

# BURIAL SITE OF LORD NEFER-TI-RU

Son of King Khufu, c.2637-2614 BC, Fourth Dynasty of Egypt  
(Gosford, NSW, Australia)

Dr. R.M. de Jonge ©, drsrmdeljonge@hotmail.com

## SUMMARY

At Gosford near Sydney, Australia, is a sandstone cleft, which contains about 300 Egyptian hieroglyphs. The free translation of these glyphs shows it is the burial site of a Son of Khufu (Cheops), the 2nd king of the Fourth Dynasty of Egypt (Old Kingdom). He died because he was bitten by a poisonous snake. Together with his brother Lord Djeseb they were the leaders of an expedition to Australia. The text on both walls of the cleft consists of c.26 paragraphs. It is the largest collection of Egyptian hieroglyphs outside Egypt and Sudan.

## INTRODUCTION

Gosford is a town 50 km north of Sydney, New South Wales, on the East Coast of Australia. It is located at the mouth of the Hawkesbury River, at 34°S. At the village of Kariong near Gosford and near this river is a rocky outcrop containing numerous petroglyphs. The archaeological site lies in dense scrub in Brisbane Water National Park, c.2 km from the nearest road, and can only be reached by trail. It contains a cave and a stone hallway, which are only accessible via two narrow rock shutes from below and above, respectively (Refs.1,8,9).

The hidden location, c. 70 m above sea level, can be best described as follows. In a large block of sandstone is a deep rock cleft. The two facing walls of the cleft widen out from about two meters in the north to four meters in the south. At the narrow, northern end is a huge flat rock which is the roof of the cave. So, in front of this chamber is a kind of hallway. Each of the walls of the hallway has a length of about 7 meters. Both of them are covered with numerous glyphs up to a height of more than 3 meters. These carvings turn out to be a collection of about three hundred Egyptian hieroglyphs.

## GOSFORD GLYPHS

As far as known, the carvings were first discovered at the end of the 19th century. At that time the site was filled in with sand and rocks, and completely overgrown with thick vegetation. It had a much higher soil line. Diggings and excavations by various people did not turn up any bodies or artifacts, which could provide additional information. After the appearance of two articles by Paul White in 1994 and 1996, respectively, the site got more public attention (Refs.1,2).

Both sandstone walls of the cleft were partly dressed to obtain a proper, flat surface area for engraving the hieroglyphs. The carvings range in length from about 5 cm up to 60 cm. Both depth and width of the engraved lines range from 1.0 cm to 2.5 cm. The inscriptions on the East Wall are deeper than those on the West Wall, which is more eroded because of the prevailing Ocean winds. However, all are pretty uniform the way they are cut. All carvings are very well executed. However, they have round edges now, and are very weathered. The first impression is they are very old. Photos and drawings of the glyphs are shown in the literature (Refs.1-10).

By far the largest inscription is applied on the East Wall near the cave, and protected by a part of the stone roof. It is a third-life sized carving of the Egyptian god Suti (Anubis, Fig.1). He has the head of a jackal with a long snout, wearing a cross in his right hand. He was considered as the god of the dead, and often portrayed at Egyptian rock graves. It appears, the god is looking from the burial chamber to the south.



Fig.1 A third-life sized carving of the Egyptian god Suti (Anubis), in honor of Nefer-ti-ru, a Son of Khufu (Cheops, c.2637-2614 BC), the 2nd king of the Fourth Dynasty of Egypt, who is buried here. (East Wall, [2], Gosford, NSW, Australia)

The site contains five important cartouches (framed clusters of hieroglyphs) of the Royal Family of Egypt. The first one on the East Wall belongs to Nefer-Djeseb, who gave the order to erect this monument. It is directly followed by the cartouche of his father Khufu (Cheops, c.2637-2614 BC), the 2nd king of the Fourth Dynasty, who was in power (Fig.2). It dates the whole site within a time period of 23 years.

The third cartouche belongs to his brother Nefer-ti-ru, another son of Khufu, who perished in this area because he was bitten by a poisonous snake. The two brothers were clearly the leaders of the expedition to Australia. It, too, is directly followed by a cartouche of Khufu. Finally, the cartouche of this important king is repeated on the West Wall, which deals with the burial of Nefer-ti-ru (Refs.1-4,35-39).

Note, that all cartouches are rectangular (Fig.2), which is characteristic for the Fourth Dynasty. All four angles equal  $360/4 = 90^\circ$ . Cartouches of kings of other dynasties usually have rounded corners. - Note also, that both walls have a dark red colour, probably caused by applying an abundance of red ochre (iron oxide) at the site.

