

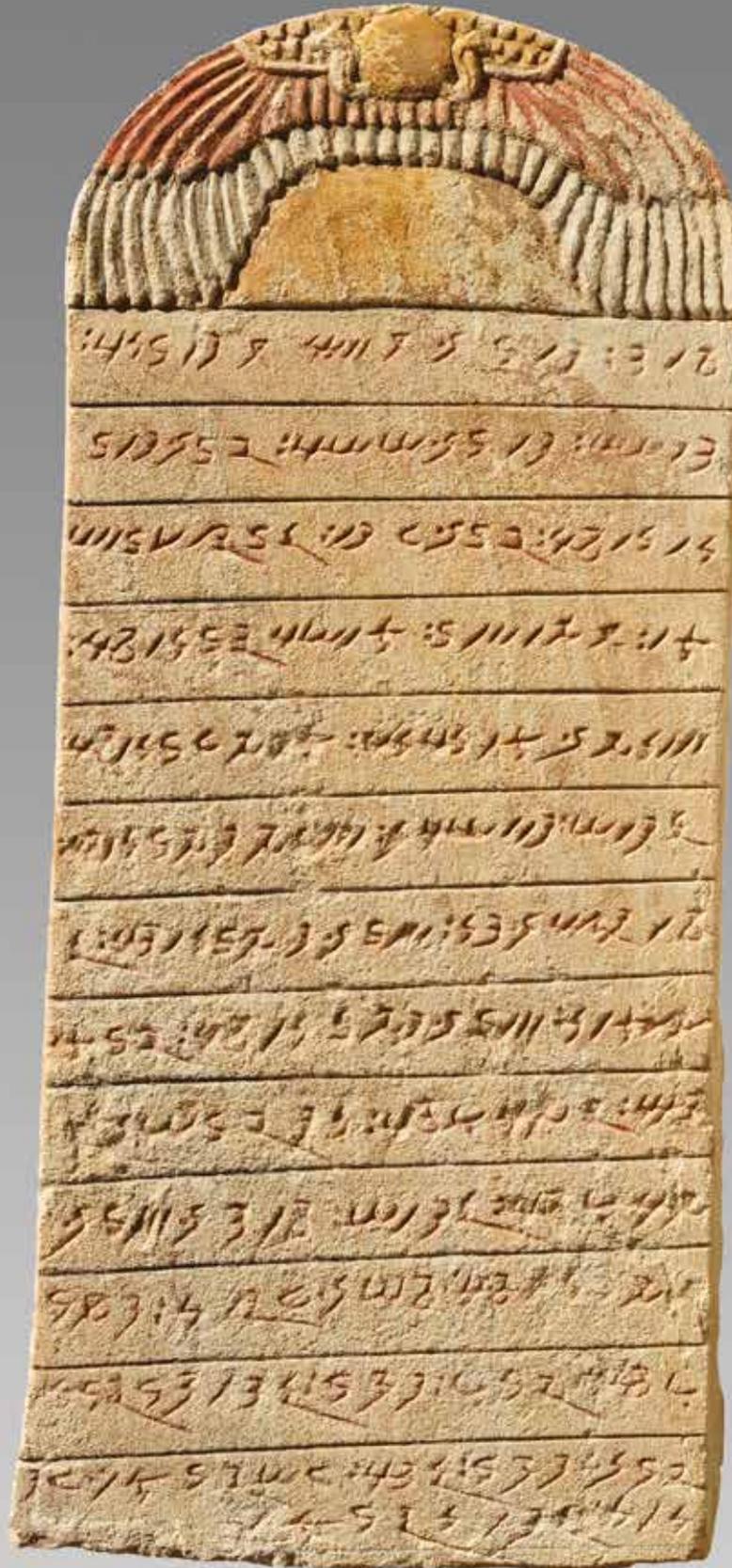
SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Bulletin No. 22

2018





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Contents

Kirwan Memorial Lecture

- The Qatari Mission for the Pyramids of Sudan –
Fieldwork at the Meroe Royal Cemeteries –
A Progress report 3
*Pawel Wolf, Alexandra Riedel, Mahmoud Suliman Bashir,
Janice W. Yellin, Jochen Hallof and Saskia Büchner*

