

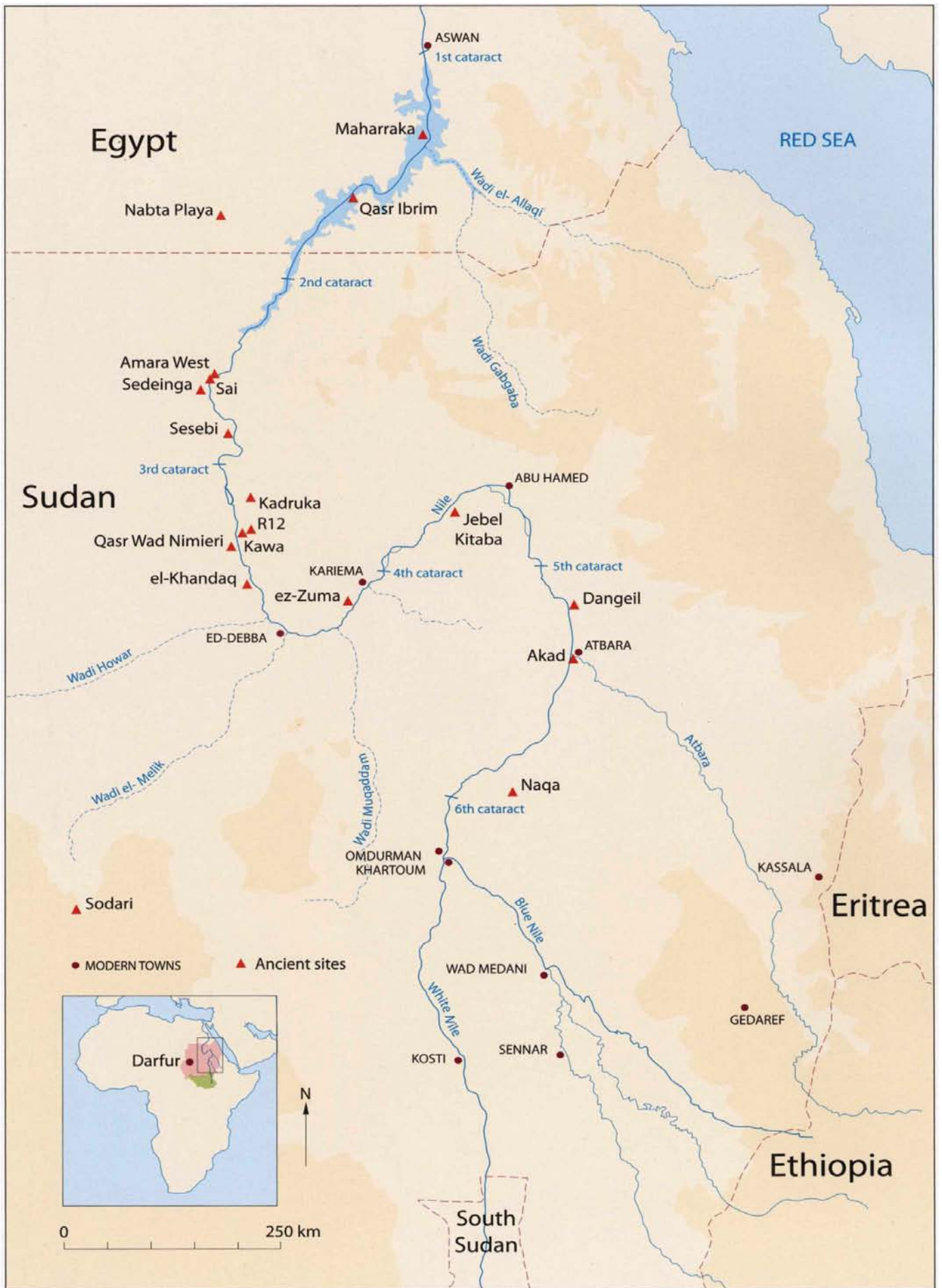
SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Bulletin No. 15 2011





The map reflects the new territorial situation following the independence of South Sudan in July 2011.

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The Sudan Archaeological Research Society – An Anniversary Tribute

The twentieth anniversary of the Sudan Archaeological Research Society is surely an occasion for celebration, not just by the Society's members but by all of the peoples of the Sudan and Nubia. SARS is in a very real sense their own voice, making known to the scholarly world the all-too-little appreciated achievements of their past. Local and regional archaeological societies are numerous, but I know of no other in which there is such a close association between the studiers and the studied. The peoples whose remains we, the members, investigate are at the same time our neighbours, our friends, and our partners in excavation. There is a sense of common purpose among us that is unique in my experience.

Some of the features of SARS are common to archaeological societies in general: its international membership, its regular meetings, and its scholarly journal. Beyond those things, though, the society is proactive in a way seldom seen in organizations of this kind. It conducts major salvage excavation programmes on behalf of the Sudan Government, in addition to its own ongoing research program; it maintains a comprehensive archive of photographs, maps, and texts relating to Sudan's archaeology, from its own work as well as that of many other scholars; and it assists in the training of young Sudanese scholars, and provides funds to assist them in attending conferences. Half a century ago, I and the other members of the UNESCO team were in effect the operational right arm of the Sudan Antiquities Service (as it was then called), and I see SARS playing much the same role today, in its collaborative relationship with NCAM.