#### TRANSLATION BY JOHNSON

The Egyptologist Ray Johnson of Queensland has translated ancient texts from the Old Kingdom for the Museum of Antiquities in Cairo (Refs.35-37). In 1998, he was eventually successful in documenting and translating the Gosford Glyphs (Refs.1-4,35-37). It then turned out the glyphs were made because of the sudden death of the expedition leader Lord Nefer-ti-ru. He is described as a "King's Son", which explains the reason why the whole site exists. So, he was a member of the important Royal Family. It confirms the site contains a burial chamber, indeed.

The linguist Hans-Dieter von Senff recognised the importance of the translation by Johnson, who died in 2004. He continued and improved his work, as shown by his publications in 2004 and 2011. In the last year Dan Collins of Queensland discovered two small, new panels near the main site, which were translated by von Senff as well. – Previously, two other panels with a total of eight glyphs were found c.30 meters north of the main site. These are not translated, yet. A new set of panels was discovered by Jake Cassar in february 2012 (Refs.38,39).

The Gosford Glyphs form the largest collection of Egyptian hieroglyphs outside Egypt and Sudan. For that reason the translations of Johnson and von Senff were transferred into a 'free translation' of their texts, which is shown below (Refs.6,52-56).

#### FREE TRANSLATION OF THE GOSFORD GLYPHS

##### **THE EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS ON THE EAST WALL:**

[1] FOR HIS HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE,  
from this wretched place in this land,  
where we were carried by ship.  
Engraved for the Crown of Lower Egypt,  
according to God's word.

[2] My fellow Egyptians  
call out from this place in this strange land  
for the god SUTI.  
I, NEFER-DJESEB,  
Son of KHUFU, king of Upper and Lower Egypt  
(beloved by Ptah),  
has brought the god SUTI.

[3] The Prince was kind and benevolent,  
follower of the SunGod Ra.

[4] For two seasons (eight months) he directed us eastward,  
weary, but strong to the end.  
Always praying, joyful, and smiting insects.  
He, the servant of God,  
said God created the insects  
to protect his people.

[5] I myself am hardened, have gone around hills and deserts,  
in wind and rain, with no lakes at hand,



blessed by the falling nights, when I hid myself,  
completely out of reach.

[6] In our last camp I cooked fowl on hand, and brought rain,  
but hurt my back carrying the Golden Falcon Standard,  
crossing hills, desert and pools of water along the way.

[7] Plants are withering, Land is dying.  
Is this our lot from the highest God of the Sacred Mer?

[8] The Sun is pouring down upon our back!  
Oh mighty Khepera, this is not what the Oracle has said.  
Our Harts are overturned, but not broken.

[9] This Regal person NEFER-TI-RU  
came from the temple of God in Penu, Egypt.  
He came from the House of God.  
He was the Son of KHUFU, king of Upper and Lower Egypt.

[10] He, who died before, is here laid to rest.  
May he have life everlasting.

[11] He is never again to stand beside the waters of the Sacred Mer.  
Then clasp him, my Brothers Spirit to thy side, O Father of the Earth.

#### **THE EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS ON THE WEST WALL:**

[12] The snake bit twice.  
We, followers of the divine king KHUFU,  
mighty one of Lower Egypt, Lord of the Two Adzes,  
we shall not all return.  
However, we have to continue,  
we cannot look back.

[13] All creek and river beds are dry,  
and we are dismayed.  
Our boats are tied up with rope.  
Death was caused by snake.

[14] We gave egg-yolk from the medicine-chest,  
and prayed to Amun, the Hidden One,  
for he was struck twice.

[15] It was a hard time for all of us,  
weeping over the dead body,  
and keeping to the protocol.

[16] Seated all aside,  
our men watched the funeral,  
with concern and deep love.  
How the mummified body was buried  
in the Red Earth Section.

[17] Then we recovered ourselves.

[18] We walled in the side entrance to the chamber,  
with stones from all around.  
The chamber was aligned with the Western Heavens.

[19] I counted and impounded the daggers of our men.

[20] The three doors of eternity were connected  
to the rear end of the Royal Tomb,  
and sealed in.

**EAST WALL:**

[21] He, who doesn't belong to this place,  
will not return home to the town of Penu.

[22] Remember with love his nobel spirit.  
He will only receive the most purest fruit.  
Personally I divided one third of the fruit  
for the burial service.

**WEST WALL, AGAIN:**

[23] Oh God, reach down your hands,  
and make the Land green.

