

SUDAN & NUBIA

The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



Bulletin No. 21

2017





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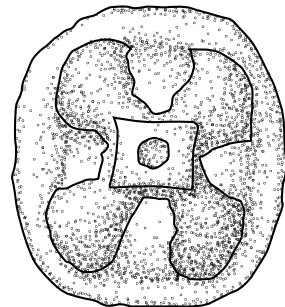
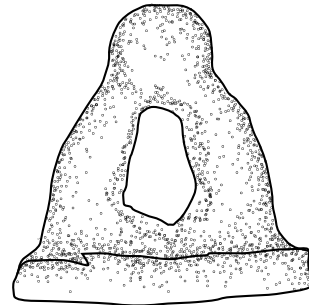
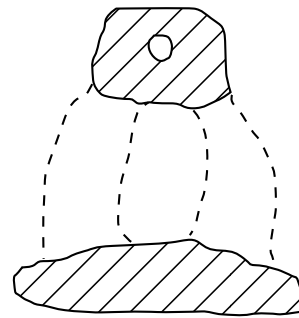
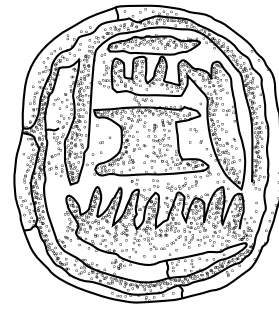
Front cover: el-Khandaq, the fort and town
(photo: I. Welsby Sjöström).

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Faience stamp recovered from Building A2 at Kawa dating to the early Kushite period, scale 2:1 (drawing: A. Pascal).



Miscellaneous

Obituaries

Inge Hofmann (1939-2016)

Inge Hofmann was born 9th January, 1939, in Essen (Germany) and from 1960 onwards she studied in Kiel, Freiburg im Breisgau and Hamburg from where she graduated in 1967 with a comprehensive PhD thesis on the Middle Nile Valley cultures from the Mesolithic up to the end of the Christian periods, which for its time can be considered as one of the basic studies on early Sudanese cultures. This came at a time when Meroitic Studies developed into a scientific discipline situated at the crossroads of Ancient History, Egyptology, African Studies, etc., and was promoted in the course of regular international conferences.

In subsequent years she received research and travel grants from the German Research Foundation, offering her the possibility to conduct field research in Sudan. In 1971 she started lecturing at Hamburg University, where she delivered courses on the history of the Sudan and finally habilitated with a study on possible Indian influence on Meroitic culture in 1973. Two years later she moved to Vienna (Austria) and delivered courses on Meroitic religion as well as those on the ancient world and contemporary Africa at the Department for the Study of Religions, before she was appointed associate professor at the Department of African Studies. The oeuvre of her research formed the basis of her subsequent courses, spanning from the history of North, North-east and East Africa to Meroitic Studies covering history, archaeology, society,



Inge Hofmann in Sudan.

religion and language including the teaching of Kenzi Nubian.

From 1975 to 1984 Inge Hofmann co-edited the Leiden based *Annual Egyptological Bibliography (AEB)*. Heading two third-party funded research projects on Meroe in the second half of the 1980s she returned to Sudan to conduct field research in which the author and Herbert Tomandl participated. As a logical result of her research and exceptional expertise, Sudan was established as a regional focus and, therefore, a sub-unit for Sudanese Studies was created at the Viennese Department of African Studies (closed in 2002 due to the implementation of a new university law which caused major restructuring of study programs). Furthermore, she founded the international periodical *Beiträge zur Sudannforschung* and the accompanying monograph series of the *Beihefte* in 1986.

Her preference was to conduct scientific research instead of taking ‘senseless’ administrative responsibilities. Nevertheless, she also acted as head of the department. Retiring in 1999, she still continued to teach for some years. Having found her private love she moved to Podersdorf located by Lake Neusiedel and enjoyed exploring it on her sailing boat ‘Kandake’, but she never lost her interest in Meroitic Studies, closely following the activities of the recent archaeological missions to Sudan. Unexpectedly, she passed away on 15th October, 2016, falling asleep and not reawakening.

Inge Hofmann’s merits can be considered outstanding, as she was not only an expert on the various facets of Meroitic culture, but also contributed to the establishment of Meroitic Studies as an academic discipline in the late 1960s. In retrospect this was not easy for her in a male-dominated environment. Some of her progressive ideas and well founded criticism concerning traditional views were rejected and – though some of them can now be considered outdated – others became recognised as fundamental in the context of contemporary research activities. She authored 17 monographs, 149 articles published in journals, conference volumes and lexica as well as 79 reviews. A few of her manuscripts still remain unpublished.