Reports

- Prehistoric investigations during the 2017
archaeological survey of the EDAR Project
in the Eastern Desert along the Lower Atbara, Sudan 21
*Abmed Hamid Nassr, Hassan Mustafa Alkbidir
and Modather Abdalla Jadain*
- The Pottery from J. Desmond Clark's 1973
Excavations at Jebel Moya 29
Kevin Gibbs
- First season of the UCL – UoK – NCAM Expedition
to the Southern Gezira (Sudan): Jebel Moya 38
*Michael Brass, Ahmed H. Adam, Dorian Q Fuller, Chris
Stevens, Fakri Hassan, Iwona Kozłowska-Ogunmakin,
Rayan Mahjoub Jarelnabi Abdallah, Osman Khalil Alawad,
Ammar Awad Mohamed Abdalla, Joss Wellings and Ali
Mohamed Abdelrahman*
- Egyptian rock-inscriptions at Tombos and the
Dal Cataract: the epigraphic survey, season 2017 46
W. Vivian Davies
- The QSAP Programme on the Temple
of Queen Tiye in Sedeinga 55
Claude Rilly
- Closer to the Ancestors. Excavations of the
French Mission in Sedeinga 2013-2017 65
Claude Rilly and Vincent Francigny
- The Northern Cemetery of Sanam at Et-Tameer,
third excavation season (April-June 2018) 75
Murtada Bushara Mohamed
- Return to Taharqo's Temple at Sanam: the inaugural
field season of the Sanam Temple Project 81
Kathryn Howley

- Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project. Excavations
and other activities at Kawa – the 2017-18 season 89
Derek A. Welsby
- Rediscovered, a 'Lost' Meroitic Object:
The Hamadab Lion 96
Michael H. Zach
- The Qatari Mission for the Pyramids of Sudan.
Re-opening the Burial Chambers of Beg N.9:
Preliminary Report 100
*Murtada Bushara Mohamed
and Mahmoud Suliman Bashir*
- The Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project –
Drones and Doors. Dangeil 2017-18 107
*Julie R. Anderson, Ribab Khidir elRasheed
and Mahmoud Suliman Bashir*
- An Ethnoarchaeological Approach to Interpreting
the Graffiti at Musawwarat es-Sufra 116
Nuba Abdel Hafiz Abdel Aziz
- Forts of North Omdurman: First season of
fieldwork in Hosh el-Kab and Abu Nafisa 127
*Mariusz Drzewiecki, Aneta Cedro, Robert Ryndziewicz,
Elmontaser Dafaalla Mohamed Elamin Elmoubark
and Włodzimierz Rączkowski*
- Preliminary report on the excavations in Kwieka
cemetery (KWC) – seasons 2016 and 2018 142
Mohamed Saad Abdalab
- The 2018 Season of Excavations at Kurgus 150
Andrew Ginns
- El-Ghazali – a royal monastery in Northern Sudan? 155
Artur Obluski
- Positive casts of wheat and barley on a fired-mud
basin from the Christian site MRB-05-001 at
El-Mirebiet oasis in El-Ga'ab Depression,
Western Dongola, Sudan 167
*Hamad Mohamed Hamdeen, Ikram Madani
and Yahia Fadl Tahir*
- Preliminary Report on the Archaeological Work
in the Central Gezira: First Season 172
Mohammed Alfatib Hayati Abdellab Altayib

Front cover: Funerary stela of the Lady Ataqlula, from
Sedeinga (II T 355d1) (photo: © V. Francigny/SEDAU).

