

SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Volume 26

2022

Introducing the new Honorary President

1

Dr Salaheldin Mohammed Ahmed

The Kirwan Memorial Lecture

High-status burials in the Napatan Period: cultural interactions between Egypt and Nubia

2

John Taylor

Reports

Surveying the Eastern Desert: new archaeological evidence from Wadi al-Lawi and Wadi Rasras (Aswan-Kom Ombo region)

18

Maria Carmela Gatto, Serena Nicolini and Antonio Curci

The Taharqa temple-church at Qasr Ibrim, Egypt

33

Fred Aldsworth

Old Dongola cemetery excavations: winter 2020 field season

66

Robert Stark

Interregional Linkage Investigations in Northern Kordofan (InterLINK).

82

Report on the first project phase (2017-2022)

Jana Eger-Karberg and Tim Karberg

Salvage excavations in the Berber-Abidiya Region, 1999: a post-Meroitic single descendary, two-entrance tomb in el-Fereikha

94

Julie Anderson, Salah Mohammed Ahmed and Mahmoud Suliman Bashir

The archaeological site of Damboya in the Shendi Reach. Third season

107

Marc Maillot and Sébastien Poudroux

Building E at Damboya, the third and final season

120

Gabrielle Choimet

Preliminary report on excavations at Naga 2020-2022

133

Karla Kroeper and Christian Perzlmeier

Excavations at the prehistoric site of Fox Hill in the western part of Jebel Sabaloka (2017-2018)

160

Lenka Varadinová, Ladislav Varadin, Isabelle Crevecoeur, Katarína Kapustka and Jon-Paul McCool

Personal adornment in the Blue Nile region

182

Fawzi Hassan Bakhiet Khalid

Studies

A hotel in modern Dongola and remains from Christian Nubia: the columns of Tabo Temple Church

199

Michael Zach

From cult theory to cult practice through excavation: throne pedestals in Naga

204

Christian Perzlmeier

Living on the remains of a medieval capital. Intermingled past and present at Soba

212

Maciej Kurcz and Mariusz Drzewiecki

Book review	225
Obituaries	228
Biographies	234
Miscellanies	238



Front cover. Stone slab A3 used as a paving slab in Temple 4, Qasr Ibrim, showing Taharqa and Amun (photograph courtesy of F. Aldsworth).

Above. Frontal scan of lion head, Naga (Kroeper and Perzlmeier 2022, fig. 21, © Naga Project, 3-D scans by TrigonArt BauerPraus GbR).

DOI: 10.32028/9781803274096

Preliminary report on excavations at Naga 2020-2022

Karla Kroeper and Christian Perzlmeier

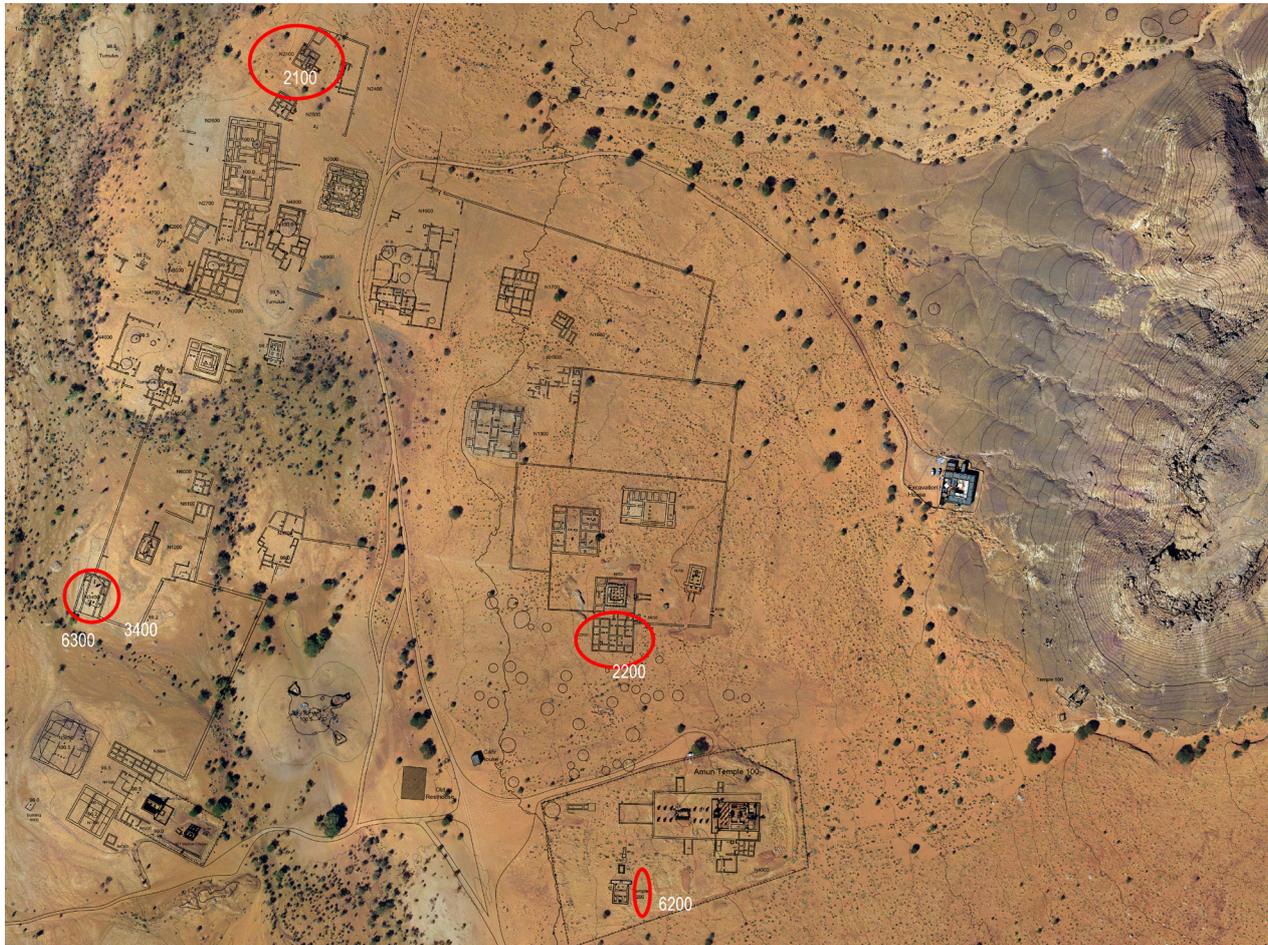


Figure 1. Plan of the central part of Naga ‘city’. Excavated and unexcavated buildings. Circles show the location of buildings described in this article (original plan U. Weferling 2001; since 2018 developed and produced by TrigonArt BauerPraus GbR. © Naga Project).