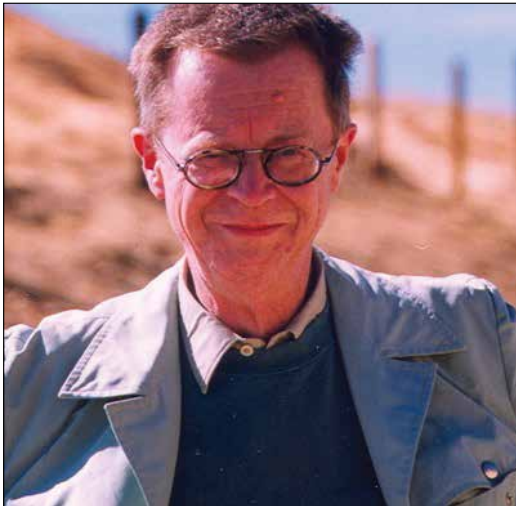
From a personal perspective, what always impressed me was her profound knowledge and the straight forward way she behaved. I experienced Inge Hofmann as a great teacher and mentor, and it is she who enabled me to get into Meroitic Studies, which places a heavy obligation on my shoulders.

Michael Zach

Institute for African Studies, University of Vienna,
Austria

Karl Heinz-Priese (1935-2017)

Meroitic studies have always been, and still are, a highly specialized field of research on the ancient civilisations of the Nile Valley, a domain of a rather small group of scholars. In the late 1950s East Berlin developed as one of the few centres



Karl-Heinz Prieze in Oregon, 2009.

of Meroitic studies; at Humboldt University, Fritz Hintze initiated basic research in linguistics and began fieldwork in the Sudan, at that time a ‘socialist brother-state’ of the German Democratic Republic.

After finishing his studies in Egyptology at Humboldt University (1954-1958) Karl-Heinz Prieze was Hintze’s assistant from 1958 to 1978, and was inspired by his professor to concentrate on Meroitic language, history and archaeology. As a member of the Butana expedition (1958) and the excavation team of Musawwarat es-Sufra (1960-1970), Karl-Heinz Prieze functioned not only as a meticulous epigrapher, but also as a skilled draftsman of artistic aptitude; his drawings of the reliefs of the Lion Temple at Musawwarat, of the famous rock picture at Jebel Geili and his reconstructions of monumental statues at Musawwarat have set standards of archaeological documentation.

Meroitic language and topography were the special fields of interest of Karl-Heinz Prieze. The comprehensive publication on the origin of the Meroitic script (1973) provided basic insights and inspired vivid discussions, as well as his research about the ‘Totentexte’ (1971; 1979). The Meroitic standard alphabet, reprinted again and again in many publications, is his work. His extensive studies about the topography of the Meroitic kingdom (1973; 1974; 1984a) bear witness to his wide ranging scholarship covering all fields of historical sources.

Unfortunately, Karl-Heinz Prieze’s stupendous knowledge, as demonstrated in discussions, colloquia and personal conversations, has remained largely unpublished. In 1978 he left his job at Humboldt University to take over the post of curator of the Egyptian collection of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Hauptstadt der DDR. For the coming two decades, the first stocktaking of the collection after World War II, a new installation of the permanent galleries in the Bode Museum (including a 1:1 replica of the reliefs of the offering chamber of the mastaba of Merib, coloured by himself), and the preparation of travelling exhibitions took all his time.

Thanks to his absolute commitment to these tremendous tasks the East Berlin half of the museum divided between east and west was in perfect order when the re-unification of the Egyptian Museum started after the fall of the Berlin wall. Prieze’s legacy to Egyptology is the new presentation of ancient Egypt and ancient Sudan in the Neues Museum, rebuilt by Sir David Chipperfield and re-opened in 2009.

Meroitic studies remained Karl-Heinz Prieze’s passion. His catalogue of the treasure of Amanishakheto (1992) and his contributions to the catalogue *Sudan. Antike Königreiche am Nil* (1996) are much more than summaries of the state-of-the-art of Meroitic studies; they are treasure troves of original observations and sometimes thought-provoking ideas. Confronted with new results of research, he once reacted by the remark: “That’s exactly what I said already years ago – but nobody is listening to me.”

Karl-Heinz Prieze passed away on January 27, 2017, a few days after his last check of the storerooms of the museum.

