

# SUDAN & NUBIA

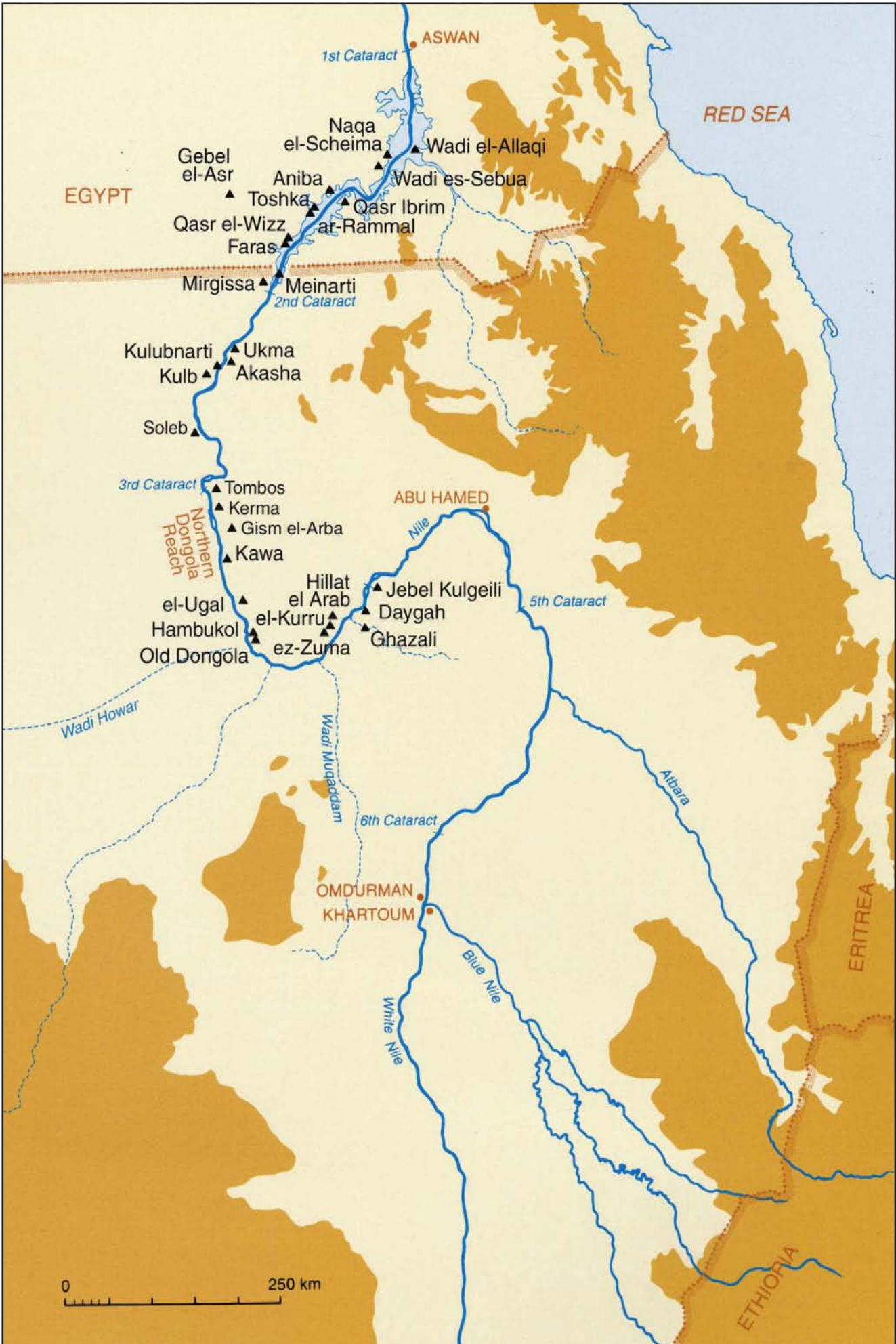
The Sudan Archaeological Research Society



*Bulletin No. 3*

1999





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*Front Cover:* Temple of Amenophis III at Soleb visited by  
F. W. Green in 1909 (Photo D. A. Welsby).