Despite the coronavirus pandemic and internal political problems in Sudan, the Naga Project of the Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst in Munich undertook three excavation campaigns in 2020 (January to March), 2021 (October to December) and 2022 (February to March). During these campaigns work continued on several larger buildings that had been partly excavated in previous years (Figure 1).¹

Building 2100

In 1996, the eroded tops of the heads of two lion sculptures in the northwest area of the site were noted and mapped (Gamer-Wallert and Zibelius 1983, 37, Taf. 52-54). In 2001 (Schlüter 2020, 36ff) the area was partly excavated in order to remove the lions for safe keeping (Figure 2). During this excavation Building 2100 was associated with the lions. Another sculpture was discovered on the south side of the building near a carved sandstone block, which was probably part of the base of another lion sculpture. Since the building was not part of the excavation programme at that time, the area was covered with sand and left for a later period.

¹All drone-photos and editing were done by T. Bauer, K. Kroeper and C. Perzlmeier.



Figure 2. View of Building 2100 during the removal of the lion sculptures in 1996 (© Naga Project).

During the 2020 season,² the building was included in our excavation programme in order to establish its extent and if possible its function. The surface of the *kom*, on which some walls were visible at the beginning of the excavation, consisted mostly of the debris of quarried stones from collapsed walls. The area around 2100 was also covered with rubble and sand. The east side near the building was partly washed out due to a small *wadi* formed by summer rains, but this did not affect the walls of the building.

Nearby, to the east and south, other buildings are visible on the surface (Figure 3) and may eventually form, together with 2100, a compound or district within the city. Such groups of buildings, surrounded by a common wall, have also been noted at other parts of the site.

Abutting the northwest part of Building 2100 is an interesting combination of rubble stone walls (area 2141); the most well-preserved runs about 13m towards the north (2141). To this was added haphazardly at the north end, probably in different time periods, other irregularly built walls and scatters thereof, forming an irregular rectangle that was not closed at the northeast end (Figure 4).

The building is located on a low podium, which is in very poor condition. Most of the walls of the podium have collapsed; only the east side is well preserved enough to draw conclusions as to its original height (c. 1.15m). The outside walls of the building on top of the podium, especially on the south and west side, are only preserved at the foundation level. The podium was probably constructed to level the uneven surface of the area and at the same time to raise the building above floor level. Very little of the podium walls are preserved on three sides and a sondage at the southwest corner showed that only about 300mm wall depth remains.

² Members of the Mission from Jan - March 2020: Thomas Bauer, Karla Kroeper, Christian Perzlmeier, Arnulf Schlüter and representing NCAM Rehab Ismail el Faki. Up to 30 local workers were employed during the 2021 and 2022 seasons, as well as Christian Perzlmeier, Karla Kroeper and representing NCAM Naima Ali Abel Razig. For extensive help during difficult logistical times we are most grateful to Naima Ali Abel Razig (NCAM Shendi), the Pagoulatos family of the Acropole Hotel in Khartoum and Carla Piazza of Italian Tourist Co. as well as the German Embassy in Khartoum.

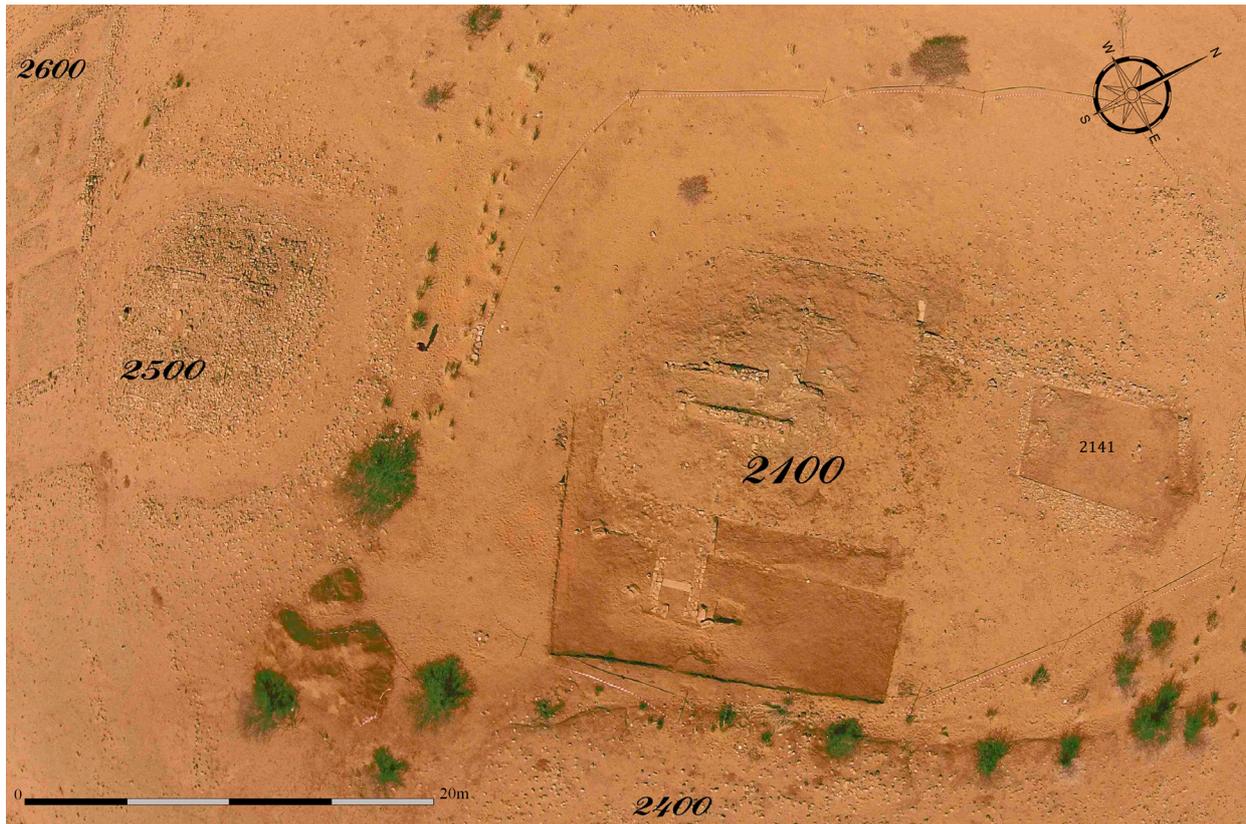


Figure 3. Location of Building 2100. Aerial view at the beginning of the excavation in 2020 (© Naga Project).