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Dietrich Wildung



El-Sayed El-Anwar Abdel-Magid (1952-2017)

Anwar, as we used to call him since the late 1970s, was born at el-Bauga village, River Nile State, in 1952 and passed away in Oslo on the 4th March 2017. He died after surgery to remove a tumour from his kidney. He was first diagnosed with kidney failure in 1998 and had a kidney transplant donated by his brother Ahmed. His face displayed courage when entering the hospital for the last time in his life, and he was buried in Bergen, a city that he loved.



*El-Sayed El-Anwar
Abdel-Magid in
February 2017.*

Bergen is the city where he got a NORAD scholarship in 1979 for his master's degree (awarded 1982), and PhD (awarded 1988). This was published in 1990 as an Oxford Monograph in African Archaeology. Its contribution to the understanding of the change to food production in the Sudanese Neolithic is significant. He participated in the Department of Archaeology projects of the University of Khartoum, in North Omdurman, and with the Norwegian Mission with his colleague, Professor Ali el-Tijani, in the Atbara river region and with Yusif Mukhtar and Abbas Zarroug in the plains of el-Butana. He also worked in the Red Sea Hills and the plains of Darfur. He was the founding dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Heritage in 1991, at River Nile University, now renamed Dongola University. He had spent more than 25 years undertaking research and teaching at universities in Western Europe (in Norway, Italy and Spain) before joining the University of Free State, South Africa (2007-2010), and University of King Saud in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2016). During this time he was awarded eight prizes and scholarships. He was a member of eight academic associations; his work was characterized by precision and professionalism.

He participated in various academic and administrative committees and assumed positions on several academic policy-making boards of higher education and research institutions. He published one book and co-edited another and co-authored more than 30 articles. He supervised 14 honours and masters dissertations and three doctoral degrees.

We are saddened by his early departure. We shall remember him as a brilliant, noble man who made himself remarkable and devoted his time to research, an archaeologist in the fullest sense of the term, a dedicated man of great scientific

precision and merits unequalled among his contemporaries. His company was always a pleasure, and his memory will be revered by all who knew him. Randi Haaland in her obituary of him wrote "Anwar was a multifaceted person ... Anwar among his group stood out as special, one could already then see his dignity, kindness and high academic standard".

To his family, our colleagues in Sudanese universities, especially Khartoum University, his colleagues in Bergen University and to Randi Haaland go our sincere condolences. His good deeds are in our memory forever. May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in peace, in the city he held dear and that loved him as well, holding his body in its eternal resting place.

Intisar Sogbayroun

Professor of Islamic Archaeology,
University of Khartoum

Review

Ingrid Adenstedt 2016. *Reconstructing pharaonic architecture in Nubia: the case study of SAV1, Sai Island*. CAENL 3. Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, Vienna.

ISBN 978-3-7001-7952-8

Pb, 202 pages, 20 figures, 7 plans, 62 plates

Sai Island is justly renowned for its rich array of archaeological sites, embodying many of the key cultural phases of northern Sudan, including Neolithic settlement remains, an elite Kerma necropolis, a New Kingdom town and its cemeteries, Kushite tombs, a Medieval cathedral and an Ottoman fort. Many excavations have only been published in short articles and preliminary reports: the New Kingdom walled town is one example of this phenomenon, despite decades of excavations at the site. A project led by Julia Budka, entitled *AcrossBorders*, has instigated new excavations in the pharaonic town, but also seeks to re-assess the results of previous investigations, in particular the excavations by Michael Azim between 1970 and 1973.

This volume by architect Ingrid Adenstedt presents the well-preserved southern areas of the walled town (SAV1), using laser-scanning, photography and on-site observation – but not new excavations – to study the buildings. A number of other sites in Nubia, where early 20th century excavations revealed well-preserved buildings, would benefit from a similar documentation (Sesebi, Shalfak, Uronarti). The book comprises short chapters on the town layout, building materials and streets, followed by descriptions of the individual buildings. Thereafter, a catalogue of each room (with detail of brick sizes, other measurements, construction details etc.) is complemented by plans and photographs, alongside representations of the laser-scan data. Unfortunately, the digital data is not made available – perhaps it might be placed online in due course? – which would allow other scholars to

explore the architecture and spaces in more detail.¹ However, the project should be commended for making the volume available online on an Open Access basis.²

While the AcrossBorders project has identified occupation deposits reflecting the early 18th Dynasty Egyptian presence at Sai (Budka 2014; 2017), complementing earlier finds of statuary and other monuments, the urban layout and architectural context of that material remains largely unknown. It is under Thutmose III that the walled town, and much of the extant architecture including the zone presented by Adenstedt, seems to have been built, one of the *mmw*-foundations referred to in Egyptian inscriptions, created to consolidate control over Upper Nubia.

