

SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Volume 25

2021

Reports

- An inscribed basin of the 18th dynasty (reign of Amenhotep III) from the fortress of Shalfak in Lower Nubia** 1
W. Vivian Davies
- Angareeb-bed production in modern Nubia: Documenting a dying craft tradition** 11
Manuela Lehmann
- The biocultural heritage and historical ecology of date palm cultivation in Nubian villages, northern Sudan** 24
Philippa Ryan, Mohammed Hassan, Mohamed Saad, Marcus Jaeger, Caroline Cartwright, Dorian Fuller and Neal Spencer
- The archaeological and heritage survey of the Northern el-Mahas region. First season's report (2020)** 40
Abdelrahman Ibrahim Said
- Preliminary report for the Western Desert of the Third Cataract Region Project (Wadi Gorgod - first season 2018-2019)** 49
Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen, Altayeb Abdalla Hassbrabo, Safa Gamal Idres, Samar Salah Mustafa, and Fatima Idris Mahmoud
- Starting anew at Old Dongola** 67
Artur Obłuski and Dorota Dzierbicka
- From development displacement and salvage archaeology in Nubia to inclusive sustainable heritage and development crafting in Old Dongola** 82
Peter Bille Larsen
- Dialogue Community Project in Old Dongola (2019-2021)** 95
Tomomi Fushiya
- Wadi Abu Dom investigations: El Rum Oasis** 108
Tim Karberg and Angelika Lohwasser
- Goldmines, nomad camps, and cemeteries: The 2018 season of the Atbai Survey Project** 121
Julien Cooper
- Archaeological report on the excavation of a post-Meroitic necropolis at el-Madanab (Shahid Rescue Archaeological Project)** 135
Fakhri Hassan Abdallah, Romain David and Iwona Koziaradzka-Ogunmakin
- The archaeological site of Damboya in the Shendi Reach. Second season** 154
Marc Maillot
- Building E at Damboya, second season** 168
Gabrielle Choimet
- (Re)examining the tomb of Queen Yeturow at Nuri** 184
Meghan E. Strong, Susan Doll, Fakhri Hassan Abdallah, Helen O'Brien, Simone Petacchi, Abigail Breidenstein and Pearce Paul Creasman
- Dental insights into the biological affinities of the inhabitants of Gabati over a period of cultural transition** 195
Emma L. W. Phillips, Joel D. Irish and Daniel Antoine
- Jebel Hawrā, a new archaeological site in Eastern Sudan** 209
Enrico Giancristofaro

Studies

Was the individual buried in MOG012.4 a Christian, a pagan, or both? Evidence for the appropriation of Christianity from a Late Antique-Early Medieval tumulus grave on Mograt Island 221
Claudia Näser, Alexandros Tsakos and Jens Weschenfelder

After ‘InBetween’: Disentangling cultural contacts across Nubia during the 2nd millennium BC 230
Aaron de Souza

Skeuomorphism in Kerma metal vessels 243
Carl Walsh

Heart scarabs and other heart-related objects in New Kingdom Nubia 252
Rennan Lemos

***Sheikh and Melik* 1925: A short note** 270
Paul T. Nicholson

Book reviews 274

Obituaries

Peter MacKenzie Smith (1946-2020) 279

Professor Abdelgadir Mahmoud Abdallah (1937-2021) 279

Sandro Salvatori (1948-2020) 280

George Hart (1945-2021) 283

Biographies 284

Miscellanies 289

Front cover. Cattle and two goats\gazelle from Site GRD-14 in the Wadi Gorgod (photo Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen).

Sudan & Nubia is a peer-reviewed journal. The opinions expressed within the journal are those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions or views of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society or its editors.

Obituaries



Peter Mackenzie Smith
outside Luxor Museum
(1980s).

Peter Mackenzie Smith (1946-2020)

Peter Mackenzie Smith enjoyed a long and distinguished career with the British Council (1969-1996), working in several of its offices overseas, notably in Cairo (where I first had the pleasure of meeting him and his wife, Sandra). He served as a Cultural Attaché, Egypt (1972-1978, in his first year acting as a Cairo liaison officer for the London Tutankhamun exhibition), as Deputy Director, Egypt (1983-1987), and, later, in Lagos, as Director, Nigeria, and Regional Director, West Africa (1992-1994). During these years, Peter, who had read Classics at Cambridge, developed a keen interest in archaeology (particularly that of the Nile Valley), in the preservation of ancient sites and in the wider dissemination of knowledge to include local communities, with a distinctive thread of his professional life, both during and after his Council years, being a commitment to the promotion of educational and training programmes.