Figure 4. View of 2100 from the northwest (© Naga Project).



Figure 6. General condition of the rubble walls with thick layers of plaster already separated from the walls (© Naga Project).



Figure 7. Fragile cracked decorated plaster partly disengaged from the wall (© Naga Project).

carrying different colours. Remains of red, blue or yellow were seen on overlapping surfaces.

The internal walls were built on a foundation of mud bricks, very badly preserved where visible. The best-preserved part of the building is on the top of and in the middle of the hill, particularly Room 2105 (width 1.45m, length 6.45m), which was filled completely with collapsed stones from the surrounding walls. From the shape and size, it would seem to be more a hallway than a room with three passageways leading from Rooms 2110, 2107 and 2103 (see Figure 5).

Area 2105 had been partly exposed in 1958 by the Butana Expedition, when part of a decorated plaster section was photographed (Hintze 1960, 395). This year it was found that actually three walls (north, east, west) carried decoration made up of lightly engraved lines applied to the still wet plaster. The design consists of horizontal lines over which diagonal lines have been placed to make up rhomboid forms, sometimes arranged in a star-like manner with the lines extending in all directions (Figures 8 and 9). The remains of painting consisting of different shades of red (dark red to orange), blue and yellow were also found. The painted design has not yet been reconstructed due to the fragmentary state of the pieces.

Unfortunately, the plaster on all three walls was found completely loose, cracked and separated from the wall, while, during any attempts to remove it, it usually disintegrated into very small pieces. Some of the larger more solid parts, however, were removed and taken to the storeroom to await analysis. The rest was left *in situ*, protected with large slabs of stone placed a very small distance from the walls; the space between wall and support was then filled with very finely sifted sand. The whole room was then refilled with stones and sand. Over many years, this kind of covering has proved to be the most effective measure to preserve delicate plaster pieces (for example, the painted altar in the Amun Temple).

Most of the other rooms are denuded down to, or even below, the foundations of the walls. In some cases, some of the walls had remains of mud plaster visible with fragments of paint remaining. The application of two different kinds of plaster consisting of mud or lime is also known from other buildings at Naga. It probably indicates that some of the 'rooms' here were actually open spaces without a roof - white lime plaster stands up to rain and sand - whereas the spaces with remains of delicate painted mud plaster were certainly covered rooms. It seems probable that the central area from east to west consisted of open courts, whereas the north and south part of the building contained the covered rooms. However, since practically all the walls of Rooms 2101, 2104, 2106, 2108 and 2110 were destroyed, this cannot be determined with certainty.

Ramps

The best-preserved part of this small, and so far, most northerly, building at Naga is the east side. There a complete ramp (2138) was excavated and found to be c. 6m long, c. 1.50 to 1.20m wide and ascending c. 1.12m to the top of the podium to which it connects (Figure 11). The side walls of the ramp are built of quarry/rubble stones, ending in carved sandstone blocks (including a cavetto cornice) found next to the ramp.

Four steps made of well-carved sandstone slabs are situated inside the ramp. The whole construction was covered with thick layers of plaster. The main entry from the east therefore was quite elaborate with lions and the white stone steps leading up to the podium (Figure 10). One section of the northern sidewall of the ramp is askew, which, as excavation has shown, is a feature deliberately constructed in this fashion. Perhaps it stands in connection with the junction of the second ramp coming from the south. A smaller ramp, c. 1.30m wide (inside) and c. 4m long (2112), was constructed by adding a wall parallel to the podium from south to north that joins the larger ramp at the top. The end of the wall at the entrance (2111) was also finished as a rectangular post and carved stone blocks were found nearby. Only two stone steps marked the entrance to the ramp from the south; however, as this end is partly destroyed there might originally have been several more (Figure 11).



Figure 8. Remains of engraved rhomboid decoration in Room 2105 (© Naga Project).



Figure 9. Remains of engraved decoration in Room 2105 (© Naga Project).



Figure 10. View of Ramp 2138 from the east. Askew section of the northern side wall of the ramp and various carved large blocks *in situ* (© Naga Project).



Figure 11. General view from the south at the end of the excavation with the smaller ramp in the foreground (© Naga Project).

Entrances to the building

At the top of the large ramp (2138) where it meets the edge of the podium, a layer of bricks and stones marks the entrance to the first vestibule (2102). A door lintel, however, was not discovered. The bricks were possibly added later to raise the entrance. This make-shift raising of entrance thresholds has been noted in other buildings at Naga (for example in the Amun Temple, Temple 200 and Temple 700).

The small space at the top of the podium (2102) is filled with sand and rubble (1.55m wide), but at the western end two stone steps lead to a landing (c. 1.50m x 1.50m) with the floor covered completely with well-fitted sandstone plates. The entrance/exit from here is to the north (at a right angle) from where movement would continue to Rooms 2103 and 2104 as well as 2105.

Also discovered during excavation this year, was a second small porch about 1.35m wide, which was built abutting the outside of the podium wall at the back of the building in the northwest corner. Five stone steps lead up and to the right into the building itself and into a small vestibule (2111). The floor may have originally been covered with stone flagstones (similar to 2102) of which only a few pieces remain. Another stone step finally leads into Room 2109 over another stone step (Figure 12).

Finds

During excavation of the building and removal of the large amount of stone rubble from the collapsed walls very few finds were made. Only in a few places, near the upper surfaces, were some small disturbances caused by fireplaces detected, probably dating to later than the building itself.

On the original floors little occupation debris was found - a small amount of ceramics, as well as some



Figure 12. Entrance at the northwest corner of Building 2100 (© Naga Project).

small faience pieces, mostly undecorated, were collected. As mentioned above during the clearance of the east side of the building in 2001 two sandstone lions (Wildung 2018, 162-165) were found in approximately their original positions flanking the large ramp and lying about 0.70m below the present ground level (Figures 13 and 14). During their excavation it was noted that the sand immediately surrounding the lions appeared to consist of a light-coloured sand quite different from the more compact and darker soil in the area. It seems therefore probable that the statues were previously exposed, and the excavated hole refilled with windblown sand; when this might have happened or by whom this was carried out is not known. Both are fairly well-preserved except for the front part of the head where the nose is partly broken and the mouth and eyes somewhat eroded due to their exposure over many years on the surface.

