



SUDAN & NUBIA 24

Obituaries



László Török (photograph courtesy of T. Bács).

László Török (1941-2020)

Born in Budapest in 1941, László Török completed his university studies there in architecture, the history of architecture, and Coptology; however, he was also fluent in ancient Egyptian, as was ably demonstrated by his participation in the volumes of the *Fontes Historiae Nubiorum*.

Joining the Archaeological Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1964, he was Head of the Department of Roman Archaeology from 1981 to 1984, and was named Honorary Professor of Egyptology in 1991.

László Török is mostly known for his numerous publications on the history, history of art and the ancient civilisations of Sudan, which demonstrate the vast extent and breadth of his knowledge and perspicacity. In particular, these works explore the details of the kingships that succeeded one another during the 1st millennium BC and the 1st centuries of our era. His knowledge of the Roman world also enabled him to shed light on the international relations between the Kingdom of Meroe and the Roman Empire. One book, *The Kingdom of Kush. Handbook of the Napatan-Meroitic Civilization*, published in 1997, has become a classic frequently consulted by all students.

He also developed an interest in historical sources – textual and archaeological – as well as in iconographic documentation, which allowed him to approach the subjects of his research holistically, encompassing all the different types of sources available. Let us mention, for example, *The Royal Crowns of Kush. A Study in Middle Nile Valley Regalia and Iconography in the 1st Millennium BC and AD* or *Egyptian Terracottas of the Hellenistic and Roman Period*.

In addition to these important works, we would like to give the *Fontes Historiae Nubiorum*, three volumes of which we gratefully received as complimentary copies at the 9th International Conference for Nubian Studies in Boston (1998), a special place. Along with T. Eide, T. Hägg and R. H. Pierce, László Török provides, both in transliteration and English translation, almost

all written sources relating to Nubia up to the 6th century AD. Although a few of these translations may be improved or reinterpreted now, over 20 years later, this compilation remains an extremely valuable working tool, and we have often thought of László when using it.

His scientific qualities were recognised and honoured both in Hungary, where he was elected as a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2010, and in Norway, where he was made a member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and received an *honoris causa* doctorate from the University of Bergen. The two large volumes of 56 papers offered to him for his 75th birthday – *Across the Mediterranean - Along the Nile* – are an unambiguous testimony to the breadth of the many fields to which he has contributed and to the esteem in which he was held by so many colleagues, disciples and friends.

László was our dear friend for many, many years. We recall, among various shared memories, a magical evening in August 1998 in a beautiful house near Boston, where we had been invited on the occasion of the Nubian Studies Conference; with Charles playing at the piano, while László and Dominique were dancing.

We had the privilege of collaborating for many years in the organisation of the conferences of the International Society for Nubian Studies. The scientific approach allowed these meetings to investigate new historical elements emerging through research in progress. The latest results from the UNESCO International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia constituted a set of data out of which to construct a history of Sudan while taking into account the influences of Egyptology. From thence forward, László was able to systematically accumulate knowledge about the Meroitic Empire. He was fascinated by this period, and it seemed to him to be fundamental to explain the features of

this unique African civilisation with such a remarkable heritage over a vast territory.

László Török knew, through the subtlety of his analysis, how to help us structure the studies of our colleagues, striving to unify work carried out across numerous sites. While he was not accustomed to interventions in the field, he was better qualified than others to analyse these contributions. He was the originator of several corpuses, which have become increasingly important over time. All of us benefited from his vision, which has forced us to view the development of Sudanese cultures through the eye of the historian. Almost all of his scientific projects were carried out through the lens of archaeological excavations and his analyses, created from a more objective distance, favoured rich, elaborate information.

During his visits to the shores of Lake Lemana, we had the opportunity to discuss our interpretations of the remains of Kerma and Dukki Gel, to understand how the origins of this African kingdom could establish a tradition that survived for three or four millennia. Wasn't Sudan a crossroads where one could discover an exceptional ancient heritage? It is certain that the African kingdoms in the centre of the continent must have produced complex states, very different from the racist and colonial image previously accepted. László knew how to demonstrate the quality of the documents and materials available in these remote lands. With incredible scientific discipline, he encouraged new researchers to better understand the evolution of the arts and the development of significant themes in Nubian cultures.

On the day of his disappearance, we all want to say that the history of Sudan is indebted to him. Through his many publications, he was able to show a path through the classical documentation that allows us to elaborate the currents of exchange along the Nile Valley. The art history that László was able to provide for the study of the objects is exemplary. We will remember his intellectual elegance, and his criticism, always constructive, but sometimes spirited, because they were associated with a man of conviction. He leaves an impressive series of works, which constitute a considerable scientific basis for the study of African societies.

Charles Bonnet and Dominique Valbelle



Jacques Reinold on site at Kadruka (photo courtesy D. A. Welsby).

Jacques Reinold (Mâcon, 10th of December 1944-Hurghada, 23rd of June 2020)

Jacques Henri Reinold passed away on the 23rd of June 2020, in Hurghada on the shore of the Red Sea where he and his wife Ula chose to spend half of the year. He was born in 1944 on the 10th of December in Mâcon, Burgundy, a land and countryside to which he remained attached throughout his life.