[24] A necklace was placed by his side,  
A Royal token, signifying: "Heavens Gift, as from thou...!"

[25] The shining relics were carried  
to the private sanctuary of his Tomb.  
In the name of the spirit  
of the sanctuary at the town of Penu.

[26] Along with the silver dagger,  
a Royal token of God, our Creator.  
Separated from home  
is the Royal Body, and all others.

**TWO NEW PANELS NEAR THE MAIN SITE:**

**Hieroglyphs on a North Wall:**

[27] We have irrefutable evidence our King's Son was killed by too much poison.

**Hieroglyphs on a West Wall:**

[28] In the name of the Lord we buried him in the Royal Tomb in the northern part of  
this place, which was closed at the back side.

**COMMENTS ON THE TEXT**

The impressive text confirms the importance of the whole site. The glyphs on the East Wall announce, that one of the expedition leaders and member of the Royal Family

Lord Nefer-ti-ru died near the site [paragraphs 1-3], and that he was buried here [9-11] (Refs.1,2,7,9). It is also shown, the whole group of men arrived by ship [1,12,13,21]. The site is located near the Hawkesbury River, close to the Ocean, indeed (Refs.28-31).

He was a brave man [3,4,22], and had an important mission [3,12]. It appears, that Australia had become part of the "Egyptian World Empire" [3,6] (Refs.11-14). For this purpose he probably had to map the rivers and the coast, and to visit the tribe leaders of the aboriginals. The religious text is in agreement with the position of Lord Nefer-ti-ru, as member of the Royal Family (Refs.3-5,7,9-11).

So far, the expedition had lasted "two Egyptian seasons" [4], which are two trimesters, or 8 months. Part of the expedition was over land [5,6]. They were a long distance from home, indeed (Refs.2,6-8). The literal phrase "he made my way westward" [4, not shown] might be correct, because it appears the expedition was looking for the "Realm of the Dead" (from Egypt) in the west (Refs.11,12,17-27). It is part of the Egyptian religion. It is mentioned, in spite of the fact Australia lies in the east [4]. The remark "May he have life everlasting." [10], is in agreement with it.

Note, that the King of Egypt was considered as the substitute of God [9]. The phrase "who died before" [10] means, that Lord Nefer-ti-ru was more than a generation (30 years) of age. The start of the last paragraph: "He is never again to stand beside the waters of the Sacred Mer." [11] means, "he will never be able to return to his beloved People in Egypt."

The glyphs on the West Wall show the reason of his untimely death: a snake bit him twice [12,13,14,27]. It is for sure in those days there were many poisonous snakes along the East Coast of Australia. Nefer-ti-ru was the brother of Lord Nefer-Djeseb, who created the whole site [2,19,22]. Because of his death, all members of the expedition were prostrated with grief [8,11,15,23].

Many sentences [15-20,28] deal with the proper ceremonial precautions of the Royal Funeral. "The chamber was aligned with the Western Heavens" [18], which is in the direction of the "Realm of the Dead", mentioned earlier (Refs.11,12). Nefer-ti-ru was buried in the "Red Earth Section" [16], which can still be identified. It has a length of about 5 meters. The use of red ochre (iron oxide) to mark an important burial place is a very old costum, indeed (Refs.6,35-39,52-56).

The Sacred Mer [7,11] is mentioned twice. The literature is almost silent about its meaning. However, the French word "la mer" means "the sea", and it is almost sure the last word may be translated with the "Sea", or the "Ocean". Finally, the three doors of eternity refer to the twin gods Horus and Osiris (both below the SunGod Ra), and Maat, the Egyptian god of law and order in the universe.



Fig.2 A cartouche of Khufu (Cheops, c.2637-2614 BC), the 2nd king of the Fourth Dynasty of Egypt (East Wall, [2], Gosford, NSW, Australia).

#### STONE STRUCTURES

In the ground, beyond the northern end of the hallway, a square entrance (c.80x80cm) was found, c.2 m deep. In it, a horizontal, rectangular air shaft (wxh=75x50cm) was discovered, c.9 m long. Rectangular blocks of sandstone were used for its construction, c.-0.7 m underground. Below the square entrance, a rectangular, underground chamber (lxw=3.0x1.5m) was reached, also built from dressed, rectangular sandstones, c.0.7 m high. A similar chamber maybe hidden elsewhere (Refs.38,39). – The many rectangular features are typical of the Fourth Dynasty.