The third lion was found on its side c. 3.5m away from Ramp 2138, with one side well-preserved (Figure 15), and the other side partly destroyed. The manes of all three sculptures are carved in great detail with distinctly bold chiselled curls and fleece, the surface is pecked to imitate hair, and no remains of paint were preserved. Lion sculptures 1 to 3 are approximately the same size: 0.81m-0.86m in height including rectangular bases (0.42-0.43m x 0.67-0.71m) varying in height from 90-220mm.

The bases are not well-smoothed and, from the evidence of blocks found nearby, it is clear that the sculptures with bases were placed in a recess that was cut into a separate stone. Figure 16 shows the uppermost stone of a pedestal for the sculptures; similar arrangements have been found in other buildings at Naga such as Temples 600 and 700.⁴ The entire base and pedestal was then covered with plaster to hide the chisel marks. There was no evidence that the lions were themselves originally covered with plaster or painted.

Nearby on the south side of the ramp, near what we now know to be Ramp 2112, the base of a fourth lion (Figure 17) was discovered with only a rear paw and part of a front paw preserved. The 400mm high base is somewhat higher than those of the sculptures described above. The rear quarter of another lion (Wildung 2018, 166-167) with part of the tail on the right side of the body⁵ (Figure 18) was discovered to the north of the larger ramp.

All pieces are made of hard sandstone very similar to the rams at the Amun Temple. At the beginning of this season a small decorated fragment of stone (160 x 180mm) of the same material was found on the surface near Building 2100 but was not directly associated with the building itself. It was recognised as being a part of the mane of a lion but did not fit on any of the already known lions mentioned above. During the excavation of the northeast corner of the podium and ramp, removing about 0.70m of rubble directly in the corner between ramp and podium wall, the head of a lion sculpture split vertically in two parts was discovered (Figures 19-21). The preservation state was such that it looks as if just made! Part of the mane, the smaller neck mane and, for the first time, a completely preserved face with muzzle, eyes and lips is present. Furthermore, the aforementioned fragment fits on the back of this head.

The whisker lines above the closed mouth with its rounded lip corners are very well defined. The large wide-open staring placid eyes with a small scowl between the eyebrows are very impressive. The ears are partly preserved with internal fan-like decorations which are known from representations of Apedemak, especially in reliefs, for example at the Lion Temple in Naga. The surface is pecked like the other lion sculptures mentioned above. The size of the head (360mm x 470mm x 450mm) corresponds exactly to the size of the lion from the south side of the small ramp (Figure 15 above) and therefore a similar height for the complete sculpture can be assumed as c. 0.80m. A possible reconstruction of the lion sculpture, assuming the head and haunch belong to one figure, is attempted in Figure 22 where the pieces fit perfectly with the proportions of the lion from the south side of the small ramp (2100.2).

⁴ For example, the lions found at the end of the ramps of the Temples 600 and 700 presented during a lecture by Christian Perzlmeier during the 14th Conference for Nubian Studies, Paris, September 2018 (Perzlmeier in press).

⁵ The tail is always placed on the right side, not only in the lion sculptures but also on the ram sculptures of the Amun Temple.



Figure 13. Lion sculpture 2100.1 and detail of mane (© Naga Project).

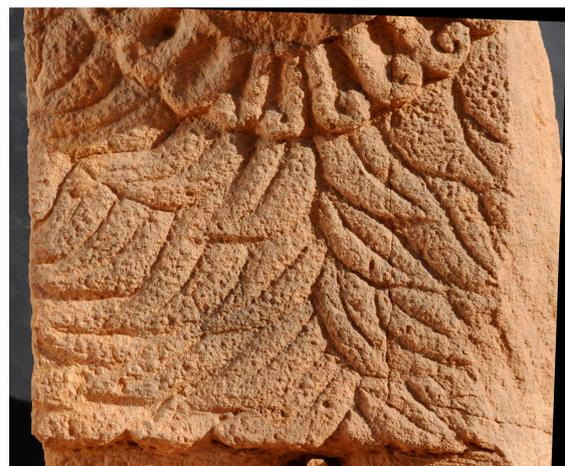


Figure 14. Lion sculpture 2100.3 and detail of mane (© Naga Project).



Figure 15. Lion sculpture 2100.2 and detail of mane (© Naga Project).



Figure 16. Part of the upper stone of a podium with a sunk recess into which the lion sculpture was placed (© Naga Project).



Figure 17. Base of a lion with remains of paws (2100.4). Find location in 2001 (© Naga Project).

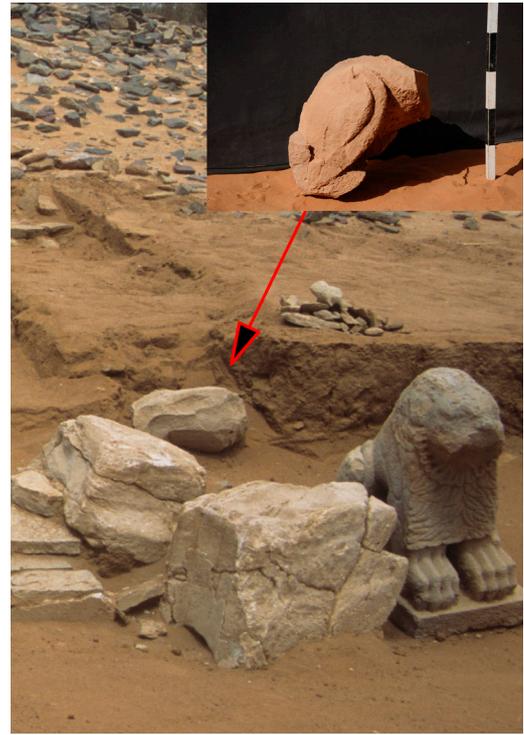


Figure 18. Hind part of a lion (2100.5). Find location in 2001 (© Naga Project).



Figure 19. Discovery of the sculpture of a lion head *in situ*. Split into two halves (© Naga Project).

