

SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Volume 28

2024

The Kirwan Memorial Lecture

Forts in Upper Nubia and a new perspective on the first centuries of Alwa and Makuria

Mariusz Drzewiecki

1-21

Reports

Sai Island: defensive architecture of a New Kingdom town in Nubia

Franck Monnier and Vincent Francigny

22-38

Sai Island: medieval architectural remains of a flourishing era

Hugo Dussart and Vincent Francigny

39-52

Newly identified macrobotanical remains from Old Dongola (14th-18th centuries AD), Northern Sudan: a breakthrough in archaeobotanical research

Mohammed Nasreldein

53-64

Keepers of tradition: preliminary remarks from the ethnographic investigation of customs associated with clothing and authority among Sudanese women

Joanna A. Ciesielska, Agnes Dudek and Fatima Edres Ali Mahmoud

65-72

Jebel Barkal 2018-2023: new research on the Napatan and Meroitic city

Geoff Emberling, Tim Skuldbøl, El-Hassan Ahmed Mohamed, Sami Elamin, Gregory Tucker, Pawel Wolf, Burkart Ullrich, Suzanne Davis, Saskia Büchner-Matthews, Dobiesława Bagińska, Rebecca Bradshaw, Tohamy Abulgasim, Jan Peeters, Timotheus Winkels, Richard Redding, Anna den Hollander, Dorian Q Fuller, Abigail Breidenstein, Taylor Bryanne Woodcock, and Jochen Hallof

73-98

Rescue excavations at Jebel Barkal by Dongola University's Department of Archeology (Seasons 14 and 15)

Mohamed Fath al-Rahman Ahmed Idris

99-109

Survey of the Meroitic site of el-Hassa. Understanding the links between the Amun temple of Amanakhareqerama and the settlement

Tomasz Herbich and Marie Millet

110-131

Archaeological discoveries in the hills and coastline of the Red Sea State, Eastern Sudan 2016-2021. Preliminary report

Fakhri Hassan Abdallah Hassan

132-151

The Sudan Military Railway between Wadi Halfa and Abidiya

Derek A. Welsby

152-193

Archaeological and paleoenvironmental survey in the White Nile state (first season, 2022)

Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen, Al Bagir Badwi, Siddig Mahadi, Manahil Mohammed Farah, Mukhtar Maaliieldin and Abdelhai Abdelsawi

194-210

Studies

Excavating 'Areika': Cuthbert Balleine and the 1907 Eckley B. Coxe Jr. Expedition to Nubia

T. O. Moller

211-222

Metal anklets at Faras and other Meroitic sites: form, function, chronology and a response to Vila's 'gens à anneaux'

Henry Cosmo Bishop-Wright

223-256

Darfur in the early 1980s: a photographic record of communities, craft, and change Zoe Cormack	257-266
Further insights into a forgotten aspect of Meroitic religion: the amulets of Apedemak Mahmoud A. Emam	267-278
The ancient Nubian skeletal collection at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain Mar Casquero, Víctor M. Fernández, Salomé Zurinaga Fernández-Toribio, Mohamed Saad and Luis Ríos	279-289
Sudan in Swansea Kenneth Griffin	290-302

Obituaries

Professor Dr Ibrahim Musa Mohamed Hamdon – Director General of NCAM An homage to his work Ghalia Gar el-Nabi	303-305
Professor Khider Adam Eisa (1947–2023), Cairo Professor Intisar Soghayroun el-Zein	306-307
Professor Ibrahim Mousa Mohamed Hamdoun (1953-2024), Cairo Professor Intisar Soghayroun el-Zein	307-308
Professor Abdul Rahim Mohamed Khabeer (--2024), State of South Sudan Professor Intisar Soghayroun el-Zein	308-310
Professor Mahmoud El-Tayeb (1957–2024), Poland Professor Intisar Soghayroun el-Zein	310-311
Professor Herman Bell (10th March 1933-7th February 2023) Kirsty Rowan	311-314
Henry (Harry) Sidney Smith (June 14th, 1928–September 8th, 2024) Robert Morkot	314-318

Biographies

Miscellanies

Front cover. General view of Site WNP-J-22\1, Al-Jabalain, White Nile State. Photo by Hamad Mohammed Hamdeen.

Sudan & Nubia is a double-blind 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.

