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The Amarna Research
Foundation
Robert Hanawalt, Founder
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The (Outgoing) President's Papyrus

The annual meeting of TARF was held in September. Perhaps the biggest change this year was my decision to step down as President and member of the Board of Trustees.

After 14 years (can it really be that long?) as a trustee, two terms as Treasurer, and three terms as president, I believe it is time for me to move on to other things.

Fortunately I have had to pleasure of working with talented and dedicated people, so TARF is in good hands.

Anita McHugh has been on the board for quite a few years and has served in a number of vital positions, including publications and administration.

David Pepper has been on the board since TARF was formed and has served several terms as both President and Vice President.

Floyd Chapman is also one of our founding members and has served terms as head of Publications, Vice President and Secretary.

Evan Mitchell is either one of our founding members, or joined us so soon afterward that I can't remember TARF without him. I have lost count of how many terms he has served as Treasurer.

Jill Taylor Pepper is relatively new to the board, but has organized our membership roster into a form better than it has ever been.

My thanks and best wishes to your all.

Bill

2008 Amarna Field Report

by
Barry Kemp

We have been able to put in a longer stint at Amarna, beginning in November 2007 and running through to early June 2008, with a break for part of January and February. Many people contributed their time across a broad research front, some of it for the publication programme, which was the element specifically targeted by TARF's grant.

Over a six-week period in March and April we resumed the excavation of the cemetery near the South Tombs. It occupies a sand bank beside a narrow valley that runs back into the desert not far from tomb 25 (of the God's Father Ay). With a small team of workmen we opened little fresh ground, but instead concentrated on examining

a bed of harder sand and gravel that lay below the soft sand of the previous two seasons of excavation. Then, we had found it very difficult to detect the outlines of grave pits, encountering mainly disturbed clusters of bones or partially preserved shallow burials. This time, careful scraping revealed the outlines of numerous pits, often packed closely together (*see picture below*). These are graves that had been dug more deeply than those



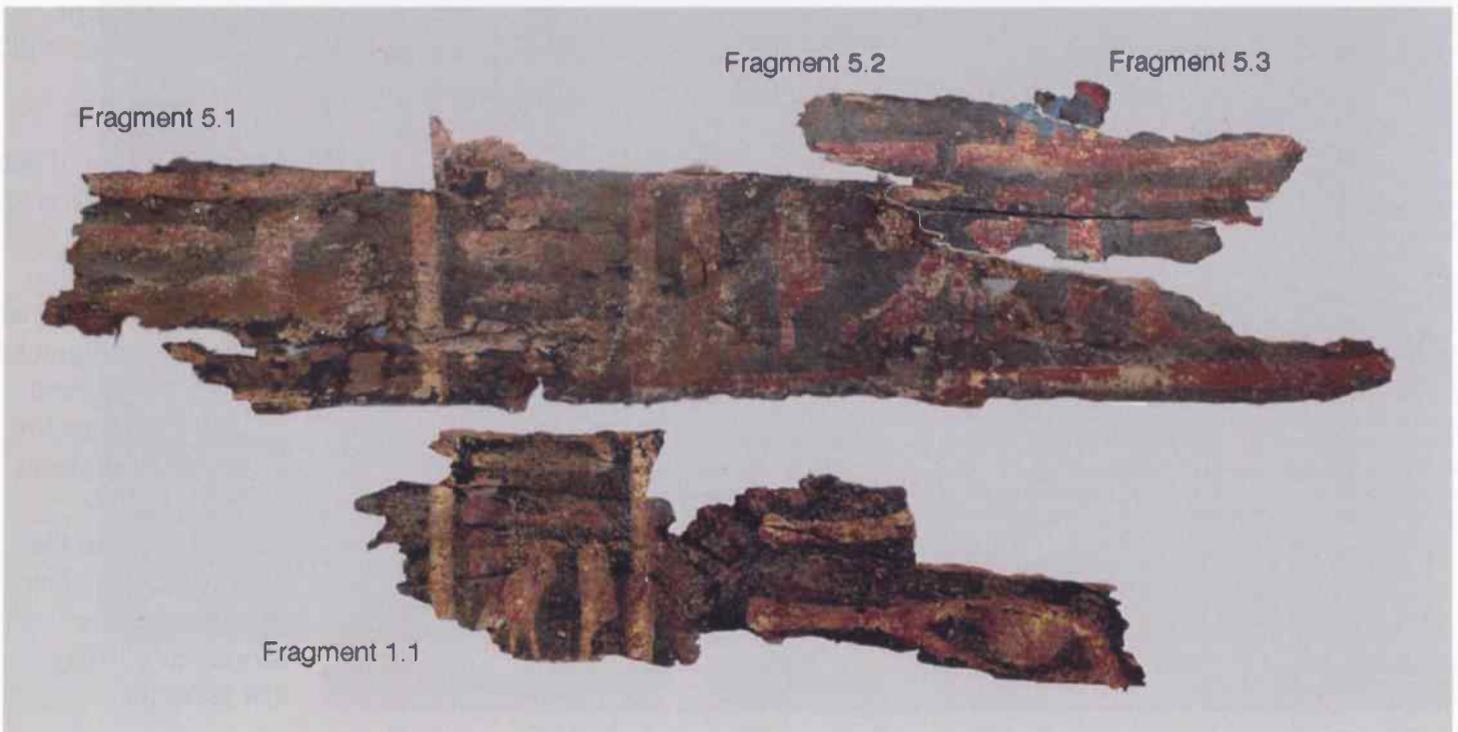
encountered before. They had still been robbed, but nevertheless yielded valuable evidence as to burial practices in the Amarna Period.