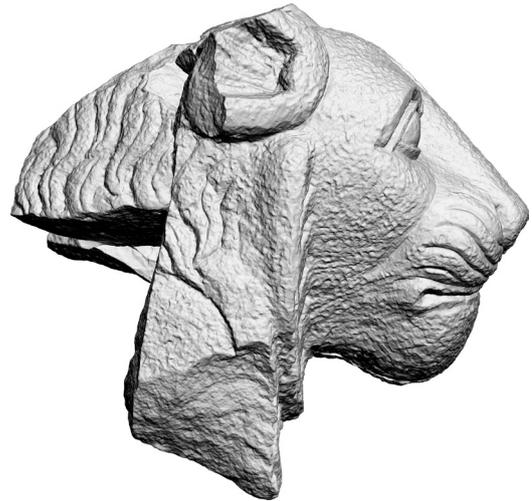


Figure 20. Profile view of the new find (2100.8+9), photo and scan (photos © Naga Project. 3-D Scans by TrigonArt BauerPraus GbR).

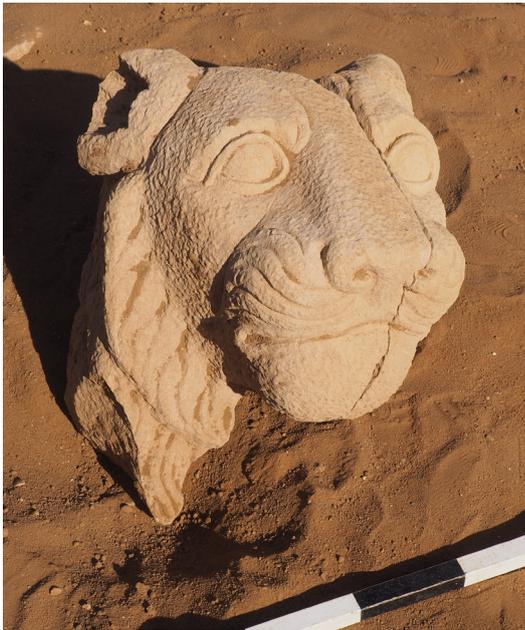


Figure 21. Frontal view of the new find (2100.8+9), photo and scan (© Naga Project, 3-D Scans by TrigonArt BauerPraus GbR).

Summary

The evidence has shown that 2100 represents one building phase. There are no changes in the plan of the building or in the construction of the ramps. No additional layers or alterations of room structures were noted that might indicate a later use of the building. Chronological information can only be estimated based on the ceramic finds, which show no appreciable differences from other structures so far found at Naga. This places the building c. 50 BC to 100 AD, conforming very well with the building dates known from all buildings so far excavated at the site. Very little charcoal was found in the building, but the sample analysed confirms this date (see Figure 23).



Figure 22. Possible reconstruction of the lion from the northeast side of the ramp from the two pieces 2100.5 and 2100.8+9 (© Naga Project. 3-D Scans by TrigonArt BauerPraus GbR).

Nr.	Laboratory	BP	±	Calibrated age	Probability %
2100	Poz-124216	2005	35	44 BC - 48 AD	68.2
				96 BC - 74 AD	95.4

Figure 23. C¹⁴ results of charcoal found in Building 2100.

To summarise the find situation in front of Building 2100, three complete lions were discovered, as well as one base with two paws preserved, the rump of one lion and the new lion head. It seems likely that the rump and the base probably belong together, due to their relative sizes and findspots. The ‘new’ lion head, could then be part of this lion (Figure 18), of which only fragments have been found in the past, particularly as they were all found next to the main ramp. So, although no exact joining parts of the various pieces are preserved, they most likely all belong together. The sculpture would then correspond to Lion 2100.2 (Figure 15) found on the southern side of the ramp. There must have been at least four lion sculptures placed on the east side of this building as part of the decorative scheme: two certainly at the end of the large ramp, two more perhaps at the junction of the two ramps. This would correspond approximately to the locations of the pieces as found during the excavation.

It is worthwhile noting that the building directly next to 2100, numbered 2500 and known from the surface survey conducted in 1998 by Knudstad and Frey, has the same or similar layout, orientation and size. The beginning of a ramp or porch is also just visible on the east side of the building. The embellishment of this building with stone features is anticipated as on the surface stone columns and pilaster drums are visible. Most interestingly, on the south side a sandstone block, which seems to be an unfinished Hathor-capital can be seen. The stone (c. 440mm x 450mm) is of almost conical form with simple incised

lines indicating the beginning of a Hathor-face in raised, but not yet articulated, form. The two buildings are connected by a wall that extends from the south corner of Building 2500. Although not excavated yet, it probably meets the wall extending from the north of 2100 and also encloses 2400, thus forming a unit of the three buildings (see Figure 1). Building on podiums seems to be prevalent throughout Naga, certainly due to practical considerations to raise buildings above the flood plain, but also to create an even construction level. This can be seen for example with 600 and 700, which are not located in an off-flow area in the lowland, so there was no need to raise them above a flood plain.

So far, the ‘official’ Buildings/Temples 1200, 600, 700 and 2100 all have in common one or more ramps leading up to the building situated atop a podium. 2100 had been classified as profane due to its size which must however be reconsidered. The temples or chapels such as 300, 650, 700 and 800 are not much larger than 2100.

The elaborate front, in addition to the decoration of the central ‘room’, indicates that this building had some official function. Perhaps considering its northerly location at the edge of ‘Naga City’ it might have served as a reception building for arrivals or for some other official festive function, as seems indicated by the impressive entrance. As excavation continued in 2021 and 2022 a larger wall running toward the north, enclosing this and other buildings was found. At the northeast corner of the podium several carved sandstone blocks were found with engraved quarry marks (Figures 24 and 25).

Various ceramic finds as well as faience fragments were found throughout the building and the remains of a painting was discovered on the lime plaster of the podium and walls of the ramp. In 2022 the complete building was backfilled with sifted sand and heavier sand laid on top for protection against rain.



Figure 24. Quarry marks on sandstone blocks from the northeast corner of the podium (© Naga Project).



Figure 25. Quarry marks on sandstone blocks from the northeast corner of the podium (© Naga Project).

Building 6200

Work continued in 2021 east of Temple 200, where the excavation of the temple itself was finished in 2005. At that time additional walls leading east-west from the eastern temple wall were already noted but not further excavated. The placement of many large pots along the wall made a preliminary interpretation of an appended cooking area to Temple 200 most likely (Figure 26).

During excavation in 2022 it was revealed that a supply building had been connected to Temple 200 (Figure 27). This building numbered 6200 contains 12 rooms and has an overall size of 14.25m x 12.85m. It represents a similar conglomerate of temple plus supply rooms as known from other areas in Naga, for example next to the Amun Temple (with the connected Building 4000), the Lion Temple (with the connected Building 3800) and Temple 600 plus 650 (with the connected Building 2200).