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| | |
|--|-----|
| Anthony John Arkell as Commissioner for Archaeology and Anthropology (1939-1948). A look into an early experiment with interdisciplinary administration <i>Enrico Ille</i> | 179 |
| <i>Fāida shenū?</i> (What is the benefit?): A framework for evaluating the economic impacts of archaeological employment <i>Rebecca Bradshaw</i> | 188 |

Miscellaneous

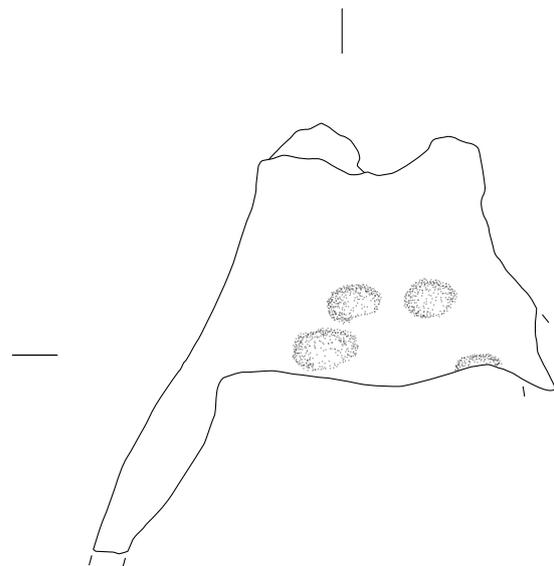
Obituaries

| | |
|--|-----|
| Rodolfo Fattovich (1945-2018) <i>Andrea Manzo</i> | 198 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| Mutsuo Kawatoko (1948-2018) <i>Tsubasa Sakamoto</i> | 200 |
|--|-----|

Book review

| | |
|--|-----|
| Julia Budka (ed.) 2017. <i>ACROSSBORDERS I.</i> <i>The New Kingdom Town of Sai Island, Sector SAV1 North.</i> <i>Manuela Lehmann</i> | 200 |
|--|-----|



*Mud bung of unusual form from within the Kushite town at Kawa.
On the underside is preserved the imprint of the pottery vessel
it had been used to seal – scale 1:2 (drawing: A. Pascal).*



Miscellaneous

Obituaries

Rodolfo Fattovich (1945-2018)

On the night of 23rd March our colleague Rodolfo Fattovich died in Rome. An archaeologist with extensive fieldwork experience in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia, up to his retirement in 2014 he was teaching Ethiopian Archaeology, Egyptian Archaeology and for many years also Egyptology at the Università degli studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale'. He was an honorary member of the ISMEO-Associazione Internazionale di Studi sul Mediterraneo e l'Oriente, research fellow of the Department of Archaeology of Boston University, for many years visiting Professor of Archaeology at Addis Ababa University, and a member of the International Society for Nubian Studies as well as many other scientific societies. Rodolfo was born 17th November 1945 in Trieste (Italy) and studied Egyptology and Prehistoric Archaeology in Trieste and Rome. Actually, his fascination for Egyptology started even before entering the university. In particular, he always mentioned the fact that his very precocious interest for the earliest phases of Egyptian culture emerged when a copy of *Egyptian Grammar* by Alan Gardiner was gifted to him when he was still a Lyceum student, and he was struck by the photo of the Narmer palette at the beginning of the book. Rodolfo had the chance to have as a teacher, already in the Classical Lyceum, Francesco Petrarca (Trieste) and Claudia Dolzani, who went on to obtain her habilitation as University Professor of Egyptology. Claudia Dolzani also continued as his teacher at the University of Trieste, where he obtained his MA in 1969 with a dissertation on the Pyramid Texts. After that, Rodolfo moved to University of Rome 'La Sapienza', where he continued his studies under the tutorship of Sergio Donadoni for Egyptology and Salvatore Maria Puglisi for Prehistory. In Rome, Rodolfo specialized in Predynastic Egypt. From that time, Rodolfo became particularly attracted by the African roots of the Egyptian cultures, and



Rodolfo Fattovich (1945-2018)

all the issues related to the relations between Egypt, Nubia and Central Africa.

In the meantime, he was pushed by Lanfranco Ricci, an eminent specialist of Ethiopian studies, to also start working on the archaeology of the Ethio-Eritrean highlands, a field of study traditionally related to Near Eastern and, more specifically, Arabian Archaeology. His main and deeply innovative contribution in this specific field, was to precisely point out the bonds with the African Nile Valley traditions characterizing the pre-Aksumite phase (1st millennium BC): Rodolfo showed that the pre-Aksumite pottery did indeed represent the latest echo of ceramic traditions originating at least four millennia earlier in Egypt and Nubia.