Some graves had contained pottery dishes filled with fruit to sustain the dead. One person had been buried with a bronze woodcarver's chisel placed next to the face (*see picture at left*), suggestive of the Opening of the Mouth ceremony, the traditional ritual by which the body of a dead person was brought to life again. The most significant find was a well-made painted wooden anthropoid coffin. With the exception of the miraculously preserved face mask (*see picture on next page*), carved



from a single block of wood, it had been reduced to fragments often little thicker than the layer of paint on the outside surface. Black in colour it had been decorated with hieroglyphs and with human figures (*see picture below*). I stayed on the end of the season and spent three weeks recording the fragments, finding that it was still possible of make a partial reconstruction in digital form. The coffin had belonged to 'The Lady of the House, Maiai, justified'. It had borne simple hieroglyphic requests for Maiai's wellbeing in the next world, and pictures of people in mourning, but seemingly no reference to the Aten. As a burial of someone of somewhat higher standing, it helps to correct the impression we had earlier formed, that the cemetery was only for the poor.

Jerry Rose from the University of Arkansas brought a larger anthropological team to work on the bones. Much of what they do consists of matching individual bones or groups of bones to individual skeletons and so putting individuals together again. They can then be studied to determine age, sex, and how tall they had grown (a good indicator of wellbeing); signs of damage can be recorded, from fractures to patterns of wear on teeth that reveal evidence of diet. The results were broadly similar to those from



previous seasons, pointing to lives made hard by inadequate diet, epidemic disease and injury. One individual (no. 59), who had lived into his thirties, had suffered a history of bodily damage so severe as to suggest that he was a soldier who had, in the end, died from the effects of an arrow that had passed through his thigh and penetrated his abdomen.

It was common practice in ancient Egypt to leave on the surface a place of memorial (ideally a built chapel), where relatives could visit and leave offerings. Most of the graves in our cemetery had been packed too closely together to leave space for a chapel, but we have growing evidence for some kind of grave marker. In the upper sand filling of Maiai's grave we found a little group of broken fragments from a small window of two narrow slit apertures made from gypsum (*see picture at right*). This points to the existence of a small construction over her grave. The building materials are likely to have been not bricks, that would leave traces distinct in their darker colour, but of the stones that litter the surface of the cemetery, that would have been held together with mortar made from



desert clay. This is a point that we hope future excavation will clarify.

A second theme of our current fieldwork is to gain a better understanding of the enigmatic remains that occupy the mid-ground between the city and the cliffs, where a low plateau runs out from the cliffs to hide themselves from the view of the city. The nearer part is the Workmen's Village that gives the

impression of a self-contained community; the further part is the Stone Village. Both are surrounded by linear markings on the desert surface that seem designed to isolate them from outside contact.

Apart from mapping and study of the markings, the main line of investigation is a survey and small-scale excavation of the Stone Village (*see picture on previous page*). This was pursued in November and December 2007 by the team of Dr Anna Stevens. They extended the previous excavation to reveal a building of many small rooms that, whatever it was, does not resemble a house. The associated material offers no clues, although not far away a bank of ovens and ash suggests that cooking was one activity carried on.

Mapping the surface of a site that is strewn with uneven piles of stones is no easy task. It is worth doing to create a record of the patterning of the stones that can later be compared to whatever lies underneath. We already know from the limited excavation completed that here is no close correspondence between the surface patterning and underlying walls, yet neither are they entirely unrelated. A close and patient analysis is needed. As a way of speeding up the process of mapping, the University of Arkansas supplied a 3D laser scanner designed to capture landscape, operated by Dr Malcolm Williamson. The data gathered create a three-dimensional model (*see picture below*) that can be rotated and viewed from any angle, including vertically above in a manner that resembles a plan.



Treasurers Report
For the period ending
September 30, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees
The Amarna Research Foundation

FROM: Evan H. Mitchell

DATE: September 30, 2008

At the start of the fiscal year, (October 1,2007) the Amarna Research foundation had cash on hand and in the bank of \$8,138.39. At of the close of the fiscal year, which ended on September 30, 2008 the Amarna Research Foundation had cash on hand in the bank in the amount of \$5,035.76. Donations received during the year were \$17,512.79, with expenses of \$150.42, and grants made totaling \$20,465.00.

In addition the Amarna Research Foundation has a \$5,000.00 certificate of deposit, which remains outside of the general operating fund.

Beginning balance	8,138.39
Donations	17,512.79
Grants made this year were:	
Cambridge in America	-15,665.00
The Amarna Trust	-4,800.00

The expenses for the year by category were:	
Foundation Publications including postage	-150.42

Balance as of September 30, 2008	5,035.76
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There was no compensation made to any trustee. All served in a voluntary capacity.

//Evan H. Mitchell//
Evan H. Mitchell
Treasurer, The Amarna Research Foundation

We need your help!
If you can get just one new person to join TARF,
it will make a huge difference.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES! I would like to join

THE AMARNA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Please complete the following membership form, detach and mail to:

The Amarna Research Foundation, Inc.
16082 East Loyola Place
Aurora, CO 80013

e-mail: RTomb10@comcast.net

For more information, please call:

(303) 693-7512

Membership Categories:

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