The walls of Building 6200 lie only a few centimetres under the present-day surface level and were built of unfired badly preserved mudbricks. However, some seven rooms are provided with well-worked sandstone thresholds and steps. The walls are in most cases only preserved to the height of two to three bricks.

Both the foundation of the walls and the doorsills are at the same level as the building level of Temple 200. An interesting feature is a quarter circle space formed by hundreds of broken body sherds placed upright in a light mud base and curving from the northwest end of the east wall of the temple toward the east wall of Building 6200 (Figure 28). What the function of this division or separate space might have been is unclear.

As in other utility buildings ceramic vessels were found set into the floor near the walls and had been used as cooking pots. Most contained ashes, which were also found in the surrounding area. Most vessels have the top broken off, probably to make the mouth wider. Many ceramic sherds were found on the



Figure 26. Extension on the east side of Temple 200 as found in 2005 (© Naga Project).

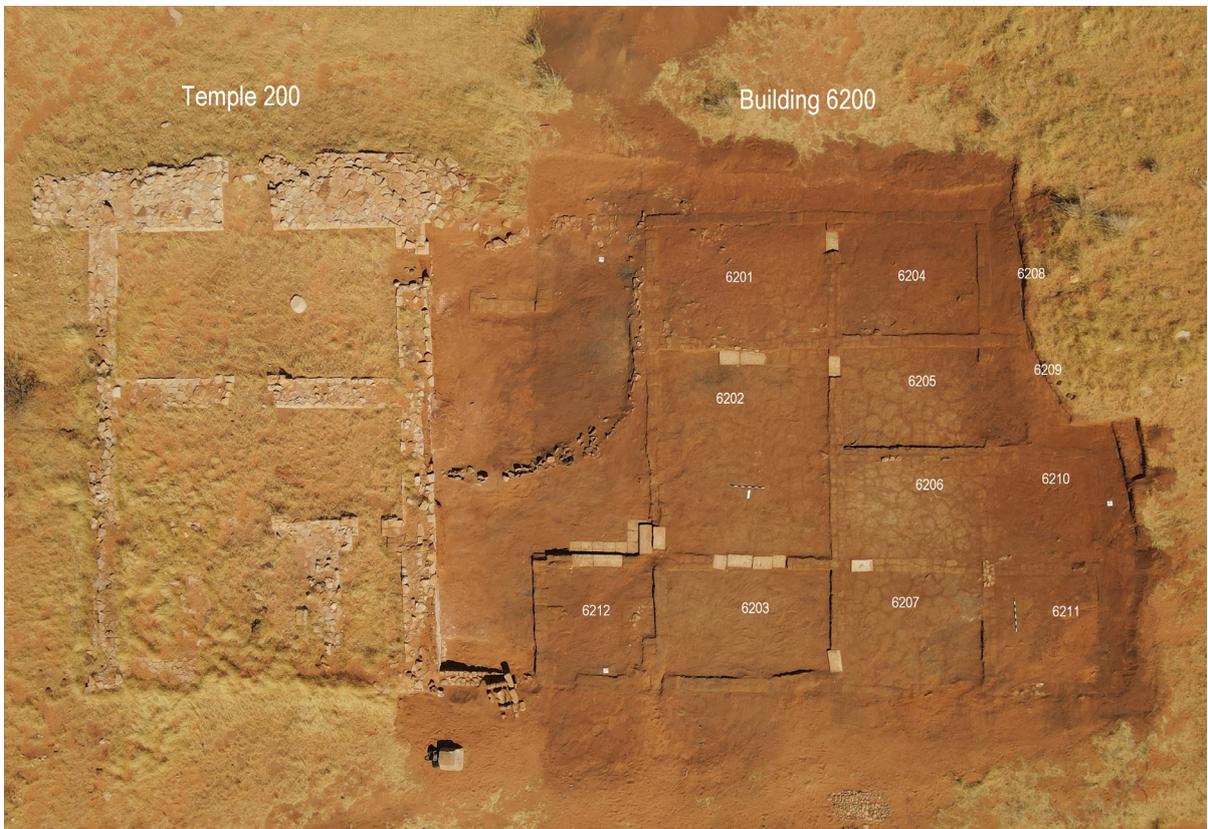


Figure 27. View of Temple 200 and Building 6200 in 2022 (© Naga Project).



Figure 28. In the foreground the quarter circle space defined by ceramic sherds. View from the southwest (© Naga Project).

surface and correspond in type to pottery known from other areas at Naga. Since the building is clearly associated with Temple 200 it seems reasonable to date it to the same period. C¹⁴ dates from Temple 200 are c. 150 BC to 150 AD (Figure 29). Furthermore, decorated blocks from Temple 200 mention King Amanakhareqerema (Kuckertz 2021, 271ff.).

Nr.	Laboratory	BP	±	Calibrated age	Probability %
200	Erlangen 8089	2069	52	One Sigma	
				169 - 39 BC	65.6
				Two Sigma	
				204 BC - 30 AD	92.7
204	Erlangen 16779	1954	54	One Sigma	
				1 AD - 87 AD	53.5
				Two Sigma	
				57 BC - 177 AD	92.3

Figure 29. C¹⁴ results for finds in Building 200.

3400

Building 3400 is located in the southwest corner of Naga, in an enclosure area with Temple 1200, which was also built on a podium. The maximum preserved height of the lime-plastered podium 3400 is 1.80m



Figure 30. View of 3400 from the north. Columns already removed (© Naga Project).

and it extends 18.4m x 27.8m oriented north-south.

The central part of the building consists of one roofed room with three doors at each end for accessing the room (3403). Interestingly the doorways were here, as found in other buildings in Naga, filled with one layer of burned bricks probably added later to raise the level. Both ends of this room are flanked by a porticus formed by three columns that are, in the south, placed on square bases (3402). In the north, two columns (3404) are placed on square bases but the central column has an unusual round base, perhaps an indication of the exceptional position of the northern part of the building. The columns had collapsed and were very badly eroded, but two fragments of papyrus-shaped capitals were identified (Figure 30).