It was, therefore, to be expected that Rodolfo, after becoming associate professor at the Istituto Universitario Orientale (presently Università degli studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale'), would try to more systematically investigate the issue of the relations between the Nile Valley and the regions south east of it, by means of a specific research project in an intermediate area such as the Gash delta and the Kassala region, in the lowlands between Sudan and Eritrea. After systematically going through the few collections available from that region in the Sudan National Museum (1977-1978), fieldwork of the Italian Archaeological Mission to the Sudan (Kassala) started in 1980 and continued up to 1995. Although in the meantime he was also actively involved in the Italian Expedition at Naqada, co-directed by him with M. Tosi and C. Barocas, and later in the Italian Expedition at Tell el-Farkha (Eastern Nile Delta), co-directed with S. Salvatori, the Kassala project was always felt by Rodolfo as 'his project', the most determinant and crucial in his scholarly life.

At the very beginning, a proper cultural and chronological sequence needed to be elaborated, as the region east of the Atbara was almost completely unexplored from an archaeological point of view. In doing this, Rodolfo was closely collaborating with the American-Sudanese expedition of the Southern Methodist University (Dallas) and the University of Khartoum, which was resuming the earlier investigations conducted by J. L. Shiner in the region immediately east of the Atbara. The close relations with Anthony Marks and Ali Mohammed Ali, not only resulted in sharing of data and common interpretations, already evident in the joint seminal paper published in *African Archaeological Review* 2 (1984), but also in the exchange of members of the two expeditions, which allowed a shared descriptive approach. Moreover, this also led to merging the survey data collected by the Italian and American-Sudanese projects and to the elaboration of a comprehensive analysis of the settlement pattern of the region, whose study represented the PhD research of a young student from Southern Methodist University, now a colleague, Karim Sadr, who was a member of the Italian Expedition for several field seasons. Indeed, the involvement of students and young colleagues in the research projects and fieldwork always represented a characteristic trait of Rodolfo, as for him research and teaching could not be separate: myself,

Donatella Usai and Cinzia Perlingieri started our careers as assistant archaeologists in the Kassala project. The team was also open to the participation and contribution of students from other countries, such as Aminata Sackho, as well as colleagues brought on board by Rodolfo to address specific issues, as in the case of Patrice Lenoble for the 1st millennium AD tumuli occurring in the Kassala region, Marcello Piperno for the Early Stone Age and Mauro Cremaschi for paleoenvironmental studies.

As far as the scientific results are concerned, it was shown that the cultures of the Kassala region were characterised by an agropastoral economy at least since the fourth millennium BC, by the rise of hierarchic societies in the third-second millennia BC, and by the emergence of an increasingly mobile style of life from the second millennium BC. It should be stressed that the interest in investigating how the traditional style of life, in the case of the Kassala region based on nomadic pastoralism and cultivation of sorghum, emerged from the past, and thus how archaeology can contribute to a better understanding of the present, is already evident from this phase of Rodolfo's scientific activity and also continued to be central in the projects he conducted in the following years.

Going back to Kassala, Rodolfo, Tony Marks and Ali Mohammed Ali showed that the earliest phases of the cultural sequence of Eastern Sudan are characterised by distinctive regional traits, but in the third-second millennia BC assemblages typologically related to the neighbouring regions appear, some of material certainly locally produced, others imported. For this specific aspect of the research in the Kassala area, for comparing the ceramics from Eastern Sudan and the ones of the surrounding regions, Rodolfo used to mention the importance of having been actively involved in the informal workshops organized by Charles Bonnet in Satigny: he was always recalling the friendly and scientifically stimulating atmosphere, as well as the intense exchange of views he had in those years with Charles, Brigitte Gratien, Rudolf Kuper, Francis Geus, Lech Krzyżaniak, Victor Fernández and many other colleagues. It was in those same years that he also was increasingly interacting and exchanging inspiring ideas with eminent scholars focused on the issue of the relations between Egypt, Nubia and inner Africa, such as Jean Leclant, Torgny Säve-Söderbergh and Kenneth Kitchen. In particular, Rodolfo, in papers presented to the conferences of Egyptology in München and Turin, and later in an article in the volume *Egypt and Africa* (London 1991), suggested that Eastern Sudan could have had cultural and economic ties with Egypt, Nubia, the Eastern Desert and even the Yemeni coast and highlands, and perhaps could have been part of the land of Punt, mentioned in the Egyptian texts since the 5th Dynasty.