## Introduction

As the contents of this year's issue clearly demonstrate, *Sudan & Nubia* goes from strength to strength with a developing international profile. The Society's own work in the Dongola Reach is represented by two papers; the first, based on the analysis of human remains, provides fascinating insights into living conditions during the Kerma Period (Judd); the second outlines progress on the continuing research into the geomorphology of the region (Treves *et al.*). A complementary project, carried out in the same region by a French Expedition, has among other things identified a rare native settlement dating to the period of Egyptian conquest (reported on by Gratien). At Kerma itself, exciting new work, uncovering remains of the Napatan and Meroitic Periods, is dramatically extending the history of the site (Salah Ahmed), while of equal importance historically are the results from Hillat el-Arab (near Gebel Barkal), a cemetery with elite burials of the New Kingdom and very earliest Kushite Period (Vincentelli). Research into quarrying and stones receives fresh impetus from work at Gebel El-Asr in Lower Nubia (Shaw and Bloxam) and in Tombos and Daygah at the Third and Fourth Cataracts respectively (Harrell). Surveys in the latter region, threatened by a new dam, are confirming its great archaeological potential (Abdel Rahman and Kabashy Hussein). Among other possibilities, sites in the Abu Hamed Reach can be expected to shed important new light on Nubian monasticism, until recently a neglected subject (Julie Anderson). Further north, Qasr Ibrim, which has long been partially submerged, continues to repay the Egypt Exploration Society's commitment under difficult circumstances (John Alexander). Far from the Nile Valley, museum basements can also be a source of significant 'discoveries' (Wardley and Davies), as may unpublished archival material and archaeological diaries (Welsby Sjöström).

During the course of the year, SARS suffered a serious blow with the passing of its distinguished President, Sir Lawrence Kirwan. Larry was a source of encouragement, support and inspiration for us all. We salute his memory and his contribution to Sudanese and Nubian archaeology (see Obituary, by Harry Smith). We also regret the loss of Prof. Jack Plumley, a specialist in Christian Nubia, who for many years directed the EES excavations at Qasr Ibrim (see Obituary, by John Alexander).



## An Early 20th Century Egyptologist in the Sudan: the Travels of F. W. Green

*Isabella Welsby Sjöström*

The diaries of F. W. Green, Egyptologist and archaeologist, were presented to the Department of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum in 1998 by his son, John Green. Fifteen in number, they chiefly relate to his work in Egypt, but two volumes detail his travels in Sudan. At the request of Vivian Davies, Keeper of the Department, a transcription of these interesting diaries has been made, and it is hoped that it will be possible to publish them in full in the future.

Frederick William Green was born in London in 1869. He studied at Jesus College, Cambridge, and was Honorary Keeper of Antiquities at the Fitzwilliam Museum at the time of his second trip to Sudan in 1909. He was then forty years old and married since 1906. There are several references to his wife, Hilda Crookenden, in the second diary.

Green made two trips to northern Sudan in the early years of this century (Fig. 1). He travelled around about the same time that Wallis Budge and Henry Breasted visited more or less the same sites (in fact, on the 18th of March 1906 he passed Breasted's party near Wadi Halfa).

Green set off on both journeys on camelback from Wadi Halfa, in 1906 reaching no further south than Kosha before interrupting the journey, or at least the diary, probably due to a bout of malaria. In 1909-10 he reached Khartoum before making his way back to Kena in Egypt by rail, via further sites in Lower Nubia.

The travelling day began shortly after sunrise and breakfast, and while the main part of the caravan with the equipment would move along separately, Green and his companions would visit sites on the way, rejoining the *hamla* (caravan) for lunch and again at sunset for tea and then dinner. Bedtime was generally around 9 o' clock, after writing up the day's events and notes in the diary.