The central area is flanked on the east by four rooms (3411-3414), on the west side by five rooms (3406-3410). There are some indications that these rooms had no direct connection to the central part of the building but were accessed by small separate ramps (Figure 31) such as found on the west side of the podium (3416). The walls of the central room were covered with painted mud plaster often in a very strong blue turquoise colour, whereas the porticoes areas were covered with painted lime plaster confirming that the central room was roofed whereas the porticoes were open to the sun and sand. In front of the porticoes on each side (north and south) there is an open space (3401 and 3405). The approach to the building was by a ramp from the north, similar to the ramp of Building 1200 and not orientated completely according to its axis.

Most of the walls of the building have collapsed, and the highest still standing is about 0.60m high. Most walls are eroded to the foundation level on the podium. Only at the northwest corner is the podium



Figure 31. View of 3400 from the northwest. Small ramp in the foreground (© Naga Project).

preserved to an appreciable height of c. 1.80m (Figure 31). Apart from several large-size broken pots with ashes inside in unrelated positions and probably from a later phase, and a few fragments of faience, no finds were made on top of the podium. Several sondages were made into the podium itself on the east side in which various broken vessels were found in the rubble fill. Indications are that the building may have been a guard station, observation platform or waystation. An exact building date (inscriptions were not found) could not be determined; however, the few ceramics present indicate a date range similar to Building 1200, of which the following C¹⁴ dates exist (Figure 32):

Nr.	Laboratory	BP	±	Calibrated age	Probability. %
1205/3	Poz-91532	2025	30	53 BC - 21 AD	68.2
				112 BC - 55 AD	94.5
1207/1	Poz-82548	2000	30	One Sigma	
				40 BC - 26 AD	64.8
				Two Sigma	
				55 BC - 71 AD	94.6

Figure 32. C¹⁴ results of charcoal found in Building 1200.



Figure 33. View of Gateway 6300 in 2022 (© Naga Project).

6300

About c. 25.40m to the south of 3400, several large blocks were noted and excavated. They may be connected with a wall running from the south wall of 3400 that has not yet been completely cleared.

After initial excavation in this area, the large blocks were shown to belong to a gateway oriented east-west (Figure 33). Unfortunately, their location is in the middle of a wadi that is often flooded so the preservation is poor. Only the lowest layer of the gate is preserved. The wall running to the south of the gate may connect to Building 3600 near the lion temple. This is the first documented gateway in the south-west area of the city of Naga.

2200

Excavation in 2200 started in 2019 (Figure 34) and work continued in subsequent years due to its large size. The building lies to the east of Temple 600 and 650 and is c. 29m x 29m in size. The walls of its 20 rooms are built completely of stone rubble (Figure 35). Some of those in the west and south are almost completely eroded, but the walls of the central rooms are preserved up to a height of 1.30m.

Some smaller 'rooms' were used as dumps, filled with ashes, animal bones and hundreds of potsherds (Figure 36). Generally, the rooms are either completely empty and the floor very clean or they are overloaded with potsherds and whole pots. In some cases, the small rooms seem to have been reused, as sometimes a small wall was added internally built on the vessels and potsherds which lay below (Figure 37).

In a few cases other types of finds were made in various rooms, including a small stone carved feather fragment, part of an Amun crown (Figure 38). Fragments of a ceramic offering plate with an *ankh* sign were also discovered (Figure 39). The vessels found in the different rooms are of the type already known from other buildings; however, in rare cases they are of an unusual type such as a floral painted amphora, which is unique at Naga (Figures 40 and 41). Three rooms excavated during the last campaign (2022) turned out to be fully stocked kitchen rooms, with 25 pots *in situ*. In some cases, several pots had been



Figure 34. Building 2200 before excavation (© Naga Project).



Figure 35. View of Building 2200 in 2022 (© Naga Project).



Figure 36. Dump filled with ashes ceramic and animal bones (© Naga Project).



Figure 37. Wall built on top of previously used ceramics (© Naga Project).



Figure 38. Stone fragment of a relief (© Naga Project).



Figure 39. Ceramic offering plate (© Naga Project).



Figure 40. Amphora with floral decoration (© Naga Project).

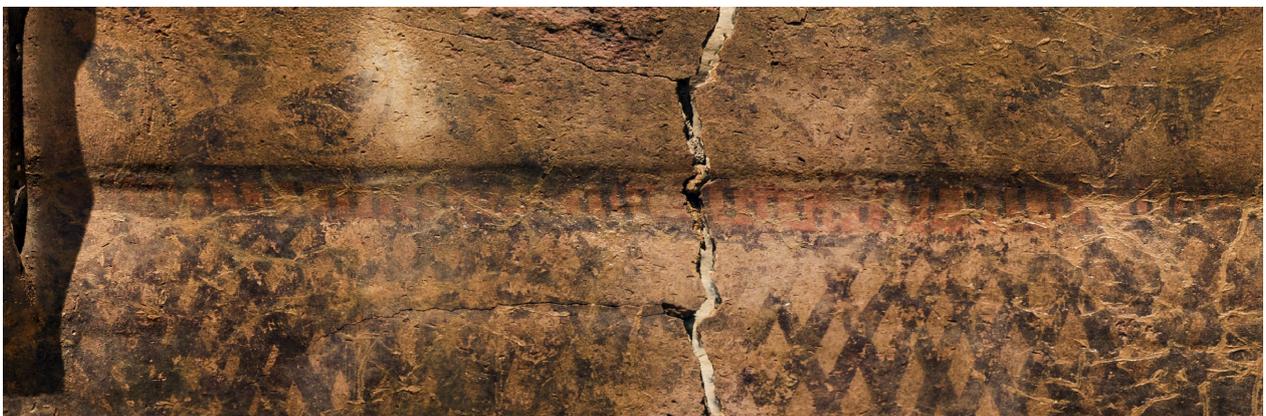


Figure 41. Flattened profile of the amphora showing the decoration (© Naga Project).