The interest in the relations between Egypt and Africa continued to be crucial from the beginning up to the very end of Rodolfo's scholarly life, as, after a collaborative project with Kathryn A. Bard (Boston University) in Aksum, he also resumed investigations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, on the

Egyptian Red Sea coast, the harbour from where the Middle Kingdom expeditions to the Land of Punt were launched. It had been discovered in 1976 by Abdel Moneim Al-Hakim Sayed, another colleague with whom he established scientific and personal links. The project at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis also took place within the framework of a strong scholarly collaboration and strong bond with K. A. Bard and was the *crowning glory* of the professional life of Rodolfo. Indeed, Mersa/Wadi Gawasis brought him back - at least ideologically - to Sudan, as the harbour provided several elements confirming his hypothesis of the involvement of Eastern Sudan (but also of Eritrea-Ethiopia and Southern Arabia) in the Punt exchange network. In this perspective, the invitation to give the Raymond and Beverley Sackler Foundation Distinguished Lecture in Egyptology, in the British Museum in 2011, whose title was 'Egypt's trade with Punt: Recent discoveries on the Red Sea coast', and the related International Egyptological Colloquium, entitled *Mariners and traders: Connections between the Red Sea littoral, Arabia and beyond*, represented for him the achievement of a lifetime of research.

Already these few lines synthetically outlining the trajectory of the scientific life of Rodolfo highlight his capacity for opening new fields of research in areas and on issues which were previously largely overlooked, being regarded as marginal or borderline in the perspective of the traditional academic disciplines like Egyptology, Nubian and Ethiopian Studies. His intuition, largely shared with his good friend Maurizio Tosi, was that marginal regions and apparently marginal issues were in fact crucial for a full understanding of more general dynamics affecting the 'core areas' nearby. It should be remarked that the 'borderless' approach which characterised Rodolfo also emerges from his curiosity in the different possible methods and approaches for studying the human past, as well as for the relations between past and present, and this certainly made him a very inspiring teacher. For this reason, the students he tutored became not just archaeologists, alternatively specialised on Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia, and in particular ceramologists as could be expected in consideration of his background and research interests, but also lithicists, palaeobotanists, geoarchaeologists, archaeometallurgists, maritime archaeologists, and specialists of computer applications in archaeology. They started their training and education with him and, also thanks to him, could discover their true vocation. Indeed, I think that, together with the specific results of the research activities he conducted during his life, this inspiring, open-minded and curious approach to the study of the past, and his constant attention to the young generations of scholars are the most long-lasting and relevant traits of his human and scientific legacy.

Andrea Manzo

University 'L'Orientale', Naples, Italy



Mutsuo Kawatoko (1948–2018)

Mutsuo Kawatoko, the director of the Japanese expedition along the Sudanese Red Sea coast during the 1990s, passed away early in the morning on 21st January 2018. He obtained his BA (1972) and MA (1976) in archaeology from Waseda University. Subsequently, he took a research fellow position at the Middle Eastern Culture Center – an academic institution established on the initiative of Prince Takahito Mikasa – where he remained until he retired in 2008. After retiring, he became a research fellow of the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies from 2008–2009, and, in 2010, he took the position of director of the Research Institute for Islamic Archaeology and Culture. His doctoral dissertation, defended at Waseda University in 2001, was entitled *Study of Small Ceramic Filters for Drinking Water during the Islamic Period in Egypt: Focusing on the Classification of their Designs* (in Japanese).