The principal purpose of his first trip to Sudan in 1906 was to produce a 'map of the banks and inland portions of the district with instructions to show up to the 20 metre contour above highest Nile level.' (3.4.1906). Meanwhile, his companions Hume and Ferrar were respectively 'mapping the islands and supervising the work and the Geology generally,' and 'in charge of the soundings (in the river)' (*ibid.*). Dr Hume was then the head of the Geology Department in Egypt. Nonetheless, a number of archaeological sites were visited and various hieroglyphic inscriptions copied.

On the second journey Green made a trio with Somers Clarke and the Reverend A. H. Sayce. Sayce was an Assyriologist, on the trip in question principally interested in Meroitica, while Somers Clarke was gathering the final

data for his book, *Christian Antiquities in the Nile Valley* (1912). They left Wadi Halfa equipped with 30 camels and four tents, supplied to them by the Anglo-Egyptian government. It was on behalf of the Sirdar that Somers Clarke had been requested to carry out a survey of Christian antiquities. The counterparts of some of the sketches of such remains in Green's diary may be seen in Somers Clarke's book.

The diaries are frequently enlivened by sketches, often of copied hieroglyphic inscriptions (Fig. 2), but also of various archaeological /architectural details, and occasionally of landscapes (Fig. 3), but never of people. Green also kept a separate notebook for field notes and sketches, from which some of the sketches in the diary are copied, as the A5 size soft covered notebook used for the diary would presumably have been unsuitable to carry with him during the day's exploration.

The style of writing is factual, full of scholarly descriptions of the sites and sights encountered, occasionally personal when touching on the discomfort occasioned by weather and invertebrate fauna, usually dryly witty and self deprecating, such as in the instance of having his hair cut by one of the Sudanese servants - 'I did not help to entertain [the chief of police] as I was having my hair cut by Daud who employed the horn clippers', 16.12.1909 - or in white-washing his hat, for 'it had suffered much from the rain it received at Lisht last year and looked very dingy, .... I have borrowed some 'Blanco' and done mine. I think on the whole the experiment is successful.' (18.1.1910).

Amongst the archaeological sites visited, there is a description of a statue of Amenophis III and his wife dug up somewhere between Sonqi Tino and the Dal Cataract, which may since have been lost, as it has so far not been possible to find any further mention of it in the relevant literature. Further on, at Amara East, Green and his companions discovered to their surprise that the columns and indeed a whole temple at that place had disappeared. It was most recently known to have been seen by Wallis Budge (Budge's publication, *The Egyptian Sudan*, dates to 1907), while photographs taken by Frith in 1862 among others prove its existence. The temple had previously been made famous by Lepsius.

As has already been mentioned, most of the archaeological sites of any note were visited in the course of the two trips (see Fig. 1). It is clear from the diaries that not only Pharaonic sites were visited; an interest was taken in everything from prehistoric stone tools to Muslim graves. Among the sites of special interest are perhaps the visits to the temple at Kumna (Semna East), where Green was particularly interested in the inscriptions documenting the levels of the Nile flood (Fig. 2); Amara East and West, Sai island, where the church as well as the fort were visited. Thereupon followed Sadinga, Soleb (Front Cover) - 'Spent all day copying in the temple... Strong wind with dust' (22.12.1909) - and Sese (Plate 1). Then Kerma, where the beginning of Reisner's work was still in the future; the two Deffufas, various burial