Sudan in Swansea

Kenneth Griffin

Introduction

In 1971, 92 crates containing around 4,000 objects arrived at Swansea College (now Swansea University) following the dispersal of the Wellcome collection (Griffin 2025, 56–59). There were no museum facilities at the institution at the time, so the objects were unboxed in an unused science lab. This task was undertaken by Kate Bosse-Griffiths (1910–1998), who became the honorary curator of the collection (Lloyd 1998). A small number of objects were noted at the time as coming from Nubia, with subsequent objects identified in more recent years following archival research. However, almost all of these objects remain unpublished and virtually unknown to scholars. This paper will present a brief overview of the collection now housed in the Egypt Centre, Swansea.

The Wellcome Collection

Sir Henry Wellcome, a pharmaceutical tycoon of immense fortune, had a profound interest in the ancient world and the evolution of medical practices (Rhodes James 1994; Larson 2009). In the early 1900s, he envisioned a ‘Museum of Man’ that would house artefacts created, used, or influenced by humanity throughout its history (Arnold and Olsen 2003; Russell 1987, 21). To populate this ambitious museum, Wellcome dispatched his agents to acquire countless objects at auction, while also sponsoring archaeological expeditions in Egypt and Sudan. Through these efforts, he amassed a vast collection of artefacts. In 1913, the Wellcome Museum of Historical Medicine (WMHM) opened its doors, showcasing a remarkable selection of these treasures and offering visitors a glimpse into the rich narrative of human history and medical advancement (Symons 1993, 7; Larson 2009, 143).

Wellcome is also renowned for his involvement in the Sudanese archaeological sites of Jebel Moya, Abu Geili, Saqadi, and Dar el-Mek (Addison 1949), which he excavated over several seasons before the outbreak of the First World War (1911–1914). At the same time, Wellcome also received material directly from several excavations in Sudan. He generously funded five seasons of work at Meroe, directed by John Garstang (1876–1956), and received a share of the discovered artefacts as a reward for his patronage from the Excavations Committee of the Institute of Archaeology, Liverpool University. Moreover, in 1921, Wellcome eagerly accepted the opportunity to acquire objects from the Oxford Excavations in Nubia, directed by Francis Llewellyn Griffith (1862–1934), in exchange for a monetary donation.

One individual who may be unfamiliar to many is William St. Chad Boscawen (1855–1913; Horry 2015). Between 1907 and his death in 1913, Boscawen was given the responsibility of cataloguing Wellcome’s early Egyptian and Sudanese artefacts. Boscawen was an Assyriologist who had a brief stint at the British Museum, possessed a rudimentary understanding of hieroglyphs, and even published several Egyptological papers. During this period, he created five handwritten manuscripts titled *Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities*, which were recently unearthed within the archives of the Petrie Museum. While many of the entries are concise, Boscawen frequently included details that are absent from the auction catalogues, such as transcriptions or translations of the ancient texts (the latter often inaccurate). The five volumes encompass objects acquired through auctions, excavations, and Wellcome’s personal purchases while in Egypt. In total, Boscawen catalogued over 6,000 objects, including 700 objects from Garstang’s five seasons of Meroe (Table 1).

While much of Wellcome’s Egyptian material was dispersed in 1971 to institutions across the UK (Griffin 2025, table 2), the Petrie Museum retained the bulk of the objects from Meroe. This was because

Volume	Collection	Entries	Objects
3	“Meroe No 1” (1909–10)	49	50+
3	“Meroe No 2” (1910–11)	166	362+
5	“Meroe Collection No. 3” (1911–12)	55	92+
5	“Meroe Collection No. 4” (1912–13)	110	178+
5	“Meroe Collection No. 5” (1913–14)	78	116+
TOTAL		458	798

Table 1. Objects from Meroe in the *Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities* volumes.

David Marshall Dixon (1930–2005), then Honorary Research Associate in the Egyptology Department at University College London, had a particular interest in Nubia (Martin 2006). Dixon previously served as Research Fellow at the Wellcome Institute (1959–1964) classifying the Egyptian and Sudanese material. In a report Dixon wrote to the Director of the Wellcome Institute in December 1959, he noted that ‘the most important items so far examined are the 11 cases of Sudan material’ (WA/HMM/RP/Sta/20). A few months later (April 1960), he wrote that ‘these, like the remainder of finds from the site [of Meroe], had never been touched, having apparently been sent to store almost immediately after arrival in the Museum. In consequence some of the material, in particular the inscribed architectural blocks, had suffered some damage during the past half century’ (WA/HMM/RP/Sta/20).