Mutsuo Kawatoko (1948–2018)

Kawatoko was a man who dedicated himself to establishing a foundation for Islamic archaeology in Japan. Much of his interest seems to have stemmed from the archaeological expedition to al-Fustāt, Egypt, which was launched by Waseda University in October 1978. At the time, Kawatoko was a promising graduate student in Egyptian archaeology, and he soon demonstrated his talent by directing the expedition which continued for more than ten seasons. This expedition, along with his research stay at Cairo University from 1972–1976, was of vital importance in deepening his understanding of Islamic material culture. However, his interests were not restricted to Egypt. One of his articles in the journal *Kush* clearly stated that his major research themes included the history of East–West relations via sea routes, as well as the establishment of the Red Sea Cultural Zone, a topic to which he later dedicated three large research projects: ‘Study on the Artifacts from al-Fustāt’ as published in the *Supreme Council of Antiquities Magazine* (1996–1999); ‘Study of the Relations between Regional History and World History in the Port Cities: Archaeological, Historical and Anthropological Studies at Rāya, al-Tur, and Suez Port’ (1999–2001); and ‘Study of Material Culture in the Islamic Period as a Source for the History of Cultural Exchange’ (2003–2006).

As a result of such interests, Kawatoko undertook a number of archaeological surveys along the Red Sea coast: al-Tur al-Kilānī (1984–1997, 2001); al-Rāya (1997–2007); al-Jār (2001–2004); Mt. Nāqūs (2001–2007); ‘Aydhāb (1984 and 1991); and Bādi’ (1987, 1991–1992). Although Kawatoko’s

fieldwork at the last two sites proved relatively short lived when compared to other expeditions, he nevertheless maintained a relationship with Sudan in the hope of returning to that beautiful country for further excavations. In a similar vein, he also regularly sent off-prints of his articles, either in English or Japanese, to the Department of Archaeology at the University of Khartoum and to the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums. Kawatoko’s papers can still be found in the libraries of these institutions, testifying to the friendship that was formed between him and the experts in these two institutions, especially with Professor Ahmed Mohamed Ali Hakem whose support and encouragement were pivotal in conducting archaeological fieldwork in the region. It should also be emphasized that a number of monographs collected by Kawatoko – especially those published in the series *Meroitica* – are currently in the possession of the Prince Mikasa Library of the Middle Eastern Culture Center, providing an environment in which students can be introduced to Nubian studies. In addition, Kawatoko persuaded Prince Mikasa to contribute to the printing costs for two volumes of the journal *Kush*. Although Kawatoko’s name is not explicitly mentioned in the text, it is not unreasonable to consider this to be a token of his personal acknowledgement of Sudan and the Sudanese people.

Given his contributions to academia, including fieldwork and publications, we have lost in him an eminent archaeologist, a pioneering scholar, and an inspiring mentor in the field of Nubian Studies in Japan. He will be sorely missed by those who knew him and whose lives he touched.

Tsubasa Sakamoto

Review

Julia Budka (ed.) 2017. *ACROSSBORDERS I. The New Kingdom Town of Sai Island, Sector SAV1 North*. CAENL 4. Austrian Academy of Science Press, Vienna.

ISBN 978-3-7001-8071-5

Pb, 222 pages, 95 figures, 46 plates

One year after the first publication presenting recent fieldwork on Sai Island by the AcrossBorders team directed by Julia Budka, on the architecture of the southern part of the walled town (see Adenstedt 2016; Spencer 2017), the second volume presents excavations in the northern area, designated SAV1 North.

A series of relatively small buildings was unearthed, contrasting with the larger, more formal arrangement in the southern part of the town, highlighting the variety of architectural zones and styles within the 18th Dynasty pharaonic town. Such heterogeneity is also found in other New Kingdom towns, such as Buhen, Sesebi and Amara West.

The Sector SAV1 North is situated along the inside of the northern enclosure wall, with excavations conducted between

2008 and 2012 by the Sai Island Archaeological Mission (SIAM). The publication is divided into five chapters. The architecture of the area is presented in detail by Florence Doyen (pp. 23-118), preceded by an introduction (pp. 15–22) by Julia Budka and followed by chapters on ceramics (pp. 119-156), a selection of finds (pp. 157-170), and conclusions (pp. 171-177) by the same author.