As the Council's Projects Director (London, 1987-1992), he played a significant role in the formation of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society (launched in late 1991), participating as adviser in a meeting between representatives of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) and the British Museum (BM), which was held in Khartoum in early 1990, under the auspices of the Council. The meeting agreed a set of provisional aims for the putative Society (to be housed in the BM) and a tentative future programme of field-work, publication and outreach (a programme fully realised, with the co-operation of NCAM, over the ensuing years; see *Sudan & Nubia* 20 [2016], 2-10).

Peter agreed to join the Society's committee in 1995 and proved to be a great asset, offering, when issues arose, invariably sage advice based on wide experience of the world abroad, and drawing, when required, on his impressive network of contacts. Among other matters, he did much to help maintain good relations with representatives of the source-community, with whom he felt a natural affinity.

A colleague of great charm and sociability, blessed with a discerning intellect, Peter will be much missed by the Society and all who knew him. We offer our sincere condolences to Sandra and the family.

W. Vivian Davies

SARS, Chairman (1991-2012)

DOI: 10.32028/Sudan_and_Nubia_25_pp279

Professor Abdelgadir Mahmoud Abdallah (1937-2021)

A Personal Appreciation

It is with great sorrow that I record the sudden death of Professor Abdelgadir, who passed away in Khartoum on the 7th January 2021. Abdelgadir Mahmoud Abdallah was born and raised in al-Kamlin in the Gezeira State. He graduated from the University of Khartoum, where he obtained a BA (Hons) in Ancient History in 1962 (the Department of Archaeology was only established in 1970). He then pursued further studies at the University of Durham in Britain, and received a first class BA (Hons) in ancient Egyptian and Sudanese studies, where he subsequently received his PhD in Meroitic studies, specialising in the Meroitic language, in 1970. He returned to Sudan and was appointed as a lecturer, and later promoted to Associate



Professor Abdelgadir Mahmoud Abdallah.

Professor in 1975.

It is of note that Abdelgadir Mahmoud was the first Sudanese individual to become the Head of the Department of Archaeology in the University of Khartoum (1970-1971); indeed, he participated in the establishment of the department before being promoted to Professor in 1978. He subsequently spent more than two decades at the King Saud University as a member of the academic staff, as well as the Secretary to the Symposium of the History of the Arabian Peninsula, during which time he managed, along with colleagues, to edit three volumes of studies of Arabian history. He was one of the founding members of the Arabian Archaeologists' Association, and in 2000 was awarded the Honorary Prize of 'The Arabian Archaeologists General Union' in Cairo. He returned to Sudan in 2001 and became Director of Research at the Open University, while teaching Meroitic studies at the University of Al-Neelain and the International University of Africa, Khartoum. He is the author of several publications on Meroitic language and culture.

While Professor Abdelgadir was a gifted researcher, he was also a kind personality, and his loss leaves a great gap in the study of Sudanese archaeology. Deepest sympathy goes to his family, students, colleagues and friends.

Prof. Abdelrahim M. Khabir
Department of Archaeology
College of Humanities
University of Bahri, Sudan

DOI: 10.32028/Sudan_and_Nubia_25_pp279-280



Sandro Salvatori.

Sandro Salvatori (1948-2020)

Sandro Salvatori passed away at his home in Treviso (Italy) on October 25, 2020, after a long illness. He spent the last twenty years of his career researching, together with his wife, Donatella Usai, the Holocene Prehistory of central Sudan and Nubia. His contribution has been instrumental in moving forward our current understanding of the Neolithic period in Nubia and the Mesolithic and Neolithic phases in the Khartoum region. His contribution to the field, his great professionalism, good nature, keen sense of humour and devotion to his work

will be sorely missed.