The site is also known for a perched boulder of c.40 tons, which was placed on top of a small sandstone stilt, about a meter above the bedrock, on the eastern plateau near the top of the cleft. It marks the burial site of Lord Nefer-ti-ru (Refs.38,39). - The boulder has an estimated volume of  $4 \times 3 \times 2 = 24 \text{ m}^3$ . With an estimated density of the sandstone of 1.7, its calculated mass becomes  $24 \times 1.7 = 41$  tons. The square stilt (c.60x60cm) has a height of c.1 m. It consists of four stone layers (plates), confirming the Fourth Dynasty. On top of the boulder are several linear carvings, all parallel, c.50cm long and c.10cm deep.



## GEOGRAPHY

The Gosford Glyphs are situated due south of Cape Capricorn, Curtis Island, Queensland, as can be figured out by following the meridian, or NS-line. This location is named after the holy Tropic of Capricorn, which runs through this Cape, at  $23^{\circ}\text{S}$ . This imaginary, horizontal line runs all over the continent of Australia. At midwinter day the Sun is there at right angles above. The slow southerly movement of the Sun turns into a northerly movement. So, the people of the expedition believed in the Egyptian SunGod Ra, as confirmed by the Gosford Glyphs [3] (Refs.11,12,32).

Note, that the East Wall of the cleft contains 11 paragraphs [1-11], corresponding to the latitude of Cape York, the North Cape of Queensland, at  $11^{\circ}\text{S}$ , 11 Moiras=  $110^{\circ}$  east of the Nile Delta, when measured along the equator. The meridian of Gosford runs across the continent of Australia over  $34-23= 11^{\circ}$ , confirming it. Australia was discovered at Cape York ...

The Gosford Glyphs are engraved on two walls of a cleft. These 2 walls refer to the city of Perth, West Australia,  $2^{\circ}$  to the north, at  $34-2= 32^{\circ}\text{S}$ . This latitude of  $30+2= 32^{\circ}\text{S}$  encodes the 2nd king Djoser (c.2753-2723 BC) of the Third Dynasty, who discovered Australia at Cape York (Refs.40-47). The name of Perth is derived from the Egyptian word "Per", which means "house" or "home".

The latitude line of Perth runs from  $116^{\circ}\text{E}$  to  $152^{\circ}\text{E}$ , or  $152-116= 36^{\circ}$  over the continent of Australia. It encodes the circumference of the planet Earth, 36 Moiras, or  $360^{\circ}$ . It shows the goal of this expedition from Egypt: to discover more land in the east, and to circumnavigate the planet Earth. The 2 walls of the cleft refer to the latitude line  $2^{\circ}$  to the south, at  $34+2= 36^{\circ}\text{S}$ , confirming it. This latitude line runs from  $140^{\circ}\text{E}$  to  $150^{\circ}\text{E}$ , or  $150-140= 10^{\circ}$  over the continent of Australia, confirming the  $10 \times 36= 360^{\circ}$  of the circumference of the planet Earth.

## DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA

In our book "How the SunGod Reached America", it is shown that Australia was discovered by Egyptians, c.2700 BC (Refs.11,12). A petroglyph of Dissignac in Brittany, France, of this date shows a primitive coast map of Australia (and Tasmania). The date fits in the Third Dynasty, which lasted from c.2770 to 2661 BC.

Australia was discovered by Djoser (c.2753-2723 BC), the 2nd king of the Third Dynasty of Egypt. He did so at Cape York, just south of New Guinea, which was known as the eastern crossing. During the same expedition he discovered the island of Tasmania, as well as the sailing route from the small island of Roti, Indonesia, to the coast of Kimberley, the so-called western crossing (Refs.40-47).

He built his step pyramid in Saqqara, near Memphis, Egypt, having six steps, because the surface area of Australia, including Tasmania, equals 6 square Moiras (1 Moira=  $10^{\circ}$ , 1111 km), or 7.4 million  $\text{km}^2$  (officially 7.6 million  $\text{km}^2$ ). When walking around the pyramid, you will always see  $6+6= 12$  steps, because he discovered Australia 12 Moiras east of the River Nile, at  $12^{\circ}\text{S}$  (Cape York). - There are many sites in Australia, which confirm this discovery (Refs.13,14,44). - A map drawn by Pomponius Mela in 40 AD shows the Great South Land (Australia), then called Antipodes. It is the oldest known name of the continent.



It may be noted here, that New Zealand was discovered by Huni (c.2685-2661 BC), the 8th and last king of the Third Dynasty (Refs.45-48). America was discovered via the Aleutian Islands by the 5th king Menkaure (c.2580-2562 BC) of the Fourth Dynasty. He also discovered the crossing of the Bering Strait, because he returned via the north (Refs.11,12,32,40-51).