The introductory chapter (by Budka) begins with defining the historical setting of this 18th Dynasty town and summarises five levels of occupation identified within SAV1N, the earliest being deposits of Level 5 which can be dated to the early 18th Dynasty. The following Level 4 is represented by several walls and occupation deposits dating to the period prior to the reign of Thutmose III. Level 3 constitutes the major preserved phase of the town - and thus the main focus of this publication. Five distinct buildings were excavated with associated occupation deposits, which are dated (on the basis of ceramics) from the reign of Thutmose III to the late 18th Dynasty. Level 2 consists of building unit N10, possibly also N7 and N2 with associated deposits (including debris), and can be dated from the late 18th Dynasty to the Ramesside time, with some Napatan material. Level 1 consists of debris with post-pharaonic material which is mainly Christian in date.

Chapter two (by Doyen) presents the architecture of SAV1 North, focusing on Level 3. It starts with the enclosure wall N4 and bastion N3, followed by the description of the five buildings N24, N25, N12, N26 and N27. These structures, built with walls of one half-brick length in thickness, are each around 23-30m² in area; none have evidence for upper storeys. For each structure the walls, pilasters and plaster, then installations, surfaces, floors and deposits are described. While the detailed description of the walls is in general very welcome, as it can assist future research, some of this information could have been more efficiently presented in table form. Several plans and section drawings are included for each structure; for an easier understanding of the sondage sections their position could have been indicated on the ground plans of the structures.

After this description of walls, the installations and then surfaces and floors are described, split into different areas or zones (sometimes arbitrarily, as wall preservation did not always allow ancient spaces to be defined) of the structures which makes it somewhat difficult to gain an overview of the entire buildings, with the feature designations (e.g. floor N24F12NEP; deposit N12De2b) making readability somewhat difficult. The different phases of the structures are clearly presented in tables and allow an overview of those features belonging to the same phases.

Chapter three (by Budka) is dedicated to the pottery starting with the recording system and an introduction to the ceramic fabrics found in Sai, followed by an overview of the corpus of types and forms. The final study will be published elsewhere, and will integrate the chemical analysis which apparently shows that a substantial amount of pottery from SAV1 North was produced from Egyptian Nile clays and was

imported into Upper Nubia. One subchapter is dedicated to the function of vessel types such as pot stands, Egyptian and Nubian cooking pots, bread plates and moulds, ‘*Schaelbecken*’ and spinning bowls, a topic often left unaddressed in other pottery studies. The unusually high number of fire-dogs might be related to a workshop. Thereafter, selected pottery from storage pits and silos within the building units of level 3 is presented in detail and the dating is discussed followed by a summary. The existence of hybrid vessels emphasizes the interaction between different craft, technology and foodways, traditions also found at Amara West and Sesebi (Rose 2017).

Chapter four presents a selection of small finds sorted by six main categories: clay figurines, personal adornment, household items, tools and instruments, non-ceramic vessels and models, games and unidentified pieces followed by macrolithics. Again, possible indicators for the ethnicity of the inhabitants as suggested by the material culture are addressed, followed by a presentation of the objects by archaeological context and function. Much of this material was presented already in a preliminary report of 2012/2013 (Budka and Doyen 2012-2013), and the full publication will presumably follow in due course.

This detailed presentation of the material culture of Sai mainly from level 3 is then followed by a summary which includes two case studies from structures and the results of micromorphological samples taken, emphasizing the multiple functions of rooms. Animal activities as well as grain storage can be traced in one of the structures; an abandonment phase of the building is likely, where waste was accumulated.

This book is an interesting presentation of the material culture of early New Kingdom Sai, useful for those researching domestic architecture, settlement archaeology or Egypt’s control and occupation of Upper Nubia in the New Kingdom. As such it represents a valuable contribution to these fields of research, which will be greatly enhanced with the full publication of the ceramics, finds and any associated scientific analyses.