The Meroitic material Wellcome received directly from Garstang was diverse, consisting of fragments of architecture, statues, pottery, inlays, foundation deposits, spindle whorls, archer’s thumb rings, and jewellery. In some cases, Boscawen had included transcriptions of the texts or drawings of the objects, such as the decorative patterns on the spindle whorls. This enabled Dixon to match up many of the objects catalogued by Boscawen, aided by numbers added to each object (or group of objects) during the early cataloguing process. One of the most significant objects from the collection is the Auletes statue, which was found in the baths at Meroe during the 1911–12 season. This statue was published by Dixon and Wachsmann (1964) and is now in the Petrie Museum (UC8964). Wellcome also acquired further objects from Garstang’s Meroe excavations through auctions. This includes sales from the well-known collections of Henry Martyn Kennard (1833–1911), Ralph Brocklebank (1840–1921), and Rev. William MacGregor (1848–1937). Like Wellcome, all three men supported Garstang’s excavations in Egypt and Sudan in exchange for a percentage of the finds. These objects can be traced back to Meroe thanks to archival photos of the excavations, descriptions in the auction catalogues, and excavation labels written on the objects.

Sanam

The site of Sanam is located 25km downstream of the Fourth Cataract in Sudan. It is situated just a few kilometres south of the sacred site of Jebel Barkal, and between the royal cemeteries of el-Kurru (to the south) and Nuri (to the north). Sanam was excavated during the 1912–13 season of the University of Oxford Excavations in Nubia led by Francis Llewellyn Griffith (Griffith 1923; Lohwasser 2010). Over the course of four months at the site, Griffith and his team excavated around 1550 tombs. Finds from the cemetery are scattered throughout the world, including the collections of the Sudan National Museum Khartoum, the Ashmolean Museum, the British Museum, and the Ägyptisches Museum Berlin.

In 1921, a selection of objects from Sanam were offered by Griffith to the WMMH. Archives in the Wellcome Collection reveal that this included necklaces, a large pottery head, amulets, a granite pestle, alabaster cosmetic containers, and a pair of eyes from a coffin. While the current whereabouts of most of



Figure 1. Eye inlays from Sanam (W624 & W626).

the Sanam objects given to Wellcome are unknown, the pair of eyes was recently identified in the Egypt Centre collection (W624 and W626). This was made possible thanks to the faint traces of their Wellcome numbers in the corner of each eye. They are made of a copper alloy frame with the white scleras formed from ostrich eggshell. Unfortunately, in both cases the pupils are missing, although the stained outlines are still visible (Figure 1).

Wellcome archives provide further details about the eyes. In a letter written by WMHM's curator Charles J. S. Thompson (1862–1943) to Griffith, dated 02 February 1921, an 'enamelled eye' is mentioned as one of several objects from the site that 'would be of most interest for his [Wellcome's] collection' (WA/HMM/CO/Ear/351). The archive contains a report on the site written by Griffith, with the eyes listed as coming from Tomb 691, which dates to the Twenty-fifth Dynasty.

The accompanying tomb record reads as: 'Cave tomb, 15 steep steps, drop of 70 to narrow platform before embrasure, approach L. 380, W. 100–120, total D. 380, main chamber 600 by 180, with two side chambers, axis 320. On floor of main chamber, pair of bronze eyes and eyebrows from a wooden coffin, the former inlaid with white (ostrich egg?) shell on which is fixed a raised disc of obsidian? as pupil; fragments of hollow bronze; some bluish glaze tubular and ring beads; [smaller green and yellow glaze tubular beads; a few small yellow red green and black ring beads; small yellow ball beads]. In entrance, sandstone table of offerings with papyrus stem in middle and 8 loaves between *hes* vases, 40 by 35, including spout' (WA/HMM/CO/Ear/351).

Griffith's excavation report was published in 1923 and mentions the eyes twice. Firstly, he noted that 'amongst the cave graves, 691 preserves clear evidence of having contained a coffin in a pair of bronze eyes and eyebrows, such as are found inlaid in well-made wooden coffins from Egypt' (Griffith 1923, 84). Secondly, he said that 'in the cave grave 691 were found a pair of bronze eyes and eyebrows from a wooden coffin, the eyes inlaid with white (ostrich egg) shell on which is fixed a raised disk of obsidian (?) as pupil; also fragments of hollow bronze, which perhaps had formed the lobes, etc., of a pair of ears' (Griffith 1923, 106). Remarkably, W624 and W626 are the only eye inlays from a coffin found in the cemetery (Lohwasser 2012, 92). While the pupils of the eyes were recorded at the time of their registration at the WNHM, they have since become detached and subsequently lost. The eyebrows mentioned in the excavation report were not, however, listed as having been accessioned at the WMHM and it can only be assumed that they never accompanied the eyes to the museum.