Area SAV1, the subject of this book, comprises three main zones. From west to east: a storage facility (SAF5), a strip of housing (H1-H5) and a large formal building (SAF2). Control of the storage area, which featured circular silos subsequently replaced by rectangular magazines fitted with schist-paved floors, was an important consideration when the town was planned, as evidenced by the restricted access route and the placing of inscribed stone doorways at key intersections. On the eastern side of area SAV1, building SAF2 sprawls over an area of 2000m², including a columned hall with a fine mud-brick pavement. Assumed to be the residence of a high official, perhaps the Deputy of Kush, the scale of this building in comparison to the later one at Amara West (700m²) – known to be the Deputy's Residence on the basis of *in situ* inscriptions – is striking. Another distinction between the two sites' residences is in terms of accessibility: the Sai example has three entrances (one perhaps a later creation) from the street into the building, providing axial routes through a small room into the columned hall. In contrast, the residence at Amara West is characterised by more restricted access.

Between the residence and storage facilities lay a strip of houses: three identical dwellings (of around 55m²) and remains of two or three other larger houses. While the author rightly questions Azim's interpretation of house H5 as a single dwelling, it is surprising that further consideration is not given to the phasing of this housing area. In particular, the plan might suggest these houses were built after the residence and storage facilities had been laid out, with implications in terms of how we envisage the foundation of such pharaonic towns. Were certain facilities laid out as a priority, and then others built into the space left vacant?

A frustrating aspect of these houses is that little is known about the spaces and how they were used: we have no record of the objects or pottery found within, and no mention is made of any remains of cooking installations (e.g. hearths, ovens, or the colouring of adjacent wall surfaces left by the use of ovens or kilns). The spaces feel somewhat mute, an

¹ The British Museum's Amara West Research Project has also been capturing New Kingdom urban architecture in 3D; a selection of models are now available online: http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/all_current_projects/sudan/amara_west_research_project/explore_amara_west_in_3d.aspx

² <http://hw.oeaw.ac.at/7952-8>

impression furthered by the clean architectural reconstruction renderings. Unlike many New Kingdom houses in Egypt and Nubia (e.g. Tell el-Amarna, Amara West), there is also no evidence for whitewashed walls or painted decoration.

Furthermore, other than a small number of walls and adjusted doorways, it is unusual how little evidence there is for refurbishments, or changes to building layouts. Similarly, the formal residence building does not seem to have been refurbished, rebuilt or modified from its original form, again in contrast to that at Amara West (see Spencer 1997, pls 113–16). Excavations in the cemeteries and elsewhere in the town at Sai have yielded Ramesside material, but was the southern part of the walled town not continuously occupied from Thutmoside times through the end of the New Kingdom (a period of over three centuries)?

The volume is an important step in terms of how we conceive the town as a whole. For the first time, an accurate plan integrates the SAV1 buildings with Temple A, the recently excavated 'Building A' and the less formal area of workshops and small houses against the north wall. These plans underline how little of the town area has been excavated, partly due to the poor architectural preservation and severe deflation that effects much of the walled settlement, unlike the southern area afforded the protection of the Ottoman fort built over and south of it. The discussion about the possible presence of a second temple ('B') epitomises this challenge.

This book thus represents a welcome contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the early phase of Egyptian occupation in Upper Nubia, while also being an important resource for those researching architecture and housing of the New Kingdom. The forthcoming volumes of the AcrossBorders project will undoubtedly provide further insights into the history and function of this town, and particularly the activities, subsistence strategies and beliefs of its inhabitants.

Neal Spencer

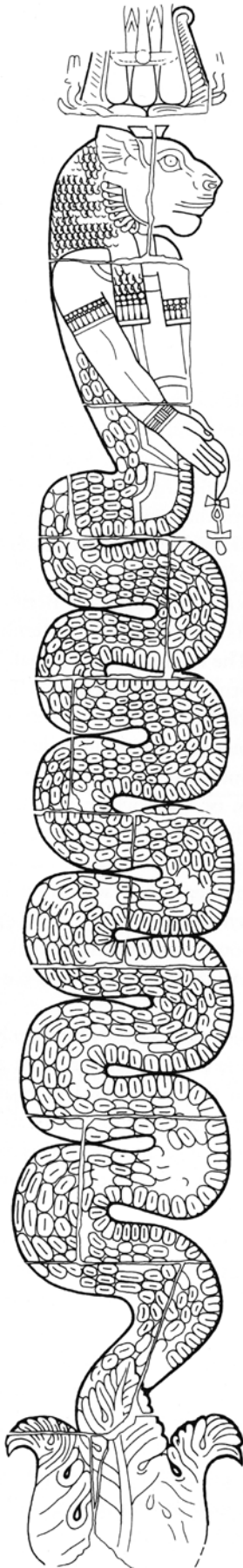
Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan,
The British Museum