Manuela Lebmann

Amara West Project, Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, The British Museum

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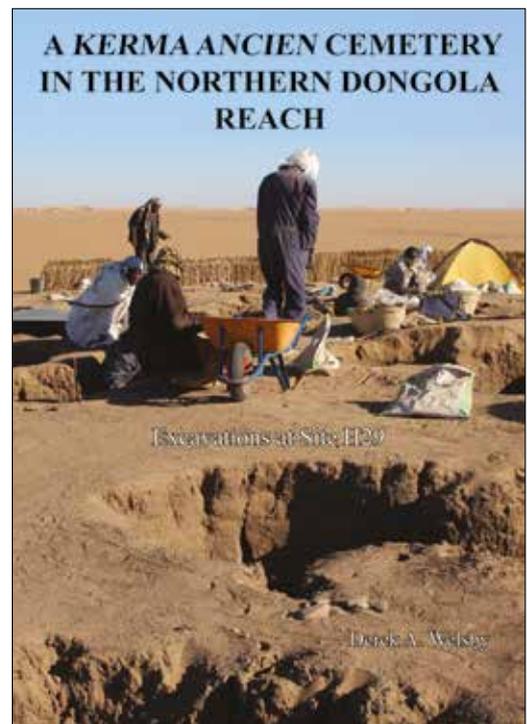
A Kerma Ancien Cemetery in the Northern Dongola Reach. Excavations at Site H29

by D. A. Welsby
London, 2018

xviii + 224 pages, 51 tables, 107 plates, 180 figures
ISBN 978 1 78491 931 3

This volume is the final report on the excavations of a Kerma Ancien cemetery discovered by the Sudan Archaeological Research Society during its Northern Dongola Reach Survey conducted between 1993 and 1997. It is one of the very few cemeteries of this date to have been fully excavated and provides interesting data on funerary culture as practised in a rural environment, to be compared with the extensive information available from investigations of the cemetery associated with the metropolis of Kerma 100km to the north. It includes a range of specialist reports on all categories of artefacts recovered as well as on the physical anthropology, archaeobotany and archaeozoology.

Retail price £35. Available to members at the discounted price of £30 (p&p UK £4.90, Europe £9, Worldwide £15)



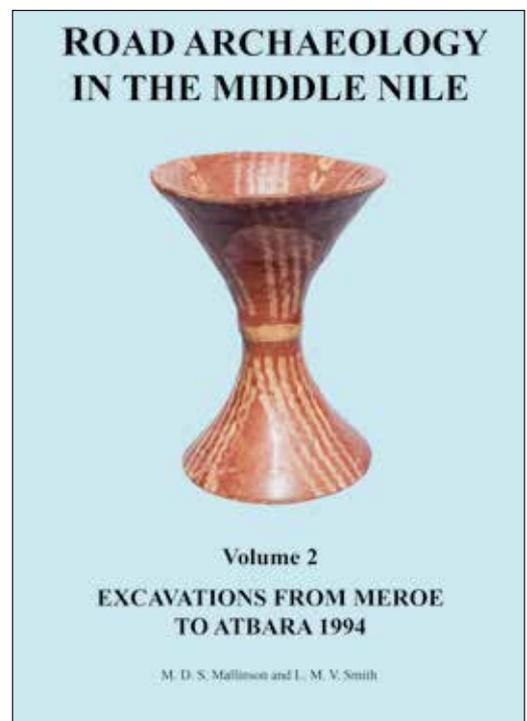
Road Archaeology in the Middle Nile Volume 2. Excavations from Meroe to Atbara 1994

by Michael D. S. Mallinson and Laurence M. V. Smith
London, 2017

xiv + 159 pages, 17 tables, 89 plates, 87 figures
ISBN 978 1 784916 466

This volume completes the two-volume series devoted to the results of the excavations conducted along the Challenge Road and includes the small amount of work undertaken in the cemetery at Gabati which was later fully excavated and published as SARS monographs 3 and 20. A wide range of finds are discussed in detail by the many contributors to the volume along with reports on the bioarchaeological material.

Retail price £24. Available to members at the discounted price of £22 (p&p UK £3.90, Europe £9, Worldwide £15)



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Professor William Y. Adams and Nettie Adams at the opening of the library, accompanied by the Honorary Chairman, Neal Spencer, the Honorary Secretary, Derek Welsby and SARS member, Julie Anderson.



The Society's Archive and William Y. Adams Library.