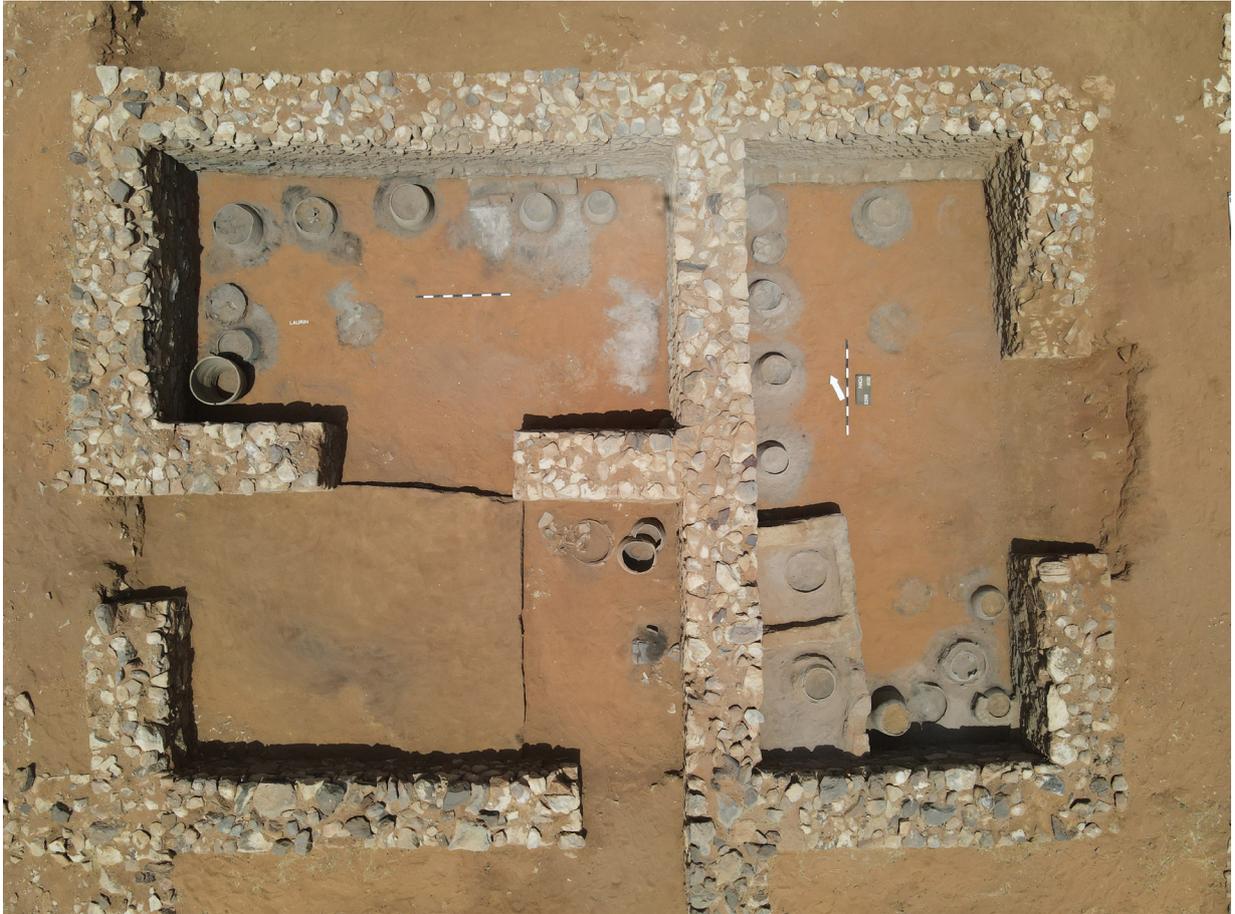


Figure 42. Kitchen rooms (2208, 2211, 2212), Building 2200 (© Naga Project).



Figure 43. Kitchen rooms in Building 2200 view from the east (© Naga Project).

Nr.	Laboratory	BP	±	Calibrated age	Probability %
2201.3	Poz-114605	1940	30	32 AD - 86 AD	65
				1 BC - 130 AD	94
2201	Poz-124219	1995	35	40 BC - 51 AD	68.2
				91 BC - 80 AD	95.4
2201.6	Poz-114753	1885	30	70 AD - 139 AD	68
				60 AD - 220 AD	95
2223	Poz-124217	1965	35	1 AD - 75 AD	68.2
				44 BC - 122 AD	95.4

Figure 44. C¹⁴ results for charcoal in Building 2200.

stacked on top of one another. In Room 2208 a small installation of four layers of burned and unburned bricks was added to the room in which several very large vessels were placed. Interestingly at floor level a hole connected Rooms 2208 and 2211. It was filled with ashes. Almost all the ceramic pots were broken and often sherds as well as ashes and animal bones were found inside. Beside the central kitchen and cooking unit, the building also had magazines and storage areas (Figures 42 and 43). The date according to the C14 results fits well with the date of the adjacent Temple 600 (Figure 44).

As excavation continues at Naga a pattern of groups of architectural styles begins to emerge, and as finds increase the function and social structure of the site will become clearer.

References

- Gamer-Wallert, I. and K. Zibelius 1983. *Der Löwentempel von Naq'a in der Butana (Sudan). I: Forschungsgeschichte und Topographie*. Beihilfte zum Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients Reihe B (Geisteswissenschaften) 48/1). Wiesbaden.
- Hintze, F. 1960. 'Vorbericht über die Butana-Expedition 1958 des Instituts für Ägyptologie der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin'. *Forschen und Wirken, Festschrift zur 150-Jahr-Feier der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. III*. Berlin, 361-399.
- Knudstad, J. and R. Frey. 1998. 'Naga Project (Sudan) - Egyptian Museum Berlin. The city survey 1995-1996, seasons 1 and 2', *Archéologie du Nil Moyen* 8, 193-202.
- Kroeper, K. 2019. 'Temple 1200 - Lion Temple 2 at Naga', *Sudan & Nubia* 23, 113-126.
- Kröper, K., S. Schoske, and D. Wildung (eds) 2011. *Königsstadt Naga. Naga Royal City. Grabung in der Wüste des Sudan. Excavations in the Desert of the Sudan*. Naga-Projekt Berlin, Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München-Berlin. München.
- Kuckertz, J. 2021. 'Münster Catalogue of Blocks', in S. Schoske (ed.), *Naga Temple 200 - The Wall Decoration -With a Contribution by Claude Rilly*. *ArS Archaeologie im Sudan* Band II. Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst. München. Kuckertz_Naga_200_ArS2_Blockkatalog_Homepage-1.pdf (naga-projekt.de)
- Perzlmeier, C. In press. 'New structures of Meroitic temple architecture. Naga 2016-2018', in V. Rondot, M. Millet, P. Tallet and F. Payraudeau (eds), *Proceedings of the 14th International Conference for Nubian Studies in Paris, September 10-15, 2018*. Paris.
- Schlüter, A. 2020. 'Die Frühjahrskampagne 2020 in Naga Sudan,' *Maat Nachrichten aus dem Staatlichen Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München*. Ausgabe 17, 34-39.
- Wildung, D. 2018. 'Naga Skulptur', in S. Schoske (ed.), *ArS Archaeologie im Sudan* Band I, Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München. Münster.