Contents

Reports

Lithic Material from the Late Neolithic Site of es-Sour, Central Sudan
Azhari Mustafa Sadig


A Note on the Akasha Rock-Inscriptions [21-S-29] Vivian Davies

Creating a Virtual Reconstruction of the Seti I Inscription at Jebel Doshca Susie Green

Archaeobotanical Investigations at the Gala Abu Ahmed Fortress in Lower Wadi Howar, Northern Sudan

The Site and the Findings Frederike Jesse

Phytoliths on Grinding Stones and Wood Charcoal Analysis Barbara Eichhorn

The Fruit and Seed Remains Stefanie Kahlbecker

New Excavations at El-Kurru: Beyond the Napatan Royal Cemetery

Introduction Geoff Emberling and Rachael J. Dann

Investigating Settlement at El-Kurru Geoff Emberling

Geophysical Prospection in the Archaeological Settlement of El-Kurru Mohamed Abdelrahman Mohamed-Ali

Coring and Soundings in the El-Kurru Settlement Tim Boaz Braun Skuldbol

Five-sided Corinthian Capitals in the Mortuary Temple at El-Kurru Jack Cheng

Geophysical Survey at the El-Kurru cemetery Ed Blinkhorn

Sedeinga 2012: A Season of Unexpected Discoveries Claude Rilly and Vincent Francigny

The Latest Explorations at Usli, Northern Province Miroslav Bártík, Lenka Suková and Vladimír Brůna

Dangeil 2012: Sacred Ram – Avatar of the God Amun Julie Anderson and Salah Mohamed Ahmed

Dangeil, A Preliminary Report on the Petrography Meredith Brand

A Third Season of Rescue Excavations in the Meroitic Cemetery at Berber, October 2012: Preliminary Report Mahmoud Suliman Bashir

Jawgul – A Village Between Towers Mariusz Dziewiecki and Piotr Malinski

The Archaeology of the Medieval and Post-Medieval Fortress at Tinare in the Northern El-Mahas Abdelrahman Ibrahim Saeed Ali

Upper Atbara Setiet Dam Archaeological Salvage Project (ASDASP), the Rescue Excavation Results on the Western Bank of the Atbara: Preliminary Report Murtada Bushara Mohamed, Mohammed Saad Abdulalah, Sani Elamien Mohamed and Zakí aIdien Mahmoud

Archaeological, Ethnographical and Ecological Project of El-Ga’ab Basin in Western Dongola: A Report on the Second Season 2010 Yabia Fadl Tabir

Surveys at the Fifth Cataract and on the Sudan Military Railway and excavations at Kawa, 2012-13 Derek A. Welsby

Archaeological Survey in El-Metemma area Nada Babiker Mohammed Ibrahim

Archaeological Survey of Abu Island: Preliminary Report Ahmed Hussein Abdel Rahman Adam

From Nubia to Arizona – and back; or, Reisner comes Home William Y. Adams

Miscellaneous

Obituary Michel Azim Brigitte Gratian


Sudeinga 2012: The descentery of Tomb IV T 1 near Sedeinga under excavation (© V. Francigny / SEDAU).

Sudan & Nubia is a peer-reviewed journal
The Latest Explorations at Usli, Northern Province

Miroslav Bártá, Lenka Suková and Vladimír Brůna

In 2000, Usli, a site situated some 40 km from Jebel Barkal, was briefly visited by the Southern Dongola Reach Survey team headed by Bogdan Żurawski (2000, 285-289; 2003, 383-386). They identified remnants of a sandstone temple (together with sherds of New Kingdom and Napatan pottery) in the vicinity of the modern cemetery (Usli 1), a huge Meroitic/Post-Meroitic tumuli field and several koms dating to Christian times in the area of the modern asphalt road connecting Gabolab and Merowe (Usli 2). Three of the tumuli were excavated in a rescue operation. According to Żurawski, this site, situated on the left bank of the Nile just opposite the huge temple at Hugair Gubli, might be tentatively identified with Tare/Tele, a place with the Bastet temple known from the 4th century BC (Żurawski 2003, 26; Wicenciak 2005, 262). A bronze statue resembling in its shape perhaps Bastet or Sekhmet was reportedly found by local inhabitants shortly before the Polish team visited the site (Żurawski 2000, 285).

In 2006, another Polish team led this time by Michal Bieniada (2006) found here several loci with pottery from Kerma, Napatan, Post-Meroitic and Christian times (including a Napatan pottery workshop and a kiln with Christian pottery), a tumulus and a fragment of sandstone with remnants of hieroglyphic text (Plate 1).