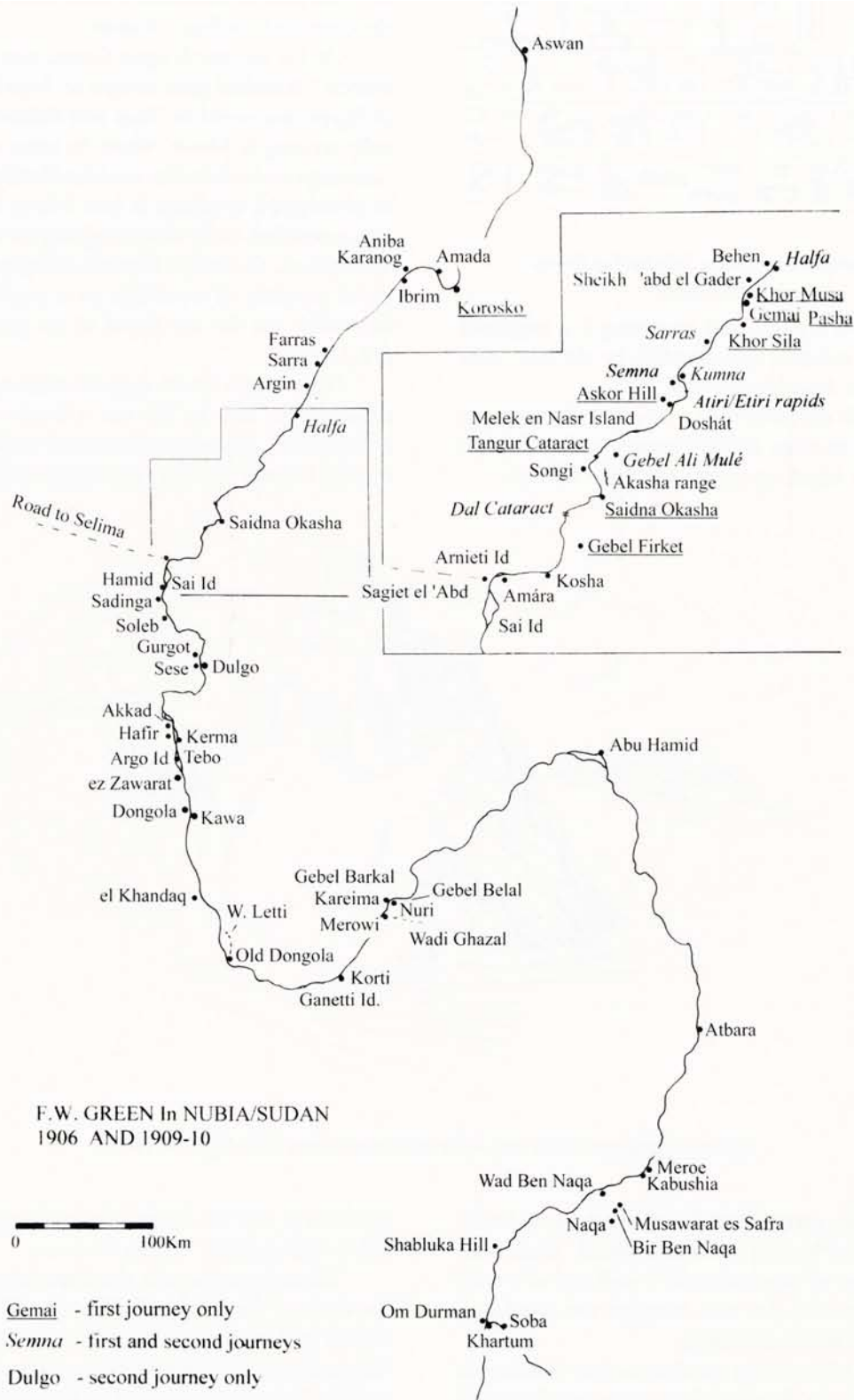


Figure 1. Map to illustrate Green's travels.

mounds and the Meroitic temple are noted. On the island of Argo the Tabo statues, now in the National Museum in Khartoum, were seen, and some archaeological exploration revealed a statue, 'a group of 4 cynocephalous apes with their

hands or paws up to their mouths....[the] most hideous monument I have ever seen' (1.1.1910).

At new Dongola the expedition stayed in the 'palace', visiting Kawa across the river. A vivid description of the souk



Figure 2. Inscription recording Nile level at Semna (copy by F. W. Green).

in the modern town is given, and in passing it is suggested that the Christian columns now standing by the river walk in town came from Argo Island (Plate 2).