## DISCUSSION

The Gosford Glyphs were made on two facing walls of a cleft, at 34°S. This was also done in honor of the discovery of the two islands of New Zealand, at a distance of about 2 Moiras, or 20 degrees to the east, at this very latitude. New Zealand was discovered by Huni, the 8th and last king of the Third Dynasty, two pharaohs before the 2nd king Khufu of the Fourth Dynasty. - The two facing walls of the Gosford Glyphs are also made in honor of all the discovered islands in the Pacific below the equator till 20°S, until the island of Pitcairn, 20 Moiras, or 200 degrees east of the River Nile in Egypt.

The Gosford Glyphs are located near Sydney, on the East Coast of Australia, at 34°S. This latitude line runs all the way to the West Coast, over 36 moiras, or 36°, when measured along the equator. It symbolizes the circumference of the planet Earth, 36 Moiras, or 360°. It shows what the Egyptians were doing on the East Coast. They tried to circumnavigate the planet Earth! - They explored the Pacific and mapped most of the tiny islands, as far as the Marquesas Islands and Pitcairn in the east. In one of the chambers c.20 parallel grooved lines were discovered. It appears, these represent the c.20 meridians, or north-south lines, between the River Nile in Egypt, and the islet of Pitcairn, at the extreme eastern end of Polynesia.

It is our guess, that the number of hieroglyphs on the main site equals the number of people involved in erecting this monument: c.300 people. It is our estimation, these 300 people arrived at the site with 6 or 7 seaworthy ships (having crews of c.50 men per ship). We presume, these 300 people worked for 2 to 3 months making this burial site for Lord Nefer-ti-ru.

It has been suggested elsewhere, that the name of Gosford has been derived from 'God's Fiord' [1,3], still remembering these events of thousands of years ago. In the same way some people suggest the name of nearby Broken Bay comes from 'Broken Hart' [8], or 'Broken Expedition', and the name of Sydney might have been derived from 'Sad News' [2,10].

The Gosford Glyphs at Kariong form the most important testimony of ancient Egyptian influence in Australia. The group of about three hundred Egyptian hieroglyphs is beautifully engraved in the sandstone bedrock. It tells the story of an Egyptian expedition to Australia. The expedition leader and member of the Royal Family Lord Nefer-ti-ru suddenly died, because of an encounter with a poisonous snake.

He was buried in a chamber nearby. The petroglyphs date from the reign of King Khufu of the Fourth Dynasty (c.2637-2614 BC). - The Aborigines of Australia still remember in their oral history the tale of the "Two Brothers, who arrived by ship with their crew from Egypt, and of which one died of snakebite at Kariong." (Refs.38,39)

The Gosford Glyphs are not very well studied by Egyptologists. The main reason is that hieroglyphs outside Egypt (and Sudan) are not expected. These are extremely rare. Another reason is the glyphs date from the Old Kingdom, which is early. It means the hieroglyphs almost resemble an ideographic script. These glyphs were written in a careful manner, but not by professional scribes. The carvings were very well executed, but not by professional stone masons. So, all these reasons together caused for some confusion among the scientists involved (Refs.35-39).

Both the Australian National Library at Canberra and the British Museum in London possess a number of files and books, which document the Gosford Glyphs. All glyphs were examined by the biblical archaeologist Alan Roberts, who agreed upon their great age. The General Director of the Cairo Museum, Dr. Dia Abou-Ghazi, recognised the translation of Johnson as the true story behind the Gosford Glyphs (Refs.35-39). The former Egyptian minister of Antiquities, Dr. Zahi Hawass, is aware of the presence of the Gosford Hieroglyphs in Australia.

There is so much evidence about the importance of the Gosford Hieroglyphs, that a complete archaeological excavation should be carried out to preserve the whole site for future generations to come. The translations of the Egyptologist Ray Johnson and of the linguist Hans-Dieter von Senff illustrate this importance. Together with at least 50 other Egyptian remains in Australia, it might be possible to reconstruct the Egyptian influence on this continent (Refs.9,15,16,35-39).

However, up to this moment the Australian government fails to protect the site, and has not the power to encourage thorough research. Gregory Gilbert and others (Refs.4,33,-34) have recently shown, that modern glyphs were added to the walls. And indeed, if the government does not supply enough money for preservation and for this type of research, the quality of the site will definitely diminish.

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