After two years (1966-1967) at the *École du Louvre* with a thesis on the iconography of Greek vases, his first steps both in ancient history and fieldwork in prehistoric archaeology were completed, like those of many others, during the turmoil of the Parisian *Mai 68*, to the spirit

of which he stayed attached. As an assistant librarian, he was protecting the library in the *Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie* at University of Paris I. Nevertheless 1969 was the year of his *Licence ès Lettres*, as well as the completion of a thesis on *La civilisation des champs d'urne*, under the direction of A. Leroi-Gourhan. 1973 confirmed his specialisation in the field of prehistory with a dissertation on *La civilisation danubienne du Nord de la France, aspects céramiques* (University of Paris I, jury: B. Soudsky and M. Brézillon).

Fieldwork was the reason for his increasing attraction toward the study of prehistoric periods and cultures. 1966 saw his first dig, excavating a Gallo-Roman house in Alesia (R. Sénéchal). In 1969, his first steps in prehistoric archaeology with rescue excavations of a Montmorencian site at Montaubert in Essonne (J. Tarrête) followed and then, two months later, he worked at the famous Magdalenian camp of reindeer hunters at Pincevent (A. Leroi-Gourhan), which had resumed in 1970. That same year, he participated for the first time in rescue excavations on the Neolithic settlement of Aldenhoven in Germany (J. Lüning) where, no doubt, he met Rudolph Kuper, who would go on to scientifically study, document, and publish the Cave of the Beasts at Wadi Sura. This year marked the entry of Sudan into his life as he joined the survey of the Dal Cataract with the team of André Vila. Following this, between 1970 and 1972, he was sent for international service and cooperation abroad as an archaeologist in the newly created French Unit of the Sudan Antiquities Service (SFDAS 1969), in accordance with the compulsory French military requirements at that time. This was the beginning of a devotion to Sudanese archaeology that never ceased, and became his trade mark. He returned to Europe for two years where he worked as a rescue archaeologist, first in Germany resuming his participation in the programme of the Aldenhoven Plateau on behalf of Cologne University (1973), and then in the *Service Cantonal de Neuchâtel* in Switzerland for the documentation of the lakeside Neolithic settlements of Auvernier Bay (1973-1975).

He returned to Sudan in 1975. He would not leave the country until 2008... and throughout his entire career he was a key member of the French Unit in Khartoum, as everyone knows and remembers, both in the archaeological and diplomatic milieus. From 1975 to 1981, he served at the French Unit as an 'archaeologist', and then from 1981 to 1984, as a 'researcher' before he became Director of the Unit, holding the position for sixteen years, an unprecedented length of time (1984-2000).

Fieldwork was his *raison d'être* and his long career in Sudan was devoted to research, surveying and digging together with his Sudanese colleagues from the Antiquities Service which became the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums in 1991. His field work was extensive and included: the Abudiya District survey in Dal Cataract (1976) and dig (1978); the el-Kadada rescue dig of Neolithic tombs (1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985); the Gereif West Neolithic cemetery (1983); the el-Ghaba Shaheinabian cemetery (1985, 1986); the Kadruka Neolithic and Kerma Cemeteries aiming at a periodisation of the Neolithic in the 3rd Cataract (1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1997, 1999); sondages on Neolithic and pre-Kerma settlements (1991, 1992, 1993); Dongola Basin surveys (1986, 1991, 1992); the 4th Cataract preliminary survey (1989, 1990); the Sedeinga Neolithic cemetery (1991, 1992); Laqiya oasis (1993); and the Ariab region, the investigation of antique gold mining sites and the excavation of Post-Meroitic tumuli (1998).

The first time I met Jacques was in 1999 in Kadruka, at the KDK21 dig, while I was discovering Kerma archaeology at Gism Arba. There was no better place than the mound itself to understand his hypotheses, methodology, and conclusions as he investigated the evidence from that ambitious dig of a complete cemetery.

Jacques and Ula had to leave Sudan in 2000. An excavation programme in Libya was proposed, to investigate the Fezzan heritage (Messak region, Murzuk and Wan Kaza ergs) within the framework of the mission organised by the Total-Fina-Elf oil company under the guidance of Jean-Loïc Le Quellec.

2006, 2007 and 2008 were the years during which he was able to complete the dig at the el-Kadada cemetery. Conditions had dramatically changed since 1975, although he could still recruit some of the older workers from earlier years. The mission was able to use the facilities of the newly built dig house at el-Hassa, some ten minutes away by car. One of the working hypotheses Jacques had been researching and examining for years was confirmed in tomb KDD86, by the presence of three individuals (*morts d'accompagnement*) along with two dogs, buried together with the tomb owner at the periphery of the pit. Dramatically establishing proof for the existence of human sacrifice may have been a triumphant conclusion to his career, and was a demonstration of the consistency with which, as a hallmark, Jacques Reinold led his scientific and professional life.

Vincent Rondot