The publications of SARS are its most lasting monuments. *Sudan & Nubia*, appearing promptly every year, is now the only journal in which one can keep abreast of the latest excavations and findings in the Sudan, without having to wait for years. And for personal reasons I have to pay special tribute to the monograph series, *Sudan Archaeological Research Society Publications*, which has just achieved its nineteenth number (almost one a year!). High-quality archaeological publications, with their numerous photos and tables, are expensive to produce, and they do not pay for themselves. They rely on subsidized monograph series, which in my own discipline (American anthropology) are almost a vanishing breed, yet without them much of our work becomes meaningless. If you dig a site and don't publish it, all you have done is to destroy a site! But SARS has up to this point produced no fewer than ten monographs of mine which would otherwise never have seen the light of day, given the absence of any other outlets. The Arabic summary which accompanies each volume is a welcome addition and an indication of the Society's sense of responsibility toward the Sudanese people.

SARS does not of course exist in a vacuum. Though receiving no government support, it does receive institutional support from the British Museum, the Institute for Bioarchaeology, and of course the Sudan National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums. At the same time, the continuing support of its members remains critical.

If I were to seek a single word to describe SARS, that word would be "dynamic"—reflected both in the scope of its activities and the promptness with which it publishes both its journal and its monographs. But that dynamism is hardly more than the lengthened shadow of the Society's founder, Chairman, and Secretary, whose labors are beyond praise. May they, and the Society, long endure!

William Y. Adams
Honorary President



Sir Laurence P. Kirwan
Honorary President
1991-1999.



Professor William Y. Adams, Honorary President 1999-
(photo Courtesy of the Egypt Exploration Society).

Kulubnarti I, The Architectural Remains

by William Y. Adams

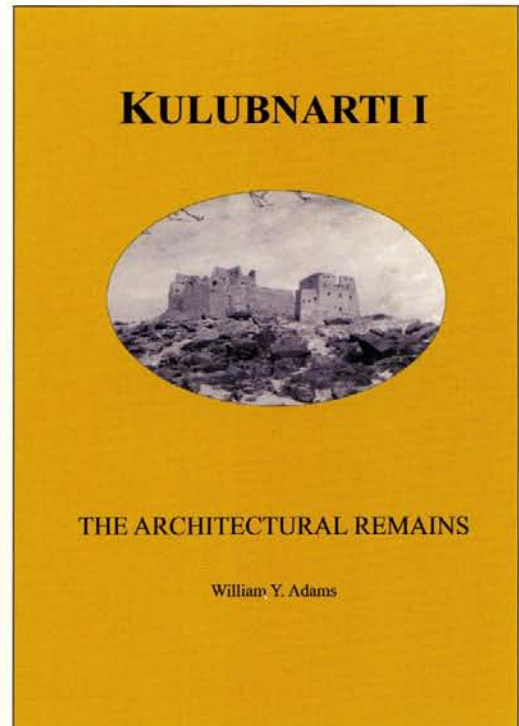
London 2011

xvii + 162 pages, 17 tables, 7 figures, 66 maps, 5 colour and 30 b&w plates
ISBN 978 1 901169 17 0

The excavations at Kulubnarti remain the only detailed study of a late medieval and post-medieval landscape in the Sudan. The extensive nature of the work on habitation sites of many differing types, on monumental buildings such as the church and the *koufa*, on some of the associated cemeteries as well as of the rock art provided an immense amount of data. The Kulubnarti volumes publish all this material in full and are an invaluable source of information on life in rural settlements during this pivotal period during which Christianity vanished to be replaced by Islam. It thus sheds light on the origins of the present northern Sudanese cultures in an area long inhabited by the Nubians.

Volumes II and III of the reports on the University of Kentucky excavations at Kulubnarti were published by SARS as numbers 2 and 4 in its monograph series. *Kulubnarti I, The Architectural Remains*, long out of print, is here republished by the Society.

Retail price £33. Available to members at the discounted price of £28 (p&p £3.50, overseas £5.50).



Sudan's First Railway The Gordon Relief Expedition and The Dongola Campaign

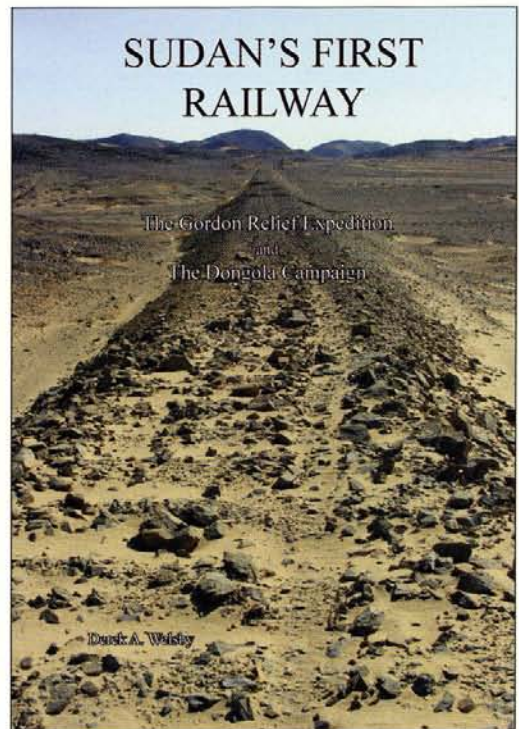
by Derek A. Welsby

London 2011

149 pages, 6 tables, 47 figures, 173 colour & 19 black and white 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.



Qasr Ibrim. Excavating Christian-period housing to the south of the cathedral in 1966 (photo Qasr Ibrim Archive).