From Dongola the party took a sternwheel steamer to Kareima, stopping en route at Old Dongola and at Ganetti, then apparently an island, to see the Christian remains.

to Soba East to undertake a small excavation on the site of the church of the four columns.

On his way north again Green, now travelling alone as Somers Clarke had gone straight on from Khartoum to Kena in Egypt, journeyed to Naqa and Musawwarat es Sufra, finally arriving at Meroe, where he spent a few days visiting Garstang's excavation, but was asked by Garstang not to draw or photograph anything. It is at Meroe that Green's braver side is revealed, as he recounts going for a swim with Horst Schliephack, Garstang's German assistant, despite the occasional presence of crocodiles on a nearby sandbank, 'The crocodiles are far too timid to eat people,' he thought (12.2.1910).

From Meroe Green took the train to Halfa (it stopped especially for him by the site, a bonus of having colonial connections). He pursued his travel in Lower Nubia, visiting MacIver and Woolley's excavations at Buhen and at Aniba,

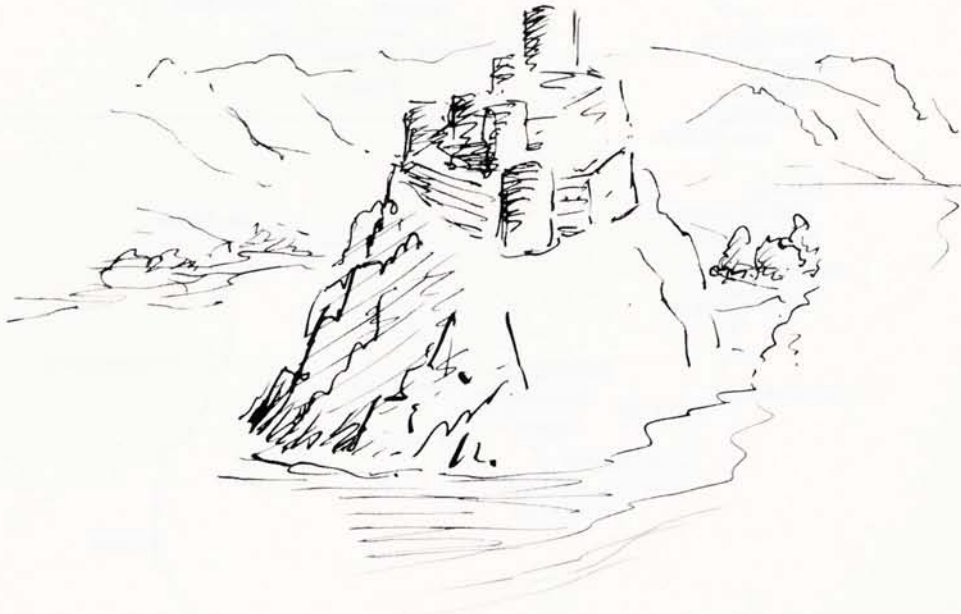


Figure 3. Castle perched on steep rocky island near Sarras (sketch by F. W. Green).

At Kareima the party halted for eleven days, and various inscriptions were hunted down and copied. There is an interesting mention of two built into a well and of a rock inscription near the river that was, however, too abraded to be either legible or worth squeezing.

From Kareima Sayce went on alone to join Garstang at Meroe, while Green and Somers Clarke some days later took the train to Khartoum, via Atbara, to where they had had the foresight of sending on 'civilised' clothes before leaving Wadi Halfa. At Khartoum they were the guests of the Wingates (Green had known them twelve years previously) and met Slatin Pasha at a small dinner party at the palace, where he (Slatin) entertained them by dancing with most of the guests in turn. An excursion was made by steam launch

but he was here no longer in terra incognita, but simply a fellow archaeologist visiting his peers.