During the first three seasons of the Czech archaeological work, done in close cooperation with the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums of Sudan\(^1\) in November 2009, February 2010 and February 2013, four principal goals were attained:

1) preliminary survey in and around the modern village of Usli where several ancient sites were found which comprised important archaeological remains of ancient occupation starting during the Kerma Ancient and extending down to the Meroitic period (Bárta et al. 2009),

2) documentation and small-scale excavation in the sandstone temple and its vicinity (Usli 1) (Bárta et al. 2009),

3) sampling of the floor deposits of the temple (Suková and Lisá 2010),

4) geophysical survey of the site.

In this small contribution, only some preliminary results will be presented.

Archaeological survey

Within the modern village of Usli, three ancient wells with sides lined with sandstone blocks were located. In the immediate vicinity of the mosque, several reused or loose fragments of sandstone blocks lying on the surface were found; at least one of them had been originally decorated. On the edge of the modern settlement, at least two places were identified with fragments of sandstone blocks and surface scatters of Meroitic and Post-Meroitic pottery. The modern Islamic cemetery was found to have been established on the site of an earlier burial ground with graves provided with superstructures in the form of heaped tumuli capped with sandstone blocks or marked by pieces of sandstone laid out on circular, oval, or irregular ground-plans. South east of the modern cemetery, an ancient sandstone quarry that had been reopened in recent times by the local inhabitants was recorded.

In the flat desert plain between the village and the main asphalt road, a scatter of sandstone blocks and remains of column bases and drums made of sandstone were clearly visible over an area covering about 300 m by 200 m. The excavation carried out in three 10 x 10 m squares (with controlled cross-sections in between) revealed parts of the much destroyed architecture of a temple (Temple 1, see Plate 2) consisting most likely of three divided areas; its main axis was oriented from north west to south east, i.e., perpendicular to the local course of the Nile. Its floors had been paved with rather irregular blocks of relatively soft sandstone. At one place (between Squares 1 and 2), the floor was found to contain a reused column drum 800 mm in diameter (Plate 3) which might have derived from a monumental structure predating the construction of Temple 1 (cf. Spence et al. 2009, 39, pl. 2). Furthermore, the remains of white paint (or whitewash) on the surfaces of numerous of the paving blocks indicate that the floor must have been originally painted (white-washed). The temple had been almost completely destroyed architecture of a temple (Temple 1, see Plate 2) consisting most likely of three divided areas; its main axis was oriented from north west to south east, i.e., perpendicular to the local course of the Nile. Its floors had been paved with rather irregular blocks of relatively soft sandstone. At one place (between Squares 1 and 2), the floor was found to contain a reused column drum 800 mm in diameter (Plate 3) which might have derived from a monumental structure predating the construction of Temple 1 (cf. Spence et al. 2009, 39, pl. 2). Furthermore, the remains of white paint (or whitewash) on the surfaces of numerous of the paving blocks indicate that the floor must have been originally painted (white-washed). The temple had been almost completely

---

\(^1\) We would like to thank the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums for assistance and support rendered to our team in connection with the exploration at Usli since 2009. This study was written within the Programme for the Development of Fields of Study at Charles University, No. P14 Archaeology of non-European regions, sub-programme Research of ancient Egyptian civilisation. Cultural and political adaptation of the North African civilisations in ancient history (5000 B.C.–1000 A.D.). The geophysical survey costs were kindly sponsored by Pharmex s.r.o. Company.
denuded – its walls were preserved to a height of only about half a metre. Originally, the walls of the temple bore reliefs and hieroglyphic texts; these have been preserved only as small fragments.

In spite of the fact that only a small portion of the temple has been excavated so far, its arrangement seems to correspond to the typical form of a New Kingdom temple, consisting of an entrance pylon, a colonnaded open courtyard, a hypostyle hall, and a sanctuary. Originally, the temple might have been 15-20m wide; its length might be estimated at between 30m to perhaps 50m. In the area excavated so far, no traces of the entrance pylon were found.

Among the most significant individual finds is a fragment of an almost life-size royal statue made of granodiorite.\(^2\) It was found in Square 1, standing on the paved floor and originally facing in a south-easterly direction. Of the statue, only the base (with a rounded front) and the feet of a striding male king remained (Plate 4). The dimensions of the preserved fragment are 600 × 320 × 180mm. On the back pillar, remains of a hieroglyphic inscriptions \(...p \text{ mrj-Ra} \ldots\).\(^2\)

Another fragment of a granodiorite statue was reportedly found in the area of the temple before 2010 during a cursory visit to the site by an inspection group from NCAM (Mahmoud Suliman, pers. comm. 2010). The statue, although badly damaged, seems to corroborate the dating of the temple to the New Kingdom.

