

Editorial

This issue of *Buried History* brings the journal's publishing schedule almost up to date. Volume 40 will be published toward year end and will, like this volume, include papers of lectures delivered during the year.

The Institute was honoured to have the 2003 Petrie Oration delivered by Prof Rosalie David. The paper presented at the lecture begins this issue. Rosalie is a prolific author and her stature as an Egyptologist was recognized in 2003 with the award of an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Honours List. She is the KNH Professor of Biomedical Egyptology, and Director of the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology at the University of Manchester. Rosalie has been responsible for reviving the scientific analysis of Egyptian mummies and it is therefore fitting that a couple of later papers in this issue deal with two of the Institute's mummies. In her paper Prof David describes the establishment of the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology at the University of Manchester in November 2003 made possible by the benefaction of Kay N. Hinckley.

The 2003 Beasley Lecture sponsored by the Institute and delivered in both Sydney and Melbourne was given by Right Reverend Dr Paul Barnett. His topic is current and he presents forceful arguments to support his position. Paul has had a distinguished career as an educator and bishop within the Australian Anglican community. He was Master of Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University and most recently was on the Faculty at Moore College, Sydney. Paul is known for his research in early New Testament history, especially as it relates to Asia Minor, where he has also travelled extensively.

The paper describing the analysis of the mummified child's head focuses on the dental evidence. Pamela Craig is a dentist who has a special interest in Forensic Dentistry. She teaches Oral Anatomy and Radiology at the School of Dental Science, The University of Melbourne and is an honorary forensic Odontologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. Janet Davey, who incidentally is no relation, teaches ancient Egyptian history at the Council of Adult Education in Melbourne. She has studied Egyptology at the University of Manchester and is soon to

return there for a post-graduate program in Biomedical and Forensic Egyptology. She is the founder of the Melbourne Mummy Project which has marshaled scientific expertise in Melbourne for the study of ancient remains.

The paper about the Institute's child mummy presents some of the findings of the Melbourne Mummy team. In addition to those already mentioned the authors are Dr David Ranson, a Forensic Pathologist, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Lee Coleman, Pediatric Radiologist, Royal Children's Hospital and Alan McKenzie, a Diagnostic Radiologist. Other members of the team are acknowledged at the conclusion of the paper. The Institute has been delighted to have such a distinguished panel of experts studying its collection. Some of the material in the paper was presented during a demonstration inquest held at the Victorian Coroner's Court during Professor David's visit in 2003.

The report on the survey expedition to the Kharga Oasis in the Western Desert of Egypt was prepared by a group of Melbourne based scholars working on Coptic material. Dr Matthew J Martin is at the Melbourne College of Divinity, Simone Rickerby has a position at Whitley College and Dr Geoffrey Jenkins is an Honorary Fellow at Deakin University.

We are again pleased to have material from Matthew Whincop. Matthew is at Durham University where he is completing a doctorate on Syrian Iron Age pottery. He is therefore well placed to review the recently published volume on the archaeological record of Syria.

Mary Dolan, a one time member of the Institute staff and a regular contributor to *Buried History*, sadly died recently. The next issue will carry a tribute to her and a paper that she was writing at the time of her death

The revised format of *Buried History* represented by the last issue was welcomed and we trust that this volume receives similar endorsement. We acknowledge all our authors and the referees who have assisted in the task of preparation.

Christopher J Davey
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