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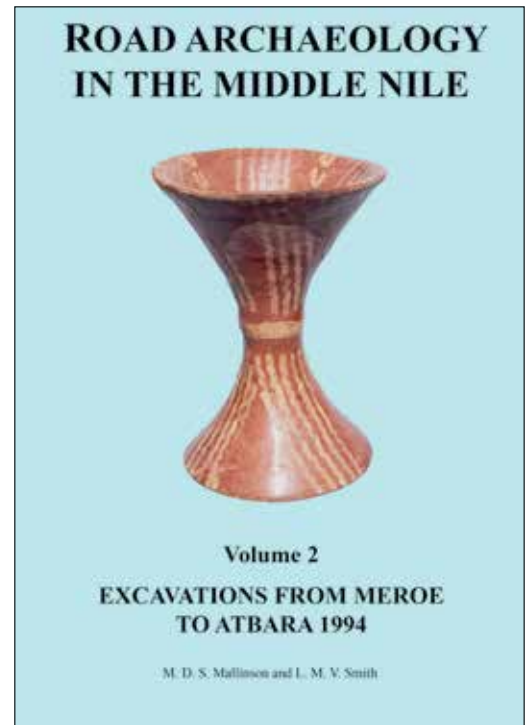
Road Archaeology in the Middle Nile Volume 2. Excavations from Meroe to Atbara 1994

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)



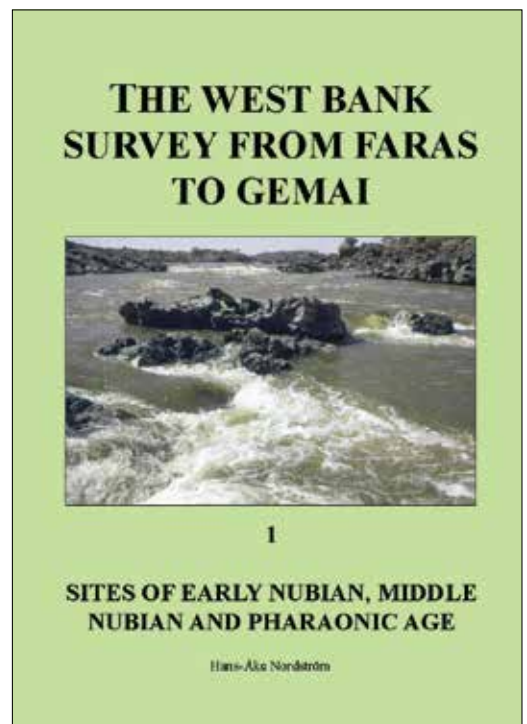
The West Bank Survey from Faras to Gemai 1. Sites of Early Nubian, Middle Nubian and Pharaonic Age

by H.-Å. Nordström
London, 2014

xviii + 178 pages, 29 tables, 33 plates, 74 figures
ISBN 978 1 901169 195

This volume completes the three-volume series devoted to the results of the survey and excavations conducted by the Sudan Antiquities Service between 1960 and 1963 during the UNESCO-sponsored Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia. The author reports in detail on the Pharaonic and earlier sites, the excavation of many of which he personally directed. Also heavily involved in the publication of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition's work on the opposite bank, he is ideally placed to provide a synthesis of the evidence for human activity in this part of the Nile Valley, now largely inundated.

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



Please order these books from the Honorary Secretary at the Society's address or via the website <http://www.sudarchrs.org.uk/resources/publications/>



The British Institute in Eastern Africa's excavation team at Soba East in early 1982 in the company of the BIEA president Sir Laurence Kirwan, Polish colleagues en route to Old Dongola and the local people. (photo: SARS Innemée Archive, INN Di004).



Sir Laurence Kirwan at the celebrations organised in his honour and that of his 'esteemed' team at Soba East. (photo: SARS Innemée Archive, INN Di022).