Meroe

As mentioned previously, Wellcome benefited greatly from Garstang's excavations at Meroe. Several objects in the Egypt Centre's collection can be traced back to the material presented to Wellcome between 1909–1914.

EC2 is a rectangular-shaped red sandstone offering table with incised decoration on the top face (Figure



Figure 2. Offering table from grave 307 at Meroe (EC2).

2). The table is roughly in the shape of the *htp*-hieroglyph. Two tall vessels are depicted on either side, with water emanating from them towards two rectangular shapes. They flank a large lotus blossom with two bunches of grapes above. Eight circles, probably representing bread, are depicted along the upper edge of the table. Meroitic inscriptions are located along the bottom and right side (Leclant *et al.* 2000 788–9, REM 0436). The offering table was excavated within Tomb 307 at Meroe during the 1909–10 season. When excavated, the doors to the tomb were closed with sandstone blocks and re-used Meroitic offering tables, including EC2 (Garstang 1911, 58, 76 nr. 36, pls. LVI, LXXI nr. 36; Török 1997 I, 268). Hofmann (1991, 98, 122–3, 170) dates this offering table to 150–50 BC.

EC377 is a square-shaped sandstone offering table, which is heavily weathered (Figure 3). A lightly incised channel surrounds the edges of the top surface, with a notch at one end to resemble the *htp*-hieroglyph. Due to the weathering of the surface, it is difficult to make out the decoration on top, although it seems to consist of circular bread flanking a water vessel. The excavation mark on the side in black ink indicates that it was found within Tomb 362 at Meroe, which was also excavated during the 1909–10 season (Garstang 1911, 77, pl. LIX.4). It was one of four offering tables reused to block the door of the tomb (Török 1997 I, 268). According to the excavators, it contained a Meroitic inscription, although this is no longer visible (Leclant *et al.* 2000, 812–3, REM 0448).

The most interesting architectural fragment is EC1295, which was found in 1911 in the temple



Figure 3. Offering table from Tomb 362 at Meroe (EC377).

designated M 291 at Meroe (Figure 4). It was first published by Török (1997, I, 144–145, fig. N), though he was unaware of its current location in Swansea. More recently, it was republished by Hallof (2017), based on photographs supplied by the Egypt Centre, and identified as coming from the top of an abacus of the temple. Part of the inscription reads ‘the good Aqedise in Meroe’ and the name of the king Teqoridiamani, who ruled in the middle of the third century AD (Leclant *et al.* 2000 1910–11, REM 1261). According to Hallof, this is the first time that the cult of Aqedise, the Nubian form of the Egyptian god Khonsu, has been attested at Meroe.

Regrettably, due to the way the Wellcome collection was distributed, some objects seem to have been broken before portions made their way to Swansea. This includes EC1292, a sandstone fragment containing the outstretched

wing of a bird. Several years ago, this fragment was identified as joining a second fragment now housed in the Petrie Museum (Figure 5). UC44567 contains the tips of the bird’s feathers and the upper half of the double plumes of a god. It is unknown exactly when this block was broken into two pieces, but it must have been after it was given to Wellcome since it is recorded as being intact by Boscawen. Although the exact provenance for this piece is unknown, Boscawen does note that it comes from Garstang’s first season of work at the site. The presence of the double plumes suggests that it comes from the Amun Temple (M 260), which was excavated during this season (Garstang 1911, 11–16; Grzymski 2017, 134).

EC1304 is a fragment of a sandstone block with crudely incised decoration (Figure 6). The adjoining fragment was also recently identified in the Petrie Museum (UC44568). As with the object previously discussed, this item was broken after it entered the Wellcome collection, as is clear from the published photograph of the block in the excavation report (Garstang 1911, pl. XIX.2). The block contains four horizontal lines of a Meroitic inscription (Leclant *et al.* 742–3, REM 0413) in addition to the figures of a man and the head of a lion. According to Garstang’s report, the block was excavated from the steps in the Amun Temple (Garstang 1911, 70–71, pl. LXVIII).



Figure 4. Architectural fragment from M 291 at Meroe (EC1295).



Figure 5. Architectural fragments from Meroe (EC1292 & UC44567).



Figure 6. Architectural block from Meroe (EC1304 and UC44568, courtesy of the Petrie Museum, UCL).