**Geophysical survey**

In February 2013, a geophysical survey was carried out aiming to explore the presence and extent of any underlying architecture in the vicinity of Temple 1 partly explored during the 2009 and 2010 field seasons. With respect to the character of the archaeological strata, architecture in sandstone, mud brick and burnt brick\(^3\) covered by c. 400mm deposits of wind-blown sand, occupation layers and rubble,\(^4\) magnetometry was selected as the ideally suited method for the present site. The magnetic survey was carried out in co-operation with the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, coordinated by T. Herbich and represented by R. S. Ryndziewicz and D. W. Swiech. The survey covered an area of 6.12ha and was performed with a Geoscan Research FM 256 Fluxgate Gradiometer ideally suited for the local conditions.

The magnetometric survey revealed an extensive and complex agglomeration of structures to the north/north-east of Temple 1, the most remarkable amongst which is a large (c. 30 × 40m) building probably of a palatial type oriented north-south, a smaller brick temple (Temple 2) to the west of Temple 1, and various other anomalies which may have archaeological potential (see Plate 5). A more detailed report on the discoveries will be available after evaluation of the data.

**Archaeological potential of, and threats to, the antiquities located in the research area**

The geophysical survey and other methods applied in the exploration of the concession area during the three field...
seasons revealed the marked complexity and archaeological potential of the studied site. A careful excavation of the area, which can be planned with great precision on the basis of the varied types of documentation collected up to the present, will certainly bring important data that may extend our knowledge of the social, cultural, and political development during the main periods of Sudan’s past. Despite the preliminary nature of our findings, it seems likely that the history of the site can be dated as far back as the New Kingdom with subsequent historical horizons present.

However, as the site is located in an area undergoing a certain degree of development, the exploration of the site has to proceed hand in hand with measures ensuring an effective protection of the cultural heritage localised on this site which is threatened by a number of factors (see Plate 6). These include, inter alia:

- planned irrigation schemes in the Northern Province
- establishment of desert tracks across the site, used by 4WD vehicles and trucks
planned construction of residential housing
use of some parts of the site as a rubbish dump
extension of the modern cemetery established on the site of an earlier burial ground
illegal digging for antiquities by local inhabitants

While the last of the threats may be reduced by the return of the antiquities guard to the site, the complexity and interconnection of the former five threats, resulting from the development of the area, may require careful (re-)planning and measures to be taken on the part of the local as well as regional authorities.

**Bibliography**


Żurawski, B. 2003. *Survey and Excavations between Old Dongola and ez-Zuma. Southern Dongola Reach of the Nile from Prehistory to 1820 AD Based on the Fieldwork Conducted in 1997-2003 by the Polish Archaeological Joint Expedition to the Middle Nile (NUBIA II: Southern Dongola Reach Survey I)*. Warsaw.
Gabati
A Meroitic, Post-Meroitic and Medieval Cemetery in Central Sudan.
Vol. 2: The Physical Anthropology
by Margaret A. Judd,
with a contribution by David N. Edwards
London 2012
xii + 208 pages, 110 tables, 15 figures, 66 maps, 73 colour plates
ISBN 978 1 901169 19 7

The cemetery at Gabati, dating from the Meroitic, post-Meroitic and Christian periods was excavated in advance of road construction in 1994-5, the detailed report being published by SARS in 1998. This complementary volume provides an in-depth analysis of the human remains. A final chapter, a contribution from David Edwards, the field director of the project, in conjunction with Judd, assesses the archaeological results in light of continuing research in the region over the last decade and more.

Retail price £33. Available to members at the discount price of £29.
Please add £3.50 (Overseas £5.50) for postage and packing.

Sudan’s First Railway
The Gordon Relief Expedition and The Dongola Campaign
by Derek A. Welsby
London 2011
149 pages, 6 tables, 47 figures, 173 colour and 19 b&w plates
ISBN 978 1 901169 18 9

Begun in 1875 by the Egyptian khedive, Ismail Pasha, the railway played an important role during the Gordon Relief Expedition of 1884-5 and Kitchener’s Dongola Campaign in 1896. It was abandoned and cannibalised to build other railways in Sudan during the first decade of the 20th century. For much of its course it runs through the desert and in those areas the roadbed, the associated military installations and the innumerable construction camps are extremely well preserved. This book is the result of a photographic survey of these installations together with the detailed archaeological surveys undertaken within them. A report on the artefacts, which includes personal equipment, ammunition, fragments of rolling stock, bottles, tins and ceramics, completes the volume.

Retail price £22. Available to members at the discounted price of £20 (p&p £2.50, overseas £5.50).

Please order these books from the Honorary Secretary at the Society’s address.
Khartoum. The Republican Palace, once the Governor General’s residence, in 1968 (photo SARS Hawkes Archive HAW P091.01).