Sandro was born in Mestre (mainland of Venice, Italy) on September 1st, 1948. In 1972, he graduated from the University of Padua in Near Eastern Archaeology, writing a thesis on the 'Hittite rock-cut sanctuary of Yazilikaya'. In 1975, he obtained his post-graduate degree in Prehistory and Protohistory from the National School of Archaeology in Rome, under the supervision of Salvatore Maria Puglisi. He started

his career, between 1974 and 1978, as Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Venice, where he returned to in 1982 to teach Palaeoethnology. From 1980 to his retirement in 2011, he served as Archaeologist Director of the Superintendency for Architectural and Landscape Heritage of Eastern Veneto (Venice). From 1991-1992 Sandro was also director of the National Museum of Villa Pisani at Strà (Venice). In 2000, he founded, with his wife, the Centre for Sudanese and Sub-Saharan Studies.

As Superintendent in Veneto, Sandro oversaw many archaeological projects in Italy, mainly Late Roman and Early Medieval sites. However, it is through his membership of the Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East – IsMEO (later Institute for the Study of Africa and the Orient IsIAO) and a collaboration with the Ligabue Study and Research Centre of Venice, that Sandro began a long-lasting and extremely prolific research involvement in Asia (Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Turkey), Central America (Belize), and Egypt. He worked at Sharh-i-Sokhta in Iran with Maurizio Tosi, and with Rodolfo Fattovich, he discovered the site of Tell el-Farkha in Egypt.

Sandro's research interests centred around four main themes: cultural change, prehistoric economy, art history, and chronology. He researched the processes of socio-economic transformation from hunter-gathering to food producing societies, particularly in Oman. In that context, he studied a shell-midden site connected with so-called 'marginal' economies, which characterised the Arabian Gulf during the later prehistory. He applied ethnological and ethnoarchaeological techniques to define economic phenomena linked to craft production in early urban contexts in the Middle East and Mesoamerica. He further devoted a series of studies to the artistic culture and the chronology of the Bronze Age Near East and Middle Asia, after his discovery of the first Bactro-Margiana graveyard at Gonur-depe.

His field experience in Egypt began with a survey in the Mansoura region of the Nile Delta, which he co-directed with Fattovich in 1987-1988. The aim of the project was to investigate the dynamics of incorporation of the Delta into the emerging Egyptian state and its relations with the Near East. The site of Tell el-Farkha was identified during that survey and a targeted excavation was undertaken in 1989-1990 under Sandro's and Fattovich's direction. The expedition brought to light traces of Old Kingdom mud brick architecture, and a few traces of the earlier phases of use at the site, but exploration had to be suspended because of a budget shortage and technical problems. Marek Chłodnicki, of the Poznań Archaeological Museum in Poland, was part of the Italian team and it is through him that the site ended-up being investigated by a Polish project starting in 1998, revealing one of the most important Predynastic sites in Egypt.

If the experience at Tell el-Farkha did not last long enough to crown Sandro's career with a great discovery, it certainly enabled him to find the love of his life, Donatella. She was one of the project's team members, a former doctoral student of Fattovich at the University of Naples L'Orientale, who specialised in the prehistory of the Nile Valley. From that time, they were a match made in heaven: Sandro a ceramic specialist, Donatella a lithic specialist; Sandro very much into theory, methodology, and technology, Donatella a wizard with drawings. They complemented each other well in life and in their work.

In 2000, Sandro shifted his main research interest from Asia to Africa. Together with Donatella, he started two new projects in Sudan. One, a joint venture between his Centre for Sudanese and Sub-Saharan Studies and the Sudan Archaeological Research Society in London, investigated a Neolithic cemetery at Kawa, Upper Nubia. The final volume on the excavation, published in 2008, is a seminal work and the first systematic publication dedicated to a Nubian Neolithic cemetery (Salvatori and Usai 2008, *A Neolithic Cemetery in the Northern Dongola Reach*, Sudan Archaeological Research Society 16, London). Sandro and Donatella developed an outstanding piece of research, involving several specialists who contributed an unprecedented wealth of knowledge to the archaeological material. Sandro's work on the pottery has been instrumental in building a relative chronology for the ceramic types, for the site itself, and for the Nubian Neolithic phase. Sandro's

approach was to use seriation analysis to precisely distinguish relative sequential stages, supported by several radiometric dates, which produced the first detailed absolute chronology of the period.