A group of copper alloy model tools (EC686) arrived in Swansea with a card stating that they were from Garstang's excavations at Meroe (Figure 7). The small size of these tools indicates that they were from a foundation deposit. A set of such tools are listed by Boscawen as being given to Wellcome following Garstang's second season of work at the site. Each piece is described individually, with chisels, axeheads, mattocks, crowbars, spades, and other items. The tools he describes here are probably those found at site M 298.1, which was excavated during this season (Garstang 1912, 75–76). Török (1997 I, 167–168; II, pl. 135) dated this site to the Early Napatan Period, noting similar foundation deposits from Jebel Barkal. While the tools in Swansea resemble those from M 298.1, they do not seem to directly match those depicted in the excavation photograph. This would suggest that they are not those from Site M 298.1, which was excavated during the second season. However, a second set of copper alloy tools is listed in the *Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities* as found during Garstang's fourth season of work at Meroe (Garstang and George 1914).

The remaining objects in the Egypt Centre that can be traced back to Meroe were purchased by Wellcome at auction. As previously noted, they come from the collections of financial backers of Garstang's work at the site, including Kennard, MacGregor, and Brocklebank. In some cases, Wellcome bought objects at later auctions, which may have also originated from one of these collections. Among the pottery in the collection are at least three vessels from Meroe (Figure 8). These have all been identified thanks to the faint traces of excavation marks written on them, including Garstang's pottery classification 'Z', which relates to black pottery (Garstang 1911, 41–43). W742 is a handmade pottery bowl with triangular decoration on the rim. It has a flat base and a trimmed rim. The pattern around the rim consists of large incised triangles each containing six smaller triangles impressed with a stamp. There is single flange on the rim with a vertical, pre-fired hole through it. The bowl is black-fired and burnished. The label on the side indicates that the vessel originates from Tomb 304 at Meroe, which was excavated by John Garstang in 1910 within the Middle Necropolis (Török 1997 I, 267; II, fig. 147). Garstang describes this tomb as a ring-grave formed of dark pebbles, with a double entrance. This vessel was purchased by Wellcome at auction in 1920 and, thanks to the auction sticker still attached, it can be then traced to the collection of Martyn Kennard, which was sold in 1912 (Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge 1912, lot 192).

W751 is similar to W742, although void of any incised decoration around the rim (Figure 8). It entered the collection without documentation, so it is unknown where Wellcome obtained the vessel. W5370, on the other hand, was purchased by Wellcome from the MacGregor collection (Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge 1922, lot 1701). It is a small, black, globular jar made of Nile silt clay. The jar is wheel made, with visible wheel marks on the body, and it has a convex base. It has a narrow neck and a handle, both of which are now broken. Neither of these vessels appear to have tomb numbers recorded on them.

Seven archer's thumb rings of various stones and shapes entered the Egypt Centre via the Wellcome collection (Figure 9). Five of them (EC1246, W930, W931, W932, W933) were purchased by Wellcome in 1922 from the MacGregor Collection, while the other two are from that of Ralph Brocklebank (W312a, W312b), which was sold in the same year. Some of them are mistakenly listed in the auction catalogues as coming from Abydos, due to being grouped together with Predynastic maceheads. In fact, Garstang himself classified these objects as 'staff-heads', noting a large number of them from the cemeteries (Garstang 1911, 33–36). W312a is one that was listed as coming from Abydos, but it is actually depicted in the excavation report and listed as coming from Tomb 3 in the Southern Necropolis (Garstang 1911, 33, pl. XXXVI.2; Török 1997 I, 264; II, fig. 146). The tomb numbers for the remaining thumb rings are currently unknown.

A large number of glazed ceramic objects were found by Garstang during the course of his work at Meroe. These objects, including tiles, plaques, and other votive objects, were often inscribed with the



Figure 7. Model tools from Meroe (EC686).



Figure 8. Pottery from Meroe (W742, W751, and W5370).



Figure 9. Archer's thumb rings from Meroe (EC1246, W312a, W312b, W930, W931, W932, W933).

names of the rulers or their queens. In the excavation report, Garstang noted that 'objects of glaze and pottery of special interest were found beneath the flooring of several shrines and of the hall of columns' (Garstang 1911, 14). The Egypt Centre has several of these objects that probably originate from the sanctuary (M 264), which Török (1997 I, 123) dated to the 1st century BC–1st century AD.

