicated construction, as opposed to older horizontal looms of the Middle Kingdom. A few pieces of such looms are in museum collections. Dr. Mohammed Saleh, of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, arranged for Gwil Owen to photograph artifacts in open display cases. The evidence, including clues within the textiles themselves, led to Herbert Farbrother, loom-maker living outside Cambridge, recreating a small size loom according to my sketches and source materials. He incorporated his own solutions to the technical flaws he perceived. Minor modifications are currently being made.

The vertical loom was easier to

use, required less labor, provided the weaver with a more comfortable working position and incorporated devices that helped maintain the evenness of the weaving.

Gwil Owen, photographer for the University of Cambridge's archaeology museum, utilized the newer, properly equipped photography studio at the Expedition House, to process his close-up pictures of the textile detail. There are a number of patchwork pieces, including one with alternate red and white squares sewn together. Could these have been from an awn or tent? I tend to take the common view that the Egyptians were intensely conservative about everything and if their ancestors had done something a particular way then they would copy it exactly. However, the New Kingdom was a time of new ideas, as exemplified by Akhenaten, and maybe this clever loom was one of them.

The focus of an important part of our fieldwork since 1987, with the assistance of architect Michael Mallinson, has been the Small Aten Temple, a key building in the Central City. Originally cleared in 1931 by



Small Aten Temple – pillars reconstructed by EES.

photo by Robert Hanawalt, 1995

John Pendlebury, it represents the first stage in a thorough re-examination of the Central City and has provided an opportunity to develop an approach toward conservation and better presentation of Amarna's buildings.

We opened a sequence of courtyards by removing Pendlebury's huge excavation dumps. Modest repairs have been done to the brickwork though there is much more left to be done. Akhenaten built in stone on a monumental scale, but his successors removed the stone and only patches of cement foundations are left. These preserve the outline but are too fragile to be left exposed.

The sanctuary is a shallow, sandy hole in the ground that lets visitors easily miss the point of the whole building. Our solution is to mark the outline of the principal walls in low walls of new stone blocks and fill the spaces between them with the original chippings and stone dust from Pendlebury's excavations. This creates a low platform at the original floor level of the sanctuary and the low stone walls will be visible, though not

obtrusive, from the road for viewing the building's footprint. Michael Mallinson is supervising the wall-line layout, and several thousand blocks of original size have been ordered from a quarry near Minia. We know from fragments that the ancient corners were the standard Egyptian style with vertical, cylindrical moldings. The hard, shelly Minia limestone is difficult to cut neatly this way, but the modern local quarries at Amarna extract their finer, softer limestone only by blasting. The moldings will be cut by a sculptor in Cairo and, if all goes as planned, it should be possible to include these moldings in the new walls when work begins again in September.

Barry Kemp is Reader in Egyptology in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the University of Cambridge in England. He has spent the past 18 years working on the excavation, conservation, research and publication of Akhenaten's capital city at Amarna. Currently under the sponsorship of the Egypt Exploration Society, Mr. Kemp is the only Egyptologist doing physical work in this area.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
DMNH -- Denver Museum of Natural History
EES -- Egypt Exploration Society of Great Britain
ESS -- Egyptian Study Society
TARF -- The Amarna Research Foundation

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Individuals, Corporations, Foundations and other groups are encouraged and asked to join with The Amarna Research Foundation in providing the necessary funding to continue the exploration, stabilization, conservation and publication of this unique site and period.

We know that the greatest benefit you will receive for your participation as a member will be the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped preserve a portion of Egypt's great

heritage.

To recognize your participation, The Amarna Research Foundation offers the following recognition:

- An 8"x10" membership certificate, printed on papyrus, with your name written in hieroglyphs, or in English, or both - you choose.
- A semi-annual report of the progress and conditions of projects at Amarna. Additional bulletins will be provided as warranted.

- For those joining the Foundation at the Sponsor level or above, a set of twelve unique slides or pictures (again, your choice), of and around Tell-el-Amarna.

- For those who are Sponsor level or Benefactor level, the opportunity to designate specific projects to which their membership will be applied. The project will be photographed during various stages, and pictures provided to the contributor.