The high standard adopted for the publication of the cemetery in Upper Nubia was later applied by Sandro and Donatella to the publication of the Neolithic cemetery of Ghaba in central Sudan. The site had been investigated by a French team and never completely published. Sandro and Donatella took-up the challenge with Yves Lecointe and produced another seminal publication (Salvatori, Usai, and Leiconte 2016. *Ghaba: An Early Neolithic Cemetery in Central Sudan*, Frankfurt a.M., Africa Magna Verlag). It highlighted how the Neolithic way of life was imported into the region from Nubia in the 5th millennium BC. The influence from the north was particularly clear in the material culture, with elements previously unknown in the region introduced into the local repertoire.

One of the most exciting finds that their work in Kawa and Ghaba produced was the discovery of evidence for domesticated cereals at both sites, from the beginning of the 5th millennium BC and slightly earlier. This predates the evidence from Egypt, revolutionising our understanding on how and when agriculture originated and spread in the Nile Valley.

The second project they initiated is still ongoing in the region of Omdurman, north of Khartoum, thanks to the dedicated work of Donatella and collaborators from the Universities of Padua, Parma, and Milan, all keen on completing Sandro's work and keeping his legacy alive. The project includes geoarchaeological survey and excavations of various exceptional sites. Their rigorous method of excavation was instrumental in finally developing a relative chronological sequence for the Khartoum region, particularly regarding the Mesolithic period. Sandro's analysis of the ceramic repertoire identified a new series of pottery decoration pertaining to the earliest part of the Mesolithic. The discovery of a graveyard with bodies oddly positioned in an extended manner, face down, is also outstanding. The skeletons, and the site overall, has not been securely dated so far, but its sequential relationship to other datable contexts suggests a pre-Mesolithic date for this unique burial ground.

Sandro leaves his wife, a huge, high-level, scientific legacy, and fond memories among those who worked with him, and had the good fortune to know, and appreciate him. Early in 2020, a volume dedicated to Sandro was edited by Donatella and two of his closest collaborators (Usai, Tuzzato and Vidale 2020, *Tales of Three Worlds – Archaeology and Beyond: Asia, Italy, Africa. A Tribute to Sandro Salvatori*. Oxford). A gathering was organised in early March 2020 in Padua to officially present the volume to Sandro. That day Italy went into lockdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the gathering was cancelled. I was one of the contributors to the volume and on March 17, 2020, Sandro sent me the following (and last) email:

Ciao Carmela,

What a pleasure to see in this truly unexpected book your much-appreciated contribution together with your overt friendship, which I of course reciprocate. It is a pity that your wandering between the States, London and Egypt makes it so rare for us to see each other, but I still hope we will (I should say, I will, with what is happening to me) still have a chance to meet and spend some time together chatting amiably, including on your work on the Neolithic pottery from Multaga.

With sincere affection,

Sandro

We never had that chance, the pandemic and the cancer stole it from us.

Maria Carmela Gatto
Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures
Polish Academy of Sciences
DOI: 10.32028/Sudan_and_Nubia_25_pp280-282



George Hart.

George Hart (1945-2021)

George Hart was a devoted member of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society and joined the SARS Committee in 1993, where he served as an active member until his death in February 2021.

He was one of Britain's leading educators about ancient Egypt and Sudan and inspired many to visit and study the Nile valley. He joined the British Museum in 1973, where he worked in the Education Department until he retired in 2004. Following retirement, he continued as a freelance lecturer and writer, teaching courses, leading cruise tours around the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Egypt for Swan Hellenic and Noble Caledonia, and

presenting gallery talks in the British Museum about Egypt and the classical world. His courses were engaging and always oversubscribed, and his entertaining lectures and gallery talks drew large crowds.

George was the author of numerous popular books about the Nile valley, including the well-known Routledge *Dictionary of Egyptian Gods and Goddesses* (1st ed. 1986; 2nd ed. 2005), *Egyptian Myths* (1990) and the two-volume *The Pharaohs* (2010), as well as books for travellers such as *Pharaohs and Pyramids* (1991), and several books for children.

George regularly attended SARS colloquia and lectures, and his support of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society and its work was valued. His sense of humour and convivial nature will be remembered and greatly missed.

Sam Moorhead FSA

National Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman coins

Portable Antiquities and Treasure, UK

DOI: 10.32028/Sudan_and_Nubia_25_pp283