W284 is perhaps the most interesting of the fragments (Garstang 1911, pl. X.1; Török 1997 I, 125). It is made of glazed ceramic on red brick, with the glaze coloured yellow, light blue, and black (Figure 10). The object seems to be a fragment of headdress decorated in relief; in fact, it seems to closely resemble the vulture-cap commonly worn by goddesses. What was the object used for and what did it originally look like? The brick itself is quite thin, perhaps indicating that it was used as a decorative tile. Yet the interior of the fragment is also glazed, which might suggest that it was part of some larger object. It was purchased by Wellcome in 1922 from the collection of the Reverend William MacGregor (Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge 1922, lot 1321).

EC401 and W285 are glazed ceramic fragments with decoration containing *uraei*. Both are formed of a matrix of red brick with a blue/green glaze. EC401 (Figure 11) shows the upper part of a shrine, decorated on top with two double-feathered plumes fronted with sun-discs. Below this is a frieze consisting of at least eight *uraei*. W285 (Figure 12) depicts four *uraei* facing to the left, each with a solar disc atop their heads. Both objects appear to have been found underneath the floor of the sanctuaries of the temple, perhaps indicating that they were foundation deposits. Foundation deposits, which were chosen to symbolically ensure the effectiveness and longevity of the building, are well attested at temple sites in both Egypt and Nubia (Pope 2014, 23–25). Many of them do take the form of faience plaques or other similar objects. EC401 was also part of MacGregor lot 1321, with W284 above, while W285 was purchased by Wellcome at auction in 1931 (J. C. Stevens. Auction and Sale Rooms, 30 Jun 1931, Lot 25).

Two further glazed ceramic objects (Figure 13) were purchased by Wellcome as part of MacGregor lot 1321, perhaps indicating they also originated from Meroe. EC396 is a funnel-shaped object of green faience, which is partially broken. There is slight decoration present on the curved sides, resembling elongated petals, plus a triple raised line running around the wider end. This object is quite similar to



Figure 10. Glazed ceramic fragment from M 264 at Meroe (W284).

another in the Oriental Museum, Durham (EG938), which was purchased by Wellcome from the collection of Robert Grenville Gayer-Anderson (1881–1945). EC402 is a fragment of ceramic with a leafy decoration in relief. The leafy decoration has a light blue-green and yellow glaze against a purple ground. Based on parallels, this fragment was part of a particular type of faience vessel common during the Roman Period. Complete examples of these can be found in the Louvre (E 22585) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA 21.2.3). This type of vessel has been the subject of a detailed study by Nenna and el-Din (2000).

EC451 is a small faience head of a lion headed deity, who can perhaps be identified as Apedemak (Žabkar 1975). This head, which measures just 3cm in height, has a hole in the top, presumably for the insertion of a headdress (Figure 14). It was previously published by Török (1997 I, 205; II, pl. 168), although he was again unaware at the time of its present location. A comparison between the archival photograph and the object today reveals that it has suffered some damage to the face in the intervening years. The object was excavated in 1912 in spot M 943, one of the rooms of a house erected over the ruins of complex M 296-942-948 (Garstang and George 1914, 3, 6, 13).



Figure 11. Glazed ceramic fragment (EC401).



Figure 12. Glazed ceramic fragment (W285).



Figure 13. Glazed ceramic objects (EC396 and EC402).



Figure 14. Head of a faience figure (EC451).

EC403 is a ceramic *sa-sign* with a greenish glaze (Figure 16), which was purchased by Wellcome at auction in 1930 (J. C. Stevens. Auction and Sale Rooms, 19–20 Aug 1930, Lot 375). The object was previously broken into several pieces before being restored. This object is one of several inlays that were used to decorate the area designated M 195. Excavations of the area in 1912 revealed an extensive water sanctuary complex, which was dedicated to the local god Apedemak (Török 1997 I, 63–91). Archival photographs show many of these inlays were still intact within the structure (Török 1997 II, pls. 30, 32–33, 51).

David Dixon Collection

There is a further group of Sudanese objects in the Egypt Centre that should be briefly mentioned. Around 2004, the archive of David Dixon was gifted to Swansea University, which included books and articles, photographs and slides, and plant samples. The collection was housed in the Department of Classics, Ancient History, and Egyptology until it was agreed to transfer it into the care of the Egypt Centre in 2020. While the process of working through this material is still ongoing, two box files contained samples and objects labelled as ‘Garstang Meroe, specimens for examination’ and ‘fragments of Nubian sandstone’. Among the objects are five pieces of painted ostrich eggshells (EC2362; Figure 17), which may also have originated from Garstang’s work at Meroe (Hodos 2020). The *Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities* manuscript mentions ‘fragments of painted ostrich eggshell (in wooden box)’ from the 1913–14 season. Were these objects and samples part of the Wellcome collection, which Dixon worked on for many years? Unfortunately, there are no further details, so it is only speculative at this stage.