Throughout the text there are references to daily life, the dress of the inhabitants (young girls wore skirts made out of leather thongs while the men wore garb similar to that in Egypt). Unfailingly the locals were friendly and hospitable: 'As soon as we arrived we had a visit from the 2 sheiks of the village[;] we entertained them with tea and bad Arabic' (20.12.1909). Hippopotami were still found in the river at the time, and are mentioned by him in the 1906 diary, when the expedition had been given permission to shoot them, as they were destructive.

In 1906 it was only eight years since the battle of Omdurman, and there are in this diary a few references to

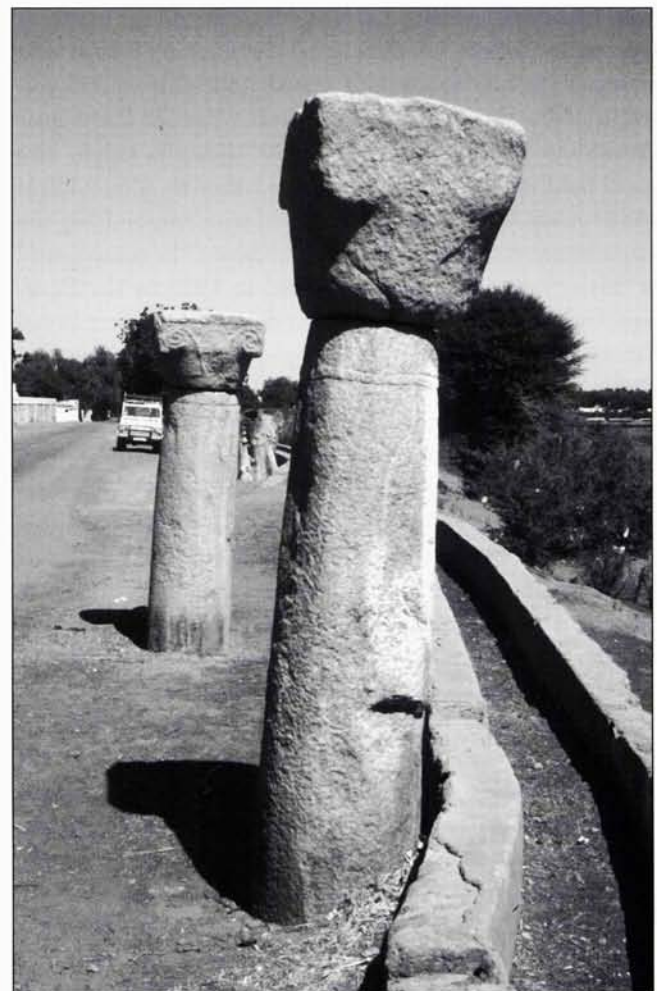


*Plate 1. Three columns of temple at Sese*

the Dervishes, blood-stained ground and to villages laid waste and palm trees cut down for their pith, as the food had been buried by the local population in the north (30.3.1906, 4.4.1906).

The subject of attempting to preserve the antiquities arises from time to time, principally at Barkal, where Jackson Pasha is invoked to look after Pharaonic inscriptions found built into a well; it is generally hoped that under his more enlightened governorship stone will not be quarried from the monuments for modern constructions. At Wad ben Naqa Green hopes fervently that the bored government officials will refrain from the amusement of amateur excavations: 'Major Charlton wanted to do some digging with his men. I tried to dissuade him as he knows nothing about the subject and could do a great deal of irreparable damage in a very short time' (10.1.1910).

The interest of the diaries is two fold: they present us with archaeological information, much of it since published elsewhere in one form or another, but some quite new, as well as painting us a picture of travel and conditions in Sudan in the early years of this century, which is as important as the archaeological information. A more in-depth study and comparison of Green's copied inscriptions and those subsequently published from the major sites on his journey still remain to be carried out.



*Plate 2. Christian columns and capitals at Dongola, said by Green to have been brought there from Argo island.*