Figure 16. Glazed ceramic sa-sign (EC403).

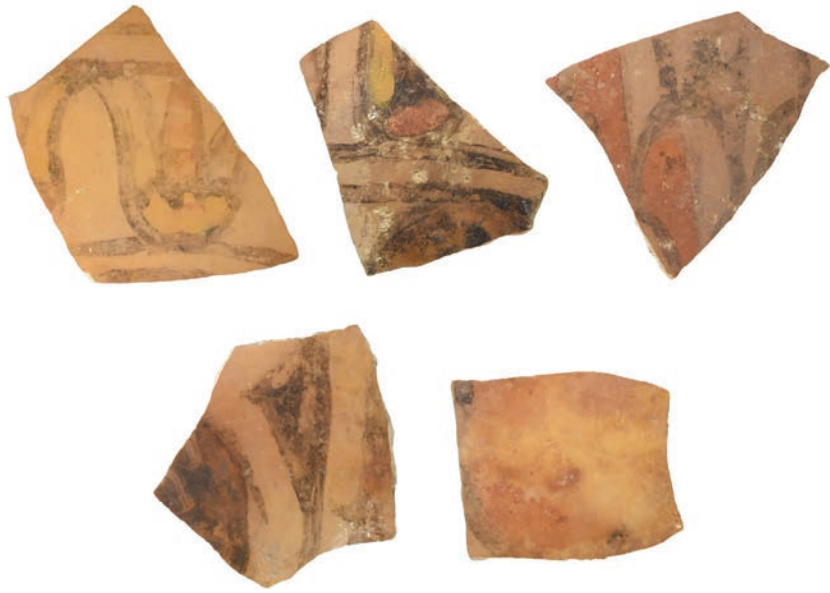


Figure 17. Fragment of painted ostrich eggshell (EC2362).

In addition to this, there are several sealed envelopes containing samples of wooden objects found at Kerma in 1913–14 and Meroe in 1921, during the excavations of George Andrew Reisner (1867–1942). According to the text written on the envelopes, the samples are from objects now in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (20.1382; 20.1390; 20.1391; 20.1814; 21.3.263). Furthermore, there are two small boxes of samples from Buhen, including almost thirty seed and grain samples from ‘Bin 4’. These samples undoubtedly come from the fortress of Buhen, which was excavated by the Egypt Exploration Society between 1957–64. Numerous bins are recorded by the excavators as having been identified during the course of their work (Emery *et al.* 1979). Dixon was part of these missions during the first two seasons and was responsible for the scientific contributions.

Concluding Remarks

The purpose of this paper has been to highlight the objects from Sudan currently in the Egypt Centre collection. While the objects presented here are all rather small and fragmentary, they present an important link between excavation, archival, and museum research. Many of these objects were previously deemed to be ‘lost’ by Török and other scholars. Despite being only a brief introduction to the material, it is hoped that this article will lead to further research on the collection. All the objects are accessible to researchers on the museum’s online catalogue (<https://egyptcentre.abasetcollections.com/>) while many of them are also available as 3D models via Sketchfab (<https://skfb.ly/oUJLx>). This paper also highlights the potential of archive-based work around the Wellcome collection, particularly with the rediscovery of the *Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities* manuscripts in the Petrie Museum. It is possible that further objects in the Egypt Centre collection will be traced back to Garstang’s excavations at Meroe with the help of these manuscripts. Furthermore, the virtual reunion of architectural blocks shared between the Egypt Centre and the Petrie Museum opens the possibility of physically reuniting the blocks in the future.

References

- Addison, F. 1949. *Jebel Moya. The Wellcome Excavations in the Sudan*, 2 vols. London.
- Arnold, K. and D. Olsen. 2003. *Medicine Man: The Forgotten Museum of Henry Wellcome*. London.
- Dixon, D. M. and K. P. Wachsmann. 1964. ‘A sandstone statue of an auletes from Meroë’, *Kush* 12, 119–125.
- Emery, W. B., H. S. Smith, and A. Millard. 1979. *The Fortress of Buhen: The Archaeological Report. With Contributions by D. M.*

- Dixon, J. Clutton-Brock, R. Burleigh, and R. M. F. Preston. London.
- Garstang, J. 1911. *Meroë, The City of the Ethiopians: Being an Account of a First Season's Excavations on the Site, 1909–1910*. Oxford.
- Garstang, J. 1912. 'Second interim report on the excavations at Meroë in Ethiopia', *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology* 4, 45–71.
- Garstang, J. and W. S. George 1914. 'Fourth interim report on the excavations at Meroë in Ethiopia', *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology* 6, 1–21.
- Griffith, F. L. 1923. 'Oxford excavations in Nubia. XVIII. The cemetery of Sanam', *Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology* 10, 73–171.
- Griffin, K. 2025. 'The early Egyptian and Sudanese collections of Sir Henry Wellcome', *African Arts* 58(1), 44–63.
- Grzymski, K. 2017. 'The Amun Temple at Meroe revisited', *Sudan & Nubia* 21, 134–147.
- Hallof, J. 2017. 'Eine wiederentdeckte Inschrift des Königs Teqorideamani (REM 1261)', *Beiträge zur Sudanforschung* 12, 111–117.
- Hodos, T. 2020. 'Eggstraordinary artefacts: decorated ostrich eggs in the ancient Mediterranean world', *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 7(45), 1–7.
- Hofmann, I. 1991. *Steine für die Ewigkeit: meroitische Opfertafeln und Totenstelen*. Vienna.
- Horry, R. 2015. 'Assyriology at the margins, the case of William St. Chad Boscawen (1855–1913)', *Iraq* 77(1), 107–128.
- Larson, F. 2009. *An Infinity of Things: How Sir Henry Wellcome Collected the World*. Oxford.
- Leclant, J., A. Heyler, C. Berger el Naggar, C. Carrier and C. Rilly. 2000. *Répertoire d'Épigraphie Méroïtique, Tome II - REM 0401 à REM 0851*. Paris.
- Lloyd, A. B. 1998. 'Kate Bosse-Griffiths', *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 84, 191–193.
- Lohwasser, A. 2010. *The Kushite Cemetery of Sanam: a Non-Royal Burial Ground of the Nubian Capital, c.800–600 BC*. London.
- Lohwasser, A. 2012. *Aspekte der napatanischen Gesellschaft: archäologisches Inventar und funeräre Praxis im Friedhof von Sanam - Perspektiven einer kulturhistorischen Interpretation*. Contributions to the Archaeology of Egypt, Nubia and the Levant 1. Vienna.
- Martin, G. T. 2006. 'David M. Dixon 1930–2005', *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 92, 241–243.
- Nenna, M.-D. and M. Seif el-Din 2000. *La Vaiselle en Faience d'Époque Gréco-Romaine: Catalogue du Musée Gréco-Romain d'Alexandrie*. Cairo.
- Pope, J. 2014. *The Double Kingdom under Taharqa: Studies in the History of Kush and Egypt, c.690–664 BC*. Leiden-Boston.
- Rhodes James, R. 1994. *Henry Wellcome*. London.
- Russell, G. 1987. 'The Wellcome Historical Medical Museum's dispersal of non-medical material, 1936 to 1983', *Newsletter (Museum Ethnographers Group)* 20, 21–45.
- Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge 1912. *Catalogue of the Important Collection of Egyptian Antiquities formed by the Late H. Martyn Kennard, Esq. of Lowndes Square: Comprising Works in Stone and Bronze, Faience Figures and Amulets, Pottery, Ushabtiu Figures, Ancient Personal Ornaments in Gold and Silver, Figures etc., Carved in Wood, Portrait Panels, Scarabaei, and a Few Specimens of Arab Metal Work; Which Will be Sold by Auction by Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge [...] on Tuesday, the 16th of July, 1912, and Three Following Days*. London.
- Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge 1922. *Catalogue of the MacGregor Collection of Egyptian Antiquities: Which Will be Sold by Auction by Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge [...] on Monday, the 26th of June, 1922, and Four Following Days, and [...] Monday, the 3rd of July, 1922, and Three Following Days*. London.
- Symons, J. 1993. *Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine: A Short History*. London.
- Török, L. 1997. *Meroe City, an Ancient African Capital: John Garstang's Excavations in the Sudan*. London.
- Žabkar, Louis. V. 1975. *Apedemak Lion God of Meroe: a Study in Egyptian-Meroitic Dyncrretism*. Warminster.
- WA/HMM/RP/Sta/20. Dixon. Wellcome Collection. Available at: <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hnd433hx>.
- WA/HMM/CO/Ear/351. Griffith, F Llewellyn. Wellcome Collection. Available at: <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hnnggc8a>.